

SUMMONS

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, DACORUM CIVIC CENTRE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Dacorum Borough Council in the County of Hertfordshire to be held in the Council Chamber, Dacorum Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead on Wednesday, 24 September 2014 to commence after the ceremony to admit new Freeman of the Borough and Freedom of Entry into the Borough, to transact the business set out below.

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SALLY MARSHALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Contact: **Jim Doyle** ext 2222
Pauline Bowles ext 2221

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council on 9 July 2014 (Appendix A Pages 4-17)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To consider questions (if any) by members of the public of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Assistant Director (Chief Executive's Unit).

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements and business brought forward by the Mayor, Leader, and Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

4.1 By the Mayor:

4.2 By the Chief Executive:

4.3 By the Group Leaders: Any apologies for absence

4.4 Council Leader and Members of the Cabinet:

Councillor Williams	Leader, Community Leadership, Planning & Regeneration
Councillor Tiley	Finance & Resources
Councillor Harden	Residents & Regulatory Services
Councillor Mrs Laws	Environmental Services & Sustainability
Councillor Mrs Griffiths	Housing

5. QUESTIONS

To consider questions (if any) by members of the Council of which the appropriate notice has been given to the Assistant Director Chief Executives Unit.

6. BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

To consider any business referred from the previous meeting.

7. CABINET REFERRALS

To consider the following referrals from Cabinet:

Minute No.	Date	Title	Yellow Pages
7.1 CA/094/14	22 July 2014	Jellico Water Gardens Restoration: Update on Parks for People Application and Delivery Project.	18
7.2 CA/111/14	16 September 2014	Treasury Management	To follow
7.3 CA/112/14	16 September 2014	Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2014/15	To follow
7.4 CA/113/14	16 September 2014	Garage Disposal Strategy	To follow
7.5 CA/114/14	16 September 2014	Medium Term Financial Strategy	To follow
7.6 CA/115/14	16 September 2014	The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014	To follow

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS

None

9. CHANGE IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To consider any proposals for changes in membership – Any changes notified beforehand to Member Support will be tabled at the meeting.

10. CHANGE IN COMMITTEE DATES

To consider any proposals for changes to committee dates.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

To consider passing a resolution in the following terms:

That, under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the item in Part 2 of the Agenda for this meeting, because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of other bodies including Dacorum Borough Council (Item 12), and relating to an individual and which is likely to reveal the identity of that individual (Item 13).

Local Government Finance Act 1972, Part VA, Schedule 12A. paragraph 1, 2 and 3.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

9 JULY 2014

Present -

MEMBERS:

Councillor Lawson (Mayor); Councillors, Adeleke, Adshead, Ayling, Mrs Bassadone, Bateman, Bhinder, Clark, Collins, Conway, Douris, Fantham, Flint, Mrs Green, Griffiths, Mrs Guest, Harden, Harris, Hearn, N Hollinghurst, R Hollinghurst, Killen, Laws, Link, Mahmood, Marshall, McKay, Peter, Mrs Rance, Ryan, G Sutton, R Sutton, Taylor, Tiley, Tindall, Townsend, Whitman, and W Wyatt-Lowe (38).

OFFICERS:

The Corporate Director (Finance & Governance), The Corporate Director (Housing & Regeneration), The Group Manager (Legal Governance), The Group Manager (Democratic Services), M Anderson, C Thorley.

The meeting began at 7.30pm.

8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2014 were agreed by the Members present and were then signed by the Mayor.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Adshead declared a Personal interest in item 8.1 of the agenda as he was a trustee for Sportspace.

Councillor Rance declared a Personal interest in item 8.1 of the agenda as she was a trustee for Sportspace.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. By the Mayor

The Mayor had no announcements.

2. By the Group Leaders and members:

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Anderson, B Chapman, G Chapman, Doole, Elliot, Macdonald, McLean, Organ, Reay, Williams, Wood and C Wyatt-Lowe. Councillor Wixted was absent.

3. Members of the Cabinet:

Councillor Williams, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership.

In his absence Councillor Griffiths made the following statement.

“Water Gardens

Members will no doubt have seen the front page of today’s Hemel Hempstead Gazette, but I am very pleased to confirm that Dacorum Borough Council was this Monday given the green light from the Heritage Lottery Fund and BIG Lottery for funding of the restoration of the iconic Water Gardens.

