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NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
on Thursday, 14th July, 2022 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Councillor Sam North (Chair), Councillor Daniel Allen (Vice-Chair), Ian Albert, Amy Allen, Raj Bhakar, Clare Billing, Simon Bloxham, Ruth Brown, Adam Compton, Juan Cowell, George Davies, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, James Denselow, Morgan Derbyshire, Jean Green, Chris Hinchliff, Terry Hone, Keith Hoskins, Tony Hunter, Steve Jarvis, David Levett, Ian Mantle, Ian Moody, Ralph Muncer, Sean Nolan, Sean Prendergast, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir, Carol Stanier, Claire Strong, Mandi Tandi, Kay Tart, Richard Thake, Tamsin Thomas, Tom Tyson, Phil Weeder, Alistair Willoughby, Val Bryant and Terry Tyler

IN ATTENDANCE: Anthony Roche – Managing Director, Jeanette Thompson – Service Director – Legal and Community, Ian Couper – Service Director – Resources, Melanie Stimpson – Democratic Services Manager, William Edwards – Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, James Lovegrove – CMSO, Louis Mutter – CMSO, Abigail Hamilton – CMSO.

ALSO PRESENT: At the commencement of the meeting approximately 2 members of the public, including registered speakers.

127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 2:00

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nigel Mason, Chris Lucas, Lisa Nash, Judi Billing, Sam Collins, Tom Plater, Michael Weeks, Michael Muir, Faye Frost, Gerald Morris, Adam Compton and David Barnard.

128 MINUTES - 26 MAY 2022

Audio Recording – 2:42

Councillor Sam North proposed, Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg seconded and on the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 26 May 2022 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

129 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Audio recording – 3:33

There was no other business notified.

130 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 3:34

- (1) The Chair paid tribute to former Councillor Gary Grindal who passed away on Thursday 26 May. He remarked that Gary served as a district councillor for 26 years, between 1996 and 2022 and was a ward member for Letchworth Wilbury and served on the cabinet as Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health from 2019 to 2022. He sat on many committees throughout his time at North Herts Council and was fondly remembered by colleagues, friends and family.

A minute of commemoration was held in memory of former Councillor Gary Grindal.

Councillor Amy Allen paid tribute to former Councillor Gary Grindal and said she, along with other councillors and former members, had attended Gary's funeral and commemorated his life alongside his family. She spoke of how Gary balanced his dedication to the community and working with the Council with his family life and that his children enjoyed hearing about his work as a Councillor, and said that: "I doubt there was a single person who hasn't been helped knowingly or unknowingly by Gary's work and dedication. And in the rough and tumble of politics, he was always one of the good guys. He was a big hearted man, generous with his time, who gave himself to his family, his friends and in his community."

The following Members also paid tribute to former Councillor Gary Grindal:

- Councillor Claire Strong
- Councillor Sam North

- (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) The Chair presented a gift to Councillor Terry Tyler in recognition of his service as Chair of Council during the civic year 2019/20.

Councillor Terry Tyler thanked the Chair and Council for their support.

- (5) The Chair advised that one of the charities he was supporting this civic year was Herts Welcomes Refugees and invited Irene Austin, Herts Welcomes Refugees, to deliver a short presentation on the work of the charity.

Ms Irene Austin, Herts Welcomes Refugees, delivered a presentation on the work of the charity and highlighted the growth of the project since 2016 and the range of activities the group co-ordinates in support of refugees living in the area. She also noted the needs of charity and the support the Council could offer in assisting area convenors, building networks of volunteers, offering premises for events and assisting with the provision of transport.

- (6) The Chair advised that an additional Council meeting was required on 19th December to enable the Council to consider the consultation response once the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements (number of wards, number of councillors representing each ward, ward names and ward boundaries).
- (7) The Chair reminded Members that the normal rules of debate and times to speak applied;

- (8) The Chair advised that the referral made at the Southern Rural committee on 30 June 2022 regarding the GP surgery in Kimpton would be considered at the next ordinary meeting of the Council due to new information being received that could have a material impact on any potential discussion.

131 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 22:23

There was one question submitted by a member of the public in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.10(a).

