

Public Document Pack

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of East Hertfordshire District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Wallfields, Hertford on Wednesday 15th May, 2024 at 7.00 pm, for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the Agenda below, and you are hereby summoned to attend.

Date this 8 day of May 2024

James Ellis
Head of Legal and
Democratic Services

This meeting will be live streamed on the Council's Youtube page:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/EastHertsDistrict>

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chairman.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive any Members' apologies for absence.

3. Election of a Chairman 2024/25

To elect the Chairman of the Council for 2024/25 following which the Chairman will make the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

4. Election of a Vice-Chairman 2024/25

To elect the Vice-Chairman of the Council for 2024/25 following which the Vice-Chairman will make the statutory declaration of acceptance of office.

5. Further Chairman's Announcements

6. Leader's Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Leader of the Council.

7. Minutes - 28 February 2024 (Pages 5 - 32)

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 February 2024.

8. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Members' declarations of interest.

9. Petitions

To receive any petitions.

10. Public Questions

To receive any public questions.

11. Members' Questions (Page 33)

To receive any Members' questions.

12. Political Balance and Committee Membership of the Council 2024/25
(Pages 34 - 43)

13. Exploring a change to the Council's governance system (Pages 44 - 51)

14. Minor Amendments to the Constitution (Pages 52 - 59)

15. Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24 (Pages 60 - 73)

16. Reports by Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the civic year 2023 -
24 (Pages 74 - 146)

17. Motions on Notice

To receive Motions on Notice.

(A) Night Flights from Stansted Airport_(Page 147)

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:

- must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
- must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
- must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
- if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
- must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.

Public Attendance

East Herts Council welcomes public attendance at its meetings and meetings will continue to be live streamed and webcasted. For further information, please email democraticservices@eastherts.gov.uk or call the Council on 01279 655261 and ask to speak to Democratic Services.

The Council operates a paperless policy in respect of agendas at committee meetings and the Council will no longer be providing spare copies of Agendas for the Public at Committee Meetings. The mod.gov app is available to download for free from app stores for electronic devices. You can use the mod.gov app to access, annotate and keep all committee paperwork on your mobile device.

Visit <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/article/35542/Political-Structure> for details.

Audio/Visual Recording of meetings

Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using whatever, non-disruptive, methods you think are suitable, which may include social media of any kind, such as tweeting, blogging or Facebook. However, oral reporting or commentary is prohibited. If you have any questions about this please contact Democratic Services (members of the press should contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chairman of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted. Anyone filming a meeting should focus only on those actively participating and be sensitive to the rights of minors, vulnerable adults and those members of the public who have not consented to being filmed.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON WEDNESDAY
28 FEBRUARY 2024, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor C Horner (Chairman).
Councillors M Adams, D Andrews,
R Buckmaster, P Boylan, C Brittain,
I Devonshire, E Buckmaster, S Bull, V Burt,
R Carter, M Connolly, S Copley, N Cox,
B Crystall, A Daar, B Deering, T Deffley,
J Dunlop, Y Estop, V Glover-Ward,
M Goldspink, C Hart, G Hill, D Hollebon,
A Holt, S Hopewell, T Hoskin, D Jacobs,
S Marlow, G McAndrew, S Nicholls, A Parsad-
Wyatt, C Redfern, V Smith, T Stowe,
M Swainston, J Thomas, R Townsend,
S Watson, D Willcocks, G Williamson,
C Wilson, D Woolcombe and J Wyllie.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Richard Cassidy	- Chief Executive
James Ellis	- Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Jonathan Geall	- Head of Housing and Health
Steven Linnett	- Head of Strategic Finance and Property
Katie Mogan	- Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

343 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said that he had attended a number of events since the last meeting and said that of particular highlight was the Holocaust Memorial Day held in the Council Chamber which was very moving, both as an act of remembrance of past genocides but also a reminder that everyone had a role to play for a safer future. He said he had also attended a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III in Hertford Caste.

The Chairman announced the sad news of the death of former councillor Michael McMullen who was a councillor for Hertford Rural ward from 1999 – 2023. The Chairman invited Members to share a few words. Councillor Deering, Crystall and Goldspink paid tribute to Michael McMullen and sent their best wishes and condolences to his family. A minute's silence was held.

344 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council thanked Members for attending tonight's meeting which had a full agenda.

345 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Butcher, Clements, Dumont and Woolf.

346 MINUTES - 13 DECEMBER 2023 AND 18 JANUARY 2024

Councillor Goldspink proposed, and Councillor Hill seconded a motion that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 and 18 January 2024 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman. On being put to the meeting and a vote taken, the motion was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2023 and 18 January 2024 be approved

as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

347 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

348 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

349 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The full responses to the submitted Public Questions can be found in the supplementary [here](#).

350 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The full responses to the submitted Members' Questions can be found in the supplementary [here](#).

351 EXECUTIVE REPORT - 13 FEBRUARY 2024

The Leader of the Council presented a report setting out recommendations to the Council made by the Executive at its meeting on 13 February 2024.

351 HARLOW AND GILSTON GARDEN TOWN: INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN REVIEW

The Leader of the Council presented the report. He said that the purpose of the report was to lay out what infrastructure was required and where and when it was needed to achieve the targets set out in the District Plan such as the number of houses required, sustainable travel and employment. He said that the delivery plan also provided the scale of infrastructure needed, the phasing of it, the costs, the priorities, who was responsible, who paid and identified funding gaps and how developer contributions were shared.

The Leader of the Council said that the plan needed updating after five years due to new local plans, the approvals of planning applications, changes to developer contributions and changes in costs. He said that the role of the document was to provide an evidence base for masterplanning and to assist planning officers in their future discussions to get the delivery of infrastructure at the right time and place. He said that the plan would be updated every 2-3 years to keep up with changes to needs and costs and it was important to endorse now as infrastructure delivery was a key part of achieving the council's aims.

Councillor Crystall proposed that the recommendations in the report be supported. Councillor Marlow seconded the proposal.

Councillor E Buckmaster felt that the plan was something to be vigilant about as conditions could change over the next 20 years and there could be challenges around infrastructure delivery. He said that the delivery of infrastructure was so important so the plan should be looked at closely.

Councillor Hollebon referred to pages 66 – 160 of the report and said she found them illegible and could not read the information. She asked for it to be presented in larger font next time.

Councillor Deering echoed the comments of Councillor E Buckmaster and said the Conservative group were supportive of the principle.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the HGGT IDP 2023 be approved to form part of the evidence base for the consideration of master plans, pre-application consideration, planning application considered and in

relation to all other relevant development management processes in relation to the Garden Town.

351 THRIVING TOGETHER 2023 - 2027 - A NEW HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN FOR EAST HERTS

The Executive Member for Wellbeing presented the Thriving Together health and wellbeing plan. She said that work had begun on the plan in the previous administration and a public survey had been carried out over the autumn in 2023 which received good feedback that has been incorporated into the plan. She said a focus group was held before Christmas to go through the updated version of the plan and the document was reviewed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 January 2024. She said that there should be joint ownership of the plan by residents and councillors.

Councillor Hopewell proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Swainston seconded the proposal.

Councillor E Buckmaster said that it was good to see an update to this plan. He said that health and wellbeing was a broad subject and there was a balance to be struck over the role of the council. He said that there should be a strong emphasis on activity fitness, culture, the arts and planning who all have a role to play. He felt that the council had a role to be play with the integrated care partnership and Hertfordshire County Council with social care.

Councillor Carter said she was pleased to see a focus on children and young people as the Director of Public Health report 2019-2020 said that 8.2% of children in East Herts were living in low income families.

Councillor Deering said the Conservative group welcomed the report.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the Thriving Together health and wellbeing plan for 2024-2027 be approved.

351 REVISED EAST HERTS COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods presented the revised East Herts Council Safeguarding Policy and Procedure. She thanked the officers involved for their hard work and Councillor Boylan for his previous work on the policy and his continuing assistance. She said that the policy was last reviewed in 2020 and the amended version incorporated many changes which were listed at paragraph 2.11 of the report.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods said that the Independent Chair of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Board had reviewed the policy and was very complimentary of it. She said that the new policy had an overview section at the beginning which provided clear guidelines to give everybody confidence in dealing with safeguarding matters.

Councillor Goldspink proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Daar seconded the proposal.

Councillor Deering said the policy was very good and the Conservative group supported it.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the revised Safeguarding Policy be

adopted.

352 BUDGET 2024/25 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Plan report. He said the Council were legally required to set a balanced budget and the proposal in the report did this. He ran through the highlights of the budget report including the Transforming East Herts programme, a 7.2% increase in government grants from the New Burdens Funding and New Homes Bonus, the increased cost of servicing debt, the council's low levels of reserves and a recommended 2.99% increase in Council Tax.

Councillor Brittain proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Goldspink seconded the proposal.

Councillor Williamson thanked the Executive Member for the report and said he had a few comments. Firstly, within the Medium Term Financial Plan, the cost of capital was clear but the income from investments made by the council were not so visible in the net costs of services. Secondly, referring to paragraph 1.9 of the report and the savings under officer delegations, he said it would be helpful if the impacts of these £1.1million savings were explained further. Thirdly, he said that the £1.7 million future spend on the Old River Lane project was a lot of money for a temporary public square concept. He referred to the £170,000 spend on the church hall and was not convinced that this represented good value for money and if this money was not spent, there would be £15,000 less pressure on the revenue budget. Lastly, he said that there were rumours in the district that the council was already bankrupt and he asked the Executive Member to allay these fears and reassure the public that the council was not bankrupt.

Councillor Williamson proposed an amendment to the recommendations in the report. He proposed to remove

Recommendation C. Councillor Devonshire seconded this proposal.

Councillor Brittain responded to the points raised by Councillor Williamson. He said the point about separating other sources of income from investments was valid and would look to amend this in the future. He said that he was happy to come back with more information on the officer delegated savings but he assured Members that there was no impact on services and they related to efficiency savings. He said that he had not heard the rumours but he reassured residents and Members that the council was not going bankrupt.

Councillor Estop said that she opposed the amendment. She said the hall had not been looked after but it was structurally sound and was used regularly by the community. She said it had been designated an Asset of Community Value so was protected by planning policy.

Councillor Swainston said that she also opposed the amendment and said that the council could not get rid of an Asset of Community Value.

Councillor Goldspink said she opposed the amendment and referred to Policy BISH8 says that no community hall which was valuable should be destroyed unless adequate or a better replacement was built. She said that until such time, the hall was all the community had and it was well used and should be preserved.

Councillor Deering said he supported the amendment. He said that part of the concern of this expenditure supported the theme of inaction in relation to the Old River Lane site. He said that the previous administration had left the Council with a significant project and nothing had happened in the last year. He said the proposal lacked ambition and it was difficult to see how it was a good use of taxpayers money.

Councillor McAndrew referred to the comments about not

raising the amendment earlier throughout the committee process. He said he had attended a previous Executive meeting and said that he would be annoyed if he was a resident of Buntingford to learn that £170,000 was being spent on a hall in Bishop's Stortford and not on the swimming pool in their town. He said he stood by that and said he supported the amendment.

Councillor Wilson said that he had no problem with the amendment being brought but the same comment was made by the previous Executive Member of Financial Sustainability at the Council meeting in March 2023 about the Liberal Democrat amendment. He said that the Liberal Democrat group had previously highlighted that the number of capital projects undertaken were unwise and now the council did not have the money to complete the Old River Lane project. He said that the residents of Bishop's Stortford had missed out on what they were expected to get and their compensation was to keep the community hall going.

Councillor Crystall said that he supported what Councillor Wilson and Brittain had said. He did not agree with the amendment and said there was a passion within the town to keep the hall as it was well used and therefore felt it was worth spending money on it. He said he was concerned about the comments raised by Councillor McAndrew about Buntingford and felt the rhetoric was divisive and difficult decisions had to be made.

Councillor McAndrew raised a point of clarification and said that he was responding to comments made by Councillor Brittain saying that no one had raised the issue previously.

Councillor Hollebon asked if Councillor Wilson could provide figures to justify his comments about residents wanting to keep the hall in Bishop's Stortford.

Councillor Wilson said that there were multiple comments on social media and has spoken to residents. He said the opinion

on the ground was quite clear.

Councillor Devonshire asked for clarification on how the £170,000 was arrived at.

Councillor Brittain said that the figure came from a building appraisal summary report in November 2022 which identified several changes and upgrades to the building. He said there were 28 different line items and was happy to distribute the report to members.

Councillor Jacobs said that he was puzzled by the fixation on one budget line and a relatively small amount of money. He said he was pleased that the Executive had changed their mind over the future of the building and said there was a clear demonstration of support for retaining the hall in the community.

Councillor Hart asked what would happen if the other savings identified in the report were not realised. She felt the council had committed to the maintenance of the hall without being clear that other savings would be achieved.

Councillor Brittain said he was very confident that the savings would be achieved and there would be in year monitoring to look at progress to ensure these savings transpire.

Councillor Deffley referred to the £170,000 figure for the hall and said the figure was from November 2022 and there had been significant increase in construction inflation in the last few years. He asked if this figure was still accurate.

Councillor Brittain said he accepted the point about contract inflation but the work was based on an estimate and said if the price fluctuated within 10% it would not create a major problem.

Councillor Andrews said that he hoped Members who represented Buntingford were in a good position to explain to

residents why this money had not been spent on the swimming pool.

Councillor Hopewell provided an update on the Buntingford swimming pool. She said the Department of Education would be ending their payment towards the pool from next year and so any investment from the council would not have covered the costs of repairs and would not have saved the pool in the long term. She said she was working extremely hard to save the Ward Freman pool with a fantastic group of residents and she had agreement in principle from the County Council to lease the pool on a peppercorn rent if a viable business plan was presented. She said that a business plan was being worked on and was in the process of setting up a charity to take on the pool.

