

## NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

# MEMBERS' INFORMATION

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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 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

Cabinet Panel on the Environment – 9 October 2024  
Joint Staff Consultative Committee – 9 October 2024  
Planning Control Committee – 10 October 2024

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WEEK COMMENCING 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Licensing Sub-Committee – 3 October 2024

### UPCOMING CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Date	Event	Location
Sunday 29 September, 3pm	Stevenage Mayor's Garden Party	Stevenage District Scouts HQ, Stevenage

### UPCOMING VICE-CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Date	Event	Location
Sunday 29 September, 3pm	Battle of Britain Remembrance Service	Central Methodist Church, Letchworth

### UPCOMING OTHER EVENTS FROM FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024

Date	Event	Location
	None	



**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**MEMBERS**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**Litter bin review/rationalisation.**

As agreed by Cabinet / Exec in November 2023, the waste team have been auditing all of our street litter bin assets to look to reduce these by the agreed 30% by May 2025. The audits measured each bins suitability against a set criteria; based broadly on location, requirements of the area, quantity of bins already located in the vicinity and those that can be removed without any negative impact on the surrounding area.

This review and its outcomes were presented to members of both East & North Herts Council on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. The presentation explained the rationale and guidance used to support the project. This enabled us to provide members the information they needed to understand that this project is vital to keeping services efficient and that our resources are deployed where they are needed.

All parishes will be contacted in the coming weeks to advise them of the project and to offer them the opportunity to contact us, if they have any specific concerns over a particular litter bin in their Parish (this can then be discussed with them at a local level)

To advise, this does not affect current dog waste bins, greenspace or park bins (as these are managed under a separate contract)

**Drop-in sessions - reminder**

As a reminder Chloe Hipwood is hosting drop-in sessions once a month to discuss all things contract related include the changes planned for August 2025. The next session is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Meeting ID: 335 050 619 999

Passcode: DV7CSe

For more information contact:

Louise Overington

Shared Services Support and Delivery Manager

[Louise.Overington@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.Overington@north-herts.gov.uk)



**North  
Herts**  
Council

**RIPA QUARTERLY UPDATE  
3rd QUARTER 2024  
(LEGAL & COMMUNITY)**

# **MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE**

## **RIPA Quarterly Update**

Members may recall that it was considered that quarterly reports should be made to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, even though RIPA is not currently being used, as this provided a useful mechanism to ensure that the issue of RIPA remained in the consciousness of Members (and Officers).

Due to the continued non-use of RIPA, it was felt by some members that this method of reporting was not the best use of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's time, and following advice from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, the Council shall now be reporting on the issue of RIPA via quarterly inclusion in MIS.

There have been no further RIPA authorisations since the last MIS note in June 2024. There are currently no ongoing RIPA authorisations.

It is important that the Council continues to operate in accordance with RIPA to ensure that it can effectively manage its reputational risk whilst also exercising its legitimate evidence gathering powers in connection with enforcement activity.

For more information please contact:

Jeanette Thompson  
Service Director – Legal and Community  
Monitoring Officer

Tel: 01462 474370

Email: [Jeanette.thompson@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Jeanette.thompson@north-herts.gov.uk)

# Estates & Asset Management Briefing Note

## Autumn 2024

Several projects reached successful conclusion or progressed significantly during the last 3 months.

These include:

### **(1) Temporary Banking Hub – Royston Town Hall Annex:**

North Herts Council have worked with Royston Town Council to enable a letting to Cash Access UK for a temporary banking hub, located in the annexe at the back of the Town Hall. The hub has just opened and provides an important banking service for local residents and businesses and a short term additional commercial rental income for the Council.

The hub will be open five days a week until a permanent banking hub is opened.

### **(2) Disposal of Surplus Sites:**

Land at The Snipe, Weston – We are pleased to report the sale contract has now been signed by all parties and will be exchanged imminently. This is a joint sale with the adjoining owner to Croudace Homes Limited, subject to planning, and should deliver a substantial capital receipt for the Council in due course.

### **(3) Riverside Walk, Hitchin:**

As previously reported, the transfer of the walkway that runs between the river Hiz and Jill Grey Place to North Herts Council completed in accordance with the terms of the planning permission for the development at Jill Grey Place.

Estates are now progressing plans to create a pedestrian route between Bridge Street and Biggin Lane for the benefit of the general public. A consulting engineers survey was carried recently to progress the design and costings.

### **(4) Churchgate Shopping Centre:**

A number of new lettings and renewals have completed recently, including units 7, 17, 18a and 36. It is hoped units 4 and 40 will complete soon.

Short term lettings are also coming forward to occupy some vacant units pending marketing and longer-term tenants being secured. This includes Unit 17 to Hitchin Art Club through to the end of December and the unit is under offer for a permanent letting from January 2025.

Compliance testing extensively completed throughout and essential remedial works carried out and constantly monitored.

Planned improvements to lighting, canopies, walkways and entrance signage continue to seek to attract and retain existing tenants, pending the longer term regeneration project. The Council is occupying 16/17 Market Place a temporary hub for public consultation during September and October on the proposed regeneration. As part of this the current tenants and being consulted with.

Work is underway to re-tender the management contract for the centre from February 2025.

### **(5) District Council Offices**

Brown & Lee continue to market the third-floor offices, and this will include the option to split the space into two separate lettings.

A lease renewal of the second-floor offices to Smiths Metal Centres Ltd is due to complete shortly.

### **(6) Harkness Court, Hitchin**

The lease from North Herts to Broadwater Hundred Limited was completed recently and most of the flats are now let.

### **(7) Museum Storage Solution**

Officers from Estates continue to work closely with colleagues in the Culture and Facilities Service to explore a number of potential

# Estates & Asset Management Briefing Note

## Autumn 2024

options for solving or improving the museum collection storage pressures. Options are being finalised and a report is planned for Cabinet in November.

The Estates & Asset Management department will look to build on these positive outcomes during the second half of the 2024/25 financial year.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Philip Doggett, Principal Estates Surveyor, on 01462 474141 or e-mail: [Philip.doggett@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.doggett@north-herts.gov.uk)

# North Herts Museum & Hitchin Town Hall Briefing Note

## Autumn 2024

### Park Kiosks

The kiosks have continued to perform in line with expectations and have seen increased sales in periods of warm weather. The kiosks have now closed down for the season in line with the splash parks and officers will begin a full analysis with a view to make a more informed recommendation regarding opening hours for the 2025 season.

### Hitchin Town Hall

HTH saw a quiet August for external bookings, however the new projector installation continued to be put to good use at Tuesday Kids film clubs. The venues programme of internal events for Q2 and Q3 has continued to see strong tickets sales with the 80s/90's and Indie nights performing well in advance of sales cut off.

Christmas party bookings are looking strong with two dates sold out as of 24/09/2024. This year, officers have added in additional dates and are confident that these will also see strong ticket sales. The early bird ticket offer is due to expire 1st October after which full price tickets will go onto general sale. Fitness classes are performing well against profile despite the summer holidays and the venue has recently launched a new Yoga class which is starting to build a good base of attendees. Initial testing of the booking system has been positive and Digital officers are now ready to merge and integrate with a new finance system. The project is on track to be completed in October. Officers are currently exploring a second and third stage of this project which would include an online ticketing portal and a casual staff rostering system which will be further explored later in the year.

### North Herts Museum

The summer exhibition, *Hitchin's Toy Story*, was popular with children and adults. Because of the designers' commercial secrecy, no-one realised that these million-selling toys were designed in Hitchin, and local visitors told staff how proud it made them. The next exhibition *The Snowman*, shows images from the famous book and film. Starting on 5 October, it runs until early January. Hitchin Bid is kindly lending their large Hitchin Snowman, from last year's *Snowman Trail*, to stand outside the museum during the exhibition. The museum is also liaising with the Hitchin Band over joint publicity, as the band is performing *The Snowman* in December.

The Mary Beard talk in July was a sell-out, and the museum hopes that this will be the first of a regular annual guest lecture in the Mountford Hall. Staff continue their popular series of walks and talks, with both lunchtime and evening talks, toddlers' Saturday mornings, and evening lino print workshops. A new venture is to engage outside speakers, such as a WW2 evacuee talking about her experiences, and an opera singer demystifying the world of opera. At October half-term there will be a family drumming workshop, run by a Herts Music Service tutor.

The museum was successful in a £75K grant application to the Esmée Fairbairn Fund. This will enable employment of a part-time project officer for two years, to research the museum's colonial and other world collections, at the same time as developing a relationship with local communities who would like to engage with the process. A Museum Education Apprentice has joined the team, and will be with the museum for 18 months, helping with the Loan Collection as well as school visits.

If you have any queries regarding the above or any other issues relating to North Herts Museum & Hitchin Town Hall please do not hesitate to contact Robert Orchard, Culture & Facilities Service Manager, on 01462 474287 or email: [robert.orchard@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:robert.orchard@north-herts.gov.uk)

## Community & Partnerships Executive Member briefing – Sept 2024

### Democratic Services

#### Committee Services

- Have started to contact schools, MPs and Councillors regarding their attendance at Youth Democracy Day in November. Have had some responses from schools expressing interest in attending and Members are starting to sign up to sessions.
- Have started preparing for Remembrance Day events in November.
- A North Herts Scrutiny Charter was adopted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in September and this will now inform the intranet pages being developed and provide guidance to Members and Officers on their roles within the Scrutiny function.
- Recruiting to our vacant Democratic Services Apprentice position, with interviews taking place on Friday 20 and Monday 23 September.
- A career graded Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer (or trainee) has been agreed and is now being advertised. Applications close on Tuesday 8 October and interviews will take place on Thursday 24 October.
- Working with Procurement team to review our Committee Management system, which is due for renewal on 1 April 2025.
- Will be looking to roll out the ModGov Report Management system to key Officers for testing, before wider rollout of the system for all Committee report submissions.