Following the submission of the final bid for funding this February, we have been awarded just over £2.4 million to deliver the scheme, with the Borough Council contributing in excess of £1 million.

The current plan is to commence work next spring, following the appointment of a contractor. The works are anticipated to run for 12 months leading to the restored gardens opening in 2016.

The plans involve a restoration of the Gardens back to their former glory, retaining Geoffrey Jellicoe’s design features such as the balconies, bridges and railings, and replanting the landscaped areas through a scheme inspired by Susan Jellicoe’s original plan. Key features of the restoration will include a widening of the terrace in front of the flower garden opposite Bank Court; a new play area and a new community building at the northern end of the Gardens. Full details of the plans can be found on the Council’s website.

The bidding process for funding is both rigorous and very competitive, and I would like to thank both Members and Officers for the very extensive amount of hard work and effort that went into our submission. In particular the Council’s very special thanks go to the volunteers that make up the Friends of the Jellicoe Water Gardens who have given freely of their own personal time to help develop and support the project. We look forward to an active and fruitful relationship with the Friends as the project moves forward.

Hemel Hempstead Town Centre

The Water Gardens are of course just one of the range of projects that the Council is bringing forward under the Hemel Evolution programme to regenerate Hemel Hempstead Town Centre.

Members are reminded that we are holding a special consultation day in the town centre this Saturday (12 July) between 11 am and 3 pm. There will be two staffed displays of regeneration proposals, outside the Roundhouse (Volunteer Centre) and at the Bridge Street end of the Water Gardens. There will be a series of health walks and guided heritage tours open to members of the public.

Old Town

Looking north in the town centre, I would like to remind Members that we are holding a special Street Festival in the Old Town next weekend on Saturday 19th July to officially launch the remodelled High Street.

As Members know, the main works ended some weeks ago but this week the contractors are just putting some of the finishing touches to the scheme, including the new wrought iron gates which have been installed at the Queensway end of the High Street.

On Saturday the 19 of July the gates will be closed to keep the High Street traffic free to allow the event to go ahead. This will run between 1 pm and 6 pm. The event provides an opportunity for local businesses to showcase their services. The Dacorum Folk Fest will run from the Old Town Hall with music workshops, Morris dancing and face painting. In the High Street there will be live music, food demonstrations and street theatre.

The event is of course open to all with free admission, and we can only hope the great British weather will be kind to us as we celebrate this first major project to be completed in our town centre regeneration programme.

Dacorum Look No Further

Finally, I would just like to draw to members' attention to our business showcase which is taking place at Shendish Manor this Friday 11 July.

The event will start at 1.30 pm and is the third of the highly successful business showcases we have already run through the Dacorum Look No Further initiative. A wide range of businesses will be exhibiting, but this year there will be a special focus on local food to celebrate Dacorum's great offer. I am pleased to report that all business stands are fully booked. The showcase is open to all with no need to pre-book. It will run to 4.30 in the afternoon.

Dacorum Local Planning Framework Core Strategy

Members will recall that Council resolved to adopt the Council's forward plan for building and development in the Borough to 2031 at its meeting last September, and that developers had launched a legal challenge to it in the High Court.

The claim made by Grand Union Investments, who propose to develop land for a major extension to the southern side of Berkhamsted, had claimed that our plan could not be regarded as 'sound' under planning law given that the Council had pledged to carry out an early review to re-examine, amongst other things, the level of housing development proposed.

Following a two-day hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice in London in March, the judge issued his verdict last month which completely rejected the developer's arguments.

This leaves the Council's Core Strategy fully intact and allows us to continue our plans for the ambitious yet sensitive development of the Borough: delivering new homes and jobs where needed and protecting our high quality environments including the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and sensitive locations such as Conservation Areas. Work has started on the partial review of the Core Strategy and we will be consulting with local residents, businesses and organisations on the key issues and options for future development next year."

Questions and Answers

Councillor Harris said that he had concerns regarding the Council's current digitisation of records following news that the central government Cabinet office was 'losing' certain documents that may have been potentially embarrassing. Councillor Harris asked the Portfolio Holder what assurances were given that Dacorum Borough Council would not destroy sensitive information.

The Portfolio Holder said that as this was not her portfolio she could only provide her personal assurance, but stated that during her tenure as Councillor she had never been aware of anything being 'brushed under the carpet' and so she thought the deliberate destruction of sensitive information was highly unlikely and that documents were only being destroyed once they had been digitised.

