

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,  
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF  
on Thursday, 28th November, 2024 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Chalmers, Elizabeth Dennis, Joe Graziano, Lisa Nash and Tamsin Thomas.

### 2 MINUTES - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 September 2024 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) 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.

The Monitoring Officer informed Members that a general dispensation had been granted for Agenda Item 9 - Land North of Great Ashby (GA2) Strategic Masterplan Framework.

(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 applied to Agenda Items 9 and 10 and the corresponding referrals.

(6) The Chair advised Members that there were changes to the order of the published agenda.

(7) The Chair welcomed newly elected Councillor Sarah Lucas to her first Council Meeting.

(8) The Chair advised that tickets were now available to purchase for the Chair's Civic Event and Awards 2025, being held on Friday 28 February 2025.

(9) The Chair and Members paid tribute to former Councillor Ray Bloxham.

(10) The Chair and Members paid tribute to former Councillor Anthony Burrows.

A minutes silence was observed in memory of both former Councillors.

- (11) A donation was made to the Chair's Charity – SANDS on behalf of the estate of the former Cllr Michael Weeks.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Immediately before each of the respective Agenda Items, a presentation was received from Silke Gruner, Emanuele Lo Faro and Edward Keyner regarding Agenda Item 9 - Land North of Great Ashby (GA2) Strategic Masterplan Framework and from Richard Kelly regarding Agenda Item 10 - North Stevenage Strategic Masterplan Framework.

## 7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There was one motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.15.

### (A) Motion Similar to One Previously Rejected

**RESOLVED:** That Full Council would consider the report and recommendations on the North of Stevenage Masterplan at its meeting on 28 November 2024, following reconsiderations by the Project Board and any similar referral motions from Cabinet.

## 9 LAND NORTH-EAST OF GREAT ASHBY (GA2) STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN FRAMEWORK

**RESOLVED:** That the Strategic Masterplan Framework for the land North-East of Great Ashby (Local Plan site GA2), attached at Appendix A, was approved and adopted as a material planning consideration for relevant planning decisions relating to the site.

### **REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) To set an agreed design framework for the delivery of a strategic site within the Council's adopted Local Plan.
- (2) To accord with policy requirements of the Local Plan.

## 10 LAND TO THE NORTH STEVENAGE STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN FRAMEWORK

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That following the Full Council decision not to adopt the masterplan in July 2024, Council noted the additional information and clarification in the report.
- (2) That the Strategic Masterplan Framework for North Stevenage, attached at Appendix A, was approved and adopted as a material planning consideration for relevant planning decisions relating to the site.

### **REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) To facilitate the delivery of a strategic site within the Council's adopted Local Plan.
- (2) To accord with policy requirements of the Local Plan.

## 8 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that the referrals 8B and 8C from Cabinet had been taken with the respective items on the agenda.

### 8A) Statement of Gambling Principles 2025-2028

**RESOLVED:** That Council adopted the Statement of Gambling Principles 2025-2028 policy.

#### **REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) Licensing authorities are required to publish a policy every three years by virtue of section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act").
- (2) A new policy must be published by 3 January 2025 to comply with this statutory requirement.
- (3) The policy builds on the effectiveness of the existing policy with minor amendments to reflect changes in legislation.

## 11 CONSTITUTIONAL & GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Chair advised that due to the time already taken to determine the business on the agenda this item would be deferred to the Extraordinary meeting of Full Council in December 2024.

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 five questions had been submitted by the required deadline set out in the Constitution.

## 6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

In accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 five questions had been submitted by the required deadline set out in the Constitution.

### Removal of Public Bins

Councillor Matt Barnes to Councillor Amy Allen (Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management).

### Royston Leaner Pool

Councillor Tim Johnson to Councillor Mick Debenham (Executive Member for Environment, Leisure and Green Spaces).

### (C) Churchgate Regeneration

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Daniel Allen (Leader of the Council).

### (D) Single Person Council Tax Discount

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Ian Albert (Executive Member for Finance and IT).

### (E) Civil Enforcement Officer Roles

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Daniel Allen (Interim Executive Member for Planning and Transport).

7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were three motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

(B) Hitchin industrial Estate Fires

**RESOLVED: That Council**

Instructed the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health to write promptly to the Environment Agency, to express North Herts Council's serious concerns about the safety of recycling sites on the Hitchin industrial estate, and request that their operators' licences be reviewed urgently.

Work proactively to instigate a system of air quality monitoring in the residential areas closest to the industrial estate.

Further instructed the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health to report back to Council within six months with details of any action that has been taken by the competent authorities in the intervening period to monitor pollution and mitigate the risks of future fires.

(C) A1(M) Junction 6 (Welwyn) to 8 (Hitchin and Stevenage) Upgrade

**RESOLVED:**

That the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport calling on the Government to reinstate plans to upgrade the A1(M) between Junction 6 (Welwyn) to Junction 8 (Hitchin and Stevenage) that were cancelled by the prior Conservative government.

That the Leader of the Council writes to the Member of Parliament for Hitchin, the Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire and the Member of Parliament for Stevenage, urging them to call on the Secretary of State for Transport to reinstate plans to upgrade the A1(M) between Junction 6 (Welwyn) to Junction 8 (Hitchin and Stevenage) and mitigate the impact of needed housing growth for North Hertfordshire residents living near the A602, B197 and B656

(D) Impact of Family Farm Tax on Rural Communities in North Hertfordshire

The Chair advised that due to the time already taken to determine the business on the agenda this item would be deferred to the Extraordinary meeting of Full Council in December 2024.