

NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025

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 10 FEBRUARY 2025

Council Agenda – 14 February 2025
Planning Control Committee Agenda – 14 February 2025

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS WEEK COMMENCING 17 FEBRUARY 2025

Licensing Sub Committee – 17 February 2025

UPCOMING CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Event	Location
	None	

UPCOMING VICE-CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Event	Location
	None	

UPCOMING OTHER EVENTS FROM FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Event	Location
	None	



**Legal & Community
Committee & Member Services**

MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

HITCHIN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE FIRES – COUNCIL MOTION RESPONSE

Following the approval of the Motion on ‘Hitchin Industrial Estate Fires’ at the [Full Council meeting in November 2024](#), the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health wrote to the Environment Agency.

The letter was sent by the Executive Member in December 2024 and a response was received on 2 January 2025, which is attached below for reference.

For more information, please contact:

Committee Services
01462 474655
Committee.Services@north-herts.gov.uk

Cllr Dave Winstanley
dave.winstanley@north-herts.gov.uk

Our ref: AMC/2024/24596

Date: 2 January 2025

Dear Cllr Winstanley,

Request to Review Operators' Licences and Address Safety Concerns at Recycling Sites in Hitchin Industrial Estate

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2024 to our Area Duty Manager. Our Area Director, Sadia Moeed read your letter and asked me to respond on her behalf. Sadia will also receive a copy of this response.

The fires over the last 12 months, both within Hitchin and other areas of the country, have highlighted the significant issues with Lithium-Ion batteries that are present in the waste industry across the UK. I understand your concerns with the recent fires at NMR and Global Ardour. As I'm sure you are aware, this issue is not limited to these sites specifically, for I understand that there have been reports of fires at the Council Recycling Centre at Letchworth in early December and one refuse vehicle fire so far this year, within the North Herts Council area, where batteries were also the suspected cause.

Through our Regulatory activity, our Environment Officers, do all they can to mitigate these risks, but with the current influx of sometimes small Lithium-Ion batteries in vapes and small electronic equipment, we can never be certain that we can eradicate the risk of fires altogether.

Our Environment Officers are in regular communication with the site operators and carry out regular and often unannounced site visits to ensure that they are permit compliant. The sites are mostly compliant and where they are not, we work with them to ensure that they are brought back into compliance, and we do so whilst adhering to the Regulators code.

Following the first fire at the Global Ardour site, Environment Officers implemented more stringent measures relating to the storage of Lithium-Ion batteries to minimise the risk. These measures have the support of the Fire and Rescue Service, with whom we have been working closely with throughout.

Your letter states that this necessitates immediate attention to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the local community and environment. I can assure you that the Environment Agency takes any incident response extremely seriously and we deployed an Environment Officer to the scene and consulted with the National Air Quality Team, as is done with any significant incident of this nature, to assess and if needed take action to ensure environmental and community safety.

We have and continue to communicate with Council Leaders, the Member of Parliament and other stakeholders before, during and after the meetings of the 25 October and the 29 November 2024.

We have also been working closely with Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health Department to consider air quality monitoring. Following discussions, both agencies do not feel that additional monitoring would be beneficial as monitoring is already being undertaken at the Global Ardour site. It is a requirement of their Environmental Permit to monitor:

- **Point source emissions to air** which is monitored quarterly in accordance with BS EN 13284-1 and has an emission limit of 20 mg/m³,
- **Ambient air monitoring** which is also monitored quarterly and provides representative data that accurately reflects PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀ levels produced by the site's activities, this would also capture emissions during an incident, subject to local weather conditions and timing.

A permit review is already being undertaken for the Global Ardour site to ensure that the permit meets current regulatory and safety standards and work is ongoing with the NMR site to implement an update to their permit.

We will continue to work with all stakeholders to address concerns and work on a way forward in what is a particularly difficult and complicated national issue.

I trust this has answered the matters raised to your satisfaction. If I can be of further help in this, please do contact me.

Yours sincerely



Helen Smith
Environment Manager

Tel: 0203 02 55472

Email: areamanagercorrespondence.eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk

Smoke Free Hertfordshire

Reducing smoking in Hertfordshire

We're working with Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council to better understand smoking habits and experiences.

If you smoke, used to smoke, or if you're the friends/family of people who smoke, we'd love to hear from you:
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HwHSmokeFree/>.

Around 9% of Hertfordshire residents smoke, and many are struggling to give up. Our goal is to reduce smoking in Hertfordshire and make sure everyone who wants to quit has the right information and support to do so. By listening to your experiences, Public Health decision makers can ensure support is tailored to what the community needs.



**North
Herts**
Council

SERVICE AREA, REGULATORY

MEMBERS INFORMATION NOTE

Introduction of New Parking Payment Systems Across Council Car Parks

We are poised to significantly enhance the parking infrastructure within North Herts by introducing new, state-of-the-art parking payment machines. These upgrades are designed to simplify parking payments and improve user experience across all 22 council-operated car parks.

Introduction of New Payment Machines

The new payment machines, developed by Flowbird UK, are equipped with full-colour touch screens and support various contactless payment options, including Apple Pay and Google Pay. One of the notable features of these machines is the 'Check In' and 'Check Out' functionality, which allows users to pay only for the actual time parked up to the maximum stay of the car park, thereby eliminating the need to predict parking duration. One of the new machines within each car park with the exception of Woodside in Hitchin will provide a cash payment option. Woodside is the only council car park that doesn't take cash due to previous issues with vandalism and has taken contactless payments over the last few years.

Key Benefits

- **User Convenience:** Allows for a more flexible approach to parking, where users can check in upon arrival and check out upon departure and enjoy the town centres.
- **Ticketless System:** Eliminates the need for paper tickets and the requirement for users to return to their vehicle to display a ticket.
- **Energy Efficiency:** The machines in enclosed car parks are mains-powered, while those in open-air locations are equipped with solar panels.

Installation Schedule

The rollout will commence on:

- 17 February in Hitchin

- 10 March in Baldock, Royston, and Knebworth
- 18 March in Letchworth

We anticipate minimal disruption during the installation process and the car parks will remain open during the works. Adequate notices will be placed in affected areas to inform the public in advance. Additionally, our contractor Flowbird will provide on-site assistance for visitors to our car parks during and immediately after the installations.

The PayByPhone option will continue to be available using our existing app.

The deployment of these new parking payment machines represents a significant enhancement to our town's infrastructure, aiming to improve user satisfaction and operational efficiency.

For more information please contact:

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Parking Project Officer
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Louise Symes
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RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024

The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) Order 2024

The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Baldock) No. 3 Order 2024

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Regulatory

1 DECISION TAKEN

1.1 That the Service Director: Regulatory through his delegated powers under Section 14.6.11(b) (v) of the Council Constitution granted approval in accordance with Part III, s16 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996 (LATO Regs) for the following Orders to be made as advertised on the 2nd January 2025 with minor and inconsequential amendments:

- **The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024**
- **The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) Order 2024**
- **The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Baldock) No. 3 Order 2024**

(Copies of the amended Orders are attached at Appendices A-1 to C-1 respectively).

1.2 That the Service Director: Legal and Community seals the Orders as outlined in paragraph 1.1.

1.3 That the Strategic Planning & Projects Manager together with the Technical Projects Officer for the above Orders: -

- i) Publish the requisite notice as required under Part III, s17 of the LATO Regs.
- ii) Arrange for appropriate bay markings and parking signs to be installed, where necessary as required under Part III, s18 of the LATO Regs.

2. DECISION TAKER

Ian Fullstone – Service Director - Regulatory

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

4 February 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 To proceed with the formal creation and subsequent publishing of the above Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) as amended by revoking The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off –Street Parking Places) Order 2014, The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places)(Knebworth) Order 2011, The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) (Amendment) Order 2012 and the North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Baldock) No. 2 Order 2014 and replacing these with new Orders listed at paragraph 1.1 above which introduces alternative methods of payment, virtual permits and season tickets, and reviews the definitions and length of stay for electric vehicle parking bays within the Council's car parks.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The implementation of new parking machines offering a pay on exit solution and other forms of payment are due to be installed in the Council's car parks within the next couple of months. The Council has also received Government funding to install Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) in its car parks having entered into a concession contract with an EV provider and must adhere to the requirements of the grant funding. The current TROs are outdated and need to be reviewed to meet the requirements of the new forms of payment and the installation of the EV bays to ensure they are fit for purpose to enable effective management and enforcement of the car parks to take place.
- 5.2 The introduction of a ticketless system with the installation of the new parking machines where visitors will no longer need to display a ticket from the machine, together with the introduction of virtual permits and season tickets will enable the Council to meet its climate change strategy in reducing paper tickets and permits to help reduce our carbon footprint. This could not be achieved if the Council did not proceed with reviewing and updating the current TROs.

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

- 6.1 It is a statutory requirement under Part II Section 6 of the LATO Regs to formally consult on a permanent Traffic Regulation Order. The following key stakeholders

likely to be affected by any provision in the Orders were formally consulted: the Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston BIDs, Hitchin Markets Ltd, the Royston Town Council and Knebworth Parish Council, the Garden Square Shopping Centre and the landowners of Princes Mews Car park in Royston, as well as the following key statutory consultees: Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), the Emergency Services, Local and County Councillors.