Councillor Nicholls echoed the comments from Councillor Hopewell and said that Buntingford recognised the effect of the removal of a community assets and the impact on the community.

Councillor Williamson concluded by saying that he was not suggesting that the £170,000 was spent elsewhere but that it was not spent at all.

A recorded vote was held on the amendment proposed by Councillor Williamson. The result was as follows:

FOR

Councillors Andrews, Boylan, E Buckmaster, R Buckmaster, Bull, Deering, Deffley, Devonshire, Hollebon, Holt, McAndrew, Parsad-Wyatt, Stowe, Williamson, Wyllie (15)

AGAINST

Councillors Adams, Brittain, Burt, Carter, Connolly, Copley, Cox, Crystall, Daar, Dunlop, Estop, Glover-Ward, Goldspink, Hart, Hill, Hopewell, Hoskin, Jacobs, Marlow, Nicholls,

Redfern, Smith, Swainston, Thomas, Townsend, Watson, Willcocks, Wilson, Woollcombe (29)

ABSTAINED

Councillor Horner (1)

The motion to amend the recommendation was LOST.

The debate returned to the original recommendations in the report.

Councillor Watson referred to the new Band D rate for council tax and said this translated to an extra £3.75 per week. He said the district council provided a wide range of services for this cost and acknowledged the hard work of council employees who allowed the council to provide excellent value for money.

Councillor Deering said he acknowledged the work that had gone into the budget and was pleased to see the council was starting to benefit from capital projects. He said that the Conservative group did not wish to be disruptive to the council finances and they would be supporting the budget. He referred to recommendation D and did not feel this had a place in budget papers and felt it was a political point. He said that the control of expenditure reflected well on the previous Conservative administration. He felt disappointed by the Leader's comments about what was being said in Buntingford and that Councillor McAndrew was only echoing these comments from residents. He said that if the council were a listening council, they should be listening to all views, not just those that were convenient.

Councillor E Buckmaster said that he kept hearing from Councillor Wilson about being prudent in investing in health and wellbeing and asked which project he would not have done as the leisure centres needed investment. He said he would not change what the previous administration had

achieved and none of them could predict that there would be a pandemic and a war in Europe which had an impact on inflation and costs of borrowing.

Councillor Glover-Ward said that the council's spending power had been reduced by 27% since 2010 according to the Local Government Association. She said the Executive had to look at cutting items costing just £10,000 a year to try and achieve a balanced budget.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to a recorded vote and the result was as follows:

FOR

Councillors Adams, Andrews, Boylan, Brittain, E Buckmaster, R Buckmaster, Bull, Burt, Carter, Connolly, Copley, Cox, Crystall, Daar, Deering, Deffley, Devonshire, Dunlop, Estop, Glover-Ward, Goldspink, Hart, Hill, Hollebon, Holt, Hopewell, Horner, Hoskin, Jacobs, Marlow, McAndrew, Nicholls, Parsad-Wyatt, Redfern, Smith, Stowe, Swainston, Thomas, Townsend, Watson, Willcocks, Williamson, Wilson, Woolcombe, Wyllie (45)

AGAINST

None

ABSTAINED

None

RESOLVED – That (A) the budget and Medium Term Financial Plan at Appendix A, the savings programme at Appendix C, the Fees and Charges at Appendix F and increase Council Tax by 2.99%, which will result in a Band D Council Tax increase of £5.65 to £195.52 per year be approved;

(B) the proposed savings requirements, that will need to be delivered to balance the budget in the medium term be noted:

	2024/ 25	2025/ 26	2026/ 27
	£(000)	£(000)	£(000)
Gross Savings requirement	1,186	5,606	5,606
Savings plans 2024/25	(1,186)	(4,195)	(4,195)
<i>Savings not yet identified:</i>			
<i>2025/26 savings to be identified</i>		<i>(1,411)</i>	<i>(1,411)</i>
<i>2027/28 savings to be identified</i>			

(C) the amended Capital Programme at Appendix B which pauses the Old River Lane Arts Centre be approved, reducing revenue costs of Minimum Revenue Provision and interest by £1,514k per annum on current interest rates, a total saving of £7.442 million of over the MTFP period. Comment on the capital expenditure priorities:

- i. essential property maintenance to meet statutory requirements or to prevent loss or damage to neighbouring properties;
- ii. investment in ICT to continue but that the budget carry forward that has not been used for two years is deleted;
- iii. invest to save initiatives where the business case indicates that the cost of the investment will be recovered in under 10 years;
- iv. to allow pausing of construction of the Arts Centre at Old River Lane until such time as debt levels have fallen sufficiently to make the revenue impacts of new

borrowing affordable while at the same time undertaking landscaping works on the arts centre site so that it is an attractive site rather than an undeveloped area blighting the retail and commercial units in the City Heart scheme;

v. provide up to £170k for essential maintenance works for the URC Church Hall in Bishop's Stortford;

vi. completion of Hertford Theatre, at as low a cost as possible, so that the entire venue is opened and run on a strictly commercial basis to maximise income; and

vii. investment in depot works and waste containers for the new waste and recycling contract.

(D) the implication of the Autumn Statement that a further round of austerity is proposed by the Government and that the two major parties seem intent on keeping to the announced expenditure totals which will severely reduce government funding and inevitably require service cuts be noted.

353 CAPITAL STRATEGY, MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the report and said the capital strategy showed the financial position of the council and the costs of servicing existing debts. He said that the position of the council meant that it could not afford any new major projects and the Old River Lane project would be paused until the costs of borrowing had been reduced.

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability said that capital assets were being reviewed to see if any could be sold to reduce debt and a cross party group had been set up to discuss the options. The group had agreed that assets would

only be sold where interests of the community were protected and if there was a clear financial advantage to the council of doing so.

Councillor Brittain proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Adams seconded the proposal.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That (A) the Capital Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 including the Prudential Indicators contained within the reports be approved.

354 COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2024/25

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the Council Tax 2024/25 setting report. He said the report presented the final council tax bill and was required to be formally approved by Council.

Councillor Brittain proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Adams seconded the proposal.

The motion to support the recommendations having been proposed and seconded was put to a recorded vote and the result was as follows:

FOR

Councillors Adams, Andrews, Boylan, Brittain, E Buckmaster, R Buckmaster, Bull, Burt, Carter, Connolly, Copley, Cox, Crystall, Daar, Deering, Deffley, Devonshire, Dunlop, Estop, Glover-Ward, Goldspink, Hart, Hill, Hollebon, Holt, Hopewell, Horner, Hoskin, Jacobs, Marlow, McAndrew, Nicholls, Parsad-Wyatt, Redfern, Smith, Stowe, Swainston, Thomas,

Townsend, Watson, Willcocks, Williamson, Wilson,
Woollcombe, Wyllie (45)

AGAINST

None

ABSTAINED

None

RESOLVED – That (A) the Council Tax resolution, as now submitted at Appendix A, be approved;

(B) the local precepts as set out at Appendix 'A' be noted; and

(C) the Hertfordshire County Council and Police & Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire precepts be noted.

355 EAST HERTS COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN

The Leader of the Council presented the East Herts Corporate Plan and said the plan had been developed alongside the budget for 2024/25 and set out the priorities that the joint administration wanted to focus on for the next three years. He said the administration had used LEAF as an acronym to organise these priorities into: Listening, open and transparent, Environmentally focussed, Acting with the community and Fair and inclusive. He said that there would be quarterly progress reports on these priorities and use feedback from consultations to refresh this plan annually.

Councillor Crystall proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Wilson seconded the proposal.

Councillor McAndrew said he welcomed the continuity from

the previous administration. He referred to the corporate plan encouraging digital communication channels.

Councillor Crystall said that it was moving that way and had been started under the previous administration and this was continuing.

Councillor E Buckmaster said he felt that there needed to be a common branding of initiatives across local authorities, for example East Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council had different tag lines for air quality.

Councillor Woollcombe expressed his support for the plan. He questioned the commitment to explore replacing the Leader and Executive system of governance to a committee system. He asked the Leader to explain what that meant and when the council would receive a proposal on the subject.

Councillor Crystall said the administration would start to investigate the possible impacts of a change in governance system and would involve a cross party working group. He said the initial thinking would be that this would start before the end of the year.

Councillor Hart asked about the commitment to investigating ways of providing affordable housing.

Councillor Goldspink said the priorities in the corporate plan referred to policies over and above what happened in the planning application process. She said a few options were going to be explored and she would report back to Council when these were definite.

Councillor Devonshire asked how the committee system would work.

Councillor Crystall said that decisions would be made within politically balanced committee groups.

Councillor Deering said he thought the plan was good and was pleased to see a continuation of themes from the previous administration. He also referred to the committee system and said that reorganisation could cost money. He asked Councillor Goldspink if she could share some of the proposed plans for affordable housing.

Councillor Crystall said that the administration was exploring the committee system and said there were benefits in its decision making by involving more councillors from all parties. He said he would update the Council when he knew more.

Councillor Goldspink said there could be ways for the council to build its own affordable housing but land needed to be identified for this.

Councillor Wilson said the corporate plan was partly about improving ways of reaching different people to engage in the activities of the council.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the new Corporate Plan be adopted.

356 ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2022/23

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the Annual Treasury Management Review 2022/23 report. He said this was required under the Local Government Act 2003 to ensure the council could maintain an adequate cash flow. He said the report met the requirements of CIPFA and the report had been reviewed by the Audit and Governance Committee in November 2023.

Councillor Brittain proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Thomas seconded the proposal.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Treasury Management Review and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 be approved.

357 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW 2023/24

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2023/24 report. He said it was the mid-year version of the previous report and had been reviewed by the Audit and Governance Committee in January 2024.

Councillor Brittain proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Copley seconded the proposal.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – That the Mid-Year Treasury Management Review and Prudential Indicators for 2023/24

358 MILLSTREAM 30 YEAR BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25

The Executive Member for Financial Sustainability presented the Millstream 30 Year Business Plan 2024/25 report. He said that the council's property investment company had now been operating for six years and it provided an income of £160,000 a year to the council which was built into the budget and reduces need for savings. He explained that there had been significant national regulations that had restricted the company in its aims.

One of the Directors of Millstream spoke to the meeting. He

said that Millstream owned 18 properties in East Herts with rents typically at the entry level of the private rent market. He said any works carried out to the properties were done by local contractors which in turn helped the local economy. He said that the 2024/25 business plan show the company was in a sound position to provide the income to the council.

Councillor Brittain proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Swainston seconded the proposal.

Councillor Williamson said that when the company was set up, it was an exciting project, and it was disappointing that external constraints had been put on the company and could not expand its operations. He said however, it was rewarding to hear it was still bringing in revenue to the council.

Councillor Wyllie asked why documents were showing as outstanding on Companies House.

The Director of Millstream said he would take that away and investigate immediately as the paperwork had been completed.

Councillor Deering said that the company had been set up under the previous administration and was pleased to see it being maintained and making a welcome contribution to the council.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED - That Millstream Property Investment Ltd's 2024/25 30 Year Business Plan, presented in the EXEMPT Appendix A, be approved

359 PAY POLICY STATEMENT REPORT 2024 - 2025

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods presented the report on behalf of the Executive Member for Corporate Services. She said that the council was required to produce a pay policy statement annually under Section 38 of the Localism Act. The pay policy must set out the authority's policies relating to the remuneration of chief officers and the lowest paid employees.

Councillor Goldspink proposed that the recommendation in the report be supported. Councillor Carter seconded the proposal.

Councillor Carter said the council's staff had all worked extremely hard and had dealt with huge changes such as new digital services and a new administration. She said as a new councillor, she had appreciated their help and support.

The motion to support the recommendation having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared CARRIED.

RESOLVED – that the Pay Policy Statement 2024/25 be approved.

360 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

361 WATER SUPPLY RISK

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services drew Members' attention to the last paragraph of the motion which suggested writing to Thames Water threatening to serve them with a noise abatement notice. He said that if Members were minded to pass the motion, the wording would need to be amended as the council could not consider serving notice until a proper investigation had been carried out.

Councillor Cox requested a recorded vote on the motion. He did not receive the support of five Members so the request fell.

Councillor Cox presented his motion on notice. Councillor Woolcombe seconded the motion and reserved his right to speak.

Councillor Glover-Ward responded to the motion and thanked Councillor Cox for his well-intentioned motion as there were significant water resources challenges facing East Herts. She said that the council needed to have regard to the Thames Water Basin Management Plan in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. She said that quality of water was an important consideration and measures to safeguard water sources were included in policy WAT2 of the District Plan.

There were, however, multiple organisations that had roles and responsibilities to respond to these challenges, and it was important to remember that the Council's responsibility, as detailed in Section 83 of the Water Act 2003 was to conserve water.

Councillor Glover-Ward said that the council was already meeting its responsibility on conserving water. The District Plan stated that East Herts was facing high water stress (paragraph 23.4.5) and acknowledged the high per head per day water usage in East Herts of 160 litres which was 10 litres per day more than national norms. To address this, Policy WAT4 included a specific water target of 110 litres per head per day. She said that strengthening this target could be proactively considered through the District Plan update. East Herts planners have already discussed a reduced target with the Environment Agency (EA) who would be supportive of

East Herts pursuing similar increased water efficiency gains.

Councillor Glover-Ward added that the Hertfordshire Water Study 2017 was over six years old, and the council would produce an updated Water Cycle Study to inform the District Plan update. This work would identify where water management/quality issues may be occurring in East Herts, and in turn what solutions may be appropriate plus will support any policy changes in the revised District Plan. She said that the importance of Hertfordshire's chalk streams could not be underestimated as a rare and beautiful habitat and the council's planning policy team was already working with the EA to ensure that the findings of the CaBA (Catchment Based Approach) Chalk Stream Restoration Strategy, published in October 2021, were incorporated into the District Plan update.