#### Electoral Services

- Annual canvass in progress –
  - E- comms sent earlier in month to route 1 properties and responses continuing to come in. CCA (paper forms) will be sent to non-responders next week.
  - CCB forms have now despatched to route 2 properties – hitting doorsteps today.
  - Route 3 canvass contact plans being drawn up by CR.
- EUVCR
  - Data review completed. 2.2k electors confirmed as entitled to remain on register either via belonging to one of the treaty states or by being registered before 2020.
  - Confirmation letters have been sent to these electors to advise

that they will remain on the register and no further action is needed.

- Further 700 electors who need to go through the confirmation review process as we were unable to confirm their eligibility through data – these contacts will be run in October.
- Accounts –
  - PCC 2021 observations - responded to ECU, now awaiting response (and hopefully settlement!)
  - JLB underway for funding of temporary posts in the team.
- By-election
  - Notice of Election published and nominations period underway – have engaged with agents from each of the political parties.
  - Polling Station and count venues booked.
  - Printing arrangements being finalised – poll card data has been sent and now awaiting proofs. Postal Vote data to follow.
- Recruitment – Lots of applications which is positive and will be interviewing 12 candidates this Friday 20 Sept with James

### Policy & Community Services

#### Policy, Community & Partnerships

- **Community Forums** – most of the forums have been held except Letchworth which is 18 September. An issue was identified regarding sound and being heard in larger venues. We have now purchased a portable wireless PA system for use at forums where necessary.
- **Grants** – 15 grants have been processed via the community forums three organisations applied cross district meaning their application was split 4 or 5 ways.
- **Networking groups** – We have combined the Wilbury and Grange networking groups as many of the same groups attend both meetings.
- **North Herts Prosperity Fund** - Work is continuing to assess and score the Prosperity Fund by both Community Partnerships and Policy & Strategy Team.
- **Recruitment** - The Community & Partner Officer vacancy is

advertised now with the deadline of 30 September for applications.

- **Recruitment** - The Policy apprentice is due to start in post.
- **Cabinet Panel for the Environment** - The next meeting of the panel is in October, and we expect to have a presentation on the updated Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which was recently approved by Cabinet.
- **Inclusion Group** - the next meeting of the inclusion group will be held on the 26 September. The topics for discussion will cover further work on neurodiversity in the workplace and the inclusion staff survey results. This ties in with the National Inclusion Week 26-28 September.

#### Health & Wellbeing

- **Healthy Hub** - Wellbeing sessions delivered by the Healthy Hub in Royston, Knebworth, and Hitchin, as well as monthly carers support group.
- **Health inequalities** - Attended quarterly county-wide health inequalities steering group.
- **North Herts Wellbeing network** – the team hosted an engagement event with relevant partners to discuss relevant district health and wellbeing issues.
- **Partnership working** - met with Community Development Action Herts, Everyone Active, and the Herts Sports Partnership to discuss the Active Villages Initiative.
- Healthy Hub newsletter sent out.

#### Safeguarding

- **Recruitment** – Interviews are being held for the Safeguarding Team leader with the expectation the post will be filled by November.
- **Training** – a Full Council training session was held to allow Councillors to participate in the mandatory safeguarding session to ensure internal compliance.



# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,  
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF  
on Thursday, 19th September, 2024 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sadie Billing, Cathy Brownjohn, Rhona Cameron, Keith Hoskins, Emma Rowe, Tamsin Thomas and Claire Winchester.

### 2 MINUTES - 11 JULY 2024

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 July 2024 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 recorded.
- (2) The Chair reminded Members that the Council had declared both a Climate Emergency and an Ecological Emergency. These are serious decisions, and mean that, as this was an emergency, all of us, Officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District.
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (4) The Chair advised that the normal procedure rules in respect of debate and times to speak will apply.
- (5) The Chair advised that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting. A comfort break would be held at an appropriate time, should proceedings continue at length.
- (6) The Chair advised Members of the ongoing Community Governance Review survey which was being conducted to look at parish arrangements. The survey was open until the 7 October 2024 and posters had been provided to Members to distribute in their wards.
- (7) The Chair invited Members to attend the Youth Democracy Day on Thursday 14 November and to email Committee Services with their availability and asked Members to promote the event to any school contacts.
- (8) The Chair advised Members that all residents were invited to take part in the Churchgate conversation to help shape the future vision of the Churchgate shopping area of Hitchin, via an online survey.
- (9) The Chair advised that the date for April Council had been confirmed as Tuesday 1 April 2025 and that Annual Council would take place on Thursday 22 May 2025.

- (10) The Chair informed Members that the Monitoring Officer had given dispensation to all Members to take part in any debate and votes in relation to the motions on 'Two Child Limited to Benefits' and Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance' on the basis that they declare any such interest before the item was introduced and debated.

## 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## 6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

There were three questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.11.

### (A) Solar Farm Strategy

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Daniel Allen Interim Executive Member for Planning and Transport.

### (B) Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework

Councillor Ralph Muncer to Councillor Daniel Allen, Leader of the Council.

### (C) Environmental Crime Officers

Councillor David Barnard to Councillor Amy Allen, Executive Member for Recycling and Waste Management.

## 7 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were five motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

### A) Provision of Affordable Housing and Infrastructure on Developments

**RESOLVED:** That Council instructed the Leader of the Council writes to the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the Council's views and calling for the government to adopt a strategy that will prioritise increasing delivery of housing with appropriate infrastructure and to prioritise giving more power to Councils to build housing, in particular social and affordable housing.

### B) Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) Instructed the Leader of North Herts Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating North Herts Council's strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped – which would help 2120 children living in North Hertfordshire.
- (2) Further instructed the Council Leader to write to all MPs covering the district of North Hertfordshire, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the cruel two-child limit to benefit payments and ensure the number of children a family has is considered when a hardship grant is given out by the Council.

**C) Proposed Expansion of London Luton Airport**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the new Leader of the Council writes again to the Secretary of State for Transport urging them not to grant a Development Consent Order, as well as stating that North Hertfordshire District Council continues to oppose any further expansion of London Luton Airport in the strongest possible terms, and remains of the opinion there are no conditions that can be applied to the application to make it acceptable.
- (2) Council further resolved that the new Leader of the Council writes to the Member of Parliament for Hitchin, the Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire and the Member of Parliament for Stevenage, urging them to call on the Secretary of State for Transport to reject the proposal allowing London Luton Airport to expand, as well as to use their role as an MP representing residents in North Hertfordshire to secure Parliamentary scrutiny of the proposed expansion.

**D) Government Planning Reforms and Housing Target**

**RESOLVED:** That Council resolves:

- (1) That the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government calling on the Government to:
  - (1.1) not increase the Housing Target for North Hertfordshire.
  - (1.2) Restore the Urban Uplift, ensuring cities and urban areas take their fair share of housing development, particularly as many of these areas already have the infrastructure to support additional development.
  - (1.3) Ensure infrastructure to support approved development is built prior to houses, thereby reducing the negative impact of development on existing communities, and ensuring local infrastructure is ready to provide for residents moving into new homes.
  - (1.4) Adopt a brownfield first approach to development, and provide greater protection for green belt land in North Hertfordshire.
  - (1.5) Not to amend paragraph 11(d) of the 2023 NPPF, which currently provides protection for North Hertfordshire as a local authority that has recently adopted a local plan but does not have a five-year housing land supply.
  - (1.6) Strengthen the rights of local residents to ensure they have a meaningful say when development is proposed within their communities.
  - (1.7) Not remove the emphasis and focus on 'beauty' and 'beautiful design' from the National Planning Policy Framework.
  - (1.8) Meaningfully engage with Local Planning Authorities on the New Town Scheme and – where proposed sites are put forward within an area – ensure that plans have local consent and that sufficient additional funding is in place to support already-stretched planning departments.
  - (1.9) Actively pursue reforms designed to ensure that a far greater proportion of planning applications – which continue to be approved under the existing policy framework – are actually built out by developers in a timely manner, recognising that this is the most effective way of meeting the Government's stated objectives.

- (2) That the Leader of the Council writes to the Member of Parliament for Hitchin, the Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire and the Member of Parliament for Stevenage highlighting the opposition of Council to the Government's proposed planning reforms and housing targets, urging them to stand up against these proposals which would have a detrimental impact on residents and communities across North Hertfordshire.

**E) Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance**

**RESOLVED:** That Council resolves:

- (1) That the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asks the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- (2) That the Leader of the Council writes to the Member of Parliament for Hitchin, the Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire and the Member of Parliament for Stevenage, urging them to ask the government to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty, as well as to press the government to reverse this decision which may impact 23,266 pensioners in North Hertfordshire.
- (3) To continue to encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through council services and partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in North Hertfordshire are supported in claiming their entitlement.
- (4) To encourage Councillors to consider the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK.
- (5) To acknowledge and understand that the financial blackhole that the previous 14 years of Conservative government has left our country in has an impact on the new government's financial decision-making, but that does not justify the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payment.

