

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Wednesday, 13th March, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tom Plater was elected Chair for this meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Tyler and Sean Nolan.

3 MINUTES - 31 JANUARY 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 31 January 2024 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be 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 section 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.
- (4) The Chair advised a change in the order of the published agenda. Agenda item 11 Clearing the External Audit Backlog would be considered after Agenda item 5.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

7 CLEARING THE EXTERNAL AUDIT BACKLOG

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the report including the implications on the approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2022-23 onwards.

8 SAFS ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2023-24 PROGRESS UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the progress made by the Shared Anti-Fraud Service on delivering the 2023/24 Anti-Fraud Plan.

9 SAFS PROPOSED ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2024-25

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee reviewed and approved the Anti-Fraud Plan for 2024-25.

10 SIAS PROGRESS REPORT 2023-24

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee:

- (1) Noted the SIAS Progress Report for the period to 26 February 2024.
- (2) Noted the implementation status of the reported high priority recommendations.
- (3) Noted the plan amendments to the 2023/24 Annual Audit Plan.

11 SIAS PROPOSED INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2024-25

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Members approved the proposed North Herts District Council Internal Audit Plan for 2024-25.

12 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2024 AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2023/24

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- (1) Approved the Local Code of Corporate Governance 2024 (Appendix A).
- (2) Noted the current position with the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan (Appendix B).

13 THIRD QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2023/24

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided comments and recommended to Cabinet the Third Quarter Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) Review 2023-24.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the forecast expenditure of £6.521M in 2023/24 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the adjustments to the capital programme for 2023/24 onwards, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend in 2024/25 by £0.960M.
- (3) That Cabinet notes the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 4 paragraph 8.6 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability.
- (4) Cabinet is asked to note the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of December 2023.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.
- (2) To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

14 THIRD QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided comments and recommended to Cabinet the Third Quarter Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023-24.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet note this report.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the adjustments to the 2023/24 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £415k decrease in net expenditure.
- (3) That Cabinet approves the changes to the 2024/25 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £411k increase in net expenditure.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

15 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair led a discussion regarding possible agenda items for future meetings, no new items were suggested and the Committee agreed that updates on any new contracts including Churchgate, Waste and Leisure, and their impacts on future budgets would remain as future agenda items.