

North Herts Council

Corporate Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment

2023/24

Summary

This report sets out the approach taken to consider the cumulative environmental impact of North Herts Council's decision-making process in the civic year 2023/2024.

The report is based on council and committee reports that have been considered throughout the civic year. This includes those council and committee reports that required an environmental impact analysis and those council and committee reports that did not require an environmental impact analysis but demonstrated consideration of impacts on environmental factors, and where necessary, identified mitigating action to avoid any negative implications regarding the environment.

A number of reports were either merely for information only or seeking approval from council to pursue a certain course of action. Therefore, some of these proposals/projects were in the early stages and as such, may need further environmental considerations in the future.

In 2019, the Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency. This declaration asserted the Council's commitment toward Climate Action beyond the current government targets and international agreements. Also, in July 2023, the Council declared an Ecological Emergency highlighting the need to address nature recovery, identify appropriate areas for habitat restoration and biodiversity net gain in the planning and development process while limiting impacts on existing habitats.

As part of the declaration, when Council policies are reviewed, specific consideration is given to how the policies and related decisions and actions affect our contribution to climate change, and where necessary, these policies are updated to reduce our impact where possible. The inclusion of an environmental implications section within reports and delegated decision templates ensures that impacts, mitigation measures and risks are identified at an early stage. Environmental Impact Assessments will include considerations that address air quality, biodiversity, adapting to climate change, landscape, noise and nuisance, waste management, water, and flood risks.

Climate action has been a long-term corporate priority area for the Council, and this is currently pursued through our Climate Change Strategy 2022-2027. The key objectives outlined within this strategy are:

- Achieve Carbon Neutrality for the Council's own operations by 2030 (at least Scope 1 and Scope 2)
- Ensure all operations and services are resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Achieve a Net Zero Carbon district by 2040
- Become a district that is resilient to unavoidable impacts of climate change

The table below summarises the environmental impact analysis of key council decisions in the last civic year. Individual environmental impact assessments for key policy decisions will usually be included within this report under the completed Environmental Impact Assessments section however as highlighted in the Cumulative Assessment Findings section below, there were no Impact Assessments completed in the civic year 2023/24. Therefore, there will be no Appendix A accompanying this report as seen in previous years.

1. Cabinet and Council Reports

1a. Potential environmental impacts identified by Cabinet and Council reports and the mitigating action either carried out or proposed, where appropriate.

1b. Potential environmental identified by Cabinet and Council reports that may appear in future along the course of the project and will be considered where they arise.

1c. Cabinet and Council reports identifying no environmental impacts.

Cumulative Assessment Findings

- Out of **85** decisions from Cabinet and Council, a total of **12** noted potential environment impacts and the mitigating action either carried out or proposed; **0** Environmental Impact assessments were completed. It can be noted however that a number of Environmental Impact Assessments were completed for Delegated Decisions across the civic year 2023/24, these decisions can be found at [Delegated decisions 2024](#) and [Delegated decisions 2023](#).
- **19** decisions noted potential future environment implications however at the time of reporting, did not require action or completion of an Environment Impact Assessment.
- **54** decisions highlighted no direct implications.

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1a. Cabinet Decisions	
27th June 2023	
	Environmental Implications
<p>Agenda Item 11: Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) update and consultation report REPORT OF: Service Director - Regulatory</p>	
<p>Following public consultation of the draft North Herts Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) in the autumn of 2022, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has analysed the feedback and produced the attached LCWIP Consultation Report. HCC and North Herts Council (NHDC) officers have met with local groups and visited sites to discuss and review suggestions made through the consultation. All of this has informed some significant changes to the LCWIP, which are outlined in the attached LCWIP Changes Summary Report. The next step will be for HCC officers to prepare a final draft of the LCWIP to present to HCC Highways and Transport Cabinet Panel. It is expected that this will be in September 2023 and that HCC will formally adopt the Plan shortly thereafter.</p>	<p>Implementation of the LCWIP is expected to have a positive impact on air quality by enabling and supporting a mode-shift from cars to walking and cycling, reducing the vehicle-mileage by cars in our towns.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: ACTIVE NORTH HERTS STRATEGY REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - PLACE</p>	
<p>This report seeks Cabinet's approval to adopt the new Active North Herts Strategy, attached as Appendix 1 his report seeks Cabinet's approval to adopt the new Active North Herts Strategy, attached as Appendix 1.</p>	<p>The new Leisure and Active Communities Contract includes the provision of an Active Communities service to assist with the delivery of the Active North Herts strategy. However, there will also be resource implications for the North Herts leisure team and wider teams in delivering the strategy and this will need consideration during the action planning process.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 16: ASHWELL CONSERVATION AREA REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to consider the representations made in response to the consultation on the draft Ashwell Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) and the proposed boundary changes for the Ashwell Conservation Area.</p>	<p>The adoption of the CAAMP for the Ashwell Conservation Area will assist in the management of the historic environment.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 17: PIRTON CONSERVATION AREA REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to consider the representations made in response to the consultation on the draft Pirton Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) and the proposed boundary changes for the Pirton Conservation Area.</p>	<p>The adoption of the CAAMP for the Pirton Conservation Area will assist in the management of the historic environment.</p>
<p>19th September 2023</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: PROPOSED OFF-STREET CAR PARKING TARIFFS FOR 2023/24 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report requests that Cabinet agrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the proposed car parking tariffs in North Hertfordshire Council's off street car parks in order to effectively manage their use, and in accordance with the Council's fees and charges policy as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). (ii) the policy proposal that visitors parking in electric vehicle parking bays should pay for their parking session. (iii) for officers to implement parking subsidy and incentive schemes on a break even approach on request. 	<p>The NHDC parking strategy seeks to minimise environmental impacts where possible in regard to Off-street parking. As noted at paragraph 8.1.6 there may be further reduction in car travel with the implementation of the Hertfordshire County Council Sustainable Travel Town Initiative in some areas.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: CHESFIELD CONSERVATION AREA REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR – REGULATORY</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to consider the representations made in response to the consultation on the draft Chesfield Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) and the proposed designation of the Chesfield Conservation Area.</p>	<p>The designation of the Chesfield Conservation Area and the adoption of the CAAMP will assist in the management of the historic environment.</p>

12th December 2023

Agenda Item 11: LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AWARD
REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - PLACE

This report seeks approval to award the Leisure and Active Communities Contract, due to commence on 1 April 2024.

