

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



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

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1.	ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2025-26	
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2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
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3.	ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2025-26	
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4.	MINUTES - 27 FEBRUARY 2025 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.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS <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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| 6. | APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET FOR 2025/26 | 27 - 32 |
| | REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER | |

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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| 7. | APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2025/26 | 33 - 48 |
| | REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER | |

To inform the Council of the appointment of members of Committees for 2025/26.

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

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

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| 9. | ADJOURNMENT |
| | 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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| 10. | KEY DECISIONS - LEADER'S ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY | 55 - 62 |
| | REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL | |

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.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Thursday, 27th February, 2025 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Clare Billing (Chair), Tina Bhartwas (Vice-Chair), Ian Albert, Daniel Allen, Amy Allen, David Barnard, Matt Barnes, Sadie Billing, Ruth Brown, Val Bryant, Rhona Cameron, David Chalmers, Jon Clayden, Ruth Clifton, Mick Debenham, Elizabeth Dennis, Emma Fernandes, Joe Graziano, Dominic Griffiths, Keith Hoskins, Steve Jarvis, Tim Johnson, Chris Lucas, Sarah Lucas, Ian Mantle, Nigel Mason, Bryony May, Caroline McDonnell, Ralph Muncer, Sean Nolan, Louise Peace, Vijaiya Poopalasingham, Sean Prendergast, Martin Prescott, Emma Rowe, Claire Strong, Tamsin Thomas, Tom Tyson, Paul Ward, Laura Williams, Alistair Willoughby, Stewart Willoughby, Claire Winchester, Dave Winstanley, Donna Wright and Daniel Wright-Mason.

IN ATTENDANCE: Amy Cantrill (Trainee Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), Ian Couper (Service Director - Resources), Susan Le Dain (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), James Lovegrove (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager), Callum Reeve (Electoral Services Assistant), Anthony Roche (Managing Director), Melanie Stimpson (Democratic Services Manager), Jeanette Thompson (Service Director - Legal and Community) and Rebecca Webb (HR Services Manager).

ALSO PRESENT:

At the commencement of the meeting there was 1 member of the public in attendance.

Richard Beesley, Consultant was also in attendance.

88 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 1 minute 51 seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lisa Nash, Steven Patmore, Sam Collins and Cathy Brownjohn.

Councillor Michael Muir was absent.

89 MINUTES - 15 JANUARY AND 23 JANUARY 2025

Audio recording – 2 minutes 7 seconds

Councillor Clare Billing, as Chair, proposed and Councillor Daniel Allen seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15 January and 23 January 2025 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

90 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 2 minutes 54 seconds

There was no other business notified.

91 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 3 minutes 4 seconds

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair reminded Members that the Council had declared both a Climate Emergency and an Ecological Emergency. These are serious decisions, and mean that, as this was an emergency, all of us, Officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The Chair advised that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak will apply.
- (5) The Chair advised that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting. A comfort break would be held at an appropriate time, should proceedings continue at length.
- (6) The Chair reminded the Committee about the upcoming Chair's Civic Event and Awards, being held on Friday 28 February 2025.

92 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 5 minutes 26 seconds

There was no public participation at this meeting.

93 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Audio recording – 5 minutes 30 seconds

The Chair advised that the item referred from Cabinet would be taken with the respective item on the agenda.

94 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Audio recording – 5 minutes 46 seconds

Richard Beesley, a Consultant working for the Council, presented the report entitled 'Community Governance Review – Draft Proposals for Public Consultation' and advised that:

- The Council was undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR) of parish electoral arrangements.
- The results from the first stage of public consultation had been used to develop a number of draft proposals.

- Once these draft proposals were approved by Council, a second round of public consultation would begin. Responses to the second round of public consultation would be used to develop the final recommendations which would come back to Council later in the year for consideration and implementation.
- This paper set out the background and legislative considerations, but nothing has been finalised at this stage.
- It was important to hear the views of local people, parish and town councils throughout the consultation.
- Part of the proposal was to change the electoral cycle to move parish and town council elections in line with North Herts Council elections.
- Another part was to amend the number of parish and town councillors as set out in paragraph 8.10 of the report.
- It was proposed to adjust several external parish boundaries and to create new town councils in Baldock and Hitchin.
- It was proposed to adjust internal parish ward boundaries to align with North Herts Council wards in Royston and to create of new parish ward in Ickleford.
- Leaflets would be distributed to households in areas affected by any proposed changes to ensure awareness of public consultations. This would start slightly later on 14 March 2025.

Following a question from Councillor Clare Strong, the Consultant advised that parish council elections could still be changed if required following the English Devolution White Paper.

Councillor Emma Fernandes proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.2 for a draft proposal for a parish and town council for Letchworth, subject to consultation with residents, with wards to align to the district wards. Councillor Nigel Mason seconded the amendment.

The following Members took part in the debate on the amendment:

- Councillor Ian Mantle
- Councillor Ralph Muncer
- Councillor David Chalmers
- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Sean Nolan
- Councillor Sean Prendergast
- Councillor Nigel Mason
- Councillor Alistair Willoughby
- Councillor Tina Bhartwas
- Councillor Daniel Allen

Points raised during the debate included:

- There had been an unsuccessful attempt in the past to create a parish for Letchworth due to the results of consultation with local residents.
- Due to the uncertainty in the future of the Council following the English Devolution White Paper it was important to ensure that Letchworth was not left without a town council.
- The residents of Letchworth should be given the opportunity to discuss and offer their opinions before a decision of creating a parish and new town council was decided.
- There were concerns of the costs involved and whether it was the right time for this to happen with the uncertainty of the future of the Council.
- The number of councillor seats per ward could be determined at a later stage in the proposal.

Following a vote the amendment was **CARRIED**.

Councillor Steve Jarvis proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.2. to change the proposed number of councillors for parishes with fewer than 500 electors to five. Councillor Tom Tyson seconded the amendment.

The following Members took part in the debate on the amendment:

- Councillor Val Bryant
- Councillor Ralph Muncer
- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Martin Prescott
- Councillor Tom Tyson
- Councillor David Barnard

Points raised in the debate included:

- Concern that there may not be enough councillors if one or two were absent and the number had been reduced to five, for committee meetings to be quorum.
- Reducing to number of ward councillors to five in smaller parishes could limit the skill set and knowledge available.
- The number of ward councillors did not dictate the quality of the work carried out.
- Parish councils would be encouraged to respond to public consultations to have their say on what number of councillors would best suit their community.
- The view of the residents must be sought to ensure that services were delivered effectively.
- Five councillors worked well for smaller parishes and there was always an option to increase this if required.

Councillor David Chalmers withdrew the amendment proposed to recommendation 2.2 for a draft proposal for a parish and town council for Letchworth.

The following Members took part in the debate on the substantive motion:

- Councillor Ian Mantle
- Councillor Ralph Muncer
- Councillor Nigel Mason

Points raised in the debate included:

- To consider whether it was the right time to create a new parish and town council with the impending local government reorganisation.
- The importance of consultation with parish councils, who should be encouraged to respond to ensure their views are heard.

Councillor Daniel Allen proposed and Councillor Val Bryant seconded the amended substantive motion and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the outcome of the first stage consultation.

- (2) Agreed the Draft Proposals for the Community Governance Review, launching a public consultation on these [note that the Final Recommendations will be considered at a future Council meeting, taking the results of the public consultation into account] to subject to the following amendments:

i **Letchworth:**

Draft Proposals	<p>(1) Create a new parish for Letchworth, served by a new Town Council, subject to engagement from local residents through the consultation, with wards to align to the district wards:</p> <p>Grange: 3 Norton: 2 South East: 3 South West: 3 Wilbury: 2</p> <p>(2) To ensure local people are aware of the proposal to establish a Town Council and the opportunities and implications of it, hard-copy leaflets should be produced with the Comms team and distributed to every household in Letchworth inviting them to respond to the consultation. The information will be entirely neutral, leaving the opportunity for local people to discuss and motivate the decision.</p>
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- ii. That the proposed number of councillors for parishes with fewer than 500 electors be reduced from 7 to 5.
- (3) Noted that hard-copy leaflets will be distributed to households in areas where external parish boundaries are proposed to be moved, new parish councils established, or new parish wards implemented.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The Council is required to keep parish electoral arrangements under review. Following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of district electoral arrangements (Council size and warding patterns), it is necessary to review parish arrangements across the district to bring them into alignment, ensure they remain fit for purpose, and to ensure they continue to reflect local needs. This report provides Draft Proposals following the first round of public consultation. Before Final Recommendations can be developed and considered, there must be a public consultation on the Draft Proposals, the responses to which will be taken into account in forming the Final Recommendations.

95 **LEADERSHIP TEAM AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE**

Audio recording – 48 minutes 50 seconds

N.B. The Service Director – Resources and the Service Director – Legal and Community moved to the public gallery for this item.

The Managing Director presented the report entitled 'Leadership Team and Senior Management Restructure' and advised:

- This was a very thorough report and was self-explanatory.
- The proposals in the report have been developed over several years.
- This proposal was supported by the findings of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge who had stated that the leadership team should be increased to ensure sufficient strategic leadership capacity and effective deliverance of services.

- The current leadership team at North Hertfordshire District Council was smaller and cheaper than other similar councils.
- The Council had been operating with this temporary structure for 18 months and a difference in delivery had been seen.
- Having a seventh director had created capacity for the other directors to dedicate to other areas.
- A number of options had been considered and these were all detailed in the report.
- The post of the 'Managing Director' was to be renamed to 'Chief Executive' and the posts of 'Service Director' renamed 'Director'.
- Descriptions of each position could be found in paragraphs 8.2-8.10 of the report.
- Staff had engaged positively and constructively to the consultation and feedback has been incorporated into this proposal where possible. The proposal had changed from start of consultation to what was presented to Council.
- If approved, the seventh director position and new structure would start from the beginning of the new financial year, 1 April 2025.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Joe Graziano
- Councillor Ralph Muncer
- Councillor Martin Prescott
- Councillor David Barnard
- Councillor Daniel Allen

In response to questions, the Managing Director advised that:

- Local government was a completely different sector to retail and division of budget and headcount did not equate to equality of responsibilities.
- The post of one of the directors was part time for 30 hours a week and savings from this had already been allocated elsewhere within the staffing budget.
- The best outcome for the Council would be to retain the individual who has been in the role on a temporary basis.
- Two service directors would be retiring over the next few months and retaining this individual would help to ensure the stability of the Council.
- The timeline for recruiting a new individual would be approximately 2-3 months from start to finish, plus any notice period.
- An individual transferring from another local authority would be able to retain continuous service benefits.
- The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge identified that the current leadership team was stretched and a permanent position of a seventh director would provide additional capacity.

Councillor Ruth Brown proposed an amendment to recommendation 2.1 that the additional budget of £112k per year was for 2 years only. Councillor Paul Ward seconded the amendment.

The following Members took part in the debate on the amendment:

- Councillor Sadie Billing
- Councillor Alistair Willoughby
- Councillor Sean Nolan
- Councillor Paul Ward
- Councillor Nigel Mason
- Councillor Daniel Allen

In response to the amendment, the Managing Director advised that:

- This amendment was not practical for the Council and would send the wrong message out to the service areas and director.
- This proposal could cost the Council more money in the long term and could result in loss of the existing member of staff.
- The English Devolution White Paper had introduced uncertainty in the workforce and had destabilised staff, further interim arrangements would not be helpful at this time..
- It would be harder to recruit someone to fill this post in 2027 due to the closeness of the local government reorganisation.