The Chair invited Ms Deolinda Eltringham to present her question to Councillor Sean Prendergast, Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health. Her question was as follows:

“Is there a reason why so many air quality monitoring stations are not being used in the NHDC area? They are: North Herts Baldock -1, North Herts Baldock -2, North Herts Baldock Roadside, North Herts Breechwood Green, North Herts Hitchin Library, North Herts Royston. All of these are still showing as “Closed” and no results available on the “All Herts and Beds Air Quality” data from the local air monitoring stations. We will never know the full picture of how bad the true air pollution problem is until we monitor widely and quantify the problem.”

Councillor Sean Prendergast responded as follows:

“Thank you for attending council tonight and for your question.

Some members and indeed residents in our community may not be aware that all local authorities have a statutory duty to monitor and assess local air quality. In terms of a strategy for air quality monitoring and assessment, the Local Authority is required to continually monitor and assess local air quality across the district.

What this means in practice, is that in time we build up a picture of where air pollution hot spots are located, usually near busy road junctions or roads with congested traffic, meaning that we as a local authority concentrate our monitoring resources in locations that represent those hotspots.

Part of the process of continuing to review local air quality is to build up a picture across the district of where air pollution levels are highest, and within margins approaching or in exceedance of statutory air quality objectives.

From the data collected, there is no evidence that pollution levels at these locations are approaching or near air pollution objective levels, and decisions have been made in the past to concentrate monitoring resources on areas where pollution levels are higher or may approach objective levels.

For example, results from the continuous monitor in the Hitchin Stevenage Road air quality management areas have reduced from 50 microgrammes per metre cubed in 2016, to 37 microgrammes per metre cubed in 2020, where the objective is 40.

These locations have been shown as locations with no significant risk of increased pollution levels.

The regulations make clear, that Local Authorities are expected to monitor where air pollution levels are at, or likely to exceed the Government’s stated threshold limits. The sites mentioned were recorded as being, and still are significantly below objective levels, and in line with Government Policy on best value, these sites were made redundant at least 7 years ago.

Members of this Council will be aware that the joint administration declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and since then we have already actioned the:

- Introduction of subsidised licensing fees for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles that use clean fuel.
- The continued replacement of council vehicles with ultra-low or zero emission vehicles
- Commissioned the Herts energy advice tool app to help residents increase energy efficiency in their homes
- The Conversion of floodlighting on Norton Common in Letchworth from halogen to LED lighting, which will cut energy use by 50%.
- Launched a Plastic Free North Herts Campaign and helped promote businesses in the district who have achieved a plastic free status.

This is just a snapshot of what we have achieved so far and we will continue to work with community groups and residents to further improve the environment of our district. However we must acknowledge the reality of air pollution as a real problem that exists everywhere including in this district and we will continue to take bold steps to create a healthy environment for our children and vulnerable members of our community.

We must look at further measures to improve air quality such as the possibility of no idling areas, working towards a better cycle network in the district, more electrical charging points.

We are still actively working with HCC & others to try to encourage more people to take up electric vehicles actively and we need to encourage the County Council to review and address traffic congestion hotspots, so that this too can potentially help to reduce traffic air pollution, . Be assured that we will continue to actively explore opportunities to help solve the climate emergency.

Air pollution is not inevitable. Any reductions in air pollution that we make will lead to health improvements for us all. If we all do our bit, we can have cleaner air.”

Ms Deolina Eltringham asked a supplementary question as follows: “Air quality had improved from when monitoring began in 2020 due to Covid restrictions resulting in traffic reduction across the UK – air pollution measurements taken in 2020 and 2021 are aberrations from historical norms and the UK government warns against use of such data. UK government traffic reporting shows a significant drop in 2020 that is clearly not consistent with normal trends where vehicle miles travelled in Britain had year on year growth between 2010-19, until a sharp decrease in 2020 bringing figures lower than 2010. To say traffic has fallen would misconstrue the overall picture. Measurements in 2020 should be considered a target, not a benchmark; would the Council consider a review of its monitoring station placement and increase the number of stations across the areas of greater traffic and include residential areas?”

Councillor Sean Prendergast responded: “Monitoring stations were reviewed on an annual basis and active locations were based on hotspots of traffic activity and the resources available. If the hotspots changed the monitoring stations would change as necessary.”

132 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Audio recording – 32:10

There were none.

133 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Audio recording – 31:18

There were none.

