

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,  
Letchworth  
on Thursday, 28th September, 2023 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Bloxham, Dominic Griffiths, Tom Plater, Sam Collins, Terry Tyler, Juan Cowell, David Barnard, Raj Bhakar, Cathy Brownjohn and James Denselow.

Councillors Faye Frost and Michael Weeks were absent.

### 2 MINUTES - 13 JULY 2023

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 23 July 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) 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.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The Chair advised that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak will apply.
- (5) The Chair advised that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting. A comfort break would be held at an appropriate time, should proceedings continue at length.
- (6) The Chair advised that a referral from the Cabinet meeting on 19 September regarding the Financial System Budget, which was circulated as supplementary document, would be considered alongside Agenda Item 8.
- (7) The Chair advised that a Polling District Review would commence on Monday 2 October, with a Members Briefing scheduled for Monday 16 October. Full Council would then be designating the polling places at the meeting on 23 November 2023.
- (8) The Chair reminded the Committee about the upcoming Chair's Civic Event and Awards 2024, being held on Friday 1 March 2024.

(9) The Chair held a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Geoff Woods and Members paid tribute.

(10) The Chair congratulated Councillor Tom Plater on the birth of his daughter.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A presentation was received by the Council from Laura Hyde, Chief Executive Officer at Resolve.

## 6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 two questions had been submitted by the required deadline set out in the Constitution.

(A) Council Responsibility to House Asylum Seekers Granted Leave to Stay.

Councillor David Levett to Councillor Sean Prendergast (Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health).

(B) Council Financial Relationship with Birmingham City Council.

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Ian Albert (Executive Member for Finance and IT).

## 7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There was one motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

Council of Sanctuary

**RESOLVED:** That the Council:

- (1) Launch the journey to become an awarded District Council of Sanctuary by joining City of Sanctuary's local authority network.
- (2) Embody and commit to the City of Sanctuary 'Charter' values of Inclusive, Openness, Participation, Inspire, and Integrity in all we do.

In addition to taking local action, we will call on the Government to:

- (3) Guarantee the safety of all children.
- (4) Create a proper plan for resettlement.

## 8 FINANCIAL SYSTEM BUDGET

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved a capital budget allocation in 2023/24 of £200k for the initial work to develop and implement the new finance software system.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** A new finance system was expected to lead to more efficient processes and a better customer experience. A new finance system would incur up-front installation and development costs. These costs can be charged to capital but require a capital budget. Additions to the capital programme above £50k require approval by Full Council.

## 9 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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

**10 SETTLE PENSION AGREEMENT - PART 2**

**RESOLVED:** That Council agreed to a new Admission Agreement between Hertfordshire County Council (as the Hertfordshire Pension Fund administer), Settle Group and North Hertfordshire District Council to allow settle to achieve a partial exit from the Local Government Pension Fund. The terms of that new Admission Agreement would be in line with what is set out in paragraph 8, including the recommended actions outlined in 8.6.1 to 8.6.3 of the Part 2 report.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** Settle had requested that the Council consider the proposal that it has made. Settle felt that it was in their best financial interests and it was possible that it could allow greater capacity for Settle to invest in housing, which could be in North Herts.

**11 SETTLE PENSION AGREEMENT - PART 1**

**RESOLVED:** That Council agreed to a new Admission Agreement between Hertfordshire County Council (as the Hertfordshire Pension Fund administer), Settle Group and North Hertfordshire District Council to allow settle to achieve a partial exit from the Local Government Pension Fund. The terms of that new Admission Agreement would be in line with what is set out in paragraph 8 including the recommended actions outlined in 8.6.1 to 8.6.3 of the Part 2 report.

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