

EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 14 JULY 2026



DECISION SHEET

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: 15 July 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	Establishing an Arts Charity	That Executive (A) approved in principle the establishment of an arts-focused charity, that would raise and distribute funds for local arts and cultural activities, with	The establishment of an arts-focused charity that would enable, fund and support delivery of arts and cultural activities primarily within the boundaries of the current district of East	Do not give in principle support to pursue work with the aim of establishing an arts-focused charity. NOT RECOMMENDED as the council does	

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		a more detailed proposal to be brought back to the Executive for decision.	Hertfordshire, and potentially beyond this area following Local Government Reorganisation. Officers from BEAM and the Communities directorate have identified that support for arts and cultural activities through a charitable entity could have significant benefits compared to the Council continuing to try to do this.	not have resources to continue and build on the UKSPF-funded Arts in East Herts programme in which so many local people have participated. Furthermore, the full potential of BEAM's donation-funded activity could be compromised by fettering the ability to access funding for which local authorities are not eligible, such as gift aid and some external grants. In combination, this would vastly reduce	

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				previous years' efforts widen access to arts and culture in the district. Support an alternative charity model to the emerging approach outlined in this report. NOT RECOMMENDED as the emerging proposals discussed in this report have been informed by expert independent legal advice.	
8	Provisional Outturn 2025/26 and Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26	That Executive: (A) Note the general fund revenue outturn of £678K overspend to	Revenue An overspend of £678K is reported against the	The Executive can choose not to carry forward capital budgets although	

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		be funded from the general reserve; and (B) Note the capital outturn position and approve carry forward budgets of £1.142m. (C) Receive the 2025/26 draft statement of accounts prior to them being audited.	2025/26 revenue budget. In line with the Council's financial procedure rules the Director for Finance, Risk & Performance has approved that the overspend be funded from the general reserve. Capital The progress of the capital programme has been reported to Audit and Governance Committee throughout the year as part of the budget monitoring process. Capital expenditure in 2025/26 was £8.628M, against a budget of £11.925M.	this would cause budget shortfalls and overspends on projects. This is not recommended.	

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9	Strategic Risk Register Quarter 4 2025/26	(A) That the 2025/26 quarter four corporate risk register and actions being taken to control and mitigate risk be considered and noted.		To enable Executive to consider the Strategic Risk Register at the end of Quarter 4.	
10	Local Plan: Green Belt Assessment	(A) To accept the changes to the published appendix A and appendix B, as laid out in the supplementary table document. (B) That the Green Belt Assessment, attached as the main report at Appendix A, as amended by the supplementary table document, and a	The report and amendments in the supplementary table, summarised the key findings of the Green Belt assessment and sought agreement to use the document as part of the new Local Plan evidence base, and to inform Development Management decisions. The primary purpose of the assessment was to	The Council could choose not to agree to endorse the Green Belt Assessment as part of the new Local Plan evidence base. This would mean that the Local Plan would not be able to rely on this evidence to inform emerging policy and strategy, and it could compromise the	

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		series of individual parcel maps and reports at Appendix B (parts 1 to 19), as amended by the supplementary table document, be agreed as part of the evidence base to inform the new East Herts Local Plan and as a material consideration for Development Management purposes in the determination of planning applications, and (C) That any minor amendments to the content of the Green Belt Assessment be	identify and define the extent and location of grey belt land within the district, and to evaluate its contribution to the strategic Green Belt provision across East Herts. In doing this, it supports plan-making work in understanding the role and function of the Green Belt as it exists in East Herts District and as it relates to neighbouring authorities. It is a key piece of work in terms of developing a strategy to accommodate the district's future needs, alongside other evidence relating to availability of land and the village	progression of the plan. It would also likely cause difficulties during the plan-making process, particularly when the Council defends its strategy at the Examination stage. It would also be unavailable to the development management process in providing advice as to the status of land subject to speculative approaches.	

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		delegated to the Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.	hierarchy.		
11	Local Plan: Retail and Town Centres Study	(A) That the Retail and Town Centres Study and appendices (attached at Appendices A and B be agreed as part of the evidence base to inform the new East Herts Local Plan and as a material consideration for Development Management purposes in the determination of planning applications. (B) That any minor	The Retail and Town Centre Study provided an assessment of each of the five town centres and retail more generally in the district. It set out future retail trends in the district and provided recommendations in relation to potential future retail and town centre policies for the emerging Local Plan. The purpose of the Study was to provide an up-to-date picture of the health	The Council could choose not to agree to endorse the Retail and Town Centre Study as part of the new Local Plan evidence base. This would mean that the Local Plan would not be able to rely on this evidence to inform emerging policy and strategy, and it could compromise the progression of the plan. It would also	

