

NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 6 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

NEWS AND INFORMATION

AGENDA & REPORTS

PUBLISHED WEEK COMMENCING 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

Council – 6 September 2024

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WEEK COMMENCING 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

Cabinet – 10 September 2024

UPCOMING CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Date	Event	Location
	None	

UPCOMING VICE-CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Date	Event	Location
Monday 9 September 2024 @ 8.45am for a 9am start	Emergency Services Day	County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DE

UPCOMING OTHER EVENTS FROM FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2024

Date	Event	Location

CUSTOMERS

MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

Digital Transformation

The Local Government Association have provided a really useful toolkit designed to help Councillors in their different roles supporting, enabling and scrutinising transformation. The toolkit goes into detail on:

- What transformation is
- What skills Councillors needs
- Councillor roles in transformation
- Creating the conditions for success

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/transformation/councillor-transformation-toolkit>

The LGA are seeking feedback on the toolkit and are holding a session on Monday 9th September 11-12pm for anyone interested.

Please contact Chris Jeffery for any enquiries.

Chris.Jeffery@north-herts.gov.uk

01462 474505

IT UPDATE

Windows 11 rollout

The upgrade for all staff and members is progressing well, we have currently upgraded 400 laptops within the council.

We are amongst the first in local government to deploy Windows 11 across the whole estate, Microsoft are committed to support the system until at least November 2026 and this will enable IT to prioritise other activities knowing we will not have to update our Operating System until that time.

Cyber Security

We have recently introduced a Cyber Board that is made up of Senior Officers, external audit, and Cross-Party Members. Our current cyber posture is in a good position. We still hold our PSN accreditation and will continue to do so. We are working towards the new government Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF) and have a robust cyber strategy in place. We are not ones to become complacent and are continually monitoring and looking at ways to further improve our cyber resilience area.

Financial System Update

We have recently developed an application to assist the amazing finance project team in the transition to TechOne. We built an archive system to store legally required information from the old system and a data transfer toolset to allow us to undertake our own migration from the old to new systems. This contributed to a significant reduction to the “cost of change” within the overall finance project.

For more information please contact:

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RESOURCES

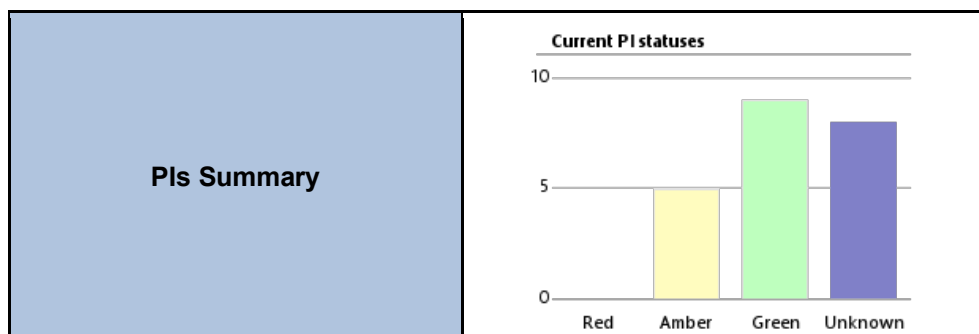
MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

Council Key Performance Indicators

The Council's Key Performance Indicators are presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet each quarter. The performance for the period up to the end of June (Quarter 1) is shown below.

For more information please contact:

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 Tel: 01462 474243
 Email: ian.couper@north-herts.gov.uk



Council Delivery Plan – Status Key

Status	Description
	Data value has met or exceeded the target figure. Performance is at an acceptable level.
	Data value has not achieved the target figure. Need to consider appropriate action to return performance to an acceptable level.
	Data value has not achieved the target figure. Urgent action required to return performance to an acceptable level.
	Data value is reported for 'information only' and there is no requirement to set targets for the KPI.
	Ideagen cannot calculate a status, as officers have not entered a target figure for the period.
	Data value has improved compared with the same time last year.
	Data value has deteriorated compared with the same time last year.
	Data value has not changed compared with the same time last year.
	Ideagen cannot calculate a direction of travel, as previous data is not available for comparison.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI	Lastest Update	Value	Target	Status	Trend
Percentage of council tax collected in year	July 2024	37.38% (year to date)	37%		
Percentage of NNDR collected in year	July 2024	39.47% (year to date)	37%		
Council's Scope 1-3 emissions (tonnes CO2e)	2023/24	3,147.76	N/A Data Only		
Number of Stage 1 complaints	Q1 2024/25	53	N/A Data Only		
Percentage of Stage 1 complaints resolved within 10 working days	Q1 2024/25	96%	80%		
Percentage of Stage 2 complaints resolved within 20 working days	Q1 2024/25	64%	70%		
Total number of alarm calls in a given period	June 2024	95,595 (year to date)	N/A Data Only		
Percentage of non-urgent installations completed within 20 working days	June 2024	100% (year to date)	100%		
Rolling number of Careline service users supported under the HCC contract	June 2024	7,009	N/A Data Only		
Percentage of CSC calls answered	Q1 2024/25	96%	90%		
Percentage of CSC priority queue calls answered within 45 seconds	Q1 2024/25	74%	80%		
Sign-ups to the Digital Budget Hub	Q1 2024/25	223	N/A Data Only		
Average number of penalty points awarded per Grounds Maintenance contract monitoring inspection. (Lower numbers are good.)	June 2024	5.44 (year to date)	N/A Data Only		
Working days lost due to short-term sickness absence in the last 12 months per FTE employee	July 2024	4.51	4.00		
Working days lost due to long-term sickness absence in the last 12 months per FTE employee	July 2024	4.55	N/A Data Only		
Staff turnover - rolling 12-month percentage	July 2024	6.83%	15%		
Percentage of advertised vacancies filled in first round	Q1 2024/25	70%	75%		
Number of visits to leisure facilities	June 2024	389,228 (year to date)	318,854		
Percentage of all planning applications determined within the relevant statutory or agreed time periods	Q1 2024/25	84.37%	80%		
Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	Q1 2024/25	60.29%	60.5%		
Number of collections missed per 100,000 collections of domestic household waste	June 2024	52 (year to date)	N/A Data Only		
Performance against revenue budget (projection against original budget)	Q1 2024/25	-3.3%	0%		



**National Planning Policy
Framework, 2024
Consultation
Briefing Note**

Re-issue following publishing on 30/8/24 due to minor amendment to paragraph 9.

As you will have no doubt heard the new Government is promoting a growth agenda. In order to facilitate the desired growth, the Government is seeking to make widespread reforms to the planning system.

From the 30 July to 24 September the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is seeking views on how they might revise national planning policy to support our wider objectives.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. The policies set out in this framework apply to the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and to decisions on planning applications.

Officers are currently reviewing the consultation documentation and liaising with other Hertfordshire authorities, a response will be prepared in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport.

This briefing note sets out the changes proposed in the NPPF 2024 consultation paper and explains the implications for North Herts if they are carried forward into the final version.

Proposed reforms to the NPPF, published 30 July 2024

1. The consultation seeks views on revising the NPPF to achieve sustainable growth across England. The changes are ultimately focussed on a strengthening of the drive to meet housing and other development needs.
2. It also considers wider proposals including, but not limited to
 - Increasing planning fees
 - Local plan intervention criteria
 - Appropriate thresholds for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Updating the presumption (in favour of sustainable development)

3. Amended paragraph 11d) of the NPPF states that

'where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies for the supply of land are out-of-date, granting permission unless

i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or

ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole, in particular those for the location and design of development (as set out in chapters 9 and 12) and for securing affordable homes.'

In relation to 'policies for the supply of land are out-of-date', footnote 9 clarifies that

'this includes, for applications involving the provision of housing, situations where the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites (with the appropriate buffer, as set out in paragraph 76); or where the Housing Delivery Test indicates that the delivery of housing was substantially below (less than 75% of) the housing requirement over the previous three years.'

4. We currently benefit from our Plan being recently adopted and thereby not having to evidence that we have a five-year housing land supply (5YHLS) as per the details set out in the 2023 NPPF. This element of the NPPF 2023 is being removed and with it our protection.
5. With regard to criterion (a) of footnote 9, North Herts does not currently have a 5YHLS. It currently sits at 3.9 years against our adopted housing requirement¹. This means that should this come into force there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development through the decision-making mechanism, that is for large scale sites the Planning Control Committee.
6. In respect of criterion (b) of footnote 9, this does not apply to us as our latest Housing Delivery Test (HDT) result, 2022 (publication delayed until December 2023) was 118%.
7. Paragraph 11d) ii) does emphasise the importance of the location and design of the development and affordable housing considerations when applying the presumption, although not expressly setting out how much weight is to be given.