Points raised during the debate included:

- It could take months to find a suitable candidate and any position offered on a two year basis would be harder to recruit for.
- Members needed to support the leadership proposal to ensure stability of services to residents.
- Resourcing of staff was one of the top three risks for the Council.

Following a vote the amendment was **LOST**.

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Ralph Muncer
- Councillor Val Bryant

Points raised during the debate included:

- The recruitment of the Service Director – Environmental Health had made a positive impact on the directorate and improvements had been seen.
- Thought and hard work had gone into this proposal and Members wanted to keep staff happy.
- The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge wanted Officers to be able to achieve more and this would help to make this happen.

Councillor Daniel Allen proposed and Councillor Val Bryant seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Approved the ongoing additional budget of £112k per year for inclusion in the Budget 2025/26 (Revenue Budget and Investment Strategy).
- (2) Noted the proposed Leadership Team and Senior Management arrangements as set out in the report and the proposed timetable for the implementation of these arrangements.
- (3) Waived the constitutional requirements for the appoint of a Director, in this instance, and authorise the Head of Paid Service to offer the new role of Director - Regulatory to the current Service Director Housing and Environmental Health.
- (4) Authorised the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution (including the Contract Procurement Rules and Financial Regulations) and any consequential title changes to other Policy and Procedure documentation, to reflect the new Leadership Team and Senior Management arrangements.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that the Council has a Leadership Team and Senior Management structure that is fit for purpose and is able to deliver the Council's priorities. The proposed structure also responds to one of the recommendations in the Corporate Peer Challenge report.

N.B. The Service Director – Resources and the Service Director – Legal and Community returned from the public gallery following the conclusion of this item.

96 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2025/26

Audio recording – 1 hours 36 minutes 36 seconds

The Services Director Resources presented the report 'Pay Policy Statement 2025/26' and advised that:

- The draft Pay Policy Statement 2025/36 at Appendix 1 was for approval by Council.
- This was a statutory requirement to be approved annually as required by The Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Daniel Allen proposed and Councillor Ian Albert seconded and, following a vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Approved the 2025/26 Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1.
- (2) Delegated authority for revisions made in year to the Pay Policy Statement, to the Service Director - Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council. Revisions which might arise in the year include changes in structure, changes to employment benefits, subsequent pay awards agreed nationally and new legislative requirements.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, Statutory Guidance issued under s40 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.

N.B. There was a break in proceedings following this item and the meeting reconvened at 21:23

97 BUDGET 2025/26 (REVENUE BUDGET AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY)

Audio recording 1 hour 56 minutes 30 seconds

N.B. Cllr Paul Ward declared an interest in this item due to his employment and left the Chamber for the duration of consideration of recommendation 2.8.

N.B. During the break Councillor Dominic Griffiths left the meeting and did not return.

The Chair advised that recommendation 2.8 would be taken ahead of recommendations 2.1-2.7 and 2.9 and the debate and vote on these would be taken separately.

The Chair invited Councillor Daniel Allen, as Leader of the Council, to introduce the referral from Cabinet.

N.B. Councillor Ruth Clifton left the Chamber at 21.29 and did not return.

Councillor Ian Albert, as the Executive Member for Finance and IT, presented recommendation 2.8 of the report entitled 'Budget 2025/26 (Revenue Budget and Investment Strategy)' and advised that:

- The Investment Strategy highlighted where the Council could invest surplus funds and included the prudential and treasury indicators.
- Capital spend implications meant that the Council would need to borrow to fund the capital programme and this meant that capital investment came with an increased cost.
- The Council would need to borrow externally in the longer term with a premium.
- Borrowing whether internally or externally resulted in a Minimum Revenue Position charge that was spread over the life of the asset it was used to fund.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed and Councillor Daniel Allen seconded and, the outcome of the recorded vote was:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	:	40
ABSTAIN	:	0
NO	:	2
TOTAL	:	42

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr David Barnard	NO
Cllr Matt Barnes	YES
Cllr Tina Bhartwas	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Sadie Billing	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Rhona Cameron	YES
Cllr David Chalmers	YES
Cllr Jon Clayden	YES
Cllr Mick Debenham	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis	YES
Cllr Emma Fernandes	YES
Cllr Joe Graziano	
Cllr Dominic Griffiths	YES
Cllr Sarah Lucas	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tim Johnson	YES
Cllr Chris Lucas	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr Nigel Mason	YES
Cllr Bryony May	YES
Cllr Caroline McDonnell	YES
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Louise Peace	YES
Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Martin Prescott	YES
Cllr Emma Rowe	YES

Cllr Claire Strong	
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Laura Williams	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Stewart Willoughby	YES
Cllr Claire Winchester	YES
Cllr Dave Winstanley	YES
Cllr Donna Wright	YES
Cllr Daniel Wright-Mason	YES

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Approved the Investment Strategy as detailed in Appendix F.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Council's Investment Strategy is set to comply with relevant statutory guidance, including the CIPFA Prudential Code. The Strategy also sets out the Council's approach to risks in relation to the investment of surplus cash.

N.B. Following the conclusion of the vote on recommendation 2.8, Cllr Paul Ward returned to the Chamber for the rest of the item.

The Chair invited Councillor Ian Albert, as the Executive Member for Finance and IT, presented recommendations 2.1-2.7 and 2.9 of the report entitled 'Budget 2025/26 (Revenue Budget and Investment Strategy)'. The Chair advised the Councillor Albert had been granted permission to speak for fifteen minutes on this item to deliver the budget speech. Councillor Albert advised that:

- The LGA Corporate Peer Challenge review had reported that prudent financial management had put the Council in a strong position with good reserves.
- This year the budget report had been combined into one which reflected that any capital spend would have revenue implications.
- There was an addendum version of the main report and Appendix B.
- The Council was required to set a balanced budget which could include using some reserves in the short term.
- The General Fund reserves were well above the minimum recommended by the Section 151 Officer.
- Funding growth for 2025/26 would come from the guaranteed Extended Producer Responsibility funding of £1.435 million.
- 2026/27 would be the first year since 2016 that the Council would have a multi-year settlement.
- Scenarios for future funding were considered in the Section 25 report at Appendix D.
- Consideration of the recommended minimum General Fund balances were detailed in paragraphs 8.16-8.18 of the report and the conclusions were in paragraphs 8.37-8.41.
- It was proposed to increase Council Tax for 2025/26 by 2.99% which was the maximum amount allowed without holding a referendum.
- Details of new savings and investments were identified at Appendix B (addendum version).
- There were three additional amendments be added to the recommendations. £30K for 2025/26 only, increase grant funding for Community Forums; contingency budget of £40K in 2025/26 for feasibility work to be carried out for viable options for a Learner Pool at Royston Leisure Centre; additional Community Safety Officer at a cost of £52K per year from 2025/2026 onwards .
- Details of the new capital investments were detailed at Appendix C.
- The Council wished to be able to deliver the project of installation of the Learner Pool at Royston Leisure Centre as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the report.

Following a question from Councillor Claire Strong, the Executive Member for Finance and IT advised that he believed the amount of £4 million quoted in the budget for the Museum Storage Option was the correct figure and should not be altered at this point.

N.B. Councillor Sean Nolan left the Chamber at 21.57 and did not return.

Councillor Ralph Muncer proposed amendments to the budget which would be debated and voted on separately. It was noted that Councillor Muncer had been granted an extension of ten minutes to speak. Councillor David Barnard seconded the amendments to R4, R5, R7, R8, R17, R19, R23, R28, R29, R30, R31, R32, R36.

The following Members took part in the debate about the Block 1 amendments R5, R7, R8 and R36 removal:

- Councillor Nigel Mason
- Councillor Dave Winstanley
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis
- Councillor Alistair Willoughby
- Councillor Tina Bhartwas

Points raised during the debate included:

- The budget proposals had been through levels of scrutiny and it was important to invest in statutory services.
- This amendment would take away investment from areas that were in critical need.
- The Council needed to raise local taxes to provide services to residents.
- There was a significant amount of development planned within the district which were essential for the benefit of the local community.
- Officers provided essential frontline services to all residents in the district.

In response to the amendment, the Executive Member for Finance and IT advised that these were sound recommendations and to remove them from the budget would remove key roles needed to improve statutory services.

Following a recorded vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	:	16
ABSTAIN	:	1
NO	:	24
TOTAL	:	41

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Cllr Ian Albert	NO
Cllr Amy Allen	NO
Cllr Daniel Allen	NO
Cllr David Barnard	YES
Cllr Matt Barnes	YES
Cllr Tina Bhartwas	NO
Cllr Clare Billing	NO
Cllr Sadie Billing	NO
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	NO
Cllr Rhona Cameron	NO
Cllr David Chalmers	NO

Cllr Jon Clayden	YES
Cllr Mick Debenham	NO
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis	NO
Cllr Emma Fernandes	NO
Cllr Joe Graziano	YES
Cllr Sarah Lucas	NO
Cllr Keith Hoskins	
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tim Johnson	YES
Cllr Chris Lucas	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	NO
Cllr Nigel Mason	NO
Cllr Bryony May	YES
Cllr Caroline McDonnell	YES
Cllr Ralph Muncer	YES
Cllr Louise Peace	
Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham	NO
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Martin Prescott	YES
Cllr Emma Rowe	NO
Cllr Claire Strong	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	NO
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Paul Ward	YES
Cllr Laura Williams	NO
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	NO
Cllr Stewart Willoughby	NO
Cllr Claire Winchester	ABSTAIN
Cllr Dave Winstanley	NO
Cllr Donna Wright	NO
Cllr Daniel Wright-Mason	NO

The following Members took part in the debate about the Block 2 amendments (R4 to add the Air Quality Officer but not the other two posits, remove R17,R19, R26, R27, R28, R29 and R32, delay R23 and R30 to 2026/27 and limit R31 to £50K):

- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Matt Barnes
- Councillor Amy Allen
- Councillor Daniel Allen
- Councillor Nigel Mason
- Councillor Alistair Willoughby
- Councillor David Barnard

Points raised during the debate included:

- The comments regarding litters bins were negative. The removal of litter bins had been proven to reduce litter and not to increase it.
- Public consultations had been carried out regarding the removal of litter bins.
- There was a climate emergency and the provision of Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel waste, recycling and street cleansing services vehicles was the best way to reduce CO2 emissions.
- Fly tipping was a completely different issue to litter bins.

In response to the amendment, the Executive Member for Finance and IT advised that there would be no point to delaying the Ransoms Recreation maintenance project by one year and these amendments should be rejected.

