

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Thursday, 26th February, 2026 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sam Collins, Dominic Griffiths, Steve Jarvis, Steven Patmore and Claire Strong.

2 MINUTES - 29 JANUARY 2026

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Committee held on 29 January 2026 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 that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak will apply.
- (5) The Chair advised that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting. A comfort break would be held at an appropriate time, should proceedings continue at length.
- (6) The Chair reminded Members that they had until Friday 27 February to complete the annual Outside Bodies Review Survey for each organisation that they had been appointed to.
- (7) The Chair announced that former District Councillor Jean Andrews had passed away recently.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that the items referred from Cabinet would be taken with the respective items on the agenda.

7 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2026/27

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council approved the 2026/27 Pay Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1.
- (2) That Council delegated authority for revisions made in year to the Pay Policy Statement, to the Director – Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To comply with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, Statutory Guidance issued under s40 and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.

8 BUDGET 2026/27 (REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS)

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Noted the position on the Collection Fund and how it would be funded.
- (2) Noted the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £3.5 million was recommended.
- (3) Noted the Chief Finance Officer's section 25 report (Appendix D) which provided a commentary on the risks and reliability of estimates contained in the budget.
- (4) Approved the revenue savings and investments as detailed in Appendix B.
- (5) Approved the capital programme as detailed in Appendix C.
- (6) Approved a net expenditure budget of £27.524m as detailed in Appendix E.
- (7) Approved a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, which was in line with the provisions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (8) Approved bringing forward the capital budget for pool covers at the outdoor pools to 2025/26.
- (9) Noted that a Council Tax premium on Second Homes would be implemented from 1 April 2026, which adopted the decision taken by Council on 29 February 2024.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) To ensure that all relevant factors are considered in arriving at a budget (revenue and capital) and Council Tax level for 2026/27.
- (2) To ensure that the budget is aligned to Council priorities for 2024-28 as set out in the Council Plan.

9 INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2026/27

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Approved the adoption of the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix A).
- (2) Approved the adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.10 to 8.16).

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure the Council's compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management, the Local Government Act 2003, statutory guidance from Government, and the CIPFA Prudential Code. As well as determining and managing the Council's risk appetite in respect of investments.

10 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2026/27

RESOLVED:

(1) That it was noted that at its meeting on 29 January 2026 the Council Tax Setting Committee confirmed the amount 51,529.0 as its Council Tax base for the year 2026/2027 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).

a) 51,529.0 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Regulations, as its Council Tax base for the year.

b)	Parish/Town	Council Tax Base	Parish/Town	Council Tax Base	
	Ashwell	909.00	Knebworth	2,074.50	
	Barkway	439.90	Lilley	183.80	
	Barley	341.80	Offley	621.20	
	Bygrave	133.90	Pirton	709.60	
	Caldecote and Newnham	60.60	Preston	262.10	
	Clothall	88.70	Radwell	56.70	
	Codicote	1,835.00	Reed	164.30	Being
	Graveley	180.50	Royston	7,035.80	the
	Great Ashby	2,018.00	Rushden and Wallington	209.60	
	Hinxworth	163.00	St Ippolyts	961.90	
	Holwell	157.30	St Pauls Walden	577.80	
	Ickleford	953.80	Sandon	258.60	
	Kelshall	80.60	Therfield	278.30	
	Kimpton	1,089.30	Weston	447.70	
	Kings Walden	427.50	Wymondley	428.50	

amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

c) That it was noted that its meeting on the 26 February 2026 the Council has calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27 (excluding Parish precepts) as £14,211,183. As detailed in 2.2 (e) below the sum of special items is £1,779,755 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) is £15,990,938.

(2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2026/2027 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-

a) £85,997,958 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act.