All bidders were required to submit a scored sustainability method statement and were evaluated on their approach to service delivery and how they will contribute to the Council's aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, including identifying energy saving investments, the estimated cost of installation and the projected reduction in energy consumption and costs.

6th February 2024

Agenda Item 7: Empty Homes Strategy 2024-29
REPORT OF: Frank Harrison, Environmental Health Manager

This strategy states the objectives North Herts Council (the Council) has set itself so as to endeavour to bring as many long-term vacant homes back into occupation as is practicable. Whilst short-term empty homes are inevitable when linked to house sales, or where the occupier may need to be care elsewhere, these homes pose little or no concern to the local communities, and quickly return to occupation. However, a small but significant number of houses remain vacant for protracted period, and it is these that tend to have a negative impact on their area, and are also the target of this strategy. The Council intends to work with the owners of these premises to initially understand their reasons for keeping them vacant, but to then work with as many owners as possible, to allow this unused resource to better serve the communities, mitigate the negative impact they have, and provide an increased opportunity to meet the Councils housing needs, without the need to build so additional new homes. This strategy sets out the intention and the outline processes to allow the Council to achieve this objective

Empty homes are recognised as posing, or being able to pose a negative environmental impact, both directly as potentially being a source of local pollution including due to the home deteriorating or offering a dumping site, but also indirectly, in being an unused commodity requiring an alternative home to offer the housing amenities. This strategy seeks to mitigate this impact by bringing as many empty homes back into occupation as practicable.

<p>Agenda Item 8: NORTH HERTS COUNCIL DIGITAL STRATEGY REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR CUSTOMERS</p>	
<p>This report proposes a new Digital Strategy covering 2024-2027. The strategy sets out our vision and aims for progressing our digital transformation journey and links our work in this area to other key corporate strategies including the Council Plan, the Customer Service strategy, and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy</p>	<p>To support the advancement of the digital strategy staff are equipped with the means to access new technology (predominantly through laptops to support home working, mobile working throughout the district and when at Council locations). Throughout the digital journey the tools that have been sourced to support staff have been assessed to ensure that they have a low impact on the environment.</p>
<p>19th March 2024</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8: EXPANSION OF THE SOFT PLASTICS COLLECTION TRIAL REPORT OF: SHARED SERVICE MANAGER – WASTE MANAGEMENT</p>	
<p>This report seeks authority for the expansion of kerbside collections of plastic film and wrapping (soft plastics). A small trial has been running under delegated authority, in Knebworth, since November 2023 providing approximately 2,000 households with fortnightly soft plastics collections. This has been successful and is providing useful data to Flexible Plastic Funds FlexCollect trial and the Shared Waste Service in advance of introducing collections more widely in 2025. An expansion to a further 7300 households is proposed across East and North Hertfordshire with the total number of households in North Herts anticipated to be 6,250.</p>	<p>There are no known negative impacts. The positive impacts of the trial have been increased awareness around plastics recycling, in particular single use items which are predominantly soft plastics. There is a greater understanding of potential advantages of collection, handling, and end markets for a difficult but often requested material for recycling. These are single use plastics and the recycling of them will decrease litter and reduce resource use as recycling these soft plastics saves materials going for residual waste disposal. All these things prime us and markets for effective soft plastics collection and recycling / recovery ahead of 2025. All material collected as part of the trial are being diverted from the residual waste stream and therefore reducing material being sent to landfill/Energy from Waste. Material processing is part of the wider trial and the end destinations will vary</p>

whilst processing options are being tested, all material is being process tested in the UK.

1a. Council Decisions

29th February 2024

**Agenda Item 8: REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25
REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES**

Cabinet have recommended a budget for 2024/25 to Council for their consideration and approval. The budget considers the following: • The funding that the Council should expect to receive in 2024/25 and an estimate of future years funding • The forecast net spend required to enable the continued delivery of the Council services in 2024/25 and beyond • The risks in relation to the budget (e.g. higher spend or lower income) and providing reasonable financial protection against those risks • The implications of all the above on future years and ensuring that actions are in place to deliver a balanced budget in the medium term. There have been some changes to the version of the report that was considered by Cabinet and these changes are detailed in paragraph 7.3. There has also been a subsequent change in relation to energy costs for our leisure centres which is detailed at paragraph 8.4.

The proposal for the decarbonisation of the leisure centres would have a positive environmental impact. Some of the savings and investments identified in Appendix B are put forward to have a positive influence on the Council's environmental impact (i.e. the heat decarbonisation plans and APSE energy membership). For others there may be a low level of indirect negative implications (e.g. recruiting additional staff could require increased travel, redecoration may require contractor travel and use of paint), and for these the impacts will be managed as much as possible. Overall the Council still plans to deliver the commitments contained within its Climate Change Strategy. Some of the specific actions contained within the Climate Strategy will be dependent on opportunities and funding being available. They may not therefore be in this budget, but could be incorporated in future years.

18th April 2024

<p>Agenda Item 12: Sale of Land at Hitchin Road, Weston known as The Snipe REPORT OF: Paul Quin - Interim Estates Surveyor / Philip Doggett – Principal Estates Surveyor</p>	
<p>Report seeking approval of the sale of North Hertfordshire District Council's (NHDC's) freehold interest in land at The Snipe, Hitchin Road, Weston based on terms negotiated following Cabinet's resolution on 15th December 2020 (minute number 14). The land is an allocated housing site in the adopted North Herts Local Plan. The commercially sensitive terms are set out in the Part 2 report.</p>	<p>An Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out ahead of the 15th December 2020 Cabinet decision and can be referred to within the following link and is within the Final Sustainability Appraisal: https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/north-herts-local-plan-2011-2031</p> <p>As set out in this report, consideration has been given to the potential to meet the North Herts Council Climate Strategy action to require Passivhaus, BREEAM, or similar standards for all developments on land sold by the Council. Though a total of 120 developers were invited to bid on the site, not one offered to build to these standards. Nevertheless, through analysis of the offers that did come in, it has been possible to ensure building to the Future Homes Standards.</p> <p>The Future Homes Standard is due to be implemented in 2025 and was recently consulted on. It will improve the energy efficiency and reduce emissions from new build homes through improvements to building regulations. It builds on improvements made in 2022 to building regulations part L on conservation of energy and part F on ventilation.</p> <p>The 2025 Future Homes and Buildings Standards enhances air tightness levels and requires the use of low-carbon heating, particularly air source heat pumps. The Government anticipates that the Future Homes Standard will reduce emissions from buildings by 75-80% compared to those built under previous regulations from 2013 and considers buildings to be net zero compatible. The Energy Usage Intensity of homes built under the Future Homes Standard is around 45kWh/m2.yr which is significantly below older building regulations. The Future Homes Standard does not achieve energy efficiency standards in line with Passivhaus Standard, which has requirements for very high airtightness levels, greater insulation, triple glazing and mechanical ventilation delivering space heating energy demand of 15kWh/m2.yr (a similar metric to the Energy Usage Intensity). However, being Net Zero compatible and powered through low carbon technologies, the Future Homes Standard is a significant improvement on building</p>

