

14 May 2025

Our Ref    Council 22 May 2025  
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To:    The Chair and Members of North Hertfordshire District Council

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERNON  
ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY, SG6 3JF**

on

**THURSDAY, 22ND MAY, 2025**

at

**7.30 PM**

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson  
Director – Governance

**\*\*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
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1.	<b>ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2025-26</b>	
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2.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
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3.	<b>ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2025-26</b>	
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4.	<b>MINUTES - 27 FEBRUARY 2025</b> To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 27 February 2025.	5 - 26
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5.	<b>CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> <u>Climate Emergency</u>	
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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.

### Ecological Emergency

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.

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| <b>6.</b> | <b>APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET FOR 2025/26</b><br>REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER | 27 - 32 |
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To inform the Council of the Leader's appointment of members of the Cabinet, and Special Interest Member Champions, for 2025/26.

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2025/26</b><br>REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER | 33 - 48 |
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To inform the Council of the appointment of members of Committees for 2025/26.

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| <b>8.</b> | <b>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2025/26</b><br>REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER | 49 - 54 |
|-----------|---|---------|

To inform the Council of the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2025/26.

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| <b>9.</b> | <b>ADJOURNMENT</b><br>The Annual Meeting of Council will adjourn to allow meetings of each Community Forum to convene and elect Chairs and Vice Chairs for the civic year 2025-2026. |  |
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| <b>10.</b> | <b>KEY DECISIONS - LEADER'S ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY</b><br>REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL | 55 - 62 |
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To inform the Council of any occasions over the past year where provisions relating to "Special Urgency" have been used in connection with the publication of an intention to make a Key Decision, as required by legislation.

11. **APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2025/26** 63 - 70  
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

To seek approval of a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2025/26.

12. **NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2025/26** 71 - 78  
REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

To present a list to Council setting out the nomination of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2025/26.