- b) £70,007,020 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- c) £15,990,938 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- d) £310.33 being the amount at (c) above divided by the amount at 2.1(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- e) £1,779,755 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £275.79 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 2.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

g)

Parish/Town	Basic £	Parish Precept £	Total £
Ashwell	275.79	137.36	413.15
Barkway	275.79	104.35	380.14
Barley	275.79	107.93	383.72
Bygrave	275.79	80.11	355.90
Caldecote and Newnham	275.79	39.81	315.60
Clothall	275.79	20.32	296.11
Codicote	275.79	62.92	338.71
Graveley	275.79	55.96	331.75
Great Ashby	275.79	24.63	300.42
Hinxworth	275.79	70.64	346.43
Holwell	275.79	97.03	372.82
Ickleford	275.79	70.77	346.56
Kelshall	275.79	49.63	325.42
Kimpton	275.79	87.58	363.37
Kings Walden	275.79	96.99	372.78
Knebworth	275.79	93.27	369.06
Lilley	275.79	118.19	393.98
Offley	275.79	72.40	348.19
Pirton	275.79	95.24	371.03
Preston	275.79	68.74	344.53
Radwell	275.79	27.16	302.95
Reed	275.79	52.41	328.20
Royston	275.79	84.92	360.71
Rushden and Wallington	275.79	21.15	296.94
St Ippolyts	275.79	46.61	322.40
St Pauls Walden	275.79	91.81	367.60
Sandon	275.79	32.87	308.66
Therfield	275.79	47.43	323.22
Weston	275.79	55.84	331.63
Wymondley	275.79	103.50	379.29

Hertfordshire County Council	1,238.79	1,445.26	1,651.73	1,858.19	2,271.12	2,684.05	3,096.98	3,716.38
Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	186.67	217.78	248.89	280.00	342.22	404.44	466.67	560.00

- (4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.2(h) and 2.3 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets out the following provisional amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2026/2027 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

List of parishes and tax at different band (County, Care, Police, District and Parish)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashwell	1,700.89	1,984.38	2,267.86	2,551.34	3,118.30	3,685.27	4,252.23	5,102.68
Baldock	1,609.32	1,877.54	2,145.77	2,413.98	2,950.42	3,486.85	4,023.30	4,827.96
Barkway	1,678.89	1,958.70	2,238.52	2,518.33	3,077.96	3,637.59	4,197.22	5,036.66
Barley	1,681.27	1,961.49	2,241.70	2,521.91	3,082.33	3,642.76	4,203.18	5,043.82
Bygrave	1,662.73	1,939.85	2,216.97	2,494.09	3,048.33	3,602.57	4,156.82	4,988.18
Caldecote and Newnham	1,635.86	1,908.50	2,181.15	2,453.79	2,999.08	3,544.36	4,089.65	4,907.58
Clothall	1,622.87	1,893.34	2,163.82	2,434.30	2,975.26	3,516.21	4,057.17	4,868.60
Codicote	1,651.27	1,926.48	2,201.69	2,476.90	3,027.32	3,577.74	4,128.17	4,953.80
Graveley	1,646.63	1,921.06	2,195.50	2,469.94	3,018.82	3,567.69	4,116.57	4,939.88
Great Ashby	1,625.74	1,896.70	2,167.65	2,438.61	2,980.52	3,522.44	4,064.35	4,877.22
Hexton	1,609.32	1,877.54	2,145.77	2,413.98	2,950.42	3,486.85	4,023.30	4,827.96
Hinxworth	1,656.41	1,932.48	2,208.55	2,484.62	3,036.76	3,588.90	4,141.03	4,969.24
Hitchin	1,609.32	1,877.54	2,145.77	2,413.98	2,950.42	3,486.85	4,023.30	4,827.96
Holwell	1,674.01	1,953.01	2,232.01	2,511.01	3,069.01	3,627.01	4,185.02	5,022.02
Ickleford	1,656.50	1,932.58	2,208.67	2,484.75	3,036.92	3,589.08	4,141.25	4,969.50
Kelshall	1,642.41	1,916.14	2,189.88	2,463.61	3,011.08	3,558.55	4,106.02	4,927.22
Kimpton	1,667.71	1,945.66	2,223.61	2,501.56	3,057.46	3,613.36	4,169.27	5,003.12
Kings Walden	1,673.98	1,952.98	2,231.97	2,510.97	3,068.96	3,626.96	4,184.95	5,021.94
Knebworth	1,671.50	1,950.08	2,228.67	2,507.25	3,064.42	3,621.58	4,178.75	5,014.50
Langley	1,609.32	1,877.54	2,145.77	2,413.98	2,950.42	3,486.85	4,023.30	4,827.96
Letchworth	1,609.32	1,877.54	2,145.77	2,413.98	2,950.42	3,486.85	4,023.30	4,827.96
Lilley	1,688.11	1,969.47	2,250.82	2,532.17	3,094.87	3,657.58	4,220.28	5,064.34
Nuthampstead	1,609.32	1,877.54	2,145.77	2,413.98	2,950.42	3,486.85	4,023.30	4,827.96
Offley	1,657.59	1,933.85	2,210.12	2,486.38	3,038.91	3,591.44	4,143.97	4,972.76
Pirton	1,672.81	1,951.62	2,230.42	2,509.22	3,066.82	3,624.43	4,182.03	5,018.44
Preston	1,655.15	1,931.00	2,206.86	2,482.72	3,034.44	3,586.15	4,137.87	4,965.44
Radwell	1,627.43	1,898.66	2,169.90	2,441.14	2,983.62	3,526.09	4,068.57	4,882.28
Reed	1,644.26	1,918.30	2,192.35	2,466.39	3,014.48	3,562.56	4,110.65	4,932.78
Royston	1,665.93	1,943.59	2,221.24	2,498.90	3,054.21	3,609.52	4,164.83	4,997.80
Rushden and Wallington	1,623.42	1,893.99	2,164.56	2,435.13	2,976.27	3,517.41	4,058.55	4,870.26
St Ippolyts	1,640.39	1,913.79	2,187.19	2,460.59	3,007.39	3,554.19	4,100.98	4,921.18
St Pauls Walden	1,670.53	1,948.95	2,227.37	2,505.79	3,062.63	3,619.47	4,176.32	5,011.58
Sandon	1,631.23	1,903.11	2,174.98	2,446.85	2,990.59	3,534.34	4,078.08	4,893.70
Therfield	1,640.94	1,914.43	2,187.92	2,461.41	3,008.39	3,555.37	4,102.35	4,922.82
Weston	1,646.55	1,920.97	2,195.40	2,469.82	3,018.67	3,567.52	4,116.37	4,939.64
Wymondley	1,678.32	1,958.04	2,237.76	2,517.48	3,076.92	3,636.36	4,195.80	5,034.96

