

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
on Wednesday, 15th June, 2022 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

At the start of the meeting Councillors Morgan Derbyshire and Phil Weeder were absent.

2 MINUTES - 17 JANUARY 2022, 16 MARCH 2022

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 January 2022 and 16 March 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.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 AUDIT RESULTS REPORT 2020/21

RESOLVED: That the Audit Results Report 2020/21 presented by Ernst & Young be noted.

N.B Councillor Phil Weeder joined the meeting during this item.

7 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

RESOLVED: That the 2020/21 Annual Statement of Accounts, as set out in Appendix A, be approved and signed by the Chair of the Committee.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Council abides by the Audit and Account Regulations 2015, which require the approval and publication of audited Statement of Accounts.

8 SIAS ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATE ON 2022/23 AUDIT PLAN

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- (1) Notes the Annual Assurance Statement and Internal Audit Annual Report
- (2) Notes the results of the self-assessment required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme (QAIP)
- (3) Approves the SIAS Audit Charter for 2022/23
- (4) Seeks management assurance that the scope and resources for internal audit were not subject to inappropriate limitations in 2021/22

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To update the Committee on the Annual Assurance Statement and Internal Audit Annual Report 2021/22.

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The Chair of the Committee sought management assurance that the scope and resources for internal audit were not subject to inappropriate limitations in 2021/22.

The Service Director – Resources gave confirmation that there were no inappropriate limitations on the scope and resources for internal audit in 2021/22 and no matters which threatened the independence of SIAS.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- (1) Notes the SIAS Progress Report for the period to 30 May 2022
- (2) Notes the plan amendments to the 2022/23 Annual Audit Plan
- (3) Approves “Project Management” and “Temporary Accommodation” as ‘medium’ priority audit projects for Q3 2022/23

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To update the Committee on the SIAS Progress Report and set medium priority audit projects for Q3 2022/23

9 ANNUAL REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the Annual Report on Risk Management.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet agrees the introduction of a new Corporate Risk relating to Council Resourcing.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the Annual Report on Risk Management before referral to Full Council.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) The responsibility for ensuring the management of risks is that of Cabinet.
- (2) This Committee has responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of Risk Management.

10 REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2021/22

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet:

- (1) Notes this report.
- (2) Approves a decrease of £592k in the 2021/22 net General Fund expenditure, as identified in table 4 and paragraph 8.1, to a total of £16.892million.
- (3) Approves the changes to the 2022/23 General Fund budget, as identified in table 4 and paragraph 8.3, a total £179k increase in net expenditure.

That Cabinet recommends to Council:

- (1) That Council approves the net transfer from earmarked reserves, as identified in table 9, of £8.123million.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

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- (1) 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.
- (2) Changes to the Council's balances are monitored and approved.

11 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) END OF YEAR REVIEW 2021/22

RESOLVED: To note the report entitled Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) End of Year Review 2021/22

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet:

- (1) Notes expenditure of £1.434million in 2021/22 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) Approves the adjustments to the capital programme for 2022/23 as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2, increasing the estimated spend in by £0.979million.
- (3) Notes the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 3 paragraph 8.7 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability.
- (4) Approves the application of £1.225million of capital receipts/set aside towards the 2021/22 capital programme, paragraph 8.7 refers.
- (5) Notes the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of March 2022.

That Cabinet recommends to Council to:

- (1) Approve the actual 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators.
- (2) Note the annual Treasury Report for 2021/22.

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.

12 FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee as attached at Appendix A, prior to consideration by Full Council, be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Committee to consider the report before it is presented to Full Council. To provide Full Council with assurance as to the effectiveness of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.