

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, 6th January, 2026 at 7.30 pm**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tina Bhartwas, Dominic Griffiths and Daniel Wright-Mason.

Having given due notice, Councillor Vijaiya Poopalasingham substituted for Councillor Wright-Mason.

2 MINUTES - 11 NOVEMBER 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November be approved as a true record of 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.

6 URGENT AND GENERAL EXCEPTION ITEMS

There were no urgent or general exception items.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There were no called-in items.

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER MATTERS

CI Sarah Gilbertson, PS Taranvir Gill and PC Lewis Thompson from Hertfordshire Constabulary gave a presentation on crime against the LGBTQ+ Community and cybercrime against the elderly in North Herts, following which Members asked questions.

10 COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26 (QUARTER 2 UPDATE)

RESOLVED: That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Provided comment on the Council Delivery Plan Quarter 2 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.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: The Council Delivery Plan (CDP) monitoring reports provide the 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.

11 INFORMATION NOTE: MUSEUM COLLECTION FACILITY UPDATE

Councillor Tamsin Thomas, as Executive Member for Enterprise presented the Information Note entitled 'Museum Collection Facility Update', following which Members asked questions.

12 EFFECTIVENESS OF COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME AND PROPOSALS FOR 2026/27

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Commented on the report and consider any further mechanisms that would provide data on the effectiveness of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- (2) Provided comments on the recommendations to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) To agree to amend the Council Tax discretionary policy to include the support provided to residents with a terminal illness, with the wording detailed in paragraph 8.7, and
- (2) To approve changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme bands to reflect the impact of the inflation.

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

13 INFORMATION NOTE: COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW

Councillor Mick Debenham, as Executive Member for Regulatory presented the Information Note entitled 'Community Safety Overview', following which Members asked questions.

14 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee prioritises 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.