	regulations prior to the 2022 improvements and is broadly aligned with the Council's 2040 Net Zero district target.
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Completed Environmental Impact Assessments

1b. Cabinet Decisions	
27th June 2023	
	Environmental Implications
Agenda Item 13: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS REPORT OF: IAN FULLSTONE, SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY	
This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.	A number of the schemes noted at section 8 will have considerable impact on the environment as they come to fruition. Many of these will be subject to their own statutory requirements for environmental assessment such as Sustainability Appraisal or Environmental Impact Assessment. The need for further assessment, for example where there is no statutory requirement, is considered on a case-by-case basis.
Agenda Item 20: INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) END OF YEAR REVIEW 2022/23 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES	
As at the end of financial year 2022/23, there is a reduction in Capital spend compared to quarter 3 of £1.447million. The majority of this change is due to revisions to the profile of planned project spend, with £1.222million that will now instead be incurred in 2023/24. 1.2 During the year the Council has generated £1.310million of interest from its investments. This is more than the budgeted total of £1.277million at Quarter 3, and significantly more than the original budget of £0.119million. 1.3 The Council has repaid £0.019million of borrowing during the year as it has matured. The Council has £0.367million of remaining borrowing. This borrowing is at a fixed rate for a fixed period. The	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.

<p>premium incurred from repaying this borrowing early means that it is not worthwhile to do so.</p> <p>1.4 The Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements throughout the year.</p>	
<p>19th September 2023</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 13: FIRST QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2023/24 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>1.1 To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2023/24, as at the end of June 2023.</p> <p>1.2 To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2023/24 – 2032/33. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2023/24 of £0.853M and an increase in spend in 2024/25 of £0.686M and £0.585M in the following years of the capital programme. The most significant individual changes to the spend in 2023/24 relate to an increase of £0.385M funding for addition social housing and decreases of £0.385M Property Improvements, £0.315M Grounds Maintenance Vehicles & Machinery and £0.300M Walsworth Common Pavilion which have been reprofiled into 2024/25 and beyond.</p> <p>1.3 To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first three months of 2023/24. The current forecast is that the amount of investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £2.602M. This is an increase of £1.0M on the original estimate.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary</p>
<p>Agenda Item 15: COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24 (QUARTER 1 UPDATE) REPORT OF: REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>This report presents progress on delivering the Council Delivery Plan for 23-24 at the end of Quarter 1, which includes: • Progress against the completion of Council projects and milestones •</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. However, a number of the projects to be monitored throughout the year are related to key environmental issues. As</p>

<p>Requests to change milestone dates. • Commentary on progress made and any new issues, risks, or opportunities. • The addition of new projects • The setting of key Council projects</p>	<p>projects progress, Environmental Implications will be considered, and Environmental Impact Assessments conducted where relevant.</p>
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14th November 2023

<p>Agenda Item 8: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS REPORT OF: IAN FULLSTONE, SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
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<p>This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.</p>	<p>A number of the schemes noted at section 8 will have considerable impact on the environment as they come to fruition. Many of these will be subject to their own statutory requirements for environmental assessment such as Sustainability Appraisal or Environmental Impact Assessment. The need for further assessment, for example where there is no statutory requirement, is considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
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<p>Agenda Item 9: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024-29 REPORT OF: Service Director – Resources</p>	
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<p>This report recommends the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2028/29 to guide and inform the Council's Business Planning Process. The focus is primarily on setting a budget for 2024/25, as well as determining the actions that will be necessary in setting a longer term budget following on from that. It reflects on the many uncertainties that the Council faces.. Whilst it recommends a five year budget strategy, there will be a need to amend the strategy over time as further information becomes available. The MTFS supports and is supported by the Council Plan. This reflects that the Council can only deliver priorities and projects that it can afford and should prioritise its spending around delivering its priorities.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that directly apply to this report.</p>
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16th January 2024