Following a recorded vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	:	5
ABSTAIN	:	0
NO	:	38
TOTAL	:	43

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Cllr Ian Albert	NO
Cllr Amy Allen	NO
Cllr Daniel Allen	NO
Cllr David Barnard	YES
Cllr Matt Barnes	NO
Cllr Tina Bhartwas	NO
Cllr Clare Billing	NO
Cllr Sadie Billing	NO
Cllr Ruth Brown	NO
Cllr Val Bryant	NO
Cllr Rhona Cameron	NO
Cllr David Chalmers	NO
Cllr Jon Clayden	NO
Cllr Mick Debenham	NO
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis	NO
Cllr Emma Fernandes	NO
Cllr Joe Graziano	YES
Cllr Sarah Lucas	NO
Cllr Keith Hoskin	NO
Cllr Steve Jarvis	NO
Cllr Tim Johnson	NO
Cllr Chris Lucas	NO
Cllr Ian Mantle	NO
Cllr Nigel Mason	NO
Cllr Bryony May	NO
Cllr Caroline McDonnell	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	YES
Cllr Louise Peace	NO
Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham	NO
Cllr Sean Prendergast	NO
Cllr Martin Prescott	YES
Cllr Emma Rowe	NO
Cllr Claire Strong	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	NO
Cllr Tom Tyson	NO
Cllr Paul Ward	NO
Cllr Laura Williams	NO
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	NO
Cllr Stewart Willoughby	NO
Cllr Claire Winchester	NO
Cllr Dave Winstanley	NO
Cllr Donna Wright	NO
Cllr Daniel Wright-Mason	NO

Councillor Paul Ward proposed amendments to the budget. Councillor Ruth Brown seconded the amendments excluding those that had already been voted on, R5, R7, R8, R26 and £5K per Community Forums withdrawn as already included within the original motion proposed as amended. These were to remove the capital allocation for air-conditioning at Hitchin Town Hall of £100K, to amend the museum storage capital budget to £3 million and add a Royston Leaner Pool capital allocation for 2026/27- 2027/28 of £3 million.

In response to a question from Councillor Ralph Muncer, the Service Director Resources advised that the impact of the proposed amendments on the Section 25 report was difficult, but not impossible to achieve.

The following Members took part in the debate about the amendment:

- Councillor Martin Prescott
- Councillor Matt Barnes
- Councillor Tamsin Thomas
- Councillor Daniel Wright-Mason
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis
- Councillor Tim Johnson
- Councillor Steve Jarvis
- Councillor Alistair Willoughby
- Councillor Mick Debenham
- Councillor Ralph Muncer
- Councillor Ruth Brown

Points raised during the debate included:

- There was a solid economic case for the Learner Pool at Royston Leisure Centre and it was good to see this project included.
- The Learner Pool was an investment that would provide wider benefits to the community and it should not be removed.
- The Museum Storage Option would achieve value for money whilst achieving a long-term project. £4 million was the upper limit for consideration.
- It was difficult to install air conditioning in Grade II listed buildings such as the Hitchin Town Hall and it is not yet known if the decarbonisation works will result in air conditioning not being required.

In response to the amendment, the Executive Member for Finance and IT advised that there was a huge amount of social value in these projects.

Following a recorded vote, the amendment was **LOST**.

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	:	20
ABSTAIN	:	0
NO	:	23
TOTAL	:	43

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Cllr Ian Albert	NO
Cllr Amy Allen	NO
Cllr Daniel Allen	NO
Cllr David Barnard	YES
Cllr Matt Barnes	YES
Cllr Tina Bhartwas	NO

Cllr Clare Billing	NO
Cllr Sadie Billing	NO
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	NO
Cllr Rhona Cameron	NO
Cllr David Chalmers	YES
Cllr Jon Clayden	YES
Cllr Mick Debenham	NO
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis	NO
Cllr Emma Fernandes	NO
Cllr Joe Graziano	YES
Cllr Sarah Lucas	NO
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tim Johnson	YES
Cllr Chris Lucas	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	NO
Cllr Nigel Mason	NO
Cllr Bryony May	YES
Cllr Caroline McDonnell	YES
Cllr Ralph Muncer	YES
Cllr Louise Peace	YES
Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham	NO
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Martin Prescott	YES
Cllr Emma Rowe	NO
Cllr Claire Strong	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	NO
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Paul Ward	YES
Cllr Laura Williams	NO
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	NO
Cllr Stewart Willoughby	NO
Cllr Claire Winchester	YES
Cllr Dave Winstanley	NO
Cllr Donna Wright	NO
Cllr Daniel Wright-Mason	NO

In response to a question from Councillor Ralph Muncer, the Service Director – Resources advised that the impact of the agreed amendments on the Section 25 report was difficult, but not impossible to achieve.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed and Councillor Daniel Allen seconded the amended original recommendations and, the outcome of the recorded vote was:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	:	23
ABSTAIN	:	0
NO	:	20
TOTAL	:	43

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr David Barnard	NO

Cllr Matt Barnes	NO
Cllr Tina Bhartwas	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Sadie Billing	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	NO
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Rhona Cameron	YES
Cllr David Chalmers	NO
Cllr Jon Clayden	NO
Cllr Mick Debenham	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis	YES
Cllr Emma Fernandes	YES
Cllr Joe Graziano	NO
Cllr Sarah Lucas	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	NO
Cllr Steve Jarvis	NO
Cllr Tim Johnson	NO
Cllr Chris Lucas	NO
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr Nigel Mason	YES
Cllr Bryony May	NO
Cllr Caroline McDonnell	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Louise Peace	NO
Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	NO
Cllr Martin Prescott	NO
Cllr Emma Rowe	YES
Cllr Claire Strong	NO
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	NO
Cllr Paul Ward	NO
Cllr Laura Williams	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Stewart Willoughby	YES
Cllr Claire Winchester	NO
Cllr Dave Winstanley	YES
Cllr Donna Wright	YES
Cllr Daniel Wright-Mason	YES

Therefore it was:

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the position on the Collection Fund and how it would be funded.
- (2) Noted the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £2.6 million was recommended.
- (3) Noted the revenue savings that were likely to be required in future years, combined with the Chief Finance Officer's section 25 report (Appendix D) which provided a commentary on the risks and reliability of estimates contained in the budget.
- (4) Approved the revenue savings and investments as detailed in Addendum Appendix B, as amended by additional proposals.
- (5) Approved the capital programme as detailed in Appendix C.

- (6) Approved a net expenditure budget of £22.914m, as detailed in Appendix E as amended.
- (7) Approved a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, which was in line with the provisions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (8) Approved the adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.32 to 8.35).
- (9) Approved to increase Grant funding for Community Forums by £30,000 for 2025/26 only, in the light of the continued reduced support to local organisations from County Council Member Locality Budgets.
- (10) Approved to set aside a contingency budget of £40k in 2025/26 that will allow cost effective feasibility work to be carried out to further assess whether there are viable options for a Learner pool at Royston Leisure Centre.
- (11) Approved that once having spoken with residents, particularly in the rural communities, to add an additional Community Safety Officer post at a cost of £52,000 per year from 2025/26 onwards.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that all relevant factors are considered in arriving at a budget (revenue and capital) and Council Tax level for 2025/26. To ensure that the budget is aligned to Council priorities for 2024-28 as set out in the Council Plan.
- (2) The Council's Investment Strategy is set to comply with relevant statutory guidance, including the CIPFA Prudential Code. The Strategy also sets out the Council's approach to risks in relation to the investment of surplus cash.

98 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2025/26

Audio recording - 3 hours 37 minutes 3 seconds

The Service Director – Resources presented the report 'Council Tax Resolution 2024/25' and advised that:

- The Council was required to incorporate the various other elements of the Council Tax precepts to set the overall Council Tax bills for the district.
- As there would be an increase to the forecast spend for 2025/26 this had resulted in a change to the figures in recommendations 2.2 (a) and (b)'

Councillor Ian Albert proposed and Councillor Daniel Allen seconded the amended recommendations and, the outcome of the recorded vote was:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES	:	37
ABSTAIN	:	3
NO	:	1
TOTAL	:	41

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr David Barnard	NO

Cllr Matt Barnes	YES
Cllr Tina Bhartwas	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Sadie Billing	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Rhona Cameron	YES
Cllr David Chalmers	YES
Cllr Jon Clayden	YES
Cllr Mick Debenham	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis	YES
Cllr Emma Fernandes	YES
Cllr Joe Graziano	ABSTAIN
Cllr Sarah Lucas	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tim Johnson	YES
Cllr Chris Lucas	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr Nigel Mason	YES
Cllr Bryony May	YES
Cllr Caroline McDonnell	YES
Cllr Ralph Muncer	ABSTAIN
Cllr Louise Peace	YES
Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Martin Prescott	
Cllr Emma Rowe	YES
Cllr Claire Strong	ABSTAIN
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Paul Ward	YES
Cllr Laura Williams	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Stewart Willoughby	YES
Cllr Claire Winchester	YES
Cllr Dave Winstanley	YES
Cllr Donna Wright	YES
Cllr Daniel Wright-Mason	YES

RESOLVED: That Council:

(1) Noted that at its meeting on 23 January 2025 the Council Tax Setting Committee confirmed the amount 50,836.30 as its Council Tax base for the year 2025/2026 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).

b) 50,836.30 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Regulations, as its Council Tax base for the year.

c)

Parish/Town	Council Tax Base	Parish/Town	Council Tax Base
Ashwell	901.70	Knebworth	2,018.70
Barkway	438.90	Lilley	178.00
Barley	338.20	Offley	616.30

Bygrave	129.40	Pirton	702.50
Caldecote and Newnham	56.70	Preston	246.10
Clothall	86.90	Radwell	58.30
Codicote	1,711.30	Reed	160.60
Graveley	175.50	Royston	6,871.60
Great Ashby	2,012.10	Rushden and Wallington	212.10
Hinxworth	162.60	St Ippolyts	948.50
Holwell	160.20	St Pauls Walden	582.10
Ickleford	898.10	Sandon	247.50
Kelshall	80.90	Therfield	267.50
Kimpton	1,062.50	Weston	446.40
Kings Walden	425.00	Wymondley	431.20

Being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- d) That it be noted that at this meeting on the 27 February 2025 the Council has calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish precepts) as £13,612,944. As detailed in 2.2 (e) below the sum of special items is £1,522,848 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) is £15,135,792.
- (2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2025/2026 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-
- a) £82,806,829 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act.
 - b) £67,671,037 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - c) £15,135,792 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
 - d) £297.74 being the amount at (c) above divided by the amount at 2.1(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
 - e) £1,522,848 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - f) £267.78 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 2.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

g)

Parish/Town	Basic £	Parish Precept £	Total £
Ashwell	267.78	124.89	392.67
Barkway	267.78	98.28	366.06
Barley	267.78	99.24	367.02
Bygrave	267.78	71.95	339.73
Caldecote and Newnham	267.78	42.08	309.86
Clothall	267.78	21.59	289.37
Codicote	267.78	64.80	332.58
Graveley	267.78	57.94	325.72
Great Ashby	267.78	24.00	291.78
Hinxworth	267.78	68.75	336.53
Holwell	267.78	92.50	360.28
Ickleford	267.78	67.23	335.01
Kelshall	267.78	35.61	303.39
Kimpton	267.78	84.71	352.49
Kings Walden	267.78	90.75	358.53
Knebworth	267.78	95.29	363.07
Lilley	267.78	108.97	376.75
Offley	267.78	66.09	333.87
Pirton	267.78	95.61	363.39
Preston	267.78	68.10	335.88
Radwell	267.78	26.42	294.20
Reed	267.78	51.54	319.32
Royston	267.78	59.22	327.00
Rushden and Wallington	267.78	20.92	288.70
St Ippolyts	267.78	41.98	309.76
St Pauls Walden	267.78	86.79	354.57
Sandon	267.78	34.34	302.12
Therfield	267.78	37.38	305.16
Weston	267.78	51.52	319.30
Wymondley	267.78	100.53	368.31

