

## NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2024

# MEMBERS' INFORMATION

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>
News and information	2-12
CCTV Reports	
Pre-Agenda, Agenda and Decision sheets	13-28
Planning consultations	
Planning applications received & decisions	29-37
Press releases	38-39

Produced by the Communications Team. Any comments, suggestions or contributions should be sent to the Communications Team at [MIS@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:MIS@north-herts.gov.uk)

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## AGENDA & REPORTS

### PUBLISHED WEEK COMMENCING 7 FEBRUARY 2024

None

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WEEK COMMENCING 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Planning Control Committee – 15 February 2024

### CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS WEEK COMMENCING 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Date	Event	Location
Friday 16 Feb 2024 @7pm	James Bond, Glitz and Glamour Evening	Cheshunt Golf Club Cheshunt

### VICE-CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS WEEK COMMENCING 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Date	Event	Location
	None	

### OTHER EVENTS WEEK COMMENCING 7 FEBRUARY 2024

Date	Event	Location
	None	



**North  
Herts**  
Council

**LEGAL & COMMUNITY  
COMMITTEE & MEMBER SERVICES**

# MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

## **Leadership essentials: Finance for Non-Finance Cabinet Members**

**Programme 4:** Thursday, 29th February 2024 – **Virtual**

**Programme 5:** Wednesday, 13th March 2024 – Face to Face at  
Warwick Conferences, Coventry CV4 7SH

**Fee:** The cost of attending this programme is fully subsidised.

This exciting new course will de-mystify the financial elements of your portfolio. While all councillors understand the current financial pressures and their importance, many councillors – including cabinet members - find local government finance difficult to understand and hard to navigate. Too often financial leadership is left to the cabinet member for finance but all cabinet members need to understand finances and be comfortable with their financial roles.

The course is aimed specifically for non-finance portfolio holders, supporting their financial roles by:

- Increasing non-finance cabinet members' understanding of the contemporary local government finance system and likely future developments in the system.
- Providing tools and practical advice to enable cabinet members to navigate their own authorities' financial systems and controls.
- Increasing the confidence of cabinet members in developing constructive relationships with key financial managers (including the section 151 officer).

- Enabling participants to identify and specify the financial management elements of a portfolio's role.
- Enabling participants to better integrate financial information with non-financial service performance information.

Interactive, practical and engaging – and high accessible for cabinet members less comfortable with the financial aspects of their portfolio.

### **Who is it for?**

Non-finance portfolio holders

Non-finance deputy/assistant cabinet members

Shadow cabinet members

Non finance Committee chairs from committee systems

For further information please contact:

Committee Services

01462 474655

[Committee.Services@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Committee.Services@north-herts.gov.uk)

# Message from Counter Terrorism Policing – new security briefings for elected members and faith leaders

Local Government Association sent this bulletin at 02-02-2024 03:20 PM GMT

2 February 2024  
View as a webpage



## FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY – FOR THE ATTENTION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES

### Dear colleague,

The safety and security of local councillors is vitally important to the LGA and our member councils. Your elected members deliver amazing work on behalf of their local communities, and their personal safety and wellbeing matters hugely.

The Counter Terrorism Policing HQ have been in touch with us regarding the safety and security of locally elected representatives. Following the successful delivery of several security briefings in November and December last year, policing colleagues have developed a rolling programme of briefings that are open to all elected members and have asked us to share this information with councillors across England.

For more information about the briefings and the meetings, please see the below letter from Detective Chief Superintendent Helen Williams.

Best wishes,

**Sarah Pickup**  
Acting Chief Executive  
Local Government Association  
@SJPickup



### Message from Detective Chief Superintendent Helen Williams, National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Protect & Prepare

Counter Terrorism Policing are offering further **personal security briefings** delivered on Microsoft Teams for elected representatives as well as local faith leaders. The briefings will be taking place monthly in February, March and April and will then move to bi-monthly briefings delivered in June, August, October and December. Whilst the personal security briefings will continue to be broken down into geographical areas and will be delivered locally, you are welcome to attend **any** session. **There will be an opportunity within the briefing to ask questions** to the presenter; however, any questions should relate to details contained within the briefing. Any specific questions regarding individual security measures or issues should be directed to your local policing team.

As before, whilst there has been a significant increase in reporting of hate crimes and incidents due to world events, at this time, we have **no information to suggest** that there is a heightened threat to elected representatives or their staff, nor for faith communities, including those from the Jewish faith. This is under continual review, and should there be any change this will be circulated to you.

As a precautionary measure, we have compiled below a range of open-source advice and guidance on safety and security for reassurance and ease of reference, to be disseminated to elected representatives and faith leaders. Should other individuals outside these groups ask for advice, this can of course be shared with them. In particular, I would like to **draw your attention** to the free ACT e-Learning counter terrorism awareness course for you and your staff to complete, and The Blue Book: A Guide to Personal Security | ProtectUK.

#### February

- Metropolitan Police Service, 13/02/2024, 11am
- City of London, 05/02/2024, 1pm
- CTP South East, 28/02/2024, 10am
- CTP South West, 20/02/2024, 11am
- CTP Eastern, 23/02/2024, 10am
- CTP West Midlands, 16/02/2024, 10am
- CTP East Midlands, 09/02/2024, 10am
- CTP North West, 21/02/2024, 10am
- CTP North East, 29/02/2024, 10am
- Police Scotland, 26/02/2024, 10am
- CTP Wales, 21/02/2024, 10am

#### March

- Metropolitan Police Service, 22/03/2024, 11am
- City of London, 11/03/2024, 1pm
- CTP South East, 27/03/2024, 10am
- CTP South West, 12/03/2024, 11am
- CTP Eastern, 22/03/2024, 10am
- CTP West Midlands, 14/03/2024, 2pm
- CTP East Midlands, 08/03/2024, 10am
- CTP North West, 13/03/2024, 1pm
- CTP North East, 14/03/2024, 1pm
- Police Scotland, 14/03/2024, 10am
- CTP Wales, 20/03/2024, 10am

#### April

- Metropolitan Police Service, 16/04/2024, 11am
- City of London, 17/04/2024, 1pm
- CTP South East, 24/04/2024, 10.30am
- CTP South West, 23/04/2024, 11am
- CTP Eastern, 26/04/2024, 10am
- CTP West Midlands, 19/04/2024, 11am
- CTP East Midlands, 17/04/2024, 10am
- CTP North West, 17/04/2024, 10am
- CTP North East, 24/04/2024, 2pm
- Police Scotland, 17/04/2024, 10am
- CTP Wales, 24/04/2024, 10am

#### June

- Metropolitan Police Service, 19/06/2024, 11am
- City of London, 10/06/2024, 1pm
- CTP South East, 12/06/2024, 10am
- CTP South West, 25/06/2024, 11am
- CTP Eastern, 21/06/2024, 10am
- CTP West Midlands, 11/06/2024, 3pm
- CTP East Midlands, 19/06/2024, 2pm
- CTP North West, 19/06/2024, 1pm
- CTP North East, 10/06/2024, 10.30am
- Police Scotland, 19/06/2024, 10am
- CTP Wales, 26/06/2024, 10am