134 WARDING ARRANGEMENT SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Audio Recording – 32:23

The Democratic Services Manager presented the report entitled Warding Arrangement Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England along with Appendices A-C.

The Chair, Councillor Sam North, proposed a motion to suspend standing order 4.8.14(a) for the duration of this item. Councillor Daniel Allen seconded and following the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That standing order 4.8.14(a) be suspended for the duration of Item 8 only (Warding Arrangement Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England).

Debate followed on each recommendation in the report.

Councillor David Levett called for a recorded vote on each vote under this item.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed a motion that recommendation 2.1 (i) as detailed in the report be split into four sections to allow for separate votes on each area (Rural Wards, Baldock, Hitchin and Royston). Councillor Keith Hoskins seconded and having been put to the vote the motion was CARRIED, the results of the recorded vote were as follows:

VOTE TOTALS:

FOR: 21
ABSTAIN: 1
NO: 9
TOTAL: 31

With Councillors voting as follows:

Cllr Sam North	YES
Cllr Adem Ruggiero-Cakir	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	YES
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	YES
Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr James Denselow	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Philip Weeder	YES
Cllr Raj Bhakar	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES

Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Clare Strong	NO
Cllr David Levett	NO
Cllr George Davies	NO
Cllr Ian Moody	NO
Cllr Mandi Tandi	NO
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Richard Thake	NO
Cllr Terry Tyler	NO
Cllr Tom Tyson	ABSTAIN

It was therefore

RESOLVED: That recommendation 2.1 (i) as detailed in the officer's report be separate recommendations as follows:

"That Council:

- i) That Council approves the warding arrangements relating to the rural wards attached as in Appendix A;
- ii) That Council approves the warding arrangements relating to the Baldock wards attached as in Appendix A;
- iii) That Council approves the warding arrangements relating to the Hitchin wards attached as in Appendix A;
- iv) That Council approves the warding arrangements relating to the Royston wards attached as in Appendix A."

Councillor Keith Hoskins proposed an amendment to Appendix A relating to the Hitchin warding arrangements, specifically Hitchin Highbury and Hitchin Priory such that the boundary between Hitchin Highbury ward and Hitchin Priory ward be moved to facilitate two 2-member wards with Priory ward having 4325 electors and Highbury ward with 4823 electors (as per the option previously considered by the Boundary Review Project Board).

Councillor Ian Albert seconded the amendment and on being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED, the recorded vote being:

YES: 21
ABSTAIN: 1
NO: 12
TOTAL: 34

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Sam North	YES
Cllr Adem Ruggerio-Cakir	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	YES
Cllr Ian Albert	YES

Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr James Denselow	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Philip Weeder	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Terry Tyler	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Clare Strong	NO
Cllr David Levett	NO
Cllr George Davies	NO
Cllr Ian Moody	NO
Cllr Jean Green	NO
Cllr Mandi Tandi	NO
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Richard Thake	NO
Cllr Simon Bloxham	NO
Cllr Terry Hone	NO
Cllr Tony Hunter	NO
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	ABSTAIN

As such it was:

RESOLVED: That the warding arrangements detailed in Appendix A relating to Hitchin be amended so that the Hitchin Highbury ward and Hitchin Priory ward are both 2-member wards with Priory ward having 4325 electors and Highbury ward with 4823 electors, as per the option considered by the Electoral Review Project Board

Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg proposed 2.1 (i) 1 (as amended) - the warding arrangements relating to the rural wards as attached as Appendix A. Councillor Steve Jarvis seconded and having been put to the vote motion was CARRIED, the results of the recorded vote being:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	22
ABSTAIN:	0
NO:	13
TOTAL:	35

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Sam North	YES
Cllr Adem Ruggerio-Cakir	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	YES
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	YES
Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES

Cllr James Denselow	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Philip Weeder	YES
Cllr Raj Bhakar	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Clare Strong	NO
Cllr David Levett	NO
Cllr George Davies	NO
Cllr Ian Moody	NO
Cllr Jean Green	NO
Cllr Mandi Tandi	NO
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Richard Thake	NO
Cllr Simon Bloxham	NO
Cllr Terry Hone	NO
Cllr Terry Tyler	NO
Cllr Tony Hunter	NO

It was therefore:

RESOLVED: That Council approves the warding arrangements relating to the rural wards attached as in Appendix A for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, noting the deadline for submission being 10 August 2022 and noting the inclusion of 51 Councillors as the basis for the submission.