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.2(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2.1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

h)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Ashwell	261.78	305.41	349.03	392.67	479.93	567.19	654.45	785.34
Baldock	178.52	208.27	238.03	267.78	327.29	386.79	446.30	535.56
Barkway	244.04	284.71	325.38	366.06	447.41	528.75	610.10	732.12
Barley	244.68	285.46	326.23	367.02	448.58	530.14	611.70	734.04
Bygrave	226.49	264.23	301.98	339.73	415.23	490.72	566.22	679.46
Caldecote and Newnham	206.57	241.00	275.42	309.86	378.72	447.57	516.43	619.72
Clothall	192.91	225.06	257.21	289.37	353.68	417.98	482.28	578.74
Codicote	221.72	258.67	295.62	332.58	406.49	480.39	554.30	665.16
Graveley	217.15	253.33	289.52	325.72	398.11	470.48	542.87	651.44
Great Ashby	194.52	226.94	259.35	291.78	356.62	421.46	486.30	583.56
Hexton	178.52	208.27	238.03	267.78	327.29	386.79	446.30	535.56

Hinxworth	224.35	261.74	299.13	336.53	411.32	486.10	560.88	673.06
Hitchin	178.52	208.27	238.03	267.78	327.29	386.79	446.30	535.56
Holwell	240.19	280.21	320.24	360.28	440.35	520.40	600.47	720.56
Ickleford	223.34	260.56	297.78	335.01	409.46	483.90	558.35	670.02
Kelshall	202.26	235.97	269.67	303.39	370.81	438.23	505.65	606.78
Kimpton	234.99	274.16	313.32	352.49	430.82	509.15	587.48	704.98
Kings Walden	239.02	278.85	318.69	358.53	438.21	517.87	597.55	717.06
Knebworth	242.05	282.38	322.72	363.07	443.76	524.43	605.12	726.14
Langley	178.52	208.27	238.03	267.78	327.29	386.79	446.30	535.56
Letchworth	178.52	208.27	238.03	267.78	327.29	386.79	446.30	535.56
Lilley	251.17	293.02	334.88	376.75	460.48	544.19	627.92	753.50
Nuthampstead	178.52	208.27	238.03	267.78	327.29	386.79	446.30	535.56
Offley	222.58	259.67	296.77	333.87	408.07	482.25	556.45	667.74
Pirton	242.26	282.63	323.01	363.39	444.15	524.89	605.65	726.78
Preston	223.92	261.24	298.55	335.88	410.52	485.16	559.80	671.76
Radwell	196.13	228.82	261.50	294.20	359.58	424.95	490.33	588.40
Reed	212.88	248.36	283.83	319.32	390.28	461.24	532.20	638.64
Royston	218.00	254.33	290.66	327.00	399.67	472.33	545.00	654.00
Rushden and Wallington	192.47	224.54	256.62	288.70	352.86	417.01	481.17	577.40
St Ippolyts	206.51	240.92	275.34	309.76	378.60	447.43	516.27	619.52
St Pauls Walden	236.38	275.77	315.17	354.57	433.37	512.15	590.95	709.14
Sandon	201.41	234.98	268.54	302.12	369.26	436.39	503.53	604.24
Therfield	203.44	237.34	271.25	305.16	372.98	440.78	508.60	610.32
Weston	212.87	248.34	283.82	319.30	390.26	461.21	532.17	638.60
Wymondley	245.54	286.46	327.38	368.31	450.16	532.00	613.85	736.62

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2.2(f) and 2.2(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(l) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (3) Noted that for 2025/2026 Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Hertfordshire County Council	1,179.91	1,376.57	1,573.22	1,769.87	2,163.17	2,556.48	2,949.78	3,539.74
Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	176.67	206.11	235.56	265.00	323.89	382.78	441.67	530.00

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.2(h) and 2.3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets out the following provisional amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2025/2026 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

List of parishes and tax at different bands (County, Care, Police, District and Parish)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Ashwell	1,618.36	1,888.09	2,157.81	2,427.54	2,966.99	3,506.45	4,045.90	4,855.08
Baldock	1,535.10	1,790.95	2,046.81	2,302.65	2,814.35	3,326.05	3,837.75	4,605.30
Barkway	1,600.62	1,867.39	2,134.16	2,400.93	2,934.47	3,468.01	4,001.55	4,801.86
Barley	1,601.26	1,868.14	2,135.01	2,401.89	2,935.64	3,469.40	4,003.15	4,803.78
Bygrave	1,583.07	1,846.91	2,110.76	2,374.60	2,902.29	3,429.98	3,957.67	4,749.20
Caldecote and Newnham	1,563.15	1,823.68	2,084.20	2,344.73	2,865.78	3,386.83	3,907.88	4,689.46

Clothall	1,549.49	1,807.74	2,065.99	2,324.24	2,840.74	3,357.24	3,873.73	4,648.48
Codicote	1,578.30	1,841.35	2,104.40	2,367.45	2,893.55	3,419.65	3,945.75	4,734.90
Graveley	1,573.73	1,836.01	2,098.30	2,360.59	2,885.17	3,409.74	3,934.32	4,721.18
Great Ashby	1,551.10	1,809.62	2,068.13	2,326.65	2,843.68	3,360.72	3,877.75	4,653.30
Hexton	1,535.10	1,790.95	2,046.81	2,302.65	2,814.35	3,326.05	3,837.75	4,605.30
Hinxworth	1,580.93	1,844.42	2,107.91	2,371.40	2,898.38	3,425.36	3,952.33	4,742.80
Hitchin	1,535.10	1,790.95	2,046.81	2,302.65	2,814.35	3,326.05	3,837.75	4,605.30
Holwell	1,596.77	1,862.89	2,129.02	2,395.15	2,927.41	3,459.66	3,991.92	4,790.30
Ickleford	1,579.92	1,843.24	2,106.56	2,369.88	2,896.52	3,423.16	3,949.80	4,739.76
Kelshall	1,558.84	1,818.65	2,078.45	2,338.26	2,857.87	3,377.49	3,897.10	4,676.52
Kimpton	1,591.57	1,856.84	2,122.10	2,387.36	2,917.88	3,448.41	3,978.93	4,774.72
Kings Walden	1,595.60	1,861.53	2,127.47	2,393.40	2,925.27	3,457.13	3,989.00	4,786.80
Knebworth	1,598.63	1,865.06	2,131.50	2,397.94	2,930.82	3,463.69	3,996.57	4,795.88
Langley	1,535.10	1,790.95	2,046.81	2,302.65	2,814.35	3,326.05	3,837.75	4,605.30
Letchworth	1,535.10	1,790.95	2,046.81	2,302.65	2,814.35	3,326.05	3,837.75	4,605.30
Lilley	1,607.75	1,875.70	2,143.66	2,411.62	2,947.54	3,483.45	4,019.37	4,823.24
Nuthampstead	1,535.10	1,790.95	2,046.81	2,302.65	2,814.35	3,326.05	3,837.75	4,605.30
Offley	1,579.16	1,842.35	2,105.55	2,368.74	2,895.13	3,421.51	3,947.90	4,737.48
Pirton	1,598.84	1,865.31	2,131.79	2,398.26	2,931.21	3,464.15	3,997.10	4,796.52
Preston	1,580.50	1,843.92	2,107.33	2,370.75	2,897.58	3,424.42	3,951.25	4,741.50
Radwell	1,552.71	1,811.50	2,070.28	2,329.07	2,846.64	3,364.21	3,881.78	4,658.14
Reed	1,569.46	1,831.04	2,092.61	2,354.19	2,877.34	3,400.50	3,923.65	4,708.38
Royston	1,574.58	1,837.01	2,099.44	2,361.87	2,886.73	3,411.59	3,936.45	4,723.74
Rushden and Wallington	1,549.05	1,807.22	2,065.40	2,323.57	2,839.92	3,356.27	3,872.62	4,647.14
St Ippolyts	1,563.09	1,823.60	2,084.12	2,344.63	2,865.66	3,386.69	3,907.72	4,689.26
St Pauls Walden	1,592.96	1,858.45	2,123.95	2,389.44	2,920.43	3,451.41	3,982.40	4,778.88
Sandon	1,557.99	1,817.66	2,077.32	2,336.99	2,856.32	3,375.65	3,894.98	4,673.98
Therfield	1,560.02	1,820.02	2,080.03	2,340.03	2,860.04	3,380.04	3,900.05	4,680.06
Weston	1,569.45	1,831.02	2,092.60	2,354.17	2,877.32	3,400.47	3,923.62	4,708.34
Wymondley	1,602.12	1,869.14	2,136.16	2,403.18	2,937.22	3,471.26	4,005.30	4,806.36

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) The Council is required to set the Council Tax and to set the overall level of Council Tax for the following financial year, taking into account the precepts of all major and local precepting authorities.
- (2) The level of Council Tax Requirement has been considered necessary to meet the budgeting needs of the Council for 2025/26.

N.B. Councillors Martin Prescott and Tim Johnson left the Chamber at 23.08 and did not return.

99 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Audio recording - 3 hours 39 minutes 43 seconds

No questions were submitted by Members of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 (b).

100 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Audio recording - 3 hours 39 minutes 46 seconds

No motions were received by Members of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

The meeting closed at 11.12 pm

Chair

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
22 MAY 2025**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET FOR 2025/26 (INCLUDING SPECIAL INTEREST MEMBER CHAMPIONS)

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: THRIVING COMMUNITIES / ACCESSIBLE SERVICES / RESPONSIBLE GROWTH / SUSTAINABILITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the Leader's appointment of members of the Cabinet for 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2025/26 be noted.
- 2.2 That the Members to be appointed as Executive Members of the Cabinet for 2025/26 and the areas for which they will be responsible, as detailed in Appendix A, be noted (and that appropriate amendments to section 14 and the constitution generally, will be made to reflect those appointments).
- 2.3 That the Special Interest Member Champions for 2025/26, their purpose and role, as detailed in Appendix A, be noted.
- 2.4 That the respective Group Leaders be appointed as the Learning and Development Member Champions for 2025/26, as outlined in paragraph 8.6.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 and Sections 4.8.1 (a) (vii), 5.2 and 5.3.4 of the Council's Constitution. 2.3 for information purposes.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 The Leader of the Council will inform the Council of the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members for 2025/26.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 As required as one of the choices of political model set out in the Local Government Act 2000, North Hertfordshire Council has adopted a Leader and Cabinet form of executive governance.
- 7.2 Following the Constitutional Amendment Report presented to Full Council on 18 April 2024, section 4.8.1 (a) (vi) of the Council's Constitution was updated regarding the appointment of the Leader of the Council. This will now coincide with the Annual Council meeting following whole Council elections (i.e. ordinarily following all out elections).

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Under section 4.8.1 (a) (vi) of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that Annual Council will:

“elect the Leader of the Council at the first annual meeting following a whole Council election for a four year term”.

- 8.2 Under Section 5.2 of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that the Cabinet will consist of:

“5.2.1 the Leader of the Council (the “Leader”); and

5.2.2 at least two but not more than nine (or other parameters set by legislation) Councillors appointed to the Cabinet as Executive Members by the Leader.”

- 8.2 Under Section 4.8.1 (a) of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that Annual Council will:

“(vii) note the number of Members to be appointed to the Cabinet and the appointment those Members;”

- 8.3 Under Section 5.6 of the Council's Constitution, it is set out that:

“in a joint administration a ‘deputy’ to an Executive portfolio holder may be appointed. That deputy will be invited to attend relevant meetings of the Executive (formal or informal) where executive functions are discussed, give their opinion and for this to be taken into account by the Executive decision maker or Cabinet, although they are not formally part of the Cabinet Executive nor an Executive decision maker. This does not apply to the Deputy Leader who is appointed to acts as per section 5.4.”