#### August

- Metropolitan Police Service, 01/08/2024, 10.30am
- City of London, 05/08/2024, 1pm
- CTP South East, 05/08/2024, 10am
- CTP South West, 20/08/2024, 11am
- CTP Eastern, 23/08/2024, 10am
- CTP West Midlands, 16/08/2024, 10am
- CTP East Midlands, 21/08/2024, 10am
- CTP North West, 14/08/2024, 10am
- CTP North East, 06/08/2024, 11am
- Police Scotland, 14/08/2024, 10am
- CTP Wales, 21/08/2024, 10am

#### October

- Metropolitan Police Service, 15/10/2024, 11am
- City of London, 07/10/2024, 1pm
- CTP South East, 10/10/2024, 10am
- CTP South West, 22/10/2024, 11am
- CTP Eastern, 25/10/2024, 10am
- CTP West Midlands, 29/10/2024, 2pm
- CTP East Midlands, 23/10/2024, 10am
- CTP North West, 16/10/2024, 1pm
- CTP North East, 10/10/2024, 11am
- Police Scotland, 16/10/2024, 10am
- CTP Wales, 23/10/2024, 10am

#### December

- Metropolitan Police Service, 04/10/2024, 11am
- City of London, 09/12/2024, 1pm
- CTP South East, 11/12/2024, 10.30am
- CTP South West, 10/12/2024, 11am
- CTP Eastern, 17/12/2024, 10am
- CTP West Midlands, 06/12/2024, 10am
- CTP East Midlands, 11/12/2024, 10am
- CTP North West, 11/12/2024, 10am
- CTP North East, 02/12/2024, 11am
- Police Scotland, 12/12/2024, 10am
- CTP Wales, 11/12/2024, 10am

### Reporting an emergency

- Call 999 if you are reporting a crime that is in progress or if someone is in immediate danger.

### Reporting non-emergencies

- You can [report crimes online](#) or by calling 101 if they are not an emergency.
- You can also call 101 to give information to the police or make an enquiry.
- In addition, you can also link in with your local neighbourhood Inspector to discuss any concerns you have. We have asked local policing leads to ensure your local policing inspector makes contact with you so that you have their contact details.

### Other useful resources

- [Local Government Association \(LGA\)](#) guidance on personal safety – councillors' guide to handling harassment, abuse and intimidation
- [National Cyber Security Centre \(NCSC\)](#) – guidance for individuals in politics
- [National Counter Terrorism Security Office \(NaCTSO\)](#) guidance – [The Blue Book: A Guide to Personal Security](#)
- [ProtectUK](#) e-learning on counter terrorism and security
- [ProtectUK](#) guidance on security
- [National Police Chiefs' Council \(NPCC\), Crown Prosecution Service \(CPS\), Electoral Commission, and College of Policing](#) joint guidance for candidates in elections 2021
- [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#) has excellent guidance for lone working in every situation, including:
  - [personal safety at work](#)
  - [personal safety at home](#)
  - [personal safety and the law](#).

Please also see the [Community Security Trust](#) website for advice and guidance specifically for Jewish communities.

The Protective Security for Mosques Scheme has been reopened for an additional six weeks. See Home Office guidance on [protective security schemes for places of worship](#).

Kind regards,

**Detective Chief Superintendent Helen Williams**  
National Coordinator CT Protect & Prepare  
Counter Terrorism Policing HQ  
New Scotland Yard | Victoria Embankment | London | SW1A 2JL

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# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

### ICKLEFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

#### Referendum on the adoption of the Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan

1. A referendum will be held on Thursday 14 March 2024 to decide on the question below:-  
**‘Do you want North Hertfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ickleford to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?’**
2. Applications to register to vote must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF by Tuesday 27 February 2024.
3. Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations of proxy votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3JF by 5pm on Wednesday 28 February 2024.
4. Applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF by 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2024.
5. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate or Anonymous Elector's Document valid for this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2024. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate can be made online: [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate).
6. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election on grounds of physical incapacity or for work/service reasons must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3JF **by 5pm on Thursday 14 March 2024**. To apply, the person must have become aware that they cannot go to the polling station in person **after 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2024**.

Dated Monday 5 February 2024

Melanie Stimpson  
Counting Officer



## Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

### Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan will be held on 14 March 2024. The Notice of Referendum is attached.

The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

**“Do you want North Hertfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Ickleford to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?”**

The Referendum area is identified on the map which can be inspected at [Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/icleford-neighbourhood-plan)

The Referendum Area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Ickleford Neighbourhood Planning Area.

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on 14 March 2024:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum Area;
- his or her qualifying address for the election is the Referendum Area. (A persons qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors , the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered).

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £2729.47. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum, by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 1652.

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used a local government election.

A copy of the specified documents, that is those documents listed below, may be inspected on line at:

[Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/icleford-neighbourhood-plan)

Paper copies of the specified documents will also be available to view from 1 February at the Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF by appointment only.

The specified documents are:

- The Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan;
- The Report of the Independent Examiner;
- Copies of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- The statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- This information statement;
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum.

Melanie Stimpson

Counting Officer

North Herts Council



# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

### WALLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AREA

#### Referendum on the adoption of the Wallington Neighbourhood Plan

1. A referendum will be held on Thursday 14 March 2024 to decide on the question below:-  
**‘Do you want North Hertfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wallington to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area?’**
2. Applications to register to vote must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF by Tuesday 27 February 2024.
3. Applications, amendments or cancellations of postal votes and amendments or cancellations of proxy votes must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3JF by 5pm on Wednesday 28 February 2024.
4. Applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF by 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2024.
5. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate or Anonymous Elector's Document valid for this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer by 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2024. Applications for a Voter Authority Certificate can be made online: [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate).
6. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election on grounds of physical incapacity or for work/service reasons must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3JF **by 5pm on Thursday 14 March 2024**. To apply, the person must have become aware that they cannot go to the polling station in person **after 5pm on Wednesday 6 March 2024**.

Dated Monday 5 February 2024

Melanie Stimpson  
Counting Officer



## Wallington Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

### Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the adoption of the Wallington Neighbourhood Plan will be held on 14 March 2024. The Notice of Referendum is attached.

The question which will be asked in the referendum is:

**“Do you want North Hertfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wallington to help it decide planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area.”**

The Referendum area is identified on the map which can be inspected at [Wallington - Neighbourhood Planning Area | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/wallington-neighbourhood-planning-area).

The Referendum Area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Wallington Neighbourhood Planning Area.

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on 14 March 2024:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum Area;
- his or her qualifying address for the election is the Referendum Area. (A persons qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors , the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered).

The referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £2368.67. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum, by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 113.

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used a local government election.

A copy of the specified documents, that is those documents listed below, may be inspected on line at:

[Wallington - Neighbourhood Planning Area | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/wallington-neighbourhood-planning-area)

Paper copies of the specified documents will also be available to view from 1 February at the Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF by appointment only.

The specified documents are:

- The Wallington Neighbourhood Plan;
- The Report of the Independent Examiner;
- Copies of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- The statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- This information statement;
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum.

Melanie Stimpson

Counting Officer

North Herts Council

## Council Activity

### **Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2)**

Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 is live and details can be found on our webpage. [Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#) Residents can sign up via the HUG website or by calling the Energy Saving Trust. Further mailouts are going to target areas as well as posters distributed to stakeholders across the district.