- 6.2 In accordance with Part II, Section 7 of the LATO Regs a 'Notice of Proposal's' containing the particulars of the proposals in the draft TROs was published in the local newspapers, The Comet and The Royston Crow on 2nd January 2025 and site notices were displayed in each of the Council's operated car parks as listed in Schedule 1 of the Orders in Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Knebworth.
- 6.3 Copies of the published draft Orders, together with Notice of Proposals and Statement of Reasons were made available to view during normal office hours at the Council Offices in Gernon Road, Letchworth and on the Council's website. The Consultation period ran from 2nd January until 24th January 2025.
- 6.4 The current interim Executive Member for Planning and Transport has been consulted on the proposals and kept informed on progress.
- 6.5 See section 8 below summarising the outcomes of the statutory consultation exercise.

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. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The proposal is as outlined in paragraph 4.1 above and the rationale/justification for each of the main proposals, i.e. for alternative methods of payment, introducing virtual permits and season tickets and reviewing the definition and length of stay for electric vehicles within the Orders is set out in the Statement of Reasons (which is available to view on the Council's [website](#)) and in the Delegated Officers Report attached at Appendix D.
- 8.2 More generally the Orders are also proposing:
- Introducing No Return within 2 hours across all car parks to ensure turnover of spaces to support local businesses.

- Updating Schedule 1 for Biggin Lane Car Park in Hitchin in the North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024 to enable the public to park in the car park on Market Days after 8:30am; as well as.
- Including new definitions and articles and updating existing definitions and articles where necessary in the Orders to accommodate the above proposals.

8.3 No objections were received to the proposals set out in the above-mentioned Orders other than receipt of acknowledgement from the Police, the Letchworth BID, Hitchin BID, Royston Town Council and the Knebworth Parish Council.

8.4 Only four comments were received from Knebworth Parish Council, Hitchin Markets Ltd, County Councillor Fiona Hill for Royston and from HCC Highways TRO Team. These are addressed in more detail together with the Strategic Planning & Projects Manager's views in the Delegated Officer Report attached at Appendix D. These comments were in relation to:

- Knebworth Parish Council seeking clarity on the NHDC (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) Order 2024 to enable the Parish Council to submit a request to subsidise the 30-minute free parking as set out in Schedule 2 of the draft Order.
- Hitchin Markets Ltd seeking clarity that no other changes to the draft NHDC (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024 other than to allow the public to park in Biggin Lane car parks after 8:30am on market days, would not impact on their arrangements to issue parking tickets to market traders
- County Councillor Fiona Hill raising concerns about the proposed confusion between the Council's consultation on the proposed parking tariff increases for 2025/26 which includes setting a flat rate tariff in Royston car parks after 3pm thereby removing the current free parking after 3pm scheme; reference to introducing Sunday and evening charging as a revenue efficiency option proposal in the financial budget setting process to be considered by Full Council on 27 February; and the tariffs as set out in Schedule 2 of the draft NHDC (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024 being set at the current fees, where parking after 3pm in Royston and Sunday and evening Charging is stated as 'Free'. and expressed her objection to any proposed changes to these tariffs.

- HCC Highways TRO Team submitted comments on the drafting/content of the draft Orders with some suggested minor amendments to various definitions and articles in all three Orders for clarity, grammatical and consistency reasons. The suggested amendments were similar for all three draft Orders.

8.5 It is both the officer's view and that of the HCC Highways TRO Team that none of the suggested amendments would make any substantial changes to the interpretation of the Orders. The suggested amendments were highlighted in the draft Orders attached as Appendices A to C to the Delegated Officers Report.

8.6 Given that no objections were received, and the comments have been adequately addressed in the Delegated Officers Report at paragraphs 2.10 through to 2.13.2 attached at Appendix D and having consulted the interim Executive Member for Planning and Transport, it was the Strategic Planning & Project Manager's recommendation to the Service Director: Regulatory, that the following proposed Orders together with their minor and consequential amendments are published as stated in paragraph 1.1 above:

- **The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024**
- **The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) Order 2024**
- **The North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Baldock) No. 3 Order 2024**

8.6 The Service Director Regulatory supported the officer recommendation.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A Traffic Regulation Order is a legal order that restricts, prohibits or reduces the use of the highway or a parking place in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984. Part III, s16 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) Regulations 1996 referred to in section 1, 'Decision Taken' above prescribes the procedure to be followed by local authorities for making the main types of Traffic Regulation Orders, ensuring that local authorities comply with the provision of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

- 9.2 Under terms of reference 14.6.11 (b) (v) of the Council's Constitution, the Service Director: Regulatory has delegated authority for traffic management including the creation of on and off-street parking orders.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The consultation costs, publication of notices and sealing of the Made TROs will be funded from the town wide parking review budget that was carried forward from 2023/24 of £10k.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Other than management of member and customer expectations in terms of the introduction of new forms of payment and inclusion of EVCPs within the Council's car parks with the TROs not being 'Made' and implemented to enable effective management and enforcement to take place, there are no other risks associated with this proposal.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this decision. Alternatives to virtual season tickets and other types of permits will be made available where paper permits can be issued on request. An equalities assessment was undertaken prior to the procurement of the new parking machines to ensure the alternative methods of payment offered met all sectors of the community. At least one of the new Electric vehicle Charging Bays within the car parks will include an accessible bay to cater for people with disabilities and families. These bays will initially be advisory and may be made permanent as usage and demand for more EVCP within the Council car parks increases.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this decision.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The new parking machines in the surface car parks will be solar powered. These together with the installation of EVCP within the car parks, the Council moving towards a ticketless payment system within its car parks and the introduction to virtual season tickets and permits from paper permits, will all contribute to reducing the Council's carbon emissions. The TROs will support these new features thereby enabling effective management of the car parks.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 Officers will be responsible for the implementation of the TROs which forms part of their normal duties.

16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A-1: Copy of the draft North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024 as amended
- 16.2 Appendix B-1: copy of the draft North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) Order 2024 as amended
- 16.3 Appendix C-1: Copy of the draft North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Baldock) No. 3 Order 2024 as amended
- 16.4 Appendix D: Copy of the agreed Delegated Officer Decision Report – 3 February 2025

17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 Public 'Notice of Proposals' setting out NHDC's proposal to make the draft TROs
- 17.2 Statement of Reasons setting out the reasons for the proposal.
- 17.3 These can be viewed on the Council's website at: [Parking orders and reviews | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)

18. NOTIFICATION DATE

Signature of Executive Member Consulted



Cllr Daniel Allen

Date 04/02/25

Signature of Decision Taker



Ian Fullstone Service Director Regulatory

Date: 04/02/2025

Call-in does not apply given that this is a NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

APPENDICES

Appendix A-1, B-1 and C-1 and D

Appendix A-1: Copy of the draft North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston) Order 2024 as amended

Appendix B-1: copy of the draft North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Knebworth) Order 2024 as amended

Appendix C-1: Copy of the draft North Hertfordshire District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Baldock) No. 3 Order 2024 as amended

Appendix D: Copy of Delegated Officer Report dated 3.02.2025

The above mentioned appendices are available to view on the Council webpage: [Delegated decisions 2025 | North Herts Council](#) (See Decision to approve Off-Street parking places – 4 February 2025)

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member
[NO]

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

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

1.1 The approval of the allocation of **North Herts Prosperity Fund (NHPF)** funding of:

1.1.1 **£10,660** to PIRTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB for new folding tables, stackable chairs, trolley, picnic benches, barbeque and storage shed.

2. DECISION TAKER

2.1 Cllr Daniel Allen, Leader of North Herts Council, in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community.

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

13 February 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 The applicant has confirmed a need for this funding and confirmed they will be able to use the funding by the hard deadline of 31 March 2025.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 There are no other reasonable alternative options.

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

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Community Partnerships team.

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 North Herts Prosperity Fund initially had £210,000 to allocate to Parishes and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations.

8.2 A further £76,780 has been identified to be utilised for the Fund. Initially £66,780 in December and a further £10,000 in February.

8.3 This delegated decision confirms that application has been accepted by the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, and Service Director.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)((ii)A 5 of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That decision will be subject to a five clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

9.2 This grant has been assessed against the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. The available North Herts Prosperity Fund budget was £76,780.

10.2. Of the allocated there is a prescribed Capital/Revenue split on the funding. The proportion of spend will be £43,715 capital funding and £23,065 revenue funding.

10.3. £17,169 has been utilised on a grant funding provided to the Letchworth Garden City Community Group in a decision made on Friday 3rd January 2025 which left **£59,611** remaining.

10.4 £34,289.33 was agreed in a decision on the 9th January for two grants to Howard Garden Social Centre and Walsworth Community Centre. Leaving a balance of **£25,321.67**

10.5 It is possible that when all applications have been taken into account that the prescribed capital / revenue split may not be met as set out in paragraph 10.2. However, this has been reviewed in the context of spend against the overall UKSPF grant and this variance does not create a problem. This has been confirmed by the Economic Development Officer and S151 Officer.