**8 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Chair advised that the referrals from Cabinet and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee would be taken with the respective item on the agenda.

**9 MEMBER AND OFFICER INDEMNITY**

**RESOLVED:** That Council authorised the amendments to the adopted Officer/ Member Indemnity & Insurance Policy as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** The Council should have an up-to-date Policy in the event of legal action that arises when Officers and Members carry out official Council duties. The last update approved by Full Council was on the 24.09.2020.

**10 COUNCIL PLAN AND PRIORITIES 2024-2028**

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) Reviewed and approved the Council Plan with the four new Council Priorities as outlined below:
  - Thriving Communities
  - Accessible Services
  - Responsible Growth
  - Sustainability
- (2) Delegated authority to the Managing Director and Leader of the Council to approve any minor amendments to wording required as part of the design process.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** The Council Plan is a key element of the corporate business planning process, as a high-level strategic document it sets out the Council's Priorities for the next four years. As an overarching policy framework document, it guides and influences the use of Council resources; providing a focus for activities, plans, and services that the Council provide. The introduction to the plan highlights the link between the Council Plan and the Medium1Term Financial Strategy and service delivery plans.

**11 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025-30**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That Council agreed the adoption of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2025-30, as attached at Appendix A.
- (2) That Council noted that the development and implementation of savings proposals were needed by April 2026 in order to start addressing the forecast shortfall in 2026/27 onwards.
- (3) That Council instructed the Executive Member for Finance and IT to prepare a range of feasible, quantified savings options including the increased use of shared services.
- (4) That engagement would take place with the Opposition Group Leaders and Finance leads on the process and specific options for any public budget consultation by June 2025.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** Adoption of a MTFs and communication of its contents will assist in the process of forward planning the use of Council resources and in budget setting for 2025/2026 to 2029/2030, culminating in the setting of the Council Tax precept for 2025/26 in February 2025. Alongside the Council Plan, this will support the Council in setting a budget that is affordable and aligned to Council priorities.

**12 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AND RESERVE INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) Appointed Nicholas Moss OBE as Independent Person, Patrick Hodson as Reserve Independent Person, and Stephen Tant as Reserve Independent Person.
- (2) Delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Standards Committee, the decision (if the current Independent Person decides within term to resign/ unable to act/ no longer qualifies), to appoint one of the existing Reserve Independent Persons as the Independent Person and/ or to undertake any further recruitment, as may be required.

**REASON FOR DECISIONS:** To ensure that the Council's Standards processes can operate in accordance with legislative requirements if one or both IP and Reserve IPs are unable to advise on a matter. This should also allow for a degree of succession planning/ training whilst experienced persons are in place.

**13 FIRST QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2024/25**

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved:

- (1) A capital budget of £0.080M to fund the purchase and installation of a new chiller at the museum, paragraph 8.4 refers.
- (2) A capital budget of £1.920M (£0.96M in 24/25 and £0.96M in 25/26) for round 3 of the Local Authority Housing Fund. This would be fully funded from Government grants and housing provider contributions, paragraph 8.5 refers.
- (3) Bringing forward £0.008M of the backup and business continuity hardware capital budget (from 2025/26 to 2024/25) and reducing the 2025/26 budget to £0.057M.
- (4) Bringing forward £0.672M of leisure funding to allow upgrades to the fitness facilities in Hitchin to take place in this financial year, instead of next financial year. This would be made up of the £0.300M budget for Member Change and Relaxation Area Refurbishment, and £0.372M of the 2025/26 allocation of the budget for providing capital funding to our leisure provider.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) Cabinet is required to approve adjustments to the capital programme and ensure the capital programme is fully funded.
- (2) To ensure the Council's continued compliance with CIPFA's code of practice on Treasury Management and the Local Government Act 2003 and that the Council manages its exposure to interest and capital risk.

**14 UPDATED CONTRACT PROCUREMENT RULES FOR 2024-25**

**RESOLVED:** That Council:

- (1) Considered the proposed changes and adopted the new Contract Procurement Rules to take effect from-when the Procurement Act 2023 was implemented.
- (2) Delegated to the Service Director: Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT, approval to make minor changes to the Contract Procurement Rules to support the full compliance with the Procurement Act 2023, with any such changes being communicated to all Members.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) The Contract Procurement Rules (CPRs) are part of the Council Constitution (under Section 20) and must be regularly reviewed and updated as part of the Council's governance and procurement review processes. This contributes to the Council's system of effective internal control.
- (2) The new CPRs reflect a significant update in line with the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023, incorporating detailed procedural guidance, and enhanced compliance and transparency measures. These changes aim to improve the efficiency, accountability, and effectiveness of the Council's procurement activities.

**15 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS MADE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY RESTRUCTURE**

**RESOLVED:** That Council accepted the amendments made, detailed in section 8.1 of the report.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** There are current and ongoing capacity and resourcing issues with the Legal and Community directorate, specifically within the Legal Services team. Whilst the Service Director Legal and Community seeks to find solutions to those issues, in order to provide greater support and capacity for the Service Director it has been agreed to temporarily transfer the reporting line of Licensing and Community Safety teams to a different Service Director.

**16 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON BALDOCK UNITED ALMSHOUSES CHARITY (OUTSIDE ORGANISATION)**

**RESOLVED:** That Council approved and nominated Cllr Rhona Cameron as the fourth Member to the outside organisation the Baldock United Almshouses Charity.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

- (1) To comply with the provision of Standing Order 4.8.2(j) of the Council's Constitution.
- (2) To comply with the Constitutional requirement for the Baldock United Almshouses Charity to have four Councillors as Trustees.

## 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 Varsity Consulting to act as the Employers Agent for North Herts Council on the leisure decarbonisation project. This includes carrying out tasks of Quantity Surveyor, Cost Consultant and Contract Administrator.

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

- 2.1 Sarah Kingsley, Service Director - Place

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

24 September 2024

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

- 4.1 To ensure the Council has specialist support in order to administrate the NEC contract, ensure the Council is receiving value for money & best price from Willmott Dixon Construction as well as assist the council in delivering the desired outcomes of the project. Varsity Consulting have experience of working on Salix de-carbonisation projects as well as experience of working on a number of successful leisure projects in other councils.

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

- 5.1 To carry out a competitive tender via the Council's E-sourcing system for the services required. Due to the project timescales and need to ensure we do not cause further delays to the programme, or our ability to claim Salix funding the competitive tender route this is not an option.

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

- 6.1 The Executive Member for Environment and Leisure has been 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 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 Willmott 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 of our three leisure centres.
- 8.4 We have since entered into a Pre-Construction Service Agreement (PCSA) with Willmott Dixon to start the process of drawing up detailed designs for the project and submit a planning application for the proposed works.
- 8.5 With Willmott Dixon now developing detailed designs which will require updated costing compared to the proposed Feasibility Stage cost, it is critical that we have an Employers Agent working for the council to challenge Willmott Dixon on the proposed materials and ensure the council is receiving the best price possible. Once we enter into the NEC Construction Contract with Willmott Dixon, it will be critical to have an Employers Agent working for the council to ensure that both the council and Willmott Dixon are meeting their obligations under NEC, as there are clauses on both sides that if not met could result in claims for delay damages from either party.
- 8.6 Varsity Consulting were subsequently appointed through the Constellia and AEC Framework to provide the required Employers Agent services for North Herts Council.

## **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 Consultation with Legal took place to ensure the AEC framework – Agri-Epi Centre meets the “contracting authority” definition criteria as laid out in the PCR 2015. Further, the company not only complies with Subsidy Control rules (which it must in order to receive public grant funding,) but that it also conducts its procurement activities as defined under public procurement legislation such as the PCR 2015 and its Scottish legislative equivalents.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. North Herts Council has been awarded £7,743,224 by Salix to carry out works to decarbonise Royston Leisure Centre, Hitchin Leisure Centre and North Herts Leisure Centre. As per the council’s accepted application for the grant funding we need to make £6,165,240 of claims before the close of financial year 2024/25 and £1,577,960 of claims before the end of financial year 2025/26.
- 10.2. Varsity Consulting’s fee for the project works will be £168,600. Capital funding of £170,000 has been allocated to the procurement of an Employers Agent to assist the council in managing and administrating the pre-construction and construction phases of the project and the costs are therefore within budget.

## **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 is a risk that if we do not appoint an Employers Agent that Willmott Dixon will be able to increase the total cost of the project unchallenged, by choosing to use high-cost premium products unnecessarily. Also, there is a risk that the council is opening itself up to unlimited delay damages claims due to ineffective contract administration.

## **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**

- 13.1 As the recommendations in the report relate to a contract value of £168,600, Social Value has been taken into account under the AEC Framework which boosts social value through the use of Small and medium-sized enterprises helping better achieve social value outcomes. In addition, the supplier appointed under the Constellia framework has committed to make a donation to Letchworth Foodbank at Christmas, and supply and plant a tree for the project in a location of the Councils choosing.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1.1 There are no Environmental implications associated with the appointment of Varsity Consulting.