### **Solar Together**

The second round of Solar Together has now closed. 185 households in North Herts have accepted their solar pv recommendation. The price achieved for the average 14-panel system within this scheme is 34% cheaper than the typical market price for an equivalent system. Installations have now begun, with 114 completed in Hertfordshire so far. [Solar Together | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Climate Hive Engagements**

The Climate Hive now has 352 subscribers and we continue to update users with the latest climate activity such as HUG2, the latest surveys and consultations, Clean Air Night and the recent Sustainability Q&A. We encourage staff to take a look at the [Hive](#) and post their climate tips.

### **Exec Member Sustainability Q&A**

We received a range of questions throughout January for the Sustainability Q&A. Questions and answers can be read on the Climate Hive - [North Herts Climate Hive: Your Sustainability Questions Answered!](#)

### **Environmental & Social Decision Wheel**

The decision wheel has been presented to the Leadership team and we will be looking to incorporate it into the project management framework papers before a wider rollout.

*For queries or comments, please contact the Policy & Strategy Team at [environmentpanel@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:environmentpanel@north-herts.gov.uk)*

## **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)**

Heat decarbonisation plans have been created for our three leisure sites. We have utilised these plans to submit an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for works to decarbonise our leisure facilities. We will find out the outcome of our application by mid-March. We have been notified our application is currently being assessed and we have engaged in answering further technical and governance queries from the assessors. Consultants have also conducted site visits of the leisure facilities to determine more details of construction, should we be successful.

## **Emissions assessment and SMART actions**

Work is ongoing to develop a consistent approach for annual reporting of emissions. We are aiming for an annual assessment from the period beginning 2019-20, forming our baseline and using our 2021 emissions assessment. Work is also ongoing to assess resource requirements and emission impacts of actions in the Climate Change Strategy against SMART criteria. (S – Specific, M – Measurable, A – Achievable, R – Realistic, T – Timebound.)

## **Solar for Business**

Following presentation at the Leadership team, work is ongoing to further develop the Solar for Business project, factoring in legal costs.

## **Climate and Sustainability Officer's Group (CSOG)**

The latest meeting held on the 18th January was well attended, with discussions around adaptation, ongoing emissions assessment and a spotlight on the ResilienTogether Project. Notes from the meeting can be read on the CSOG page.

## **Community Investment Fund**

The Community Investment Fund is now closed. Applications have been reviewed and will go to the panel on 5<sup>th</sup> February for consideration.

## **HEAT Energy App**

## HCCSP Retrofit survey

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) are running a survey until the 11th February. The survey is for homeowners and landlords of Hertfordshire to have their say on how best they would like advice on retrofitting their home. Staff and Councillors living in the county are encouraged to complete the survey - [Retrofit Survey for Hertfordshire Homeowners and Landlords \(office.com\)](#)

## Call for local installers

The Greater South East Net Zero Hub has been building a supply chain of installers, ready to provide energy-efficiency measures, renewable energy and low carbon heating for Government-funded retrofit programmes like HUG2. They would like local installers to benefit, calling for installer within North Herts. For further details on the process and requirements: [Supply Chain Procurement - GSENZH](#)

## Headlines

### BT Group pilots EV chargers from street cabinets

Etc., an arm of the BT group is running a pilot to extend the use of near end-of-life green street cabinets and turning over 60,000 into EV chargers. This is to help address the national shortage in EV charging infrastructure. [BT Group pilot powers up first EV charger repurposed from street cabinet](#)

### Heat Network Zoning Consultation 2023

The government has an open consultation on Heat Network Zoning, which is seeking views on proposals for design and delivery of heat network zoning in England, enabled by powers provide in the Energy Act 2023. Have your say now at [Heat Network Zoning Consultation 2023](#)

## Sustainability Tips

### Thermal Imaging Cameras

Make the most of the cold weather, Thermal Imaging Cameras work best between November and March. Find out more about thermal imaging and how you can loan a camera, save money on your energy bills and reduce your carbon emissions. Head to the North Herts Climate Hive. [North Herts Council: North Herts Climate Hive: Thermal Imaging Cameras \(civilspace.io\)](#)

The HEAT Herts Energy Advice Tool, an energy saving app continues to be available for residents to download and use. The app is designed to take residents through their home and fill in a survey to identify how they can reduce their energy usage in order to save money on bills and help the environment. The app is available for both Android and iOS users:

[Download the HEAT app for Apple devices](#)



[Download the HEAT app for Android devices](#)



## Plastic Free & Sustainable Products

Disposable nappies, incontinence products and period products all create a lot of waste, so switching to reusables make sense, for your wallet and the planet!

There are lots of options to choose from when it comes to reusable products, and Hertfordshire Residents can apply for a 15% discount on a selected range of nappy, incontinence and period products, catering for the whole family.

For more information and to apply for discounts:

[Herts Sustainable Periods](#)  
[Herts Confident Continence](#)  
[Herts Reusable Nappies](#)



## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### \*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted N/A

**SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** Place

#### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

- 1.1 To appoint Wilmott Dixon to prepare Heat Decarbonisation plans and support for an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.

#### **2. DECISION TAKER**

- 2.1 Sarah Kingsley, Service Director - Place

#### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

2 October 2023

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 To ensure the council had specialist support in order to successfully submit a bid for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 To carry out a competition via the Council's E-sourcing system for the services required, however this would not have been possible, due to the timescales of accessing the funding window. Wilmott Dixon also provided additional value by engaging with their construction arm to ensure the proposed schemes were deliverable and costed accurately.

#### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

- 6.1 The Executive Member for Environment and Leisure and the Deputy Executive Member were consulted.

#### **7. FORWARD PLAN**

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

#### **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The latest round of public sector decarbonisation funding (PSDS) opened In November 2022. The Fund offers public sector organisations the opportunity to apply for funding which will help decarbonise their buildings. Therefore applying to the fund allows the council an opportunity to decarbonise part of its estate with a much reduced capital outlay. Detailed applications have to be prepared for the

scheme, including heat decarbonisation plans and further technical, risk and governance assessments.

