

2 July 2025

Our Ref Council 10 July 2025
Contact. Committee Services
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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, HERTS, SG6 3JF**

on

THURSDAY, 10TH JULY, 2025

at

7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Director – Governance

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Agenda

Part I

Item		Page
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	MINUTES - 22 MAY 2025 AND 16 JUNE 2025 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 22 May 2025 and 16 June 2025.	7 - 22
3.	NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS Members should notify the Chair of other business which they wish to be discussed at the end of either Part I or Part II business set out in the agenda. They must state the circumstances which they consider justify the business being considered as a matter of urgency. The Chair will decide whether any item(s) raised will be considered.	
4.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS <u>Climate Emergency</u> 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. <u>Ecological Emergency</u> 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.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public.

6. ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

23 - 34

To consider any items referred from other Committees.

6A) Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – **to be considered with item 9**

6B) Annual report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – **to be considered with item 12**

6C) Referral from Cabinet: Revenue Budget Outturn 2023/24 – **to be considered with item 10**

6D) Referral from Cabinet: Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) End of Year Review 2024/25 – **to be considered with item 11**

6E) Referral from Cabinet: Report on Risk Management Governance: (Year End Update) – **to be considered with item 12**

7. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

35 - 348

To consider the responses to the Community Governance Review second public consultation and to agree the Final Recommendations.

8.	NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2025/26 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER	349 - 352
	To consider appointing three Member Representatives to the Howard Garden Social and Day Care Centre, the appointment of the Member Representative to the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership and the appointment of the Member Representative to the Chilterns Conservation Board.	
9.	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2024-2025 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	353 - 366
	To consider the Annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the 2024/2025 Civic Year.	
10.	REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2024/25 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES	367 - 390
	The report provides a summary position on revenue income and expenditure at the end of the financial year 2024/25.	
11.	INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) END OF YEAR REVIEW 2024/25 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES	391 - 424
	As at the end of financial year 2024/25, there is a reduction in Capital spend compared to quarter 3 of £5.467million . The majority of this change is due to revisions to the profile of planned project spend, with £5.240million that will now instead be incurred in 2025/26.	
12.	FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES	425 - 438
	To consider the Annual Report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the 2024/25 Civic Year.	
13.	REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE (YEAR-END UPDATE) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES	439 - 458
	To provide a review of the effectiveness of the Risk Management Governance arrangements at the Council.	
14.	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC To consider passing the following resolution: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).	

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| 15. | CHURCHGATE VIABILITY AND NEXT STEPS - PART 2
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – ENTERPRISE | 459 -
696 |
| | <p>To provide Members with an update on the Churchgate regeneration project. Highlighting the due diligence, consultation and feasibility work that has been completed so far.</p> | |
| 16. | CHURCHGATE VIABILITY AND NEXT STEPS - PART 1
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – ENTERPRISE | 697 -
738 |
| | <p>To provide Members with an update on the Churchgate regeneration project. Highlighting their due diligence, consultation and feasibility work that has been completed so far.</p> | |
| 17. | QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS
To consider any questions submitted by Members of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 (b). | |
| 18. | NOTICE OF MOTIONS
To consider any motions, due notice of which have been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12. | 739 -
740 |