

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, 20th January, 2026 at 7.30 pm**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daniel Allen and Amy Allen.

2 MINUTES - 19 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 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 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) The Chair advised of a change in the order of the agenda. Agenda item 17 would be considered following agenda item 15.

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 GARDEN WASTE CHARGE 2026/27

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the garden waste subscription charge for the period 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027, at £57.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Council's Garden Waste service is financially sustainable, in line with the priorities of the Council and of the Shared waste service.

8 LOCAL PLAN NEXT STEPS

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the broad 'direction of travel' for the Local Plan Review pending formal laying and enactment of the relevant legislation and regulations.
- (2) Delegated authority to the Director: Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Place to, following the creation of a new planning system:
 - a. Publish the formal notice of intention to undertake a review of the Local Plan; and
 - b. Approve and publish a revised Local Plan timetable, attached as Appendix A, subject to any alterations necessary to ensure alignment of timings with the new statutory framework.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure the Council is well-positioned to progress preparation of the Local Plan as quickly as possible once the new plan-making system comes into effect. Cabinet previously first resolved, in principle, that a review of the Local Plan should take place in January 2024. However, the Council did not progress on the review which was held back due to the delays in the publication of the regulations and guidance on the new local plan system.

9 STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS

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

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

10 REVOCATION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN HITCHIN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the Revocation Orders (as appended to this report) for the following areas:

- The No1. AQMA Stevenage Road Hitchin,
- The No2. AQMA Payne's Park Hitchin.

REASON FOR DECISION: The reason for recommending the Revocation of the AQMAs is that there is no reasonable justification for retaining AQMAs where the air pollution levels can be shown to have significantly reduced below statutory air quality objectives as defined by HM Government within UK Air Quality Regulations.

11 COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26 (QUARTER 2 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.

12 THE COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (EFFECTIVENESS AND PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL: That it:

- (1) Amend the Council Tax discretionary policy to include the support provided to residents with a terminal illness, with the wording detailed in paragraph 8.17.
- (2) Approve changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme bands to reflect the impact of inflation.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To respond to the request from Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and to consider changes for next year.

13 SECOND QUARTER CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REVIEW 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the forecast expenditure of £26.416M in 2025/26 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) Approved the adjustments to the capital programme for 2026/27, as a result of the revised timetable of schemes detailed in table 2 and 3 and the update on the museum storage project, increasing the estimated spend by £0.773M.
- (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.

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

14 SECOND QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted this report.
- (2) Approved 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) Noted 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 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 SECOND QUARTER TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL: That it notes the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of September 2025.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION: 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.

17 RISK MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE (MID-YEAR UPDATE)

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the mid-year Risk Management Governance update.
- (2) Approved the changes to the Risk Management Framework.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Cabinet has overall responsibility for ensuring the management of risk.
- (2) Finance, Audit and Risk Committee have responsibility to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management.

16 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR 2026/27 ONWARDS

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the Council's expected funding for 2026/27.
- (2) Confirmed (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) Agreed which proposals (revenue and capital) should be taken forward as part of the budget-setting process for 2026/27.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: 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.