Councillor Griffiths, Portfolio Holder for Housing

"Tenants and Leaseholders Services

The Portfolio Holder stated that Dacorum Borough Council's Supported Housing Service was the first provider in England and Wales to be accredited with three stars, the highest award possible, for Service Excellence Standards from the Centre for Housing Support. Dacorum's Supported Housing is accommodation for people who are 60 and over, who can live on their own but who would like to have support close by.

The Portfolio Holder said that a rigorous independent assessment, where the Supported Housing Service was assessed against seven key areas, which included external verifiers visiting and speaking to tenants, was carried out in October last year and again in June this year.

Strategic Housing

The Portfolio Holder said that a number of Members had visited the new build council house sites at The Elms Hostel, The Nokes, Farm Place and London Road. There was also an optional visit to a local brick factory.

Property and Place

The Portfolio Holder said that the Total Asset Management contract with Osbornes had gone live on Tuesday 01 July. Early feedback indicated that the contract was going extremely well and that improvements in the service to tenants could be expected. The Tenants & Leaseholder Scrutiny Panel had received good feedback on Osbornes and The Housing Maintenance and Environment Committee were holding their next meeting at Osbornes premises.

The Portfolio Holder said that the following email had been received in relation to Osbornes property management.

Email from TLSP

To: Fiona Williamson

Subject: Positive feedback for Osbornes

Hi Fiona,

I hope you don't mind me emailing you directly but I thought you might like to receive some very positive feedback for Osbournes.

I have just for the first time called them to report a repair, on behalf of my neighbour who has a disability and cannot talk to a call centre.

The Call centre agent I spoke was absolutely brilliant! Very courteous, helpful, she listened carefully, and resolved my query very quickly

TLSP Member “

Questions and Answers

There were no questions.

Councillor Tiley, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources

The Portfolio Holder said that he had two items for Members information.

The Portfolio Holder said that firstly the audit committee at the June meeting received the final draft accounts for 2013/2014, as it was delegated to do. They have been approved and sent to the external auditors with the working papers as necessary. The Portfolio Holder said that the team had done a first class job and for that he thanked them.

The Portfolio Holder said that secondly with regard to Oatridge Gardens and the resident's liability for Council Tax the Cabinet had decided to lift liability for Council Tax until the residents return. Unfortunately an error had occurred on 1 July 2014 and the direct debits were collected. This has been corrected and all 18 residents affected had been spoken to. The Portfolio Holder apologised to both members and residents for this error.

Questions and Answers

Councillor Harris said that according to recent Cabinet meetings there appeared to be an additional £2.5 million for projects within Dacorum and he wanted to know where that money was coming from as he was frequently told there were no funds available. Councillor Tiley said that the Council had a fully funded capital programme for the next five years. He explained that the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) would be considered at a future Cabinet meeting. He noted that the council had always been affluent on capital rather than revenue.

Councillor Harris asked for further clarification on where the £2.5 million was coming from, Councillor Tiley said that the additional funding was secured from future borrowing.

Councillor Green commented that she thought that Dacorum Borough Council's decision to suspend the Council tax for Oatridge Garden residents was good and showed that the Council was compassionate to its residents.

Councillor Harden, Portfolio Holder for Residents and Regulatory Services

“We have been successful in Europe's first court action to prevent a food business operator from processing raw placenta for human consumption. District Judge Annabel Pilling from Watford Magistrates Court issued her judgment on Wednesday 14 May

2014 to grant the Council a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order on Independent Placenta Encapsulation Network (IPEN) to prevent risk to the public's health.

IPEN Ltd processes human placenta for consumption by mothers after birth for perceived health benefits. The Council applied to the court for the Order after it was found that the business was not following the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 and the smoothies and capsules IPEN Ltd produced were considered an imminent risk to health.

The European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) has classified human placenta as a novel food. This means that any business wishing to produce these foods in the EU must obtain the appropriate approval from the FSA or their equivalent in any of the 28 member states.

The Food Standards Agency is of the view that, unless a significant history of EU consumption before 15 May 1997 can be evidenced foods containing human placenta are novel and can only be marketed following the approval of a novel food application.

We have signed a new partnership agreement with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA) to manage direct debit street fundraising in Hemel Hempstead.