## **15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 Varsity Consulting were appointed in recognition that the council does not employ specialist staff who could produce works and reports such as cost consultant and quantity surveyor.

## **16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 None

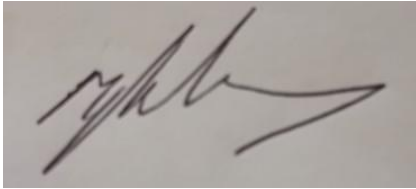
## **17. APPENDICES**

- 17.1 None

## **NOTIFICATION DATE**

27 September 2024

**Signature of Executive Member Consulted**



Date 27/09/2024

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 *[if applicable]*

#### SERVICE DIRECTORATE: CUSTOMERS

##### 1. DECISION TAKEN

**This is an amended version of the Decision notice published on 03/09/24. With an amendment to 14.1 only.**

To acquire from Multiverse a skills assessment and development programme to support the development of digital and data skills across the Council, at no financial cost to the Council.

##### 2. DECISION TAKER

Jo Dufficy, Service Director - Customers

##### 3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

28 August 2024

##### 4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 The Council has a digital strategy setting out its vision and aims for progressing its digital transformation journey. The strategy focusses on technology, people and processes and commits to working to build organisational capacity through how we work and through investing in digital skills development of our staff.

4.2 Multiverse are an experienced provider of digital and data skills development. They are regulated by Ofsted and the only organisation rated as outstanding in all areas of its kind. Collaborative learning and cohorts between other councils, as well as government partners like NHS & Police are available, although we are expecting that our initial cohort will be closed due to the numbers involved.

4.3 The development programmes offered are fully funded through the use of unspent and donated apprenticeship levies, therefore there is no financial cost to the Council. There is a time commitment, and learners will be expected to have 3 hours per week protected time in order to get the most from the programme. There are training opportunities focussing on early talent, upskilling and re-skilling.

##### 5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 This is a unique offering, that provides an Ofsted rated, fully funded development programme at scale, as well as a free business value assessment that is made up of stakeholder insight sessions and a staff skills survey across the whole organisation.

5.2 There are no known alternative providers that offer this complete package.

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

- 6.1 Consultation has been made with the Executive Member for Finance and IT, Councillor Ian Albert.
- 6.2 Consultation has been made with the Executive Member for Finance and IT, Councillor Ian Albert.

## **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 Councils digital strategy sets out the vision and how it aims to progress its digital transformation journey. There are a number of key strands relating to this which includes people, processes and technology. Each strand is of importance and critical to delivering the ambitions of the digital strategy.
- 8.2 Without an investment in upskilling and developing the digital capacity across the council there is a risk that we will not be able to adapt how we work and meet customer demands and expectations. We need not only to develop the skills to adapt to technological changes but also to ensure that we have the culture and mindset to drive and deliver digital and data projects across the council with an increased understanding and application of digital solutions and data driven decision making.
- 8.3 Such an investment would be difficult to deliver at scale without significant funding. There are courses available that specialise in these areas, but it is not realistic for the council to fund a programme like this, especially not at scale. Multiverse offer fully funded programmes using unspent apprenticeship levies that are donated by other organisations. Market analysis has determined that there are no other suppliers that offer complete service at no cost to the Council.
- 8.4 In 2023, we commissioned a digital maturity assessment of the organisation to baseline our digital skills and readiness for change at the time. Whilst this assessment gave a good level of confidence, we decided to carry out a further assessment in a years' time. The service that Multiverse provides includes a free skills capability survey and value assessment, enabling us to gather that insight data without additional cost to the council.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Section 14.6.4 of the Council Constitution provides delegation to service directors and states at section 14.6.4 (a) (ii):

“Entering into contracts to carry out works and/or for the supply of goods and services within approved budgets (subject also to approval of the Service Director for: Customers in respect of software or hardware contracts). All may attest the fixing of the Common Seal to a contract or Deed;”

- 9.2 The Contract Procurement Rules at 7.13 require the publication of a Decision Notice for any contract with a value of above £50,000.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. The contract value has been calculated as up to £990k.
- 10.2 The cost of the programme is fully funded by Multiverse through the use of unspent apprenticeship levies that have been donated. The Council generally spends all of its

apprentice levy, so there is an expectation that the costs will all be met from donated levy funding.

- 10.2 Whilst the Council is not paying for the services provided, the arrangement does allow the supplier to receive funding through the donated levies. The value received by the supplier is anticipated to be under the WTO GPA threshold.
- 10.3. As the anticipated value is expected to surpass the WTO GPA thresholds, a Voluntary Transparency Notice to alert the market and the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 will be followed.

## **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 The risks associated with this report relate to not engaging Multiverse. This engagement will over time address some of the challenges we face around capacity and skills.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its 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 direct equality implications which arise from this report.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no social value implications. The development programme will benefit the employees of North Herts Council and ultimately positively impact the services provided to customers and residents.

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no known environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this decision.

## **15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 15.1 There are no human resources implications.

## **16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 None

## **17. APPENDICES**

- 17.1 None

## **NOTIFICATION DATE**

06 September 2024 – Amended version 26 September 2024

Signature of Executive Member Consulted .....

Date 03/09/24

  
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  
**[NO]**

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 **Hitchin Community Grant** funding of:
- 1.2 The Sadie Centre  
**£1,500** towards funding the cost of the design and delivery of a ten-day training programme for trainers in the award-winning Positive Movement technique.
- 1.3 Angels Support Group Hitchin  
**£1,940** towards part-funding their online support groups and workshops for a year, for Hitchin based families.
- 1.4 Groundwork East -  
**£2,367** to fund their Grow It, Cook It, Share It course for 6 weeks.

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

- 2.1 Cllr Val Bryant, Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community.

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

**23 September 2024**

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

- 4.1 The **Hitchin Community Forum** held on 9 September 2024 considered funding applications from:

- The Sadie Centre
- Angels Support Group Hitchin
- Groundwork East

and recorded their recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships. This is part of the process for the formal commitment of Community Grant funds via the delegated authority process.

#### **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 Hitchin Community Forum Members in a public meeting on 9 September 2024. Members are in favour and recommend that the Hitchin 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 Hitchin Community Forum on 9 September 2024. The report with the application details is set out under item 4, available on the Council's website [[CLICK HERE](#)].

- 8.2 The Sadie Centre as referred to in 1.2 received £1,500 grant funding towards their Positive Movement project for Letchworth-based families from Letchworth Community Forum in June 2024.

- 8.3 Angels Support Group Hitchin, as referred to in 1.3, has applied to Baldock, Letchworth, Royston and Southern Rural Community Forums for grant funding towards their online and in person support groups for families in their respective areas.

8.3.1 Angels Support Group Hitchin have received recommendations for the full amount requested from Baldock (£1,828), Royston (£1,063), Southern Rural (£2,232) and Letchworth (£1,502) Community Forums.

- 8.4 Groundwork East, as referred to in 1.4, has applied to Baldock, Letchworth and Royston Community Forums for their Grow It, Cook It, Share It course in their respective areas and for their Wild Play sessions to the Southern Rural Community Forum.

8.4.1 Groundwork East has received recommendations for the full amount from Baldock (£2,367), Southern Rural (£1,982) and Letchworth (£2,367) Community Forums.

8.4.2 Royston Community Forum recommended that Groundwork East be granted £1,500 on condition that the applicant can fund the remaining £867 to deliver the course as laid out in their application.

- 8.5 This delegated decision confirms that the recommendation made by the Community Forum members was accepted by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, and Service Director on applications 1.2. 1.3 and 1.4.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, a Community Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)((ii)A of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That 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.

- 9.2 These grants have been assessed against the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The total community budget for Hitchin for 2024/25 stood at **£18,147**.

- 10.2 Prior to the meeting on 09 September **£4,162** had been allocated.

- 10.3 The amount left to utilise in the budget stands at **£13,985**.
- 10.4 The grant applications for this meeting total **£5,807**. If the grants are awarded as outlined in 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, the remaining balance will be **£8,178** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2024-25 financial year.

## **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 Community 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](#)
- 16.3 Hitchin Community [Forum](#) – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.4 Baldock and District Community [Forum](#) – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

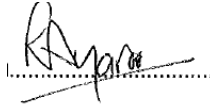
- 16.5 Royston and District Community [Forum](#) – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.6 Southern Rural Community [Forum](#) – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.7 Letchworth Community [Forum](#) – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 See website links above.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

**27.09.24**



**Signature of Acting Service Director Consulted**

**Date: 23.09.24**

**Signature of Executive Member for Community and Partnerships**



**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  
**[NO]**

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 **Letchworth Community Grant** funding of:
- 1.2 Angels Support Group Hitchin - **£1,502** towards part-funding their online support groups and workshops for a year, for Letchworth based families.
- 1.3 Groundwork East - **£2,367** to fund their Grow It, Cook It, Share It course for 6 weeks.
- 1.4 Open Art Box CIC - **£1,440** towards 12 wellbeing art workshop sessions, for Tabor Court residents.

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

- 2.1 Cllr Val Bryant, Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, in consultation with the Acting Service Director – Legal and Community.

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

**25 September 2024**

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

- 4.1 The **Letchworth Community Forum** held on 18 September 2024 considered funding applications from:
  - Angels Support Group Hitchin
  - Groundwork East
  - Open Art Box CIC

and recorded their recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships. This is part of the process for the formal commitment of Community Grant funds via the delegated authority process.

