

# 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, 7th January, 2025 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Tyson and Laura Williams.

Having given due notice Councillor Emma Fernandes substituted for Councillor Williams.

### 2 MINUTES - 12 NOVEMBER 2024

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 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) The Chair advised of a change to the order of the agenda and Agenda Item 13 would be taken after Agenda Item 16.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

### 6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

The Chair advised that he had agreed to one item under the Urgent Proceedings regarding the Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Project and provided detail on the reasons for urgency. The Chair noted that the full Urgency Notice had been published on the Council website.

### 7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There have been no called-in items.

### 8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

**9 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

**10 LEISURE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AGENCY MODEL - PART 2**

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:** That Overview and Scrutiny recommend to Cabinet that:

- (1) Cabinet agrees in principle to entering into an Agency Agreement with SLM (Everyone Active) for the operation of our leisure facilities, subject to the Council obtaining favourable VAT Tax advice, and varying the Contract in accordance with the external Part 2 Appendix C legal advice and Part 2 legal implications.
- (2) That the final decision on entering into the Agency Agreement be delegated to the Service Director – Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Leisure, Environment and Green Spaces and Service Directors – Resources and Legal & Community.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** To ensure the maximum financial sustainability of our leisure services, in line with our council priorities.

**11 LEISURE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES AGENCY MODEL - PART 1**

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:** That Overview and Scrutiny recommend to Cabinet that:

- (3) Cabinet agrees in principle to entering into an Agency Agreement with SLM (Everyone Active) for the operation of our leisure facilities, subject to the Council obtaining favourable VAT Tax advice, and varying the Contract in accordance with the external Part 2 Appendix C legal advice and Part 2 legal implications.
- (4) That the final decision on entering into the Agency Agreement be delegated to the Service Director – Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Leisure, Environment and Green Spaces and Service Directors – Resources and Legal & Community.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** To ensure the maximum financial sustainability of our leisure services, in line with our council priorities.

**12 CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS**

Hertfordshire Constabulary provided a presentation, including slides and videos, on Youth Engagement and Crime Prevention, following which Members asked questions.

**13 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Committee prioritises 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, suggests 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.

**14 COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25 (QUARTER 2 UPDATE)**

**RESOLVED:** 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the Council Delivery Plan Quarter 2 monitoring report, including the recommendations made to Cabinet:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the progress against Council projects as set out in the Council Delivery Plan and approves the changes to the milestones (Appendix A).
- (2) That Cabinet notes the performance against the performance indicators and confirms the actions detailed in paragraph 8.4.

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

**15 GARDEN WASTE CHARGE 2025-26**

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:** That Cabinet approve the garden waste subscription charge for the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, at £55.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** To ensure the Council's garden waste service is financially sustainable, in line with the priorities of the Council and of the Shared waste service.

**16 SCRUTINY DECISIONS AND MONITORING TRACKER**

**RESOLVED:** That the content of the 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.