

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth, SG6 3JF
on Thursday, 22nd September, 2022 at 7.30 pm

DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Prior to the commencement of the formal business the Chair paid tribute following the death of Her Majesty the Queen and held a minute's silence in her honour.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sam North, Sean Prendergast, Morgan Derbyshire, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Amy Allen, Gerald Morris, Terry Tyler, Terry Hone, Ian Moody, Raj Bhakar and Lisa Nash.

2 MINUTES - 14 JULY 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 July 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) 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.

(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 reminded Members that the normal rules of debate and times to speak applied.

(4) The Chair bade farewell to the Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, William Edwards, who is leaving North Herts Council in October. The Chair thanked him for all of his hard work over the past 2 years.

(5) The Chair made a statement regarding the death of former Councillor Nigel Agar and gave his best wishes to Councillor Agar's family; he then held a minute's silence in his memory.

(6) The Chair informed the meeting that he planned to have a comfort break at a suitable time around 8:30.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were none.

7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were none.

8 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

8A. REFERRAL FROM SOUTHERN RURAL AREA COMMITTEE: 30 JUNE 2022- CLOSURE OF KIMPTON SURGERY

RESOLVED: That Councillor Val Bryant, as representative of North Herts Council on the Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Board, would take the issue of the closure of rural GP surgeries and raise it as an item to be discussed at the next Health Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

8B. REFERRAL FROM CABINET: 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Was considered as Agenda Item 9

8C. REFERRAL FROM CABINET: 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 – SOFT PLAY INVESTMENT AT NORTH HERTS LEISURE CENTRE

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council make the addition of £150k to the Capital programme in 2022/23.
- (2) That Council move the existing capital allocation of £100k in 2023/24 for refurbishment of the dry-side changing rooms to 2022/23 and reallocate it to the soft play project.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Introducing a soft play facility at North Herts Leisure Centre will enhance the range of leisure facilities on offer and provide a dedicated play space for families with toddlers and young children within the local area.
- (2) The new facility will generate additional revenue for the site, aiding the financial recovery of leisure post covid and providing an attractive additional facility for bidders when the new leisure contract is procured in 2024.

9 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

RESOLVED: That Full Council adopts the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-28 as attached at Appendix A

REASON FOR DECISION: Adoption of an MTFS and communication of its contents will assist in the process of forward planning and the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2023/2024 to 2027/2028, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2023/24 in February 2023. This will (alongside the Council Plan) support the Council in setting a budget that is affordable and aligned to Council priorities.

10 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2021/22

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2021/2022 as attached as Appendix A be noted.

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REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Council to consider the report of the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of that Committee in the 2020/2021 Civic Year.

11 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That Council receives and notes the Annual Report

REASON FOR DECISION: In line with recommended good governance practice to report the work of Standards Committee to the full Membership, to promote and maintain high standards of conduct and to demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical values.

12 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT / PANEL APPROVAL & APPOINTMENT REPORT - PART 1

RESOLVED: That Full Council:

(1) Approves the amendments detailed in Appendix A, and the Transport Panel's Terms of Reference Appendix B.

(2) Approves the Member appointments (and Co-Chairs to the extent necessary) to the Transport Panel, as detailed in 8.3-8.4

(3) Having taken the part 2 report and Mr Peter Oldham KC's advice into account, instructs the Service Director – Legal & Community to draft an amendment to the Constitution, in consultation with Group Leaders, regarding the removal of Council Procedure 4.8.23 (a) with the exception of Regulatory and Disciplinary Committees as well as certain statutory matters of Full Council, and present that wording to the next Full Council meeting on 10 November 2022.

REASON FOR DECISION: To reflect good decision making practice, reflect changes to Service Director's responsibilities and the review of the Panel arrangements to keep them up to date.

13 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 likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Section 200A(4) of the said Act (as amended).

14 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT / PANEL APPROVAL & APPOINTMENT REPORT - PART 2

Details of decisions taken on this item are restricted due to the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 200A(4) of the said Act (as amended).