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, 10th November, 2026 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nigel Mason.

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

Councillor Dominic Griffiths was absent.

2 MINUTES - 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no notification of other business.

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 did 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 were no called-in items.

8 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted by Members.

9 PRESENTATION: LIFESTONE HOMES OVERVIEW

Nicola Ewen and Martyn Jones of Lifestone Homes provided a presentation on their operations in North Herts, following which Members asked questions.

10 INFORMATION NOTE: DECARBONISATION OF COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Councillor Val Bryant, as Leader of the Council, presented the information note entitled 'Decarbonisation of Council Buildings', following which Members asked questions.

11 SPOTLIGHT REVIEW: PARKING SERVICES - DRAFT SCOPE

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

(1) Reviewed and commented on the draft scoping document as attached at Appendix 1.

(2) Endorsed the principles of the scope, attached at Appendix 1, and approved consultation with Group Leaders to appoint Members and a Chair for the Spotlight Review.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure the final scoping document takes into account suggestions from Members and relevant Officers.

12 INFORMATION NOTE: SECTION 106 (S106) TASK & FINISH GROUP UPDATE

Councillor Val Bryant, as Leader of the Council, and the Director – Place presented the information note entitled 'Section 106 (S106) Task & Finish Group', following which Members asked questions.

13 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.