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		amendments to the content of the Retail and Town Centres Study be delegated to the Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.	and functions of each of the five town centres in the district. Additionally, retail provision more widely across the district has been explored within the Study in assessing the future needs for retail and commercial leisure needs. This work would help to inform the contents of the emerging East Herts Local Plan in relation to town centres and retail, as well as a tool for the Council and stakeholders to understand how improvements to town centres can be made.	likely cause difficulties during the plan-making process, particularly when the Council defends its strategy at the Examination stage.	
12	Local Plan: Hertford and Ware Employment Study;	(A) That the Hertford and Ware Employment Study, attached as	The Hertford and Ware Employment Study provided an updated	The Council could choose not to agree to endorse the	

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		Appendix A, be agreed as part of the evidence base to inform the new East Herts Local Plan and as a material consideration for Development Management purposes in the determination of planning applications; and (B) That any minor amendments to the content of the Hertford and Ware Employment Study be delegated to the Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.	assessment of the employment market in the towns and makes recommendations about the type of jobs and employment land likely to be required, which will help shape the economic strategy in the new Local Plan. The relationship between jobs and housing is a key consideration in the delivery of sustainable development. Over the last ten years there has been housing growth in Hertford and Ware, alongside new employment development at Caxton Hill. A number	Hertford and Ware Employment Study as part of the new Local Plan evidence base. This would mean that the Local Plan would not be able to rely on this evidence to inform emerging policy and strategy, and it could compromise the progression of the plan. It would also likely cause difficulties during the plan-making process, particularly when the Council defends its strategy at the Examination stage.	

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			of District Plan allocated sites were still to come forward, most notably Land North and East of Ware, which will further change the housing, services and employment opportunities in the town.		
13	Local Plan: Sawbridgeworth Employment Study.	(A) That the Sawbridgeworth Employment Study, attached as Appendix A, be agreed as part of the evidence base to inform the new East Herts Local Plan and as a material consideration for Development Management purposes in the determination of planning applications;	The Sawbridgeworth Employment Study provided an updated assessment of the employment market in the town and makes recommendations about the type of jobs and employment land likely to be required, which will help shape the economic strategy in the new Local Plan.	The Council could choose not to agree to endorse the Sawbridgeworth Employment Study as part of the new Local Plan evidence base. This would mean that the Local Plan would not be able to rely on this evidence to inform emerging policy and strategy, and it could	

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		and (B) That any minor amendments to the content of the Sawbridgeworth Employment Study be delegated to the Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.	The relationship between jobs and housing is a key consideration in the delivery of sustainable development. Compared to other towns in the district, housing growth in Sawbridgeworth has been relatively modest, with two District Plan sites (SAWB2 and SAWB3) complete and the last allocated site (SAWB4) under construction. There are significant changes coming forward in the area with development at Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. Given the proximity to Sawbridgeworth, this is likely to have a local	compromise the progression of the plan. It would also likely cause difficulties during the plan-making process, particularly when the Council defends its strategy at the Examination stage.	

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			impact.		
14	Local Plan: Indoor Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy	(A) That the Indoor Sport Assessment and Strategy, attached as Appendix A, B C and D be agreed as part of the evidence base to inform the new East Herts Local Plan and as a material consideration for Development Management purposes in the determination of planning applications; and (B) That future updates of the Indoor Sport Action Plan be delegated to the	The Indoor Sport Assessment and Strategy replaces the previous playing pitch strategy, published in 2017. Since the previous assessment in 2017, housing growth across East Herts, together with changes to leisure facilities, has reshaped both the demand for and supply of provision. Notably, there have been key changes to public leisure centre provision and new school sports hall provision. The Indoor Sport Assessment and Strategy will ensure there	The endorsement of the Indoor Sport Assessment and Strategy ensures there is an up-to-date evidence base for the protection, enhancement and provision of sports facilities, which play a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of East Herts residents. The Council could choose not to agree to the Indoor Sport Assessment and Strategy, but this	

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		Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth; and (C) That any minor amendments to the content of the Indoor Sport Needs Assessment and Strategy be delegated to the Director for Place, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Growth.	is an up-to-date understanding of current and future indoor built sport facility needs to inform the development of the new Local Plan.	would be contrary to Sport England advice and would mean reliance on the previous assessment, which is now nine years old and out of date. This is contrary to Government policy to have an up-to-date evidence base and would undermine the Council's position in terms of successfully bringing forward the new Local Plan. It would also mean that the evidence would have less weight in the	

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				determination of planning applications.	