Changes to housing need

8. A new Standard Method has been proposed for establishing housing need to drive the boost to housing delivery. It adopts a two-step approach for each Local Authority Area:
 - Take 0.8% of the current housing stock of the area;

¹ [Five Year Housing Land Supply Position Statement 2024.pdf \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)

- Apply an uplift, based on the three-year average of the median workplace-based affordability ration, with an increase of 15% for every unit above four.

9. This means for North Herts that our housing delivery figure increases from 910 units, under the current methodology, to 992, under the proposed method. This is shown in the published '[Outcome of the proposed revised method](#)' included as part of the Governments consultation.

ONS Code	Local Authority Name	Region	Current Method	Proposed Method	Average Annual Net additions (2020/21-2022/23)
E07000099	North Hertfordshire	East of England	910	992	467

10. There are also proposals to amend the policy on housing mix. Paragraph 64 is amended to include a specific reference to Social Rent² and 'looked after children' as those for whom needs should be assessed and reflected in planning policies.

11. Paragraph 66 requires that policies specify the minimum proportion of Social Rent homes required and that major development should '*expect that the mix of affordable housing required meets identified local needs, across both affordable housing for rent and affordable home ownership tenures*'.

12. Our Local Plan currently requires affordable housing to be delivered as follows, based upon evidence submitted for examination (this will of course be updated again in line with the next Local Plan update).

Size of site (gross dwellings)	Target % of dwellings to be affordable
11 – 14	25%
15 – 24	35%
25 or more	45%

Of which

Affordable housing type	Target % of dwellings
Rented	65%
Other forms of affordable housing	35%

² Social rent housing is provided by social landlords and rented for less than would be paid if renting privately. It typically has lower rents than Affordable Rent (Affordable Rent must be at least 20% cheaper than the equivalent private rent in the area and must be below the value of the Local Housing Allowance of the area)

13. Paragraph 69 proposes a change to support the delivery of 'mixed tenure sites' to provide a range of benefits including, but not limited to, creating diverse communities and supporting timely build out rates.

Housing land supply

14. This NPPF reverses the changes made to housing land supply in the 2023 NPPF.
15. Paragraph 76 restores the requirements for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply (5YHLS), even when the adopted plan is less than five years old. As discussed previously, this change affects North Herts as we are unable to demonstrate a 5YHLS, we can only demonstrate a supply of 3.9 years against our adopted housing requirement.
16. The requirement to include a 5% buffer to ensure choice and competition in the market for land has been reinstated along with the 20% buffer for LPAs that have scored below 85% in the HDT.
17. This means, in respect of the reinstatement of the 5% buffer for choice and competition, that our 5YHLS figure is lowered further to approximately 3.7 years³ against our adopted housing requirement.
18. If we have to add an additional 20% buffer if our HDT score falls below 85%, we would be looking at a 5YHLS figure of approximately 3.1 years⁴ against our adopted housing requirement.
19. The restoration of the 5YHLS obligations in full becomes potentially very powerful alongside the proposals for 'Grey Belt' for the delivery of the presumption of sustainable development.

Green Belt

20. Green Belt policy has been reformed and introduced the 'Grey Belt', defined as

'For the purposes of plan-making and decision-making, 'grey belt' is defined as land in the green belt comprising Previously Developed Land (PDL) and any other parcels and/or areas of Green Belt land that make a limited contribution to the five Green Belt purposes (as defined in para 140 of this Framework), but excluding those areas or assets of particular importance listed in footnote 7 of this Framework (other than land designated as Green Belt).'

³ Provisional figure

⁴ Provisional figure

Paragraph 140 of the NPPF sets out the five purposes of the Green Belt as

- a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land

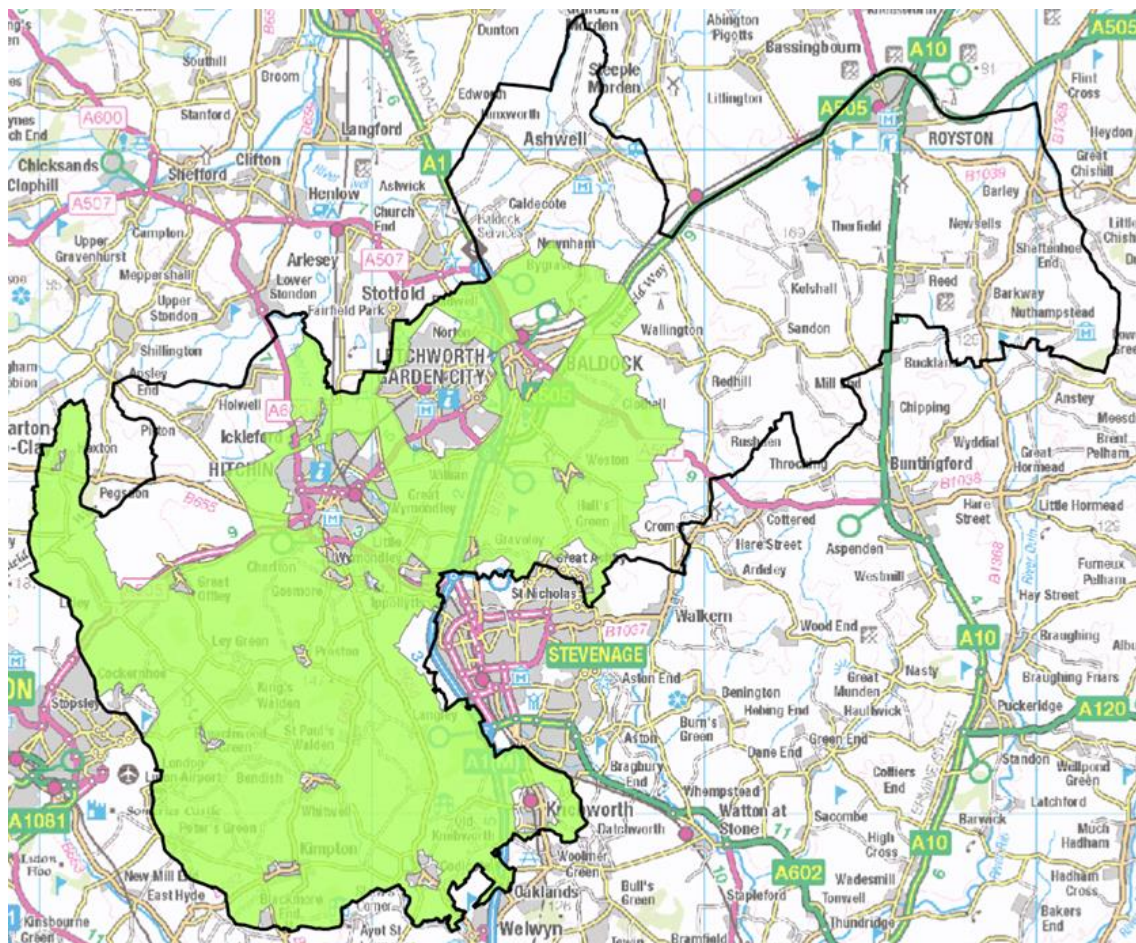


Fig 1 - Green Belt in North Herts

Footnote 7 (land excluded as grey belt) includes land relating to

- i. habitats sites (and those sites listed in paragraph 187) (a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites) and/or designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

- ii. land designated as Green Belt, Local Green Space, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a National Park (or within the Broads Authority) or defined as Heritage Coast;
- iii. irreplaceable habitats;
- iv. designated heritage assets (and other heritage assets of archaeological interest referred to in footnote 74⁵) (Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets); and
- v. areas at risk of flooding or coastal change