Councillor Alistair Willoughby proposed recommendation 2.1. (i) 2 (as amended) - the warding arrangements relating to Baldock as attached as Appendix A. . Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg seconded and having been put to the vote the motion was CARRIED, and the results of the recorded vote being:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	22
ABSTAIN:	1
NO:	12
TOTAL:	35

Cllr Sam North	YES
Cllr Adem Ruggiero-Cakir	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	YES
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	YES
Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr James Denselow	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Philip Weeder	YES

Cllr Raj Bhakar	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Clare Strong	NO
Cllr David Levett	NO
Cllr George Davies	NO
Cllr Ian Moody	NO
Cllr Jean Green	NO
Cllr Mandi Tandi	NO
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Richard Thake	NO
Cllr Simon Bloxham	NO
Cllr Terry Hone	NO
Cllr Tony Hunter	NO
Cllr Terry Tyler	ABSTAIN

As such it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council approves the warding arrangements relating to the Baldock wards as attached in Appendix A for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, noting the deadline for submission being 10 August 2022 and noting the inclusion of 51 Councillors as the basis for the submission.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed recommendation 2.1 (i) (3) - the warding arrangements, as previously amended, relating to Hitchin. Councillor Keith Hoskins seconded and having been put to the vote the motion was CARRIED, the results of the recorded vote being:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	22
ABSTAIN:	1
NO:	12
TOTAL:	35

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Sam North	YES
Cllr Adem Ruggerio-Cakir	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	YES
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	YES
Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr James Denselow	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Philip Weeder	YES
Cllr Raj Bhakar	YES

Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Clare Strong	NO
Cllr David Levett	NO
Cllr George Davies	NO
Cllr Ian Moody	NO
Cllr Jean Green	NO
Cllr Mandi Tandi	NO
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Richard Thake	NO
Cllr Simon Bloxham	NO
Cllr Terry Hone	NO
Cllr Tony Hunter	NO
Cllr Terry Tyler	ABSTAIN

As such it was:

RESOLVED: That Council approves the warding arrangements for the Hitchin Wards attached as in Appendix A (subject to amendments in relation to Hitchin Highbury and Hitchin Priory) for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, noting the deadline for submission being 10 August 2022 and noting the inclusion of 51 Councillors as the basis for the submission.

Councillor Ruth Brown proposed recommendation 2.1 9i) (4) as amended - the warding arrangements relating to Royston as attached as Appendix A. Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg seconded and having been put to the vote the motion was CARRIED, the results of the recorded vote being:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	21
ABSTAIN:	1
NO:	13
TOTAL:	35

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Sam North	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	YES
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	YES
Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr James Denselow	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Philip Weeder	YES
Cllr Raj Bhakar	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES

Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Adem Ruggerio-Cakir	NO
Cllr Clare Strong	NO
Cllr David Levett	NO
Cllr George Davies	NO
Cllr Ian Moody	NO
Cllr Jean Green	NO
Cllr Mandi Tandi	NO
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Richard Thake	NO
Cllr Simon Bloxham	NO
Cllr Terry Hone	NO
Cllr Tony Hunter	NO
Cllr Terry Tyler	ABSTAIN

As such it was:

RESOLVED: That the Council approves the warding arrangements relating to Royston as attached in Appendix A for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, noting the deadline for submission being 10 August 2022 and noting the inclusion of 51 Councillors as the basis for the submission.

The Chair, having invited a motion relating to the warding arrangements for Letchworth.

Councillor Daniel Allen proposed recommendation 2.1. (iii) - that the Council approve Option B regarding the warding arrangements for Letchworth, as attached in Appendix C of the report. Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg seconded and on being put to the vote the motion was NOT CARRIED. The results of the recorded vote being:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	13
ABSTAIN:	2
NO:	20
TOTAL:	35

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Adem Ruggerio-Cakir	YES
Cllr Alistair Willoughby	YES
Cllr Amy Allen	YES
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	YES
Cllr Clare Billing	YES
Cllr Daniel Allen	YES
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	YES
Cllr Ian Albert	YES
Cllr Ian Mantle	YES
Cllr James Denselow	YES
Cllr Sean Nolan	YES
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	YES
Cllr Val Bryant	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	NO

