

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Tuesday, 14th November, 2023 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 MINUTES - 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 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) 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 for the purposes of clarification that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.
- (5) The Chair advised of a change in the order of the agenda. The referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Design would be considered first, followed by Agenda Item 12 'Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Service Design – Part 1'. Subject to the discussion and resolution on Agenda Item 12, the Chair advised that Agenda Items 10 and 11 may not be required and deferred to a future meeting.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair invited Councillor Sean Nolan to present the Overview and Scrutiny Referrals on the 'Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Service Design'.

N.B. The referral from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee regarding the Medium Term Financial Strategy was considered with the relevant agenda item.

12 WASTE, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICE DESIGN - PART 1

RESOLVED:

- (1) That any changes to the service design identified in paragraph 8.2 of the part 1 report (and Appendix 2 of the part 2 report) regarding waste and recycling service would be referred back to Cabinet for approval.
- (2) That any changes to the service design identified in paragraph 8.2 of the part 1 report (and Appendix 2 of the part 2 report) regarding street cleansing service would be referred back to Cabinet for approval.
- (3) That this item and the part 2 item, included as Agenda Item 11, be deferred to the next meeting of Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure decisions are taken by elected representatives and not delegated to Officers.

10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

This item was not required at this meeting. Following the above resolution that the Waste, Recycling and Street Cleaning Service Design be deferred to the next meeting of the Cabinet, the meeting did not consider any matters in part 2.

11 WASTE, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICE DESIGN - PART 2

Due to the decision taken on the Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Service Design – Part 1, this item was not considered at this meeting.

N.B. The meeting did not move into part 2 and any discussions and resolutions taken were in part 1.

7 ALLOCATION OF (ADDITIONAL) HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the allocation £192k of HPG in order to fund the salary budget shortfall in the housing team to March 2027.
- (2) Authorised the remaining amount (of £7.9k) to be used to offset the cost of hotel placements, which are anticipated to grow further over the winter months.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The recommendations in this report support the Council's response to the increasing volume and complexity of housing approaches, whilst also meeting the requirements of DLUHC's ringfenced use of the funding.

8 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report on strategic planning matters was noted.
- (2) That the Planning Reforms responses from North Herts and HIPP, attached as Appendices A and B were endorsed.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To keep Cabinet informed of recent developments on strategic planning matters.

9 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024-29

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That Council adopt the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as attached at Appendix A.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of a MTFs and communication of its contents will assist in the process of forward planning the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2024/2025 to 2028/2029, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2024/25 in February 2024. This will (alongside the existing Council Plan) support the Council in setting a budget that is affordable and aligned to Council priorities.