The agreement aims to ensure a balance between the need for charities to ask people for support and the right for local residents not to be put under unnecessary pressure to donate by specifying when, where and how fundraisers can operate in the area. Under the agreement, fundraisers will be able to visit the Marlowes shopping area on two days per week, and must act in accordance with the code of fundraising practice issued by the Institute for Fundraising. Charity fundraisers wishing to collect cash in the Town Centre are unaffected by the new agreement, but will still be licensed by us.

The PFRA is a regulatory body for charities and agencies practicing face to face fundraising, works in collaboration with the Fundraising Standards Board and the Institute of Fundraising to maintain professional fundraising standards in towns. Over 90 councils have signed up to the PFRA agreement since it was first launched in 2012 in response to local concerns.

We have been successful in our application to Sport England for the CSAF. The project will be launched in Sept and will involve a 3 year programme of activities to engage new people or lapsed members back into sport. Just under £400,000 will be available to support this project including a dedicated project co-ordinator and steering group.

TOB preparations on-going with launch next Friday (11th July) by the Mayor and Chief Executive at Shendish Hotel at the Dacorum Look No Further Business Showcase.

Adventure playgrounds are prepared for the start of the summer holidays with great programmes of art, craft and games and adventures to keep children aged 6 to 13 entertained. National play days are on 5th 6th 7th and 8th of August with a wide range of activities provided free of charge.

A CCTV operator was given a Community Safety award by the police for spotting a burglar and working with the police to catch them in the act - this award is usually given to Police Officers and it is an exception for someone outside the police force to receive this award! This reflects not only our high quality operators but also shows how effective our new system is."

Questions and Answers

Councillor Adshead said he had recently been given the opportunity to visit the new CCTV centre and that he had found it very impressive. The Portfolio Holder said that this was an amazing facility and he would be happy for any members to visit the CCTV centre to see the facilities and urged them to contact J Guiton (CCTV/Community Control Centre Team Leader) to arrange a visit.

Councillor Marshall noted that later in the Agenda, the Deputy Leader would move the adoption of the Commissioning & Procurement Strategy. Councillor Marshall referred to the final 2 pages of that Strategy relating to the goals for 2014/15 and measuring achievements and said there was an absence of figures. Councillor Marshall asked:

- (1) What is the current proportion of contractual spend with the Third Sector?
- (2) With regard to the Strategy, what is the percentage increase?
- (3) How will the portfolio holder satisfy himself that this percentage increase is on target to being reached

Councillor Harden said that according to our most recent spend analysis on the 2013/14 expenditure, the proportion of contractual spend that DBC has with the Third Sector is 3.08%

The majority of this spend is not contractual due to the spend being provided as a grant.

Third Sector spend includes direct spend with voluntary organisations, community groups, tenants & residents groups, housing associations, sports organisations & faith groups.

Whether this level of expenditure will increase with the Third Sector will depend heavily on whether the current funding for our 'strategic partners' and 'SportSpace' will remain constant over this period as this currently represents over 93% of the spend with the Third Sector.

He explained that the Group Manager will update the Portfolio Holder at the regular monthly PH Meetings.

Councillor Marshall queried this and said that the strategy clearly stated there would be an increase.

Councillor Harden explained that any decision to increase would be in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Councillor N Hollinghurst said that he had concerns in relation to the financial aid Dacorum Borough Council were providing to SportSpace as outlined in cabinet referral 8.1. Councillor N Hollinghurst said that three things appeared to have been overlooked. He asked what were the conflated costs associated with SportSpace, what was the financial viability of the organisation and what were the true costs associated with the Little Hay Golf Course specifically in relation to the waste works.

The Portfolio Holder said that issues in relation to SportSpace fell within both his remit as Portfolio Holder for Residents and Regulatory Services from the viewpoint of SportSpace's relationship with the community but also into that of the Portfolio Holder of Finance and Resources. The Portfolio Holder for Residents and Regulatory said that the Council would be paying close attention to what was done with the £100,000 and also SportSpace's plans to make themselves less reliant on the council.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources said that he wished members to look upon the recent funding in context and asked them to remember that initially SportSpace was a joint venture and the Council were subsidising them £800,000

whereas now they were only subsidising them £400,000 a year and an additional £100,000 this year.

