NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Tuesday, 9th September, 2025 at 7.30 pm

1   APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cathy Brownjohn and Dominic Griffiths.

2   MINUTES - 10 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 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 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.

(3)   The Chair advised that for the purposes of clarification clause 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution does not apply to this meeting.

(4)   The Chair reminded Members of the adopted North Herts Scrutiny Charter and the need to ensure that the meeting was conducted with independence, initiative and integrity. The full Charter was available to Members via the Scrutiny Intranet pages.

5   PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6   URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

There were no urgent or general exception items.

7   CALLED-IN ITEMS

There have been no called-in items.

8   MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

9   COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26 (QUARTER 1 UPDATE)

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

(1)   Provided comment on the Council Delivery Plan Quarter 1 monitoring report.

(2)   Determined any project they want to receive more detail on, as part of the next monitoring report.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet notes progress against Council projects and performance indicators, as set out in the Council Delivery Plan (Appendix A), and approves new milestones and changes to milestones.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION: 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.

10   UPDATE ON PAY ON EXIT PARKING IN COUNCIL OPERATED CAR PARKS

RESOLVED: That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the Quarter 1 update of the Pay on Exit Parking Project.

REASON FOR DECISION: This report is following the request of the Committee for an update on the Pay on Exit Parking Project and to provide a comparison between 2025/26 Quarter 1 and 2024/25 Quarter 1 parking transaction figures and the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued per car park.

11   PRESENTATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Councillor Laura Williams, as Executive Member for Local Government Reorganisation/Devolution, and the Chief Executive provided a presentation entitled 'Update on Local Government Reorganisation Progress', following which Members asked questions.

12   OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

(1)   That the Committee prioritised topics for inclusion in the Work Programme attached as Appendix A and, where appropriate, determines the high-level form and timing of scrutiny input.

(2)   That the Committee, having considered the most recent iteration of the Forward Plan, as attached at Appendix B, suggests a list of items to be considered at its meetings in the coming civic year.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

(1)   To allow the Committee to set a work programme which provides focused Member oversight, encourages open debate and seeks to achieve service improvement through effective policy development and meaningful policy and service change.

(2)   The need to observe Constitutional requirements and monitor the Forward Plan for appropriate items to scrutinise remains a key aspect of work programming