Councillor Glover-Ward said that in the future, the council would only be able to plan for the new homes that were needed, if it had evidence from the water industry that demonstrated that there would be an adequate water supply without causing unacceptable harm to the environment.

Councillor Glover-Ward said that the allocated strategic sites at Gilston and Ware were key to meeting this housing need. She said that the Environment Agency were a statutory consultee in the planning process including providing technical advice. As a statutory consultee, it was not for the council to tell the EA how to advise on development proposals. Should the EA consider there to be a specific issue with development proposals coming forward, they would tell the council. She said that Officers had already spoken to the Environment Agency regarding the position in the Greater Cambridge Area and the EA was clear that the situation was different in East

Herts and that there was no need to prevent development coming forward now. The position was kept under review as a matter of course and particularly when the council would be undertaking the District Plan update.

Councillor Glover-Ward said that the council needed to remember that it must be able to demonstrate that it has an adequate supply of housing to meet EH housing needs. As allocated sites in the District Plan, Gilston and Ware were key to the council being able to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply. She said that if the motion was agreed, it would weaken the five-year housing land supply position and lead to an increased risk of speculative development across the district particularly around towns and villages such as Buntingford that were not in the Green belt. Speculative development would mean that the council would lose a significant degree of control over where new housing is built, the infrastructure to support that housing and ability to influence quality outcomes for communities.

Councillor Glover-Ward said that a further consequence of agreeing the motion was that it could seriously legally compromise past and future resolutions of the Development Management Committee because it made unfounded and out of context accusations as to the integrity of consultee responses to planning applications.

In summary, Councillor Glover-Ward said that the motion was premature, coming ahead of the detailed work associated with the District Plan update and if agreed, the effect of this motion would be to:

- Weaken the Council's Five Year Housing Land Supply by creating uncertainty around the deliverability of sites
- Increase the risk of speculative development across the

district without appropriate infrastructure provision and the ability to positively influence the planning outcomes for communities.

- Undermine confidence in the plan-led system, which not only allows the Council to set out the spatial strategy for the district, but it also provides development certainty as allocated sites have gone through a rigorous testing process.
- Reduce the Council's ability to influence quality placemaking and outcomes for communities.
- Result in compromising the legal integrity of past and future resolutions of the Development Management Committee. For example, Gilston, Ware2 (and other applications) by exposing the Council to risk of legal challenges based on comments made on consultee responses.
- Lead to a potential challenge from the Gilston applicants and/or objectors to the proposals.
- Jeopardise the Council's relationship with statutory consultees as a result of telling them how they should be responding to development proposals.

She said that the most appropriate way to deal with this matter was to proactively work with the EA and the water companies on the District Plan update. To write to them as outlined in the motion would have other consequential implications as stated above. She urged Members to vote against this motion.

Councillor E Buckmaster said there were some worthy points in the motion and respected Councillor Cox's intentions but did not think this was the best way of dealing with the issue. He felt it would be worth adding it to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme and the committee could invite witnesses to answer these questions.

Councillor McAndrew said that the Hertfordshire Water Study

was started in 2015 and ended in 2017 but the document went up to 2052 so it was only right that the document would need revisiting.

Councillor Stowe said he agreed with the comments from Councillor Glover-Ward and felt this was the wrong way to deal with the situation. He felt it could be dealt with through the revised District Plan and engagement with the agencies concerned.

Councillor Crystall said he appreciated the frustration over the council's powers in this area. He said the motion risked causing the District Plan serious problems. He said that taking it through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was an excellent idea and would give more opportunity to discuss the issues with the planning team in a more effective manner. He also urged Members to vote against it and promised to ensure that an improved motion about water supply would be brought to Council in the future to get support across the Chamber.

Councillor Deering said he agreed with the sentiment of the motion but agreed with Councillor Glover-Ward's comments that it would have serious ramifications with the District Plan and past and future applications heard by the Development Management Committee.

Councillor Hart was worried that the council were not looking at the long term and the plans for resolving the water shortage.

Councillor Goldspink said she appreciated the intention behind the motion but was worried about the suggestion that if agreed, would question the validity of statutory responses.

Councillor Estop said the water cycle was the most important part of infrastructure and felt that this could be used as evidence for sustainable development. She said she would be abstaining as the Chair of the Development Management Committee.

Councillor Woollcombe said he appreciated the support from the Chamber on green issues. He said he felt the Council were missing the sense of urgency and said the council could not wait for a District Plan that could be years away when the district was looking at a 450 million gallon water shortfall.

The motion to support the motion having been proposed and seconded was put to the meeting and upon a vote being taken, was declared LOST.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Chairman
Date

COUNCIL – 15 MAY 2024

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1	Cllr David Jacobs to ask Cllr Carl Brittain, the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability
<p>At full council on 18th December during a discussion on the proposed changes to car parking tariffs in Bishop's Stortford, the Deputy Leader stated with particular reference to the Northgate End multi-storey car park that "many people are scared and frightened of using it" and that "I would like the council to take urgent action to improve the stairwells, lighting, and disabled access...I hope these changes can be made as soon as possible and before these changes (the new car parking fees) come into effect in April." During the same debate the Executive Member for Planning and Growth confirmed "there is a shopping list of improvements for Northgate End – I know there is a budget set aside for them".</p> <p>Can the Executive Member for Financial Sustainability confirm a) how much money has been set aside for these improvements, and b) when they will happen?</p>	

Agenda Item 12

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: 15 May 2024

Report by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Report title: Political Balance and Committee Membership of the Council 2024/25

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary – Council, at its annual meeting, is required to approve the decision-making arrangements for the discharge of functions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

- a) That the Scrutiny Committees, Regulatory Committees and Joint Committees with the number of voting Members listed in paragraph 2.1 be appointed;**
- b) That the political balance of the Council at Appendix A be agreed**
- c) That the membership and Chairman of Scrutiny Committees, Regulatory Committees and Joint Committees be as set out in Appendix B, with Members being appointed in accordance with the wishes of the political group to whom the seats on these bodies have been allocated;**
- d) That the intention of the Leader of the Council to appoint Members to the Executive (in addition to the Leader) with the portfolio responsibilities as detailed in Appendix C be noted;**

- e) That the programme of Council meetings, as detailed at paragraph 4.1, be approved;**
- f) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make changes in the standing membership of committees, joint committees and panels in (A) above, in accordance with the wishes of the political group to whom seats on these bodies have been allocated;**
- g) That the action to be taken by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader, under delegated authority, concerning the appointment of representatives to outside bodies, be noted; and**
- h) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make such amendments to the Council's Constitution as may be necessary to account for the decisions in (A) to (G) above.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 In terms of the appointment of Members to the Executive, the Constitution provides that it is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council and the Leader determines the size of the Executive. The Leader's determination on the size of the Executive for 2024/25 is at Appendix C and remains unchanged from 2023/24.
- 1.2 The Leader is also responsible for advising Council on the allocation of executive portfolio responsibilities. The Executive portfolio responsibilities are also set out in Appendix C and again, remains unchanged from 2023/24.

2.0 Committees

- 2.1 Council are asked to appoint the following Committees and size:

Committee	No. of Members
Overview and Scrutiny	14
Audit and Governance	7
Development Management	12
Human Resources	7
Licensing	12
Standards	7
Chief Officer Recruitment	5
East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council Joint Revenues and Benefits Committee (3 from East Herts)	6
Joint CCTV Executive (3 from East Herts)	12
East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council Joint Information Technology Committee (3 from East Herts)	6

3.0 Political Groups

- 3.1 Where Members of a Council are divided into political groups, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 places a duty on the Council to review the allocation between those groups of seats on its scrutiny committees, regulatory committees and joint committees according to certain principles. This is to ensure that the political composition of those committees reflects the political representation of the Council. The rules of proportionality do not apply to the Executive.
- 3.2 The political groups within East Herts Council will be entitled to an allocation of committee places in proportion to their representation on the Council. The political balance representation of each relevant group is set out in Appendix A.

3.3 The Council must appoint Members to places on committees in accordance with each group's entitlement. Appendix B (to follow) sets out the proposed membership.

4.0 Calendar of meetings

4.1 A Calendar of meetings for 2024/25 has already been published on the council's website and Council is invited to confirm the dates of its meetings as follows:

24 July 2024
16 October 2024
11 December 2024
26 February 2025
14 May 2025

5.0 Outside Bodies

5.1 Council appoints a significant number of Members to be representatives on a range of outside bodies. The appointment of such representatives is delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

5.2 The annual reports from Members appointed to these outside bodies follow later in the agenda.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 None

Contact Officer

James Ellis, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

james.ellis@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author

Katie Mogan, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

katie.mogan@eastherts.gov.uk

Group	Members	%	No of committee seats
Green	17	34	23
Conservative	16	32	22
Lib Dems	10	20	14
Labour	5	10	7
Independent	2	4	2
Total	50	100	68

Committee Membership 2024/25

*Councillor name in bold denotes Chairman nomination

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 14 Seats				
	Conservative (4)	Green (5)	Labour (2)	Liberal Democrats (3)
1	David Andrews	Rachel Carter	David Jacobs	Calvin Horner
2	Peter Boylan	Nick Cox	Nahum Clements	Miriam Swainston
3	Eric Buckmaster	Sue Nicholls		Joseph Thomas
4	Graham McAndrew	George Williams		
5		David Woollcombe		
Substitutes (up to six per group)				
1	Aubrey Holt	Vicky Burt	Carolyn Redfern	Simon Marlow
2	Geoff Williamson	Vicky Smith		Richard Townsend
3		Steven Watson		
4				
5				
6				

Development Management Committee - 12 Seats				
	Conservative (4)	Green (5)	Labour (1)	Liberal Democrats (2)
1	Ruth Buckmaster	Steven Watson	Yvonne Estop	Sarah Copley
2	Ian Devonshire	Vicky Burt		Simon Marlow
3	Aubrey Holt	Rachel Carter		
4	Tony Stowe	John Dunlop		
5		Graeme Hill		
Substitutes (up to six per group)				
1	Stan Bull	Maura Connolly	Carolyn Redfern	Martin Adams
2	Tom Deffley	Vicky Smith		
3				
4				
5				
6				

Licensing Committee - 12 Seats				
	Conservative (4)	Green (5)	Labour (1)	Liberal Democrats (2)
1	Stan Bull	Maura Connolly	Carolyn Redfern	Simon Marlow
2	Tom Deffley	Nick Cox		Richard Townsend
3	Frankie Woolf	John Dunlop		
4	John Wyllie	Graeme Hill		
5		Vicky Smith		
Substitutes (up to six per group)				
1	Ian Devonshire	George Williams	David Willcocks	Martin Adams
2	Angus Parsad-Wyatt	David Woollcombe		
3				
4				
5				
6				

Audit and Governance Committee - 7 Seats					
	Conservative (2)	Green (2)	Labour (1)	Liberal Democrats (1)	Independent (1)
1	Bob Deering	David Woollcombe	David Willcocks	Martin Adams	Chris Hart
2	Geoff Williamson	Sue Nicholls			
3					
4					
5					
Substitutes (up to three per group)					
1	John Wyllie	Maura Connolly	David Jacobs	Simon Marlow	
2		Nick Cox		Miriam Swainston	
3					

Standards Committee - 7 Seats				
	Conservative (2)	Green (3)	Labour (1)	Liberal Democrats (1)
1	Angus Parsad-Wyatt	Vicky Burt	Nahum Clements	Richard Townsend
2	Tony Stowe	Rachel Carter		
3		Vicky Smith		
4				
5				
Substitutes (up to three per group)				
1		Nick Cox	Carolyn Redfern	Calvin Horner
2		Graeme Hill		
3				

Human Resources Committee - 7 Seats					
	Conservative (2)	Green (3)	Labour (1)	Liberal Democrats (1)	Independent (1)
1	Tom Deffley	Rachel Carter	David Willcocks	Miriam Swainston	Martin Butcher
2	Diane Hollebon	Maura Connolly			
3		Vicky Smith			
4					
5					
Substitutes (up to three per group)					
1	Ruth Buckmaster	John Dunlop	David Jacobs	Simon Marlow	
2		Graeme Hill			
3					

Local Joint Panel - 4 Seats				
	Conservative (2)	Green (1)	Labour (0)	Liberal Democrats (1)
1	Eric Buckmaster	Alex Daar		Joseph Dumont
2	Diane Hollebon			
3				
4				
5				

Chief Officer Recruitment Committee - 5 Seats				
	Conservative (2)	Green (2)	Labour (0)	Liberal Democrats (1)
1	Eric Buckmaster	Ben Crystall		Mione Goldspink
2	Bob Deering	Alex Daar		
3				
4				
5				

Joint Revenues and Benefits Committee - 3 Seats (Exec Members)		
1	Carl Brittain	
2	Alex Daar	
3	Chris Wilson	

CCTV Joint Executive Committee - 3 Seats (Exec Members)		
1	Alex Daar	
2	Mione Goldspink	
3	Chris Wilson	

Joint ICT Committee - 3 Seats (Exec Members)		
1	Ben Crystall	
2	Vicky Glover-Ward	
3	Joseph Dumont	

HGGT Joint Committee - 1 seat (Leader)		
1	Ben Crystall	

East Herts Council Executive Team

From May 2024



Leader of the Council
Cllr Ben Crystall



Communities
Cllr Alex Daar



Corporate Services
Cllr Joseph Dumont



Environmental Sustainability
Cllr Tim Hoskin



Financial Sustainability
Cllr Carl Brittain



Neighbourhoods & Deputy Leader
Cllr Mione Goldspink



Planning & Growth
Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward



Wellbeing
Cllr Sarah Hopewell



Resident Engagement
Cllr Chris Wilson

Communities
Grants
Councillor Support and Development
Page 43

HR & OD
Health & Safety
Customer Services
Legal & Democratic Services
ICT
Communications

Transport Strategy
Community Transport
Climate Change
Air Quality
Parking
Waste

Budget
Annual accounts
Treasury Management
Sustainability Board
Asset Management
Property management
Millstream Performance
Revs & Bens Risk Management
Procurement

Affordable Housing
Community Safety
CCTV
Emergency Planning
Home Improvement Agency
Safeguarding

Development Management
Planning Policy
Conservation
Urban Design
Section 106 Planning
Enforcement
N'bourhood Planning
Masterplanning
Regeneration
Operational
Economic Development
Digital Infrastructure
Licensing

Public Health
Leisure
Culture
Green Space
Environmental Health

Resident Engagement
Consultation
Development

Agenda Item 13

East Herts Council Report

Leadership Team Meeting

Date of meeting: Tuesday 7 May 2024

Report by: Councillor Ben Crystall – Leader of the Council

Report title: Exploring a change to the Council's governance system

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Summary – The council's Corporate Plan states the administration's intention to explore alternative models of governance. This report proposes expanding the existing Member Constitution Review Group membership and terms of reference to allow it to investigate and explore different options and provide recommendations to Council on a way forward at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

- a) To extend the membership of the Member Constitution Review Group from six to nine members.**

- b) To request that the Member Constitution Review Group investigate different governance systems and provide recommendations to Council on the best option for East Herts at a future meeting.**

- c) To approve the revised terms of reference for the group.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 The joint administration have expressed a desire in their Corporate Plan to 'explore replacing a "strong leader and cabinet" system with a committee system'. The Corporate Plan was approved by

Council on 28 February 2024.