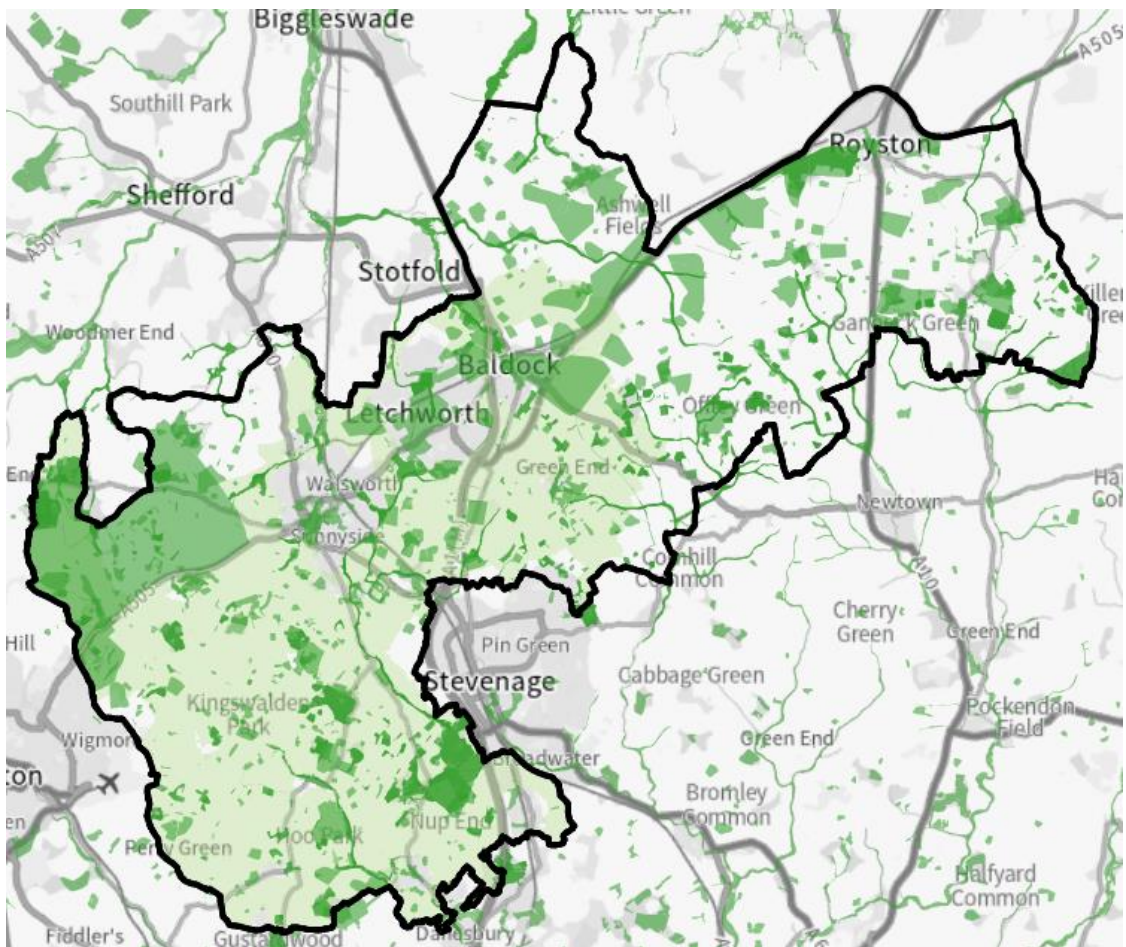
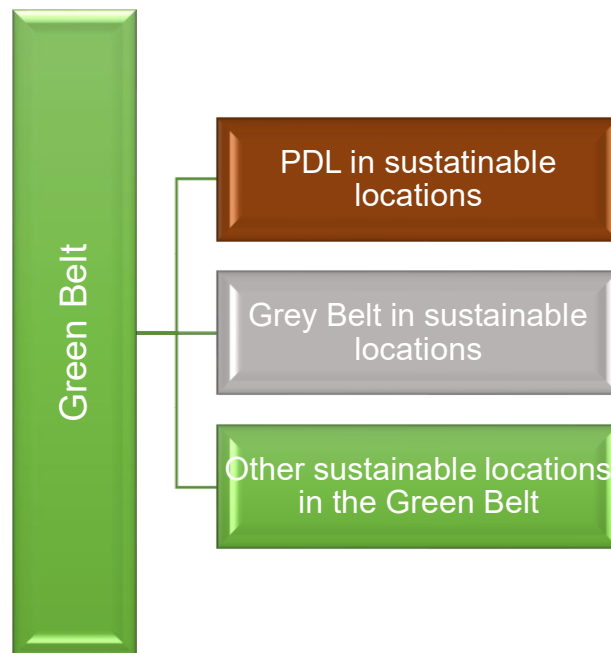


Fig 2 - Indicative areas relating to footnote 7 of the NPPF 2024 in North Herts

- 21. To clarify, Grey Belt refers to Previously Developed Land (PDL), and any other parcels/areas of Green Belt land that make limited contributions to criteria a – e but excludes any areas or assets, within those parcels/areas, relating to i – v.

⁵ We believe this reference is incorrect and should reference footnote 73

22. North Herts, through the Local Plan Examination, identified one strategic parcel that made limited overall contribution to the Green Belt in the District, to the east of Weston.
23. In addition, the District is rich in assets of particular importance, including the Chilterns National Landscape (as shown in fig 2), including any future possible extension of it.
24. The consultation does seek views upon providing further guidance for judging whether land makes a limited contribution to the Green Belt including land that will
 - a) *Not strongly perform against any Green Belt purpose; and*
 - b) *Have at least one of the following features:*
 - i. *Land containing substantial built development, or which is fully enclosed by built form*
 - ii. *Land which makes no or very little contribution to preventing neighbouring towns from merging into one another*
 - iii. *Land which is dominated by urban land uses, including physical developments*
 - iv. *Land which contributes little to preserving the setting and special character of historic towns*
25. This raises the potential that areas of land that are 'urban fringe' might characterise Grey Belt even if a conventional Green Belt Review finds that a site performs 'moderately' against Green Belt purposes individually or as a whole. Meaning that we may need to reassess our Green Belt in the District in accordance with the above criteria, as part of the Local Plan update. How much land is defined as Grey Belt will depend on the guidance.
26. Paragraph 142 of the NPPF proposes that housing needs can expressly justify exceptional circumstances for Green Belt release. This means that if we are unable to meet our housing or commercial/employment requirements, we are mandated to review and consider altering our Green Belt boundaries. However, the expectation to meet need is subject to whether the Green Belt Review demonstrates that such alterations would '*fundamentally undermine the function of the Green Belt across the are of the Plan as a whole*'.
27. Paragraph 144 introduces a sequential approach to Green Belt release following the principles of sustainable locations on PDL > Grey Belt > Green Belt.



28. Paragraph 152 has been added to the NPPF, expanding the definition of development that is appropriate in the Green Belt to include '*Grey Belt land in sustainable locations*' and where LPAs cannot meet the 5YHLS, or fall below the 75% HDT threshold, or '*there is a demonstrable need for land to be released for development of local, regional or national importance*'.
29. However, paragraphs 155 – 157 of the updated NPPF complicates matters somewhat by introducing 'Golden Rules' that apply 'where *major development takes place on land which has been released from the Green Belt through Plan preparation or review, or on sites in the Green Belt permitted through Development Management*'. What is not clear or defined is whether these 'Golden Rules' apply to sites released from the Green Belt as a consequence of previous versions of the NPPF.
30. These sites require
- a) *In the case of schemes involving the provision of housing, at least 50% affordable housing (with an appropriate proportion being Social Rent), subject to viability;*
 - b) *Necessary improvements to local or national infrastructure; and*
 - c) *The provision of new, or improvements to existing, green spaces that are accessible to the public. Where residential development is involved, the objective should be for new residents to be able to access good quality green spaces within a short walk of their home, whether through onsite provision or through access to offsite spaces'.*
31. The main issue for North Herts here is viability of affordable housing provision. Government funding regimes will need to alter to help make most schemes capable of delivering 50% affordable housing.

32. Annex 4 in the NPPF comes into play in seeking to define viability it proposes to define a national policy basis for adopting an Existing Use Value (EUV) plus a '*reasonable and proportionate premium*' when calculating benchmark land values (BLV) as part of viability assessments. However, a '*reasonable and proportionate premium*' is different to '*the minimum return at which it is considered a reasonable landowner would be willing to sell their land*' as defined in the current PPG⁶. This could result in
- A two-tier land market for Green Belt / non-Green Belt land if a BLV is set for viability assessments
 - Policy parameters are set so that where land is sold at a price above a nationally set BLV, policy requirements should be assumed to be viable
 - Where development complies with BLV and viability negotiation occurs to reduce policy compliant delivery. A late-stage review should be undertaken.
33. This means that BLV for Green Belt would be below other land, then LPAs and Homes England can use their Compulsory Purchase Order powers to ensure policy compliant schemes come forward.
34. This might incentivise LPAs to release Green Belt over other forms of land because in theory there is more land value to be captured from Green Belt than other sites. Or, if BLVs are set below what current viability assessments consider to be '*the minimum return at which a reasonable landowner would be willing to sell their land*' this may prevent land being brought forward.
35. Given land prices in the District, this is an element that is of great importance to North Herts and something we should consider carefully.

Strengthening obligations on cross-boundary working

36. The role of 'Duty to Co-operate' is strengthened in the 2024 NPPF with particular reference to infrastructure and climate resilience needing to be addressed through duty to co-operate. Paragraph 27 requires policies to be consistent where strategic issues are common '*unless there is a clear justification to the contrary*'.
37. Paragraph 28 directs LPAs to come to an informed decision on strategic matters, on the basis of the information available at the time, rather than delay until a full set of evidence is available from all parties, in the context of Plans coming forward at different times.
38. North Herts has good working relationships with our neighbours

⁶ [Viability - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) paragraph 013 Reference ID: 10-013-20190509

- Stevenage
- East Herts
- Luton
- Central Beds
- Uttlesford
- Welwyn Hatfield
- St Albans
- South Cambs

We continue to work with them on a regular basis to help deliver strategic matters across the local area. This is particularly true when working with Stevenage and Luton and the strategic housing sites in these areas of the District.

