

9 January 2026

Our Ref Cabinet Tuesday, 20 January 2026
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Cabinet:

Executive Members Councillors: Val Bryant (Chair), Ian Albert, Amy Allen, Daniel 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

TUESDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2026 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 - 19 NOVEMBER 2025 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 19 November 2025.	(Pages 7 - 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. GARDEN WASTE CHARGE 2026/27

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – ENVIRONMENT

(Pages
19 - 24)

To agree the level of garden waste charge for the subscription period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

8. LOCAL PLAN NEXT STEPS

REPORT OF THE INTERIM STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGER

(Pages
25 - 42)

This report provides an overview of the new plan-making system and sets out a revised Local Plan programme aligned with the requirements of that system.

9. STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

REPORT OF THE INTERIM STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGER

(Pages
43 - 58)

This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the Council.

10. REVOCATION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN HITCHIN

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – REGULATORY

(Pages
59 - 88)

The purpose of the report is to review the status of the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) as declared in the AQMA Orders.

- 11. COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26 (QUARTER 2 UPDATE)** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 89 - 130)
- This report presents progress on delivering the Council Delivery Plan for 2025-26.
- 12. THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (EFFECTIVENESS AND PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27)** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 131 - 150)
- This report sets out minor changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2026/27, which should be considered by Cabinet before approval by Full Council.
- 13. SECOND QUARTER CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REVIEW 2025/26** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 151 - 162)
- To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the Capital Programme for 2025/26, as at the end of September 2025.
- 14. SECOND QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2025/26** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES 163 - 176)
- To inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure forecasts for the financial year 2025/26, as at the end of the second quarter.
- 15. SECOND QUARTER TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2025/26** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 177 - 198)
- To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the Treasury Strategy for 2025/26, as at the end of September 2025.
- 16. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2026/27 ONWARDS** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 199 - 216)
- This report updates on changes to our spend and funding forecasts since the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and seeks approval from Cabinet on the revenue and capital proposals that should be incorporated into the final budget report in February. It also seeks approval for the level of Council Tax increase to be assumed in that report.
- 17. RISK MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE (MID-YEAR UPDATE)** (Pages
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES 217 - 256)
- To provide the Committee with an update on the effectiveness of the Risk Management Governance arrangements at the Council. The review is referred on to Cabinet, and the Committee can make recommendations on how we can improve our risk management arrangements.