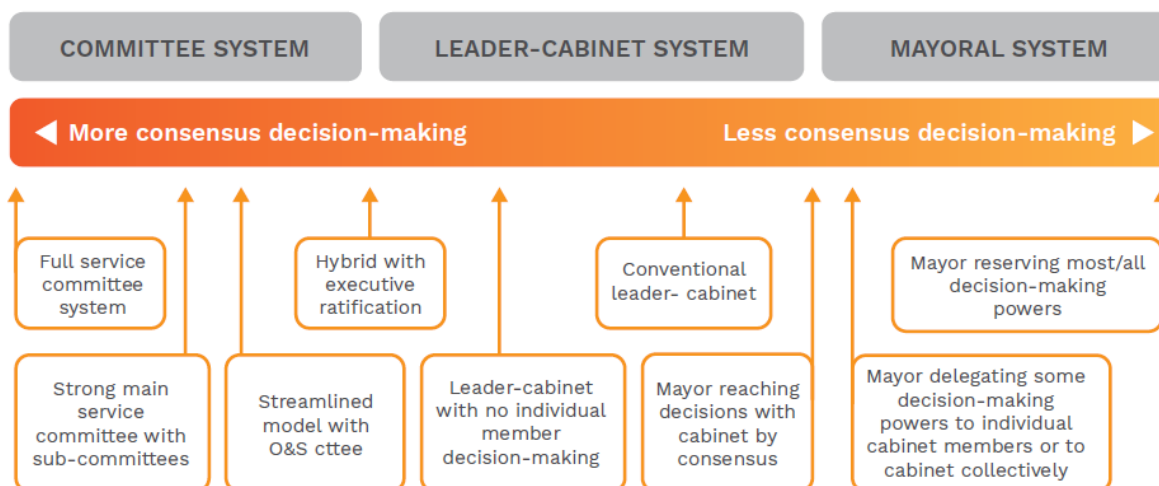
- 1.2 The Executive would like the existing Member Constitution Review Group to explore potential options for the future governance arrangements of the Council and to report its findings and recommendations back to a future meeting of the Council.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 All councils operated a committee system of governance until the introduction of the Local Government Act 2000 which enabled councils to adopt an 'executive' style of governance. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 amended the 2000 Act, introducing the 'strong leader' model and this required all councils to adopt an executive form of governance, except for district councils with a population of less than 85,000 which were permitted to retain the committee system. The Localism Act 2011 gives a Council the ability to choose a model of governance.
- 2.2 The Localism Act 2011 enables local authorities to adopt one of four models of governance:
 - a) Elected Mayor and Executive Cabinet
 - b) Leader and Executive Cabinet
 - c) Committee System
 - d) Prescribed arrangements (agreed by the Secretary of State)
- 2.3 If the Council wishes to change its model of governance, it must pass a resolution to change it and then the move to the new system would take place at the next Annual Meeting. The Council is then locked into that governance arrangement for five years unless it holds a referendum, in which circumstance it is locked in for ten years.
- 2.4 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny comment that "no one governance system is intrinsically better than another" and it is for

the Council to consider its options and decide on the right approach.

2.5 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny have produced a spectrum showing the variety of governance options:



2.6 The other option that the Council could consider is developing a hybrid model. A hybrid model is seen as one way of developing a more consensual model of decision-making without having to undergo formal change as the Council would still legally operate as an executive model of governance. This could be implemented through a series of amendments to the Constitution.

2.7 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny’s report on ‘[Rethinking council governance for the 20s](#)’ lays out the different variations of hybrid governance models.

Member Constitution Review Group

2.8 The Member Constitution Review Group was [established in 2020](#) to identify significant or strategic changes to the Constitution. The group reviewed the whole Constitution in 2021/22 with the new version being approved by Council in May 2022.

- 2.9 It is recommended that this group investigate the potential future governance arrangements for the council and to provide recommendations to Council at a future meeting.
- 2.10 The group is politically balanced and currently has a membership of six. It is recommended that the group be increased to nine members to reflect the importance of the task. The political balance of the group will be as follows:

Party	Number of members
Green	3
Conservative	3
Liberal Democrat	2
Labour	1

- 2.11 If the increase in membership is agreed, then Group Leaders will be asked for their nominations to the group.
- 2.12 The group will explore the different governance options available to the Council through a series of meetings, workshops and discussions with other councils who have changed their governance systems.
- 2.13 The schedule of meetings will be decided at the group's first meeting depending on their programme of work.
- 2.14 The group's revised terms of reference to reflect the changes are attached at Appendix A.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 Following the elections on 4 May 2023, East Hertfordshire District Council became a council of no overall control with the Green group and Liberal Democrat group forming a Joint Administration to run the Council.

3.2 One of their Corporate Plan priorities states that the Joint Administration will explore replacing the strong leader and cabinet model of governance.

3.3 The Member Constitution Review Group will review all the governance systems available to the council and recommend to Council the best way forward.

4.0 Options

4.1 That the Member Constitution Review Group is not tasked with investigating future governance arrangements for the council and the administration does not meet their Corporate Plan priorities – NOT RECOMMENDED

4.2 That the Member Constitution Review Group is tasked with investigating future governance arrangements for the council as per the administration's Corporate Plan – RECOMMENDED.

5.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Member Constitution Review Group will consider any financial implications before making any recommendations to Council. If the Council decided to move to a committee system, it is likely that there will be cost implications.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Not directly arising from the report but if the Member Constitution Review Group recommended to Council that they change governance system, the Council will need to follow the process set out in the Localism Act 2011.

Specific Wards

No

6.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

6.1 [Corporate Plan 2024-25](#)

Contact Member

Cllr Ben Crystall - Leader of the Council

ben.crystall@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer

James Ellis

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

james.ellis@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author

Katie Mogan, Democratic and Electoral Services
Manager

katie.mogan@eastherts.gov.uk

Member Constitution Review Group Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Member Constitution Review Group has been established by Council to review the constitution and ensure that it is fit for purpose. It will undertake this role by:

- Reviewing areas the Constitution and identify significant or strategic changes
- Considering changes proposed by members or officers
- Making recommendations to the Council regarding changes to the Constitution.
- Investigate and explore different governance models and provide recommendations to Council on the best option moving forward.

2. Membership

The Member Constitution Review Group shall comprise of nine members and will be politically balanced. Members of the group will be nominated by each Group Leader.

3. Chairman

The Chairman of the Member Constitution Review Group will be appointed at the first meeting of each Civic Year.

4. Frequency of meetings

The Member Constitution Review Group will meet as and when required.

All meetings will be held in private and dates and times will be agreed by the Constitution Review Group.

Agenda Item 14

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Report by: James Ellis – Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Report title: Minor Amendments to the Constitution

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

In accordance with paragraph 2.6.5 of the Constitution any minor changes made to the Constitution by the Monitoring Officer must be notified to Members at the next meeting of the Full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

- a) That substitution of the word 'Chairman' with the neutral terminology of 'Chair' throughout the Constitution, other than for the ceremonial role of Chairman of the Council, be noted; and**
- b) To approve the minor changes to the Constitution in Appendix A.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 As above.

2.0 Background

2.1 Changes to the Constitution are dealt with under paragraph 2.6 of the Constitution.

2.2 Under paragraph 2.6.3(a) if in the reasonable opinion of the Monitoring Officer a change is required to be made to remove any inconsistency, ambiguity, typographical or other such error,

changes to staffing structures, job descriptions or changes in terminology then the Monitoring Officer may make such a change.

- 2.3 The change in terminology is as follows:
- 2.4 Replacing the word 'Chairman' with the neutral word 'Chair', other than for the ceremonial role of Chairman of the Council. This modernises the document and reflects the term already used by many Members when referring to the Chairman of a given committee. A comparison of other Hertfordshire local authorities found that the majority were now using the term 'Chair' as opposed to 'Chairman', as are the Fire and Police Service.
- 2.5 Sections 3 to 5 of the Local Government Act 1972 specifically refer to the statutory roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of a Principal Council. The terms Chairman and Vice Chairman will therefore be retained for these appointments in order to remain consistent with legislation.
- 2.6 Further, under paragraph 2.6.3(d) if in the reasonable opinion of the Monitoring Officer a change is requested only for the practical purpose, in order to ensure the proper administration of the Council, then the Monitoring Officer may make such a change.
- 2.7 Any change made under paragraph 2.6.3(d) shall come into force with immediate effect but shall be referred to Full Council as soon as is reasonably practicable and shall only continue to have effect thereafter if agreed by Full Council.
- 2.8 The changes made under paragraph 2.6.3(d) concerns the Human Resources Committee's Terms of Reference, specifically the deletion of sub-paragraphs (k) and (m) from paragraph 8.2.5.
- 2.9 Sub-paragraph (k) is not a function of the Human Resources Committee, and therefore should not be listed under the Human Resources Committee's Terms of Reference. The oversight,

implementation, and co-ordination of the Member Training Programme is included within the Terms of Reference for the Member Development Group. The Terms of Reference for the Member Development Group were agreed at its meeting on 23 November 2023.

2.10 Sub-paragraph (m) is also not a function of the Human Resources Committee and therefore should not be listed under the Human Resources Committee's Terms of Reference. It should be noted that these functions are duplicated within the Constitution from paragraph 11.10, with the disciplinary action for the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service to be taken in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2015, as at sub paragraph 11.14.1.

2.11 The re-lettering of those sub-paragraphs in 8.2.5 following the removal of (k) and (m) so as to remain sequential.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 To comply with the requirements of paragraph 2.6.5 which ensures that a minor change to terminology made under paragraph 2.6.5(a) is notified to all members at the next meeting of Full Council.

3.2 To agree that the changes to the Human Resources Committee's Terms of Reference, made under paragraph 2.6.5(d), continue to have effect going forward.

4.0 Options

4.1 Not to approve recommendation (b), this is not recommended. This would mean that a duplication of functions would remain, risking the clarity of decision-making and procedures throughout the year.

5.0 Risks

5.1 If the Constitution is not amended in line with recommendation (b) it would mean that a duplication of these functions would remain, risking the clarity of decision-making and procedures throughout the year.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

6.1 The report was emailed to the currently nominated Members of the Constitution Review Group, and the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee for their information on 16 April 2024.

6.2 The report was taken through Leadership Team on 7 May 2024.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

Yes/No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes, as indicated above.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and relevant material

7.1 Appendix A – Minor Changes to the Constitution – showing tracked changes.

Contact Officer

James Ellis, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

james.ellis@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author

Michele Aves, Katie Mogan, Committee Support Officer, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

michele.aves@eastherts.gov.uk,

katie.mogan@eastherts.gov.uk

8.2 Human Resources Committee

8.2.1 The functions of the Human Resources (HR) Committee (herein referred to as 'the Committee') relate to all aspects of the council's role as an employer. These functions include the monitoring and strategic overview of HR activity in the areas detailed below.

8.2.2 The Committee, consisting of seven Members (and up to three substitutes) will be appointed annually by the Council and will be politically balanced.

8.2.3 The Committee will meet in accordance with a schedule of Ordinary Meetings, although meetings may be cancelled due to lack of business, or additional meetings may be arranged as necessary, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

8.2.4 Quorum

The Quorum for the Committee shall be three Members.

8.2.5 Delegation of Functions

The majority of the Committee's functions will be determined by Officers, as set out in Section 10 of this Constitution. The Committee's Terms of Reference are matters relating to:

- (a) Recruitment and retention;
- (b) Terms and conditions and benefits offered to officers;

- (c) Valuing diversity, with particular reference to achieving a workforce that is representative of our community and achieving a higher level of the equality standard;
- (d) Officer relations issues, including disputes;
- (e) HR services, including definition of processes and implementation of timetables;
- (f) Learning and development, with particular reference to developing officers to ensure that we have the relevant skills to achieve our corporate priorities;
- (g) Absence management;
- (h) The means by which officers' performance should be managed, using performance development reviews (PDRs) and competencies and/or other processes as available;
- (i) The approval and implementation of new and revised HR policies as developed;
- (j) Consideration of current, future and potential initiatives and developments in HR thinking and best practice;
- ~~(k) — Overseeing the implementation and co-ordination of the Member training programme;~~
- (+)(k) Acting as the council's steering group to advise it in relation to the discharge of its responsibilities for health and safety by:

- providing a focus for the consideration of health and safety matters;
- monitoring the steps taken within the council to ensure the health and safety of its stakeholders; and
- advising the authority of the steps that may be required to comply with regulations and codes of practice.