- 8.2 The council previously submitted an application to the Low Carbon Skills Fund for funding to produce heat decarbonisation plans so that we could prepare for a future round of PSDS, however we were unsuccessful in our bid. However, the Greater South East Net Zero Hub subsequently agreed to provide grant funding to the Council, for activity which would support our readiness to put in an application to the latest round of PSDS.
- 8.3 Wilmott Dixon were subsequently appointed through the SCAPE Framework and in consultation with the Net Zero Hub, to provide heat decarbonisation plans and support through the PSDS process for an application to decarbonise our three leisure centres.
- 8.4 Wilmott Dixon's appointment through the major works element of the SCAPE Framework for the initial plans would also allow us to directly award the contract for delivering the project to them should we be successful.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Under 14.6.4 (a) (ii) of the Council Constitution, Service Directors have a general authorisation for "entering into contracts to carry out works and/or for the supply of goods and services within approved budgets".
- 9.2 The Council is a member of the SCAPE Framework and the procurement framework allows call off by relevant partner organisations. Therefore, under the Contract Procurement Rules (11), the Council is not required to undertake a full tendering procedure and can call off from an approved external Framework Agreement (CPR 11.1, 11.3) and shall follow the call off procedure.
- 9.3 The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 (No. 2095) require officers undertaking non-executive decisions to record (amongst other things) an award of a contract that materially affects the Council's position in a written delegated decision. At North Hertfordshire District Council, this is any award of a contract or financial decision, that is or is likely to be above £50,000.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. The greater South East Net Zero Hub have agreed to provide £50k of grant funding and the remaining £5,705 will be funded from existing budgets. This will reduce the amount available for future climate schemes, but this was considered a key opportunity towards reducing our fossil fuel usage.
- 10.2. There is capital funding currently allocated to projects for solar PV at the three leisure centres, solar thermal at Royston leisure centre and for replacement of gas boilers at Hitchin and Letchworth. As part of the 2024/25 budget process, it is proposed that this could be reallocated to provide the required match funding.
- 10.3. If successful, there will also be additional capital costs for construction e.g. preliminaries, surveys etc, which cannot be included in the PSDS application. An estimate of these costs is included in the 2024/25 budget process. With the PSDS contribution, the energy savings achieved are expected to at least off-set the Council's cost of capital.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There is a risk that the PSDS bid will still be unsuccessful, or the planned works are not deliverable. However, with the South East Net Zero Hub funding, the financial implications of that are quite low. The work towards submitting the PSDF bid is still helpful in understanding the options available and the financial implications of those options.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.2 As the recommendations in the report relate to a contract below £100,000 the “go local” policy has not been applied because the support required is specialist in nature.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no Environmental implications associated with the appointment of Wilmott Dixon, though the heat decarbonisation plans that they produce will help the council understand how it can decarbonise the leisure centres, thereby reducing impact on the environment. Appointing Wilmott Dixon will also result in an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. If we are successful, the scheme will allow us to deliver works highlighted in the heat decarbonisation plans which will further decarbonisation of our leisure facilities. These works would achieve energy and carbon savings. As such, a full Environmental Impact Assessment will be undertaken if the council is successful with its funding application, and at the point at which formal decision is made to move forward with the decarbonisation projects.

## **15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 Wilmott Dixon were appointed in recognition that the council does not employ specialist staff who could produce heat decarbonisation plans and also had limited capacity to pull together the application. If successful in receiving the PSDS funding, the resource implications will be considered as part of the project management process.

## **16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 *None*

## **17. APPENDICES**

- 17.1 *None*

## **NOTIFICATION DATE**

9 February 2024



Steve Jamis

Signature of Executive Member Consulted ...

Date 09/02/2024



Signature of Decision Taker .....

**Please Note:** that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### **PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member **[YES, the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships declared an interest in relation to grant 1.1.1 so the decision has been passed to the Deputy Leader of the Council in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community. See Legal implications]**

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned **[NO]**

**SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** Legal and Community

#### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

1.1 The approval of the allocation **Royston Community Grant** funding of:

1.1.1 **£1,915** to REED CRICKET CLUB towards updating the club kitchen.

#### **2. DECISION TAKER**

2.1 Cllr Ruth Brown, Deputy Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community.

#### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

**2 February 2024**

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

4.1 The **Royston Area Forum** held on 10 January 2024 considered a funding application from Reed Cricket Club and recorded their recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships for the formal commitment of Community Grant funds via the delegated authority process. Due to conflicts of interest of the relevant Executive Member and the Leader, this decision is being taken by Cllr Ruth Brown as Deputy Leader (see legal implications below).

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 There are no other reasonable alternative options.

#### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Royston Forum Members in a public meeting on 10 January 2024. Members are in favour and recommend that the Royston Area Community Grant budget should be used for this purpose.

#### **7. FORWARD PLAN**

7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

#### **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1 The grant applications were considered by the Royston Area Forum on 10 January 2024. The report with the application details is set out under item 4, available on the Council's website [[CLICK HERE](#)].

- 8.2 This delegated decision confirms that the recommendation made by the Area Forum members was accepted by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Service Director on application 1.1.1.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Under the Constitution, the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships and Service Director Legal & Community have delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)(ii)A. The Executive Member has a conflict of interest in relation to the is body and therefore in that situation the Leader can exercise such powers, as per section 14.6.16. The Leader also has a conflict and therefore in this situation the Deputy Leader can undertake that function as per section 14.6.16.4. This decision will be subject to a five clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There is £1,916 remaining in the community grant base budget for Royston Area Forum 2023/24.
- 10.2. This grant application totals **£1,915**. If the grant is awarded as outlined in 1.1.1, the remaining balance will be **£1**.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 11.2 There are no relevant risk entries that have been recorded on Ideagen Risk, the Council's performance and risk system. Individual events should have their own risk assessments in place to mitigate any health and safety issues. Whenever a request for grant funding for equipment is received, the recipient of the funding will be advised to obtain insurance for the item to avoid a repeat request for funding in the event of the equipment being stolen or damaged. There are no pertinent risk implications for the Authority associated with any items within this report.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 Community Grant funds are awarded to community groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 The activities of the Community & Partnership team are covered by existing budgets.

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 Terms of Reference for Area Forums, see section 9 Constitution page: <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/council-constitution>.

16.2 [Community Grants Policy, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023](#)

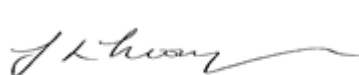
**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 See website links above.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

9.2.24

Signature of Service Director Consulted .....



Date: 30.1.24

Signature of the Deputy Leader of the Council



Decision Taker

**Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.  
all-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted <i>[if applicable]</i>	
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**SERVICE DIRECTORATE:** PLACE

### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

- 1.1 To approve to hold Wellness Walking Festival events on agreed dates using Butts Close, Hitchin (23rd March 2024), Howard Park & Gardens, Letchworth (16<sup>th</sup> March 2024) and Weston Hills, Baldock (12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024) from 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.

### **2. DECISION TAKER**

- 2.1. Andrew Mills, Service Manager Greenspace

### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

- 3.1 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 To support the organisers to provide an annual event for the whole community.

### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The organisers have approached North Herts Council to host this event. No other locations have currently been considered for this event.

### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

- 6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with colleagues in the Safety Advisory Group.

### **7. FORWARD PLAN**

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

### **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The organisers have approached NHC for approval to use this location for their event.

### **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The authority has an obligation to ensure that the public open spaces it maintains are at a standard that are safe for everyone to use. Additionally, the authority has an obligation to ensure that any environmentally sensitive environment is not damaged due to actions or intentions of others.

### **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no financial risks as this opportunity is generating income.

**11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no risk implications. However, risk assessments have been considered to endeavour that this is a safe event.

**12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 Central Government and national groups have expressed the continued importance of public Green Space in the health and well-being of communities. From April 2013 local authorities at county level are required to take on the statutory duty to improve the health of their communities as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and with it, to acquire many of the public health services currently the responsibility of the NHS. The use of open spaces, parks, playgrounds and relevant leisure facilities are promoted in terms of reducing the impact of obesity on long term health, the importance in the management of wellbeing and in aiding relaxation, as well as sensory' enjoyment.

