

EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 28 NOVEMBER 2023



DECISION SHEETS

Record of decisions made by the Executive pursuant to Regulation 12 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of publication: 29 November 2023

** Executive decisions will not be implemented until the expiry of 5 working days to take account of the Call-In procedure.*

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Decision</u> | <u>Reasons for the Decision</u> | <u>Details of alternative options considered and rejected at a meeting</u> | <u>Any declarations of conflict of interest and/or dispensations granted</u> |
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| 9 | Harlow and Gilston Garden Town - Joint Committee | a) The proposal for the establishment of a Joint | Agreement to the creation of a Joint Committee for the Harlow and Gilston | The option of proceeding without a JC, on the same basis as currently, | |

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| | | <p>Committee (JC) in respect of matters pertaining to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town be supported.</p> <p>b) Subject to all Garden Town partner authorities approving the Agreement, the arrangements set out in the Inter Authority</p> | <p>Garden Town - to which a range of decision making functions will be delegated.</p> | <p>is an option. However, it is considered that this would undermine the Garden Town partner Councils ability to develop a joint approach to facilitate the development of the HGGT in a co-ordinated and transparent manner. As the delivery phase of the partnership begins, a number of overarching risks</p> | |

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| | | <p>Agreement at Appendix 1 to this report be endorsed and agreed.</p> <p>c) Authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader, to make any necessary, nonconsequential and minor amendments</p> | | <p>around financial administration, corporate management and inability or delay in delivery of key infrastructure to enable the planned growth are becoming more evident. The lack of a formal governance structure creates risk for all partners.</p> <p>Not proceeding with the JC would</p> | |

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| | | <p>and refer to the HGGT Chair and Director.</p> <p>d) Authority be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make consequential amendments to the Council's constitution to facilitate the establishment of the Joint Committee on</p> | | <p>mean continuing with the same decision making arrangements, which lack agility. This would indicate a lack of confidence in the project to external partners which may undermine the ability to secure positive support in financial and other terms.</p> | |

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| | | the basis of the Terms of Reference set out in Schedule 10 of the Inter Authority Agreement once all constituent Council's have confirmed their approval of the Agreement. | | | |
| 10 | A Listening Council | a) to endorse the draft 'A Listening Council' set of principles for | The Executive Member for Resident Engagement has reflected on the council's approach to involving residents, | Continue to carry out information giving, engagement and consultation on a case-by-case | |

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| | | <p>informing, engaging and consulting residents, businesses and stakeholders for public consultation.</p> | <p>businesses and stakeholders in the council's decisions which affect them. While the Executive Member recognises there have been examples of excellent practice across the council in recent years, he now wishes to propose that the council enshrines open and transparent information giving, engagement and consultation at the heart of its way of working. To this end, a document has been drafted that lays</p> | <p>basis without a published set of principles – NOT RECOMMENDED as this can lead to problems such as inconsistency, perceived tokenism and a missed opportunity to learn from involvement exercises on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Endorse the document, which incorporates</p> | |

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| | | | <p>out in as simple and straightforward a way as possible, the principles the council will follow when seeking to inform, engage and consult residents, businesses and stakeholders. It is anticipated that the 'Listening Council' principles will be reflected in the upcoming review of the council's corporate plan.</p> | <p>amendments following suggestions by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for public consultation – RECOMMENDED.</p> | |
| 11 | Community Forums and Development | (A) To agree the proposal for setting up Community | The Council wants people and communities to actively engage in the | The Council could continue with the current practice | |

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| | Management Forums | <p>Forums for Strategic Sites as outlined in Appendix A; and</p> <p>(B) To agree the proposal for establishing a Development Management Forum as outlined in Appendix B.</p> | <p>planning process and have an influence over the future development of their areas. We also know that people want to be involved in the decisions that shape the places they live, work and play</p> | <p>and arrange meetings with residents as appropriate. However, given the scale of development and issues that can arise on the ground, this would be a missed opportunity. Instead, both proposals would allow the Council to act as a facilitator in bringing relevant parties together to</p> | |

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| | | | | <p>discuss planning matters in an open and transparent way. It also opens out Forums to all residents, should they be interested in the matters for discussion. This allows proactive resolution of issues on the ground and the combination of local knowledge and public and private sector know how to optimise design and</p> | |

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| | | | | implementation. | |
| 12 | Health and Safety – Ward Freman Pool | To close the pool at the end of the school term in December while further investigations can be undertaken as to potential solutions to remedy the health and safety concerns. | East Herts Council has recently been made aware of health and safety issues at Ward Freman Pool in Buntingford. As a result of these, the pool will need to close at the end of the school term in December 2023 while potential solutions to the concerns can be further investigated. | Temporarily close Ward Freman pool at the end of the school term in December 2023 and continue to work to establish future options for the facility. EHC Officers will present a full report of options identified to the Executive in Spring 2024. | |
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