~~(m) Head of Paid Service dismissal, grading, grievance and redundancy and early retirement pay (in line with national conditions and local procedures); and~~

~~(n)(l)~~ All other matters relating to the employment of officers within the council, in accordance with the council's procedures and delegated authorities.

8.2.6 Procedure at meetings

Meetings of the Committee will be conducted in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules.

Agenda Item 15

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Report by: Scrutiny Officer

Report title: Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary – This report introduces the Annual Scrutiny report for 2023/24 on behalf of the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It provides an overview of what the Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised during the respective civic year.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL

(A) That the Annual Scrutiny Report covering the 2023/24 Civic Year be agreed and published on the council's website.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 The Annual Report for 2023/24 is attached at Appendix A and summarises the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the respective period.

2.0 Background

2.1 An Annual Scrutiny Report is prepared each year and presented to Council as required by the Constitution. Once agreed by Council, the report will be published on the Council's website. This is also a requirement of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Localism Act 2011.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution Part 5 Chapter 5.5, paragraph 5.5.1 states that Scrutiny Committee *"must report annually to the council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate"*

4.0 Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options to consider.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 Publication of an Annual Scrutiny Report provides a summary of what issues have been reviewed in the preceding year, which can be assessed against the council's priorities in terms of the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been consulted on this document. The Annual Scrutiny Report is a summary of what the committee have looked at and any recommendations made at their meetings in 2023/24.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

Yes – Integral to the council's Corporate Plan is the issue of environmental sustainability in terms of the LEAF Principles

Financial

None

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes – Overview and Scrutiny Committees are enshrined in law by virtual of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Localism Act 2011 and must report annually on its activities.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 Appendix A – Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24

Contact Member: Councillor David Andrews, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

David.andrews@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: James Ellis, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

James.ellis@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Lorraine Blackburn Scrutiny Officer, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

Lorraine.blackburn@eastherts.gov.uk

Katie.mogan@eastherts.gov.uk

East Herts

Annual Scrutiny Report 2023-24





Councillor David Andrews

Introduction from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It is my pleasure as Chairman to provide a summary of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the last 12 months. The District Elections in 2023 culminated in a change to the political make-up and Leadership of the Council. Notwithstanding this political change, the Council remains committed to providing its residents with the best service it can and is committed to challenging accepted norms and practices to achieve value for money for its residents in the face of an ever financially challenging economy and world events. I am confident that this good work will continue, supported and encouraged by our cohort of new Members with guidance from the Council's corporate plan.

This report summarises the committee's activities during 2023-24, starting with our first meeting on 20 June 2023. All reports and minutes are available on the council's website.



20 June 2023

East Herts Climate Change Strategy

Ever conscious of the need to support environmental issues and sustainability initiatives, Members were provided with an update on the Climate Change Strategy which detailed the Council's vision and what changes would be made between now and by 2030 to achieve its goal of being carbon neutral. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee sought assurances that other district council climate strategies had been reviewed when developing its own. Members stressed the need to reduce emissions, the promotion of car sharing and the need to provide electric vehicles for officer business related use. Members challenged the consultation exercise and debated the strategy at length seeking assurances on the need to include the Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in the District Plan, to review the need for paper and plastic recycling and the need to work with its partners in achieving carbon neutrality.

Members endorsed the draft Climate Change Strategy 2022–26 for consideration by the Executive.



Waste Shared Service: Client Team and Corporate Support Service Arrangements

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report which detailed the outcomes of the Member-led working group between East Herts Council and North Herts Council (as part of the shared service arrangements) and workshops held with senior managers. This centred on the governance and corporate support arrangements to support the new waste, recycling and street cleansing contract effective in 2025. The background was to be able to support goals in relation to digital transformation and to ensure that residents received a consistent service across both East and North Hertfordshire. Processes and policies such as customer service provision would be aligned to support the new contract and minor updates had been made to service policies which would later come into force.

Members debated the report at length seeking clarity and assurances in relation to software integration, inter authority working and communication between service teams, staffing and ongoing issues in relation to recruitment and retention.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation to approve the updated waste service policy statements from May 2025, that each Council lead on their own customer service provision and interactions, to identify resources and costs for integration into the customer relationship management system with Waste management IT system. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also recommended that the Executive support the proposed updates and changes to financial management and governance arrangements and subsequent changes to the Inter Authority Agreement outlined in the report.

Council Tax Support 2024-25

Members were presented with a report on the latest information around the current Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme at East Herts and considered whether any changes to the scheme should be considered for 2024-25. Officers explained that the scheme had been the same since 2013 and that there were no persuasive arguments to change the CTS scheme for 2024/25 thereby giving a certain degree of certainty to residents.

Clarity was provided in relation to the level of bad debts, issues in relation to those claiming Universal Credit and responsibilities in relation to council tax. Assurances were provided that the benefits team worked closely with those residents who were struggling.

Members supported the recommendation that there should be no changes to the East Herts local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024-25.

12 September 2023

Pedestrian safety

Following a request to review the issue of pedestrian safety specifically in the Hertford Castle Ward, two Hertfordshire County Councillors were invited along to the Committee to provide an insight into Hertfordshire County Council's travel policy.

Members questioned whether equal consideration was given to pedestrians and cyclists and how this was reflected in budgets and specific funding for pedestrians and pavement repairs. A County Councillor provided a detailed update on the budgeting process for road and footway repair, repairs to cycleways and how schools featured in the criteria for a 20mph speed limitation. Members expressed their specific concerns regarding pedestrian safety, pavement and road conditions throughout the district. The development of a Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) was explained which would help support the Council in securing Government Grants. From the viewpoint of enforcement, Hertfordshire Police provided an update on their role and the use of speed camera traps and traffic speed boards to control speeding.

Members debated the report at length seeking clarification in relation to footpath clearance, pavement parking, enforcement of double yellow lines and the role of parents in educating their children about pedestrian and road safety.

Members agreed that it would be useful for the issue of pedestrian safety to be re-considered following further discussions between the Chairman and Vice Chairman with the possibility of a further report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee at some future date.

Air Quality in East Herts

Overview and Scrutiny Members were presented with a report which provided an update in relation to Air Quality matters in the three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in East Hertfordshire and on a proposed new Air Quality Action Plan. It was noted that although cars were producing lower emissions, there were more cars on the road adding to air pollution. The report was debated thoroughly including the importance of behavioural change.

Members were concerned that given the Climate Change Emergency, the Action Plan had insufficiently detailed content and therefore could not be submitted to the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for their consideration. Members asked that a report and clearly defined Action Plan be re-submitted to their 16 January 2024 meeting.

Community Grants Policy and Priorities 2023-24

Members considered a revised community grants policy which would replace the maximum grant limit with a range of £500 – £3,000 which would enable the council to make a significant number of grants. An update was provided on what other projects from community groups would be eligible for grants from the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation. Suggestions were put forward on funding priorities including supporting young people in gaining employment. Grants were also available from the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee debated how the revised policy would affect Town and Parish councils from the viewpoint of precept arrangements.

Members supported a recommendation to the Council to approve the revised Community Grants Policy including priorities for 2023-24.

Draft "A Listening Council: East Herts Council's Principles for Information Giving, Engagement and Consultation" Document

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report proposing a set of principles for adoption which would govern how the Council will inform, engage and consult residents, businesses and stakeholders. The report had been driven by the low electoral turnout at the District Elections in May 2023 and the need to engage in a more diverse manner with residents at the earliest opportunity especially on key issues such as housing, planning and licensing in order to hear more diverse views.

Following extensive debate, Members made a number of suggested changes to the document for further consideration by the Executive. Members also felt that it was important that consultation letters engaging early with residents, should be written clearly and concisely without jargon; this it was felt would be reflected in better election turnout figures. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also felt that it was important that the proposal would not impact financially on the council.

Members welcomed the approach and agreed that their comments be submitted to the Executive for consideration and decision by Council.



Community Forum and Development Management Forum

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on a proposal to develop community and development forums for strategic development sites in the district. It was felt that the establishment of regular community forums for large strategic sites for developers, residents and community groups to engage with one another over the lifetime of a development, would enhance the quality of community life and communication and impact positively on the number of complaints Members receive from residents. Additionally, the development of a Development Management Forum for planning applications of 50 homes or more would enable residents to share their views in an open and transparent way.

The proposal was carefully considered, resulting in Members making a number of recommendations which were referred to the Executive for consideration. Members also felt that this issue should be included on their work programme and reviewed in two years' time to allow the collation of meaningful data.

30 November 2023

Waste recycling and street cleansing contract service design

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the waste recycling and street cleansing contract service design. The Executive had agreed the service design for the new waste recycling and street cleansing contract on 25 October 2022. Members' thoughts were sought on the service design options which would be taken forward as part of the joint working arrangements with the intention of supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the service and the Council. Members were informed that new legislation on resources and waste strategy had been published on 21 October 2023 which may necessitate further consultation and a further report to Members.

Members sought clarification on a number of issues which were provided at the meeting and later agreed that these comments be referred onwards to the Executive.



16 January 2024

Thriving Together 2024-27: A new Health and Wellbeing Action Plan

Members were presented with a new health and wellbeing action plan for East Herts. The report set out the work which had already been undertaken with partners in the wider health and wellbeing services and ways to include residents whose comments had been included as part of the consultation process. Members welcomed the document but felt that there should be enough flexibility in it to allow various agencies and communities to engage. They also felt that measurable baselines should be introduced to establish the social and community benefits including the need to engage with young people.

Members noted that the Action Plan to support the new approach was in progress and of the need to ensure realistic timelines to achieve defined actions. The importance of investing in preventing illness was highlighted.

The “Thriving Together Health and Wellbeing Action Plan” was welcomed with Members recommending that their comments be forwarded to the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing prior to its submission to the Executive for their consideration.

East Herts Air Quality Action Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the final draft version of the Air Quality Action Plan following public and stakeholder consultation. It was noted that within the three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAS) the main source of air pollution was attributable to vehicles and diesel cars. Members were keen to ensure that the Action Plan needed to be an evolving document over a period of five years.



The Overview and Scrutiny Committee debated the document extensively, specifically:

- That the Council's limited resources should be targeted to actions which had the most significant impact on the three AQMAs;
- Of the need to continually liaise with Hertfordshire County Council in terms of the public health to oversee progress on the AQAP;
- Of the need to encourage the public to change behaviour such as the use of wood burning stoves and anti-idling;
- To use funding sources for public health benefits such as Section 106 monies from planning developments;
- How a reduction in speed limits can impact on air pollution;
- Explore whether the Council can include enforceable air quality relation conditions on planning applications;
- Can the Council engage more with local MPs to overcome obstacles it faces when trying to improve air quality?
- The need to ensure sufficient staffing resources to implement and monitor the AQAP;
- A review of school travel plans to include schools from across the whole town not just those near AQMAs;
- To focus on pollution inside vehicles;
- That the Action Plan should include reference to the national move from fossil fuel vehicles to electric vehicles as mandated by statute;
- Whether NHS data on respiratory illnesses could be used to encourage engagement with air quality initiatives;
- To consider whether on street parking for bicycles be increased around flats, business and local tourist hot spots?

Members agreed that their comments be referred to the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability for consideration prior to the Action Plan being presented to the Executive.

5 March 2024

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were provided with an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and its delivery. Members were advised that East Herts was not considered to be an area of need. It would, however, receive an allocation of £1.77M based on a population formula payable over three years, which would be spent within the priority areas and on individual projects agreed at Council in January 2023. These priority areas and projects also had the agreement of the Executive Members following the May 2023 elections. Long time sustainability of supported projects with an aim on leaving a legacy were key match funding requirements given that there was uncertainty over future Government funding.

Despite efforts to contact all Parish and Town Councils to highlight the UK Shared Prosperity Funding availability, only 14 applications had been received from the 37 villages and towns with only six parish councils receiving UKSPF monies. Members noted that it was important to ensure that the right project was chosen for the right community so that it gave something back to the community.

The report was considered with Members highlighting some of their key concerns. The Chairman hoped that Members could be given a reasonable amount of time after the meeting to submit further funding suggestions to the lead Executive Member. Members asked that their comments be forwarded to the lead Executive Member for consideration and that Overview and Scrutiny Members be allowed a reasonable amount of time to come forward with suggestions for the use of the funding.

Agenda Item 16

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of meeting: Wednesday 15 May 2024

Report by: Ben Crystall – Leader of the Council

Report title: Reports by Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the civic year 2023 - 24

Wards affected: All

Summary

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Annual Council

- (A) That the reports of Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the 2023-24 civic year be received and noted.**
- (B) That a review of Outside Bodies for 2024/25 be undertaken, and reported back at a future Council meeting.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 That the reports by Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the 2023 – 2024 civic year be received and noted.
- 1.2 That a review of Outside Bodies for 2024/25 be undertaken.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the Annual Council meeting each year Council appoints Members to serve on various outside bodies and the reports review these Members' involvement on these bodies.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 In order to increase transparency and improve the process for reviewing activities of Outside Bodies, Members appointed to

Outside Bodies compile an annual report on their involvement and activities on these Outside Bodies. This provides an opportunity for Members to report back and to highlight any issues that might need to be addressed.