10.6 Any monies remaining after the completion of the North Herts Prosperity Fund process will be returned to the overall UKSPF underspent budget to be utilised by 31 March 2025.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.

11.2 There is a requirement for allocated funds to be spent by the end of March 2025. Therefore, there is a risk that we will have to request the return of funds from applicants where projects have not been completed on time. This is assessed as unlikely, as the application process included an assessment of each applicant's ability to commence their project as soon as funding is available and to progress work in a timely manner.

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 North Herts Prosperity Fund monies are awarded to groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

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

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The Fund’s criteria enabled application for projects related to environment and climate. In addition to this, in further developing the criteria and scoring process applicants were asked to confirm which of the Council’s priorities their project supported.

- 14.2 With regard to the BBQ, the applicant has undertaken research into the options available. There are varying opinions about whether gas or charcoal are more environmentally friendly and sustainable, and it all depends on what type of gas or the source of the charcoal

Analysis by experts at the University of Illinois highlights the fact that although charcoal emits twice the carbon dioxide emissions when burnt as the propane used to fire a gas BBQ, propane is derived from fossil fuels and there will be environmental impacts associated with the refining process. However, it also notes that GHG emissions from grills and BBQs account for a tiny fraction of total GHG emissions so there are other changes you can make that will play a more meaningful role in helping you be more environmentally friendly when you BBQ.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Terms of Reference for the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel can be found on the Council’s website [Terms of reference](#)

- 16.2 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#)

- 16.3 [North Herts Prosperity Fund Criteria](#)

- 16.4 [Community Grants Policy, 9th May 2023](#)

17. APPENDICES

- 17.1 See website links above.

NOTIFICATION DATE


14.02.25

Signature of Service Director Consulted



Date: 13.02.25

Signature of Leader of North Herts Council

Decision Taker 

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

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: PLACE

1. DECISION TAKEN

- 1.1 To approve to hold weekly ParkPlay events (Saturdays) at The Creamery Fields, Jackmans Estate, Letchworth from the 5th April 2025 to 28th March 2026 from 10.00 to 12.00 hrs on each occasion.

2. DECISION TAKER

- 2.1. Andrew Mills – Service Manager Greenspace

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

- 3.1 10th February 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 To support the organisers to provide a regular 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 were considered as part of this application.

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

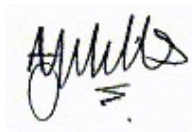
17. APPENDICES

17.1 None

NOTIFICATION DATE - 14th February 2025

Signature of Executive Member ConsultedNot Applicable.....

Date10th February 2025



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.

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 a Flawed Hero Marathon 2025 event using Broadway Gardens and fountain area, Letchworth on the 27th April 2025 (event starting at midnight until 09.00 hours).

2. DECISION TAKER

- 2.1. Andrew Mills – Service Manager, Greenspace

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

- 3.1 10th February 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 To support the organisers to provide an 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

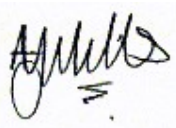
17. APPENDICES

17.1 None

NOTIFICATION DATE - 14th February 2025

Signature of Executive Member ConsultedNot Applicable.....

Date10th February 2025



Signature of Decision Taker

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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 a Festival of Colours/Holi Festival at Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston on 15th March 2025 between 12.00 and 16.00 hrs.

2. DECISION TAKER

2.1. Andrew Mills, Service Manager Greenspace

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

3.1 10th February 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

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

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The organisers have approached North Herts Council to host this event. Other locations have been considered by the organisers that are outside North Herts.

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

6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with colleagues in Property Services and 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 Application form and supporting documents.

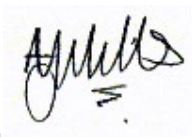
17. APPENDICES

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NOTIFICATION DATE - 14th February 2025

Signature of Executive Member ConsultedNot Applicable.....

Date10th February 2025.....



Signature of Decision Taker

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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 a Bee Corridor Project event at Priory Memorial Gardens, Royston on 29th March 2025 between 10.00 and 16.00 hrs.

2. DECISION TAKER

- 2.1. Andrew Mills, Service Manager Greenspace

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

- 3.1 13th February 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 To support the organisers to provide an event for the whole community which also supports the Councils Green Agenda.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The organisers have approached North Herts Council to host this event. Other locations have been considered by the organisers that are outside North Herts.

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

- 6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with colleagues in Property Services and 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 Application form and supporting documents.

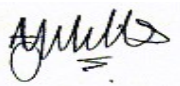
17. APPENDICES

17.1 None

NOTIFICATION DATE - 14th February 2025

Signature of Executive Member ConsultedNot Applicable.....

Date13th February 2025.....



Signature of Decision Taker

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Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: HOUSING AND ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH

1. DECISION TAKEN

- 1.1 To enter into a one-year contract with Beam Up Ltd for the provision of a specialist service to support local homeless people into private rented sector accommodation.

2. DECISION TAKER

- 2.1 Jo Doggett, Service Director – Housing and Environmental Health

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

- 3.1 4 February 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 Demand for Council homelessness services remains high and affordable housing options for homeless clients are extremely limited. A specialist service to assist clients into private rented accommodation will provide a valuable addition to local housing options and ease pressure on temporary accommodation demands.
- 4.2 The Council has received a top-up allocation of £197k of Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) for 2024/25, which is ring-fenced for use in delivery of services to prevent and tackle homelessness. Approval for the allocation of up to £80k of HPG to Beam Up Ltd (Beam) was given under delegated authority on 20 November 2024.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

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

- 6.1 The Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, Cllr Dave Winstanley, has been consulted and is supportive of this decision.

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 As a local housing authority, the Council has legal duties to assist households who are homeless or who are threatened with homelessness, and to provide accommodation for homeless households in 'priority need' – primarily families and vulnerable individuals. The Council also has a duty to provide emergency accommodation for homeless applicants who it has reason to believe may be in priority need whilst inquiries are being conducted. The Council no longer owns or

manages any housing stock, and it therefore works with housing providers to meet local needs.

- 8.2 Beam is a social enterprise that supports individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, providing them with personalised wrap-around support to help them into private rented housing and employment. Given the challenges in accessing the private rental market in North Herts, the Beam service will provide a valuable additional resource for local households facing homelessness.
- 8.3 Beam has been contracted to deliver 10 private rented sector housing outcomes over a one-year period. They have provided a pilot service in the district for the past 18 months following Cabinet approval for allocation of funding to Beam on 31 January 2023.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Authorisation to procure the Beam service on a Single Supplier basis in accordance with rule 14 of the Contract Procurement Rules was obtained on 14 January 2025.
- 9.2 The notification contained in this report follows on from a delegated decision taken on 20 November 2024 to allocate up to £80k of 2024/25 HPG funding to Beam. The November decision notice was based on the award of this contract being via a framework, but following further advice, it was awarded as a single tender (rule 14).
- 9.3 The Contract Procurement Rules (7.13) require the publication of a decision notice for any contract with a value over £75,000.
- 9.4 The decision in this report meets the MHCLG requirements for use of the ring-fenced grant and is also consistent with the aims and objectives of the Housing Strategy (2024-2029) that has a specific focus on actions regarding the prevention and management of homelessness and rough sleeping.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The cost of the Beam service is up to £80,000 for one year, with the contract commencing on 10 February 2025.
- 10.2 The cost of the Beam service will be fully funded from HPG, which is ringfenced for use in the prevention and relief of homelessness.
- 10.3 There are no specific capital implications.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Beam service provides a valuable additional housing option for local people facing homelessness. Without this option, there is a risk that clients will not be able to resolve their homelessness, resulting in negative outcomes for individuals as well as putting financial pressure on the Council, which faces continuing costs from having to accommodate clients in hotels due to lack of housing options locally.

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 This scheme is designed to assist a specific client group – namely those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness - as dictated by the source of funding (HPG).

The client group includes vulnerable individuals particularly those with support needs due to poor mental and physical health for example. Minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ individuals and young people are more likely to experience homelessness.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. As the recommendations in the report relate to a contract below £100,000, the “go local” policy applies. Beam is the only provider of this service and whilst it is not based in the district, its services will be supporting activity in the local housing and jobs markets. The Social Value Act does not apply to this decision.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

17. APPENDICES

17.1 None.

NOTIFICATION DATE: 14 February 2025

Signature of Executive Member Consulted:

N/A

Signature of Decision Taker:



Service Director – Housing and Environmental Health

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NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Gernon Road,
Letchworth, Herts, SG6 3JF
on Tuesday, 11th February, 2025 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Val Bryant and Tamsin Thomas.

No other apologies were received.

2 MINUTES - 14 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 January 2025 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair reminded Members that the Council had declared both a Climate Emergency and an Ecological Emergency. These are serious decisions, and mean that, as this was an emergency, all of us, Officers and Members had that in mind as we carried out our various roles and tasks for the benefit of our District.
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (4) The Chair advised for the purposes of clarification that 4.8.23(a) of the Constitution did not apply to this meeting.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at the meeting.