Economic growth

39. There are no significant changes to the policies on economic growth, however, LPAs are required to identify '*appropriate sites*' for the needs of the modern economy. Paragraph 84 b) makes reference to '*laboratories, gigafactories, data centres, digital infrastructure, freight and logistics*'.
40. Given the rural nature of the District and its proximity to Stevenage and Cambridge in particular, the District's place in the wider employment market is important for its identity.
41. However, additional guidance will need to be provided to accompany the NPPF to direct LPAs about estimating the future needs and demands for such modern economic development land. This guidance will need to reflect that, for many sectors, the drivers for demand are often mobile and influenced by factors such as grid connections that extend beyond Local Authority boundaries.

Other Changes

The principle of brownfield development

42. Paragraph 122 c) introduces an acceptance in principle for brownfield developments. This will help support development in North Herts on PDL within settlement boundaries.

Design

43. References to beauty and detailed descriptions of mansard roof extensions have been removed and replaced with more concise passing references.

Public services infrastructure

44. Paragraph 98 introduces significant weight for '*new, expanded or upgraded public service infrastructure*' boosting development with aligned public service providers.
45. There are also specific references to provision of early years and post-16 facilities.

Vision-led transport planning

46. With regard to transport planning, the NPPF 2024 is aspirational in its approach to sustainable transportation in allocations requiring the adoption of a '*vision led approach*'. This means that allocations could be required to consider changes in transport patterns and habits relating to modes of transport over the lifetime of the development, including innovations in public transportation and planning for the future redevelopment of parking facilities as they become redundant.
47. Paragraph 113 clarifies that refusals on highways grounds should be based on '*all tested scenarios*'. The question of what is a reasonable tested scenario is an area of debate but may be a powerful tool for unlocking schemes stalled by highway objections.

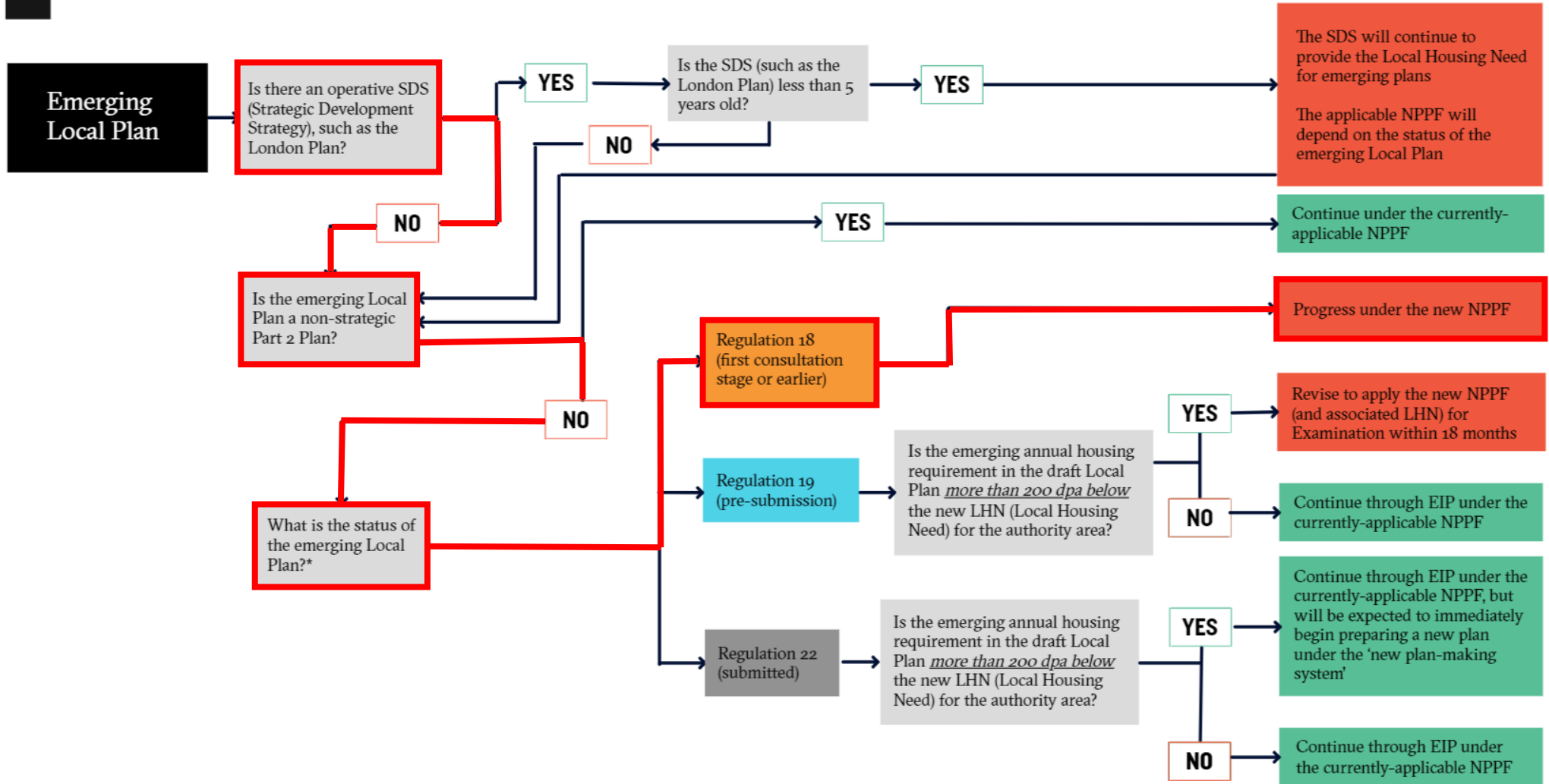
Renewable energy/low carbon development

48. Paragraph 161 b) requires LPAs to identify suitable areas for development of renewable energy and low carbon energy sources rather than simply considering identifying such areas.
49. This means that any future iterations of the Local Plan identifies sites in the District for such developments.
50. NPPF 2024 footnote 64 is removed in part only making reference to a sequential approach to any necessary development on agricultural land.

Transitional arrangements

51. The graphic below, courtesy of Lichfields, and adapted to show North Herts position, shows that the North Herts Local Plan update should progress under the arrangements of the new NPPF 2024 for plan-making.
52. The new plan-making system, however, has yet to be defined beyond the previous July 2023 consultation.

Application of the new NPPF for emerging Local Plans



*Based on the status of the Local Plan one month from the final publication of the NPPF

For more information please contact:

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NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF
on Wednesday, 4th September, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 MINUTES - 19 JUNE 2024

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2024 be approved as amended, 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 drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (3) The Chair advised that section 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.
- (4) The Chair confirmed that the meeting listed for the 25 September 2024 had been cancelled.
- (5) 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.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this meeting.

6 SAFS ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted:

- (1) The activity undertaken by the Shared Anti-Fraud Service (SAFS) to deliver the 2023-24 Anti-Fraud Plan.
- (2) All anti-fraud activity undertaken by Council Officers and SAFS to protect the Council and the public fund it administers.

7 SAFS ANTI-FRAUD PROGRESS REPORT 2024-25

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the progress by Officers and the Shared Anti-Fraud Service to deliver the Anti-Fraud Plan for the Council.

8 SIAS ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the SIAS Annual Report 2023-24.

9 SIAS PROGRESS REPORT 2024-25

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted:

- (1) The SIAS Progress Report for the period to 16 August 2024.
- (2) The implementation status of the reported high priority recommendations.
- (3) The plan amendments to the 2024/25 Annual Audit Plan.

10 UPDATED CONTRACT PROCUREMENT RULES FOR 2024-25

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the report.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: The adoption of the updated Contract Procurement Rules for 2024-25.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (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.

11 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025-30

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the report.

RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET: The adoption of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-30.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: 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 FIRST QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2024/25

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet note this report.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the changes to the 2024/25 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a £858k decrease in net expenditure.

- (3) That Cabinet notes the changes to the 2025/26 General Fund budget, as identified in table 3 and paragraph 8.2, a total £244k increase in net expenditure. These will be incorporated in the draft revenue budget for 2025/26.
- (4) That Cabinet delegates to the Service Director: Resources (in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT) authority to enter in to a Business Rate Pooling arrangement (if available) if it is estimated that it will be in the financial interests of the Council.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: Members are able to monitor, make adjustments within the overall budgetary framework and request appropriate action of Services who do not meet the budget targets set as part of the Corporate Business Planning process.