The Portfolio Holder also added that Sportspace was a not-for-profit organisation but that they did have a responsibility to balance the books and on this occasion Dacorum Borough Council were helping them to achieve this. The Portfolio Holder also added that the works being performed on Little Hay Golf Course were not to do with the sporting facility aspects of the course but more with developing it as an entertainment venue with a view to generating income as a venue in the future.

Councillor Mrs Laws, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Sustainability

“We gave away 12 tonnes of compost in just one hour in May to keen gardeners from across the borough at our Compost Giveaway Event at Cupid Green Depot. The total number of bags up for grabs was 600 and it took only a phenomenal one hour for it to all go. We had a team from Community Payback who bagged the compost the day before the event and took the compost bags to cars. It was a smooth operation with little queuing time.

30 volunteers from the Tzu Chi, Buddhist group, who celebrated Environment Day by litter picking for four hours in Gadebridge Park. Also students from different Universities across the South East of England, collected 15 bags of litter and 15 bags of recyclable waste such as plastic bottles and cans.

We celebrated National Recycle Week in June by having a Love Food, Hate Waste stall in Sainsbury's Apsley. Shoppers were given top tips on how to waste less food and save £164 a year, simply by making shopping lists, meal planning, perfecting cooking portions, understanding purchase dates, and being creative with leftover food. We displayed information on the new waste collection changes, all the residents the team spoke to were positive and supportive of the changes.

We have launched a 'Design a billboard' competition where we are asking individuals and schools to be creative and design a recycling message for twelve of our new vehicles for the new Recycle for Dacorum service. information about the competition can be found on www.dacorum.gov.uk/recycle

The Clean Safe and Green Team are on the search to find this year's Community Champion, now in its sixth year. Our Community Champion Award recognises the spirit of individuals and community groups who work on a voluntary basis to make their community cleaner, safer and greener. Residents can nominate themselves, an individual or a group. Perhaps someone picks up litter in their local area, helps a neighbour to recycle, creates community green spaces by planting trees and flower beds, or has set up a neighbourhood watch scheme - anything to help make their community a better place, could earn a Community Champion Award, no matter how big or small. For more information www.dacorum.gov.uk/csgawards

The wild flowers on roundabouts and on the verge alongside the dual carriage towards the M1 have been receiving lots of positive feedback from the public, which is gratefully accepted.

Nine solar tubes have been installed at Grovehill Adventure Playground. Already we are seeing a decrease in the amount of electricity units used per week.

The quality of life has improved for the staff and users of the building as there is now no reliance on artificial lighting to lighten the building during the day. We are looking at solar powered electricity for the other Adventure Playgrounds following this successful installation.”

Questions and Answers

Councillor Rance said that at a recent Tring Town Council meeting questions had been asked in relation to the spring bulbs used in the public areas, the disposal of them and whether there was a possibility of donating them to local charities for them to sell for profit as an alternative.

The Portfolio Holder said that she was not sure as to what happened to the bulbs but that she would investigate and get back to members on this issue.

Councillor Harris said that he was aware of plans at County to decrease the number of household recycling plants within the borough and as a result did Dacorum have plans to provide alternatives.

The Portfolio Holder said that she was aware of a number of such facilities in the borough but currently Dacorum Borough Council had no plans to provide alternatives.

Councillor N Hollinghurst commended the recent installation of solar tube lighting at the adventure playgrounds. He added that at the kick about area near Brooke Street in Tring, there were issues of the lights going off and asked if it would be possible to prevent vandalism to the existing light system and perhaps devise a system whereby the lights could stay on longer.

The Portfolio Holder said she was unfamiliar with this area and the lighting issues but that she would investigate.

Councillor Flint asked if there were planned works in regards to recycling facilities for flats that still used rubbish chutes.

The Portfolio Holder said that there weren't currently, but that this could perhaps be looked at in plans for the next financial year.

Councillor R Hollinghurst said that there were issues regarding lighting by some of the car parks in Tring and that although she originally thought County were responsible for this they said that they weren't and so Councillor R Hollinghurst wanted to know if this was something Dacorum Borough Council was responsible for.

