

EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 24 MARCH 2026



DECISION SHEETS

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

Date of publication: 25 March 2026

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

<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Reasons for the Decision</u>	<u>Details of alternative options considered and rejected at a meeting</u>	<u>Any declarations of conflict of interest and/or dispensations granted</u>
5	Extension of the Grounds Maintenance contract and the use of glyphosate in the Grounds Maintenance contract	a) Approved an extension of the current grounds maintenance contract with Glendale for a further five years, including an appropriate break clause to align with Local Government Reorganisation.	The grounds maintenance contract is due to expire on 31 December 2027. Following a review of service performance, procurement considerations and the wider context of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), officers consider that extending the existing contract	Grounds Maintenance Contract Extension Full re-procurement is not appropriate at this time, as it would introduce additional cost, risk and uncertainty at a point	

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		<p>b) Agreed the withdrawal of glyphosate use across East Herts Council owned parks and open spaces and support the investigation and implementation of alternative weed control methods.</p>	<p>represents the most appropriate course of action.</p>	<p>when the Council requires flexibility. A new procurement exercise would carry risk of service disruption, including potential Transfer of Undertakings (protection of employment) (TUPE) implications and transition-related issues at the commencement of a new contract.</p> <p>From a value-for-money perspective, the current contract provides cost predictability and acceptable performance standards. A full re-procurement would result in significant additional expenditure, including the likely appointment of external</p>	

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				<p>consultants (estimated at approximately £70,000), together with substantial officer time, without clear evidence that improved value would be achieved at this stage. Strategically, although re-procurement can avoid commitment to a longer-term delivery model, deferring this decision preserves necessary flexibility while the wider LGR landscape remains uncertain.</p> <p>Glyphosate in the Grounds Maintenance Contract</p> <p>In considering glyphosate specifically, officers reviewed three potential options. The</p>	

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				<p>first option is to discontinue glyphosate entirely through a full tender and investigate alternative technologies.</p> <p>The second option is to return responsibility for footpath maintenance to Hertfordshire County Council, thereby removing glyphosate from the contract. However, this is not preferable, and the Council will continue to fulfil all statutory obligations and agreed responsibilities. Officers will prioritise a collaborative approach, aligning weed management with other services, such as street cleansing, to optimise efficiency and delivery.</p>	

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				<p>It is therefore proposed that the third and balanced option is that glyphosate use will continue only where the Council is operating under the Hertfordshire County Council Highways Agency Agreement and where no viable alternatives currently exist. Though, as part of the extension and renegotiation of the grounds maintenance contract, glyphosate use will be discontinued across East Herts Council owned parks and open spaces, with alternative methods implemented instead. This approach reflects environmental responsibility while</p>	

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				ensuring effective and practical service delivery.	
7	Financial Management 2025/26 - Quarter 3 Forecast to year end	<p>a) Considered and noted the projected £505k overspend on the 2025/26 revenue budget.</p> <p>b) Agreed the inclusion of an additional £400k UK Shared prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant for capital projects, and its addition to the capital programme.</p> <p>c) Considered and noted the forecast £2.505 million underspend on the 2025/26 capital programme and the currently anticipated £1.14 million carry-forward, which remains subject to change at year-end.</p>	Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to monitor its budget and to review the adequacy of its reserves and balances throughout the year. East Herts Council's financial management framework supports this by requiring quarterly reports to the Audit and Governance Committee and the Executive, including forecasts to year-end.		
8	Strategic Risk register	a) The 2025/26 quarter	To enable Executive to		

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	Quarter 3 Monitoring	<p>three corporate risk register and actions being taken to control and mitigate risk was considered and noted.</p> <p>b) That the actions being taken following the recent internal audit report on the Council's risk management arrangements were noted.</p>	consider the Strategic Risk Register at the end of Quarter 3.		
9	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy Review	<p>A. Executive considered the content of the report and provided observations to the Director for Legal, Policy and Governance.</p> <p>B. That the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy at Appendix B be adopted.</p>	<p>At paragraph 5.21.1(l) of the Constitution, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for considering reports relating to the authority's use of the RIPA.</p> <p>Whilst the council does not actively make use of its RIPA powers, it is important that RIPA, the policy and its usage, or otherwise, are kept at the forefront of Members' minds.</p>	To not seek approval of the policy from Members, this is NOT RECOMMENDED as it would be contrary to the requirements of the Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Code of Conduct.	

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			The Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Code of Practice requires approval of the council's policy from elected members.		