

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth on Tuesday, 6th December, 2022 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carol Stanier and Val Bryant.

2 MINUTES - 6 SEPTEMBER 2022, 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6 September be approved as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chair.
- (2) That the Part 1 Minutes of the meeting held on the 28 September 2022, as amended as follows, be approved as a true record of proceedings and signed by the Chair.

N.B. The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on the 28 September 2022 were not approved at this meeting and are being presented to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

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.
- (3) The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Judi Billing MBE following her death on the 24 November 2022.
- (4) The Chair advised that he would be taking Agenda Items 16 and 17 ahead of Item 15.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

There had been no Urgent or General Exception items.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There were no Called In items.

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted by Members.

9 RESOLUTIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the document 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 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2022-2027

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

(1) That Cabinet adopt the following documents, taking into consideration the additional actions proposed under each priority area:

- Appendix 1 Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027
- Appendix A Proposed Actions
- Appendix B Achievements

(2) That Cabinet reflects the Climate Change Strategy for contracted services when considering the revision of the Procurement Policy.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: In 2019, the Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency. In this motion the Council pledged their commitment to do everything within their power to become carbon neutral by 2030. This iteration of the Strategy has been revised to reflect the latest legislation, research, and best practice; and includes additional proposed actions under each priority area to respond to gaps we have identified. Appendix B Achievements lays out progress against each action.

11 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY 2022-2027

RECOMMEND TO CABINET: That Cabinet:

(1) Approve the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2027 as attached at Appendix 1, subject to the amendment regarding the explanation of the term 'people of colour' and 'BME/BAME' in the Glossary and that the Glossary remains a live document which can be amended as required.

(2) Approve the Equality objectives as set out below:

1. Work with young people through youth engagement to make it easier for them to have their voices heard in local decision-making and democracy.
2. Improve our engagement with marginalised, seldom heard, and new communities to make it easier for them to participate in local decision-making and democracy, and to have their views and experiences heard by the council.
3. Improve our understanding of broader EDI issues and their impacts, such as neurodiversity and economic disadvantage; as well as the intersections between inequalities, using our Inclusion Group as a channel.
4. Achieve consistency in measuring the likely equality impacts of our emerging policies and services.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: The previous Corporate Equality Strategy (2017) was revised to ensure consistency with the latest public sector equality legislation and obligations. The refresh of the Strategy reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to fulfil our legal obligations as set out in the Equality Act and to set out the new equality objectives.

12 3Cs HALF YEAR UPDATE (APRIL - SEPTEMBER 22)

The Customer Service Manager presented the Information Note entitled '3Cs Half Year Update'.

13 NORTH HERTS MUSEUM STRATEGY 2022-2026

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

(1) That the current draft of the Museum Strategy 2022 – 2026 be approved.

(2) That Cabinet adopt the strategy for the years 2022 – 2026.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: The previous Arts, Museums and Heritage Strategy expired some years ago and a new strategy will guide the ambitions of the museum service in the years ahead.

14 QUARTERLY UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN

RESOLVED:

(1) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the Council Delivery Plan Quarter 2 monitoring report.

(2) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined any project that they want to receive more detail on as part of the next monitoring report.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

(1) That Cabinet notes the progress against Council projects as set out in the Council Delivery Plan (Appendix A) including changes to milestone dates and risks.

(2) That Cabinet notes the completion of the Local Plan milestones for this year.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS AND REFERRALS: 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.

15 UPDATE OF THE ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE WORK PROGRAMME - PART 1

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: The report is following the request of the committee for an update on the progress of the Commercial Directorate work programme and is for information only.

16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the Tuesday, 6th September, 2022 likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

17 UPDATE OF THE ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE WORK PROGRAMME - PART 2

Details of decisions taken on this item are restricted due to the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 200A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

18 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee prioritises proposed topics for inclusion in the work programme 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, as attached as Appendix B, suggests a list of items to be considered at its meetings in the coming civic year.
- (3) That the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan Extract as attached as Appendix C was considered and to be updated with the most recent version for future meetings.

REASON FOR DECISION: 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.