

15 January 2025

Our Ref Council 23 January 2025  
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To: The Chair and Members of North Hertfordshire District Council

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERONON  
ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY, SG6 3JF**

on

**THURSDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2025**

at

**7.30 PM**

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson  
Service Director – Legal and Community

**\*\*MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING\*\***

## **Agenda** **Part I**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES - 28 NOVEMBER 2024</b> To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 28 November 2024.	5 - 24
<b>3.</b>	<b>NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS</b> Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency.  The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> <u>Climate Emergency</u>  The Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to achieving a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 and helping local people and businesses to reduce their own carbon emissions.  A Cabinet Panel on the Environment has been established to engage with local people on matters relating to the climate emergency and advise the council on how to achieve these climate change objectives. A Climate Change Implementation group of councillors and council officers meets regularly to produce plans and monitor progress. Actions taken or currently underway include switching to green energy, incentives for low emission taxis, expanding tree planting and working to cut food waste.  In addition the council is a member of the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership, working with other councils across Hertfordshire to reduce the county's carbon emissions and climate impact.  The Council's dedicated webpage on Climate Change includes details of the council's climate change strategy, the work of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment and a monthly briefing on progress.  <u>Ecological Emergency</u>  The Council has declared an ecological emergency and is committed to addressing the ecological emergency and nature recovery by identifying appropriate areas for habitat restoration and biodiversity net gain whilst ensuring that development limits impact on existing habitats in its process.	

The Council has set out to do that by a) setting measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities, seeking to increase community engagement, b) to work with our partners to establish a Local Nature Partnership for Hertfordshire and to develop Nature Recovery Networks and Nature Recovery Strategy for Hertfordshire and c) to investigate new approaches to nature recovery such as habitat banking that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities.

### Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chair of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote.

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| <b>5.</b>  | <b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b><br>To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.   |              |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS</b><br>To consider any questions submitted by Members of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 (b).  | 25 - 26      |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>NOTICE OF MOTIONS</b><br>To consider any motions, due notice of which have been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.   | 27 - 30      |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES</b><br>To consider any items referred from other Committees. Any items referred to this meeting will be published as a supplementary document.   |              |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION</b><br>REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER<br><br>To consider and agree the Draft Proposals for the second stage of public consultation of the Community Governance Review.   | 31 - 110     |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME</b><br>REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER<br><br>To agree the Member's Allowances Scheme 2025/2026 having taken into account the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel ('IRP') and consider applying an indexation to the Scheme through to 31 March 2029. | 111 -<br>144 |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2025/26</b><br>REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – CUSTOMERS<br><br>For Council to consider and approve the Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2025/26.   | 145 -<br>156 |

<b>12.</b>	<b>Q2 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY) MONITORING</b>	157 -
	REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES	188

To obtain early approval for spend at North Herts Leisure Centre in 2025/26, so that it can be delivered alongside the decarbonisation works. This involves seeking Council approval for spend in 2025/26 on a new flume (£300k) and a refurbishment of the pool changing rooms (£250k) that includes them being converted in a change village.

<b>13.</b>	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW</b>	189 -
	REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND COMMUNITY AND MONITORING OFFICER	214

***N.B. This item was deferred from the Council meeting of 28 November 2024.***

This report presents a summary of the areas reviewed and any in principle recommendations of the Constitutional & Governance Working Group ('Working Group') in relation to the following:

- The Planning Control Committee meetings and Sub-Committees (including start times/ potential end times).
- Standards Committee – recommendation to review the Terms of Reference to include other meaningful areas of remit.
- Council Procedure Rules to be reviewed and amended in respect of Member Motions and Questions, (including agenda management, number, length of time on debate/ remit/ and Member speeches).

The report also covers areas considered but not recommended for change at this stage.