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

RESOLVED: That the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee noted the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET:

- (1) That Cabinet notes the forecast expenditure of £30.415M in 2024/25 on the capital programme, paragraph 8.3 refers.
- (2) That Cabinet notes the position of the availability of capital resources, as detailed in table 2 paragraph 8.10 and the requirement to keep the capital programme under review for affordability.
- (3) Cabinet is asked to note the position of Treasury Management activity as at the end of June 2024.
- (4) Cabinet is asked to approve that we should proceed with the Local Authority Housing Fund round 3 and submit the Memorandum of Understanding so that we can receive the initial allocation of funds.

That Cabinet recommends to Council

- (5) That Council approves a capital budget of £0.080M to fund the purchase and installation of a new chiller at the museum, paragraph 8.4 refers.
- (6) That Council approves 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 will be fully funded from Government grants and housing provider contributions, paragraph 8.5 refers.
- (7) That Council approves 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.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (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 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair led a discussion regarding possible agenda items for future meetings, no new items were suggested, and it was agreed that there would be pre-meeting training on risk scoring ahead of the November meeting.

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

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 Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken (Appendix B). The outcomes have been considered and there are no relevant adaptations that could be applied and no negative implications where identified.

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

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

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

1. DECISION TAKEN

- 1.1 To approve to hold an annual charter fair at Butts Close, Hitchin from the 23rd September to 29th September 2024, (operating Friday 27th, Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th September 2024).

2. DECISION TAKER

- 2.1. Andrew Mills, Service Manager Greenspace

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

- 3.1 4th September 2024

4. REASON FOR DECISION

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

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

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

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

7. FORWARD PLAN

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

8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

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

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

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

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The event is open to everyone.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None

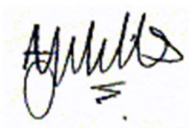
17. APPENDICES

17.1 None

NOTIFICATION DATE - 6th September 2024

Signature of Executive Member ConsultedNot Applicable.....

Date4th September 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

EAST TEAM

Application No.	Applicant/Agent Address	Location Address, Applicant Name & Proposal
Baldock		
24/01815/FPH	Cameron Bosque Brookes Architects Mr Grant Cameron 49 York Street, Cambridge, CB12PZ, United Kingdom	18 Pembroke Road Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6DB Geraint James Extension and alterations to existing detached garage to facilitate conversion of garage to gym/storage/office following removal of existing sheds
24/01841/FPH	AJF Project Design Mr A Ford 22 Ashtons Lane, Baldock, SG7 6JJ, United Kingdom	2 Laxton Gardens Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6DA Mrs H Marshallsay Single storey front extension and front canopy extension to car port
Barkway Parish Council		
24/01949/TCA	Mr Michael Oakman 87 High Street, Puckeridge, United Kingdom	92 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8EF Mrs Val Mcgrow Honey Locust - Reduce by 3m height and 4m width and remove all major deadwood
Letchworth Garden City		
24/01798/FP	Mr Yong Sung Kwon The Colonnade, Lunchmate Station Place, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 3AQ	Lunchmate The Colonnade Station Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3AQ Mr Yong Sung Kwon Change of use, Class E to Sui Generis (R), food takeaway - alterations to shopfront, installation of canopy and ventilation system.
24/01801/LBC	D.Chandler Architectural Design Ltd. Mr Daniel Chandler 61 Geron Road, Letchworth, SG6 3HS, United Kingdom	70 Norton Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1AE Mr & Mrs McMeekin Internal modifications to reinstate original opening and fireplace following removal of existing serving hatch and fireplace.

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 06/09/2024
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 26/09/2024**

24/01832/FPH	D.Chandler Architectural Design Ltd. Mr Daniel Chandler 61 Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3HS, United Kingdom	29 Heathermere Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4QH	Mr & Mrs Wakeling	Single storey side extension following demolition of existing garage and lean-to.
24/01869/FPH	Improve It Design Ltd Mr John Williams 9 Broadstone, Dartmouth, Devon, TQ6 9NR, United Kingdom	10 Newlands Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2JE	Mr N Botcherby	Single storey rear extension and replace existing boundary fence following demolition of existing rear conservatory, shed and garage.
24/01921/TCA	Mr Samuel Dudley Eden Tree Specialists Ltd 40 Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2NR	64 Lytton Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HY	Keogh	T1: Robinia - Crown reduce by removing up to 2m all round to shape and balance. G1: Hawthorn and Prunus - Reduce in height by 2-3m and shape the sides to balance. G2: Magnolia and smoke bush - Reduce to 1.5m.
Royston Town Council				
24/01396/FPH	Mr Roy Rowe 148 High Street, Barkway, Herts, SG8 8EG	Mr Roy Rowe 24 Jeffrey Close Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5DL	Mr Vasile Stanciu	Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension
24/01826/LDCLBMSAD	Mark Scott Bancroft House, 34 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1LA	23 High Street Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9AB	Mr J Lombari	Strip out of modern material, services and finishes, requiring the formation of two new openings in the rear elevation external wall at low level
24/01903/TPO	Keith Smith 5 Layston Park, Royston, SG8 9DS, United Kingdom	5 Layston Park Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9DS	Keith Smith	Beech - Branches cut back by approx 15%

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
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LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 06/09/2024
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24/01932/TPO Andrew Xia 14 Palace Gardens
14 Palace Gardens, Royston, SG8 Royston
5AD, United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG8 5AD

Andrew Xia

T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7: Lime - Crown Reduce height and spread by up to 2m. T8: Conifer - Remove

Rushden And Wallington Parish Council

24/01729/FPH Chris Barker Surveyor Ltd Mr Blarney Hollow
Christopher Barker School Lane
Homefarm Cottage, High Street, Rushden
Clavering, Saffron Waldem, CB11 Buntingford
4QR, United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG9 0SG

Mr Gregory Barker

Raise existing chimney stack.

24/01730/LBC Chris Barker Surveyor Ltd Mr Blarney Hollow
Christopher Barker School Lane
Homefarm Cottage, High Street, Rushden
Clavering, Saffron Waldem, CB11 Buntingford
4QR, United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG9 0SG

Mr Gregory Barker

Raise existing chimney stack.

Weston Parish Council

24/01970/TCA Mrs allison sparrow APA Contract Town Farm
Services Hitchin Road
Unit N Shangri La Farm, Todds Weston
Green, Hertfordshire, SG1 2JE, Hitchin
United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG4 7DB

allison sparrow

G1: 5x Lime - Reduce by 1m. T1: Silver Birch - Remove one branch touching neighbours house . T2: Magnolia - Remove dead wood and reduce by 0.5m to re-balance crown . T3: Hornbeam - Reduce by 2m to re-shape

WEST TEAM

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

24/01785/FP	Be Informed! Mr Charles Speakman 8 Broadmeadow Ride, Hitchin, SG4 7ST, United Kingdom	154 High Street Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8UB
		Mr & Mrs Sunit & Hardip Dhaliwal
		Single storey rear infill extension and alterations to fenestration

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
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**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 06/09/2024
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 26/09/2024**

24/01795/FPH	Plans To Expand Mr Geoffrey Phillips Plans To Expand, 97 Mildmay Road, Stevenage, SG1 5RS	76 St Albans Road Codicote Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8UU
		Mr Tom Stott
		Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear element
Hitchin		
24/01754/FP	Architectural Services Mr Philip Horne 80A Water Lane, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 6HG, United Kingdom	81 Whinbush Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1PZ
		Mr Bimal Barcha
		Erection of three storey building comprising of 8 residential apartments (7 x 1-bed and 1 x 2-bed) with associated bike and bin area and parking following demolition of existing car workshop building.
24/01761/FP	Architectural Services Mr Philip Horne 80A Water Lane, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 6HG, United Kingdom	81a Whinbush Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1PZ
		Mr Bimal Barcha
		Change of use of land to residential. Alterations to existing roof and rear roof extension to facilitate loft conversion. Part two storey and part single storey rear extension following demolition of existing attached rear office building. Alterations to fenestration and external render
24/01763/FPH	Mr Gareth Leech 11 Common Rise, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0HL, United Kingdom	76 Sturgeons Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0BN
		Mr Gareth Leech
		Alterations to existing roof to include hip to gable roof extension and rear box dormer to facilitate loft conversion. Two storey rear and side extensions including juliet balcony and single storey front/side extension. Installation of front hardstanding to facilitate two parking spaces and creation of vehicular access off Sturgeons Way. Alterations to fenestration
24/01782/FPH	A.T. Design (Welwyn) Ltd Mr Adam Trigg 30C High Street, Welwyn, AL6 9EQ	63 Ninesprings Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9NS
		Mrs Anne Piggott-Brown
		Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing detached garage.

