









Appendix A – 2020/2021 reporting against Projects identified in the Council Plan – as at 27/05/2021

For **Q4 2020/2021** North Hertfordshire District Council is reporting against 12 ongoing Projects to support the Council Plan 2020 - 25






Key for the Report

Status key	
	Project Halted / Funding not available / Extremely Late
	Project behind original due date/ unlikely to hit original due date.
	Project not due for completion in year / has not reached due date
--	Project Pending
	Project Completed.

Status	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	Summary of Movement this Qtr.
	0	0	0	0	
	7	5	3	3	
	4	6	9	10	Customer Portal / Museum storage moved from Green to Amber
--	1	1	1	2	
	0	1	1	0	
Total	12	13	14	15	Brexit reported as complete in March 2021



- Where projects are b/f from previous years, their status is retained until they are complete – to ensure transparency




Projects supporting the Council Plan 2020/2025




	Portfolio	Corporate Objective	Milestones for Completion in 2021 Year	Due Date Where available	Status	Comments
Status – COMPLETE - 0						
Status – GREEN - 4						
Refurbishment of lifts at Lairage Car Park – Project will span more than 1 year (capital programme)	Finance and IT	A More Welcoming and Inclusive Council	Determine requirements  Procurement of Contractor  Practical completion	Summer 2020 Dec 2020 Oct 2021	 	Milestone complete Contract signed 11/12/2020
Delivery of the Climate Change Strategy (council plan) Installing additional electric vehicle charging	Housing & Env Health	Respond to Challenges to the Environment	Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Scoping Document supported by the Executive Members and their deputies. Other milestones to follow once strategy adopted.			The EV strategy is now embedded with the Council's Climate Change Strategy. Officers are working towards an approach to install electric vehicle charges within the Council's car parks.


points in council car parks to ensure that every car park has charging points in at least 5% of spaces, with a minimum of two spaces per car park.						It should be noted that officer time is currently focused on responding to and recovering from the pandemic.
Disposal of surplus assets (Remove maintenance obligation and generate capital receipts) Will span more than one Financial year. (capital programme)	Enterprise and Co-operative	Enable an Enterprising & Co-operative Economy	Land adjacent to Hill View, Rushden ✓ 29 Gernon Road, Secondary Centre & Document Centre, and surrender of Town Lodge lease ✓ Land at Clare Crescent, Baldock Land adjacent 1 North End, Kelshall; ✓	30/04/20 31/03/2021 (was 31/08/20) 31/03/2022 31/03/2021	▶	Sold April 2020. The surrender of the lease and disposal of the relevant properties were completed on 13 January 2021. NHDC sold its freehold interest on 22 nd February 2021 achieving above market value. Sale subject to a restrictive covenant to restrict use to garden land and help NHDC secure a proportion of value uplift should the land be sold or


					used/developed for a higher value use by the new owner in the future
			Land adjacent 9 North End, Kelshall;	31/03/2022	Application for outline Planning permission submitted. Awaiting feedback from Planning department and Highways Authority. If Planning permission and Highways consent are granted, NHDC will aim to sell its freehold interest in this site following an open marketing exercise. Difficult to be precise on expected disposal date but estimate Quarter 4 of Financial Year 2021-22.
			Land at The Green, Ashwell Road, Newnham;	31/08/2021	<p>Full Planning permission granted. Marketing complete. NHDC accepted offer. Awaiting confirmation from solicitors that the contract to sell has been agreed.</p> <p>Land at Hawthorn Close, Hitchin: On hold; NHDC not looking to dispose for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Land at Passingham Avenue, Hitchin: On hold; NHDC not looking to dispose for the foreseeable future</p>

Acquisition of Property investments (capital programme)	Enterprise and Co-operative	Enable an Enterprising & Co-operative Economy	Continue to explore opportunities to improve the financial viability of property letting company and seek to explore other opportunities for trading companies. Explore the Council options for letting or selling Harkness Court. The commercial team will explore acquisition opportunities, if they meet the acquisition criteria each one will require a business case to seek approval for the Council to proceed.	31/03/21 31/05/2021		Work on the financial options appraisal for Harkness Court continues. The aim is to complete this, with a clear way forward approved, by the time the property conversion is completed. The estimated completion date for the property conversion is now May 2021. The financial options work will help to inform the financial viability of the Property Letting Company.
Status – AMBER - 7						
Examination and Adoption of the Local Plan 2011 - 2031 (b/f form previous year)	Planning and Transport	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Milestones and dates will depend on the Planning Inspectorate			Following the closure of the Hearing sessions in February 2021 and receipt of a schedule of modifications from the Inspector, a 6-week consultation on the proposed further modifications commenced on the 12 May 2021. It is anticipated the Inspector will issue a report following consideration of the responses to the consultation.