REASON FOR DECISIONS: The Council is required to set the Council Tax and to set the overall level of Council Tax for the following financial year, taking into account the precepts of all major and local precepting authorities.

11 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions submitted by Members of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11 (b).

12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There was one motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

(A) Support for Trans Rights

RESOLVED: That Council:

- (1) Affirm their support for trans, non-binary, and gender diverse residents and their commitment to defending their rights and dignity.
- (2) Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Women and Equalities to:
 - (a) Express the position of this Council is to support trans rights.
 - (b) Request guidance on how existing legislation will continue to protect the rights of trans people.
 - (c) Request clarity on whether the Government will bring forward new legislation in this area.
- (3) Commit to supporting Officers to take meaningful steps to promote safety and inclusion so that North Herts continues to be a welcoming and inclusive place for the LGBTQ+ community.
- (4) Build upon Council policies and practice to ensure that they explicitly affirm support for trans, non binary, and gender diverse people and that language used is inclusive.
- (5) Ensure that LGBTQ+ inclusion and trans awareness form part of ongoing staff and Councillor training, using existing or freely available resources.
- (6) Publicly mark and promote significant dates for the LGBTQ+ community (such as Pride, Trans Day of Visibility, etc.) through Council communications channels, as appropriate.
- (7) Continue to engage with local LGBTQ+ residents, staff, and organisations to inform Council services, community safety approaches, and staff policies (for example the recent funding with Impactful Lives).
- (8) Promote ways to report hate crimes and discrimination, ensuring that local and national support services are clearly signposted on Council platforms.
- (9) Continue to include commitments to equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination in Council supplier and partner expectations, encouraging inclusive practice in all Council linked work.
- (10) Actively encourage applications from LGBTQ+ people for Council jobs by:
 - (a) Requesting officers to consider whether any changes to recruitment practices are necessary or appropriate to support inclusion, and to bring forward any recommendations through the appropriate governance route.
 - (b) Reviewing recruitment processes to ensure they are inclusive and free from unnecessary barriers.
 - (c) Promoting the Council as an inclusive employer via LGBTQ+ networks, events, and community groups.

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- (d) Investigating whether the Council can offer the option to display pronouns during the application and onboarding process at no additional cost.