<p>Agenda Item 9: Local Plan Review REPORT OF: Ian Fullstone, Service Director - Regulatory</p>	
<p>The current North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 (NHLP) was adopted in November 2022. Notwithstanding the statutory five-year period for carrying out a review of a local plan to determine whether an update is required, the NHLP contains Policy IMR2 which committed the Council to determine whether the Plan needs to be updated in part or in whole by the end of 2023. 1.2 A review of the policies of the NHLP has now been carried out which has concluded that there is a need for a full update of the Local Plan (Appendix A). This is supported by a completed Planning Advisory Service (PAS) toolkit assessment which reaches a similar conclusion (Appendix B). Cabinet is requested to note the review of the policies and agree to undertake the full update of the NHLP</p>	<p>There are no known direct Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report; this is a procedural decision. Subject to the (potential) changes in the regulatory framework outlined above, it is expected that any replacement Local Plan will need to be accompanied by comprehensive environmental assessments which consider the social, economic and environmental implications of proposed policies and allocations. These will be set out in any relevant future reports.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS REPORT OF: IAN FULLSTONE, SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.</p>	<p>A number of the schemes noted at section 8 will have considerable impact on the environment as they come to fruition. Many of these will be subject to their own statutory requirements for environmental assessment such as Sustainability Appraisal or Environmental Impact Assessment. The need for further assessment, for example where there is no statutory requirement, is considered on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24 (QUARTER 2 UPDATE) REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>This report presents progress on delivering the Council Delivery Plan for 23-24 at the end of Quarter 2, which includes: • Progress against the completion of Council projects and milestones • Requests to change milestone dates. • Commentary on progress made and any new issues, risks, or opportunities. • The addition of new projects.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. However, a number of the projects to be monitored throughout the year are related to key environmental issues. As projects progress, Environmental Implications will be considered, and Environmental Impact Assessments conducted where relevant.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 13: SECOND QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2023/24 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2023/24, as at the end of September 2023. To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2023/24 – 2032/33. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2023/24 of £2.413M and an increase in spend in 2024/25 of £1.789M and £2.109M in the following years of the capital programme. The most significant individual changes to the forecast spend in 2023/24 relate to the reprofiling into future years of £2.000M Museum Storage unit and £1.096M Development of John Barker Place, and an increase of £1.424M Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2. To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first six months of 2023/24. The current forecast is that the amount of investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £3.014M. This is an increase of £0.412M on the estimate reported in the 1st quarter report.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>
<p>6th February 2024</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES PREMIUMS REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS</p>	
<p>That in accordance with Section 11B and 11C of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by Section 2 of the Rating (Properties in Common Occupation) & Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, Cabinet considers increasing the council tax premiums on empty homes and introducing a new premium on second homes in a phased approach as follows:</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the decision as set out in this report. The bringing back of empty homes into use is a more sustainable way of increasing the supply of homes than building new dwellings.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 10: REVENUE BUDGET 2024/25 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>Cabinet are asked to recommend a budget for 2024/25 to Council for their consideration and approval. The budget considers the following: • The funding that the Council should expect to receive in 2024/25 and an estimate of future years funding • The forecast net spend required to enable the continued delivery of the Council services in 2024/25 and beyond • The other risks in relation to the budget (e.g. higher spend or lower income) and providing reasonable financial protection against those risks • The implications of all the above on future years and ensuring that actions are in place to deliver a balanced budget in the medium term. Cabinet are also asked to approve adjustments to the 2023/24 revenue budget as a result of the revised forecasts contained within this report. Finance, Audit and Risk Committee are asked to comment on the proposed budget through an in-depth analysis of policy issues pertaining to finance, audit and risk.</p>	<p>The proposal for the decarbonisation of the leisure centres would have a positive environmental impact. Some of the savings and investments identified in Appendix B are put forward to have a positive influence on the Council's environmental impact (i.e. the heat decarbonisation plans and APSE energy membership). For others there may be a low level of indirect negative implications (e.g. recruiting additional staff could require increased travel, redecoration may require contractor travel and use of paint), and for these the impacts will be managed as much as possible. Overall the Council still plans to deliver the commitments contained within its Climate Change Strategy. Some of the specific actions contained within the Climate Strategy will be dependent on opportunities and funding being available. They may not therefore be in this budget, but could be incorporated in future years.</p>
<p>19th March 2024</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: Shared Prosperity Fund process and proposed allocation for 2024/5 spend REPORT OF: The Enterprise Manager</p>	
<p>A report to set out the delegated approval (for Executive Members and Service Directors) process for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation. This report also sets out the proposed remaining plans for the 2024/2025 UK Shared Prosperity spend. We are seeking Cabinet's endorsement of the outline proposals in preparation for the 2024/2025 allocation.</p>	<p>There are no negative environmental implications arising as a direct result of this report. The Solar for Business scheme will have positive environmental implications by helping businesses in the district switch to renewable energy. As projects progress, Environmental Implications will be considered, and Environmental Impact Assessments conducted where relevant.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: Strategic Planning Matters REPORT OF: IAN FULLSTONE, SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.</p>	<p>A number of the schemes noted at section 8 will have considerable impact on the environment as they come to fruition. Many of these will be subject to their own statutory requirements for environmental</p>

	assessment such as Sustainability Appraisal or Environmental Impact Assessment. The need for further assessment, for example where there is no statutory requirement, is considered on a case-by-case basis.
<p>Agenda Item 11: COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN – Q3 UPDATE FOR 2023/24 AND PROJECTS FOR 2024/25</p> <p>REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>This report presents progress on delivering the Council Delivery Plan for 23-24 at the end of Quarter 3, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against the completion of Council projects and milestones. • Requests to change milestone dates. • Commentary on progress made and any new issues, risks, or opportunities. • The addition of new projects. <p>It also makes recommendations on the 24-25 Council Delivery Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initial projects to be included. • Over-arching risks • Approach to performance indicators 	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. However, a number of the projects to be monitored throughout the year are related to key environmental issues. As projects progress, Environmental Implications will be considered, and Environmental Impact Assessments conducted where relevant.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: THIRD QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2023/24</p> <p>REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2023/24, as at the end of December 2023.</p> <p>To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2023/24 – 2033/34. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2023/24 of £0.969M and an increase in spend in 2024/25 of £0.960M. The most significant individual changes to the forecast spend in 2023/24 relate to the reprofiling into 2024/25 of £0.320M Oughtonhead Common Weir and £0.249M Renovate Skate Park King George V.</p> <p>To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first nine months of 2023/24. The current forecast is that the amount of</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>

investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £2.940M. This is a decrease of £0.074M on the estimate reported in the 2nd quarter report.	
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1b. Council Decisions

25th May 2023

	Environmental Implications
Agenda Item 11: KEY DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	
The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of any occasions over the past year where the provisions relating to “Special Urgency” have been used in connection with the publication of an intention to make a Key Decision, as required by legislation.	Considerations with regards to environmental implications, in relation to each decision, will have been set out in the reports concerned.

25th January 2024

Agenda Item 11: SECOND QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2023/24 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES	
To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2023/24, as at the end of September 2023. To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2023/24 – 2032/33. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2023/24 of £2.413M and an increase in spend in 2024/25 of £1.789M and £2.109M in the following years of the capital programme. The most significant individual changes to the forecast spend in 2023/24 relate to the reprofiling into future years of £2.000M Museum Storage unit and £1.096M Development of John Barker Place, and an increase of £1.424M Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.