6 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

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

7 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT ALLOCATIONS AND UPDATE

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Approved the funding proposals for the in-year award of Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2024/25 as set out in Table 3 in paragraph 8.3.
- (2) Approved the funding proposals for the allocation of part of the 2025/26 award of homelessness grants as outlined in Table 4 in paragraph 8.4 3.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: There is a need to secure additional services for homeless households in the district. Adopting the recommendations at 2.1A and 2.1B secures the provision of high-quality local services to help those in need, which is also consistent with the priorities set out in the Council's Housing Strategy (2024 – 2029).

8 PROPOSED PARKING TARIFFS FOR 2025/26

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the summary of comments and responses received to the Proposed Parking Tariff consultation at section 8.2 and the more detailed comments at Appendix C.
- (2) Agreed to adopt the proposed off-street and on-street car park tariffs for 2025/26 as set out in Tables 1 to 6 at Appendix B as outlined in paragraphs 8.2.11 and 8.2.12 of this report, referred to as Option 3.
- (3) Agreed not to increase the charges for Season Tickets for each of its long stay car parks or business permits for its car park at St. Martins Road in Knebworth for 2025/26.
- (4) Agreed to increase the charges for resident permits, visitor permits, business permits and visitor tickets for resident parking zones for 2025/26 as set out in Section 8.4 of this report.
- (5) Agreed that the proposed tariff changes, as recommended and approved in paragraphs 2.2 above, are implemented as soon as practicable, and that officers in consultation with the interim Executive Member for Planning and Transport proceed with the implementation as required.
- (6) Agreed that the proposed increases for resident, visitor and business permits and visitor tickets in resident parking zones, as recommended and approved in paragraphs 2.4 above, are implemented as soon as practicable, and that officers in consultation with the interim Executive Member for Planning and Transport proceed with the implementation as required.
- (7) Agreed to the implementation of customers paying for parking sessions whilst parked and charging within 'designated electric vehicle charging bays only' later in the financial year 2025/26 as set out in section 8.5 of this report and that the Service Director - Regulatory in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport proceed with the implementation as required.
- (8) Agreed that Officers proceed with the issuing of the necessary Notice of Variation to the 2024 Off1Street Parking Traffic Regulation Orders and the 2023 On-Street Consolidation Order as required to implement the increases recommended at 2.2 and 2.4 and approved above.
- (9) Noted as part of the pay on exit scheme set out in paragraph 8.3.1 of this report that visitors will be charged the maximum period of stay for that car park if they do not 'Check Out' after completing their parking session.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To implement an increase in car parking tariffs and permits within resident parking zones in order to effectively manage their use and in accordance with the Council's fees and charges policy as set out in its Medium- Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). To set car parking tariffs that support the achievement of modal shift away from private car use and to help support the vitality of town centres.

9 BUDGET 2025/26 (REVENUE BUDGET AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY)

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That it:

- (1) Notes the position on the Collection Fund and how it will be funded.
- (2) Notes the position relating to the General Fund balance and that due to the risks identified a minimum balance of £2.6 million is recommended.
- (3) Notes the net revenue savings that are likely to be required in future years, combined with the Chief Finance Officer's section 25 report (Appendix D) which provides a commentary on the risks and reliability of estimates contained in the budget.
- (4) Approves the revenue savings and investments as detailed in Appendix B.
- (5) Approves the capital programme as detailed in Appendix C, adjusted by the removal of NCP4 which will now be funded within the allocation for ECP4.
- (6) Approves a net expenditure budget of £22.792m, as detailed in Appendix E.
- (7) Approves a Council Tax increase of 2.99%, which is in line with the provisions in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (8) Approves the Investment Strategy as detailed in Appendix F.
- (9) Approves the adoption of the four clauses in relation to the Code of Practice on Treasury Management (as detailed in paragraphs 8.32 to 8.35).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) To ensure that all relevant factors are considered in arriving at a budget (revenue and capital) and Council Tax level for 2025/26. To ensure that the budget is aligned to Council priorities for 2024-28 as set out in the Council Plan.
- (2) The Council's Investment Strategy is set to comply with relevant statutory guidance, including the CIPFA Prudential Code. The Strategy also sets out the Council's approach to risks in relation to the investment of surplus cash.

(Including Withdrawn decisions)

EAST TEAM

Application No: 23/00523/OP	Location: Land East Of Ashmill Poultry Farm High Street Barkway Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Edit Residential Edit Residential Description: Outline planning permission for the erection of 6 no. dwellings with access, parking and associated works (all matters reserved except for access)(as amended by plans received on 22 May 2023)	Appeal Decision: Appeal Dismissed Decision Date: 11/02/2025
Application No: 24/01217/DOC	Location: 120 Ridge Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PT Applicant Name: Mr Adrian Bianco Description: Details reserved by Condition 4 - Full joinery section details (relating to Listed Building Consent 22/01349/LBC granted 06.12.2022)	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 24/02159/FP	Location: Ickniel Garage Letchworth Ltd Ickniel Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4AD Applicant Name: Mr Paul Tomlin Description: Use of land (B8 Class) to be used as open-air car storage (B8 Class retained) following demolition of garage storage units.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 11/02/2025
Application No: 24/02196/FP	Location: Town Hall High Street Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6AR Applicant Name: Mr Ellis Description: Removal of early 20th century opening and late 20th century infill panel to form new entrance to Heritage Centre in the style of the original fire station doors.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/02/2025
Application No: 24/02300/DOC	Location: Newsells Park Winery Whiteley Hill Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8DY Applicant Name: Newsells Park Winery Description: Details reserved by Condition 6 (Surface water drainage) of planning permission reference 23/01420/FP granted on 05.12.2023.	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 24/02378/DOC	Location: Newsells Park Winery Whiteley Hill Barkway Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8DY Applicant Name: Newsells Park Winery Description: Details reserved by Condition 7 (Drainage method statement) of planning permission reference 23/01420/FP granted on 05.12.2023.	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 24/02408/DOC	Location: Land Between Royston Road And Cambridge Road Barkway Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Miss Chloe Howkins Redrow South Midlands Description: Details reserved by Condition 17 (Local Transport Plan) of outline permission application reference 18/01502/OP granted on 25.07.2023.	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 24/02585/DOC	Location: Slip End Farm Royston Road Slip End Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6SG Applicant Name: Mr James Northern Description: Details reserved by condition 8 (Archaeology) of planning permission reference no 21/01358/FP granted 17.01.2022	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 24/02595/DOC	Location: Land Between Royston Road And Cambridge Road Barkway Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Miss Chloe Howkins Redrow South Midlands Description: Details reserved by condition 10 Part A (Archaeology) of planning permission reference no 18/01502/OP granted 25.07.2023	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 12/02/2025

EAST TEAM

Application No: 24/02661/FP	Location: Ipec House 25 Church Street Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5AF Applicant Name: Mr Roy Stanbury Stanbury`s Ltd Description: Change of use from E(c)(ii) to C3 - dwelling house including first floor rear extension; alterations to fenestration and ground levels. Alterations to existing detached store outbuilding to form ancillary residential annexe with front access ramp.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 24/02793/FPH	Location: 53 Station Road Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5LR Applicant Name: Ms Harriet Hunt Description: Insertion of external wall insulation and replace render to existing solid walls.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 07/02/2025
Application No: 24/02812/S73	Location: Land East Of Maple House St James Court Therfield Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mrs Amie Donne Description: Variation of Condition 2 (Drawings) of planning permission 22/03300/FP granted on 15.03.2023 as shown on: 0311-101 Rev P01 substituted for 0311-101 Rev P05, 0311-102 Rev P01 substituted for 0311-102 Rev P05, 0311-103 Rev P01 substituted for 0311-103 Rev P05, 0311-104 Rev P01 substituted for 0311-104 Rev P05, 0311-105 Rev P01 substituted for 0311-105 Rev P05, 0311-106 Rev P01 substituted for 0311-106 Rev P05, 0311-107 Rev P01 substituted for 0311-107 Rev P05, for Erection of one 4 bedroom dwelling and detached garage following demolition of existing barn including all associated ancillary and landscaping works.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 24/02832/FPH	Location: The Willows Roe Green Sandon Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0QE Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs Chase Description: Erection of detached ancillary annexe with home office and store following demolition of existing car port	Decision: Withdrawn Decision Date: 10/02/2025
Application No: 24/02849/FPH	Location: 116 Swift Close Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4LH Applicant Name: Mr and Mrs Cunningham Description: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory.	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/02/2025
Application No: 24/02934/DOC	Location: Land Adjacent To Red Brick Cottage The Street Kelshall Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9SQ Applicant Name: Mr Bill Brede Description: Details reserved by Condition 3 (CMP) of planning permission reference 24/01962/FP granted on 10.12.2024	Decision: Approval of Details Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 25/00024/LDCP	Location: Old Well Cottage Southern Green Rushden Hertfordshire SG9 0SY Applicant Name: Mr Mark Pearson Description: Replacement of existing fenestrations	Decision: Granted Permission Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00026/TCA	Location: 19 Silver Street Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5QJ Applicant Name: Mr Dave Wallace Description: T1: Elder - Remove to ground level (as amended by plan received on 15/01/2025).	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 25/00087/TCA	Location: Land Adjacent To Peartree Cottage Smiths End Lane Barley Hertfordshire SG8 8LH Applicant Name: Mr Philip Chapman Description: T1: Walnut, T2: Acer, T3 Cyprus - Fell	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025