**13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 The event is open to everyone.

**14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this event.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 This item of work is contained within the Place Directorate existing work programs.

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 None

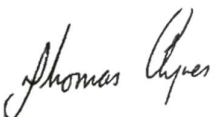
**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 None

**NOTIFICATION DATE - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

**Signature of Executive Member Consulted .....Not Applicable.....**

**Date .....2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

Signature of Decision Taker .....  .....

**Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.**

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,  
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF  
on Tuesday, 6th February, 2024 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

### 2 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (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 both a Climate Emergency and an Ecological Emergency. These are serious decisions and meant that, as they were emergencies, 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 advised for the purposes of clarification that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.

### 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

### 5 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

The Chair advised that items 5A, 5B and 5D, referred from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, would be taken with their respective items on the agenda. Item 5C would be considered as a standalone item.

- 5C) Finance, Audit and Risk Committee – Second Quarter Investment Strategy (Capital and Treasury) Review 2023/24

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:** That Council:

- (1) Approve the adoption of the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix A), including the capital programme and prudential indicators. This incorporates the changes referenced in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3.
- (2) Approve the adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.10 to 8.16).

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (1) To ensure that the capital programme meets the Council's objectives and officers can plan the implementation of the approved schemes.
- (2) To ensure the Council's compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management, the Local Government Act 2003, statutory guidance from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the CIPFA Prudential Code. As well as determining and managing the Councils risk appetite in respect of investments.

**6 UPDATE TO COMMON HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME**

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the updated Common Housing Allocation Scheme.
- (2) Delegated to the Director of Housing and Environmental Health in conjunction with the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, the power to make minor amendments to the Common Housing Allocation Scheme from time to time and to agree the date for its commencement.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To update the Common Housing Allocation Scheme (CHAS), to ensure that scarce affordable housing in the district continues to be prioritised for households in the greatest need. Also to ensure that the CHAS remains up-to-date following changes in the policy environment and working practices.

**7 EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY**

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

- (1) Adopted the Empty Homes Strategy 2024-29.
- (2) Noted that although there is no legal requirement for the Council to have an Empty Homes Strategy, there have been several significant Government-focussed documents and papers highlighting their importance, including a House of Commons Briefing Paper stating that each local authority should have such a strategy to help reduce the number of long-term empty homes in their districts.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) The recommendation and considerations are being made to allow the Council to formerly adopt the 5-year Empty Homes Strategy 2024-29 to allow the Environmental Health service to work directly or with others to identify and deliver the most appropriate intervention programme to allow the Council to aim to bring as many long-term empty homes back into occupation as practicable.
- (2) The strategy allows the Council to state its intention to consider every aspect linked to the housing sector to bring into use as many opportunities as it can to meet the district's housing needs, without having to rely solely on new build. Whilst the number of long-term empty homes is small, and the number likely to be brought back into occupation will be smaller still, this strategy does address this sector which would otherwise be omitted from the overall resource potentially available to form our housing stock.
- (3) By adopting the strategy and allowing for the development of a culture of greater awareness of vacant homes, allows for homes which become vacant to be highlighted sooner, and so they can be monitored and their owners challenged at an earlier point, thus also contributing to hopefully having more homes available for the residents of the district.



## 8 NORTH HERTS DIGITAL STRATEGY

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

- (1) Adopted the Digital Strategy (Appendix A).
- (2) Agreed to delegate any minor changes (to include reference to Council priorities) in relation to the Digital Strategy to the Service Director – Customers in consultation with the Executive Member for the Finance and IT.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To ensure the Council has an approved digital strategy.

## 9 COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS FOR EMPTY AND SECOND HOMES

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:** The following changes to the Council Tax premiums on empty and second homes:

- (1) That from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2025 the following interim premiums are introduced:
  - Properties empty for one year but less than two will not receive a Premium
  - Properties empty for more than two years, but less than five years will receive a 100% Premium.
  - Properties empty for five years but less than ten years a 150% Premium.
  - Properties empty for more than ten years a 200% Premium.
- (2) That from 1 April 2025 the Council adopts the following full Premium levy rates:
  - Properties empty for one year but less than five will receive a 100% Premium.
  - Properties empty for five years but less than ten years a 200% Premium.
  - Properties empty for more than ten years a 300% Premium.
- (3) That from 1 April 2025 a 100% Premium is levied on all properties that are determined as a second home, subject to any exceptions once these have been confirmed by Regulations and that the Service Director – Customers in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT is delegated authority to make any amendments following further confirmation of the Regulations.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (1) To support the principle of bringing unoccupied properties back into occupation in line with the proposed empty homes strategy. At the time of writing there are 43 properties that have been unoccupied for over five years.
- (2) The introduction of a phased approach of increasing the premiums enables us to advertise the changes. As the introduction of premiums for properties unoccupied for between one and two years is new there will be no expectation on the owners of these properties of an additional premium and therefore it is recommended that this aspect is deferred until 2025 to allow time to advertise the change.
- (3) In respect of a premium on Second Homes the Council is required to give one year's notice as this is the Council's first determination in this regard and therefore a resolution must be made before the end of the 2023/24 financial year in order to bring in the premium from 01 April 2025.
- (4) The Council does have the ability to revoke the decision in relation to Second Homes premium, during the year should any consultation that is carried out provide evidence that this would not be effective.

10 REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet approved the decrease in the 2023/24 working budget of £301k, as detailed in table 7.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

- (1) To note the position on the Collection Fund and how it will be funded.
- (2) To note the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £2.48 million is recommended.
- (3) To note the net revenue savings that are likely to be required in future years, combined with the Chief Finance Officer's section 25 report (Appendix D) which provides a commentary on the risks and reliability of estimates contained in the budget.
- (4) To approve the revenue savings and investments as detailed in Appendix B.
- (5) To approve a net expenditure budget of £20.365m, as detailed in Appendix C.
- (6) To approve a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, which is in line with the provisions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:** To ensure that all relevant factors are considered in arriving at a budget and Council Tax level for 2024/25. To ensure that the budget is aligned to Council priorities for 2024/25 as set out in the Council Plan.

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Wednesday, 31st January, 2024 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Tyler.

### 2 MINUTES - 13 DECEMBER 2023

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 December 2023 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded.
- (2) 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.
- (3) The Chair advised that section 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution applied to this meeting.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

### 6 SIAS PROGRESS REPORT 2023-24

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee:

- (1) Noted the SIAS Progress Report for the period to 12 January 2024.
- (2) Noted the implementation status of the reported high priority recommendations.
- (3) Noted the plan amendments to the 2023/24 Annual Audit Plan.

### 7 INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY)

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided comments on and recommended the Investment Strategy (Integrated Capital and Treasury) to Cabinet.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:**

That Cabinet recommends to Council that they:

- (1) Approve the adoption of the Investment Strategy (as attached at Appendix A), including the capital programme and prudential indicators. This incorporates the changes referenced in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3.

- (2) That Council approve the adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.10 to 8.16).

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (1) To ensure that the capital programme meets the Council's objectives and officers can plan the implementation of the approved schemes.
- (2) To ensure the Council's compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management, the Local Government Act 2003, statutory guidance from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the CIPFA Prudential Code. As well as determining and managing the Councils risk appetite in respect of investments.

