

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Thursday, 23rd May, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2024-25

RESOLVED: That Councillor Clare Billing be elected as Chair of the Council for the Civic Year 2024-25.

RESOLVED: That the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Daniel Allen for his service as Chair of the Council during the past year and also to his Consort Councillor Amy Allen for her help and support during his term of office.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lisa Nash.

3 ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2024-25

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tina Bhartwas be elected as Vice-Chair of the Council for the Civic Year 2024-25.

4 MINUTES - 18 APRIL 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 April 2024 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

5 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 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 welcomed and congratulated the newly elected Members following the elections on 2 May: Councillors Tina Bhartwas, Sadie Billing, Rhona Cameron, David Chalmers, Jon Clayden, Ruth Clifton, Emma Fernandes, Joe Graziano, Tim Johnson, Caroline McDonnell, Steven Patmore, Vijaiya Poopalasingham, Martin Prescott, Emma Rowe, Paul Ward, Laura Williams, Stewart Willoughby, Claire Winchester and Donna Wright.

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- (7) The Chair congratulated those Councillors successfully re-elected: Councillors Ian Albert, Amy Allen, Daniel Allen, David Barnard, Matt Barnes, Clare Billing, Ruth Brown, Cathy Brownjohn, Val Bryant, Sam Collins, Mick Debenham, Elizabeth Dennis, Dominic Griffiths, Chris Hinchliff, Keith Hoskins, Steve Jarvis, Chris Lucas, Ian Mantle, Nigel Mason Bryony May, Michael Muir, Ralph Muncer, Lisa Nash, Sean Nolan, Louise Peace, Sean Prendergast, Claire Strong, Tamsin Thomas, Tom Tyson, Alistair Willoughby, Dave Winstanley and Daniel Wright-Mason.
- (8) The Chair thanked former Councillors Richard Thake, Gerald Morris, Mandi Tandi, Adam Compton, Michael Weeks, Raj Bhakar, Terry Tyler, James Denselow, Daniel Marsh and Tom Plater who did not stand for re-election.
- (9) The Chair thanked former Councillors Simon Bloxham, Juan Cowell, Faye Frost, Terry Hone, David Levett, Ian Moody and Phil Weeder who were unsuccessful in being re-elected.
- (10) The Chair reminded Members to complete their Register of Interest forms by the 31 May 2024.
- (11) The Chair reminded Members to complete their election expenses by 7 June 2024.
- (12) The Chair encouraged Members, Agents and Election Candidates to complete the post-Election survey by the 31 May 2024.
- (13) The former Chair confirmed the amount raised for his chosen charities Feed Up Warm Up and Resolve, during the civic year 2023-24 and presented a cheque to a representative from Resolve.
- (14) The Chair advised that her chosen charity for the Civic Year 2024-25 would be Sands.
- (15) The Chair offered thanks to Penny Copestake, Chair's Secretary, on behalf of former Chair Daniel Allen, and announced that a bouquet would be sent in recognition of her hard work and support.
- (16) Members paid tribute followed by a minutes silence for former Councillor Michael Weeks.

6 DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS (INCLUDING ALL POLLS) - 2 MAY 2024

RESOLVED: That the report of the Returning Officer regarding the election results of the District Council, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Hertfordshire and the uncontested Town and Parish Council elections was noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To inform Members of the results of the elections held on 2 May 2024.

7 ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2024-28

RESOLVED: That Councillor Daniel Allen be elected as Leader of the Council for 2024-2028.

8 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET FOR 2024/25

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2024/25 was noted as Councillor Val Bryant.

- (2) That the Members appointed as Executive Members of the Cabinet for 2024/25 and the areas for which they will be responsible as detailed in Appendix A, provided as a supplementary document, was noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and Sections 4.8.1 (a) (vii), 5.2 and 5.3.4 of the Council's Constitution.

9 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2024/25

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, for 2024/25, the seats allocated to each political group on the Committees to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies and the seats allocated to each political party on the bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 does not apply, as set out in Appendix A of the report, was noted.
- (2) That, for 2024/25, Members be appointed to the various Committees and other bodies in accordance with the wishes of the individual political groups, as detailed in Appendix B provided as a supplementary document, to this report, with the addition of:
- Councillor Claire Strong as Conservative Substitute on the Finance Audit and Risk Committee.
 - Councillor Joe Graziano as the Conservative Substitute on the Planning Control Committee.
 - Councillor Ralph Muncer as the Conservative Substitute on the Standards Committee.
 - The Deputy Leader as the Substitute on the Herts Growth Board.
- (3) That, for 2024/25, each political group leader be appointed to the Constitutional and Governance Working Group and the Community Governance Review Working Group, as detailed in 8.6 of the report.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

10 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Community Forums) for 2024/25 be appointed in accordance with the details set out in Appendix A provided as a supplementary document of the report, with the addition of:

- Councillor Tom Tyson as the Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Councillor Ruth Brown as the Vice-Chair of the Joint Staff Consultative Committee.
- Councillor Ruth Brown as the Vice-Chair of the Employment Committee.
- Councillor Ian Albert as the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee.
- Councillor Daniel Allen as the Chair of the Employment Committee.
- Councillor Chris Hinchliff as the Chair of the Employment Appeals Committee.
- Councillor Nigel Mason as the Vice-Chair of the Employment Appeals Committee.

REASON FOR DECISION: To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(ix) of the Council's Constitution.

11 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Annual Council was adjourned at 20:40 to allow meetings of each Community Forum to convene to elect Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the Civic Year.

The meeting of the Annual Council reconvened at 21:11.

12 KEY DECISIONS - LEADER'S ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY

This item was deferred to the Council meeting of the 11 July 2024.

13 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the Calendar of Meetings for 2024/25, as attached as Appendix A, was approved with the exception of the Council Meeting of the 17 April 2025, the date for which was to be confirmed.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2024/25.

14 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2024/25

RESOLVED:

(1) That the list of nominations of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix A provided as a supplementary document to the report was approved with confirmation that:

- The Council's representatives to Baldock Town Twinning Association be Councillors Alistair Willoughby and Stewart Willoughby.
- The Council's representatives to Baldock United Almshouses Charities be Councillors Alistair Willoughby, Stewart Willoughby and Emma Rowe.
- The Council's representatives to Baldock Youth and Community Association be Councillors Alistair Willoughby, Stewart Willoughby and Emma Rowe.
- The Council's representative to Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee be Councillor Tina Bhartwas.
- The Council's representatives to Letchworth Civic Trust be Councillors Emma Fernandes and Daniel Allen.
- The Council's representative to Letchworth Garden City BID be Councillor Tamsin Thomas.
- The Council's representative to Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation be Councillor Ian Mantle.
- The Council's representative to Letchworth Garden City Town Twinning Association be Councillor Mick Debenham.
- The Council's representative to London Luton Airport Consultative Committee be Councillor Mick Debenham.
- The Council's representative to Police and Crime Panel be Councillor Val Bryant
- The Council's representative to Royston Old People's Day Centre (Royston Old Barn) be Councillor Bryony May.

(2) That Political Group Leaders notify the Democratic Services Manager of nominations to the remaining vacancies or any changes to the existing representatives on outside organisations.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(iv) and (v) of the Council's Constitution.

15 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).

16 PART 2 MINUTES - 18 APRIL 2024

RESOLVED: That the Part 2 Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 April 2024 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.