

11 November 2025

Our Ref Cabinet Wednesday, 19 November 2025
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Cabinet:

Executive Members Councillors: Daniel Allen (Chair) Val Bryant (Vice Chair) Ian Albert,
Amy Allen, Mick Debenham, Tamsin Thomas, Laura Williams and Donna Wright.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A
MEETING OF THE CABINET**

to be held in the

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

on

WEDNESDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 7.30 PM

Yours sincerely,

Isabelle Alajooz
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 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2025 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 23 September 2025.	(Pages 5 - 18)
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

Any Items referred from other committees will be circulated as soon as they are available.

7. UPDATED 3C'S POLICY

REPORT OF THE CUSTOMER & DIGITAL SERVICES MANAGER

(Pages
19 - 54)

The 3C's Policy has been refreshed to comply with the LGO's complaint handling code.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN HERTFORDSHIRE - SUBMISSION OF FINAL PROPOSALS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(Pages
55 - 508)

This report sets out the proposed submission to Government, developed by all eleven Hertfordshire local authorities and the Police and Crime Commissioner, for the future organisation of Local Government in Hertfordshire.

Given the importance of the issue this report is being presented to Full Council on the 13 November 2025 to facilitate a debate on the options, prior to Cabinet's meeting on 19 November 2025 at which the decision will be taken as to which option is preferred by the Council.

9. DRAFT NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE TOWN CENTRES STRATEGY

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – PLACE

(Pages
509 -
638)

Draft North Herts Town Centres Strategy for public consultation.

- 10. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2025-2028** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 639 -
648)
- For Cabinet to approve a new Procurement Strategy (Appendix A) that reflects the Procurement Act 2023 (the Act), our Contract Procurement Rules and our Council Plan.
- 11. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025-2030** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – FINANCE 649 -
664)
- This report recommends the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026/27 to 2029/30 to guide and inform the Council's Business Planning Process. The four year period of the MTFS reflects the timelines related to Local Government Reorganisation.
- 12. 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).
- 13. PART 2 MINUTES - 23 SEPTEMBER 2025** 665 -
To take as read and approve as a true record the Part 2 minutes of the 666
meeting of the Committee held on the 23 September 2025.
- 14. SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE** 667 -
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES AND DIRECTOR – 682
REGULATORY
- To consider the allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant funding.