**8 REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25**

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided comments on and recommended the Revenue Budget 2024/25 to Cabinet.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:**

- (1) That Cabinet approves the decrease in the 2023/24 working budget of £301k, as detailed in table 7.

That Cabinet recommends to Council that it:

- (2) Notes the position on the Collection Fund and how it will be funded.
- (3) Notes the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £2.48 million is recommended.
- (4) Notes the net revenue savings that are likely to be required in future years, combined with the Chief Finance Officer's section 25 report (Appendix D) which provides a commentary on the risks and reliability of estimates contained in the budget.
- (5) Approves the revenue savings and investments as detailed in Appendix B.
- (6) Approves a net expenditure budget of £20.265m, as detailed in Appendix C.
- (7) Approves a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, which is in line with the provisions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:** To ensure that all relevant factors are considered in arriving at a budget and Council Tax level for 2024/25. To ensure that the budget is aligned to Council priorities for 2024/25 as set out in the Council Plan.

**9 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Chair led a discussion regarding possible agenda items for future meetings and it was suggested that the Committee could receive updates on whether new contracts had any impact on future budgets. This was agreed with the Committee.

**EAST TEAM**

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
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**Bygrave Parish Council**

24/00151/FP	Peter George Town Planning Mr Tom Donovan Nine Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1GE	Downs Barns Ashwell Road Bygrave Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5EE  Mr J Northern  Erection of four link-detached 3-bedroom dwellings with garaging following the demolition of the existing commercial storage buildings.
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**Hinxworth Parish Council**

24/00219/TCA	Mr Dominic Walker The Blue Tree Company 50 Bunyan Road, Hitchin, SG5 1NN	6 Christys Yard Hinxworth Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5EH  Mr Mark Gammon  T1, T2 Beech - Reduce by 1 -1.5m to viable growth shape and balancing.
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**Letchworth Garden City**

24/00209/TCA	Aisling McCarthy 62 Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG61PY, United Kingdom	62 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PY  Aisling McCarthy  2x Leylandii Conifer - Remove
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**Royston Town Council**

24/00095/FPH	Mrs Brigid Ann Smith 5 Old North Road, Royston, SG8 5DS, United Kingdom	68 Browning Close Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7EY  Mrs Brigid Ann Smith  Single storey rear extension.
24/00140/FP	Mr Nigel Reader Old Maltings Cottage , 3A Green Drift, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5DB	Old Maltings Cottage 3A Green Drift Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5DB  Mr Nigel Reader  Change of use of part of ground floor commercial space to one 2-bed residential flat.

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLANNING CONTROL  
COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON ROAD, LETCHWORTH, HERTS SG6 3JF**

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 09/02/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 29/02/2024**

24/00201/FPH ArchiTech Ltd. Mr Richard Chambers  
72 Lytton Avenue, Letchworth, SG6 3HY, United Kingdom  
12 Newmarket Road  
Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 7DY

Mr and Mrs Kay

Two storey side extension and part two-storey part single storey rear extension following demolition of existing single storey side element. Raise roof height and replace existing roof covering, insertion of front and rear dormer windows and front and rear rooflights to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation. Front open-sided entrance porch, alterations to existing fenestration arrangement including insertion of first floor side window and external rendering (as a resubmission of planning application reference 23/02391/FPH granted on 05.12.2023).

**Sandon Parish Council**

24/00195/LDCP Cannon Consulting Mrs Fiona Cannon  
Hyde Hall Farm, Sandon, Buntingford, SG9 0RU, United Kingdom  
Hyde Hall Farm  
Sandon Lane  
Sandon  
Buntingford  
Hertfordshire  
SG9 0RU

Mr Ben Cannon

Installation of solar panels to existing roof.

**Therfield Parish Council**

24/00176/FPH Bassett Architects Ms Ann Bassett  
The Studio, 1 Corbett Street, Cottenham, Cambridge, CB24 8QX, United Kingdom  
The Homestead  
Rooks Nest Lane  
Therfield  
Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 9RA

Mrs and Mr A and D Hedderwick

Single storey extension to link garage to main dwelling, single storey infill extension to rear, erection of entrance porch, replacement of existing cladding and roof coverings, insertion of rooflights to front and rear roofslope, and alterations to fenestration and associated works to facilitate conversion of garage into habitable accommodation, installation of PV panels to roofslope of existing garage and formation of raised rear patio. Installation of oil tank and new entrance gates with extended gravel driveway and landscaping.

**WEST TEAM**

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
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24/00150/ADJ	Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE	Land Off London Road Woolmer Green Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6JZ
		Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
		Outline planning application for the erection of up to 150 residential dwellings with the provision of affordable housing, public open space, landscaping, sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point. All matters reserved except for means of access NORTH HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL: ADJACENT AUTHORITY : CONSULTEE ONLY

**Hitchin**

24/00132/FPH	JJ Design Studio Ltd. Mrs Jana Ralbovska 272 London road, Wallington, Wallington, SM6 7DJ, United Kingdom	45 Grove Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1SG
		Mr. Alexander Elster
		Single storey rear extension. Raising of roof ridge, second floor rear extension, insertion of box dormer with Juliet balcony to existing rear roof slope, and two front rooflights to facilitate loft conversion into habitable accommodation, alterations to fenestration and raise party wall on both sides to match existing ridge height following removal of rear chimney

24/00145/FPH	Burton & Associates Ltd. Mr Richard Burton 65 Shefford Road, Clifton, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5RQ, United Kingdom	120 Halsey Drive Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PZ
		Mr Darshpreet Sabharwal
		Front porch extension

**Kimpton Parish Council**

24/00169/FPH	Drawing Office Associates Ltd Mr Stephen Harrison 1 Edison Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8TE	Little Barn Garden Court Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8QQ
		Mrs M Gibson
		Single storey side extension. Alterations to roof and insertion of side dormer window to facilitate loft conversion into habitable accommodation

24/00215/TPO	Andrew Brown 37 Beech Way, Blackmore End, St Albans, AL4 8LY, United Kingdom	37 Beech Way Blackmore End St Albans Hertfordshire AL4 8LY
		Andrew Brown
		2x Lime - Pollard

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLANNING CONTROL  
COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON ROAD, LETCHWORTH, HERTS SG6 3JF**

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 09/02/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 29/02/2024**

24/00220/TPO Mrs Rachael Peacey 36 Beech Way  
36 Beech Way, Blackmore End, Blackmore End  
Hertfordshire, AL4 8LY, United St Albans  
Kingdom Hertfordshire  
AL4 8LY

Mrs Rachael Peacey

Lime - Pollard

**Knebworth Parish Council**

23/02946/OP DLA Town Planning Ltd DLA Town 66 Park Lane  
Planning Ltd Knebworth  
5 The Gavel Centre Porters Wood, Hertfordshire  
St Albans, AL3 6PQ, United SG3 6PW  
Kingdom

\*

Outline planning application for the erection of up to 9 dwellings (all matters reserved except means of access).

