

# **NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **DECISION SHEET**

**Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Wednesday, 7th January, 2026 at 7.30 pm**

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillors Dominic Griffiths and Steven Patmore were absent.

### **2 MINUTES - 12 NOVEMBER 2025**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2025 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### **3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business notified.

### **4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.

(2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

(3) The Chair advised that section 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.

### **5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation at this meeting.

### **6 SIAS PROGRESS REPORT 2025/26**

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee:

(1) Noted the SIAS Progress Report for the period to 12 December 2025.

(2) Noted the implementation status of the reported high priority recommendations.

(3) Noted the plan amendments to the 2025/26 Annual Audit Plan.

(4) Noted the Briefing Paper – Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) Domain III.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To report progress made by the SIAS in delivering the Council's Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26 as at 15 August 2025.

### **7 SECOND QUARTER CAPITAL MONITORING REVIEW 2025/26**

**RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:** That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee comment on the recommendations to Cabinet which are:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the forecast expenditure of £26.366M in 2025/26 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the adjustments to the capital programme for 2026/27, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend by £1.773M.
- (3) That Cabinet notes the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 4 paragraph 8.6 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.

## **8 SECOND QUARTER TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2025/26**

**RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:** That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee comment on the recommendations to Cabinet which are:

- (1) That Cabinet recommends to Council that it notes the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of September 2025.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** That Cabinet recommends to Council that it notes the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of September 2025.

## **9 SECOND QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2025/26**

**RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:** That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee comment on the recommendations to Cabinet which are:

- (1) That Cabinet note this report.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the changes to the 2025/26 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, an £846k decrease in net expenditure.
- (3) That Cabinet notes the changes to the 2026/27 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £555k increase in net expenditure. These will be incorporated in the draft revenue budget for 2026/27.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

## **10 RISK MANAGEMENT MID YEAR UPDATE**

**RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:**

- (1) That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee note and provide recommendations to Cabinet on this mid-year Risk Management Governance update.
- (2) That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee comment on the proposed changes to the Risk Management Framework and recommend these changes for approval to Cabinet.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Cabinet has overall responsibility for ensuring the management of risk.

11      **UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:** That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee comment on the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations and recommend to Full Council their adoption in the Constitution.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** Due to the passage of time since the last major review of the Financial Regulations, it was considered appropriate to carry out a full review. The proposed changes are detailed in Appendix A alongside the reasons for them.

12      **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2026/27 ONWARDS**

**RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:** That Finance, Audit and Risk Committee comment on the recommendations to Cabinet which are:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the Council's expected funding for 2026/27.
- (2) That Cabinet confirms (in line with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy) that budget forecasts should be based on increasing Council Tax by 2.99% (the maximum amount allowable without a local referendum). Noting that Government have assumed Council Tax will increase by the maximum allowed in calculating Core Spending Power.
- (3) That Cabinet agree which proposals (revenue and capital) should be taken forward as part of the budget-setting process for 2026/27

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:** To ensure that all relevant factors are considered in arriving at a proposed budget and level of Council Tax for 2026/27, to be considered by Full Council on 26 February 2026.