Cllr Clare Strong	NO
Cllr David Levett	NO
Cllr George Davies	NO
Cllr Ian Moody	NO
Cllr Jean Green	NO
Cllr Keith Hoskins	NO
Cllr Mandi Tandi	NO
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	NO
Cllr Philip Weeder	NO
Cllr Raj Bhakar	NO
Cllr Ralph Muncer	NO
Cllr Richard Thake	NO
Cllr Ruth Brown	NO
Cllr Sean Prendergast	NO
Cllr Simon Bloxham	NO
Cllr Steve Jarvis	NO
Cllr Terry Hone	NO
Cllr Tom Tyson	NO
Cllr Tony Hunter	NO
Cllr Sam North	ABSTAIN
Cllr Terry Tyler	ABSTAIN

Councillor Morgan Derbyshire proposed a motion that the Council approve Option A regarding the warding arrangements for Letchworth as attached in Appendix C of the report (recommendation 2.1. (ii)). Councillor Sean Prendergast seconded and on being put to the vote the motion was CARRIED. The results of the recorded vote being:

VOTE TOTALS:

YES:	21
ABSTAIN:	1
NO:	13
TOTAL:	35

THE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WERE AS FOLLOWS

Cllr Sam North	YES
Cllr Carol Stanier	YES
Cllr Clare Strong	YES
Cllr David Levett	YES
Cllr George Davies	YES
Cllr Ian Moody	YES
Cllr Jean Green	YES
Cllr Keith Hoskins	YES
Cllr Mandi Tandi	YES
Cllr Morgan Derbyshire	YES
Cllr Philip Weeder	YES
Cllr Raj Bhakar	YES
Cllr Ralph Muncer	YES
Cllr Richard Thake	YES
Cllr Ruth Brown	YES
Cllr Sean Prendergast	YES
Cllr Simon Bloxham	YES
Cllr Steve Jarvis	YES
Cllr Terry Hone	YES
Cllr Tom Tyson	YES
Cllr Tony Hunter	YES
Cllr Adem Ruggiero-Cakir	NO

Cllr Alistair Willoughby	NO
Cllr Amy Allen	NO
Cllr Chris Hinchliff	NO
Cllr Clare Billing	NO
Cllr Daniel Allen	NO
Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg	NO
Cllr Ian Albert	NO
Cllr Ian Mantle	NO
Cllr James Denselow	NO
Cllr Sean Nolan	NO
Cllr Tamsin Thomas	NO
Cllr Val Bryant	NO
Cllr Terry Tyler	ABSTAIN

As such it was:

RESOLVED: That Council approves the warding arrangements relating to Letchworth as detailed in Option A attached as Appendix B for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, noting the deadline for submission being 10 August 2022 and noting the inclusion of 51 Councillors as the basis for the submission.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS: The warding arrangements have been proposed following discussion amongst Group Leaders at the Boundary Review Project Board, taking into account the feedback from the recent member workshop and subsequent further engagement, local communities, the LBGCE criteria for warding arrangements, and the need to ensure electoral equality. If the Council does not make a submission, the LBGCE will base its recommendations of warding configurations for this Council on other submissions they receive, as well as their own analytical work

To allow a comfort break, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 21:14.

The meeting reconvened at 21:25.

The usual Standing Orders for the remainder of the meeting were resumed.

135 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Audio Recording – 1:55:56

9A. REFERRAL FROM CABINET 21 JUNE 2022 – REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2021/22

Councillor Ian Albert presented the referral and report from Cabinet in respect of the Revenue Budget Outturn 2021/22 and highlighted points including:

- page 111 referred to specific comments from Finance, Audit and Risk and one decision recommended to Council to approve a net transfer from earmarked reserves;
- The full papers detailed £172,000 carry-forward requested for specific activities that would now take place in 2022/23; this would take the total carry forward requests up to £712,000, reducing the impact on the General Fund down to around £800,000 underspend;
- The papers accounted for the impact of COVID-19 on funding particularly in leisure and car parking, which totalled £1.65 million after deducting any grant funding and sales, with that impact recovered from the council's reserves around £770,000;
- Council funding towards Stevenage Leisure Ltd was less than expected and it was good to see that leisure facilities were recovering well, while there was still work to do;
- Table 9 in the main reports detailed movement in earmarked reserves that required Council approval, with the main movement referring to the reserve of funding from

