

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence from Members.

2 MINUTES - 24 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 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 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 for the purposes of clarification that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at the meeting.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that the items referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Finance Audit and Risk Committee would be taken with the respective items on the Agenda.

7 DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: That the draft Developer Contribution SPD, attached as Appendix A, be endorsed and approved for a period of public consultation.

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow the Developer Contributions SPD to be updated and be used in decisions on planning applications.

8 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the report on strategic planning matters and appendices be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: To keep Cabinet informed of recent developments on strategic planning matters

9 CODICOTE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - REFERENDUM

RESOLVED:

- (1) To note the result of the Referendum for the Codicote Neighbourhood Plan.
- (2) To approve that the Codicote Neighbourhood Plan 2024 – 2031 be “made” and become part of the statutory development plan for North Hertfordshire.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: As reported to Cabinet in June 2025, the Codicote Neighbourhood Plan has successfully been examined by an independent examiner and the subsequent Referendum, held in August was successful, with more than 50% of those voting in favour of the Codicote Neighbourhood Plan.

10 NORTH HERTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2025-2030

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the adoption of the Economic Development Strategy (2025-2030).

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) The previous Economic Development Strategy was written and published in September 2015, based on historic evidence and not been updated since. The economic landscape of both the political environment, district and wider UK has changed dramatically due to several varying factors, resulting in the strategy becoming outdated.
- (2) Therefore, to respond to these fundamental changes and environment, the team were tasked with analysing the district according to economic development and writing a new strategy that is aligned to the most recent Council priorities, and its long-term vision to benefit both businesses and the people who visit, work and live in the district.

11 CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the updates to the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Council responds to the matters identified within the CPC report, ensuring that the benefits of the CPC process are realised.

12 POSITION STATEMENT IN RELATION TO FLOODING

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved that the Council does not provide flood defence items or funding to residents to protect or reinstate their property against or following flooding.
- (2) Noted that the Council would provide support to residents which would include providing information and guidance (including online, in-person and by phone). This would include support for anyone who is made homeless.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) The report sets out various practical and financial reasons for not providing residents with flood defence items or funding to residents to protect or reinstate their property against or following flooding.
- (2) The Council will fulfil its role as a Category 1 responder, as set out in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, and provide support to communities affected by flooding.

13 COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025/26 (QUARTER 1 UPDATE)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted progress against Council projects and performance indicators, as set out in the Council Delivery Plan (Appendix A), and approved new milestones and changes to milestones.

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

14 FIRST QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the report.
- (2) Approved the changes to the 2025/26 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £453k increase in net expenditure.
- (3) Noted the changes to the 2026/27 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £689k increase in net expenditure. These would be incorporated in the draft revenue budget for 2026/27.
- (4) Delegated authority to the Director – Resources (in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources) to enter into a Business Rate Pooling arrangement (if available) if it is estimated that it will be in the financial interests of the Council.
- (5) Approve the write-off of a debt for £11,326.64, as detailed in paragraph 8.17.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: 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.

15 FIRST QUARTER TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of June 2025.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

16 FIRST QUARTER CAPITAL MONITORING REVIEW 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the forecast expenditure of £27.624M in 2025/26 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) Approved the adjustments to the capital programme for 2026/27 onwards, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3, increasing the estimated spend in 2026/27 by £0.838M and £0.608M in 2027/28.
- (3) Noted 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.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That Council approve a capital budget of £1.275M (£0.319M in 25/26, £0.478M in 26/27 and £0.478M in 27/28) for the Government's new energy efficiency Warm Homes Scheme. This will be fully funded from Government grants, as paragraph 8.5 refers.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.
- (2) Paragraph 4.4.1 b) of the Council's Constitution details that Council will approve the budget. Any significant additions to the budget should be approved by Council and the decision to add the Warm Homes to the capital budget is therefore a referral to Council.

17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

18 PART 2 MINUTES - 24 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED: That the Part 2 Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 June 2025 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

19 GRANT FOR AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF LAND TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO STRATEGIC HOUSING SITE GA2 - PART 2

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the Council entering into an option agreement for the sale of the Council owned parcel of land edged red on the plan at Appendix B in accordance with the Heads of Terms attached at Appendix F of the Part 2 report.
- (2) Delegated authority to the Director – Governance in conjunction with the Director – Resources to complete, sign and seal all documents to give effect to the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that access is available to facilitate the development of GA2, a Strategic Housing site allocated in the Local Plan, which will assist in the delivery of circa 600 new homes and associated facilities including affordable homes. Completion of the sale is also expected to generate a capital receipt.

20 **GRANT OF AN OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF LAND TO FACILITATE
ACCESS TO STRATEGIC HOUSING SITE GA2 - PART 1**

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the Council entering into an option agreement for the sale of the Council owned parcel of land edged red on the plan at Appendix B in accordance with the Heads of Terms attached to the Part 2 report.
- (2) Delegated authority to the Director – Governance in conjunction with the Director – Resources to complete, sign and seal all documents to give effect to the recommendations.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure that access is available to facilitate the development of GA2, a Strategic Housing site allocated in the Local Plan, which will assist in the delivery of circa 600 new homes and associated facilities including affordable homes. Completion of the sale is also expected to generate a capital receipt.