

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, 12th November, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Louise Peace.

2 MINUTES - 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 3 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 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 reminded Members of the adopted North Herts Scrutiny Charter and the need to ensure that the meeting was conducted with independence, initiative and integrity. The full Charter was available to Members via the Scrutiny Intranet pages.

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 3Cs HALF YEAR 24/25 UPDATE

Councillor Val Bryant, as Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, presented the Information Note entitled '3Cs Half Year Update 2024/2025'.

10 SUPPORTED HOUSING SCHEME FOR WOMEN

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That the Cabinet supports the allocation of £73k of ring fenced MHCLG Homelessness Prevention Grant to HCC to match fund the two-year pilot of Druglink's Supported Housing Scheme for Women.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: This proposal has been made in order to enable the two-year pilot to go ahead.

11 ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: The report is following the request of the committee for an update on the progress of the Enterprise Directorate and is for information only.

12 MUSEUM STORAGE OPTIONS APPRAISAL

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet note the current projected costs, advantages and disadvantages of each option.
- (2) That Cabinet approve use of £30k of the allocated £4m budget in the current capital programme for this project to develop more detail on the costs of Option D (warehouse proposal) and to acquire the necessary details for a planning application to be made.
- (3) That Cabinet approve use of £20k of the allocated £4m budget in the current capital programme for this project to develop more detail on the costs of Option E (Purchase of a freehold/long leasehold building (new or existing)), should a suitable property become available.
- (4) That Cabinet consider and give approval for officers to apply for grant funding towards the investigations mentioned in 2.2 and 2.3 and recognise the need to align investigations with grant funding timetables in this instance.
- (5) That Cabinet resolve to discount options A, B and G and recommend that they are no longer developed or explored further.
- (6) That Cabinet indicates that Options C, F and H outlined within the report should be pursued further.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) Officers do not have the capacity or financial budget to progress all 8 options to an advanced stage and some early decisions are required in order to focus time and budget on pursuing the most advantageous options based on the best information available to officers and members at the present time.
- (2) In addition, the pursuit of greater detail on a number of the options will require expenditure on external reports and consultants which officers are seeking Cabinets approval to progress. Estimated figures are included in the main body of the report which can be found in Appendix 1 and are summarised in the Executive Summary Grid in Appendix 2.

13 TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON SECTION 106 CONTRIBUTIONS - DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Reviewed and commented on the draft scoping document as attached at Appendix A.
- (2) Noted the Task and Finish Group Protocol 2020 as attached at Appendix B.
- (3) Endorsed the principles of the review and approves consultation with Group Leaders to appoint members and a Chair for the Task and Finish Group, subject to recommendation 2.4.
- (4) Delegated authority to the Scrutiny Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to update and finalise the Scoping Document for the Task and Finish Group on Section 106 Contributions.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that the final scoping document takes into account suggestions from Members and relevant officers.
- (2) To allow Members to be appointed to the Task and Finish Group.

14 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 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 DECISIONS AND MONITORING

RESOLVED: That the content of the Decisions and Monitoring Tracker be noted.

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