

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF on Tuesday, 7th November, 2023 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mick Debenham.

Having given due notice Councillor Sean Nolan substituted for Councillor Mick Debenham.

2 MINUTES - 12 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 September 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, 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 advised that for the purposes of clarification clause 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution does not apply to this meeting.
- (4) The Chair advised that he had agreed to a change to the order of the agenda and Agenda Item 9 would take place after Agenda Item 15.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

No urgent or general exception items were received.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There have been no called-in items.

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

10 3C'S HALF YEAR UPDATE 2023/2024

The Customer Service Manager presented the Information Note entitled '3Cs Half Year Update 2023/2024'.

11 CALL TO ACCOUNT ON THE HARKNESS COURT REFURBISHMENT

The Chair introduced the Call to Account item and welcomed Steve Crowley, Service Director – Enterprise and Nafees Parker, Building Surveyor, who were in attendance to provide their account.

The Service Director – Enterprise presented their report entitled ‘Call to account on the Harkness Court Refurbishment’ and appendices, following which Members asked questions.

12 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

13 PART 2 MINUTES - 20 JUNE 2023

RESOLVED: That the part 2 Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20 June 2023 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

14 WASTE, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT SERVICE DESIGN - PART 2

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that the recommendations contained within the report entitled ‘Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Contract Service Design – Part 2’ be amended to:

- (1) Any changes to the service design identified in Appendix 2 regarding waste and recycling service are referred back to Cabinet for approval.
- (2) Any changes to the service design identified in Appendix 2 regarding street cleansing service are referred back to Cabinet for approval

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) The competitive dialogue procurement process allows the Council to explore service design options which may present benefits to the Council. The process so far has identified that significant cost increases are likely from the waste, recycling and street cleansing services in the next contract.
- (2) Officers have considered the initial offers from bidders and discussed opportunities for specification changes with them, which are aligned with the Council’s aims for high performance, but that will reduce the costs to the Council with minimal impacts on perceived performance.
- (3) To ensure decisions are taken by elected representatives and not delegated to Officers.

15 WASTE, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT SERVICE DESIGN - PART 1

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that the recommendations contained within the report entitled ‘Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Contract Service Design – Part 1’ be amended to:

- (1) Any changes to the service design identified in paragraph 8.2 of the report regarding waste and recycling service are referred back to Cabinet for approval.

- (2) Any changes to the service design identified in paragraph 8.2 of the report regarding street cleansing service are referred back to Cabinet for approval

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) The competitive dialogue procurement process allows the Council to explore service design options which may present benefits to the Council. The process so far has identified that significant cost increases are likely from the waste, recycling and street cleansing services in the next contract.
- (2) Officers have considered the initial offers from bidders and discussed opportunities for specification changes with them, which are aligned with the Council's aims for high performance, but that will reduce the costs to the Council with minimal impacts on perceived performance.
- (3) To ensure decisions are taken by elected representatives and not delegated to Officers.

9 RESOLUTIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the report 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.

16 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee prioritised topics for inclusion in the work programme attached as Appendix A and, where appropriate, determined 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 at Appendix B, suggested items be considered at its meetings in the coming civic year.
- (3) That the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan as attached at Appendix C was considered.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To allow the Committee to set a work programme which provides focused Member oversight, encourages open debate and seeks to achieve service improvement through effective policy development and meaningful policy and service change.
- (2) The need to observe Constitutional requirements and monitor the Forward Plan for appropriate items to scrutinise remains a key aspect of work programming.