

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Wednesday, 12th March, 2025 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dominic Griffiths.

Having given due notice, Councillor Sam Collins substituted for Councillor Griffiths.

2 MINUTES - 5 FEBRUARY 2025

Councillor Sean Nolan, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Ruth Brown seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 February 2025 be approved as, as amended, 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 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 that the following changes to the order of Agenda had been made since publication, Agenda Item 11 would now follow Agenda Item 8.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 SAFS ANTI-FRAUD PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the progress by officers and the Shared Anti-Fraud Service to deliver the Anti-Fraud Plan for the Council.

7 SAFS PROPOSED ANTI-FRAUD PLAN 2025/26

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Committee reviewed and approved the Anti-Fraud Plan 2025/26.
- (2) That the Committee delegated authority to the Service Director – Resources to review and update the language, alongside SAFS, to make the KPIs, attached at Appendix B, more specific, particularly in relation to 1 and 3.

8 SIAS PROPOSED PLAN 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Committee

- (1) Approved the proposed North Herts Council Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26.
- (2) Noted the SIAS Internal Audit Strategy and provide any comments prior to approval by the SIAS Board.

9 LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE 2025

RESOLVED: That Committee approved the Local Code of Corporate Governance 2025 (Appendix A).

REASONS FOR DECISION: It is recommended practice to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance each year to ensure it remains up to date and relevant.

10 THIRD QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee commented on the assumptions and information contained within this report, in the context that Cabinet agrees that:

- (1) That Cabinet note this report.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the changes to the 2024/25 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £840k decrease in net expenditure.
- (3) That Cabinet approve the changes to the 2025/26 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £807k 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 did not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

11 THIRD QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2024/25

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee commented on the assumptions and information contained within this report, in the context that Cabinet agrees that:

- (1) That Cabinet note the forecast expenditure of £16.816M in 2024/25 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) That Cabinet approve the adjustments to the capital programme for 2024/25 onwards, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend in 2025/26 by £0.627M.
- (3) That Cabinet note 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 2024.

REASON 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.

12 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair led a discussion regarding possible agenda items, and training needs for meetings in the next civic year.