

Public Document Pack

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
on Tuesday, 7th December, 2021 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Councillor Val Bryant (Chair), Ian Albert, Amy Allen, Daniel Allen, Kate Aspinwall, Clare Billing, Judi Billing, Simon Bloxham, Ruth Brown, Adam Compton, Juan Cowell, George Davies, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Morgan Derbyshire, Sarah Dingley, Gary Grindal, Simon Harwood, Terry Hone, Mike Hughson, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Nigel Mason, Jim McNally, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Sam North, Mike Rice, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Claire Strong, Mandi Tandi, Richard Thake, Tom Tyson and Michael Weeks

IN ATTENDANCE: Anthony Roche (Managing Director), Jeanette Thompson (Service Director – Legal & Community), Ian Couper (Service Director – Resources), Melanie Stimpson (Democratic Services Manager), William Edwards (CMSM), James Lovegrove (CMSO), Louis Mutter (CMSO), Richard Beasley (Consultant)

At the commencement of the meeting approximately 1 member of the public, including registered speakers.

68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 1:42

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bishop, David Barnard, Jean Green, Kay Tart, Keith Hoskins, Sean Prendergast, Faye Frost, Carol Stanier, Paul Clark, Terry Tyler, Lisa Nash and Sam Collins.

69 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 2:11

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (2) Members were reminded that this Council had declared a Climate Emergency. This was a serious decision and meant 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) Members were reminded that Richard Beasley, the consultant assisting the Council with the Boundary Review process was present via Zoom and available to answer questions.

70 ELECTORAL CYCLE

Audio Recording – 4:08

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report on the Electoral Cycle along with Appendix A – Electoral Review Timetable and Appendix B - Consultation Responses to 'How should Councillors for North Hertfordshire District Council be elected?'

The following Members asked questions and took part in debate:

- Councillor Richard Thake
- Councillor Ian Albert
- Councillor Simon Harwood
- Councillor Morgan Derbyshire
- Councillor David Levett
- Councillor Michael Muir
- Councillor Steve Jarvis
- Councillor Ian Mantle
- Councillor Judi Billing
- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg
- Councillor George Davies

In response to questions Richard Beasley, Consultant advised that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will not change the Council's electoral cycle and only look at Council Size and warding arrangements, which are impacted by the decision to be made at this meeting.

In response to questions the Service Director – Legal & Community advised that conducting an additional Community Governance Review would have resource implications and would require consideration outside of this meeting.

Councillor Richard Thake proposed, Councillor Morgan Derbyshire seconded and on the vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council notes the outcome and responses from the public consultation, along with the points raised in the report;
- (2) That Council resolves to change the electoral cycle to all-out elections from 2024.

REASONS FOR DECISION: To determine the Council's electoral cycle in preparation for a submission on Council size to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in line with the agreed timetable.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Chair