<p>To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first six months of 2023/24. The current forecast is that the amount of investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £3.014M. This is an increase of £0.412M on the estimate reported in the 1st quarter report.</p>	
<p>29th February 2024</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 10: INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The Investment Strategy provides the following key information: • A capital programme of £22.633m in 2024/25 and £24.405m for the period 2025/26 to 2028/29. • Recommendations on the Prudential and other Treasury indicators that will be monitored and reported on during the year (2024/25) • As the Council has identified a need to borrow for capital purposes, a borrowing and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy. • The scope of treasury investments where the Council will invest any surplus cash.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>

<p>1c. Cabinet Decisions</p>	
<p>27th June 2023</p>	
	<p>Environmental Implications</p>
<p>Agenda Item 7: CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE REPORT & ACTION PLAN Report of: SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL & COMMUNITY</p>	
<p>In 2020 the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) undertook a review, the review report and Action Plan were agreed through Cabinet on 24 March 2020 and 23 June 2020, respectively.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>A follow up review was undertaken by (different) LGA CPC Peers during 2022 and a further LGA Peer Committee Support report was issued in January 2023 (Appendix A). This concentrated on the Overview & Scrutiny and Finance, Audit and Risk Committees and a number of further recommendations have been made. These have been separated out into the Action Plan (Appendix B) with response and proposed actions for the Committees consideration and recommendations to Cabinet.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8: PEER SUPPORT ACTION PLAN (FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE) Report of: Service Director: Resources</p>	
<p>The Council commissioned the Local Government Association to provide peer support in relation to the impact and effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The peer support process took place during 2022 and was a combination of a desktop review, watching meeting videos and talking to relevant Members and Officers. A report was provided to the Council in January 2023 with their findings and recommendations. This report considers the recommendations in relation to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: THE ALLOCATION OF DLUHC'S HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT AND DOMESTIC ABUSE FUNDING AWARDS FOR 2023/24 AND 2024/25 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>1.1 Demand for the Council's homelessness services remains high with the need to secure provision for accommodation and support services for single homeless people, especially those with complex support needs, particularly pressing. 1.2. The Council has received Homelessness Prevention Grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), totalling £746k over the two-year period 2023/24 – 2024/25. In order to help it meet its duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Council has also received additional</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the proposals in this report.</p>

<p>Homelessness Prevention Grant funding totalling £71k over 2023/24-2024/25. 1.3. This report details proposals for the allocation of this funding for specialist homelessness services for local people.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 10: LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND – ROUND TWO REPORT OF: MANAGING DIRECTOR</p>	
<p>1.1 Following the first round of the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF), considered by Cabinet at its meetings on 31 January 2023 and 14 March 2023, the Government has recently announced a second round of funding and has provided an allocation to North Herts Council. 1.2 This report briefly updates on progress with the first round allocation and Cabinet is asked to consider and decide upon the Council’s response to the second round allocation.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 14: North Herts Place Narrative REPORT OF: Service Director - Place</p>	
<p>To outline the Council’s proposed Place Narrative for North Herts</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the North Herts Place Narrative</p>
<p>Agenda Item 15: Waste Shared Service: Client team and Corporate Support Arrangement REPORT OF: Shared Service Manager – Chloe Hipwood</p>	
<p>The report is based on outcomes from the Member lead joint working group between East Herts Council (EHC) and North Herts Council (NHDC) and workshops held for senior managers. It identifies the approach considered necessary to corporate support arrangements affecting the waste contract administration and management. The key drivers for the changes are to enhance the customer experience in line with transformation programmes by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of processes to support this. The report follows on from previous reports provided to</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

overview and scrutiny and the Executive regarding the future management of waste.	
Agenda item 18: COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-23 (QUARTER 4 UPDATE) REPORT OF: REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES	
This report presents progress on delivering the Council Delivery Plan for 22-23 at the end of Quarter 4, which includes: • Progress against the completion of Council projects and milestones • Requests to change milestone dates • New milestones • Commentary on progress made and any new issues, risks, or opportunities	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. However, a number of the projects to be monitored throughout the year are related to key environmental issues
Agenda Item 19: REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2022/23 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES	
The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure as at the end of the financial year 2022/23. The net outturn of £15.818million represents a £920k decrease from the net working budget of £16.738 million. The significant variances are detailed and explained in table 4. There are corresponding requests to carry forward £184k of unspent budget to fund specific projects that will now take place in 2023/24. There is a further forecast impact on the 2023/24 base budget of a £231k decrease.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.
Agenda Item 21: ANNUAL REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES	
To provide the Committee with an update on the effectiveness of the Risk Management Governance arrangements at North Herts Council. <i>(From FAR presented to Cabinet)</i>	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.
19th September 2023	

<p>Agenda Item 7: DLUHC'S SINGLE HOMELESSNESS ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</p>	
<p>1.1 North Herts Council has been invited by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to submit a bid to its Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP). 1.2. The Council is co-producing a bid with Hertfordshire County Council to seek funding for a new accommodation-based support scheme in the district for vulnerable young people who are experiencing or are at risk of rough sleeping. OneYMCA has been selected, following a comprehensive selection process, as the delivery partner and, should the bid be successful, would be responsible for the build and management of the scheme. 1.3. At the time of writing, OneYMCA are pursuing potential site options for the proposed scheme. The deadline for bid submission is 10 November 2023.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the proposals in this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND HOME OFFICE FUNDING UPDATE REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</p>	
<p>1.1. The Council has successfully housed 70 refugees in direct response to government resettlement schemes over recent years. As the general demands from the public for housing assistance continue to grow, this includes refugees from places such as Afghanistan and Ukraine. 1.2. The Home Office has provided multi-year funding for local authorities for its direct resettlement schemes (where specific allocations were agreed) and it continues to do so to ensure the growing demands from refugees can be met. 1.3. This report seeks to update the Cabinet on the current position regarding refugees and to provide a flexible approach to meeting increased housing demands whilst also ensuring appropriate support is provided to refugees</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the proposals in this report.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 10: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – ADOPTION REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>To consider the responses received on the draft of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) during public consultation and approve the subsequent amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: CHESFIELD CONSERVATION AREA REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR – REGULATORY</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to consider the representations made in response to the consultation on the draft Chesfield Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) and the proposed designation of the Chesfield Conservation Area.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the activities of this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: Hitchin, Letchworth, and Royston Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) Renewal REPORT OF: The Economic Development Officer</p>	
<p>To obtain Cabinet’s endorsement of proposals to progress to renewal ballots for the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) for Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City and Royston.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the activities of this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 14: FIRST QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure forecasts for the financial year 2023/24, as at the end of the first quarter. The forecast variance is a £1.119million decrease in the net working budget of £18.998million, with an ongoing impact in future years of a £260k increase, and a request to carry forward £10k of unspent budget to fund a specific project in 2024/25. The forecast decrease in spend in the current year is mainly due to the anticipated interest returns from treasury investments this year exceeding the assumption in the original budget estimate. Further detail on this,</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