- 3.2 To improve consistency in reporting, Members were requested to use a standard report template when compiling their reports.
- 3.3 To review all the Outside Bodies on which East Herts Councillors currently sit. This review will identify which appointments continue to be beneficial, which appointments may no longer be required (for example, should an Outside Body be defunct) and to identify any new Outside Bodies which might benefit from East Herts Councillor representation. The review would also seek to improve relationships with Outside Bodies and deepen the understanding of their work.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 No other options are considered for recommendation a) as this is a requirement in accordance with the Council Constitution.
- 4.2 Should a review of Outside Bodies for not be undertaken as per recommendation b), there will be no assurance that the current list of Outside Bodies on which East Herts Councillors sit remains updated and appropriate. There would also be a risk that there may be Outside Bodies which do not have East Herts Councillor representation.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 Reputational. Members appointed to an Outside Body could act contrary to East Herts Council policies/guidelines. As this is unlikely, the Risk is classified as minor.
- 5.2 Financial. Members could claim substantial expenses if an Outside Body had a large number of meetings. As most Outside Bodies have a set number of meetings, this was unlikely and the Risk is classified as minor.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 Appendix A – Outside Body reports

Contact Member Ben Crystall, Leader of the Council,
ben.crystall@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer

James Ellis, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Tel: 01279 502170.

james.ellis@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author

Michele Aves, Committee Support Officer, Tel: 01279 502177, michele.aves@eastherts.gov.uk

Peter Mannings, Committee Support Officer, Tel: 01279 502174. peter.mannings@eastherts.gov.uk

Katie Mogan, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager, Tel: 07762 892098.

katie.mogan@eastherts.gov.uk



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Ancient Charities of Hertford

Purpose:

The relief of poverty in Hertfordshire

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Rachel Carter

Update:

There have been 3 meetings of the charity in June, October and March. As I was not appointed until late on in the year, I have only attended the March meeting.

The meetings have been principally concerned with reviewing the finances of the charity and considering applications for grants for assistance made by various organisations on behalf of individuals.

Update provided by: Councillor Rachel Carter

Date: 25 April 2024



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Bishop's Stortford Business Improvement District (BID)

Purpose:

Bishop’s Stortford Business Improvement District aims to raise the profile of the town centre as a great retail, tourist and business destination and improve the experience of the town centre for those who visit, live and work in the town.

East Herts Council Representative(s):
Councillor Calvin Horner

Update:

(Please give a brief summary of the main issues considered by the OB during the previous year, including the number of meetings/events held and the number attended by you)

The BID board meetings have considered a wide range of issues, including the proposed worker’s Parking Scheme at Northgate End car park, grants to businesses to improve frontages, improvements to the street scene in central Bishop’s Stortford, pedestrianisation of North Street, BID events.

Since my appointment Bishop’s Stortford BID has held 11 monthly board meetings and has also held 3 drop-ins for local businesses. I have attended 12 meetings, missing one through illness and another which clashed with a full Council meeting.

Update provided by: Councillor Calvin Horner.....

Date: 26 April

2024



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Bishop’s Stortford Chamber of Commerce

Purpose:

To provide a EHDC link to the local Bishop’s Stortford business community, through attending events, to capture any issues

East Herts Council Representative(s):
Councillor Martin Adams

Update:

The meetings are usually 'breakfast' events, and comprise of a single speaker talking of a specific topic (the event I previously attended was about website metrics for the businesses)

The intention is to attend a few breakfast events (not all breakfast events are feasible, as they typically start at 8am, and on days I may be busy elsewhere), including hopefully the AGM etc.

It is an opportunity for these local businesses to network; I try and involve myself in discussions and ask about local challenges etc. There is significant scepticism regarding local government generally, and a topic of conversation typifying this, was the belief the historic transaction around Charrington's House was poorly executed and of very poor value for the local community (this is to put it mildly). Traffic issues also mentioned.

The next event I am attending is in May 24, at the Silver leys Polo club and the guest speaker is from Bishop's Stortford BID

Update provided by: Councillor Martin Adams.....

Date: 24 April

2024



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

CCTV Partnership

Purpose:

The partnership is a joint (East Herts, Hertsmere, North Herts, Stevenage) initiative aimed at reducing the fear of crime across the principal public, residential, retail, business and schools within the

partnership. The central feature of this initiative is the 24-hour, manned CCTV control and monitoring room facility in Stevenage.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Alex Daar

Update:

I have attended one meeting of the CCTV Partnership which was held at the Borehamwood Council Offices on 26 September 2023. The Partnership includes officers and councillors from East Herts, Hertsmere, North Herts, and Stevenage. The hosting of the meeting rotates. The purpose of the meetings is to be inform councillors about the work that takes place in the monitoring and control room and give them the opportunity to ask questions about the operations of the company that runs the CCTV Partnerships. The monitoring of the CCTV cameras takes place at the control room based in Stevenage. The cameras are in place in towns within the districts who form the partnership. Local authority officers, on behalf of the partnership councils, jointly run the company.

At this meeting Councillor Chris Gray from Hertsmere Borough Council was elected as Chair. We discussed the CCTV Operational Report which included statistics of incidents recorded by the cameras and an Audit Report. During 2021/22 a review of operational performance of the CCTV company was undertaken. We also received a report from the CCTV Management Board which explained the work undertaken by the joint officer management members since the last meeting.

There was discussion about apportioning the costs of running the CCTV systems and the Town Councils' contributions.

For further information please see the papers available on this public link:

<https://hertsmere.moderngov.co.uk/mgA.aspx?M=11540&LLL=0>

Update provided by: Councillor Alex Daar.....

Date: 17 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board

Purpose:

The purpose of the Co-op Board is to support plan-making process across East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford. The Board reviews cross boundary issues (strategic planning matters) being progressed through emerging local plans. It is an advisory body, and any decisions resulting from its advice remained the responsibility of its constituent councils.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward

Update:

The Board is currently in abeyance pending the review of local plans.

There have been no meetings during the last year.

Update provided by: Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward.....

Date: 1 May

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

East of England LGA

Purpose:

To support member councils in the East of England to be the best that they can be for their residents, places and communities.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Ben Crystall and Councillor Mione Goldspink (deputy)

Update:

We have liaised with the EELGA during the year, met with the Chief Executive, and members of the EHC Exec team have attended a number of events including the East of England Net Zero Conference (Tim Hoskin) and the East of England Water Summit (Vicky Glover-Ward).

Update provided by: Councillor Ben Crystall.....

Date: 22 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Board

Purpose:

To provide strategic leadership and oversight on the HGGT project, to set objectives and ensure delivery, and to monitor progress.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Ben Crystall and Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward (deputy)

Update:

The main activity has been the agreement and setting up of a Joint Committee to replace the current 5 council model which will help in decision making, and accountability. The JC will begin as a shadow committee in 2024 before taking over from the current group of council members.

A number of key documents including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan have been reviewed and updated.

Update provided by: Councillor Ben Crystall.....

Date: 22 April

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Health Scrutiny Committee

Purpose:

To scrutinise the work of bodies providing healthcare services to the people of Hertfordshire and suggest improvements where problems are identified.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Miriam Swainston

Update:

There have been 4 meetings held since I was asked to represent East Herts on this committee. I have attended all 4.

Subjects scrutinised this year include:

Annual Patient Experience Scrutiny, where evidence was received from Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) East and North Herts Hospital Trust, West Herts Teaching Hospital Trust;

Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Strategy update;

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust Five Year Strategy; Hertfordshire Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Health Care Partnership;

Herts and West Essex ICS Maternity Units and Neonatal Units update; Drug and alcohol grants; West Herts

Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust development update; Mount Vernon

Cancer Centre Strategic review update.

Many questions from members are answered during the scrutiny meetings but if they cannot be we have the answers emailed to us. We also receive quite frequent updates on other relevant matters.

Meetings are broadcast and available online on the Hertfordshire County Council website as are all agendas and minutes.

The committee works collaboratively, with all aiming to improve the healthcare experience for residents of Hertfordshire.

Update provided by: Councillor Miriam Swainston.....

Date: 30 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertford Museum Trust

Purpose:

Hertford Museum aims to collect, preserve and interpret evidence of the history of the county town and surrounding parishes in the district of East Hertfordshire for the interest, enjoyment and understanding of the local community and other visitors.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Maura Connolly

Update:

As a representative of East Hertfordshire District Council, I had to become a trustee of The Hertford Museum. I have attended 8 formal trustee meetings.

These were the regular quarterly meetings as well as additional meetings following the engagement of a consultant to help the museum design and implement a transformation to increase visitors (which had not fully recovered since COVID) and improve the museum finances. I volunteer one Sunday a month to enable the museum to open. I have completed 7 x2 hour shifts. . I have also attended 4 informal meetings, including representing the trustees at receptions in the museum, e.g. a Town Twinning event.

I enjoy being the EHC rep at the museum. I have learnt a lot about museums and see the museum in action at my volunteer sessions. It is valued by residents, visitors to Hertford and schools and is a huge asset to Hertford.

Update provided by: Councillor Maura Connolly.....

Date: 17 April

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust

Purpose:

Preservation and regeneration of historic buildings

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Steven Watson

Update:

2 meetings (out of 3) attended.

The trust is looking for a new secretary and trustee.

There remain substantial costs for maintaining and running their various properties, including Cromer Windmill and the Much Hadham Forge Museum.

BEAMS, the HBPT's trading company is bringing in a profit however, overall, funds are diminishing.

Update provided by: Councillor Steven Watson.....

Date: 29 April

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP)

Purpose:

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) consists of all 10 districts and the county council, plus the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). HCCSP is a strategic group which acts as the lead partnership organisation for partners to collaborate

and identify joint work programmes on environmental, climate change and wider sustainability issues.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Tim Hoskin

Update:

Meetings are held 6 weekly which I have attended as the East Herts representative. There have been 8 meetings held in the last year and I have attended 6 of these meetings. I have also represented East Herts at the annual HCCSP review conducted with the Chair and lead CEO of Stevenage.

HCCSP continues to work on its six themes:

- Water
- Biodiversity
- Decarbonisation
- Transport
- Behaviour change

Joint work programmes have included:

Solar Together – 2022/23 facilitated private resident investment of over £12m in generating and storage potential of 4MW and 4.9MEW respectively

Retrofit – a public engagement drew 1,200 resident responses to a Home Retrofit survey and reconfirmed the public appetite for retrofit. Work is now progressing on developing a Retrofit Strategy.

A Sustainable Procurement Study has been initiated and East Herts is one of 3 local authorities taking part.

Update provided by: Councillor Tim Hoskin.....

Date: 25 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP)

Purpose:

The Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership, or “HIPP,” comprises the planning / transport portfolio holders and heads of planning from the eleven councils in Hertfordshire as well as representation from Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and others. The partnership is supported by Hertfordshire Planning Group, comprising heads of planning and invited guests, as well as sub-groups which bring together planning policy managers and development management managers.

HIPP’s overarching purpose is “to provide a forum to discuss and develop a shared view and to propose joint work programmes on planning and infrastructure issues of common concern, working co-operatively within Hertfordshire and across county borders.”

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward, Executive Member for Planning and Growth.

Update:

Three meetings have been held over the last year (20/9/23, 11/21/23, 18/04/24). Meetings have focussed on Local Plan updates, development management issues, planning resilience (recruitment and retention in the planning sector) government consultations on planning and other matters such as the introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Update provided by: Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward.....

Date: 1 May
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership

Purpose:

To develop a shared vision for sport, physical activity, recreation and culture in the county.

1. Physical Activity (*led by the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership*)
2. Arts and Culture (*led by the Hertfordshire Music Education Hub*)
3. Lifestyle Theme (*led by Hertfordshire County Council Public Health*)
4. Volunteering and Third Sector (*led by Third Sector Partners*)

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Miriam Swainston – Bishop’s Stortford North

Update:

(Please give a brief summary of the main issues considered by the OB during the previous year, including the number of meetings/events held and the number attended by you)

The only partner from this body that has contacted me during the council year is the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership. They have kept in regular contact about the Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire project. There have been three specific meetings during the year. The first induction meeting on 26th June I was unable to attend but they sent me all the information. The second meeting was a conference at the University of Hertfordshire on 7th September which was a celebration of their work on Live Longer Better. It was very encouraging to hear about the good work they are doing and how well East Herts is performing on measures of relative health compared to other regions. People had the opportunity to try activities and also to sign up to become champions to encourage participation by others. I will be attending the online conference on Friday 26th April, 'Parish, Town and Community Councils' Conference 2024 - Affecting change at a local level, exploring the importance of Councils in supporting an ageing population', to which councillors have been invited. I consider their work very worthwhile.

Update provided by: Councillor Miriam Swainston.....

Date: 24 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Waste Partnership

Purpose:

WasteAware is the partnership of Hertfordshire's county, district and borough councils, working together to reduce, reuse and recycle Hertfordshire's waste. It promotes waste and recycling education and campaigns, providing useful tips to help be WasteAware.

East Herts Council Representative(s): Councillor Tim Hoskin

Elected as Vice Chair 31 July 2023

Update:

These meetings are held quarterly, and I have attended all meetings.

Within the last 12 months several significant consultations have been run by Defra including:

- Simpler Recycling (November 23)
 - Mandatory collection of food waste
 - Nationally agreed list of recycled categories/definitions
 - Frequency of residual waste collection (East Herts plan on a 3-weekly cycle)
- WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) March 24
 - Response to proposed reforms to the producer responsibility system for waste electrical and electronic equipment

The implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (producers' payment for collection and disposal of packaging) has been postponed by 12 months until October 2025.

The partnership continues to work effectively, 2022/23 has seen the biggest reduction in total household waste since the Partnership's first annual report back in 2010/11.

Update provided by: Councillor Tim Hoskin.....

Date: 29 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Historic England - Heritage Champion.

