

DRAFT Council Plan

Working with our communities, it's Your Council

Foreword by the Leader

In May 2019 a new administration was formed bringing together Labour and Co-operative councillors and Liberal Democrat councillors. In this plan we are demonstrating how we are keeping the promises we made to you, our residents in the recent election.

In putting the plan together we have sought to use the skills and insights of all 49 councillors working with the professional advice of our officers. We trust you will find the plan readable and find in it a clear understanding of our vision and priorities as we ensure your Council provides the best services we can within the constraints of continuing government cuts to our resources.

Martin Stears-Handscomb

Leader of the Council

Introduction by the Chief Executive

The Council Plan and the Objectives are the cornerstone for how we organise and undertake our business. The Plan provides the policy context for our budget setting, shapes the services that we provide and how those services are delivered. Our Service Delivery Plan is the next layer of detail and gives specific details about what we are going to achieve and these feed through to detailed actions for the teams working to deliver services for our local community. The Plan is ambitious and at the same time needs to be realistic so that we can deliver what we promise.

David Scholes

North Hertfordshire District Council's Chief Executive

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Our Values

We will operate in line with the principles of a co-operative council. The Council will be one that builds the co-operative values of mutual support, accountability, fairness and responsibility into everything it does.

New organisational values have recently been adopted. These are expected to be demonstrated by staff and these values are embedded in our appraisal system to ensure our plan is delivered in a co-operative manner. The values ("We are") are matched with corresponding behaviours for staff ("I am"). The values and behaviours are:-

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Purpose of the plan

The Council plan lays out how North Hertfordshire District Council will achieve its aims for the district. The plan sets out the priorities that the Council will address over the next five years. Appendix A sets out the administration's proposed actions and these will be supported by the more detailed Service Delivery Plan and supporting Action Plans on how these Objectives and actions will be delivered by the individual service areas. Appendix B also sets out the achievements of the Council in 2018/19

Vision

To make North Hertfordshire a district in which everyone who lives, works or visits is able to flourish.

Objectives

- **Be a more welcoming and inclusive council,**
- **Build a thriving and resilient communities,**
- **Respond to challenges to the environment,**
- **Enable an enterprising and co-operative economy,**
- **Support the delivery of good quality and affordable homes.**

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Objectives

Objective One - Be a more welcoming and inclusive council:

This means:

We will engage with and welcome the contributions of residents, community groups and businesses; working collaboratively with local people.

Objective Two - Build thriving and resilient communities:

This means:

We will work on frequent and regular opportunities to improve the partnership and relationship that it has with local citizens. Some of this will be achieved by change in culture, tone and communications but more will be done through direct measurable activity, intervention and consultation.

We will develop a range of innovative ways in which local communities, including streets, neighbourhoods, villages, towns and communities of interest can be encouraged to become more involved in supporting, planning, improving and maintaining local environments.

This work stream will focus particularly on engaging with young residents and those who are disadvantaged or in any way socially excluded, in their schools and neighbourhoods to ensure such innovation are fit for the future and imaginative in concept and delivery.

Objective Three – Respond to challenges to the environment:

This means:

We will seek to provide a clean and safe environment, in consultation and partnership with local people. We will engage local people and organisations as we progress towards our target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030, whilst taking action to enable and encourage residents to minimise their own carbon impact. We will protect the natural and built environment through our planning policies and an effective green spaces strategy. We will take action against environmental crime and ensure that our approach to waste and recycling promotes the hierarchy of reduce, re-use, recycle. We will complete the elimination of single use plastics from the council and support reductions in their use across the district. We will work to improve the monitoring and management of air quality across the district, prioritising those areas where air quality is most in need of improvement.

Objective Four: Enable an enterprising and co-operative economy

This means:

We will aim to become an increasingly innovative and inclusive Council, committed to generating community wealth, by seeking commercial and investment opportunities and through proactive engagement with a wider range of small and medium sized businesses to build a sustainable local economy. Also engaging with residents, staff and Councillors to continue to embrace modern working practices through the use of IT and a commitment to working towards a paperless Council; to increase the efficiency of services and access to them by residents.

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Objective Five - Support the delivery of good quality and affordable homes.

This means:

We will enable and support the delivery of good quality and affordable housing in the district, ensuring both new and existing housing is fit for purpose, including a commitment to consultation and ensuring communities have the infrastructure they need; building more effective relationships with local housing associations and recognise our role in the fight against homelessness; supporting Parishes with Neighbourhood plans.