EAST TEAM

Application No: 25/00092/TPO	Location: 3 Echo Hill Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9BB Applicant Name: Diane Hatton Description: T1: Beech - Lifting of the crown by reduction of 4 horizontal reaching side branches. 1 side branch at approx. 6m above the ground. 1 side branch at approx. 6.5 m above the ground. 2 side branches at approx. 7 m above the ground. T2: Beech - Lifting of the crown by reduction of 2 side branches located at approx. 4.5 m above ground on the main trunk.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 07/02/2025
Application No: 25/00152/EC	Location: Land Outside 19 Green Lane Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1EB Applicant Name: Kunal Phulwani Openreach Ltd Description: Install fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus under Regulation 5, detailed as erection of 1X 10M medium wooden pole.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 11/02/2025
Application No: 25/00155/TCA	Location: 296 Norton Way South Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1SU Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: T4: Scots Pine - Fell. T5: Common Hawthorn - Fell. T2: Beech - Remove deadwood, severer and strip ivy to 1.5m. T1: Beech - Reduce crown and primary limb extended over pavement and road by 2 to 3m. Reduce west laterals over pavement and road by 1 to 2m. Clear lamp column by 1m. T3: Silver Birch - Fell.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00156/TCA	Location: Land At Rear Of 503 To 515 Broadway Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: T1: Hawthorn - Fell. T2: Scots Pine - Remove deadwood. T3: Crack Willow - Fell. T4: Lawsons Cypress - Remove failed stem. T5: Lawsons Cypress - Fell	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00158/TCA	Location: Allotment Gardens At Rear Of 31 To 45 South View Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: T1: Scots Pine - Fell. T2: Sycamore - Reduce the three lower east branches overhanging edge of allotment by 3m. T3: Plum - Fell. T4: Sycamore - Monolith. T5: Sycamore - Sever ivy and remove to 2m height to inspect base. T6: Poplar - Fell.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00159/TCA	Location: Allotment Gardens Lytton Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HY Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: Common Ash - Sever ivy to 1.5m	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00160/TCA	Location: Land Rear Of 7 To 13 Souberie Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: Hornbeam - Sever ivy to 1.5m	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00161/TCA	Location: Land Adjacent To 5 South View Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3JH Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: T1, T2: Sycamore - Remove deadwood	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00162/TCA	Location: Car Park Openshaw Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3EN Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: T1: Birch - Fell. T2: Lime - Remove stake. T3: Birch - Remove stake	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025

EAST TEAM

Application No: 25/00163/TCA	Location: Land Rear Of Silver Birch Cottages Station Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: Common Beech - Sever ivy	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00164/TCA	Location: Land Adj To 101 Norton Way South Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1NY Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: T1- Horse Chesnut - Sever Ivy. T2: Sycamore Maple - Crown reduction by 3-4m and sever Ivy	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00165/TCA	Location: Electricity Sub Station Willian Church Road Willian Hertfordshire SG6 2AF Applicant Name: Mr Matt Jones Letchworth Garden City Heritage Found Description: T1: Hawthorn - Remove to ground level	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00171/EC	Location: Land Outside 32 Rushby Mead Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1RU Applicant Name: AMEN BARUDWALE Openreach Ltd Description: Install fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus under Regulation 5, detailed as erection of 1X 9M medium wooden pole.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 11/02/2025
Application No: 25/00181/TPO	Location: 18 Hollies Close Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7DZ Applicant Name: Mr Anddy Scott Description: T1: Beech - Remove to near ground level.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00194/NHC	Location: Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation North Of The A14 Between Fen Ditton And Horningsea Cambridgeshire Applicant Name: Water Infrastructure Planning & Delivery Unit Description: PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010 APPLICATION BY ANGLIAN WATER (THE APPLICANT) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED CAMBRIDGE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RELOCATION PROJECT (THE APPLICATION). NORTH HERTS COUNCIL CONSULTEE ONLY	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 10/02/2025
Application No: 25/00195/NHC	Location: Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation North Of The A14 Between Fen Ditton And Horningsea Cambridgeshire Applicant Name: Water Infrastructure Planning & Delivery Unit Description: PLANNING ACT 2008 AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010 APPLICATION BY ANGLIAN WATER (THE APPLICANT) FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE PROPOSED CAMBRIDGE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT RELOCATION PROJECT (THE APPLICATION).	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 10/02/2025
Application No: 25/00222/NMA	Location: Site Of Former Foundation House Icknield Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1UD Applicant Name: Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation & First G Description: 1. Revision to the width of the bellmouth on Icknield Way, following request by Highways. 2. 1800mm high close-boarded fence on northern edge of site moved 500mm inwards from boundary line. 3. 600mm high trellis added to top of 1800mm close-boarded fence on northern edge of site. 4. Footpath added between Blocks D & E and pedestrian gate (as a non-material amendment to planning application reference 20/01714/FP granted on 14.06.2021).	Decision: Agreed Decision Date: 07/02/2025

EAST TEAM

Application No: 25/00240/TCA	Location: Hall Barn The Glade Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3LN Applicant Name: Mr Osman Description: T1: Common Horse Chestnut - Cut back to boundary	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00267/TPO	Location: 2 King James Way Royston Hertfordshire SG8 7EF Applicant Name: Mr David Burr Description: 5x Yew - Reduce back to boundary.	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00350/HCC	Location: North Herts Education Support Centre Briar Patch Lane Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3LY Applicant Name: Mrs Sharon Threlfall SPATIAL PLANNING UNIT Description: Demolition of 4no. existing buildings and the construction of a new 2 storey Education Support Centre with associated soft and hard landscaping, car parking and access NORTH HERTS COUNCIL : CONSULTEE ONLY	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 12/02/2025

WEST TEAM

Application No: 19/01669/FP	Location: Land On The South West Side Of Stevenage Road St Ippolyts Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Valais Ltd Valais Ltd Description: Erection of 14 dwellings including new vehicular access off Sperberry Hill (serving 10 dwellings) and new vehicular accesses off Stevenage Road (serving 4 dwellings) (as amended by plans received 13/11/23, 03/06/24 and 17/06/24)	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 11/02/2025
Application No: 24/02691/FPH	Location: Bibbsworth Hall Farm Bibbs Hall Lane Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8EN Applicant Name: Knights Developments Description: Repositioning of existing timber shed. (Development already carried out).	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 10/02/2025
Application No: 24/02699/FPH	Location: 68 High Street Whitwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8AL Applicant Name: Mr Norman Description: Single storey rear infill extension and alterations to fenestration	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 11/02/2025
Application No: 24/02700/LBC	Location: 68 High Street Whitwell Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8AL Applicant Name: Mr Norman Description: Single storey rear infill extension. Internal and external alterations	Decision: Conditional Consent Decision Date: 11/02/2025
Application No: 24/02781/FP	Location: Coutts Corner Wymondley Road Hitchin Hertfordshire Applicant Name: Ms Cherrylin Wickens Description: Retention of storage container units and shed in association with fishery/angling business for a temporary period together with boundary security fence	Decision: Conditional Permission Decision Date: 07/02/2025
Application No: 24/02809/NMA	Location: 44 Ickleford Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1TR Applicant Name: Mr Liam Atkinson Description: Move position of air source heat pump (as Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 23/02247/FPH granted 22.01.2024)	Decision: Agreed Decision Date: 10/02/2025
Application No: 24/02840/PNQ	Location: Porters End House Porters End Lane Kimpton Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 8ER Applicant Name: Procter Description: Conversion of agricultural buildings into 5 residential dwellings with all associated building works.	Decision: Prior Approval Refused Decision Date: 06/02/2025

WEST TEAM

Application No: 24/02894/TCA	Location: Land At The Rear Of 15 Church Lane Kimpton Hertfordshire SG4 8RR Applicant Name: Kimpton Parish Council Kimpton Parish Council Description: T1: Apple - Crown Reduce by 2m. Back to near old pruning points to suitable growth points & remove deadwood.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 12/02/2025
Application No: 25/00097/NMA	Location: 61 Radcliffe Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1QG Applicant Name: Mr Jack Lee J Lee Properties Description: External render (as Non-Material Amendment to planning permission 20/01638/FP granted on appeal 01.02.2022)	Decision: Not Agreed Decision Date: 07/02/2025
Application No: 25/00141/EC	Location: Watton Sub Station Watton Road Knebworth Stevenage Hertfordshire SG3 6AG Applicant Name: Matthew McGimpsey United Living Connected Limited Description: Installation of 6no antennas and ancillary equipment following the removal and replacement of 3no antenna	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 07/02/2025
Application No: 25/00196/EC	Location: Telecommunication Mast Site At Withstocks Wood Lawrence End Estate Chiltern Green Road Hertfordshire LU2 8PF Applicant Name: Natalia Satterthwaite Waldon Telecom Description: Replacement of routers at antenna level, installation of 1no cabinet and associated ancillary works following the removal of existing cabinet.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 07/02/2025
Application No: 25/00217/TCA	Location: 105 Walsworth Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9ST Applicant Name: Sharon Smith The Blue Tree Company Description: T1: Mulberry - Reduce in height by up to 1.5 m and bring the side into shape to viable growth points.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 07/02/2025
Application No: 25/00247/TCA	Location: Communal Car Parking Area Silver Court Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1GB Applicant Name: Ms Lois Gumm Description: T1: Sorbus - Reduce by approx. 25% to suitable growth points and lighting column cleared.	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025
Application No: 25/00283/TCA	Location: 34 The Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9RJ Applicant Name: Mrs Kathleen Mitchell Description: Cherry - Crown reduce up to 1m	Decision: No Objection Decision Date: 06/02/2025