#### **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 Letchworth Community Forum Members in a public meeting on 18 September 2024. Members are in favour and recommend that the Letchworth 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 Letchworth Community Forum on 18 September 2024. The report with the application details is set out under item 4, available on the Council's website [[CLICK HERE](#)].
- 8.2 Angels Support Group Hitchin, as referred to in 1.2, has applied to Baldock, Hitchin, Royston and Southern Rural Community Forums for grant funding towards their online and in person support groups for families in their respective areas.
- 8.2.1 Angels Support Group Hitchin have received recommendations for the full amount requested from Baldock (£1,828), Hitchin (1,940), Royston (£1,063) and Southern Rural (£2,232) Community Forums.
- 8.3 Groundwork East, as referred to in 1.3, has applied to Baldock, Hitchin and Royston Community Forums for their Grow It, Cook It, Share It course in their respective areas and for their Wild Play sessions to the Southern Rural Community Forum.
- 8.3.1 Groundwork East has received recommendations for the full amount from Baldock (£2,367), Hitchin (£2,367) and Southern Rural (£1,982) Community Forums.
- 8.3.2 Royston Community Forum recommended that Groundwork East be granted £1,500 on condition that the applicant can fund the remaining £867 to deliver the course as laid out in their application. Since the meeting, Groundwork East have advised they are unable to fund the £867, which means the recommendation has not progressed to decision for the Royston based aspect of this project.
- 8.4 This delegated decision confirms that the recommendation made by the Community Forum members was accepted by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, and Service Director on applications 1.2. 1.3 and 1.4.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, a Community Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)((ii)A of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That 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.
- 9.2 These grants have been assessed against the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The total community budget for Letchworth for 2024/25 stood at **£16,652**.
- 10.2 Prior to the meeting on 18 September **£9,969** had been allocated.
- 10.3 The amount left to utilise in the budget stands at **£6,683**.

- 10.4 The grant applications for this meeting total **£5,309**. If the grants are awarded as outlined in 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, the remaining balance will be **£1,374** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2024-25 financial year.

## **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 Community 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](#)
- 16.3 Letchworth Community [Forum](#) – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.4 Hitchin Community [Forum](#) – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.5 Baldock and District Community [Forum](#) – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.6 Royston and District Community [Forum](#) – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

16.7 Southern Rural Community [Forum](#) – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

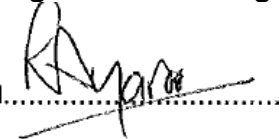
**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 See website links above.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

**27.09.24**

**Signature of Acting Service Director Consulted**



**Date: 24.09.24**

**Signature of Executive Member for Community and Partnerships**



**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  
**[NO]**

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:
- 1.2 Angels Support Group Hitchin  
**£1,063** towards online support groups and workshops for families of children with autism and ADHD.
- 1.3 Creative Chefs  
**£1,612** towards healthy eating cooking sessions for children.
- 1.4 Royston and District Parkinsons Group  
**£1,092** towards two Sum Up machines and venue hire.

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

- 2.1 Cllr Val Bryant, Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, in consultation with the Acting Service Director – Legal and Community.

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

**27 September 2024**

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

- 4.1 The **Royston Community Forum** held on 11 September 2024 considered funding applications from:

- Angels Support Group Hitchin
- Creative Chefs
- Groundwork East
- Royston and District Parkinsons Group

and recorded their recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships. This is part of the process for the formal commitment of Community Grant funds via the delegated authority process.

#### **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 Community Forum Members in a public meeting on 11 September 2024. Members are in favour and recommend that the Royston 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 Community Forum on 11 September 2024. The report with the application details is set out under item 3, available on the Council's website [[CLICK HERE](#)].
- 8.2 Angels Support Group Hitchin, as referred to in 1.2, has applied to Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth and Southern Rural Community Forums for grant funding towards their online and in person support groups for families in their respective areas.
- 8.2.1 Angels Support Group Hitchin have received recommendations for the full amount requested from Baldock (£1,828), Hitchin (1,940), Letchworth (£1,502) and Southern Rural (£2,232) Community Forums.
- 8.3 Groundwork East presented a grant application for £2,367 for their Grow It, Cook It, Share It course. Royston Community Forum recommended that Groundwork East be granted £1,500 on condition that the applicant can fund the remaining £867 to deliver the course as laid out in their application.
- 8.3.1 Since the meeting, Groundwork East have advised they are unable to fund the £867, which means the recommendation has not progressed to decision for the Royston based aspect of this project.
- 8.3.2 Groundwork East has received recommendations for the full amount from Baldock (£2,367), Hitchin (£2,367) and Southern Rural (£1,982) Community Forums.
- 8.4 This delegated decision confirms that the recommendation made by the Community Forum members was accepted by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships, and Service Director on applications 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Following the decision of Full Council on 18 April 2023, a Community Forum shall consider applications for community grants in its area and make recommendations to the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships on them. The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)(ii)A of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That 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.
- 9.2 These grants have been assessed against the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The total community budget for Royston for 2024/25 stood at **£11,001**.
- 10.2 Prior to the meeting on 11 September **£3,807** had been allocated.
- 10.3 The amount left to utilise in the budget stands at **£7,194**.

- 10.4 The grant applications for this meeting total **£3,767**. If the grants are awarded as outlined in 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 the remaining balance will be **£3,427** available for Community Grants for the remainder of the 2024-25 financial year.

## **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 Community 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](#)
- 16.3 Royston Community [Forum](#) – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.4 Letchworth Community [Forum](#) – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.5 Hitchin Community [Forum](#) – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 16.6 Baldock and District Community [Forum](#) – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

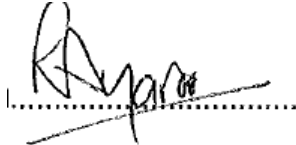
16.7 Southern Rural Community [Forum](#) – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 See website links above.

**NOTIFICATION DATE**

**27.09.24**



**Signature of Acting Service Director Consulted**

**Date: 27.09.24**

**Signature of Executive Member for Community and Partnerships**



**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**

**EAST TEAM**

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

24/02144/TCA	Mr Ewan Habben Hbn Trees 5 Walkdens , Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire , SG7 5RU, United Kingdom	The Old Rectory Hodwell Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5QQ  Mrs Sara Jane Rothwell  T1: Horse Chestnut - Crown reduce by 2m. 3m reduction on Southern side. T2: Sycamore - Crown lift by 2m and reduce lower canopy by 2m. T3: Lime - Repollard and reshape canopy structure. No growth to be left on and reshape unbalanced knuckles. T4: Group Plum - Reduce in height by 2m to suitable growth points.
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**Baldock**

24/02008/LDCP	Jeremy Williams-Leroy Architect Jeremy Williams-Leroy 1 The Limes, Hitchin, SG5 2AY	79 Weston Way Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6HB  Mr And Mrs Rob Mayhew  Roof extension to form gable end with side window and insertion of rear box dormer to facilitate conversion of loft into habitable accommodation
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**Barkway Parish Council**

24/01994/S73	Mr Glass 6 Waterside Way, The Lakes, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 7XD, UK	Land Between Royston Road And Cambridge Road Barkway Hertfordshire  Mr Glass  Removal of wording to Condition 3 of planning permission 18/01502/OP granted on 25.07.2023.
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24/02149/TCA	Mr George Maskall Maskalls tree surgery 10 Oak Drive, Elsenham, CM22 6GB	63 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8EB  Me Will Nicolson  T1: Willow - Reduce crown by approx 3-4m remove major dead wood and thin crown. T2: Sweet Chestnut - Fell to ground level. T3: Apple - Fell to ground level. T4: Cherry - Fell to ground level.
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**Barley Parish Council**

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 27/09/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 17/10/2024**

24/02099/TCA Mr Geoffrey Wilkerson Homestall  
Homestall The Mount, Barley, The Mount  
Royston, Barley, Royston, SG8 8JG, Barley  
United Kingdom Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 8JG

Mr Geoffrey Wilkerson

Horse Chestnut - Reduce two branches by half reduce canopy by 1/3rd.

**Bygrave Parish Council**

24/01982/FPH ArchiTech Ltd. Mr Richard 2 Ashwell Road  
Chambers Bygrave  
72 Lytton Avenue, Letchworth, SG6 Baldock  
3HY, United Kingdom Hertfordshire  
SG7 5DT

Mr and Mrs Murray

Single storey front/side extension. Single storey side extension to existing garage and raise existing roof to include insertion of side elevation windows, dormer to front and rooflight to rear roof slopes.

**Kelshall Parish Meeting**

24/02039/FP Portland Planning Mrs Gillian Coombe Farm Stables  
Davidson Coombe Road  
Manor Cottage, The Street, Kelshall  
Brundish, Suffolk, IP13 8BL, United Kingdom Royston  
Hertfordshire  
SG8 9SA

Jason Tyrrell

Erection of two storey building to provide office/reception and meeting room (as a variation of planning permission reference 24/00752/FP granted on 22.05.2024).

**Letchworth Garden City**

24/01965/AD N2 Group Ltd Mr Bruce Edwards North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre  
John Tate Rd, Communications Baldock Road  
House, Hertford, Hertfordshire, Letchworth Garden City  
SG13 7DT, United Kingdom Hertfordshire  
SG6 2ER

Mr Chris Williams

Installation of roadside sign, replace existing banner frame and level ground area following demolition of existing brick sign structure.

