

DECISIONS

Item number	Recommendation/ Referral	Details from Cabinet	Status
ANNUAL REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY			
1	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 CABINET: That the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2025/26, as attached at Appendix 1, be noted. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: 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. Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting Tuesday 9 June 2026 @7.30PM	N.B. This item was referred onto Full Council for consideration RESOLVED: That Council noted the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny 2025/26, attached as Appendix 1. REASON FOR DECISION To enable Council to consider and comment on the report of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of the Committee in the 2025/2026 Civic Year. Council Meeting - Thursday 16th July 2026 @ 7.30pm	Open

Item number	Recommendation/ Referral	Details from Cabinet	Status
LGR Budget			
2	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. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: This is intended to provide a practical framework for	RESOLVED: That Cabinet: (1) Approved 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) Approved 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) Approved 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) Approved that any spend is subject to cap of £1 million in 2026/27 and £2 million overall.	Open

	agreeing LGR costs. It aims to allow timely reactions in what will need to be a fast-moving project. Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting Tuesday 9 June 2026 @7.30PM	REASON FOR DECISIONS: 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. Cabinet Tuesday 16 June 2026 @ 7.30pm	
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Item number	Recommendation/ Referral	Details from Cabinet	Status
CHURCHGATE			
3	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 Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting Tuesday 9 June 2026 @7.30PM	RESOLVED: That Cabinet: RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That it: (1) Approves the additional capital / revenue funding set out in the Part 2 report to support the next phase of the Churchgate Regeneration Project. (2) Instructs officers to undertake a review of the Council's external communications approach, with a specific focus on improving transparency, accessibility, and the visibility of key decision-making information. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION: (1) Since the last Full Council update in July 2025, and subsequent Overview & Scrutiny Committee discussions in February 2026, the Churchgate Regeneration Project has progressed significantly and moved into a substantially more mature and evidence-led phase. (2) Over the past year, the Council has undertaken an extensive programme of work to respond directly to key matters raised by Members and stakeholders, including viability, parking, public realm, market provision, delivery options, governance and long-term town centre sustainability. This has included financial	Open

		analysis, specialist technical work, Project Board workshops and Member briefings. (3) This work has enabled the Council to move from high-level vision setting into a more informed, evidence-led and delivery-focused phase. (4) Alongside this, the Council has also undertaken early engagement with the development and investment sector to inform future procurement, delivery and partnership decisions. Feedback from this work has demonstrated strong market interest in Hitchin and increased confidence in both the credibility of the opportunity and the Council's commitment to delivering a high-quality regeneration programme for the town centre. (5) The recommendations within this report therefore represent a logical progression from the work completed to date and are intended to ensure that future decisions regarding the regeneration of the site are informed, evidence-led and commercially robust. (6) The proposed next stage of work is materially different from earlier strategic and visioning exercises. The Council is now seeking to appoint specialist regeneration and development expertise to work alongside the project team in refining a deliverable scheme, testing assumptions in greater detail, reducing uncertainty and supporting the transition from strategic visioning into delivery planning and implementation. (7) This phased approach enables the Council to retain control of the project as it develops, whilst ensuring that investment and risk remain proportionate to the level of certainty and information available at each stage.	
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		(8) The proposed next phase reflects the consistent feedback received through market engagement and specialist advice: that the appropriate next step is a structured feasibility and delivery-planning phase focused on shaping a viable, deliverable and investment ready regeneration scheme for Hitchin town centre. Cabinet Tuesday 16 June 2026 @ 7.30pm	
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