and explanations for all other budget areas with more significant variances, is included in table 3.	
Agenda Item 16: FINANCIAL SYSTEM BUDGET REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR – RESOURCES	
The Council has specialist software to enable it to record and manage payments, income and other financial transactions. This includes meeting statutory duties to ensure proper administration of financial affairs and making payments to suppliers within required timescales. The main elements of this are currently covered by two sets of software. Over Spring/ Summer this year, the Council has sought tenders for a more integrated solution. The most economically advantageous tender costs more than the currently available budget, and this report seeks approval for capital spend and the additional revenue budget. It is expected that the new software system will allow increased automation that will enable savings that will more than off-set the additional cost.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.
14th November 2023	
Agenda Item 7: ALLOCATION OF (ADDITIONAL) HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	
1.1As a local housing authority, the Council has various legal duties to assist households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, including accommodation duties towards those who are in priority need and unintentionally homeless. 1.2 The Council receives Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to support delivery of these services. HPG is ring-fenced for the delivery of services to prevent and tackle homelessness.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the proposals in this report.

<p>1.3 The Council has received an additional in-year allocation of £199.9k of DLUHC's Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) funding for 2023/24, to support Ukrainian households and wider homelessness pressures. This report outlines two proposals for the allocation of this funding.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 12: WASTE, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT SERVICE DESIGN REPORT OF: SHARED SERVICE MANAGER – WASTE MANAGEMENT</p>	
<p>Cabinet agreed the service design for the new waste, recycling and street cleansing contract on 25 October 2022, along with new aims and principles of the Shared Service, based around delivering services which are both financially and environmentally sustainable. Officers are currently undergoing a competitive dialogue procurement and are seeking a decision from Cabinet on further service design options that can be considered in order to achieve the long-term financial sustainability of the service and the Council.</p>	<p>Overall, to date there are forecasted to be positive environmental impacts from changes to the waste contract for East and North Herts. These come, amongst other things, as a result of proposals to reduce frequency of general refuse collections from fortnightly to three weekly, meaning a reduction in emissions for NHC and a mitigation of emissions for EHC resulting from refuse freighter journeys, and an anticipated increase in resident recycling rates over time. Whilst outside the scope of the decisions being made, it is clear that there would be negative environmental implications if there was a Government decision to require at least fortnightly collection of residual waste. 14.2 The proposed introduction of a Waste Awareness Officer will also allow us to run more campaigns and events to support residents to reduce their waste and develop greater understanding of which items are recyclable. This will help residents to adapt to the contract changes which include a proposal to introduce plastic film into the recycling bin. 14.3 An environmental impact assessment was carried out in October 2022, based on the current proposed service specification for 2025 onwards. A further assessment will need to be carried out depending on the nature of the final service specification options taken forward prior to contract award.</p>
<p>12th December 2023</p>	

<p>Agenda item 5: DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY SPD REPORT OF: IAN FULLSTONE, SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>We are preparing a Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide additional detail and clarity to Local Plan Policy SP1 (Sustainable Development in North Hertfordshire) and other relevant policies in the Plan. The SPD will provide information as to our sustainability expectations for development in North Herts and offer good practice guidance to residents and developers when developing proposals and policy advice to case officers when determining planning applications. This SPD follows the Developer Contributions SPD (adopted February 2023) and is the first of three planned SPD's that will address overarching sustainability in North Herts; it is presently planned that this SPD will be followed by Biodiversity and Design SPD's.</p>	<p>Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) must be 'screened' to determine whether statutory environmental assessment is required which would consider the social, economic and environmental implications of proposed policies and allocations. A screening opinion is attached at Appendix B and concludes that the Sustainability SPD Page 12 is not likely to have 'significant environmental effects' beyond the adopted Local Plan policies which have been subject to an SA and SEA. 14.2 The 'parent' policies in the Local Plan were subject to statutory environmental assessment. 14.3 The SPD will have positive environmental implications, securing sustainable development for a range of measures including, but not limited to: biodiversity net gain, sustainable travel, renewable energy and climate change adaptations and mitigations. Appendix B AppendixB Sustainability SPD SEA screening determination.pdf (north-herts.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8: WASTE, RECYCLING AND STREET CLEANSING CONTRACT SERVICE DESIGN REPORT OF: SHARED SERVICE MANAGER – WASTE MANAGEMENT</p>	
<p>Cabinet agreed the service design for the new waste, recycling and street cleansing contract on 25 October 2022, along with new aims and principles of the Shared Service, based around delivering services which are both financially and environmentally sustainable. Officers are currently undergoing a competitive dialogue procurement and are seeking a decision from Cabinet on further service design options that will be taken forward with the intention of supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the service and the Council.</p>	<p>Overall, to date there are forecasted to be positive environmental impacts from changes to the waste contract for East and North Herts. These come, amongst other things, as a result of proposals to reduce frequency of general refuse collections from fortnightly to three weekly, meaning a reduction in emissions for NHC and a mitigation of emissions for EHC resulting from refuse freighter journeys, and an anticipated increase in resident recycling rates over time. Whilst outside the scope of the decisions being made, it is clear that there would be negative environmental implications if there was a Government decision to require at least fortnightly collection of residual waste. 14.2 The proposed introduction of a Waste Awareness Officer will also allow us to run more campaigns and events to support</p>

residents to reduce their waste and develop greater understanding of which items are recyclable. This will help residents to adapt to the contract changes which include a proposal to introduce plastic film into the recycling bin. 14.3 There are some risks that reducing litter bin provision may lead to litter related pollution however studies are beginning to show that removal of litter bins in some places reduces litter with a tendency for people to then take their litter home. Any removal of litter bins will be supported by anti-littering campaigns. 14.4 An environmental impact assessment was carried out in October 2022, based on the current proposed service specification for 2025 onwards. A further assessment will need to be carried out depending on the nature of the final service specification options taken forward prior to contract award.

