

31 January 2025

Our Ref Cabinet Tuesday, 11 February 2025
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Cabinet:

Executive Members Councillors: Daniel Allen (Chair) Val Bryant (Vice Chair) Ian Albert,
Amy Allen, Mick Debenham, Tamsin Thomas and Dave Winstanley.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A
MEETING OF THE CABINET**

to be held in the

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

on

TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 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**

Item		Page
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	MINUTES - 14 JANUARY 2025 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 14 January 2025.	(Pages 5 - 20)
3.	NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS 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.	
4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS <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.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.

6. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Any Items referred from other committees will be circulated as soon as they are available.

7. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT ALLOCATIONS AND UPDATE (Pages 21 - 32) **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

The Council has received ring-fenced grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to help it meet its legal housing duties and this report details proposals for the allocation of this funding for specialist homelessness services for local people.

8. PROPOSED PARKING TARIFFS FOR 2025/26 (Pages 33 - 60) **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – REGULATORY**

Proposals to increase parking tariffs for 2025/26 in the Council's off-street car parks and on-street charging bays in Royston town centre.

9. BUDGET 2025/26 (REVENUE BUDGET AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY) (Pages 61 - 150) **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES**

Cabinet recommends a budget for 2025/26 to Council for their consideration and approval.