						All information has been added to the Councils website at the link below. www.north-herts.gov.uk/localplan
Implement a “customer account” for customers to access specific information relating to them and to enable them to transact with the Council from a single log-on. (council plan)	Leader	A More Welcoming and Inclusive Council	Implement Customer and Member Portals	Dec 2020		<p>The Customer MyAccount portal is now live. We have gone with a soft launch, targeting e-billing customers and callers to the CSC to sign up initially and will then follow up with a bigger launch, so this milestone is complete.</p> <p>Pilot testing is still ongoing for the Councillor Portal - the pilot group was set up week commencing 12 April 2021. The technical issues have now been resolved. Although there is no specific timeframe at the moment for going live to all councillors, the wider roll out is expected to be completed shortly after the elections and Annual Council Meeting, unless there is any adverse feedback from the pilot group.</p>
Property conversion at Harkness Court, Hitchin to provide Housing at market rents (service delivery plan)	Enterprise and Co-operative	Enable an Enterprising & Co-operative Economy	Commence works  Completion of works	Aug 20 Feb 21		<p>Property Services have indicated that the project should be completed by the end of May 2021 now that issues with the statutory undertakers are being resolved. The Senior Estates Surveyor is in regular dialogue with Property Services to discuss issues and try to maintain control of the timescales. Statutory undertakers generally work to their own deadlines and dictate the pace, so it is not always easy to get alignment on deadlines. Although no final decision has been made by NHDC as to whether the flats will be sold or rented</p>

						out following completion, it is currently more likely they will be rented out given the greater desire for income over capital receipt at present. However, that strategy is not yet fully established.
<p>Develop long term museum storage solution</p> <p>To equip the museum service with a sustainable storage solution suitable for the effective management of the collection for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>(capital programme)</p> <p>Project will span more than 1 year</p>	Enterprise and Co-operative	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	<p>Develop Fully Costed Proposal</p> <p>Further Milestones to follow</p>	Nov 2020		<p>Having fully established the needs and potential layout for the museum storage facility, NHDC has engaged with a developer via a framework to gain a more accurate idea of costs. The indicative cost plan sent back contrasted with earlier feasibility studies for the development of additional facilities in this location and suggested an overall cost of the development in excess of the identified budget. Officers are currently investigating whether this can be offset through commercial use of the rest of the plot or through the sourcing of grant funding. Once commercial investigations are completed, officers will undertake a procurement to source alternative quotes for the overall scheme and gain a clear picture of the costs involved.</p>
<p>Renovate play area Howard Park, Letchworth</p> <p>(capital programme)</p>	Environment & Leisure	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	<p>Consultation on Design </p> <p>Complete renovation</p>	<p>10/08/2020</p> <p>31/10/2021</p>		<p>2021 Delivery of the project at Howard Park has been delayed due to supply issues brought about as a consequence of Brexit. Delivery of the planned items of play equipment is estimated for the middle of May 2021 when we expect use of the existing play area to increase. We do not want to close the play area at the busiest</p>

						time of year, so the works have been delayed to September 2021 when the schools will have returned after the summer holidays. This is the same situation for similar projects at the Holroyd Crescent and Wilbury play areas.
Development of a Crematorium in North Hertfordshire (b/f from previous year)	Environment & Leisure		<p>Appeal Hearing</p> <p>Obtain outline planning permission from Central Beds</p> <p>Review Options for obtaining detailed planning permission.</p>	13/05/20		<p>Central Bedfordshire refused the outline planning application in March 2019. Cabinet approved funding for an appeal on 26 March 2019</p> <p>The appeal was submitted in September 2019. The Hearing date was originally set for 13/05/2020, however this was postponed due to Covid19. A further hearing planned for the 18th November 2020 was also cancelled by the planning Inspector. The new Inquiry took place on 22/02/2021.</p> <p>A decision was received week commencing 19 April 2021, with the appeal against refusal of outline planning permission being dismissed. Officers are now considering the Inspector's reasons for this decision and are assessing the options regarding the next steps</p>

Designating air quality management areas in Hitchin to address the improvement of the air quality – Stevenage Road and Paynes Park. (5 Year Plan commenced 2018)	Housing & Env Health	Respond to Challenges to the Environment	<p>Work with businesses to reduce emissions from freight deliveries and buses/coaches"</p> <p>Negotiate with developers through the planning process to implement charging points in new homes.</p> <p>Anti-idling campaign to encourage drivers to switch off when stationary, including investigation of enforcement options</p> <p>Review of on-street parking in air quality management areas</p> <p>Participate in National Clean Air Day</p>	08/10/2020	 <p>Due to the current Pandemic officer time has been focused on the response to and recovery from this situation.</p> <p>However, the following work is still on-going:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA grant bid submitted to undertake a feasibility study for the District with regard EV charging was unsuccessful. • The ECO Stars scheme to work with business fleets to reduce emissions is anticipated to commence in April; • Work still on-going with regard a Hitchin pilot for EV charging although it has been confirmed that no Central Government funding is available for the project currently; • Annual return to DEFRA has been approved with regard the two AQMA within Hitchin; • Charging points for new homes embedded within the planning process.
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Status – RED - 0						
Status – PENDING - 1						
Churchgate	Leader	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Explore Options		--	<p>Full Council on 7 February 2019 approved the principle of purchasing the Churchgate Shopping Centre, subject to the economic case. It also confirmed that any regeneration must be a viable investment that maintains a return to the Council.</p> <p>Full Council on 20 March 2019 voted to put Hitchin forward for a “Future High Streets Fund” bid. Unfortunately, the bid was not successful.</p> <p>Officers continue to explore the options around Churchgate with a report back to Full Council in due course.</p>