The Portfolio Holder said that she wasn't sure but asked Councillor R Hollinghurst to provide specific details, outside of the meeting and she would investigate the issue.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion from Councillor Williams, put forward by Councillor Griffiths, given in accordance with Standing Orders was proposed:

“That before the Council meeting on 24 September 2014 a Special Meeting of the Council be convened to pass the following resolutions:

“That the Council in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by statute admit to being an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Dacorum (the most honourable distinction which it is their privilege to bestow):

- Heather Allen
- David Furnell
- Daniel Zammit

In appreciation and acknowledgement of the eminent public service they have each rendered over many years to the local community in the interests of the inhabitants of the Borough of Dacorum.

That the Council direct that the Common Seal of the Dacorum Borough Council be affixed to framed copies of this Resolution and presented to each of them.”

Resolved:

That this event be carried out at the Full Council meeting on 24 September 2014.

This is in addition to the resolution agreed at the Full Council meeting on 23 April 2014 to bestow Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Dacorum on The Royal Anglian Regiment, also on 24 September 2014.

12. CABINET REFERRALS

The referrals from Cabinet on 29 April, 29 May and 24 June 2014 were submitted. It was moved by Councillor Griffiths, duly seconded and

Resolved:

That the following be approved:

29 April 2014

12.1 Additional Funding For Sportspace 2014/15 (CA/051/14)

A supplementary estimate to be financed from the Management of Change reserve to provide a further revenue contribution of £100k for the financial year 2014/15 to support Sportspace for one year only, contingent upon the development of a delivery plan as outlined in the report.

Key points of discussion:

Councillor N Hollinghurst noted that this was only a one year revenue commitment and hoped that his concerns in relation to this funding were noted.

12.2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Submission CA/052/14

- 1. The response to the comments made on the Draft Charging Schedule (DCS).**
- 2. The proposed modifications to the DCS and associated policy documents.**
- 3. The Statement of Compliance with the CIL Regulations and Guidance.**
- 4. The submission of the DCS, a Statement of Compliance with the CIL Regulations and associated policy documents on Discretionary Charitable Relief, Exceptional Circumstances Relief, Instalments and Payments in Kind (Land) and supporting evidence to the Planning**

Inspectorate for Examination together with any representations on our proposed modifications.

29 May 2014

12.3 Revised Web and Customer Access Strategy (CA/059/14)

The revised strategy and appendix.

12.4 Health and Wellbeing Policy Statement (CA/060/14)

The adoption of the Health and Wellbeing Policy Statement.

12.5 Provisional Outturn 2013/14 CA/061/14

The reserve movements listed in paragraph 9.1 of the report.

24 June 2014

12.6 Civic Centre Occupation and Disposal and Update on Financial Implications of the Public Service Quarter and Gade Zone Regeneration Procurement (CA/071/14).

1. **An increase to the PSQ budget by £1.75M to take account of the received tender prices, contingency, furnishing, technical support and the impact of continuing build cost inflation.**
2. **A £200k budget, to be funded from the PSQ reserve, to facilitate the marketing and disposal of the Civic Centre site and delivery of the Gade Zone Regeneration and associated land disposals.**

Key points of discussion:

Councillor McKay noted that the Hertfordshire LEP aware, announced recently would affect the Gade Zone and the development of the College site. He noted all of the hard work carried out by the Council.

12.7 Hemel Evolution: Marlowes Shopping Zone and Bank Court, Bus Interchange and Market Square, and Water Gardens Projects (CA/072/14).

£500,000 additional capital budget for the regeneration of Marlowes Shopping Zone and Bank Court.

Key points of discussion:

Councillor Adshead recognised the excellent work carried out by the council and officers. He wanted Hemel Hempstead to be a vibrant town. Councillor Griffiths added that these were exciting times and you could now see the plans starting to move forward.

12.8 Financial Regulations (CA/076/14).

The amendments to the Financial Regulations, as outlined in the report.

12.9 Commissioning And Procurement Review (CA/077/14)

- 1. The recommended changes identified in the report in relation to the approach the Council takes when undertaking commissioning and procurement activities.**
- 2. The adoption of the Commissioning and Procurement Strategy (appendix 1 of the report) that provides clear strategic direction and support to the Council's Corporate Plan.**
- 3. The amendments to the Commissioning and Procurement Standing Orders (appendix 2 of the report) that form part of the Council's Constitution.**
- 4. A budget of £75k, to be funded from the Management of Change Reserve, for the appointment of V4 Services to support the implementation of category management across the Council.**

Key points of discussion:

Councillor Marshall sought clarification, as she would only be happy to agree to this subject to the errors in the draft as outlined at Cabinet, being amended.