- 8.4 Appendix A to the report sets out the Leader's appointments to the Cabinet Executive Member positions for 2025/26.
- 8.5 In accordance with Section 5.3.4 of the Council's Constitution, it is also required that "within two weeks of being elected as Leader, the Leader will submit to the Proper Officer a Cabinet Scheme of Delegations setting out the responsibilities and delegated authority of each member of the Cabinet and any other delegation of any Executive Function the Leader chooses to make."
- 8.6 For a number of years there have been allocated Member Champions for Learning and Development. This role has, in recent years, been taken on by the respective Group Leaders and it is therefore proposed that this will continue for 2025/26.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As detailed in paragraph 8.1 there can be between 2 and 9 (inclusive) Executive Members appointed by the Leader of the Council. Each Executive Member receives an allowance as set by the Member Allowances Scheme. The budget is based on 7 Executive Members being appointed. That does not preclude the Leader appointing a different number of Executive Members, but there would be a financial impact arising from that decision.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered. Each year the Council undertakes a review of outside bodies, including whether Members are insured or indemnity provided by the outside body. This is a relevant consideration when nominating any Member to an external organisation.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Appointment of Members of the Cabinet for 2025/26. (***Appendix A will be circulated as a supplement when available***)

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

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Contributors

17.2 Jeanette Thompson, Director: Governance and Monitoring Officer
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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET 2025/26**Report by the Leader of the Council**

The Cabinet will consist of the Leader of the Council with at least one, but no more than nine, one of whom shall be the Deputy Leader, Councillors appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader. Each of the Cabinet Members shall be responsible for a portfolio/ or local government area.

DELEGATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

In accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules and Terms of Reference executive functions will be delegated to the following Cabinet Executive Members:

The extent of the authority delegated to these Members will be as set out in Section 14.6.5 to 14.6.12 of the Council's Constitution.

PORTFOLIO	CABINET EXECUTIVE MEMBER
Customers	
Enterprise	
Environment	
Governance	
Regulatory	
Resources	
Local Government Reorganisation/ Devolution	

Special Interest Member Champions 2025/26

SPECIAL INTEREST	MEMBER
Health	
Young people	
Environment	
Housing	

The Purpose and Role of a Special Interest Champion is set out under Annex 1. *Note these are not Executive positions, which will be undertaken by the relevant Executive Member for the areas concerned, Leader in default of that, or Cabinet as a whole.*

**Cllr Daniel Allen
Leader of the Council
22 May 2025**

Annex 1

Special Interest Member Champion Purpose and Role

What is their Purpose?

A Special Interest Member Champion will be an elected Member who, in addition to their other Council responsibilities, is a named champion for a particular issue or group. They will provide a non-Executive or non-Officer voice to that subject or group to ensure a focus on these issues in Council business (within the context of the Council Plan, its priorities, remit and resources).

What is their Role?

Typically, a Special Interest Member Champion:

- Will engage with Officers and Members in relation to the role.
- Will promote the issue of special interest or group being championed within the Council, so that it is considered when developing Policy, Strategy or making decisions.
- May ask questions about performance and resources for the issue or group.
- Will raise the profile of the area and (where not already adopted or promoted) foster awareness of good practice for improvement of services.
- May attend and be invited to speak at Overview & Scrutiny/ Cabinet or Full Council meetings where an agenda item specifically involves their special interest.
- May engage with community groups with an interest/stake in the issue or group.

How does their role fit within the Council structure?

This will vary according to the area/issue that is being championed and how the authority functions. There is potential for confusion and overlap between the role of the Special Interest Member Champion and those of the relevant Executive Member or Overview and Scrutiny Members.

It is therefore important that Members and Officers work together to agree roles and action for the area being championed and that there are mechanisms for the Special Interest Member Champion to report on their activities. *In the first instance, the Member Champion will raise issues with and have a reporting line to the relevant Executive Member for the special interest concerned, to ensure that all parties have sufficient pre-reporting/ publicity information.*

[Save in so far as any decision is taken by the Council members as a whole] this is not a decision making role. A Special Interest Member Champion should avoid committing themselves to an outcome of a decision, in advance of that decision, that they have a vote upon.

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
22 MAY 2025**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2025/26

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: THRIVING COMMUNITIES / ACCESSIBLE SERVICES / RESPONSIBLE GROWTH / SUSTAINABILITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Members of Committees for 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That, for 2025/26, the seats allocated to each political group on the Committees to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies and the seats allocated to each political party on the bodies to which Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 does not apply, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be noted.
- 2.2 For the Planning Control Committee only, that the number of substitute Members for each Group be equal to the number of allocated Committee Members, with a minimum of 2 substitutes per Group.
- 2.3 That, for 2025/26, Members be appointed to the various Committees and other bodies in accordance with the wishes of the individual political groups, as detailed in Appendix B to this report and, subject to approval of recommendation 2.2, note the additional substitute Members.
- 2.4 That, for 2025/26, each political group leader be appointed to the Community Governance Review Working Group, as detailed in 8.6 of the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted and have been requested to inform the Democratic Services Manager of their Committee Member nominations for 2025/26.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act") imposed a duty for the Council to review the representation of the different Political Groups on the Council's Committees. The representation needs to be broadly proportional to the number of seats held by each Political Group of the Council. The Committees to which Section 15 of the Act applies are:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee;
- Planning Control Committee;
- Licensing and Regulation Committee;
- Standards Committee;
- Council Tax Setting Committee;
- Employment Committee;
- Employment Appeals Committee; and
- Joint Staff Consultative Committee.

- 7.2 The Council is also required to appoint to various other bodies, to which Section 15 of the Act does not apply, in accordance with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Appendix A to the report sets out political balance of Committees, as required under the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the proposed allocation of seats for those bodies to which Section 15 does not apply, for 2025/26.
- 8.2 The political proportionality is based on members requests to form political groups through providing notification to the Proper Officer, as outlined in the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and should include the names and signatures of members (by hand), as well as the group name and group leader.
- 8.3 Where notice has not been received by the Proper Officer of a member registering with a political group, they will be considered as an independent member within proportionality calculations until the point at which a signature has been received (by hand) by the Proper Officer as notification of group membership.

- 8.4 Appendix B to the report (to be circulated subsequent to the agenda publication) will set out the proposed appointment of Members to Committees for 2025/26, in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups.
- 8.5 In respect of substitutes to committees the constitution states at Paragraph 4.8.4:
- “(b) For Committees or Sub-Committees listed at 4.8.4(d) below and Panels, but not the Cabinet, the Council will appoint a proportionate number of substitutes in respect of each political group as that group holds ordinary seats on that Committee, Sub-Committee or Panel. The number of substitutes shall be a minimum of two substitutes per group and a maximum of 50% of the total of each group’s full committee or Panel membership rounded up to the nearest whole number.”
- 8.6 In respect of recommendation 2.2, this has been at the request of the Liberal Democrat Group Leader to ensure that adequate cover is provided within each Group accounting for the additional Planning Control Committee meetings required for the 2025/26 Civic Year.
- 8.7 There is a Working Group included on the Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26, the Community Governance Review Working Group, which will not be appointed to under the proportionality calculations. The membership of this Working Group will be the relevant Group Leaders of the political groups, as notified to the Proper Officer in line with 8.2 and 8.3 above.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.
- 9.2 The proposed appointments are due to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the subsequent Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) Regulations 1991.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered. Each year the Council undertakes a review of outside bodies, including whether Members are insured or indemnity provided by the outside body. This is a relevant consideration when nominating any Member to an external organisation.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no human resource implications.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix A – Political Proportionality & Balance calculations including to those committees governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- 15.2 Appendix B – Appointment of Members of Committees for 2025/26. (***Appendix B will be circulated as a supplement when available***)

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

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Contributors

- 16.2 Jeanette Thompson, Director: Governance and Monitoring Officer
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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 None.

Political Proportionality Balance calculations including to those committees governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

	Conservative	%	Labour	%	Lib Dem	%	Ind	%	Totals		1 Member = %
Total Council Seats	7	13.73%	24	47.06%	19	37.25%	1	1.96%	51		1.960784314
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2	16.67%	5	41.67%	5	41.67%	0	0.00%	12	100.00%	8.333333333
Variation		2.94%		-5.39%		4.41%		-1.96%	12		
Substitutes	2		3		3		0				
Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	1	12.50%	4	50.00%	3	37.50%	0	0.00%	8	100.00%	12.5
Variation		-1.23%		2.94%		0.25%		-1.96%	8		
Substitutes	2		2		2		0				
Planning Control Committee	1	8.33%	6	50.00%	5	41.67%	0	0.00%	12	100.00%	8.333333333
Variation		-5.39%		2.94%		4.41%		-1.96%	12		
Substitutes	2		3		3		0				
Licensing and Regulation Committee	2	13.33%	7	46.67%	6	40.00%	0	0.00%	15	100.00%	6.666666667
Variation		-0.39%		-0.39%		2.75%		-1.96%	15		
Substitutes	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A				
Standards Committee	1	8.33%	6	50.00%	5	41.67%	0	0.00%	12	100.00%	8.333333333
Variation		-5.39%		2.94%		4.41%		-1.96%	12		
Substitutes	2		3		3		0				
Council Tax Setting Committee	1	20.00%	3	60.00%	1	20.00%	0	0.00%	5	100.00%	20
Variation		6.27%		12.94%		-17.25%		-1.96%	5		
Substitutes	2		2		2		0				
Employment Committee	1	25.00%	2	50.00%	1	25.00%	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	25
Variation		11.27%		2.94%		-12.25%		-1.96%	4		
Substitutes	2		2		2		0				
Employment Appeals Committee	1	25.00%	2	50.00%	1	25.00%	0	0.00%	4	100.00%	25
Variation		11.27%		2.94%		-12.25%		-1.96%	4		
Substitutes	2		2		2		0				
Joint Staff Consultative Committee	1	20.00%	2	40.00%	2	40.00%	0	0.00%	5	100.00%	20
Variation		6.27%		-7.06%		2.75%		-1.96%	5		
Substitutes	2		2		2		0				
Total Proportional Committee Seats	11	14.29%	37	48.05%	29	37.66%	0	0.00%	77	100.00%	1.19047619
Overall Variation		0.56%		0.99%		0.41%		-1.96%			

Political Proportionality Balance calculations including to those committees governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

COMMUNITY FORUMS													
Baldock and District	1		3		2		1		7				
Hitchin	0		8		4		0		12				
Letchworth	0		9		3		0		12				
Royston and District	1		2		5		0		8				
Southern Rural	5		2		5		0		12				
Total Community Forum Seats	7		24		19		1		51				
BODIES NOT INCLUDED IN PROPORTIONALITY CALCULATIONS													
Cabinet Panel on the Environment (Politically Balanced - 9 Members)	3	33.33%	3	33.33%	3	33.33%	0	0.00%	9				
District Wide Community Facilities Capital and Revenue Grants Panel	1	10.00%	5	50.00%	4	40.00%	0	0.00%	10				
CCTV Partnership Joint Executive (3 Members of Cabinet)			3										
Joint Member Panel - LWGC Heritage Foundation (All Members of Letchworth Committee)			9		3								
Hertfordshire Growth Board (Leader of Council)			1										
Hertfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Committee (One non-executive Member)			1										
Cabinet Sub Committee [Council Charities] (3 Members of Cabinet)			3										
Cabinet Sub-Committee [Local Authority Trading Companies' Shareholder] (3 Members of Cabinet)			3										
Total Non-Proportional Body Seats	4		28		10		0		42				
TOTAL SEATS ACROSS ALL APPOINTMENTS	22		89		58		1		169				

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2025/26

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND PANELS 2025/2026

Set out below are the proposed Members of the Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Panels for the Civic Year 2025-2026

Each committee/panel is with the numbers provisionally allocated, on a proportional basis, to each group for 2025/26. The proportionality calculations are included as Appendix A.

