

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber - District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF on Tuesday, 9th June, 2026 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 MINUTES - 24 MARCH 2026

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24 March 2026 were approved as a true record of the proceedings and 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

The Chair noted one urgent item in relation to the Churchgate Regeneration Project – Update & Next Steps. The Chair provided details for its urgency and advised that the full Urgency Notice for this item had been published on the Council website.

7 CALLED-IN ITEMS

There were no called-in items.

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

9 INFORMATION NOTE: FULL YEAR PERFORMANCE UPDATE ON 3C'S 25/26

Councillor Sean Nolan, as Executive Member for Customers, presented the Information Note entitled 'Full Year Update on Comments, Compliments and Complaints (3C's) 25/26', following which Members asked questions.

10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: 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 Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

11 CHURCHGATE REGENERATION PROJECT UPDATE & NEXT STEPS - PART 2

Details of the decision taken on this item are restricted due to the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 200A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

12 CHURCHGATE REGENERATION PROJECT UPDATE & NEXT STEPS - PART 1

RESOLVED: That the recommendation to Full Council and Cabinet was noted, and that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee also noted the provided update/next steps of the project.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet recommends that Council approves the allocation of additional funds, referencing the Part 2 report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: To ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee are content with the decisions being put forward to Cabinet on 16 June 2026 and to Full Council on 16 July 2026. This report provides an overview of the recent work completed and details how the project team and Project Board propose to move forward – providing the Committee with an opportunity to ask any further details.

13 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION FUNDING

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet approve that up to £1 million of the available funding be allocated to county-wide costs. Any contribution will be based on a fair share from each Council and can be approved by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Member for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation and Executive Member for Resources.
- (2) That Cabinet approve that up to £1 million of the available funding be allocated to additional staffing costs, noting that £450k has already been allocated. Any spend can be approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Executive Member for Resources, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and political Group Leaders, except where the Constitution already requires different approval processes.
- (3) That Cabinet approve that up to £200k of the available funding can be spent on additional training costs. Any spend can be approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Resources.
- (4) That any spend is subject to a cap of £1 million in 2026/27 and £2 million overall.

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REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: This is intended to provide a practical framework for agreeing LGR costs. It aims to allow timely reactions in what will need to be a fast-moving project.

14 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2025/26

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and provided comments on the draft Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2025/26, attached as Appendix 1, prior to consideration by Full Council.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2025/26, as attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and comment on the report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of the Committee in the 2025/26 Civic Year prior to consideration by Full Council.

15 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2026/27

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee prioritised topics for inclusion in the Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 and, where appropriate, determined 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 2, suggested a list of items to be considered at its meetings in the coming civic year.
- (3) That the Committee, noted the Decisions and Monitoring log, as attached at Appendix 3.

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.