24/02000/LDCP Jeremy Williams-Leroy Architect 42 Kite Way  
Jeremy Williams-Leroy Letchworth Garden City  
1 The Limes, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire  
SG5 2AY SG6 4YQ

Greening

Single storey rear extension

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 27/09/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 17/10/2024**

24/02001/FPH	Houghton Architecture Ltd Mr Mark Houghton Suite 83, Enterprise House, 86 Bancroft, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1NQ	4 Gernon Walk Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HW	Mr D Stirling	Erection of single storey side extension and associated works following demolition of detached garage
24/02013/LDCP	Sole Concepts Limited Mr Jo DURso First Floor, 94-96 High Street, Hoddesdon, EN11 8HD	45 Abbots Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4UU	Ms Thayakaran	Hip to gable roof extension and insertion of rooflights to front and dormer window to rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation.
24/02040/FPH	CROE Architects Mr Joe Reader Suite 10, 18 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, SG4 9SP, United Kingdom	11 Willian Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2HQ	Mr Harvey	Single storey rear extension. Raise existing roof height, and extension of, detached garage to link to main dwelling and facilitate habitable accommodation,
24/02098/TCA	Jackie Sayers 18 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3HE, United Kingdom	18 Broadwater Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HE	Jackie Sayers	Plum - Remove
24/02122/TCA	Mr Jason Hough CTC 6 Strawplait way, Arlesey, SG15 6SJ	22 Sollershott East Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3JN	Mr Robert Haines	T1: Sycamore - Remove
24/02131/TCA	Mrs Kate Ryan Evoke Tree Services Ltd 15 Great Ganett, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3DA	152 Rushby Mead Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1SQ	Ms Pippa Wainwright	Elder - Remove limb off of garage roof. Turkish hazel - Reduce lateral branches by 1.2m growing over neighbouring garden. Plum - Reduce branches off of garage roof to provide a clearance of 1m

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

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 27/09/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 17/10/2024

24/02150/TCA Mr Dom Walker The Blue Tree Company  
50 Bunyan Road, Hitchin, SG5 1NN Hertfordshire  
SG6 3PX

Mr Duncan Hammond

T1: Bishop Pine - Reduce in height by 1.5-2m and bring the sides into shape. T2: Sycamore - Fell to ground level.

**Royston Town Council**

24/02044/FPH Alan J Currall Ltd Mr Alan Currall  
35 Woodland Ave, Barton Seagrave, Royston  
Kettering, NN15 6QW, United Kingdom Hertfordshire  
SG8 5SU

Mr Trevor Foskett

Two storey side extension to include integral garage with canopy over and single storey rear extension with mono-pitched roof following demolition of existing attached side garage.

24/02054/FPH Michael Easton Mr Mike Easton  
21 Shrubbery Grove, Royston, SG8 9LJ, United Kingdom Hertfordshire  
SG8 9LJ

Mr David Murphy

Proposed first floor front extension

24/02138/TPO Mr Mark Thurley The Eco Arborist Limited  
c/o Absolute Accountants, 10 Park Street, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AX, United Kingdom Hertfordshire  
SG8 5BY

Mr Andy Brogden

T1: x 3 Horse Chestnut - Strong re-pollard to previous established size, shape and balance. T2: Lime - Crown reduce by 20-30%. Through pruning, dead wooding and overall reduction.

**Weston Parish Council**

24/01737/FP Edmund Wright Architect Mr E Wright  
The Barn, The White House, Preston Road, Gosmore, Herts, SG4 7QS Hertfordshire  
SG4 7EE

Weston Park Farms

Change of use of first floor to residential use including installation of external staircase and insertion of additional fenestration

**WEST TEAM**

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

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 27/09/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 17/10/2024**

24/01871/S73	MSAD Architectural Design Ltd Mr Mark Scott Bancroft House, 34 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1LA	Robin Hood And Little John Rabley Heath Road Codicote Welwyn Hertfordshire AL6 9UB  Mr D Nye  Variation of condition (revised plans) of planning permission 24/01009/FP granted 17.07.2024 for Infill courtyard extension and conservatory to west elevation. Alterations to fenestration.
24/02016/LBC	MSAD Architectural Design Ltd Mr Mark Scott Bancroft House, 34 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1LA	Robin Hood And Little John Rabley Heath Road Codicote Welwyn Hertfordshire AL6 9UB  Mr D Nye  Infill courtyard extension and conservatory to west elevation. Internal and external alterations (revision of previously approved Listed Building Consent 24/02016/LBC granted 17.07.2024)
24/02028/FPH	Be Informed Mr Charles Speakman 8 Broadmeadow Ride, Hitchin, SG4 7ST, United Kingdom	Fairfax Node Park Hitchin Road Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8TH  Mr & Mrs Paul Stevens  Insertion of front and rear dormer windows; rear and side rooflights to existing detached double garage to create habitable space at first floor level to provide 1-bed annexe ancillary to main dwelling. Alterations to fenestration
<b>Hitchin</b>		
24/01723/FPH	Refined Landscapes Mrs Huda Berry Ickleford manor, Turnpike Lane, SG5 3XD, United Kingdom	22 The Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RL  Mr James Laing  Installation of front gates, stabilised gravel driveway and soft landscaping.



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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 27/09/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 17/10/2024**

24/01979/S73	Owain Williams Architecture Mr Owain Williams Flat 44 Squire House, 290 Camberwell Road, London, SE5 0AY	31 Priory Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9BJ
		Mr & Mrs Brahmhatt
		Variation of Condition Number(s): 2 (amend approved plans) D3_000, D3_010, D3_011, D3_012, D13_020, D3_021, D3_110 Rev A, D3_111 Rev A, D3_112 Rev A, D3_113, D3_120 Rev A, D3_121 Rev A of planning permission reference 22/02806/FPH granted on 15.12.2022 for Part two storey and part single storey rear extension, two storey side extension and single storey side extension. Roof extension to form gable end and insertion of rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion to habitable accommodation. External cladding and rendering. Alterations to openings.
24/02010/FPH	MT ARCHITECTURE LTD Mr Mark Tyler 7 Ream Close, Eynesbury, St Neots, Eynesbury, PE19 2HE, United Kingdom	New Redwood Ransom Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9AX
		Mr Jeremy Hope
		Erection of attached side garden store; alterations to fenestration on rear elevation and insertion of solar panels to existing dwelling and outbuildings. Alterations to existing garage to facilitate part garage conversion
24/02128/TPO	Mr Simon Pridmore A1 Tree Specialists Boundary Farm, Baldock Road, Stotfold, SG5 4BN	5 Standhill Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9BW
		Mrs Karen Theakstone
		T1, T2 Horse Chestnuts - Reduce back to previous pruning points, approx 1.5m. Remove epicomoric growth.
24/02147/TCA	Mr Ben Waterman Waterman Tree Co. 26 Passingham Avenue, Hitchin, SG4 9LD, United Kingdom	29 The Chilterns Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PP
		Mr Callum Armstrong
		T1: Hornbeam - Reduce by 3 to 4m.

**Ickleford Parish Council**

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 27/09/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 17/10/2024**

24/01974/FPH	Chantry Architects Limited Mr Graham Peel 1 Coles Farm, Chequers Lane, Watford, WD25 0GL	90 Arleseey Road Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3UE	Ms Mayella Donovan	First floor side extension over existing double garage including front dormer window, and single storey front porch extension. Erection of detached single storey outbuilding following demolition of existing rear outbuilding and attached conservatory. Part removal of front brick garden wall and reconstruction of section of the wall. Removal of existing first floor front and rear hanging tiles and installation of render finish. Alterations to existing fenestration.
24/02026/FPH	Architectural Design Mrs Natalie Horner Brookfield House, 89 Latimer Road, Chesham, HP5 1QQ, United Kingdom	71 Arleseey Road Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3TG	Ms Cheryl Isaacs	External render to rear and side elevations
<b>Kings Walden Parish Council</b>				
24/01328/LBC	Schnauber - Timber Windows And Doors Mr Marius Riabovas 44 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 2AS	2 Crown Cottages Ley Green Kings Walden Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8LU	Mrs Judith Cameron	Replacement of three windows; two to the front elevation and one to the side of the front porch with 14mm double-glazed units with 23mm through glazing bars.
<b>Knebworth Parish Council</b>				
24/02136/TCA	Mrs Kate Ryan Evoke Tree Services Ltd 15 Great Ganett, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3DA	Knebworth Golf Club Deards End Lane Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6NL	Mr Arran Johnson	3 x Leyland Cypress - Remove in sections to ground level
<b>St Ippolytts Parish Council</b>				

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 27/09/2024  
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 17/10/2024**

24/01973/FPH Mr Simon Martin  
45 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts,  
Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7RA

45 Waterdell Lane  
St Ippolyts  
Hitchin  
Hertfordshire  
SG4 7RA

Mr Simon Martin

Convert existing hipped roof to a gable end and insertion of no.2 dormer windows to existing front elevation roofslope. Remove existing side elevation (loft) window and erection of small orangery style extension to the rear elevation (as renewal of planning permission reference 21/01565/FPH granted on 18.10.2021).

