

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth, Herts, SG6 3JF
on Tuesday, 9th July, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tamsin Thomas.

2 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair reminded Members that the Council had declared both a Climate Emergency and an Ecological Emergency. These are serious decisions, and mean 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 that there was a change in the order of the published Agenda and Agenda Item 7 would take place following Agenda Item 12, followed by Agenda Items 13, 14 and 15.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at the meeting.

5 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that items referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be taken with their respective items on the agenda.

6 PRODUCTIVITY PLANS

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the Productivity Plan attached at Appendix B for submission to MHCLG.

REASON FOR DECISION: The recommendations are to ensure that the Council complies with the requirements set out by MHCLG to produce a Productivity Plan.

7 CORPORATE STATEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT POLICY

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the amended Policy at Appendix A.
- (2) Delegated to the Service Director Legal & Community in consultation with the Leader, authority to make any amendments required to the Policy, following the finalised HMO audit.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To bring the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy up to date.

8 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the report on strategic planning matters was noted.

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

9 NORTH STEVENAGE STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN FRAMEWORK

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Strategic Masterplan Framework for North Stevenage, attached at Appendix A, is approved and adopted as a material planning consideration for relevant planning decisions relating to the site.

REASON FOR DECISION: To facilitate the delivery of a strategic site within the Council's adopted Local Plan. To accord with policy requirements of the Local Plan.

10 LAND TO THE NORTH OF THE GRANGE (LG1) - STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN FRAMEWORK

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Strategic Masterplan Framework for Land to the North of the Grange (LG1), attached at Appendix A, is approved and adopted as a material planning consideration for relevant planning decisions relating to the site.

REASON FOR DECISION: To facilitate the delivery of a strategic site within the Council's adopted Local Plan. To accord with policy requirements of the Local Plan.

11 ADOPTION OF A NEW TENANCY STRATEGY (2024-2029)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the adoption of the Council's Tenancy Strategy (2024-2029).

REASON FOR DECISION: It is now timely to update the current Tenancy Strategy to accompany the Council's new Housing Strategy (2024-2029) and to incorporate the latest evidence on local housing needs.

12 ADOPTION OF A TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENT POLICY

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the adoption of the proposed temporary accommodation placement policy.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) Adoption of a temporary accommodation placement policy, whilst not a statutory requirement, is sector good practice as it provides transparency and context to the Council's approach to accommodating homeless households.

- (2) The Council is seeing increasing legal challenge of its homelessness decisions and case law suggests that authorities with temporary accommodation placement policies are more resilient to legal challenge, particularly with regard to out of area placements.

13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

14 WASTE RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT AWARD - PART 2

Details of decisions taken on this item are restricted due to the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 200A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

15 WASTE RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT AWARD - PART 1

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Agreed to award the waste, recycling and street cleansing contract to the preferred bidder, as identified in Part 2 of this report contingent upon the imminent completion of the Letchworth depots lease assignment from the incumbent provider to the Council.
- (2) Agreed to the delegation of powers to the Director of Resources and the Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Members for Finance and IT and Recycling and Waste Management to determine whether the Council Capital funds vehicles.
- (3) Agreed to approve the formation of a joint mobilisation project board to include the Executive Members responsible for digital transformation as well as the Executive Member covering waste, recycling and street cleansing services for both EHC and North Herts to monitor the progress of the mobilisation of the waste, recycling and street cleansing contract.
- (4) Had due regard for the draft statutory guidance in Appendix 6 and taking into account the matters set out in this Part 2 report and any Part 2 clarifications, reconfirms the decision on the 3-weekly collection frequency of residual waste collections made by Cabinet as per 7.5 and outlined that the clear reasons for the decision were that:
 - Options for fortnightly collections were considered, but the proposed service design provided better opportunities for increasing recycling participation.
 - To redesign the provision of services at this late stage would be a significant waste of resources.
 - Households with 'smelly waste' would be allowed the opportunity for more frequent collections.
 - The service design offered financial savings and provided best value for money.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) An extensive procurement exercise has been undertaken for waste, recycling and street cleansing services.
- (2) The procurement including specification development has been supported by external consultants Eunomia and legal advisors from Sharpe Pritchard.

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- (3) In respect of the decision relating to 3-weekly collection frequency of residual waste, Cabinet had considered the matters and legal advice provided in the Part 2 element of the meeting and had regard to that. Cabinet concluded that there were clear reasons to depart from the draft Statutory guidance that included the matters detailed in the Part 2 and then Part 1 reports. Paragraph 8.32 of the Part 1 report succinctly summarised those public matters that were relevant to the decision. Specifically, Cabinet determined that having declared a climate and an ecological emergency, there were environmental benefits of the proposed service and significant financial benefits to the Council that justified the departure.