DLUHC to provide business rate relief during the pandemic. There was still residual funding that would need to be released in future years and the special reserve was being released over time to reduce the pressure on the general fund;

- The revenue monitoring report noted that movement from funds would be subject to final confirmation of a figure from DLUHC on business rate pooling and final release of grant funding which could lead to a later adjustment of the required net transfer but that the recommendation to Council at this stage would remain as in the report.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed, Councillor Keith Hoskins seconded and on the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That Council approves the net transfer from earmarked reserves, as identified in table 9 of £8.123 million.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

- (1) Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services, who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process;
- (2) Changes to the Council's balances are monitored and approved.

9B. REFERRAL FROM CABINET 21 JUNE 2022 – INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) END OF YEAR REVIEW 2021/22

Councillor Ian Albert presented the report and referral from Cabinet on 21 June 2022 in respect of the Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) End of Year Review 2021/22 and highlighted points including:

- The sale of surplus land had increased reserves during the year which stood now at £7.7million;
- There was one technical breach of the Treasury rules that had been previously reported;
- The Council continued to manage its surplus cash by prioritising security and liquidity before considering yield.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed, Councillor Terry Tyler seconded and on the vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- (1) That Council approves the actual 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators;
- (2) That Council notes the annual Treasury Report for 2021/22

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

9C. REFERRAL FROM CABINET 21 JUNE 2022 – ANNUAL REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT AND QUARTERLY RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Councillor Ian Albert presented the referral and report from Cabinet on 21 June 2022 in respect of the Annual Report on Risk Management and Quarterly Risk Management Update and highlighted points including:

- He thanked the Service Director – Resources and the finance and risk teams who make sure the Council has secure budgets which are managed carefully and assured against risk;

- This report was the last in this format before moving to the new Council Delivery Planned format in quarter 1;
- All members but particularly members of FAR and O&S had a standing invite to attend the internal Risk Management Group meetings.

Councillor Ian Albert proposed, Councillor Terry Tyler seconded and on the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That Council notes the report.

9D. REFERRAL FROM FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK 15 JUNE 2022: FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Councillor Keith Hoskins presented the referral from Finance, Audit and Risk on 15 June 2022 in respect of the Finance, Audit and Risk Annual Report 2021/22.

Councillor Keith Hoskins proposed, Councillor Clare Billing seconded and on the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That Council notes the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: To provide Full Council with assurance as to the effectiveness of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

136 INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Audio Recording – 2:08:16

Councillor Keith Hoskins presented the report in respect of the Independent Member of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and highlighted points including:

- He was presenting as he was part of the panel that interviewed candidates for the role
- John would be a useful addition to the committee bringing continuity, experience and expertise in matters of finance and auditing

Councillor Keith Hoskins proposed, Councillor Clare Billing seconded and on the vote it was:

RESOLVED: That John Cannon is appointed as the Independent Member for Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, subject to final administrative arrangements being completed.

REASON FOR DECISION: Following a recruitment and selection process John Cannon was determined to be the best candidate fully meeting all the criteria for the role.

137 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REPORT

Audio Recording – 2:09:05

The Service Director – Legal & Community presented the report entitled Constitutional Amendments along with Appendix A and advised:

- Following concerns raised by members prior to the meeting the changes outlined on pages 128-19 of the document pack (changes to Appendices 1 and 2 of Section 8 of the Constitution) were no longer recommended and should be removed from the report

The following Members asked questions and took part in debate:

- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Tony Hunter
- Councillor David Levett

In response to questions raised the Service Director – Legal & Community advised:

- None of the proposals in the report relating to Appendices 1 and 2 to Section 8 were to be carried forward;
- The responsibilities of the Executive Member for the Environment and Leisure still included climate change policy and commitments made by the Council; the updated wording reflected policy developments since the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

RESOLVED: That Full Council:

- (1) Approves the amendments in Appendix A (as amended);
- (2) Notes the changes to Executive portfolio areas identified in Section 14* (table shaded green);
- (3) Notes the typographical error changed in Section 20 (Contract Procurement Rules) under Rule 33.9 (as described in Appendix A), on 19 April 2022 (table shaded green).

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure the Constitution remains up to date, and continues to improve its working practices where legally possible.

The meeting closed at 9.49 pm

Chair