Councillor Griffiths said that the amendments raised at Cabinet had been made, which would be reflected in the policy.

12.10 Dacorum Local Planning Framework: Pre-Submission Site Allocations (CA/080/14).

- 1. The Site Allocations Pre-Submission documents for publication and comment.**
- 2. Delegated authority to the Assistant Director (Planning Development and Regeneration), to finalise the Report of Consultation and Sustainability Appraisal and, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration, to make any factual or non-substantive changes and amendments to the Pre-Submission Site Allocations and to insert the Indicative Spatial Layout plan into Policy LA3 West Hemel Hempstead prior to consultation commencing.**
- 3. The Site Allocations for publication, seeking representations in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement and relevant regulations.**
- 4. The following procedure for considering future issues on the Site Allocations:**

- (a) **If significant new issues are raised in the representations on the forthcoming consultation, to report to Cabinet and Council for a decision as to whether any change to the Site Allocations is justified;**
- (b) **If there are no significant new issues, to delegate authority to the Assistant Director (Planning, Development and Regeneration) to:**
 - (i) **Submit the Site Allocations for Examination; and**
 - (ii) **In consultation with the Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Holder, to agree any minor changes to the Site Allocations to resolve objections and improve clarity of the document.**

Key points of discussion:

Councillor Guest strongly stated that she was against this referral due to its detrimental effect on the environment. In particular she was against the developments on the green space between Chaulden Vale and Fields End.

Councillor Flint said that although she was against the referral she did feel the tone of the report was more positive than the original.

Councillor Whitman was also against this and concurred with everything Councillor Guest had previously said.

The Mayor put the referral to the meeting and declared it to be carried;

29 Voting For, 6 Against and 2 Abstentions.

13. CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

It was moved by Councillor Griffiths, duly seconded and

Resolved:

That Councillor Bateman be appointed to the Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in place of Councillor Wood who now becomes a substitute member in place of Councillor Bateman.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved:

That, under S.100A (4) of the Local government Act 1972 the public be excluded during the item in Part II of the Agenda for this meeting, because it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council and third party company/organisation. (Minute 15)

15. REFERRAL FROM CABINET 24 JUNE 2014

Council New Build – Queen Street, Tring (CA/085/14)

Full details are in the Part II minutes.

The meeting ended at 8.28 pm.

REFERRALS FROM CABINET

22 JULY 2014

7.1 JELlicO WATER GARDENS RESTORATION: UPDATE ON PARKS FOR PEOPLE APPLICATION AND DELIVERY PROJECT.

Decision

1. That Council be recommended to reprofile the approved budget of £3,251,827 within the Capital Programme for the delivery of the restoration of the Jellicoe Water Gardens following the second round pass from the Heritage Lottery Fund / Big Lottery Fund as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
2. That Council be recommended to increase the revenue budget by £190k and approve a revenue budget of £548,249 profiled to 2020/21 to support the delivery of the Jellicoe Water Gardens Activity Plan and Management Plan as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, with £276,364 funded from the Dacorum Development Reserve and the balance being grant funded.

Reason for Decision

1. To update Members on the outcome of the second round Parks for People application to restore the Jellicoe Water Gardens through funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund/ Big Lottery Fund.
2. To deliver the restoration project, as set out in the design proposals, activity plan, management plan and application documents, and to confirm the financial contribution from Dacorum Borough Council.

Implications

Financial

In December 2012, Capital Strategy Steering Group approved funding of £997,500 to support the capital project costs for developing and delivering the Jellicoe Water Gardens restoration project.

In December 2012 the Jellicoe Water Gardens was granted a first round pass by the Heritage Lottery Fund/Big Lottery Fund to develop a restoration project of £3.3 million, including an award of £106,000 towards the development of the second round application. The development phase was completed in February 2014 at a cost of:

Capital	£151,936
Revenue	£12,005
Total	£163,941

The costs were financed through a £106,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund / Big Lottery Fund with DBC contributing £57,941.

In December 2013, Cabinet approved the submission of a second round application at a maximum total project costs of up to £3.611 million.