16th January 2024

Agenda Item 7: 2024 – 2028 Marketing and Communications Strategy

REPORT OF: Service Director – Place

To outline the Council’s proposed approach to Marketing and Communications for the five-year period from 2024 – 2028.
To inform our residents on how we will communicate with them in the future.

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the 2024 – 2028 Marketing and Communications strategy

Agenda Item 8: Community Survey results (March – June 2023)

REPORT OF: Service Director – Place

To advise Cabinet of the key findings from the Community Survey results (March – June 2023).

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the findings of the Community Survey results (March to June 2023).

Agenda Item 12: SECOND QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24

REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure forecasts for the financial year 2023/24, as at the end of the second quarter. The forecast variance is a £475k decrease in the net working budget of

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

<p>£17.879million, with an ongoing impact in future years of a £346k increase, and a request to carry forward £453k of unspent budget to fund specific projects and activities in 2024/25. The most significant adverse variances relate to the provision of car parking, with a forecast increase of £392k in the net cost of operating the car parks partially offset by the release of the corresponding Covid-19 contingency budget (-£160k), and a total increase of £222k in the forecast net spend on recycling services. These have been offset by in-year changes to staffing spend (-£192k) and treasury investment interest income (-£413k), and underspends on Planning Services projects (-£255k). It is requested that the Planning Services projects underspend is carried forward to be spent in the next financial year. Explanations for these and all other significant variances are provided in table 3.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 14: MID-YEAR REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To provide the Committee with an update on the effectiveness of the Risk Management Governance arrangements at North Herts Council.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report</p>
<p>Agenda Item 15: DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>Cabinet is asked to consider the latest information in relation to funding, income and expenditure in relation to the revenue budget for 2024/25. Cabinet are asked to consider the savings and investment proposals that were presented to the budget workshops. This should consider the feedback from those workshops. Cabinet are asked to consider the capital project proposals that were presented to the budget workshops. This should consider the feedback from those workshops, as well as considering the forecast revenue impact of capital expenditure.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report</p>

<p>Agenda Item 16: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2024/2025 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR CUSTOMERS</p>	
<p>Each year the Council is required to review its Council Tax Reduction Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to either maintain the scheme, revise the scheme, or replace it. 1.2 The Council carried out a full review of its Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The review was one of the Councils key projects for 2022/23 included in the Council Delivery Plan and resulted in the introduction of a banded scheme from 2023/2024. The new scheme is now in its first year.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 17: ICKLEFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – EXAMINERS REPORT REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>To consider the examiner’s report and the proposed modifications to the Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan and to agree that officers make arrangements to conduct a referendum within the designated neighbourhood planning area for Ickleford.</p>	<p>The Council, as “responsible authority”, determines if the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. It was determined, in a Screening Determination, dated March 2023 that the neighbourhood plan would not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 18: WALLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – EXAMINERS REPORT REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>To consider the examiner’s report and the proposed modifications to the Wallington Neighbourhood Plan and to agree that officers make arrangements to conduct a referendum within the designated neighbourhood planning area for Wallington.</p>	<p>The Council, as “responsible authority”, determines if the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. It was determined, in a Screening Determination, dated March 2022 that the neighbourhood plan would not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>6th February 2024</p>	

<p>Agenda Item 6: UPDATE TO THE COMMON HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</p>	
<p>The Council and settle Group share a Common Housing Allocation Scheme (CHAS), which sets out who can apply for affordable housing in the district and how it is allocated. This report details proposed changes to the CHAS, which are primarily intended to ensure that scarce affordable housing continues to be prioritised for those who need it the most, but also to update the CHAS where necessary, following changes to the policy environment and working practices</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the proposals in this report.</p>
<p>19th March 2024</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 7: ADOPTION OF A NEW HOUSING STRATEGY (2024-2029) REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</p>	
<p>1.1 As the local housing authority, the Council has statutory responsibilities to consider the housing needs of the district, to oversee and enforce housing standards and to prevent and manage homelessness. 1.2. The proposed Housing Strategy (2024-2029) provides a strategic framework for the Council to undertake these functions and succeeds the previous Housing Strategy (2019- 2024). 1.3. A new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for the district is also incorporated within the proposed Housing Strategy.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the proposals in this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: THIRD QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2023/24 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure forecasts for the financial year 2023/24, as at the end of the third quarter. The forecast variance is a £415k decrease in the net working budget of</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

£17.103million, with an ongoing impact in future years of a £68k increase, and requests to carry forward unspent budget totalling £343k to fund specific projects and activities in 2024/25. Explanations for all significant variances are provided in table 3.	
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1c. Council Decisions	
25th May 2023	
Agenda Item 7: NOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2023/24 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER	
The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the Leader’s appointment of members of the Cabinet for 2023/24.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.
Agenda Item 8: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2023/24 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER	
The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Members of Committees for 2023/24.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.
Agenda Item 9: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2023/24 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER	
The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Forums) for 2023/24	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report

<p>Agenda Item 12: APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2023/24 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2023/24.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2023/24 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to present a list setting out the nomination of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2023/24.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report</p>
<p>13th July 2023</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022/2023 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022/2023</p>	
<p>To consider the Annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the 2022/2023 Civic Year.</p>	<p><i>No Environmental Implication section</i></p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022- 23 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR: RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To consider the Annual Report of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee for the 2022/23 Civic Year.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 11: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>This is the Annual Report in relation to ethical standards for the last year. It covers the work of the Committee as well as the issues that have arisen locally and nationally on ethical standards matters</p>	<p>There are no financial implications to this report. <i>Note: error in report, should refer to environmental implications.</i></p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: Amendments to the Hertfordshire Growth Board Standing Orders in relation to the appointment of the Chair & Vice Chair, & pre-emptively seeking authority to amend Service Director: Regulatory's delegations REPORT OF: MONITORING OFFICER - SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL & COMMUNITIES</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to authorise amendments to Standing Order 4.2 of Appendix 1 Annex A of the Hertfordshire Growth Board (HGB) Standing Orders in relation to the appointment of the Chair & Vice Chair (in Section 11 of the Council's Constitution). It is also to seek pre-emptive permission to amend relevant sections of the Constitution, in relation to the Service Director: Regulatory's delegations (predominantly in sections 12 and 14) that relate to Housing & Environmental Health, and for the Monitoring Officer to do so if/ when the recruitment to the temporary post has been successful.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>28th September 2023</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8: FINANCIAL SYSTEM BUDGET REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR: RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The Council has specialist software to enable it to record and manage payments, income and other financial transactions. This includes meeting statutory duties to ensure proper administration of financial affairs and making payments to suppliers within required timescales. The main elements of this are currently covered by two</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report</p>