**Offley Parish Council**

24/00129/FP AMR Consult Ltd Mr Tony Smith Land To Rear Of Putteridge High School And Community College  
4 Sudrey Street, London, SE1 1PF, Putteridge Road  
United Kingdom Offley  
Hertfordshire

Steven Tingey

Installation of one pair of 10m high rugby posts

**St Pauls Walden Parish Council**

24/00186/FP HOME EXTENSION DESIGNS LTD 5 Bullocks Hill  
Mr Stuart Cook St Pauls Walden  
HED House, 60A Bridge Road East, Hitchin  
Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1JU, Hertfordshire  
United Kingdom SG4 8DG

Mr M Gourd

Single storey side extension including first floor side terrace with glazing and alterations to fenestration



(Including Withdrawn decisions)

**EAST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 23/00812/S73	<b>Location:</b> Land West Of Avenue One Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2WW <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Simon Woods Wheatley Group Developments Ltd <b>Description:</b> Variation to Condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 20/00441/FP granted on 05.08.2020 for erection of headquarters building for Wheatley Group Developments Ltd including workshop, storage facilities, associated car parking and landscaping.	<b>Decision:</b> Withdrawn <b>Decision Date:</b> 01/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02153/FP	<b>Location:</b> 73 Spring Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3SL <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Rav Singh <b>Description:</b> Conversion of existing single dwelling into two 3-bed dwellings including associated parking and alterations to fenestration.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02393/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 61 Gaunts Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4PL <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Aaron Albon <b>Description:</b> Single storey front extension following demolition of existing porch.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02634/LBC	<b>Location:</b> St Christopher House 126 Ridge Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PT <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Joseph Amos SOMA systems <b>Description:</b> To install 56 solar pv panels on existing tile roof, inverter located next to incoming supply with within electrical cupboard.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 07/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02687/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 4 Hillpath Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1RL <b>Applicant Name:</b> Miss Jennifer Cutts <b>Description:</b> Erection of detached log cabin for leisure use following demolition of garage/workshop.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02735/FP	<b>Location:</b> La Concha Letchworth Railway Station Station Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3AN <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Neil Burton Chez Burton <b>Description:</b> External alterations to include replacement awnings to front, replacement front and rear doors. Retention of fencing (as amended by plan received 30th January 2024).	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02736/LBC	<b>Location:</b> La Concha Letchworth Railway Station Station Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3AN <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Neil Burton Chez Burton <b>Description:</b> External alterations to include replacement awnings to front and replacement front and rear doors and erection of copper backlit sign to front and associated external lighting. Internal alterations to include an applied resin floor covering at ground floor level, formation of new internal opening and the erection of a stud wall at (retrospective) and other minor internal alterations. Retention of replacement boundary fencing and patio with associated raised brick planter to rear (as amended by plan received 30th January 2024).	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024

**EAST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 23/02800/S73	<b>Location:</b> 20 Bidwell Close Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1QR <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Ranjit Sunal <b>Description:</b> Variation to Condition 2: (Outbuilding roof ridge height and insertion of window to rear elevation as shown on plans T20E01-T3 and T20P00-T3) of planning permission 22/01190/FPH granted on 16.08.2022 for Erection of front entrance porch including WC following demolition of existing porch. Erection of detached games room outbuilding (as amended by plans received 20 June 2022).	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02847/FP	<b>Location:</b> Reed Cricket Club Blacksmiths Lane Reed Hertfordshire SG8 8AX <b>Applicant Name:</b> Reed Cricket Club <b>Description:</b> Erection of enclosed outdoor cricket nets and associated resurfacing following demolition of existing outdoor cricket nets.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02885/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 3 Shire End Close Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5FD <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr M Hacking <b>Description:</b> Insertion of velux rooflights to front roofslope, rear dormer windows and velux rooflight to rear roofslope and replace existing timber cladding with composite cladding (as amended by plans received on 01/02/2024).	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00017/LDCE	<b>Location:</b> 56 Melbourn Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7DF <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Malcolm Haynes <b>Description:</b> Use of building as a single dwelling house (Use Class C3).	<b>Decision:</b> Granted Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00039/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 69 Ridge Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1QF <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Tony Greenwood FGCH Ltd <b>Description:</b> T1 - 2 x Conifers - Fell to ground level	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 02/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00056/SU	<b>Location:</b> Burloes Hall Newmarket Road Royston Hertfordshire <b>Applicant Name:</b> Ali Waugh UK Power Network <b>Description:</b> Installation of underground cable following removal of 12 spans of 132kV overhead electricity line. Installation of two terminal poles at either end of the underground cable route.	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00104/TPO	<b>Location:</b> 21 King James Way Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7EF <b>Applicant Name:</b> Greatrex <b>Description:</b> T1 Yew - Fell to ground level.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00108/TPO	<b>Location:</b> Land South Of 19-21 King James Way Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7EF <b>Applicant Name:</b> Greatrex <b>Description:</b> T2 Yew - 1m reduction	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00110/EC	<b>Location:</b> Land In Front Of 16-18 Field Lane Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3LE <b>Applicant Name:</b> Openreach Neelima Moulakhi <b>Description:</b> Installation of fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus under Regulation 5, detailed as 1X 10M LIGHT Wooden Pole	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00111/TCA	<b>Location:</b> Queenbury Driftway Reed Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8AJ <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Roger Sedgwick Rough <b>Description:</b> G.1 3x Horse Chestnut - Crown reduce by 2.5m back to previous points. T1 Willow - Fell to fence height. T2 & T3 Ash - Fell (amended 30/01/2024).	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 07/02/2024

## EAST TEAM

**Application No:** 24/00124/EC  
**Location:** Land In Front Of 144A Wilbury Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4GJ  
**Applicant Name:** Openreach Vijay Chandramohan  
**Description:** Installation of fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus under Regulation 5, detailed as 1X 10M Medium Wooden Pole  
**Decision:** No Objection  
**Decision Date:** 06/02/2024

**Application No:** 24/00125/EC  
**Location:** Land In Front Of 170 Wilbury Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4JA  
**Applicant Name:** Openreach Vijay Chandramohan  
**Description:** Installation of fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus under Regulation 5, detailed as 1X 10M LIGHT Wooden Pole  
**Decision:** No Objection  
**Decision Date:** 06/02/2024

**Application No:** 24/00139/TCA  
**Location:** Allotment Gardens Lytton Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HY  
**Applicant Name:** Paul McKenna Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foun  
**Description:** G1 - 8 x semi-mature Ash - Remove Ivy from bases and main stems, remove dead wood from crowns, reduce heavy limbs and cut back overhanging branches by up to 2m. Walnut - Remove large broken branch  
**Decision:** No Objection  
**Decision Date:** 07/02/2024

## WEST TEAM

**Application No:** 23/01351/FP  
**Location:** Barn At Langley End And To The West Of Bathgate House Hill End Farm Lane Langley Hertfordshire  
**Applicant Name:** Mr Oliver Creasey  
**Description:** Change of Use of existing agricultural outbuilding to one 3-bed dwelling  
**Decision:** Refused  
**Decision Date:** 02/02/2024

**Application No:** 23/01886/FPH  
**Location:** Harvest Farm Pirton Road Holwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3SS  
**Applicant Name:** Mr Laird  
**Description:** Single storey detached double car port.  
**Appeal Decision:** Appeal Dismissed  
**Decision Date:** 06/02/2024