N.B. Any changes to Members appointed by Annual Council to Committees, Sub-Committee, Panels, Boards and outside bodies or as substitutes throughout the civic year should be notified in writing to the Service Director/Democratic Services Manager for consultation with Group Leaders as per 14.6.9 (a) (xix) of the Council's Constitution.

Please indicate which Members you want to nominate for the positions on each of the Committees, Panels, Working Groups and Sub-Committees below.

Committee	Party	Number of seats (subs)	2025/26 Nominees (<i>subs</i>)
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)	Conservative	2 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>
	Labour & Co-Operative	5 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>
	Liberal Democrat	5 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>
Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (8 Members)	Conservative	1 (2)	VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>
	Labour & Co-Operative	4 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>

	Liberal Democrat	3 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
Planning Control Committee (12 Members)	Conservative	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	6 (3) 6 (6) – <i>subject to approval of recommendation 2.2</i>	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	5 (3) 5 (5) – <i>subject to approval of recommendation 2.2</i>	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY

Licensing and Regulation Committee (up to 15 Members)	Conservative	2	VACANCY VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	7	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	6	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
Standards Committee (12 Members) Independent Person, two Reserve Independent Persons (advisory roles) 2 Parish Council Members – non- voting co-optees	Conservative	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	6 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	5 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY

Council Tax Setting Committee (5 Members)	Conservative	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	3 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
Employment Committee (4 Members, including at least 1 member of Cabinet)	Conservative	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	2 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
Employment Appeals Committee (4 Members, who are not members of Employment Committee and at least 1 member of Cabinet)	Conservative	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	2 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY

Joint Staff Consultative Committee (5 Members)	Conservative	1 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	2 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	2 (2)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY

Bodies not included in proportionality calculations

Committee/Panel	Party	Number of seats (subs)	2025/26 Nominees
Cabinet Panel on Environment (9 Members)	Conservative	3 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>
	Labour & Co-Operative	3 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>
	Liberal Democrat	3 (3)	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i> <i>VACANCY</i>
District Wide Community Facilities Capital and Revenue Grant Panel (10 Members)	Conservative	1	VACANCY
	Labour & Co-Operative	5	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
	Liberal Democrat	4	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY

Joint Member Panel – LGC Heritage Foundation (All Letchworth Members)	Conservative	0	
	Labour & Co-Operative	9	Cllr Daniel Allen Cllr Amy Allen Cllr Mick Debenham Cllr Tamsin Thomas Cllr Ian Mantle Cllr Sadie Billing Cllr Emma Fernandes Cllr Sean Nolan Cllr Tina Bhartwas
	Liberal Democrat	3	Cllr Sean Prendergast Cllr David Chalmers Cllr Claire Winchester
Herts Growth Board (Leader of the Council)	Labour & Co-Operative	1 (1)	Cllr Daniel Allen <i>Cllr Val Bryant</i>
Herts Growth Board Scrutiny Committee (1 Non-Cabinet Member)	Labour & Co-Operative	1	VACANCY
CCTV Partnership Joint Executive (3 Members of Cabinet)	Labour & Co-Operative	3	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
Community Governance Review Working Group (3 members, Party Group Leaders)	Conservative	1	Cllr Ralph Muncer
	Labour & Co-Operative	1	Cllr Daniel Allen
	Liberal Democrat	1	Cllr Ruth Brown
Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities)	Labour & Co-Operative (3 Members of Cabinet)	3	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY
Cabinet Sub-Committee (Local Authority Trading Companies Shareholder)	Labour & Co-Operative (3 Members of Cabinet)	3	VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY

Community Forums

Community Forum	Party	Number of seats	2025/26 Members
Baldock and District Community Forum (7 members)	Conservative	1	Cllr Michael Muir
	Labour & Co-Operative	3	Cllr Alistair Willoughby Cllr Stewart Willoughby Cllr Rhona Cameron
	Liberal Democrat	2	Cllr Tom Tyson Cllr Steve Jarvis
	Independent	1	Cllr Emma Rowe
Hitchin Community Forum (12 members)	Conservative	0	
	Labour & Co-Operative	8	Cllr Ian Albert Cllr Elizabeth Dennis Cllr Nigel Mason Cllr Daniel Wright-Mason Cllr Donna Wright Cllr Val Bryant Cllr Dave Winstanley Cllr Clare Billing
	Liberal Democrat	4	Cllr Chris Lucas Cllr Keith Hoskins Cllr Sam Collins Cllr Jon Clayden
Letchworth Community Forum (12 members)	Conservative	0	
	Labour & Co-Operative	9	Cllr Daniel Allen Cllr Amy Allen Cllr Mick Debenham Cllr Tamsin Thomas Cllr Ian Mantle Cllr Sadie Billing Cllr Emma Fernandes Cllr Sean Nolan Cllr Tina Bhartwas

	Liberal Democrat	3	Cllr Sean Prendergast Cllr David Chalmers Cllr Claire Winchester
Royston and District Community Forum (8 members)	Conservative	1	Cllr Martin Prescott
	Labour & Co-Operative	2	Cllr Sarah Lucas Cllr Cathy Brownjohn
	Liberal Democrat	5	Cllr Ruth Brown Cllr Matt Barnes Cllr Ruth Clifton Cllr Tim Johnson Cllr Bryony May
Southern Rural Community Forum (12 members)	Conservative	5	Cllr Ralph Muncer Cllr Claire Strong Cllr David Barnard Cllr Joe Graziano Cllr Steven Patmore
	Labour & Co-Operative	2	Cllr Vijaiya Poopalasingham Cllr Laura Williams
	Liberal Democrat	5	Cllr Dominic Griffiths Cllr Louise Peace Cllr Caroline McDonnell Cllr Lisa Nash Cllr Paul Ward

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
22 MAY 2025**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

**TITLE OF REPORT: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES
FOR 2025/26**

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: THRIVING COMMUNITIES / ACCESSIBLE SERVICES /
RESPONSIBLE GROWTH / SUSTAINABILITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Community Forums) for 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Community Forums) for 2025/26 be appointed in accordance with the details set out in Appendix A to the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(ix) of the Council's Constitution.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted and have informed the Democratic Services Manager of their nominations for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Community Forums) for 2025/26.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(ix) of the Council's Constitution states that the Annual Council will:

"appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of Committees subject to any requirements of this Constitution concerning who may be appointed to such positions. Community Forums will appoint their own Chair and Vice Chair. In the event that a Chair and Vice Chair cannot be appointed at the first meeting of a Community Forum or at the next available meeting, such appointment shall be made at the subsequent ordinary Council meeting."

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Appendix A to the report (to be circulated subsequent to the agenda publication) comprises nominations for the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Community Forums) for 2025/26.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.
- 9.2 The appointments are due to be made in line with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 as amended by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) Regulations 1991.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications arising directly from this report

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered. Each year the Council undertakes a review of outside bodies, including whether Members are insured or indemnity provided by the outside body. This is a relevant consideration when nominating any Member to an external organisation.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

16.1 Appendix A – Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Community Forums) for 2025/26 (***Appendix A will be circulated as a supplement when available***)

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

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Contributors

17.2 Jeanette Thompson, Director: Governance & Monitoring Officer
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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

18.1 None.

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APPENDIX A

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES 2025-2026

COMMITTEE	PROPOSED CHAIR	PROPOSED VICE-CHAIR
Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
Finance, Audit & Risk Committee		
Licensing & Regulation Committee		
Joint Staff Consultative Committee		
Planning Control Committee		
Council Tax Setting Committee		
Standards Committee		
Employment Committee		
Employment Appeals Committee		

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**ANNUAL COUNCIL
22 MAY 2025**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: KEY DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRIORITY: THRIVING COMMUNITIES / ACCESSIBLE SERVICES / RESPONSIBLE GROWTH / SUSTAINABILITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of any occasions over the past year where the 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with Regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”).

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7 BACKGROUND

- 7.1 The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 came into force on 10 September 2012. The Regulations, inter alia, revised the procedures for publicity in connection with Key Decisions.
- 7.2 A Key Decision means an executive decision which is likely –
- (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the relevant local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the relevant local authority.
- 7.3 The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulation 9(2) requires that at least 28 clear days notice is given by the Council before a Key Decision is made. This requirement is ordinarily met at North Herts Council by the regular publication of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
- 7.4 Regulation 10 requires that, where the publication of the intention to make a Key decision under regulation 9(2) is impracticable, that decision may only be made –
- (a) where the proper officer has informed the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or, if there is no such person, each member of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by notice in writing, of the matter about which the decision is to be made;
 - (b) where the proper officer has made available at the offices of the relevant local authority for inspection by the public and published on the relevant local authority's website, if it has one, a copy of the notice given pursuant to sub-paragraph (a); and
 - (c) after five clear days have elapsed following the day on which the proper officer made available the notice referred to in sub-paragraph (b).
- 7.5 In cases of Special Urgency, Regulation 11 requires that where the date by which a key decision must be made, makes compliance with regulation 10 impracticable, the decision may only be made where the decision maker has obtained agreement from -
- (a) the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee; or
 - (b) if there is no such person, or if the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee is unable to act, the Chair of the relevant local authority; or
 - (c) where there is no Chair of either the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee or of the relevant local authority, the Vice-Chair of the relevant local authority, that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

- 7.6 Regulation 19(1) requires that the Executive Leader must submit to the relevant local authority at such intervals as may be determined by the relevant local authority a report containing details of each executive decision taken during the period since the last report was submitted to the authority where the making of the decision was agreed as urgent in accordance with Regulation 11.
- 7.7 As contained within the Council's Constitution it is stated that the Executive Leader will submit a report annually to Council on the Cabinet decisions taken under the special urgency provisions.
- 7.8 Regulation 19(2) requires that a report submitted for the purposes of Regulation 19(1) must include –
- (a) particulars of each decision made; and
 - (b) a summary of the matters in respect of which each decision was made.
- 7.9 Regulation 19(3) requires that the Executive Leader must submit at least one report under Regulation 19(1) annually to the relevant local authority.