EAST TEAM

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

25/00357/TCA	Mr Ewan Habben Hbn Trees 5 Walkdens, Station Road, Ashwell, SG7 5RU, United Kingdom	57 High Street Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5NP Mr Graham Scott T1: Laburnam - Remove to ground level.
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25/00386/TCA	Mr Ewan Habben Hbn Trees 5 Walkdens, Station Road, Ashwell, SG7 5RU, United Kingdom	The Granary House West End Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5PJ Mr Dom Watson T1, T2, T3: Cypress - Fell
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Baldock

25/00109/LDCP	Morgan Rookard 40 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6JL	40 London Road Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 6JL Morgan Rookard Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory
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Barley Parish Council

25/00347/TCA	Mr Mike Horscroft Root To Crown Ltd 15 Ouse Way, Biggleswade, SG18 8PZ, United Kingdom	Shah Cottage High Street Barley Royston Hertfordshire SG8 8HT Mr Brian Haughey T1: Spruce - Fell to ground level and grind stump.
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25/00349/TCA	Mrs Doris Wilkerson Hanaper, Hanaper Drive, Barley, Royston, SG8 8JA, United Kingdom	Hanaper High Street Barley Hertfordshire SG8 8JA Mrs Doris Wilkerson 3x Lime - Pollard
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Kelshall Parish Meeting

25/00211/FP	NP Architects Mr Nicholas Phillips 96 King Street, Cambridge , CB1 1LN	Red Brick Cottage The Street Kelshall Royston Hertfordshire SG8 9SQ Mr & Mrs Cordell Erection of one detached self-contained dwelling including bike store; parking and landscaping
25/00212/FPH	Sworders Mr James Salmon The Gatehouse, Hadham Hall, Little Hadham, Ware, SG11 2EB	Fear End Fears Green Sandon Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 0QY Rosemary Campbell Single storey side extension
Letchworth Garden City		
25/00134/FPH	PicklePlanning Stuart Judd 1 Sale Drive, Clothall Common, Baldock, SG7 6NS	75 Spring Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3SL Paul Wilde Insertion of front dormer window to south-west valley; second floor front and rear windows to existing gable ends and rooflights to front, rear and side roofslopes to facilitate loft conversion.
25/00149/FPH	Simon Knight Architects Mr Simon Knight 7 French Row, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 5DU	162 Western Way Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4SR Mr Moryn Single storey front extension following demolition of existing porch canopy
25/00228/FPH	Be Informed! Mr Charles Speakman 8 Broadmeadow Ride, Hitchin, SG4 7ST, United Kingdom	48 Maycroft Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 4QD Mr Stephen Maguire Single storey front extension.
25/00231/AD	Mr. Ramazan Ganidagli Mr. Ramazan Ganidagli Flat 20,, Clissold House,, Lordship Road,, London, N16 0PS	11 Eastcheap Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3DA Mr. Ugur Tekagac Erection of one fascia sign (non-illuminated red panel above embossed lettering and logo with internal LED illumination) and erection of one projecting sign (non-illuminated panel above embossed logo with internal LED illumination).

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 14/02/2025
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 06/03/2025**

25/00341/TCA	Mr Mark Thurley The Eco Arborist Limited C/o Absolute Accountants, 10 Park Street, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AX, United Kingdom	Old Trees Letchworth Lane Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3ND
		Alison Baigent
		T007: Ash - Crown reduction of 30% (4m) with thinning of any dead / redundant branches. T015: Beech - Crown reduction of 20% (2.5m) with the removal of dead or redundant stems / branches. T018: Beech - Crown reduction by 30% (6m) and balance.
25/00350/HCC	Mrs Sharon Threlfall CHN216, Farnham House , Six Hills Way, Stevenage , Herts SG1 2ST	North Herts Education Support Centre Briar Patch Lane Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3LY
		Mrs Sharon Threlfall
		Demolition of 4no. existing buildings and the construction of a new 2 storey Education Support Centre with associated soft and hard landscaping, car parking and access NORTH HERTS COUNCIL : CONSULTEE ONLY
25/00359/TCA	Mr Dom Walker The Blue Tree Company 50 Bunyan Road, Hitchin, SG5 1NN	Sollershott Lodge Sollershott East Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3GY
		Abbott Property Management
		T1: Sycamore - Remove the large stem growing from the base to balance. Lift the remainder of the canopy over the parking bay giving 3.5m clearance from the ground. Remove 1.5m of ivy from the ground up
25/00376/TCA	Mrs Georgina Gentry Robinson Tree Services Ltd Beech Farm, Coopers Green Lane, St. Albans, AL4 9HP, United Kingdom	15 Cromwell Green Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1DB
		Mr Ewan Macleod
		CG17, CG14: Sycamore - Crown reduce by 3-4m
25/00392/TCA	Mr. Piers Bradburn Autumn Gold Tree Care 34 Lancaster Avenue, Hitchin, SG5 1PB, United Kingdom	40 Broadwater Avenue Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 3HJ
		Mr Jerry Bolter
		T1, T2: Pear - Reshape by reducing outlying branches to suitable side node or to parent branch, crown clean. Max. overall reduction 30%. T3: Plum - Reshape by reducing outlying branches to suitable side node or to parent branch, crown clean. Max. overall reduction 30%.

25/00393/TCA Mr. Piers Bradburn Autumn Gold Tree 33 Broadwater Avenue
Care Letchworth Garden City
34 Lancaster Avenue, Hitchin, SG5 Hertfordshire
1PB, United Kingdom SG6 3HG

Mrs Jane Purton

T1-T8: Apple, Pear - Reshape by reducing outlying branches to suitable side node or to parent branch, crown clean. Max. overall reduction 30%

Radwell Parish Meeting

25/00242/LBC SEAM Collective Stuart Everatt Radwell Grange
48 Medcalfe Way, Melbourn, SG8 Great North Road
6HU Radwell
Baldock
Hertfordshire
SG7 5EU

Mr Nick Bridgeman

Re-roofing works like for like, installation of 2no. conservation roof lights and 1 no. dormer window

Royston Town Council

25/00104/FP Barker Associates (Essex) Limited Mr Land To The Rear Of Banyers Hotel
Breedon King James Way
Majesty House, Avenue West, Skyline Royston
A120, Braintree, CM77 7AA, United Hertfordshire
Kingdom SG8 7BZ

Mr Borno

Residential development to provide 9 flats with associated vehicular parking and access via existing dropped kerb from King James Way with ancillary bike and refuse store.

25/00178/FPH MD Designs Michael David 58 Heathfield
9 Jepps Close, Goffs Oak, Herts, EN7 Royston
6UT, United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG8 5BN

Mr M Koumis

First floor side and single storey rear extensions and alterations to front entrance porch.

25/00364/TPO Mrs Kerrie Morris Branching Out Tree 24 St Marys Park
and Garden Services Royston
38 Station Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire
SG16 6JL SG8 7XB

Mr Anthony Moran

Yew - Up to a 2m reduction

25/00382/TPO wayne barker 1 Limekiln Close
1 Limekiln Close, Royston, SG8 9XP, Royston
United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG8 9XP

wayne barker

T6: Yew - Reduce by 20%

Rushden And Wallington Parish Council

25/00367/TCA Mr Jason Hough CTC Church Of St Mary
6 Strawplait way, Arlesey, SG156SJ Church End
Bennetts Lane
Rushden
Hertfordshire
SG9 0SG

Mrs KAREN Petyfer

G01: 7x Lime - Crown lift to 3m. G04: 2x Hawthorn - Crown lift to 3m.
T02: Ash - Crown reduce by 50%. T05, T25: Field Maple - Crown lift to
3m. T03, T06, T07: Hawthorn - Crown lift to 3m. T09: Yew - Crown lift to
3m. T11: Ash - Remove limb overhanging path. T19, T26: Norway
Maple - Remove deadwood. T23: Ash - Remove deadwood. T27:
Norway Maple - Prune back to clear footpath. T32: Hazel - Crown lift to
3m.

