

16 February 2024

Our Ref Council 29 February 2024
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To: The Chair and Members of North Hertfordshire District Council

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERNON
ROAD, LETCHWORTH**

on

THURSDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY, 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	
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	
<u>Climate Emergency</u>	
The Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to achieving a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 and helping local people and businesses to reduce their own carbon emissions.	
A Cabinet Panel on the Environment has been established to engage with local people on matters relating to the climate emergency and advise the council on how to achieve these climate change objectives. A Climate Change Implementation group of councillors and council officers meets regularly to produce plans and monitor progress. Actions taken or currently underway include switching to green energy, incentives for low emission taxis, expanding tree planting and working to cut food waste.	
In addition the council is a member of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, working with other councils across Hertfordshire to reduce the county's carbon emissions and climate impact.	
The Council's dedicated webpage on Climate Change includes details of the council's climate change strategy, the work of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment and a monthly briefing on progress.	
<u>Ecological Emergency</u>	
The Council has declared an ecological emergency and is committed to addressing the ecological emergency and nature recovery by identifying appropriate areas for habitat restoration and biodiversity net gain whilst ensuring that development limits impact on existing habitats in its process.	
The Council has set out to do that by a) setting measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities, seeking to increase community engagement, b) to work with our partners to establish a Local Nature Partnership for Hertfordshire and to develop Nature Recovery Networks and Nature Recovery Strategy for Hertfordshire and c) to investigate new approaches to nature recovery such as habitat banking that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities.	

Declarations of Interest

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. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**
To consider any questions submitted by Members of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 (b).
- 6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS** 5 - 6
To consider any motions, due notice of which have been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.
- 7. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES** 7 - 30
7A) Cabinet – Revenue Budget 2024-25 – **to be considered with Item 8**
7B) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Call to Account – Lord Lister Hotel - **to be considered as a standalone Item**
7C) Cabinet – Council Tax Premiums for Empty and Second Homes – **to be considered with Item 9**
7D) Cabinet – Investment Strategy (Integrated Capital and Treasury) – **to be considered with Item 10**
- 8. REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25** 31 - 62
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

Cabinet have recommended a budget for 2024/25 to Council for their consideration and approval.
- 9. COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS FOR EMPTY AND SECOND HOMES** 63 - 80
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – CUSTOMERS

To consider increasing the council tax premiums on empty homes and introducing a new premium on second homes in a phased approach.
- 10. INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY)** 81 - 136
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

To consider the Investment Strategy and recommend to Council the adoption of the Investment Strategy.

- 11. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2024/25** 137 -
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 148

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the Council Tax requirement and the overall Council Tax rates for the district of North Hertfordshire for 2024/25.

- 12. PAY POLICY STATEMENT** 149 -
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 158

To set out a draft Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 for Council's consideration and approval in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), associated guidance issued under Section 40 of the Act, the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and any other relevant legislation.