The scope, specification and risk attached to proposed works were scrutinised through the development phase to ensure the second application made in February 2014 will

be robust and deliverable. With approval from the Assistant Director (Finance and Resources) and Assistant Director (Planning, Development and Regeneration) the project costs and funding request was submitted as follows:

Dacorum Borough Council £1,057,929
 Volunteer time £23,100
 Increased management and maintenance £64,048
 (funded by Dacorum Borough Council)
 Parks for People Grant Request £2,465,700
Total project costs £3,610,777

The total project costs are within the £3.611 million approved by Cabinet in December 2013. The £309,227 difference between the proposed delivery costs of £3,301,550 submitted as the first round bid in August 2012 and the final project costs at the second round were divided equally between Dacorum Borough Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund/Big Lottery Fund, setting Dacorum Borough Council's contribution at 31.1%.

The second round bid included revenue costs of £548,249 for the delivery of the project. Through the Heritage Lottery Fund/Big Lottery Fund grant, £271,885 of this cost will be funded, leaving a balance of £276,364 as Dacorum Borough Council's contribution. It is recommended that this be funded from the Dacorum Development Reserve.

The second round submission of £3,610,777 included capital costs of £3,251,827, as approved in the Capital Programme at Council on 26 February 2014.

The capital / revenue split for the delivery phase is detailed below, with a profiled summary shown in Appendix 2 of the report.

	Total	DBC contribution	HLF/BIG award
Capital	£3,251,827	£1,054,262	£2,197,565
Revenue*	£548,249	£276,364	£271,885

*The revenue costs include costs 5 years post completion which are not all in the bid but are committed to as part of it.

Value for Money

Dacorum Borough Council's contribution is set at 31.1% with the majority of funding provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund/Big Lottery Fund. This is a great opportunity to lever in grant funding, enabling the restoration of one of Dacorum Borough Council's significant assets within Hemel Hempstead town centre to proceed and to deliver a key objective of the Hemel Evolution programme.

Economies of scale benefits for the construction phase are anticipated following Cabinet's approval in June 2014 to combine the Water Gardens works with the new Access and Movement Improvement Project (to the area surrounding the Water Gardens).

The Access and Movement Project is entirely separate to the Heritage Lottery Fund/Big Lottery Fund bid and is funded through a £560,000 allocation within the capital programme, plus an additional £400,000 for the improvement works to the Water Gardens (North) car park.

Risk Implications

A risk assessment has been prepared as part of the PID for the Water Gardens projects.

Corporate Objectives

The Hemel Hempstead Town Centre Masterplan supports the Council's vision and in particular the corporate objective of Regeneration.

Advice

The Assistant Director Planning, Redevelopment and Regeneration introduced the report and advised that the Council had been awarded the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This was good news for Dacorum.

The final financial arrangements for the Council's contribution for the project needed to be confirmed and delegations put in place to enable officers to take the project forward.

Paragraph 6 of the report detailed the total project costs which were the final figures submitted in February for the bid. This followed consultation with Cabinet and Portfolio Holders.

The Assistant Director Planning, Redevelopment and Regeneration drew attention to an error in table 3, paragraph 15 of the report which should be amended to:

	Total Cost	DBC Contribution	HLF/Big Award
Revenue	£548,249	£276,364	£271,885

The architect's contract is likely to be extended to cover the project management of the scheme and the final proposals would be discussed. The Council was meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 25 July 2014 regarding the inception letter for the contract.

The Leader of the Council said the Council needed to confirm its acceptance of the offer from HLF and that the Council's offer to the scheme was as agreed.

The Leader of the Council thanked the team involved in the bid process, particularly Claire Covington. This was a very important project for the town and he congratulated everybody involved.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability said this was a very exciting project and confirmation was given that this would run alongside the refurbishment of the Water Gardens North car park.

Options and Why Options Rejected

No alternative options were considered.

Consultation

Consultation took place with:

James Deane, Assistant Director for Finance and Resources;

Richard Baker, Group Manager for Financial Services;
James Stammers, Transformation Programme Manager for DBC, V4 Services

Voting

None.

CABINET REFERRALS

16 SEPTEMBER 2014

7.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT (CA/111/14)

Decision and minute to follow.

7.3 BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 1 2014/15 (CA/112/14)

Decision and minute to follow.

7.4 GARAGE DISPOSAL STRATEGY

Decision and minute to follow.

7.5 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (CA/114/14)

Decision and minute to follow.

**7.6 THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014
(CA/115/14)**

Decision and minute to follow.