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(Including Withdrawn decisions)

**EAST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 23/02389/FP	<b>Location:</b> Sun Hill Cottage 3 Sun Hill Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9AU  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Kevin Henderson HendersonArchitects <b>Description:</b> Change of use of existing detached 2-bed ancillary accommodation barn to one detached 2-bed self-contained residential dwelling and erection of boundary fence.	<b>Appeal Decision:</b>  Appeal Allowed <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/00100/FPH	<b>Location:</b> New Cottage Ashwell Road Newnham Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5JX  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Matt Thomson <b>Description:</b> Erection of detached double garage, front porch, installation of dormer windows to existing north and south roof slopes and alterations to fenestration following removal of existing chimney stack to main dwelling and replace existing exterior render with cladding (as amended by plans received 5th March 2024).	<b>Appeal Decision:</b>  Appeal Allowed <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01410/FPH	<b>Location:</b> Highgate Mill Lane Weston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7AJ  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Jamie Logan <b>Description:</b> Detached double garage (as amended by plans received 12th August 2024).	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01528/LDCP	<b>Location:</b> 15 Sollershott West Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3PU  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr David Vickerstaffe <b>Description:</b> Installation of garden veranda to rear elevation of existing garage.	<b>Decision:</b>  Withdrawn <b>Decision Date:</b> 23/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01594/S73	<b>Location:</b> 109 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8ED  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Hannah West <b>Description:</b> Removal of Condition 1 (Archaeological WSI) of planning permission 24/00771/FPH granted on 13/06/2024 for: Installation of swimming pool and associated pump house in rear garden. (Development already carried out).	<b>Decision:</b>  Unconditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01629/LBC	<b>Location:</b> 25 High Street Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9AA  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Jeet Sohal Acca Limited <b>Description:</b> Internal alterations comprising the removal of some non-structural walls, and boarding up of existing basement stairs (as amended by drawing nos. 18.08/02.1 Rev A; -05.1 Rev A and -12.1 Rev A received on 12.08.2024, drawing nos.18.08/06.1 Rev B and -07.1 Rev C received on 20.09.2024 and as amplified by drawing no.18.08/08.1 received on 20.09.2024).	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01637/PNMA	<b>Location:</b> 19 Leys Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3EB  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Smith Tilehouse Properties Ltd & The Elite Retirement <b>Description:</b> Conversion of first floor and second floor offices into two residential dwellings.	<b>Decision:</b>  Prior Approval Given <b>Decision Date:</b> 25/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01655/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 17 Claybush Hill Meadow Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5FJ  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Neil Cook <b>Description:</b> Single storey rear extension.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024

**EAST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 24/01670/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 122 Gaunts Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4PP <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Sonal Bull <b>Description:</b> Part two storey, part single storey rear extension.	<b>Decision:</b> Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 23/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01686/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 302 Wedon Way Bygrave Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5DX <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Harding <b>Description:</b> Single storey rear Infill extension to include glazed balcony to first floor following replacement of existing conservatory roof.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 23/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01692/FPH	<b>Location:</b> Wellside Cottage Smiths End Lane Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8LJ <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr & Mrs I & K Essery <b>Description:</b> Erection of detached outbuilding with external stairs to access first floor office space and incorporating 4no. roof-lights following demolition of existing outbuilding and shed.	<b>Decision:</b> Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 25/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01694/S73	<b>Location:</b> Johnson Matthey Plc Orchard Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5HE <b>Applicant Name:</b> . Johnson Matthey PLC <b>Description:</b> Variation of Condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 23/02625/FP granted 22.02.2024 for Erection of Industrial Building (3CR Annex), Link Bridge and other associated works.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01696/DOC	<b>Location:</b> 47 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8EB <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Nina Lancaster <b>Description:</b> Details reserved by Condition 2 (Windows and doors) of Listed Building Consent 19/01869/LBC granted on 24/10/2019).	<b>Decision:</b> Approval of Details <b>Decision Date:</b> 25/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01720/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 1A Garden Walk Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7HP <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Daniel Gardner <b>Description:</b> Replace existing front central window with a main entrance door, alterations to front fenestration, replace existing side door with a window and re-render to exterior.	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01733/PNQ	<b>Location:</b> Woodcotes Fears Green Sandon Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0QZ <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr And Mrs Jani <b>Description:</b> Conversion of former Poultry building into 3 residential dwellings with all associated building works.	<b>Decision:</b> Prior Approval Given <b>Decision Date:</b> 25/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01803/TD	<b>Location:</b> Telecommunication Mast On Stotfold Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4JR <b>Applicant Name:</b> EE / BT EE / BT <b>Description:</b> Replacement of existing 15m monopole with 20m monopole with wraparound ground based equipment cabinet supporting 9 no antennas, together with the removal of 2 no existing equipment cabinets, and the addition of 3 no new cabinets and ancillary development thereto.	<b>Decision:</b> Prior Approval Given <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01884/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 3 The Street Wallington Hertfordshire SG7 6SN <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Danny O'Brien Forestwood Services ltd <b>Description:</b> G1: Group of Hazel, Hornbeam Hedgerow - Reduce by 3m and lateral reduction by 2m. T1: Yew - Fell to ground level. T2: Fig - Fell to ground level. T3: Sycamore - Crown lift lower limbs to provide 5m of clearance over out buildings. T4: Willow - Heavy crown die back- coppice to 0.5m to allow regeneration.	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 25/09/2024

## EAST TEAM

<b>Application No:</b> 24/01903/TPO	<b>Location:</b> 5 Layston Park Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9DS <b>Applicant Name:</b> Keith Smith <b>Description:</b> Beech - Branches cut back by approx 15%	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 20/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01906/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 137 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8ED <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr R Logan <b>Description:</b> T1, T2: Cherry - Remove.	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 20/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01946/EC	<b>Location:</b> Land Opposite 33 West End Ashwell Hertfordshire SG7 5PH <b>Applicant Name:</b> Asha Jyothi Mantena Openreach <b>Description:</b> Installation of fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus - erection of one pole.	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01949/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 92 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8EF <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Val Mcgrow Oakleaf Solutions <b>Description:</b> Honey Locust - Reduce by 3m height and 4m width and remove all major deadwood	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 20/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01992/EC	<b>Location:</b> Land Between 212-214 Rushby Mead Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1SL <b>Applicant Name:</b> Ramya Gorlagunta Openreach <b>Description:</b> The Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and restrictions) Regulations 2003 (as amended) Regulation 5 Notice of Intention to Install Fixed Line Broadband Apparatus - one pole.	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/02018/NMA	<b>Location:</b> Land West Of Royston Bypass Royston Hertfordshire <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Frankie Faulkner <b>Description:</b> Amend the specification of section of fence on approved landscaping drawing B18103 102B (as non-material amendment to planning permission 19/00248/FP granted on 11.06.2021).	<b>Decision:</b> Agreed <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/02020/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 182 Rushby Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1SH <b>Applicant Name:</b> Settle Housing association Maria Free Settle Housing <b>Description:</b> Sycamore, Maple - Fell	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/02076/TCA	<b>Location:</b> 48 Park Street Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6DY <b>Applicant Name:</b> Hobbs <b>Description:</b> Common Beech - Remove	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 20/09/2024

## WEST TEAM

<b>Application No:</b> 24/01237/LBC	<b>Location:</b> Walnut Tree Farm Luffenhall Luffenhall Stevenage Hertfordshire SG2 7PX <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr & Mrs M & S Ward <b>Description:</b> Replace 20no. windows (18no. single-glazed and 2no. double-glazed - W6 & W7) with 4:4:4 double-glazed, hardwood framed windows	<b>Decision:</b> Conditional Consent <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
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**WEST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 24/01497/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 3D The Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RQ  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Claire Powell <b>Description:</b> First floor rear extension, replace existing front garage door with bay window to facilitate conversion of integral garage into habitable accommodation, replacement of all existing windows, erection of detached rear garden studio (as amended by plans received on 14/08/2024).	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01534/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 245 Cambridge Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0JS  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Harnish Kumar <b>Description:</b> Single storey detached outbuilding in rear garden	<b>Decision:</b>  Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 23/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01569/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 49 Bedford Street Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2JG  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Isabelle Desmas-Bazelle <b>Description:</b> Single storey front extension to existing garage to link garage with main dwelling and alterations to garage roof.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01638/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 45 Bearton Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1UE  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Simon Puncher <b>Description:</b> Creation of vehicular access off Bearton Road, constructed as part of the traffic calming scheme: TMZ220001-1. (Development already carried out).	<b>Decision:</b>  Unconditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01661/DOC	<b>Location:</b> 27 Bedford Road Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3XH  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Tony Yarsley <b>Description:</b> Details reserved by condition 8 (Construction Traffic Management Plan) of planning permission reference no 21/02233/FP granted 11.02.2022	<b>Decision:</b>  Agreed <b>Decision Date:</b> 23/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01684/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 15 Grays Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2HG  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Jim Barr <b>Description:</b> Erection of detached rear garden room and store with log burner/flue and solar roof panels.	<b>Decision:</b>  Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01713/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 51 Stotfold Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0QW  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Ms Green <b>Description:</b> Single storey rear extension.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01715/FPH	<b>Location:</b> The Pump House Lane House Ley Green Kings Walden Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8LJ  <b>Applicant Name:</b> David and Nicola Robertson <b>Description:</b> Alterations and extension of existing pool house to create 3-bed ancillary annexe accommodation to the Pump House.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01724/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 3 Spinney Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PD  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Priya Patel <b>Description:</b> Single storey front porch extension and Insertion of front dormer window to facilitate loft conversion following demolition of existing porch.	<b>Decision:</b>  Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01750/FPH	<b>Location:</b> 27 The Ridgeway Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2BT  <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr and Mrs Adrian and Sandra Brixton <b>Description:</b> Two storey side extension and single storey rear extensions following demolition of existing garage.	<b>Decision:</b>  Conditional Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024

