

19 January 2024

Our Ref Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29
January 2024
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillors Adam Compton (Chair), Val Bryant (Vice-Chair),
Matt Barnes, Clare Billing, Mick Debenham, Dominic Griffiths, David Levett, Nigel Mason,
Ian Moody, Ralph Muncer and Daniel Wright-Mason

Substitutes: Councillors Daniel Allen, David Barnard, Raj Bhakar, Sam Collins,
James Denselow, Lisa Nash, Sean Nolan and Mandi Tandi

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON
ROAD, LETCHWORTH, SG6 3JF**

On

MONDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 2024 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda

Part I

Item		Page
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Members are required to notify any substitutions by midday on the day of the meeting. Late substitutions will not be accepted and Members attending as a substitute without having given the due notice will not be able to take part in the meeting.	
2.	NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
3.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.	
4.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.	
5.	URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS The Chair to report on any urgent or general exception items which required their agreement. At the time of printing the agenda, the Chair had not agreed any urgent or general exception items.	
6.	CALLED-IN ITEMS To consider any matters referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to a call-in of decision. At the time of printing the agenda, no items of business had been called-in.	

- 7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**
To receive and respond to any questions from Members either set out in the agenda or tabled at the meeting.
- 8. PRESENTATION FROM SETTLE**
To receive an update from settle on their work in North Herts.
- 9. CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS**
To receive an update from the Herts Police on Hate Crime in North Herts.
- 10. RESOLUTIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** (Pages 5
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND SCRUTINY MANAGER - 6)

To consider the outcome of Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolutions.
- 11. CALL TO ACCOUNT - LORD LISTER HOTEL - CHAIR'S REPORT** (Pages 7
REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12)
FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2022/23

To consider the report of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny for Civic Year 2022-2023 following the Call to Account on the Lord Lister Hotel Urgency Proceedings on 28 September 2022.
- 12. EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY** (Pages
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 13 - 72)

This strategy states the objectives North Herts Council (the Council) has set itself so as to endeavour to bring as many long-term vacant homes back into occupation as is practicable.
- 13. COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS FOR EMPTY AND SECOND HOMES** (Pages
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – CUSTOMERS 73 - 80)

To consider whether to increase the level of Council Tax Premiums payable and include a Council Tax Premium charge for properties determined as second homes.
- 14. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT ('RIPA') ANNUAL REVIEW** (Pages
REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL & MONITORING OFFICER 81 - 88)

This report provides an update on the Council's current use of RIPA and reports on the annual policy review.
- 15. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND SCRUTINY MANAGER 89 - 106)

To consider the issues that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee plans to review at future meetings and the activities of its sub-groups.