Weston Parish Council

25/00303/HCC Hertfordshire County Council Weston Primary School
CHN216, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Maiden Street
Hertford, SG13 8DN Weston
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 7AG

Hertfordshire County Council

Works to existing school buildings to include replacement and repair of
existing slate pitched roof coverings; replacement of and introduction of
insulation to existing mineral felt flat roof coverings and rooflights;
replacement and introduction of insulation to
existing mineral felt shallow pitched roof covering; infilling two high level
windows and replacement of two high level windows.
NORTH HERTS COUNCIL : CONSULTEE ONLY

WEST TEAM

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

25/00176/FPH	HOME EXTENSION DESIGNS LTD Mr Stuart Cook HED House, 60A Bridge Road East, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1JU, United Kingdom	Greenways Kimpton Road Oakhills Welwyn Hertfordshire AL6 9NN
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Mr Jonathan Slade

Use of outbuilding as ancillary annexe including alterations to roof and
fenestration and installation of solar panels and external cladding

Graveley Parish Council

25/00340/TCA	Mr Peter Kelly The White House, 30 High Street, Graveley, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7LA	The White House 30 High Street Graveley Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7LA
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Mr Peter Kelly

2x Leylandii - Fell

Hitchin		
25/00005/FPH	Michael Collins Architect Llp Mr Michae Collins Suite 4A , 30 Bancroft , Hitchin, SG51LE	23 Tilehouse Street Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2DY Mrs And Mr Katie And Dave Wilkins , Hillier Insertion of rear dormer window to facilitate loft conversion. Single storey extension to existing basement; existing coal chute opened up to introduce natural light at front. New lightwell to the rear garden.
25/00006/LBC	Michael Collins Architect Llp Mr Michae Collins Suite 4A , 30 Bancroft , Hitchin, SG51LE	23 Tilehouse Street Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2DY Mrs and mr katie and Dave Wilkins , Hillier Insertion of rear dormer window. Single storey extension to existing basement; existing coal chute opened up to introduce natural light at front. New lightwell to the rear garden. Internal and external alterations
25/00132/LBC	Leigh DB Kieron Gardiner 24 Capital Business Centre, 22 Carlton Road, Surrey, CR2 0BS, United Kingdom	2 Bancroft Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 1JQ Lloyds Banking Group C/o Mitie Plc Removal of existing ATM and fascia signage
25/00143/FP	MSAD Architectural Design Ltd Mr Mark Scott Bancroft House, 34 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1LA	90 Walsworth Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9SX Ms Phillipa Wisbey Erection of two storey rear extension incorporating undercroft parking and change of use of ground floor office (Class E) and alterations of first floor flat to provide three additional flats.
25/00172/LDCP	Mr Ben Apperly 56 Gaping Lane, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 2JE	56 Gaping Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2JE Mr Ben Apperly Insertion of 3 rooflights to existing front and a box dormer to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation.
25/00180/FPH	Jeremy Williams-leroy Architect Mr Jeremy Williams-leroy 1 The Limes, Hitchin, SG5 2AY	3 Manley Highway Cottages Pirton Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2ES Mr and mrs McKeown First floor side extension and lengthening of existing front porch roof

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

**LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN WEEK ENDING: 14/02/2025
DEADLINE FOR COUNCILLORS' CALL IN: 06/03/2025**

25/00223/FPH	RTM Design Mr Richard Collin 5 Prebendal Drive, SLIP END, LU1 4JN	51 Symonds Road Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2JJ	Mr & Mrs Lee & Ganderton	Part two storey and single storey side extension, single storey front extension, alterations to existing openings and internal alterations
25/00236/LDCP	Boyd Seddon Architect Mr Boyd Seddon Old Kitchin's Farm, 31 Horslow Street, Potton, Beds, SG19 2NS	52 Tennyson Avenue Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 0PY	Mr & Mrs Lemm	Single storey rear extension with lean-to pitched roof following demolition of existing conservatory.
25/00251/FPH	Pentangle Design Group Mr Jonathan Read Suite 1, 21 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1JW, United Kingdom	1 St Andrews Place Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 9UA	Mrs and Mrs Jennifer and Sarah Magdeburg	Installation of raised decking area. (Development already carried out).
25/00272/LDCP	Home Extension Team Miss Georgia Hayes 4 Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1HX, United Kingdom	2 Grays Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2HA	Mr and Mrs Horne	Insertion of rooflight to existing front and box dormer to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation following demolition of existing rear chimney.
25/00273/FPH	Home Extension Team Miss Georgia Hayes 4 Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1HX, United Kingdom	2 Grays Lane Hitchin Hertfordshire SG5 2HA	Mr and Mrs Horne	Insertion of rooflight to existing front and dormer to existing rear roofslope to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation following removal of two existing chimneys.

25/00362/TCA Mrs Allison Sparrow Arborcare Wilshere Dacre Junior School
Unit N, Shangri-La Farm, Stevenage, Fishponds Road
Hertfordshire, SG1 2JE Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG5 1NS

Mr Huntley

G1: Yew, Holly and Leylandii - Crown Lift to provide 5.2m clearance from ground level and trim the Yew back to fence line. T159: Common lime - Crown Lift to provide 3m clearance from ground level and clear branches around overhead wires. T160: Common Ash, T168, T169, T170, T172, T174: Silver Birch - Crown Lift to provide 3m clearance from ground level. T166: Sweet Chestnut - Crown lift to provide 2m clearance from ground level. T175, T176: Rowan Crown Lift to provide 2m clearance from ground level. T177: Bird Cherry - Crown Lift to provide 2m clearance from ground level. T183: Oak Crown Lift to provide 2.5m clearance from ground level. T185: Norway Spruce - Crown Lift to provide 5.2m clearance from ground level.

25/00385/TCA Ms Julia Hanna 23 Wymondley Road
23 Wymondley Road, Hitchin, SG4 Hitchin
9PN, United Kingdom Hertfordshire
SG4 9PN

Ms Julia Hanna

Robina, Silver Birch - Reduction in height by 20 ft and remove boughs over hanging neighbours garden. Holly - Reduction in height by 10 ft. Silver Birch - Tidy canopy. Row of Lime - Pollard

Kimpton Parish Council

25/00153/FPH DP Architects Mr Mark Longworth
The Old Brewery Tap, 3 Shirburn St,
Watlington, Watlington, OX49 5BU,
United Kingdom

25/00154/LBC DP Architects Mr Mark Longworth
The Old Brewery Tap, 3 Shirburn St,
Watlington, Watlington, OX49 5BU,
United Kingdom

Knebworth Parish Council

25/00285/FPH Octagon Design & Consultancy Mr 19 St Martins Road
Trevor Johnson Knebworth
2A Bournemouth Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire
SG1 2PN, United Kingdom SG3 6ER

Mrs Elspeth Neilson

Single storey rear extension and erection of detached garage following demolition of existing rear conservatory, detached garage and rear chimney.

Offley Parish Council

25/00225/FPH Lawtey Design Ltd Mrs Rachael 21 Meadow Way
Lawtey Offley
83A High Street, Stevenage, Hitchin
Hertfordshire, SG1 3HR, United Hertfordshire
Kingdom SG5 3AX

Mr & Mrs Tom & Sandra O'Mahoney

Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear extension and coal stores, and erection of front porch following demolition of existing porch canopy.

25/00269/FPH Atelier Architecture & Design Ltd Mr
Christopher Higenbottam
The Studio, 6 Marsworth Wharf,
London Road, Tring, HP23 4BW,
United Kingdom

Pirton Parish Council

25/00365/TCA Mrs Kerrie Morris Branching Out Tree 17 Shillington Road
and Garden Services Pirton
38 Station Road, Lower Stondon, Hitchin
SG16 6JL Hertfordshire
SG5 3QJ

Mrs Lesley Lintott

Sycamore, Prunus, Apple, Silver Birch - Up to a 1m reduction. Cherry - Up to 1.5m Reduction

25/00377/TCA Mrs Kerrie Morris Branching Out Tree 15 Shillington Road
and Garden Services Pirton
38 Station Road, Lower Stondon, Hitchin
SG16 6JL Hertfordshire
SG5 3QJ

Mrs Lesley Lintott

Conifer - Prune up to 2m

St Ippolytts Parish Council

25/00108/FPH Plan And Build Limited Mr Shamshad 1 Grange Close
Ali Hitchin
23 Brackendale Grove, Luton, LU3 Hertfordshire
2LT SG4 9HD

Mr Littish Dominic

Single storey front extension including alterations to existing garage roof and fenestration to facilitate garage conversion following demolition of existing front porch.

25/00355/NCS MRP Planning Mr Brian Parker Greenbanks
10 Orient Close, St Albans, AL1 1AJ, London Road
United Kingdom St Ippolyts
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 7NJ

Ms Becky Quorn

Single storey rear extension with the following dimension:
Length as measured from rear wall of original dwelling - 8 metres

Wymondley Parish Council

25/00174/LBC Whitebrick Colin Weatherall Morris The Old Rectory
29B Hermitage Road, Hitchin, SG5 Stevenage Road
1BY Little Wymondley
Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 7HY

Mr and Mrs Watts

Replacement fenestration including alterations to fenestration arrangement; internal alterations and demolition of existing conservatory. Insertion of 3no. rooflights and external weatherboarding to existing rear element (annexe).