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
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**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 06/09/2024
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 26/09/2024**

24/01802/FPH	Studio Lunet Ltd Louise Massie 27-28 Sun Street, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1AH, United Kingdom	77 Brampton Park Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1XE Matthew Pull Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extension. Insertion of rear L-shaped box dormer window and two front rooflights to facilitate loft conversion.
24/01810/LBC	MSAD Architectural Design Ltd Mr Mark Scott Bancroft House, 34 Bancroft, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1LA	32 Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1LA Mr J Hill Replacement of existing timber weatherboarding with Cedral fibre cement weatherboarding
24/01817/LBC	MSAD Architectural Design Ltd Mr Mark Scott Bancroft House, 34 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1LA	The Manor House Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1JW Mr S Parker Retention of panelled dividing wall at first floor and retention of original position of decorative door (part implementation of app ref: 19/00396/LBC by omitting additional bathroom between bedrooms) and addition of shower to the rear entrance lobby
24/01822/FPH	Ian Hale Planning And Design Ltd Mr Ian Hale 2 Peartree Close, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5JG	63 Benslow Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9QZ Mrs Helen King Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory.
24/01830/FPH	D.Chandler Architectural Design Ltd. Mr Daniel Chandler 61 Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3HS, United Kingdom	60 Ninesprings Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9NU Mrs Laura Sabri Two storey side extension. Alterations to existing garage roof and fenestration to facilitate the conversion of garage to self-contained 1-bed annexe ancillary to main dwelling
24/01831/LBC	MSAD Architectural Design Ltd Mr Mark Scott Bancroft House, 34 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1LA	9 Bucklersbury Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1BB Mr T Maa Internal alterations and replacement of new stairs to the cellar.

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 06/09/2024
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 26/09/2024**

24/01934/TCA	Mr Sam Nicholls 71 Ramerick Gardens, Arlesey, SG15 6XZ, United Kingdom	25 Walsworth Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9SP Mr Sam Nicholls A1: Lime - Remove all dead/damaged wood and epicormic growth
24/01935/TCA	Ms Sandra Wilkins 1 St Elmo Court, London Road, Hitchin, SG4 9ET, United Kingdom	St Elmo Court London Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9ET Ms Sandra Wilkins Cherry plum - Prune back long low branches and trim.
24/01939/TPO	Mr Sam Nicholls 71 Ramerick Gardens, Arlesey, SG15 6XZ, United Kingdom	28 Symonds Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2JL Mr Sam Nicholls Lime - Crown reduction of 30%
24/01941/TCA	Mr Sam Nicholls 71 Ramerick Gardens, Arlesey, SG15 6XZ, United Kingdom	24A Walsworth Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9SP Mr Sam Nicholls A2: Lime - Remove all dead/damaged wood and epicormic growth
Ickleford Parish Council		
24/01868/S73	Peter George Town Planning Mr Tom Donovan Nine Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1GE	Glencoe Villa Snailswell Lane Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3TS Mr & Mrs A Del Basso Removal of condition 9 of planning permission 23/00505/S73 granted 20.04.2023 for the erection of one detached four bedroom dwelling with associated access, car parking and hard and soft landscaping following the demolition of existing structures and hardstanding.
Kimpton Parish Council		
24/01823/FPH	Divine Design Consultants Ltd Mr Steven Johnston 49 Queens Crescent, Marshalswick, St Albans, AL4 9QQ	22 Blackmore Way Blackmore End St Albans Hertfordshire AL4 8LJ Mr and Mrs N Merlo Erection of detached rear garden room to facilitate gym/sauna/workshop
Lilley Parish Council		

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
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**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 06/09/2024
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 26/09/2024**

24/01958/TCA	Stella Farr West Street, Redshanks, Lilley, LU2 8LH, United Kingdom	Redshanks West Street Lilley Luton Hertfordshire LU2 8LH Stella Farr Cherry - Remove large limb on right hand side overhanging road.
Offley Parish Council		
24/01844/FPH	Mr Hayes Mr Hayes 86 Shefford Road, Meppershall, SG17 5LL, United Kingdom	11 Garden Fields Offley Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3DF Mr & Mrs Wells Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Insertion of rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion. Alterations to fenestration
Pirton Parish Council		
24/01824/S73	Mr Lee Butler Mr Lee Butler The Old Coach House, 3 Villa Gardens, High Street, Flitwick, MK45 1DS, United Kingdom	Pirton Hall Shillington Road Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3HB Hudson Variation of condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 21/01273/FP granted 17.01.2022 for Conversion and extension of redundant barn to create one 2-bed dwelling (as amended by plan no. LB-0258 Rev A - amendment to access details)
Royston Town Council		
24/01908/ADJ	Charlotte Lau South Cambridgeshire Hall , Cambourne Business Park , Cambridge , CB23 6EA	Land South Of Ashwell Street Bassingbourn, South Cambridgeshire Charlotte Lau Request for Screening Opinion under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 in relation to the proposed solar farm
St Ippolytts Parish Council		
24/01852/LDCP	BBR Design Mr Ryan Albone BBR Design, 7 Paynes Park, Hitchin, SG51EH	West Orchard Sperberry Hill St Ippolyts Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7NZ Mr Davies Erection of detached double garage in rear garden

(Including Withdrawn decisions)

EAST TEAM

Application No: 23/02373/FPH	Location: 10 Whitethorn Lane Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 2DN Applicant Name: Mr Chahal Description: Two storey rear extension, single storey front and side extension, erection of front porch with ridge roof to link to garage and alterations to fenestration. Rear raised patio area and steps (as amended by plans received 27th June 2024 and 29th July 2024).	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01168/FP	Location: Land At Green End And North Of The Cottage Green End Weston Hertfordshire SG4 7AL Applicant Name: Mr Wilson Description: Erection of one 4-bedroom detached dwelling and detached double garage/workshop with creation of parking, landscaping and associated amenities.	Decision: Refused Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01279/FP	Location: Former Hsbc Bank Station Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3EU Applicant Name: Mr Vishal Luthra Frithwood Surveying Description: Conversion of roof space to create one 2-bed flat including insertion of No.3 front dormer windows, No.1 rear dormer window and No.4 rear rooflights.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01404/FP	Location: 20 The Brambles Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9NQ Applicant Name: Mr Stuart Savigar Description: Relocation of boundary fence to enclose former amenity land within residential curtilage (Development already carried out)	Decision: Unconditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01421/FP	Location: Baldock Health Centre Park Drive Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6EN Applicant Name: Mr Brendan Giblin Hertfordshire Community NHS Trus Description: Erection of a perforated metal fence compound to house the installation of air source heat pump.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01465/FPH	Location: 6 Brewery Lane Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5AT Applicant Name: Neil Davis Description: Single storey rear extension.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 30/08/2024
Application No: 24/01477/FPH	Location: Rumah Lama Mill End Rushden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0TA Applicant Name: Susan Crump Description: Single storey front extension.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01502/FPH	Location: 16 The Warren Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9EG Applicant Name: Mr Mike Elliott Description: Replace existing front garage door with a window to facilitate conversion of attached garage into habitable accommodation. Installation of retractable rear canopy and raised rear terrace with balustrade fencing and steps, following demolition of existing single storey rear extension.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024

EAST TEAM

Application No: 24/01527/LBC	Location: Youngloves Farmhouse Southern Green Rushden Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0SP Applicant Name: Mr And Mrs Joe And Helena Cooper Description: Remove existing render to North Gable prior to timber frame repairs or replacement, remove existing concrete plinth and reinstate brick plinth, installation of insulation, woodfibre board and re-render with limecrete. Extend window sills prior to redecoration (as amplified by Survey and Method Statement received on 29.07.2024, drawing no. 15007-S-01 Remedial Plinth Sketch (1) received on 16.08.2024 and Proposed Section Sketch 01 received on 20.08.2024).	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01538/FPH	Location: 27 Morton Street Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7AZ Applicant Name: Mr William Rowe Description: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory and alterations to existing rear garden steps	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01560/DOC	Location: 44 High Street Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8EE Applicant Name: Mr Carl Smalley Description: Details reserved by Condition 9a (Environmental Risk Assessment) of planning permission reference 20/02956/FP granted on 13.09.2021	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 02/09/2024
Application No: 24/01581/FPH	Location: Lantern Lodge Smiths End Lane Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8LL Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Finlayson Description: Single storey rear extension and demolition of existing east elevation chimney stack.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01584/FPH	Location: 3 Saddlers Close Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6EF Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs Jon Milne Description: Installation of window to front elevation of side extension.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01593/FPH	Location: 173 Jackmans Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1RG Applicant Name: Mr & Mrs McLean Description: Replace No.12 existing PVC windows. (amended plans received 15/08/2024)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01642/TCA	Location: The Settlement 229 Nevells Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4UB Applicant Name: Mr Nick Skinner Description: T1. Hawthorn - Reduce by 3-4m shape and balance to viable growth where possible and give 1-2m clearance of the building. H1. Holly Hedge - Bring the height down by 0.5 -1m in height to historical points.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01644/FPH	Location: 49 Redhoods Way West Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4DD Applicant Name: Mr N Minter Description: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear element.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01650/TCA	Location: 147 Jackmans Place Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1RG Applicant Name: Ashcroft Description: T1; Eucalyptus - Reduce by 3m in height and prune the sides by 0.5 to 1m. Mixed hedge - Reduce height by 2m, crown lift Conifer and hedge trim.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 03/09/2024