**Application No:** 23/02149/FPH  
**Location:** 35 Brampton Park Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1XF  
**Applicant Name:** Mr and Mrs Sawyer  
**Description:** Raise existing roof ridge height to create accommodation at first floor level to include side balcony. Insertion of front and rear rooflights and rear solar panels, ground floor extensions and alterations. Erection of boundary wall (as amended by plan received 06/11/23)  
**Decision:** Refused  
**Decision Date:** 06/02/2024

**Application No:** 23/02309/FP  
**Location:** Churchfields House Hitchin Road Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8TH  
**Applicant Name:** Mr Hawkins Hawksure Holdings Ltd  
**Description:** Erection of two detached 4-bed dwellings and two detached double garages including parking, landscaping following demolition of existing dwelling  
**Decision:** Conditional Permission  
**Decision Date:** 05/02/2024

**Application No:** 23/02585/FPH  
**Location:** 4 Arch Road Great Wymondley Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7EP  
**Applicant Name:** Mr And Mrs S Doughty  
**Description:** Part two storey and part single storey side extension, replacement flat roof over existing rear extension and front porch canopy. Alterations to fenestration  
**Decision:** Refused  
**Decision Date:** 01/02/2024

**Application No:** 23/02638/FP  
**Location:** Bibbsworth Hall Farm Bibbs Hall Lane Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8EN  
**Applicant Name:** Knights Bespoke Build Limited  
**Description:** Internal and external alteration including rear inset balconies at first floor level, replacement fenestration and external materials to facilitate conversion of existing agricultural outbuilding to two 4-bed dwellings including parking and landscaping (amended by plan received 29/01/24)  
**Decision:** Conditional Permission  
**Decision Date:** 01/02/2024

**WEST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 23/02672/DOC	<b>Location:</b> Former The Foundry Stevenage Road St Ippolyts Hertfordshire SG4 7NU <b>Applicant Name:</b> Jarvis Homes Ltd <b>Description:</b> Details reserved by condition 26 (proposed fencing) of planning permission reference no. 22/00754/FP granted 05.09.2023)	<b>Decision:</b> Approval of Details <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02734/FPH	<b>Location:</b> The Lodge Shillington Road Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3HB <b>Applicant Name:</b> Peters <b>Description:</b> Two storey rear extension including first floor side balcony platform, dormer windows and rooflights. External cladding	<b>Decision:</b> Withdrawn <b>Decision Date:</b> 07/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02805/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 22 Walnut Way Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3XT <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs A Harasimowicz <b>Description:</b> Two storey side extension and single storey front extension following demolition of existing garage. External rendering	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 01/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02872/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 32 Benslow Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RE <b>Applicant Name:</b> Kishan Mandalia <b>Description:</b> Insertion of rear dormer window and two front rooflights to facilitate loft conversion.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 06/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02890/TD	<b>Location:</b> Land Adjacent To Anglian Water Sewage Works Mill Lane Hexton Hertfordshire SG5 3HX <b>Applicant Name:</b> Icon Tower Infrastructure Limited Icon Tower Infrastrctu <b>Description:</b> Installation 30m pole and base station which includes 6no.antennas, 2no.dishes, 7no.cabinets following removal of existing 25m pole and associated compound, and ancillary development thereto	<b>Decision:</b> Prior Approval Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 01/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02897/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 38 Highover Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0RF <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Amit Singhal <b>Description:</b> Single storey front extension, and demolition of existing rear element. Alterations to fenestration	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 01/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02905/LDCP	<b>Location:</b> 5 Chequers Cottages Chequers Lane Preston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7TY <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr And Mrs P Brignell <b>Description:</b> Installation of hardstanding and vehicular crossover	<b>Decision:</b> Granted Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 02/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 23/02907/SU	<b>Location:</b> Network Rail Yard Nightingale Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1RZ <b>Applicant Name:</b> Network Rail Property (Eastern) Tony Rivero <b>Description:</b> Erection of Welfare Building following demolition of existing temporary portacabin	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 01/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00002/TCA	<b>Location:</b> Springfields Bury End Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3QB <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Susan Hack <b>Description:</b> T1 Birch - Reduce by 25%. T2 Sycamore - Reduce by 25%	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00093/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 2 St Elmo Court London Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9ET <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Ben Barnard <b>Description:</b> Conifer - Removal	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 05/02/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00109/EC	<b>Location:</b> Telecommunications Mast Wandon End Farm Wandon End Road Wandon End Hertfordshire <b>Applicant Name:</b> Waldon Telecom Natalia Satterthwaite <b>Description:</b> Installation of 3no. antennas on existing support poles following removal of existing 3no. antennas, internal cabinet equipment upgraded, and ancillary development thereto.	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 01/02/2024

**WEST TEAM**

**Application No:**  
24/00127/TCA

**Location:** The Old Rectory Old Knebworth Lane Knebworth Hertfordshire  
SG3 6PT

**Applicant Name:** Mr Kenneth Follett

**Description:** T1 Pine - Remove

**Decision:**

No Objection

**Decision Date:**

05/02/2024

# PRESS RELEASE

**PR 3830**

**8 February 2024**

## **Holy carp! Check out local angling legend's exhibition in Hitchin**

Are you 'hooked' on fishing, perhaps you think it's 'fin-tastic'? Then 'cast' your eyes on the Richard 'Dick' Walker exhibition at North Herts Museum and get 'schooled' on the father of modern freshwater fishing from **13 February to 7 April**, you'll 'reel-ly' love it!

Richard Walker (1918-1985) was born and raised in Hitchin and made an immense contribution to angling, a specific type of fishing using a fishhook and rod. "The most influential angler" has a blue plaque on the house he was born in, now 32 Fishponds Road, and he refined his craft at Bearton Pond, after getting into fishing with his grandfather from the age of four.

Throughout his life, Walker pioneered many new approaches and invented new technologies to allow people to catch larger fish, and inspired many young people to take up and continue their angling journey. This exhibition brings together material loaned from Richard's family and other kind contributors including photos, many of his books, and magazine articles, either written about him or by him.

Cllr Keith Hoskins, Executive Member for Enterprise & Arts, said: "For anyone in the fishing world, Dick Walker is well known and somewhat of a local legend. This is a great exhibition, and thanks to his family, gives a great insight into his life and contribution to angling among other things."

Avid fisherman Chris Tarrant met him once as a little boy, and recently said: "In those few treasured moments he was a mine of information... as important today as when the great man told me more than 60 years ago. The man completely changed the face of freshwater fishing; particularly for really big, hitherto uncatchable fish, like carp. Carp fishing is now a huge multi-million-pound industry in the UK and many parts of the world, but without Dick Walker's pioneering work, it would almost certainly never have happened."

The Canal and River Trust said: “He was arguably the most influential angler, not just of the past 100 years, but of all time. He brought a scientific approach to the sport that is taken for granted now, yet in the 1950s and 1960s his approach revolutionised fishing.”

North Herts Museum is located on Brand Street, Hitchin, open Tue-Sat 10.30am-4.30pm and Sun 11am-3pm, and admission is free.

For more information check out @northhertsmuseum on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), @nhertsmuseum on [Twitter](#), visit the [North Herts Museum](#) website or call 01462 474554.

**ENDS**

For more information please contact [Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk) / 01462 474403.