25/00280/FPH S.Moran Architecture Seumas Moran 1 Elms Close
30 Riverway, Palmers Green, London, Little Wymondley
N13 5LJ, United Kingdom Hitchin
Hertfordshire
SG4 7HP

C O'Malley

Two storey side extension and replace existing attached garage door with a window and insertion of No.2 side windows to facilitate conversion of garage into habitable accommodation.

PRESS RELEASE

PR 3911

10 February 2025

New payment machines for council car parks

New user-friendly 'Check In' and 'Check Out' payment machines are coming to a council car park near you!

Upgraded parking payment machines are due to go into all 22 council car parks across North Herts, with full colour touch screens accepting contactless payment including Apple and Google Pay. One of the main new features will allow visitors to 'Check In' and 'Check Out' for up to the maximum stay, removing the stress of guessing how long parking is needed for. And there is also no need to display tickets, removing the need for visitors to return back to their vehicle to display a new ticket. The machines are powered through the mains in multi-storey car parks, but solar powered in the open-air ones!

The new machines, operated by Flowbird UK, are set to be installed from **17 February in Hitchin, 10 March in Baldock, Royston and Knebworth, and 18 March in Letchworth.** Some minimal disruption is expected and notices will be going up in the vicinity before work starts. From work starting, we hope the new machines will be up and running within a week, although delays can happen such as through bad weather. Flowbird will have members of staff to support customers on the day of and for a couple of days following each installation, while also collecting customer feedback.

The PayByPhone option will continue to be available using our existing app and all car parks which currently accept cash will continue to do so – Woodside in Hitchin is the only council car park that doesn't take cash due to previous issues with vandalism.

Please note – we **do not use QR codes** as a payment option given the recent scams.

New machines start in Hitchin

We're due to start installing machines in Hitchin from **17 February.** There will be minimal disruption as contractors will only require a few parking bays within the vicinity of each

parking machine to be suspended for the necessary works – these bays will be cordoned off the evening before. It is anticipated the works will be completed within a few days however delays can occur. Flowbird will have marshals present to guide visitors. Car parks will remain open during the works and payment for parking sessions will apply.

Car parks in Hitchin affected:

- Bancroft Long Stay
- Woodside Long Stay
- Lairage multi-storey
- Biggin Lane*
- Christchurch*
- St. Mary's Square
- Portmill Lane West
- Portmill Lane East

*There is only one machine to be replaced in Biggin Lane and Christchurch car parks so there may be a time when machines are not in use and enforcement will reflect this.

State-of-the art electric vehicle (EV) charging points are also due to go into eight of the council's long stay car parks across the district. Managed by Blink Charging UK, the new EV chargers will help provide residents, businesses and visitors with greater access to reliable and user-friendly charging facilities.

Car parks due to have EV chargers installed are:

- Letchworth – Garden Square and Hillshott
- Baldock – The Twitchell
- Hitchin – Bancroft, The Lairage and Woodside
- Royston – Civic Centre and The Warren

Cllr Daniel Allen, Leader of North Herts Council and Executive Member for Planning & Transport, said: "We're really excited to be introducing Flowbird's modern and user-friendly payment machines, gone are the days of pay and display! The best thing is if you pay electronically, you don't have to guess how long you'll be and can just pay for what you use at the end up to the maximum stay, and not worry about rushing back from shopping and enjoying our towns, or extending via the app. And fear not, we want to make it clear that you can still pay with cash."

Thomas Harrington, Managing Director at Flowbird UK, added: “The ‘Check In’ and ‘Check Out’ feature is a great new addition. Motorists will only be charged for the time they have parked for, which means they don’t have to race back to their vehicle before the ticket runs out.”

ENDS

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

Notes to editors

A full list of council car parks can be found below and on our website: www.north-herts.gov.uk/CarParks

Letchworth (5)

- Garden Square Multi-Storey
- Hillshott
- Norton Common Bowling Club
- Norton Common Swimming Pool
- Town Hall

Baldock (1)

- The Twitchell

Hitchin (9)

- Bancroft
- Biggin Lane
- Christchurch
- Hitchin Swimming Centre
- Lairage Multi-Storey
- Portmill Lane East
- Portmill Lane West
- St Mary's Square
- Woodside

Knebworth (1)

- St Martins Road

Royston (6)

- Angel Pavement
- Civic Centre
- Market Place
- Princes Mews
- Priory Gardens
- The Warren

Press release

Monday 10 February 2025

Free health and fitness event comes to Royston

Royston residents are set to benefit from a day of free health advice, fitness activities and wellbeing support as Health Action Day makes its debut at Royston Leisure Centre on Saturday 15 February.

The event, which will run from 10am until 2pm, marks an exciting new initiative for the leisure centre since Everyone Active took over operations in April last year.

At a time when many are seeking support with physical and mental wellbeing, this health event promises something for everyone, from fitness enthusiasts to those taking their first steps toward a healthier lifestyle.

The leisure centre, managed by Everyone Active in partnership with North Herts Council, will host an array of local organisations offering advice and support.

Visitors can speak with representatives from Age UK, Citizens Advice and Diabetes UK, while emergency services including Hertfordshire Police and Fire Service will also be present.

A special highlight of the day will be the charity Fitathon in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

Participants can join one or several 25-minute sessions throughout the day, starting with a full-body Body Pump workout at 10am and concluding with upbeat Clubbercise dance routines at 1:30pm.

Other sessions include Yoga, Zumba, Body Combat, and the challenging but popular Metafit class.

Juanita Prescott, Activity & Wellbeing Manager at Everyone Active, said: "It is well documented that a high percentage of people in the UK are sedentary, overweight, experiencing poor mental health and are at an increasing risk of developing life-threatening illnesses, which puts a huge strain on the NHS and local authorities.

"The Health Action Day concept was designed to connect people with local health professionals, charities, and voluntary groups who can provide vital support and guidance.

"We believe that by bringing these services together under one roof, we can make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of our community."

Cllr Mick Debenham, Executive Member for Leisure, at North Herts Council, said: "Health Action Day is a fantastic initiative that aligns perfectly with our commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents. This event provides a great opportunity for people to connect with local experts and discover ways to improve both their physical and mental

health. I'm proud to see Royston Leisure Centre host this event, which I hope will inspire people to take those first steps toward a healthier lifestyle.”

Local service providers will be on hand to discuss healthcare programmes and physical activity opportunities suitable for all ages and abilities.

The event is free to attend and runs from 10am to 2pm in the sports hall at Royston Leisure Centre.

For more information about specific activities and times, residents are encouraged to contact: northhertsactivecommunities@everyoneactive.com

-ENDS-

For press information please contact:

Victoria Watkins | Regional PR & Communications Manager

victoriawatkins@everyoneactive.com

07739 985325

Everyone Active

Everyone Active is the trading name for Sports Leisure Management (SLM), which operates leisure centres in partnership with local councils across England. SLM Ltd was formed in 1987, managing just one leisure centre in the Midlands. Today, Everyone Active manages in excess of 240 leisure facilities and cultural services in partnership with more than 70 local authorities. These stretch from Sunderland in the north to Mid Suffolk in the east, Chichester in the south to Bristol in the south west. The company's growth is due to the ability to deliver well-managed leisure facilities and an activity offering which provides great value for money. Everyone Active aims to increase the participation of local people in leisure activities, advocating a minimum of 30 minutes exercise, five times per week.

www.everyoneactive.com

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3JF

Telephone: (01462) 474000. Email: pressoffice@north-herts.gov.uk

STATEMENT

ST 255

11 February 2025

North Herts Council respond to local government reform letter

Like all councils in two-tier areas, we have now received our [statutory invitation from the Government](#) to submit proposals for the reorganisation of local government structures in Hertfordshire.

The letter sets out the criteria to be considered and the timescale including initial plans to be submitted in March and full proposals later this year.

In response to the letter, Cllr Daniel Allen, Leader of North Herts Council said: "Our priority remains to ensure that any changes genuinely benefit North Herts residents and businesses and to fully explore the impact they may have on localised decision-making and the provision of local services.

"There are currently differing views on the best model for local government in Hertfordshire, but we are committed to working together to determine how we can best achieve this goal.

"What is clear, however, is that Hertfordshire is simply too big to be run by a single unitary council and therefore we do not support this approach. With a population of 1.2 million and growing, Hertfordshire would be much larger than any local authority in the UK, creating an oversized bureaucracy that could slow down decision-making and make services less responsive to the needs of our diverse communities.

"Local issues require local solutions, and one giant council would risk losing the valuable, local connection we have between our residents and the services they rely on us to provide.

"All 11 councils, along with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, are collaborating to assess the options. However, with no agreed proposals, Hertfordshire will not be included in the first phase of reforms. Given the financial and staffing challenges councils already face, it is essential to balance the delivery of vital services with any future governance changes.

"This process is still at an early stage, and we will keep residents, businesses, our partners, colleagues and other stakeholders updated as discussions progress."