8 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 In 2024/25, the following Key Decisions required the Special Urgency procedure outlined in Regulation 11 to be invoked:

8.2 Subject Matter: Leisure Investment Options

Decision: That Cabinet:

- (1) Agreed in principle to terminate the Combined Heat and Power Centrica contracts at North Herts Leisure Centre (NHLC) and Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre (HSFC) at the appropriate time during the PSDS project and recommend to Council as per 2.6 below regarding the termination fee.
- (2) Expressed its profound disappointment at the position taken by Centrica over the cost of the CHP contract termination, given the company's stated position as "Energising a greener, fairer future" and requests that the Council continues to raise, and seek solutions to, the issue of long-term inflexible agreements for gas CHPs with Salix and Government, which will inevitably prevent many public sector organisations from achieving their net zero ambitions.
- (3) Did not approve the business case for Royston Leisure Centre Learner Pool at this time due to matters identified in the Part 2 report.
- (4) Agreed that the Project Board would review the business case for the Royston Learner Pool, after further work had taken place to explore any other funding options that were realistically available. That review would then feed into the planned review of the Council's capital programme, as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 25 June 2024

Reason for Urgency:

The Forward Plan of Executive Key Decisions was published on Tuesday 28 May 2024, which listed that this matter was being considered as both as Part 1 and Part 2 reports at the Cabinet meeting on 25 June 2024. However, as per (3) above the required 28-day private notices were not published ahead of the decision being taken.

The Leisure Investment Options item is commercially sensitive, and the decision cannot practicably be delayed to the next Cabinet meeting in September 2024 as they are time critical.

8.3 Subject Matter: Award of the Waste and Street Cleansing Contract

Decision: That Cabinet:

- (1) Agreed to award the waste, recycling and street cleansing contract to the preferred bidder, as identified in Part 2 of this report contingent upon the imminent completion of the Letchworth depots lease assignment from the incumbent provider to the Council.
- (2) Agreed to the delegation of powers to the Director of Resources and the Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Members for Finance and IT and Recycling and Waste Management to determine whether the Council Capital funds vehicles.
- (3) Agreed to approve the formation of a joint mobilisation project board to include the Executive Members responsible for digital transformation as well as the Executive Member covering waste, recycling and street cleansing services for both EHC and North Herts to monitor the progress of the mobilisation of the waste, recycling and street cleansing contract.
- (4) Had due regard for the draft statutory guidance in Appendix 6 and taking into account the matters set out in this Part 2 report and any Part 2 clarifications, reconfirms the decision on the 3-weekly collection frequency of residual waste collections made by Cabinet as per 7.5 and outlined that the clear reasons for the decision were that:
 - Options for fortnightly collections were considered, but the proposed service design provided better opportunities for increasing recycling participation.
 - To redesign the provision of services at this late stage would be a significant waste of resources.
 - Households with 'smelly waste' would be allowed the opportunity for more frequent collections.
 - The service design offered financial savings and provided best value for money.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 9 July 2024

Reason for Urgency:

The Forward Plan of Executive Key Decisions was published on Tuesday 28 May 2024, which listed that this matter was being considered as both as Part 1 and Part 2 reports at the Cabinet meeting on 9 July 2024. However, as per (3) above the required 28-day private notices were not published ahead of the decision being taken.

The Award of the Waste Collection and Street Cleaning Contract is commercially sensitive, and the decision cannot practicably be delayed to the next Cabinet meeting in September 2024 as it are time critical.

8.4 Subject Matter: Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Project

Decision: That Cabinet agreed in principle to proceed with Option 4a as detailed in paragraph 8.9.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 14 January 2025

Reason for Urgency:

The report is regarding the leisure centre decarbonisation project and an anticipated significant increase in ongoing running costs. The projected increase comes from revised modelling on the expected electricity demand from the air source heat pumps for the centres, which has been identified at the detailed design stage of the project. The reason for urgency is that, to meet the Salix grant funding requirements, orders need to be placed for the heat pumps on 15 January 2025. Therefore, the decision cannot be deferred to a future Cabinet meeting.

If the window for ordering the heat pumps is missed, the Council would most likely have to return the £7.7m grant to Salix, because it would not be able to meet the primary grant condition, which is to replace gas heating with low carbon technologies. There is no guarantee that the Council would be successful in any future round of funding.

8.5 Subject Matter: Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – Barkway and Nuthampstead**Decision:**

- (1) That the Examiner's report for the Barkway and Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan was noted.
- (2) That following the inclusion of the Examiner's proposed modifications to the Barkway and Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan, as set out in Appendix A, the Barkway and Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan was approved and it was approved to proceed to a referendum.
- (3) That the Counting Officer be instructed to conduct a referendum on the Barkway and Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan.

- (4) That subject to Recommendation 2.3 and the outcome of the referendum, the decision to “make” the Barkway and Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan be delegated to the Service Director – Regulatory in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport, as previously agreed by Cabinet in July 2018 (Minute 21).

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 18 March 2025

Reason for Urgency:

At the Cabinet meeting on 18 March there will be a report presented to consider the examiner’s report and the proposed modifications to the Barkway and Nuthampstead Neighbourhood Plan and to agree that officers make arrangements to conduct a Referendum within the designated neighbourhood planning area.

For cost, efficiency, and resource reasons it is preferable to hold the Referendum on 1 May, alongside the scheduled Hertfordshire County Council elections.

However, to do this the decision must be taken as an urgent decision and therefore not subject to call in. The reasons for this are due to the statutory deadlines for when the Information Sheet and the Notice of Referendum must be published (which if not considered urgent, fall within the call in period and therefore not be able to be enacted. Meaning that the NPR will be held after 1 May).

8.6 **Subject Matter: Devolution White Paper – Interim Plan Submission**

Decision: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the current draft of the Interim Plan Submission (Appendix B).
- (2) Delegated authority to the Deputy Leader, in consultation with the Service Director Resources and Service Director Legal and Community, to agree and submit the Interim Plan to Government by 21 March 2025.

Decision Taker: Cabinet

Date of Decision: 18 March 2025

Reason for Urgency:

On 16 December 2024 the government published its Devolution White Paper, providing details of their plans for local government reorganisation to support devolving power to communities.

On 5 February 2025, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution wrote a letter to the Leaders of all District and Borough Councils in Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire County Council, formally inviting them under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to submit a proposal for a single

tier of local government. In doing so it set out further detail on the criteria, guidance for the development of proposals, and the timeline for the process. This included the need for the Hertfordshire Councils to submit an Interim Plan (or plans) Friday 21 March 2025. This has involved and continues to involve consideration and finalising such a plan (or plans) by that deadline.

At the Cabinet meeting on 18 March there will be a report presented to consider the Interim Plan developed jointly by the District, Borough and County Councils in Hertfordshire and seeking a delegation to the Leader/ Deputy in their absence, to finalise this and submit the Interim Plan by the said deadline of 21st. Failing to meet this deadline would mean that the views of the Council would not be taken into account, seriously prejudice the Council's or other public interests in this matter.

Therefore, this decision must be taken as an urgent decision and not subject to Call-In to meet this required deadline.

- 8.7 All Notices of Special Urgency can be viewed on the Council's Website here: [Notices of urgent decisions | North Herts Council](#)

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This report is a requirement of the Council Procedure Rules as set out in Part 15.16.3 of the Council's Constitution which provides that the Leader of the Council will submit an annual report to the Council on Cabinet decision taken in the circumstances set out in 15.15 (special urgency) in the preceding year. The report will include the number of decisions so taken and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken.
- 9.2 The requirements of the Regulations are set out in the main body of this report.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. In the event of the use of Special Urgency procedures, financial (and other) implications would be considered in the decision-making process and reported to Full Council.

11 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered. Each year the Council undertakes a review of outside bodies, including whether Members are insured or indemnity provided by the outside body. This is a relevant consideration when nominating any Member to an external organisation.

12 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 This is a noting report, the intention of which is to ensure transparency of decision making. Considerations with regards to equalities implications, in relation to each decision, will have been set out in the reports concerned.
- 12.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

13 SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14 HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no human resource implications.

15 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1. Considerations with regards to environmental implications, in relation to each decision, will have been set out in the reports concerned.

16 APPENDICES

- 16.1 None.

17 CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

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Contributors

- 17.2 Melanie Stimpson, Democratic Services Manager
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18 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1 [Notices of urgent decisions | North Herts Council](#)

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
22 MAY 2025**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2025/26

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: THRIVING COMMUNITIES / ACCESSIBLE SERVICES / RESPONSIBLE GROWTH / SUSTAINABILITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2025/26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26, as attached as Appendix A, be approved.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To enable Members to agree a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2025/26.
- 3.2 To enable Members to agree the Calendar of meetings for 2025/26.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 A number of alternative dates were considered during consultation.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the political Group Leaders and Senior Officers.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Standing Order 4.8.1(a)(xi) requires the Council, at its Annual meeting, to approve a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the ensuing Civic Year.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Following consultation with the political Group Leaders, the following dates are recommended for ordinary meetings of the Council during the Civic Year 2025/26:

Thursday, 10 July 2025 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 2 October 2025 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 4 December 2025 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 29 January 2026 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 26 February 2026 – 7.30pm
Thursday, 23 April 2026 – 7.30 pm

- 8.2 Should circumstances dictate that any extraordinary meetings of the Council are required to deal with time critical issues in addition to the above programme of meetings then these will be arranged if necessary. One Extraordinary meeting has already been included in Appendix A for Monday, 16 June 2025 – 7.30pm.
- 8.4 Following consultation with the political Group Leaders, the Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26, as attached as Appendix A, is recommended for the Civic Year.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Paragraph 4.8.1(a) (xi) of the constitution provides in the terms of reference for the Annual Council meeting to include amongst other things “approving a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year”.
- 9.2 Provisions for calling meetings, enabling the public to be present and making documents available are contained in two principal pieces of legislation: the Local Government Act 1972, ss 100A to 100K for meetings of the full council and for non-executive committees and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 for executive meetings, in particular cabinet.
- 9.3 The Local Government Act 1972 requires members to be physically present in order for a meeting to take place.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 No financial implications arise directly from this report. A schedule of meetings forms part of the Council’s usual business arrangements.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered. Each year the Council undertakes a review of outside bodies, including whether Members are insured or indemnity provided by the outside body. This is a relevant consideration when nominating any Member to an external organisation.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no equalities implications in this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A – Calendar of Meetings 2025/26

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 None.

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SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT ANNUAL COUNCIL
NORTH HERTS COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025/2026

7.30pm start unless stated	Regular Meeting day	MAY 2025	JUNE 2025	JULY 2025	AUG 2025	SEPT 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	APR 2026
COUNCIL													
COUNCIL	Thurs	22 Annual	16 (Extra)	10			2		4	29	26** ***		23
Council Tax Setting Cttee (5.30pm)	Thurs									29			
EXECUTIVE													
CABINET	Tues	20 (Extra)	24			23		25		20	17*		14
FORWARD PLAN PUBLISH	Fri	23			22		24		19	9		13	
Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities) (5.30pm)	Tues							25					
Cabinet Sub-Committee (Local Authority Trading Companies' Shareholder) (5.30pm)													
REGULATORY													
Licensing and Regulation Committee	Mon						13						
Planning Control Committee (7.00pm)	Thurs		12 & 19	17 & 24	7 & 21	4 & 18	9 & 23	6 & 20	11 & 18	15 & 22	12 & 24 (Tues)	12 & 19	16
Standards Committee	Wed						22					11	
SCRUTINY													
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Tues	6 (Extra)	10			9		11		6	3	24	
OTHER COMMITTEES													
Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Wed		11			10		12		7	4	25	
Joint Staff Consultative Cttee (10.00am)	Wed		18				15			28			22
Employment (10.00am)			4										

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT ANNUAL COUNCIL
NORTH HERTS COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025/2026

7.30pm start unless stated	Regular Meeting day	MAY 2025	JUNE 2025	JULY 2025	AUG 2025	SEPT 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	APR 2026
PARTNERSHIPS, PANELS AND LIAISON MEETINGS													
Cabinet Panel on the Environment	Wed		18			17		19		14	11		1
CCTV Partnership Joint Executive (7.00pm)							20						
BUDGET WORKSHOPS													
Administration	Mon							3					
Opposition	Mon							10					
CIVIC, ELECTORAL AND DEVELOPMENT EVENTS													
County Council Elections	Thurs	1											
Chair's Reception/Civic Event	Fri										27		
Youth Democracy Day (9.00am)	Thurs							20					
Members Development Week		12 to 16											
Member Development Session (7.00pm)	Mon			7		8		10		12		9	
WORKING GROUPS													
Community Governance Review Working Group		14	18										

* Cabinet to consider Budgets; ** Council to set Budgets; *** To set Council Tax.