Purpose:

Historic England are the public body that helps people care for, enjoy, and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. A Heritage Champion is a councillor who has been nominated by their authority to

promote all aspects of the historic environment in their area. The network of Heritage Champions across the country supports the protection of the historic environment at a local level.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward

Update:

The Heritage Champion:

- Liaises with Officers to make sure that local plans and strategies capture the contribution that the local historic environment can make to the success of an area.
- Promotes heritage within East Herts, generating enthusiasm for and awareness of the importance of the local historic environment.
- Helps ensure that commitment to the proper care of the historic environment is embedded in all relevant activities and plans of the East Herts.
- Supports the work of the Conservation service within the Planning Department, including reactive work such as planning casework, and proactive work, such as drafting local lists and other project work.

Update provided by: Councillor Vicky Glover Ward.....

Date: 1 May

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA)

Purpose:

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is responsible for the 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park with its huge variety of award winning green spaces, world class sports venues and ecologically vital wildlife havens.

The park was created by a unique Act of Parliament as a “green lung” for London, Essex and Hertfordshire. It is a community focused and commercially driven organisation which works with partners to produce a unique combination of activities, sights and experiences.

The park owns many of the previous Olympic venues such as the White Water Park and Velodrome as well as various parklands throughout the area.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillors Steven Watson and John Wyllie

Update:

4 meetings (out of 4) meetings attended plus two members' tours. Members voted to increase the levy by 3% this year. The Ice Centre has opened, and, in terms of footfall, it seems to be a great success. LVRPA are continuing to make improvements to the biodiversity of the park with active schemes to restore and improve wetland habitats.

Update provided by: Councillors Steven Watson and John Wyllie.....

Date: 29 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Local Government Association General Assembly

Purpose:

The national voice for local government, supporting councils to help their communities, deliver services, and promote and improve their areas.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Ben Crystall
Councillor Mione Goldspink (deputy)

Update:

We have made use of LGA support this year to help the Exec team in its new role, and we have supported the LGA in a number of campaigns and requests. Ben attended the LGA conference in 2023 and the DCN conference in 2024, and attended the regular meetings of the Independent LGA group.

Update provided by: Councillor Ben Crystall.....

Date: 22 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Local Government Association Insurance Mutual

Purpose:

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Tom Deffley

Update:

I have not attended any meetings or had any conversations about this.

Update provided by: Councillor Tom Deffley.....

Date: 25 April

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Consortium

Purpose:

Transforming the economy of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Sarah Copley

Update:

I have not been contacted to attend any meetings, and there has been no activity as far as I am aware.

Update provided by: Councillor Sarah Copley.....

Date: 17 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London)

Purpose:

The joint committee of England and Wales (outside of London) for the civil enforcement of parking and traffic regulations outside London. It deals with the enforcement of parking tickets as well as parking and bus lane regulations for councils that are in the Civil Enforcement Scheme.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Graham McAndrew

Update:

At the Executive Sub Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2024, support was given by members to a report proposing an evolution of the existing annual reports awards programme, the Promoting Awareness of Civil Enforcement through Reporting (PACER) Awards.

Tue 11th July 23 – not attended, previous engagement.
17 Oct 23 London sub attended.
23 Jan 24 Birmingham attended.

Update provided by: Councillor Graham McAndrew.....

Date: 22 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Scott Grotto

Purpose:

A charity running Scotts Grotto

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Graeme Hill

Update:

Scotts Grotto is well run with a large pool of volunteers working rotas during its opening session.

I have attended the AGM and a couple of get togethers- info sessions at the Grotto. In addition, I took a party of work colleagues (~20) on a visit to the site to help promote it within GSK.

It runs special Easter opening events which are very well attended and generate income. It is currently considering if other events can be accommodated at the site. From my impression it is in good health with passionate supporters.

Update provided by: Councillor Graeme Hill.....

Date: 25 April

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Sovereign Network Group (SNG) - Formally Network Housing Area Panel

Purpose:

This company is the main social and affordable housing provider in Hertford and the surrounding areas.

EHDC work closely with them in their housing options department, operating the points and bidding systems for affordable and social rented homes.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Carolyn Redfern
Councillor Nahum Clements

Update:

SNG is a newly formed body which has merged the two housing companies of Sovereign Network Homes on 1st October 2023 and are now bringing their two operations together to improve both.

The Sovereign Network Group is registered in Basingstoke, Hampshire but has regional offices in many areas. Hertford has an office in Ware Road. We attend 4 meetings a year on the Residents Panel but have recently been involved in other subsidiary meetings about the SNG merger and the repairs problems within the housing association.

I have met with the manager of the Repairs team in Hertford and have visited the office where the repairs contractor shares an office with the phone team who receive calls from their customers. Cllr. Clements has been enrolled as a member of the panel since October 2023 attends meetings regularly.

SNG are trying hard to merge and improve their services and after a decline in efficiency over the last 18 months are now looking closely at their repair services to improve and provide a much more reliable and efficient service.

They continue to expand the range of affordable housing at the same time (for Network Homes) as dealing with making their 'high rise' homes safe after the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Update provided by: Councillor Carolyn Redfern.....

Date: 26 October
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Stansted Airport Community Trust

Purpose:

To provide money for good causes local to the airport.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Chris Wilson

Update:

I have not been invited to any meetings. I have emailed them to ensure they have my details.

Update provided by: Councillor Chris Wilson.....

Date: 2 May

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC)

Purpose:

The Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC) provides a forum that allows communication and consultation between Stansted Airport and those most affected by its operations.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Calvin Horner

Update:

(Please give a brief summary of the main issues considered by the OB during the previous year, including the number of meetings/events held and the number attended by you)

The main issues discussed include: flight numbers; night flights, dispensations and noise; alterations and extension of the Airport Terminal building; Future Security Programme and the upgrading of scanners; Stansted Airport community support initiatives; public transport to the Airport and modal share; special assistance for the vulnerable and those with disabilities; and the Airport Chaplaincy.

Since joining the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee in October 2023 at the AGM there have been 2 further meetings of the Consultative Committee and 1 meeting of the User Experience Sub-Committee, all of which I have attended either virtually or in person. There has also been tours of the Airport Terminal for new members, including air-side operations, which I attended in April.

Update provided by: Councillor Calvin Horner.....

Date: 26 April
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Transport East

Purpose:

To provide strategy for the wider area (East Anglia)

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Chris Wilson

Update:

I have not received any invites to meetings, I have emailed them to ensure that they have my details.

Update provided by: Councillor Chris Wilson.....

Date: 2 May
2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Wodson Park Trust

Purpose:

Wodson Park Trust are a charity that provides Sports and Community services through their Sports Centre and grounds. The council appointees are appointed as trustees, board members and directors of Wodson Park Trust.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillors Steven Watson, Graeme Hill and Martin Butcher.

Update:

Attended one induction meeting, 2 board meetings (out of 3) and 1 (out of 2) online meeting.

Wodson Park has started a rebranding exercise. This year a new logo and brand strategy was selected.

Increases in staff costs and energy costs have presented a financial challenge that is being addressed.

A lightning strike last autumn caused significant damage to the phone cabling system. As a result, the implementation of a new digital system was brought forward.

Update provided by: Councillor Steven Watson.....

Date: 29 April

2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Ancient Charities of Hertford

Purpose:

The relief of poverty in Hertfordshire

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Rachel Carter

Update:

There have been 3 meetings of the charity in June, October and March. As I was not appointed until late on in the year, I have only attended the March meeting.

The meetings have been principally concerned with reviewing the finances of the charity and considering applications for grants for assistance made by various organisations on behalf of individuals.

Update provided by: Councillor Rachel Carter

Date: 25 April 2024



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Bishop’s Stortford Business Improvement District (BID)

Purpose:

Bishop’s Stortford Business Improvement District aims to raise the profile of the town centre as a great retail, tourist and business destination and improve the experience of the town centre for those who visit, live and work in the town.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Calvin Horner

Update:

(Please give a brief summary of the main issues considered by the OB during the previous year, including the number of meetings/events held and the number attended by you)

The BID board meetings have considered a wide range of issues, including the proposed worker’s Parking Scheme at Northgate End car park, grants to businesses to improve frontages, improvements to the street scene in central Bishop’s Stortford, pedestrianisation of North Street, BID events.

Since my appointment Bishop’s Stortford BID has held 11 monthly board meetings and has also held 3 drop-ins for local businesses. I have attended 12 meetings, missing one through illness and another which clashed with a full Council meeting.

Update provided by: Councillor Calvin Horner.....

Date: 26 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Bishop’s Stortford Chamber of Commerce

Purpose:

To provide a EHDC link to the local Bishop’s Stortford business community, through attending events, to capture any issues

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Martin Adams

Update:

The meetings are usually ‘breakfast’ events, and comprise of a single speaker talking of a specific topic (the event I previously attended was about website metrics for the businesses)

The intention is to attend a few breakfast events (not all breakfast events are feasible, as they typically start at 8am, and on days I may be busy elsewhere), including hopefully the AGM etc.

It is an opportunity for these local businesses to network; I try and involve myself in discussions and ask about local challenges etc. There is significant scepticism regarding local government generally, and a topic of conversation typifying this, was the belief the historic transaction around Charrington’s House was poorly executed and of very poor value for the local community (this is to put it mildly). Traffic issues also mentioned.

The next event I am attending is in May 24, at the Silver leys Polo club and the guest speaker is from Bishop’s Stortford BID

Update provided by: Councillor Martin Adams.....

Date: 24 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

CCTV Partnership

Purpose:

The partnership is a joint (East Herts, Hertsmere, North Herts, Stevenage) initiative aimed at reducing the fear of crime across the principal public, residential, retail, business and schools within the partnership. The central feature of this initiative is the 24-hour, manned CCTV control and monitoring room facility in Stevenage.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Alex Daar

Update:

I have attended one meeting of the CCTV Partnership which was held at the Borehamwood Council Offices on 26 September 2023. The Partnership includes officers and councillors from East Herts, Hertsmere, North Herts, and Stevenage. The hosting of the meeting rotates. The purpose of the meetings is to be inform councillors about the work that takes place in the monitoring and control room and give them the opportunity to ask questions about the operations of the company that runs the CCTV Partnerships. The monitoring of the CCTV cameras takes place at the control room based in Stevenage. The cameras are in place in towns within the districts who form the partnership. Local authority officers, on behalf of the partnership councils, jointly run the company.

At this meeting Councillor Chris Gray from Hertsmere Borough Council was elected as Chair. We discussed the CCTV Operational Report which included statistics of incidents recorded by the cameras and an Audit Report. During 2021/22 a review of operational performance of the CCTV company was undertaken. We also received a report from the CCTV Management Board which explained the work undertaken by the joint officer management members since the last meeting.

There was discussion about apportioning the costs of running the CCTV systems and the Town Councils' contributions.

For further information please see the papers available on this public link:

<https://hertsmere.moderngov.co.uk/mgA.aspx?M=11540&LLL=0>

Update provided by: Councillor Alex Daar.....

Date: 17 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Co-operation for Sustainable Development Board

Purpose:

The purpose of the Co-op Board is to support plan-making process across East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford. The Board reviews cross boundary issues (strategic planning matters) being progressed through emerging local plans. It is an advisory body, and any decisions resulting from its advice remained the responsibility of its constituent councils.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward

Update:

The Board is currently in abeyance pending the review of local plans.

There have been no meetings during the last year.

Update provided by: Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward.....

Date: 1 May 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

East of England LGA

Purpose:

To support member councils in the East of England to be the best that they can be for their residents, places and communities.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Ben Crystall and Councillor Mione Goldspink (deputy)

Update:

We have liaised with the EELGA during the year, met with the Chief Executive, and members of the EHC Exec team have attended a number of events including the East of England Net Zero Conference (Tim Hoskin) and the East of England Water Summit (Vicky Glover-Ward).

Update provided by: Councillor Ben Crystall.....

Date: 22 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Board

Purpose:

To provide strategic leadership and oversight on the HGGT project, to set objectives and ensure delivery, and to monitor progress.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Ben Crystall and Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward (deputy)

Update:

The main activity has been the agreement and setting up of a Joint Committee to replace the current 5 council model which will help in decision making, and accountability. The JC will begin as a shadow committee in 2024 before taking over from the current group of council members.

A number of key documents including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan have been reviewed and updated.

Update provided by: Councillor Ben Crystall.....

Date: 22 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Health Scrutiny Committee

Purpose:

To scrutinise the work of bodies providing healthcare services to the people of Hertfordshire and suggest improvements where problems are identified.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Miriam Swainston

Update:

There have been 4 meetings held since I was asked to represent East Herts on this committee. I have attended all 4.

Subjects scrutinised this year include:

Annual Patient Experience Scrutiny, where evidence was received from Herts and West Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB) East and North Herts Hospital Trust, West Herts Teaching Hospital Trust; Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Strategy update; Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust Five Year Strategy; Hertfordshire Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Health Care Partnership; Herts and West Essex ICS Maternity Units and Neonatal Units update; Drug and alcohol grants; West Herts Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust development update; Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Strategic review update. Many questions from members are answered during the scrutiny meetings but if they cannot be we have the answers emailed to us. We also receive quite frequent updates on other relevant matters.

Meetings are broadcast and available online on the Hertfordshire County Council website as are all agendas and minutes.

The committee works collaboratively, with all aiming to improve the healthcare experience for residents of Hertfordshire.

Update provided by: Councillor Miriam Swainston.....

Date: 30 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertford Museum Trust

Purpose:

Hertford Museum aims to collect, preserve and interpret evidence of the history of the county town and surrounding parishes in the district of East Hertfordshire for the interest, enjoyment and understanding of the local community and other visitors.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Maura Connolly

Update:

As a representative of East Hertfordshire District Council, I had to become a trustee of The Hertford Museum. I have attended 8 formal trustee meetings.

