NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

13 November 2026

Our Ref Cabinet Tuesday, 24 November 2026
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Cabinet:

Executive Members Councillors: Val Bryant (Chair), Sean Nolan (Vice 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, SG6 3JF

on

TUESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 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 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2026 (Pages 5 - 22)

To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 22 September 2026.

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

Climate Emergency

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.

Ecological Emergency

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 (Pages 23 - 26)

6A) Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2027-30 – **to be considered with Agenda Item 10.**

7. FOOD SAMPLING POLICY (Pages 27 - 44)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – REGULATORY

To enable the Council to meet its legal obligations in line with the Food Law Code of Practice (England) (FLCoP) as published by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) under the provisions of the Food Safety Act, 1990 (the 'Act'), which requires every Competent Food Authority (CFA) to produce and make available a food sampling policy.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY (Pages 45 - 80)

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – ENTERPRISE

This report seeks Cabinet approval of an updated Health and Safety Policy. The update responds to a recommendation in the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) audit report that the Policy should reflect the revised arrangements between the Council and Hertfordshire County Council's Health and Safety Team. The proposed Policy clarifies the Council's health and safety governance, responsibilities and access to competent advice under those revised arrangements.

9. ADOPTION OF HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN AND GRANT (Pages 81 - 110)
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – REGULATORY

The Council is required to produce a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan to meet new conditions for receipt of Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government homelessness grant. This report contains a proposed Action Plan together with an updated temporary accommodation policy, also required. It also details proposals for an allocation of the recently announced Rough Sleeping Programme funding for the establishment of a new Rapid Prevention, Assessment and Resettlement service in the district which will provide on-the-day emergency accommodation and intensive support for people who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping.

10. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2027-30 (Pages 111 - 126)
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES

This report recommends the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2027/28 to 2029/30 to guide and inform the Council's Business Planning Process. The three-year period of the MTFS reflects the probable timelines related to Local Government Reorganisation.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
To consider passing the following resolution: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

12. PART 2 MINUTES - 22 SEPTEMBER 2026 127 - 130
To take as read and approve as a true record the Part 2 minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 22 September 2026.