EAST TEAM

Application No: 24/01689/TCA	Location: 1 West End Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5PH Applicant Name: Me Alan Gilliam Description: T1 Crab Apple - Reduce crown by 1m. T2 Plum - Reduce crown by 1m and remove mistletoe. T3 Goat Willow - Remove to ground level.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01717/NMA	Location: Johnson Matthey Plc Orchard Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 5HE Applicant Name: Johnson Matthey PLC Description: Extend roof stacks to the MFB buildings by 1 metre in height (as non-material amendment to planning permission 18/01764/FP granted 18.01.2019).	Decision: Agreed Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01759/AG	Location: Land East Of Glebe Cottage Church Lane Weston Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7DJ Applicant Name: Mr A Mills Description: Erection of agricultural barn for use to store crops/machinery/warehouse space.	Decision: Withdrawn Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01777/EC	Location: Telecommunication Masts At Ivy Farm Over The Level Crossing Baldock Road Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9NU Applicant Name: Gill Marshall Gateley Hamer Description: Upgrade existing 20m monopole to accommodate 6no. antennas, 3no RRU's, 2no dish on support poles and installation of 1no. cabinet and ancillary works	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01854/NMA	Location: 1 Arena Parade Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3BY Applicant Name: Mrs April Heath Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foun Description: Alterations to approved shopfront (as non-material amendment to planning permission 24/01288/FP granted on 01.08.2024).	Decision: Agreed Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01874/NMA	Location: Site Of Former Foundation House Ickniel Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1UD Applicant Name: Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation & First G Description: 1. Revision to the paving and landscaping. 2. Proposed handrail at the top of the retaining wall. 3. Removal of Bonnet Hips and replacement with Mitred Tiles on 6 no. 135 degree hips to block A and B (as non-material amendment to planning permission 20/01714/FP granted on 14.06.2021).	Decision: Agreed Decision Date: 04/09/2024

WEST TEAM

Application No: 23/02026/S73	Location: 11 Whernside Drive Great Ashby Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 6HW Applicant Name: Mr Alex Richmond Description: Removal of condition 3 relating to plot 213 only (Permitted Development Rights) of planning permission 05/01838/1 granted 17.02.2006 for Approval of details of 93 dwellings comprising a mixture of 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 bedroom flats, terraces and detached houses, 53 garages, 102 parking spaces and ancillary works.	Appeal Decision: Appeal Allowed Decision Date: 02/09/2024
Application No: 23/02726/FP	Location: Old Generator House Mill Lane Hexton Hertfordshire SG5 3JE Applicant Name: Mr Riehmer Description: Change of use and conversion of existing outbuilding to one 3-bed dwelling to include single storey side and rear extensions, parking and landscaping.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 30/08/2024

WEST TEAM

Application No: 24/00553/FP	Location: 15 Shillington Road Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3QJ Applicant Name: Cole Description: Single storey side extension and alterations to window/door arrangement of existing dwelling. Erection of one detached 2-bed dwelling following demolition of existing outbuildings	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01056/DOC	Location: Oughton Head Pumping Station Hitchin Road Pirton Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Affinity Water Limited Description: Details reserved by condition 3 (Highways 1-Access Pre-Comm) of planning permission reference no. 21/02768/FP granted 30.06.2022.	Decision: Refused Decision Date: 02/09/2024
Application No: 24/01176/FPH	Location: 16 Great Green Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3QD Applicant Name: Mr David Allard Description: Replacement of existing ground floor rear window and insertion of rooflight to existing rear roofslope.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01177/LBC	Location: 16 Great Green Pirton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3QD Applicant Name: Mr David Allard Description: Replacement of existing ground floor rear window and insertion of rooflight to existing rear roofslope.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01272/FPH	Location: 33 Mendip Way Great Ashby Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 6GW Applicant Name: Jason Root Description: Installation of free-standing air source heat pump at side of dwelling.	Decision: Withdrawn Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01394/FPH	Location: 100 Strathmore Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1SU Applicant Name: Mrs J Jones Description: Single storey rear extension. Insertion of ground floor front window following removal of existing garage door to facilitate garage conversion. Alterations to fenestration.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 30/08/2024
Application No: 24/01415/FPH	Location: 23 Wymondley Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PN Applicant Name: Julia Hanna Verditer Consulting limited Description: Paint front door and frame dark green	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01486/FPH	Location: 6 Raymond Cottages Upper Green Ickleford Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3YE Applicant Name: Mr And Mrs Lucas Description: Single storey rear infill extension	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01494/FPH	Location: 69 Ninesprings Way Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9NU Applicant Name: Mr Josh Wilcox Description: Refurbishment of existing bungalow including alterations to fenestration and demolition of existing porch and chimney	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01500/FPH	Location: 1 The Crescent St Ippolyts Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7RE Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs Collinson Description: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear garden room.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024

WEST TEAM

Application No: 24/01505/AD	Location: The Victoria Ickleford Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1TJ Applicant Name: Mr Chris Worswick Greene King Description: Replace/installation of signs to include No.1 post mounted pictorial sign with No.2 amenity boards below, No.2 sets of written house names, No.1 transom sign, No.1 amenity board, No.1 set of sign written house name and amenity wording to fence.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01506/FPH	Location: 15 Whitehorse Lane Great Ashby Stevenage Hertfordshire SG1 6NJ Applicant Name: Mr John Miguel Description: Single storey front and rear extensions	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01554/FPH	Location: Canvey Cottage Kimpton Road Peters Green Luton Hertfordshire LU2 9PR Applicant Name: Mr Clive Faulder Description: Single storey front extension incorporating front porch following demolition of existing porch. (Amended plans received 07/08/24 - 03/09/24).	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01568/TCA	Location: Model Farm Mill Lane Hexton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 3JE Applicant Name: Clara Lawless Description: T2, T3 Cherry, T4 Sycamore - Remove	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01579/FPH	Location: 1 Passingham Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9LA Applicant Name: Mrs Steph Smith Description: Single storey front porch extension with replacement pitched roof over existing garage to facilitate partial conversion of garage into utility room. External cladding to existing front elevation.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01620/S73	Location: Land On The North Side Of Pirton Road Holwell Hertfordshire SG5 3SN Applicant Name: Davidson Description: Variation of condition 2 (revised plans) of planning permission 22/01687/FP granted for erection of six dwellings with associated access, landscaping and parking (as amended by plans received 06/02/24 and 15/02/24)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01636/DOC	Location: Land Rear Of Gothic House Oak Lane Graveley Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr A Jennings Description: Details reserved by condition 3 (Land Contamination) of planning permission reference no 22/03299/FP granted 14.04.2023	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01646/FPH	Location: 57 Periwinkle Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1TZ Applicant Name: Peter Brown Description: Single storey rear and side extension. Hipped to gable end roof extension and rear box dormer window to facilitate loft conversion, rendering of side and front elevations (as amended by plans received 04/09/24)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01662/LDCE	Location: Annexe At Cuckoo Hall 73 Park Lane Old Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6PP Applicant Name: Mr Gary Withers Description: Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of the outbuilding as a self-contained residential unit	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 04/09/2024
Application No: 24/01664/FPH	Location: 21a Deards End Lane Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6NL Applicant Name: Ms Ruth Meyers Boyes Turner Trust Corporation Description: Replace existing timber windows with triple glazed dark grey aluminium windows	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024

WEST TEAM

Application No: 24/01676/LDCP	Location: 3 Spinney Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PD Applicant Name: Priya Patel Description: Insertion of rear box dormer to facilitate conversion of loft into habitable accommodation. Insertion of one additional rooflight in existing south side elevation roof slope.	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 30/08/2024
Application No: 24/01687/LDCP	Location: 4 Alexandra Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1RB Applicant Name: Mr. G. Singh Description: Insertion of rear L-shaped box dormer with French doors and Juliet balcony to facilitate conversion of loft into habitable accommodation	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01701/LDCP	Location: 3 Spinney Close Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9PD Applicant Name: Priya Patel Description: Single storey rear extension	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 30/08/2024
Application No: 24/01703/DOC	Location: Land Rear Of Gothic House Oak Lane Graveley Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr A Jennings Description: Details reserved by condition 4 (Waste Storage) of planning permission reference no 22/03299/FP granted 14.04.2023	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01704/DOC	Location: Land Rear Of Gothic House Oak Lane Graveley Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr A Jennings Description: Details reserved by condition 5 (Refuse Collection) of planning permission reference no 22/03299/FP granted 14.04.2023	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 29/08/2024
Application No: 24/01706/LDCP	Location: 4 Woolgrove Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0AS Applicant Name: Caroline Mcleod Description: Erection of garden room outbuilding to rear garden.	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 30/08/2024
Application No: 24/01780/DOC	Location: The Anchor 84 Cambridge Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0JH Applicant Name: Greene King Commercial Investments Limited Description: Details reserved by condition 10 (Construction Management Plan) of planning permission reference no. 23/01947/FP granted 26.03.2024	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 02/09/2024
Application No: 24/01814/TCA	Location: 34 West Street Lilley Luton Hertfordshire LU2 8LN Applicant Name: Mr Dave Pilkington Ace of Trees ltd Description: T1: Sycamore, T2 Beech, T3 Birch - Reduce by 30%	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 03/09/2024
Application No: 24/01827/EC	Location: 2 Thistley Bungalow Preston Road Gosmore Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7QS Applicant Name: Cris Whymark UK Power Networks Description: Installation of electricity pole (and associated low voltage overhead lines) following the removal of existing electricity pole in rear garden	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 03/09/2024

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3871

2 September 2024

Have your say on the Grange Rec

What do you think of the Grange Recreational Ground in Letchworth? Do you live nearby? Do you visit regularly?