<p>sets of software. Over Spring/ Summer this year, the Council has sought tenders for a more integrated solution. The most economically advantageous tender costs more than the currently available budget, and this report seeks approval for capital spend and the additional revenue budget. It is expected that the new software system will allow increased automation that will enable savings that will more than off-set the additional cost.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 11: NEW PENSION ADMISSION AGREEMENT FOR SETTLE GROUP REPORT OF: Service Director: Resources</p>	
<p>As per Part 2</p>	
<p>23rd November 2023</p>	
<p>Agenda item 9: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS REPORT OF: Democratic Services Manager/(Acting) Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer</p>	
<p>To outline and report on the outcome of the Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations consultation, following a review required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REPORT REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>Further to the report in July 2023, this report covers proposed: - changes to section 8 Planning Control Committee's Terms of Reference: - removal of Appendices 1-2 to Section 8, with these to be incorporated in a new Procedure document (Appendix A), with the aim of addressing issues that have arisen during the last year. - minor change to section 14 delegations for some Service Directors – regarding attestation of the Common seal. - Noting some minor changes to the Area Forums Terms of Reference (Appendix B) to include more specific language relating to Strategic Planning.</p>	<p>None identified in respect of the specific amendments proposed.</p>

<p>Agenda item 11: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY REPORT OF: Service Director: Resources</p>	
<p>This report recommends the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024/25 to 2028/29 to guide and inform the Council's Business Planning Process. The focus is primarily on setting a budget for 2024/25, as well as determining the actions that will be necessary in setting a longer term budget following on from that. It reflects on the many uncertainties that the Council faces.. Whilst it recommends a five year budget strategy, there will be a need to amend the strategy over time as further information becomes available. The MTFS supports and is supported by the Council Plan. This reflects that the Council can only deliver priorities and projects that it can afford and should prioritise its spending around delivering its priorities.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that directly apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: USE OF URGENCY IN RELATION TO CALL-IN FOR DECISION ON BUSINESS RATE POOLING REPORT OF: Service Director - Resources</p>	
<p>To notify Council that the urgency provisions in relation to call-in were applied to a delegated decision made by the Service Director: Resources (in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT) in relation to Business Rate Pooling on 9 October 2023. This was due to the timing and availability of the information required to make the decision and the deadline for submitting the pooling application. Allowing for potential call-in would have made it impossible to meet the deadline set by Government of 10 October 2023. As per the Constitution, the Chair of the Council agreed to the decision being treated as a matter of urgency. The Constitution requires that use of this provision is reported to the next meeting of Council, together with the reasons for urgency. Provisions for the use of call-in and urgency are set out in paragraph 6.3.11 (b) (i) of the Constitution</p>	<p>Environmental Implications from Delegated Decision Report 9th October 2023. 3. BR Pooling delegated decision for 2425 in Oct 23.docx (north-herts.gov.uk) There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this decision.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 13: ELECTORAL SERVICES – SCALE OF FEES 2024/25 REPORT OF: Service Director - Resources</p>	
<p>To agree the Scale of Fees for electoral events held during 2024/25.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>25th January 2024</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>To agree the Member's Allowances Scheme 2024/2025 having taken into account the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel ('IRP').</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2024/2025 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR CUSTOMERS</p>	
<p>Each year the Council is required to review its Council Tax Reduction Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to either maintain the scheme, revise the scheme, or replace it. The Council carried out a full review of its Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The review was one of the Councils key projects for 2022/23 included in the Council Delivery Plan and resulted in the introduction of a banded scheme from 2023/2024. The new scheme is now in its first year.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REPORT REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>This report covers proposed: • Changes to section 8 Planning Control Committee's Terms of Reference: • Removal of Appendices 1-2 to Section 8, with these to incorporated in a new Procedure document (Appendix A), with the aim of addressing issues that have arisen during the last year. • Minor change to section 14 delegations for some Service Directors – regarding attestation of the Common</p>	<p>None identified in respect of the specific amendments proposed.</p>

<p>seal. NB this item has been deferred from the Council meeting of 23 November 2023 (see 246) and subsequently the Area Forum recommendation 2.6, for noting, has been dealt with by Delegated Decision 6 December 2023 and therefore removed from this version of the earlier report.</p>	
<p>29th February 2024</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES PREMIUMS REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS</p>	
<p>To consider whether to increase the level of Council Tax Premiums payable and include a Council Tax Premium charge for properties determined as second homes.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the decision as set out in this report. The bringing back of empty homes into use is a more sustainable way of increasing the supply of homes than building new dwellings.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2024/25 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the Council Tax requirement and the overall Council Tax rates for the district of North Hertfordshire for 2024/25.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2024/25 REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTR RESOURCES</p>	
<p>This report sets out a draft Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 (Appendix 1) for Council's consideration and approval in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), associated guidance issued under Section 40 of the Act, the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and any other relevant legislation. The Statement incorporates elements of existing policy and practice and is required to be agreed annually.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>18th April 2024</p>	

Agenda Item 9: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REPORT REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER	
This report covers proposed wording changes in respect of the appointment of the Executive Leader following the North Hertfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2023, and the elections in 2024. This is to correspond with the factual and legislative change post Local Government Boundary Review and The North Hertfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2023 and terminology, to improve certainty.	None identified in respect of the specific amendments proposed.

3.0 Conclusion

As noted at the introduction, the Council would give specific consideration as to how the decisions it made might impact on the Environment. The report template was amended in May 2020, to include a specific Environmental Implications Section with accompanying guidance. This will be an ongoing process to ensure that impacts and mitigation measures and risks are identified at an early stage. The annual assessment will feed into the annual monitoring of North Herts Council's Climate Change Strategy delivery and impact in the district. This will also contribute to the fuller evaluation of the strategy currently underway that is due for approval in 2025.