**WEST TEAM**

<b>Application No:</b> 24/01755/LDCP	<b>Location:</b> 27 Bessemer Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1AG <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Du Dok De Wit & Dr Lord <b>Description:</b> Replacement of rear west elevation fenestrations and insertion of 2no roof lights to existing single storey roof slope	<b>Decision:</b> Granted Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 19/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01891/NMA	<b>Location:</b> Land North West Of The Old Coach House And Opposite Maydencroft Cottage Maydencroft Lane Gosmore Hertfordshire SG4 7QA <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs Maria Moore Highacre Cambridge Ltd <b>Description:</b> Addition of gablets over first floor windows to the rear elevation and the middle unit extruded to rear elevation (as Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 23/01502/FP granted 09.05.2024)	<b>Decision:</b> Agreed <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01950/LDCP	<b>Location:</b> 121 Benslow Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RA <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Peter Hitchcock <b>Description:</b> Insertion of ground floor window on the front and side elevation following removal of garage door to facilitate conversion of existing integral garage to reception room. Infill extension to form front entrance porch.	<b>Decision:</b> Granted Permission <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01953/NMA	<b>Location:</b> 34 Royal Oak Lane Pirton Hertfordshire SG5 3QT <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr and Mrs Weatherall Morris <b>Description:</b> Omit pool house, pool and pergola (as Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 23/02622/FPH granted 22.01.2024)	<b>Decision:</b> Agreed <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01954/LDCP	<b>Location:</b> 81 Benslow Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RA <b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr Michael Barnett <b>Description:</b> Insertion of front ground floor bay window following removal of existing garage door to facilitate conversion of garage into a habitable space. Single storey front infill extension.	<b>Decision:</b> Refused <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024
<b>Application No:</b> 24/01989/EC	<b>Location:</b> Electronic Communications Apparatus In Front Of Bibbworth Hall Farm Bibbs Hall Lane Kimpton Hertfordshire SG4 8EN <b>Applicant Name:</b> Prashant Mesta Openreach <b>Description:</b> Installation of 9M light pole	<b>Decision:</b> No Objection <b>Decision Date:</b> 24/09/2024



## Press release

20 September 2024

PR3882

### **Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre to receive £400k gym upgrade before Christmas**

A gym upgrade project, worth more than £400,000, will be unveiled at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre before Christmas, more than six months ahead of schedule.

The work, initially scheduled for summer 2025, is part of a series of improvements to North Herts leisure facilities, led by Everyone Active in partnership with North Herts Council.

The refurbishment follows other work at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre which has just taken place, including Everyone Active's first Reformer studio and a brand-new spin studio, alongside the refurbishment of two existing studios.

The gym upgrade in December, with exact dates to be confirmed, will transform the existing gym and introduce new state-of-the-art strength and cardio equipment to the local community.

Inspiring new décor, lighting and flooring will also be added, to ensure visitors remain motivated during the winter months and January fitness surge.

In addition, at yesterday evening's Full Council meeting, North Herts Council confirmed it was also making an investment into the centre, which will see the refurbishment of Hitchin's member change and wellness area. Timings will be announced in due course.

Chris Williams, Contract Manager at Everyone Active, said, "We are thrilled that our next project to transform our member's experience will be commencing ahead of schedule, building on the momentum of our recent improvements at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre.

"This accelerated timeline means our members can enjoy a completely transformed workout space sooner than anticipated. The investment marks another significant step forward for the district's leisure facilities, and we hope that the transformed workout space ensures our local community continue to feel inspired and supported throughout their fitness and wellness journey with us."

Sarah Kingsley, Service Director – Place, said "We're really pleased to be improving the facilities at Hitchin even sooner than planned. This upgrade shows how committed we are to giving local residents the best possible experience when they visit the centre. We hope these changes encourage even more people to enjoy staying active and make use of everything the centre has to offer.

To find out more about the facilities at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre, please visit: [www.everyoneactive.com/centre/hitchin-swimming-and-fitness-centre/](http://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/hitchin-swimming-and-fitness-centre/)

Everyone Active took over the management of North Herts Council's leisure facilities on 1 April 2024.

**-ENDS-**

**For press information please contact:**

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**Everyone Active**

Everyone Active is the trading name for Sports Leisure Management Ltd (SLM), which operates leisure facilities in partnership with local councils across England.

SLM is the longest-established leisure operator in the UK, having formed in 1987. At the time, it managed just one leisure centre in the Midlands, whereas today it has grown to operate more than 230 leisure facilities and cultural services across the country in partnership with over 69 local authorities.

Its influence reaches as far as Sunderland in the north to Chichester in the south, and Mid Suffolk in the east to Plymouth in the south west. SLM's growth is due to its ability to deliver well-managed leisure facilities and activity services that offer great value for money. Its aim is to increase local people's participation in sports and leisure activities by advocating that all adults achieve a minimum of 30 minutes exercise five times per week.

[www.everyoneactive.com](http://www.everyoneactive.com)

**Press release**

23 September 2024

## **Team GB star joins more than 3,500 locals in leisure upgrade celebrations**

Three-time gold medallist sprinter Harry Aikines-Aryeetey joined more than 3,500 locals on Saturday, to celebrate the completion of a £1.1 million investment project.

The free community open day took place across three newly upgraded leisure centres in North Herts – North Herts Leisure Centre, Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre and Royston Leisure Centre.

As well as being a familiar face on BBC TV, Harry Aikines-Aryeetey is a member of the Team GB sprint relay team.

Harry has also won medals at each of the past three Commonwealth Games, including gold at Birmingham 2022 and Gold Coast 2018. He was also a three-times gold medallist at the European Championships and won individual bronze in the 100m in the 2014 Europeans.

On Saturday morning, Harry officially opened the brand-new £750,000 refurbished gym at North Herts Leisure Centre, which now includes cutting-edge Life Fitness cardio equipment, advanced resistance equipment and brand-new free weights, benches, dumbbells and squat racks.

Also during the day at North Herts Leisure Centre, visitors were able to enjoy free gym access, free PT taster sessions and gym challenges. Everyone Active also laid on a host of other complimentary sessions, including gymnastics, soft play, pickleball, walking tennis, swimming sessions and taster lessons, as well as the opportunity to trial a session with Hitchin Water Polo Club.

Throughout the morning, excited visitors were also able to meet Harry, having the opportunity to take photos and ask questions about his impressive career to date.

Meanwhile, at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre, visitors had the chance to try the inaugural sessions at Everyone Active's first ever Reformer studio.

An avid Reformer fan, Harry joined the first session of the day, stating: "Reformer is amazing! I've been using Reformer for a very long time and I'm so glad it's here in Hitchin. It gives you the strength to be a better person – in terms of being functionally fit, performing well. It's a little secret I've been training with for years!

"You might think it's just for a certain type of person but actually it's for everyone – whether you're younger or older, male or female. It gives you more mobility, more strength, and it's something I would implore everyone to go and try – come have a go!"

Other free sessions at the Hitchin centre included the latest Les Mills group exercise classes and spin sessions in the brand-new spin studio, complete with 19 new Kiezer bikes.

At Royston Leisure Centre, the local community enjoyed the refurbished cycling studio - now doubled in size along with its number of bikes – with free spin sessions – with Harry even joining in on a session too.

In addition, Royston offered its visitors the opportunity to trial sessions in judo, CPR training and ActiveAntz, a programme designed for under 5s which incorporates singing, soft play exploration and crafts.

In the pool, visitors enjoyed a pool inflatable session, a rookie lifeguard session and a taster session for Royston Swimming Club, a competitive swimming club which accepts swimmers from age eight years and up.

Chris Williams, Contract Manager at Everyone Active across North Herts, said: "We were absolutely thrilled to have Harry Aikines-Aryeetey join us for our open day on Saturday!

"Harry is hugely enthusiastic about fitness and he inspired visitors of all ages and backgrounds with his insightful sporting knowledge and advice - alongside his behind-the-scenes stories of popular BBC shows!

"We were also delighted to unveil our upgraded sites to the local community. We hope that those who attended – whether long time members or first-time visitors – left feeling energised and motivated to embark on or continue their fitness journeys with us.

"For those who didn't have chance to attend, we'd be delighted to arrange tours to explore the new features and amenities."

Sarah Kingsley, Service Director – Place at North Herts Council, said: "We're really proud to see these fantastic upgrades completed and to celebrate with the community. Having a champion like Harry Aikines-Aryeetey join us for the day made it extra special. These improvements to our leisure centres mean residents can enjoy even better facilities, whether they're new to fitness or long-time members."

Everyone Active began its leisure management partnership with North Herts Council in April 2024.

Harry Aikines-Aryeetey also works with Everyone Active on the company's Sporting Champions programme, helping mentor aspiring athletes in the community.

**-ENDS-**

**For press information please contact:**

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[www.everyoneactive.com](http://www.everyoneactive.com)