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT ANNUAL COUNCIL
NORTH HERTS COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025/2026

7.30pm start unless stated	Regular Meeting day	MAY 2025	JUNE 2025	JULY 2025	AUG 2025	SEPT 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	APR 2026
COMMUNITY FORUMS													
Baldock & Villages Community Forum	Mon		9			15			8			23	
Hitchin Community Forum	Tues		17			16			9			10	
Letchworth Community Forum	Wed		25			24			17			4	
Royston & Villages Community Forum	Wed		18			24			10			18	
Southern Rural Community Forum	Thurs		5			11		27				5	

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT ANNUAL COUNCIL
NORTH HERTS COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2025/2026

KEY DATES

School Holidays Hertfordshire

School year (2024/25)

Half term holiday: 26 May 2025 – 30 May 2025

Summer holiday: 24 July 2025 – 2 September 2025

School year (2025/26)

Start of term: 3 September 2025

Half term holiday: 27 October 2025 – 31 October 2025

Christmas holiday: 22 December 2025 – 2 January 2026

Half term holiday: 16 February 2026 – 20 February 2026

Easter holiday: 30 March 2026 – 10 April 2026

Half term holiday: 25 May 2026 – 29 May 2026

Summer holiday: 24 July 2026 – 3 September 2026

Political Party & LGA Conferences

Labour Conference: 28 September 2025 – 1 October 2025

Conservative Conference: 5 October 2025 – 8 October 2025

Liberal Democrat Conference: 20 September 2025 – 23 September 2025

LGA Conference: 1 July 2025 – 3 July 2025

**ANNUAL COUNCIL
22 MAY 2025**

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2025/26

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

COUNCIL PRIORITY: THRIVING COMMUNITIES / ACCESSIBLE SERVICES / RESPONSIBLE GROWTH / SUSTAINABILITY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a list setting out the nomination of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2025/26.

NB If a Member is nominated to or is on an outside body, they have an Interest under the Code of Conduct, they must comply with the Code requirements Section 17, Appendix B – Constitution [\[page click here\]](#). If unclear, seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Deputy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the list of nominations of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.
- 2.2 That Political Group Leaders notify the Democratic Services Manager of nominations to the remaining vacancies or any changes to the existing representatives on outside organisations.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To comply with the provisions of Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(iv) and (v) of the Council's Constitution.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups have been consulted regarding the nomination of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2025/26.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(iv) of the Council's Constitution states that at the Annual Meeting, the Council will

“receive nominations of Councillors to serve on each Committee and outside body”.

- 7.2 Standing Order 4.8.1(b)(v) states that at the Annual Meeting, the Council will also

“make appointments to those Committees and nominations to outside bodies, except where nomination to those bodies has been delegated by the Council or is exercisable by the Cabinet”.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 A comprehensive review of Outside Body appointments was carried out between January – March 2025. Both outside organisations and the appointed Members were surveyed. The survey assisted to ascertain whether the outside bodies were still active as well as the value in appointments to Outside Bodies. The response rate for organisations was 33 out of 49 (67%) and 24 out of 33 Members appointed to bodies (73%).
- 8.2 Group Leaders have been asked to consider the nominations as approved for 2024/25 and propose any alterations they felt necessary for 2025/2026, having given regard to 8.3 – 8.6 below.
- 8.3 A few organisations, namely Baldock Community Forum – Community Interest Company (CIC), Walsworth Community Association and Westmill Community Centre all raised issues with their representatives not attending meetings or being unresponsive to correspondence, but they all wished to continue having a Council representative.
- 8.4 The majority of organisations, namely Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board, Hertfordshire Armed Forces Governance Board, Hitchin Common Cow Trust, Royston Community Association and Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA), all noted that the Member representative was of value to the organisations. Having a Council representative provided them with opportunities for networking, plus the representative could offer support and give advice on how the Council operates.
- 8.5 Some responses received from both the organisation and the appointed Members stated that they had not had contact with each other throughout the last year. Therefore, should Members require support in contacting the organisation, they should speak to Committee Services as soon as possible.

- 8.6 We have been advised by Councillor Tina Bhartwas that the Letchworth Garden Shed Library would benefit from having a Council representative appointed to them for 2025/26.
- 8.7 We have been advised that Royston First Advisory Council (BID) was dissolved on 1 April 2024. Therefore, it is proposed that an appointment is no longer made to this organisation.
- 8.8 Appendix A to the report sets out the nomination of representatives to Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2025/26.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The legal and constitutional requirements are set out in the main body of this report.
- 9.2 It is a constitutional requirement to review the appointments to outside organisations at the Annual Meeting.
- 9.3 Appointments are made by the Council in the interests of openness and transparency.
- 9.4 Members are required to include any appointments to Outside Organisations or Bodies on their Register of Interests within 28 days of the appointment.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered. Each year the Council undertakes a review of outside bodies, including whether Members are insured or indemnity provided by the outside body. This is a relevant consideration when nominating any Member to an external organisation.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this report as it not a procurement.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A – Nomination of Representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2025/26. (***Appendix A will be circulated as a supplement when available***)

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Author

- 17.1 James Lovegrove, Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager
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Contributors

- 17.2 Melanie Stimpson, Democratic Services Manager
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- 17.3 Jeanette Thompson, Service Director: Legal and Community
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18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1 None.

NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS
2025/26

Where more than the appointees required have been nominated, a vote will be required at Annual Council.
Where this is the case, it has been highlighted in red.

Organisation	24/25 Representative	Date of Retirement	Term of Office	25/26 Nominees
Baldock Community Forum Community Interest Company	Cllr A Willoughby	2025	1	
Baldock Town Twinning Association	Cllr A Willoughby Cllr S Willoughby	2025 2025	1 1	
Baldock United Almshouses Charities	Cllr A Willoughby Cllr S Willoughby Cllr E Rowe	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
Baldock Community Association	Cllr A Willoughby Cllr S Willoughby Cllr E Rowe	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
Bedford and River Ivel Internal Drainage Board	Cllr A Willoughby	2025	1	
British Schools Museum	Cllr J Clayden	2025	1	
Charles Collison Trust	Cllr I Albert	2025	1	
Chilterns Conservation Board	Cllr M Debenham	2025	1	
Citizens Advice North Herts	Cllr J Graziano Cllr L Peace Cllr V Poopalasingham	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
East of England Leaders Group	Cllr D Allen (Leader of the Council) Sub Cllr V Bryant (Deputy Leader of the Council)	2025 2025	1 1	Leader of Council Sub – Deputy Leader of Council
Grange Fellowship Community Association	Cllr E Fernandes Cllr I Mantle Cllr T Bhartwas	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust	Cllr E Fernandes	2025	1	
Hertfordshire Community Covenant Board	Cllr V Bryant	2025	1	
Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership	Cllr M Debenham	2025	1	
Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee ¹	Cllr J Clayden Cllr T Bhartwas Sub Cllr D Wright	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
Hertfordshire Waste Partnership	Cllr A Allen (Executive Member for Recycling & Waste Management) Sub Cllr Dave Winstanley (<i>Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health</i>)	2025 2025	1 1	
Herts Leaders' Group	Cllr D Allen (Leader of the Council) Sub Cllr V Bryant (Deputy Leader of the Council)	2025 2025	1 1	Leader of Council Sub: Deputy Leader of Council
Hitchin BID	Cllr I Albert	2025	1	
Hitchin Charity School Endowment	Cllr V Bryant	2025	1	
Hitchin Cow Common Trust	Cllr I Albert	2025	1	

¹ NB. Cannot be an Executive Member and must be a Member of Overview and Scrutiny. Also, cannot be a staff member of Hertfordshire County Council or a staff member or board member of any Hertfordshire Health Trust.

Hitchin Educational Foundation	Cllr K Hoskins Cllr D Wright Cllr C Strong Cllr D Wright-Mason Cllr I Albert	2025 2025 2025 2025 2025	4 4 4 4 4	
Hitchin Initiative	Chair of Hitchin Community Forum	2025	1	Chair of Hitchin Community Forum
Hitchin Town Band Committee	Cllr N Mason	2025	1	
Hitchin Town Twinning	Cllr I Albert Cllr J Clayden	2025 2025	1 1	
Hitchin United Charities	Cllr K Hoskins Cllr I Albert Cllr D Winstanley Cllr C Strong Cllr V Bryant	2025 2025 2025 2025 2025	1 1 1 1 3	
Howard Garden Social and Day Care Centre	Cllr D Chalmers Cllr T Thomas VACANT	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
Jackmans Community Association	Cllr S Nolan Cllr M Debenham VACANT	2025 2025 VACANT	1 1 1	
King George V Playing Fields User Group	Cllr I Albert Cllr N Mason Cllr D Winstanley VACANT	2025 2025 2025 VACANT	1 1 1 1	
Knebworth House Education and Preservation Trust	Chair of the Council	2025	1	Chair of the Council
Knebworth Twinning Association	Cllr P Ward	2025	1	
Knebworth Village Trust	Cllr P Ward Cllr L Nash	2025 2025	1 1	
Letchworth Civic Trust	Cllr C Winchester Cllr E Fernandes Cllr D Allen	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
Letchworth Garden City BID	Cllr T Thomas	2025	1	
Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation	Cllr I Mantle	2025	The term of office of appointee	
Letchworth Garden City Town Twinning Association	Cllr M Debenham	2025	1	
London Luton Airport Consultative Committee	Cllr M Debenham	2025	1	
North Hertfordshire Centre for Voluntary Service	Cllr J Graziano Cllr V Bryant Cllr R Brown	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum	Cllr C Brownjohn	2025	1	
Parking Traffic Regulations Outside London (PATROL) Adjudication Joint Committee	Cllr D Allen	2025	1	
Police and Crime Panel	Cllr V Bryant Sub Cllr V Poopalasingham	2025 2025	1 1	
Royston & District Community Transport Scheme	Cllr M Barnes	2025	1 1	
Royston Community Association	Cllr R Brown Cllr C Brownjohn VACANT	2025 2025 VACANT	1 1 1	
Royston First Advisory Council (BID)	Cllr R Brown	2025	1	DISSOLVED
Royston Old People's Day Centre Committee (Royston Old Barn)	Cllr B May	2025	1	
Royston Town Twinning Association	Cllr C Brownjohn	2025	1	
St. Michaels Mount Community Centre, Hitchin – Management Committee	Cllr D Wright Cllr E Dennis Cllr D Wright-Mason	2025 2025 2025	1 1 1	
Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA)	Cllr E Dennis	2025	1	

Walsworth Community Association	Cllr D Wright	2025	1	
	Cllr E Dennis	2025	1	
	Cllr D Wright-Mason	2025	1	
Westmill Community Centre, Hitchin – Management Committee	Cllr C Billing	2025	1	

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