The council is looking at what improvements can be made as part of the proposed development to the north of the Grange Estate, as the masterplan for an adjacent 900-home development known as LG1 in our Local Plan has just been approved. The Grange Rec is owned by the council and is a large area of land - 6.7 hectares, roughly the size of nine football pitches! – and we want to make the most of it. Money from the anticipated section 106 agreements – whereby the developers of new homes have to contribute towards community facilities – will help fund future improvements.

The Grange Rec has a wealth of facilities including children’s play equipment, skatepark, basketball court/multi-use games area, outdoor gym, football pitches and changing rooms, or perhaps you use it to walk your dog or cycle through it? What facilities do you use and do any need improving?

Cllr Mick Debenham, Executive Member for Environment, Leisure & Green Spaces at North Herts Council, said: “The survey covers questions on facilities, safety and access, to help give us an idea of what the community think of the area. We want to know what elements are important to you and your family, so we can assess the impact of current facilities and identify community priorities. The recreational ground is an important asset to the Grange and surrounding area, which will serve new and existing residents into the future.”

There will be further consultation in the New Year, with more detailed discussions with residents and local groups.

Please complete the [short survey](#) by **18 October**, it takes approximately five minutes to complete. If you have any queries about the survey, or need a large print or different version, please email: Planning.Policy@north-herts.gov.uk

The survey can be accessed via www.north-herts.gov.uk

ENDS

For more information please contact Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk / 01462 474403.

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3872

2 September 2024

North Herts staff take on Yorkshire Three Peaks

A team of 17 members of staff from North Herts Council including Managing Director Anthony Roche and two Service Directors, will be tackling the Yorkshire Three Peaks within 12 hours, and have already raised around £5,000 for charity!

The [Public Sector Challenge](#) takes place on Friday, 6 September, from around 6am and is a 24-mile (38.6km) round trip in the Yorkshire Dales National Park in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Sarah Kingsley, Service Director for Place, said: “This is a fantastic challenge which is bringing public sector workers together from across the country in the great outdoors to raise money for charity. It will be good exercise, and good for the mind, and although it’s likely to be tiring we’ll come back feeling proud and refreshed. Most importantly we’ll be contributing to funding all-important research into cancer, which one in two of us will develop in some form.”

Everyone Active, our leisure contractor, is kindly sponsoring the entry fees for the team. Chris Williams, Everyone Active’s Contract Manager across North Herts, said: “We are so proud to be sponsoring our local council as they embark on this monumental challenge, raising money for a cause close to many of our hearts. As a company which strives to make positive change through sport and physical activity, we are thrilled to be helping the team in a small way to help them make a real difference to the lives of those living with cancer.”

The Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge includes 1,585m (5,200ft) of ascent and takes on the peaks of Pen-y-Ghent (694 metres), Whernside (736 metres) and Ingleborough (723 metres).

The annual event is in its infancy but is sponsored by the likes of the Local Government Association. An event organiser said: “Local government is always up for a challenge but the

last few years have been more challenging than most. Annually we are asking the public sector to come together by taking on a challenge and by doing so raise money for Cancer Research UK.”

ENDS

Notes to editors: Staff have paid for their own travel and accommodation. We'll be reporting how the team did with some photos and funds raised next week.

Photo attached: Some of the team pictured on Trig Pillar at Deacon Hill, Pegsdon, in The Chilterns, as part of a recent training walk.

For more information please contact Anna.Cotton@north-herts.gov.uk / 01462 474403.

Press release

Tuesday 2 September

Leading leisure operator launches its first Reformer Pilates studio in Hitchin

Local leisure operator Everyone Active is set to unveil its first ever Reformer Pilates studio later this month at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre.

The state-of-the-art studio will be the first of Everyone Active's 230 sites nationwide and follows the company's recent appointment to manage North Herts Council's leisure facilities from April 2024.

Performed on a reformer machine rather than a mat, Reformer Pilates is growing in popularity and loved by celebrities for its body conditioning benefits suitable for everyone.

A former group exercise studio at the site is being repurposed into the new studio, which will have 20 reformer machines that have adjustable resistance and moving platforms that roll up and down as the participant performs the move.

The £100,000 investment into the Reformer studio is the first upgrade at Hitchin, with a full gym refurbishment due to take place next spring.

Mark Leahy, Everyone Active's Regional Contract Manager across North Herts, said: "At Everyone Active, we are delighted to be launching the company's first ever Reformer studio at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre.

"As one of the industry's fastest-growing initiatives, we are excited to open the studio doors and welcome the local community to try Reform Pilates for themselves, either as an addition to their established workout regime or as a way to kickstart their fitness journey.

"Reformer machines can both add resistance, making sessions more intense or assist the user if they struggle with high-intensity movement or are recovering from an injury, making it the ideal exercise for those of all ages and abilities."

The centre will be offering two types of Reformer classes - FitCore and Ignite.

Whilst Reformer FitCore will be available to all eligible members following the studio's grand opening, Reformer Ignite, Everyone Active's exclusive offering, will be available from the beginning of November 2024.

Reformer FitCore, established by Peak Pilates, the industry leader for Pilates instructor education, utilises Pilates-based exercises to strengthen the whole body. Acting as the first stepping stone in building core strength through movement, FitCore is best suited to Reformer novices.

Meanwhile, Reformer Ignite is available for those looking for a more intense Reformer session. Whilst exercises can be adapted depending on the individual and their ability, Ignite classes are specifically designed for those looking to elevate their core strength even further whilst increasing their flexibility.

Cllr Mick Debenham, North Herts Council's Executive Member for Leisure, said: "We are thrilled to see Everyone Active bringing such an innovative and sought-after fitness option to Hitchin. This is a fantastic opportunity for residents to enjoy the benefits of Reformer pilates, and we're eager to see how this offering will contribute to the wellbeing of our community."

Further improvement works at Hitchin Swimming and Fitness Centre include the £200,000 refurbishment of two studios and the introduction of a brand-new spin studio, complete with 21 Kieser bikes and audio-visual dynamics.

Other changes are also underway across other North Herts leisure facilities including a full gym refurbishment at North Herts Leisure Centre and improvements to the existing cycling studio and gym changing rooms at Royston Leisure Centre.

The new Reformer studio at Hitchin will be opened at a grand launch event later this month with details to be announced soon.

- ENDS -

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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

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3874

3 September 2024

Temporary banking hub set to open in Royston

Royston Town Council and North Herts Council have worked together with Cash Access UK to arrange for a temporary banking hub to be located in the annexe at the back of the Town Hall, which already houses the Citizens' Advice Bureau. The hub is a 5-minute walk from the town centre and there is pay and display parking in the Civic Centre Car Park next to the Health Centre and Town Hall.

Cash Access UK, a not-for-profit organisation set up by nine major banks to protect nationwide access to cash, will be managing the temporary hub whilst working on finding a permanent location. The hub will be open five days a week until a permanent banking hub is opened. It will offer a counter service where customers of all major banks can carry out regular cash transactions and such facilities as paying utility bills. There will also be a community banker service where customers can discuss more complicated issues with their bank.

The hub is due to open in mid-September. A Community Banker Service will also be available where customers can talk to their own bank about more complicated issues on the day their bank is in the hub.

Councillor John Rees, Mayor of Royston, said: "I am delighted that Royston residents will have a temporary Banking Hub open before the last bank in town finally closes its doors and I look forward to a more permanent arrangement in due course".

Cllr Tamsin Thomas, North Herts Council's Executive Member for Enterprise & Arts, said: "We understand how important access to banking services is for our community, especially in times of change. By working together with Royston Town Council and Cash Access UK, we're ensuring that local residents and businesses continue to have convenient access to essential financial services."

ENDS

For more information, please contact Sarah.Jenkinson@north-herts.gov.uk / 01462 474210.