

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Tuesday, 3rd September, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 MINUTES - 18 JUNE, 2 JULY 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 18 June and 2 July 2024 be approved as a true record of 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 for the purposes of clarification clause 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution does not apply to this meeting.
- (4) The Chair advised Members of the ongoing Community Governance Review survey which was being conducted to look at parish arrangements. The survey was open until the 7 October 2024 and posters had been provided to Members to distribute in their wards.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

No urgent or general exception items were received.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There have been no called-in items.

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

9 COMMUNITY SURVEY ROUND TWO RESULTS (MARCH-MAY 2024)

RESOLVED: That Committee commented on and noted the key findings and observations from round two of the Community Survey and commented on the approach to future surveys (as detailed in section 8.7.2).

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet consider the recommendations and comments from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REASONS FOR DECISION: To ensure that Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet are aware of the round two results of our digital Community Survey and how they compare to both our round one (2023) results and the Local Government Association (LGA) February 2024 Resident Satisfaction phone survey results.

10 COUNCIL PLAN 2024-2028

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet reviews and recommends the approval of the Council Plan to Full Council (Appendix A) with the four new Council Priorities as outlined below:
 - Thriving Communities
 - Accessible Services
 - Responsible Growth
 - Sustainability
- (2) Delegate authority to the Managing Director and Leader of the Council to approve any minor amendments to wording required as a result of the design process.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: The Council Plan is a key element of the corporate business planning process, as a high level strategic document it sets out the Council's Priorities for the next four years. As an overarching policy framework document, it guides and influences the use of Council resources; providing a focus for activities, plans, and services that the Council provide. The introduction to the plan highlights the link between the Council Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy and service delivery plans.

11 COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25 (QUARTER 1 UPDATE)

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the Council Delivery Plan Quarter 1 monitoring report, including the recommendations made to Cabinet.
- (2) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee determined any project that they want to receive more detail on as part of the next monitoring report.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet notes the progress against Council projects as set out in the Council Delivery Plan (Appendix A) including the new milestones that have been set for the current year.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: The Council Delivery Plan (CDP) monitoring reports provide Overview and Scrutiny, and Cabinet, with an opportunity to monitor progress against the key Council projects, and understand any new issues, risks, or opportunities.

12 LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT PROCUREMENT - END PROJECT REPORT

RESOLVED: That Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on and noted the Leisure Management Contract Procurement End Project Report.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable Overview and Scrutiny to consider lessons learned from the major procurement project.

13 SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

RESOLVED:

- (1) Received and commented on the annual report of progress made against the Council's fulfilment of the statutory duty to maintain an effective safeguarding function regarding children, adults with care and support needs, modern slavery, Prevent and domestic abuse.
- (2) Noted the SIAS Audit Action Plan tracker (Appendix A).
- (3) Agreed that sufficient and robust processes were in place at the Council for application and review of safeguarding processes, and that an annual review and presentation to this committee should continue.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The recommendations made, contained within paragraphs 2.1 to 2.3, are the best course of action that can be accommodated within the approved budget and officer resources, that will fulfil our statutory and lawful obligations but also ensure that a regular, corporate review exists.

14 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee prioritised topics for inclusion in the Work Programme attached as Appendix A and, where appropriate, determines the high-level form and timing of scrutiny input.
- (2) That the Committee, having considered the most recent iteration of the Forward Plan, as attached at Appendix B, suggested a list of items to be considered at its meetings in the coming civic year.
- (3) That the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan as attached at Appendix C was considered.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To allow the Committee to set a work programme which provides focused Member oversight, encourages open debate and seeks to achieve service improvement through effective policy development and meaningful policy and service change.
- (2) The need to observe Constitutional requirements and monitor the Forward Plan for appropriate items to scrutinise remains a key aspect of work programming.

15 SCRUTINY CHARTER

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee adopted the Scrutiny Charter for Scrutiny at North Herts Council, attached as Appendix A.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee members have a clearly defined purpose, objectives, and expectations of Scrutiny at North Herts Council.

16 DECISIONS AND MONITORING TRACKER

RESOLVED: That the report entitled 'Decisions and Monitoring Tracker' was noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on actions and feedback received regarding resolutions previously made.