These were the regular quarterly meetings as well as additional meetings following the engagement of a consultant to help the museum design and implement a transformation to increase visitors (which had not fully recovered since COVID) and improve the museum finances. I volunteer one Sunday a month to enable the museum to open. I have completed 7 x2 hour shifts. . I have also attended 4 informal meetings, including representing the trustees at receptions in the museum, e.g. a Town Twinning event. I enjoy being the EHC rep at the museum. I have learnt a lot about museums and see the museum in action at my volunteer sessions. It is valued by residents, visitors to Hertford and schools and is a huge asset to Hertford.

Update provided by: Councillor Maura Connolly.....

Date: 17 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust

Purpose:

Preservation and regeneration of historic buildings

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Steven Watson

Update:

2 meetings (out of 3) attended.

The trust is looking for a new secretary and trustee.

There remain substantial costs for maintaining and running their various properties, including Cromer Windmill and the Much Hadham Forge Museum.

BEAMS, the HBPT's trading company is bringing in a profit however, overall, funds are diminishing.

Update provided by: Councillor Steven Watson.....

Date: 29 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP)

Purpose:

The Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) consists of all 10 districts and the county council, plus the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). HCCSP is a strategic group which acts as the lead partnership organisation for partners to collaborate and identify joint work programmes on environmental, climate change and wider sustainability issues.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Tim Hoskin

Update:

Meetings are held 6 weekly which I have attended as the East Herts representative. There have been 8 meetings held in the last year and I have attended 6 of these meetings. I have also represented East Herts at the annual HCCSP review conducted with the Chair and lead CEO of Stevenage.

HCCSP continues to work on its six themes:

- Water
- Biodiversity
- Decarbonisation
- Transport
- Behaviour change

Joint work programmes have included:

Solar Together – 2022/23 facilitated private resident investment of over £12m in generating and storage potential of 4MW and 4.9MEW respectively

Retrofit – a public engagement drew 1,200 resident responses to a Home Retrofit survey and reconfirmed the public appetite for retrofit. Work is now progressing on developing a Retrofit Strategy.

A Sustainable Procurement Study has been initiated and East Herts is one of 3 local authorities taking part.

Update provided by: Councillor Tim Hoskin.....

Date: 25 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP)

Purpose:

The Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership, or “HIPP,” comprises the planning / transport portfolio holders and heads of planning from the eleven councils in Hertfordshire as well as representation from Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and others. The partnership is supported by Hertfordshire Planning Group, comprising heads of planning and invited guests, as well as sub-groups which bring together planning policy managers and development management managers.

HIPP’s overarching purpose is “to provide a forum to discuss and develop a shared view and to propose joint work programmes on planning and infrastructure issues of common concern, working co-operatively within Hertfordshire and across county borders.”

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward, Executive Member for Planning and Growth.

Update:

Three meetings have been held over the last year (20/9/23, 11/21/23, 18/04/24). Meetings have focussed on Local Plan updates, development management issues, planning resilience (recruitment and retention in the planning sector) government consultations on planning and other matters such as the

introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Update provided by: Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward.....

Date: 1 May 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership

Purpose:

To develop a shared vision for sport, physical activity, recreation and culture in the county.

1. Physical Activity *(led by the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership)*
2. Arts and Culture *(led by the Hertfordshire Music Education Hub)*
3. Lifestyle Theme *(led by Hertfordshire County Council Public Health)*
4. Volunteering and Third Sector *(led by Third Sector Partners)*

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Miriam Swainston – Bishop’s Stortford North

Update:

(Please give a brief summary of the main issues considered by the OB during the previous year, including the number of meetings/events held and the number attended by you)

The only partner from this body that has contacted me during the council year is the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership.

They have kept in regular contact about the Live Longer Better in Hertfordshire project. There have been three specific meetings

during the year. The first induction meeting on 26th June I was unable to attend but they sent me all the information. The second meeting was a conference at the University of Hertfordshire on 7th September which was a celebration of their work on Live Longer Better. It was very encouraging to hear about the good work they are doing and how well East Herts is performing on measures of relative health compared to other regions. People had the opportunity to try activities and also to sign up to become champions to encourage participation by others. I will be attending the online conference on Friday 26th April, 'Parish, Town and Community Councils' Conference 2024 - Affecting change at a local level, exploring the importance of Councils in supporting an ageing population', to which councillors have been invited. I consider their work very worthwhile.

Update provided by: Councillor Miriam Swainston.....

Date: 24 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Hertfordshire Waste Partnership

Purpose:

WasteAware is the partnership of Hertfordshire's county, district and borough councils, working together to reduce, reuse and recycle Hertfordshire's waste. It promotes waste and recycling education and campaigns, providing useful tips to help be WasteAware.

East Herts Council Representative(s): Councillor Tim Hoskin

Elected as Vice Chair 31 July 2023

Update:

These meetings are held quarterly, and I have attended all meetings.

Within the last 12 months several significant consultations have been run by Defra including:

- Simpler Recycling (November 23)
 - Mandatory collection of food waste
 - Nationally agreed list of recycled categories/definitions
 - Frequency of residual waste collection (East Herts plan on a 3-weekly cycle)
- WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) March 24

- Response to proposed reforms to the producer responsibility system for waste electrical and electronic equipment

The implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (producers' payment for collection and disposal of packaging) has been postponed by 12 months until October 2025.

The partnership continues to work effectively, 2022/23 has seen the biggest reduction in total household waste since the Partnership's first annual report back in 2010/11.

Update provided by: Councillor Tim Hoskin.....

Date: 29 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Historic England - Heritage Champion.

Purpose:

Historic England are the public body that helps people care for, enjoy, and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. A Heritage Champion is a councillor who has been nominated by their authority to promote all aspects of the historic environment in their area. The network of Heritage Champions across the country supports the protection of the historic environment at a local level.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward

Update:

The Heritage Champion:

- Liaises with Officers to make sure that local plans and strategies capture the contribution that the local historic environment can make to the success of an area.
- Promotes heritage within East Herts, generating enthusiasm for and awareness of the importance of the local historic environment.
- Helps ensure that commitment to the proper care of the historic environment is embedded in all relevant activities and plans of the East Herts.
- Supports the work of the Conservation service within the Planning Department, including reactive work such as

planning casework, and proactive work, such as drafting local lists and other project work.

Update provided by: Councillor Vicky Glover Ward.....

Date: 1 May 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA)

Purpose:

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is responsible for the 26 mile long, 10,000 acre park with its huge variety of award winning green spaces, world class sports venues and ecologically vital wildlife havens.

The park was created by a unique Act of Parliament as a “green lung” for London, Essex and Hertfordshire. It is a community focused and commercially driven organisation which works with partners to produce a unique combination of activities, sights and experiences.

The park owns many of the previous Olympic venues such as the White Water Park and Velodrome as well as various parklands throughout the area.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillors Steven Watson and John Wyllie

Update:

4 meetings (out of 4) meetings attended plus two members’ tours. Members voted to increase the levy by 3% this year. The Ice Centre has opened, and, in terms of footfall, it seems to be a great success. LVRPA are continuing to make improvements to the biodiversity of the park with active schemes to restore and improve wetland habitats.

Update provided by: Councillors Steven Watson and John Wyllie.....

Date: 29 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Local Government Association General Assembly

Purpose:

The national voice for local government, supporting councils to help their communities, deliver services, and promote and improve their areas.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Ben Crystall
Councillor Mione Goldspink (deputy)

Update:

We have made use of LGA support this year to help the Exec team in its new role, and we have supported the LGA in a number of campaigns and requests. Ben attended the LGA conference in 2023 and the DCN conference in 2024, and attended the regular meetings of the Independent LGA group.

Update provided by: Councillor Ben Crystall.....

Date: 22 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Local Government Association Insurance Mutual

Purpose:

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Tom Deffley

Update:

I have not attended any meetings or had any conversations about this.

Update provided by: Councillor Tom Deffley.....

Date: 25 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

London Stansted Cambridge Corridor Consortium

Purpose:

Transforming the economy of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Sarah Copley

Update:

I have not been contacted to attend any meetings, and there has been no activity as far as I am aware.

Update provided by: Councillor Sarah Copley.....

Date: 17 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London)

Purpose:

The joint committee of England and Wales (outside of London) for the civil enforcement of parking and traffic regulations outside London. It deals with the enforcement of parking tickets as well as parking and bus lane regulations for councils that are in the Civil Enforcement Scheme.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Graham McAndrew

Update:

At the Executive Sub Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2024, support was given by members to a report proposing an evolution of the existing annual reports awards programme, the Promoting Awareness of Civil Enforcement through Reporting (PACER) Awards.

Tue 11th July 23 – not attended, previous engagement.
17 Oct 23 London sub attended.
23 Jan 24 Birmingham attended.

Update provided by: Councillor Graham McAndrew.....

Date: 22 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY - ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Scott Grotto

Purpose:

A charity running Scotts Grotto

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Graeme Hill

Update:

Scotts Grotto is well run with a large pool of volunteers working rotas during its opening session.

I have attended the AGM and a couple of get togethers- info sessions at the Grotto. In addition, I took a party of work colleagues (~20) on a visit to the site to help promote it within GSK.

It runs special Easter opening events which are very well attended and generate income. It is currently considering if other events can be accommodated at the site. From my impression it is in good health with passionate supporters.

Update provided by: Councillor Graeme Hill.....

Date: 25 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY - ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Sovereign Network Group (SNG) - Formally Network Housing Area Panel

Purpose:

This company is the main social and affordable housing provider in Hertford and the surrounding areas.

EHDC work closely with them in their housing options department, operating the points and bidding systems for affordable and social rented homes.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Carolyn Redfern
Councillor Nahum Clements

Update:

SNG is a newly formed body which has merged the two housing companies of Sovereign Network Homes on 1st October 2023 and are now bringing their two operations together to improve both.

The Sovereign Network Group is registered in Basingstoke, Hampshire but has regional offices in many areas. Hertford has an office in Ware Road. We attend 4 meetings a year on the Residents Panel but have recently been involved in other subsidiary meetings about the SNG merger and the repairs problems within the housing association.

I have met with the manager of the Repairs team in Hertford and have visited the office where the repairs contractor shares an office with the phone team who receive calls from their customers. Cllr. Clements has been enrolled as a member of the panel since October 2023 attends meetings regularly.

SNG are trying hard to merge and improve their services and after a decline in efficiency over the last 18 months are now looking closely at their repair services to improve and provide a much more reliable and efficient service.

They continue to expand the range of affordable housing at the same time (for Network Homes) as dealing with making their 'high rise' homes safe after the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Update provided by: Councillor Carolyn Redfern.....

Date: 26 October 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Stansted Airport Community Trust

Purpose:

To provide money for good causes local to the airport.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Chris Wilson

Update:

I have not been invited to any meetings. I have emailed them to ensure they have my details.

Update provided by: Councillor Chris Wilson.....

Date: 2 May 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC)

Purpose:

The Stansted Airport Consultative Committee (STACC) provides a forum that allows communication and consultation between Stansted Airport and those most affected by its operations.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Calvin Horner

Update:

(Please give a brief summary of the main issues considered by the OB during the previous year, including the number of meetings/events held and the number attended by you)

The main issues discussed include: flight numbers; night flights, dispensations and noise; alterations and extension of the Airport Terminal building; Future Security Programme and the upgrading of scanners; Stansted Airport community support initiatives; public transport to the Airport and modal share; special assistance for the vulnerable and those with disabilities; and the Airport Chaplaincy.

Since joining the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee in October 2023 at the AGM there have been 2 further meetings of the Consultative Committee and 1 meeting of the User Experience Sub-Committee, all of which I have attended either virtually or in person. There has also been tours of the Airport Terminal for new members, including air-side operations, which I attended in April.

Update provided by: Councillor Calvin Horner.....

Date: 26 April 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Transport East

Purpose:

To provide strategy for the wider area (East Anglia)

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillor Chris Wilson

Update:

I have not received any invites to meetings, I have emailed them to ensure that they have my details.

Update provided by: Councillor Chris Wilson.....

Date: 2 May 2024.....



OUTSIDE BODY – ANNUAL UPDATE

Outside Body:

Wodson Park Trust

Purpose:

Wodson Park Trust are a charity that provides Sports and Community services through their Sports Centre and grounds. The council appointees are appointed as trustees, board members and directors of Wodson Park Trust.

East Herts Council Representative(s):

Councillors Steven Watson, Graeme Hill and Martin Butcher.

Update:

Attended one induction meeting, 2 board meetings (out of 3) and 1 (out of 2) online meeting.

Wodson Park has started a rebranding exercise. This year a new logo and brand strategy was selected.

Increases in staff costs and energy costs have presented a financial challenge that is being addressed.

A lightning strike last autumn caused significant damage to the phone cabling system. As a result, the implementation of a new digital system was brought forward.

Update provided by: Councillor Steven Watson.....

Date: 29 April 2024.....

Motion on Night Flights from Stansted Airport

This Council notes that Stansted, Heathrow and Gatwick Airports are all Designated Airports. This means that it is the Government which sets the limits on the number of night flights which are permitted. At other Airports the government expects the local Planning Authorities to set the appropriate night-time flight numbers and noise controls.

The Council further notes that the Department for Transport (DfT) is currently running a public Consultation on the possibility of removing Government controls at Stansted Airport. This would mean that night-time flights and noise controls would be solely set and monitored by Uttlesford District Council.

This Council believes that night-time noise from aircraft has an adverse effect on the physical and mental health of people who experience it. Many residents in various parts of East Herts District are affected by this night-time noise, and as a result this Council is vehemently opposed to any possible future increase in the number of night-time flights from Stansted Airport.

East Herts District Council therefore resolves to take part in the Consultation being conducted by the Department for Transport concerning night-time flights from Stansted Airport. It will express support for Option 3, under which the Government's night-time controls would remain in place.

Proposed by Cllr Mione Goldspink.

Seconded by Cllr Chris Wilson.