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SUMMONS

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Council Chamber, The Forum

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the Dacorum Borough Council in the County of Hertfordshire to be held in the Council Chamber, The Forum on Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 7.30 pm to transact the business set out below.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Claire Hamilton'.

**CLAIRE HAMILTON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**Contact: Democratic Services
ext 2209**

AGENDA

1. MINUTES (Pages 4 - 14)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council of 27th September 2023 and the Extraordinary meeting of the council which took place on 25th October 2023.

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 (Legal and Democratic Services)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements and business brought forward by the Mayor, Leader, and the Chief Executive.

4.1 By the Mayor:

4.2 By the Chief Executive:

4.3 By the Group Leaders: Any apologies for absence

5. CABINET MEMBER UPDATES (Pages 15 - 30)

Members of the Council may ask the Cabinet member any question without notice upon an item on the report as published in this agenda;

5.1 Councillor Tindall Leader of the Council (verbal update only)

5.2 Councillor Bromham Portfolio Holder Neighbourhood Operations

5.3 Councillor England Portfolio Holder Climate & Ecological Emergency

5.4 Councillor Wilkie Portfolio Holder Place

5.5 Councillor Weston Portfolio Holder People & Transformation

5.6 Councillor Tindall Portfolio Holder Corporate and Commercial Services

5.7 Councillor Dhyani Portfolio Holder Housing & Property Services

6. BUSINESS FROM THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING (Pages 31 - 33)

To consider any business referred from the previous meeting

7. CABINET REFERRALS (Page 34)

To consider the following referrals from Cabinet:

7.1 CA/86/23 17th October Annual Treasury Report

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REFERRALS

There are no referrals from Overview & Scrutiny

9. POLLING DISTRICT & POLLING PLACE ORDER (Pages 35 - 45)

10. WAIVER REPORT (Page 46)

11. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To consider any proposals for changes to committee membership

12. CHANGE TO COMMITTEE DATES

To consider any proposals for changes to committee dates

Agenda Item 1

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

27th September 2023

Present -

MEMBERS:

Allen (Mayor), Anderson, Banks, Barradell, Barry-Mears, Birnie, Capozzi, Cox, Dhyani, Douris, Elliot, England, Freedman, Gale, Guest, Hannell, C Hobson, S Hobson, Johnson, B Link (Deputy Mayor), C Link, Maddern, McAreyve, Mitchell, Pesch, Pringle, Reynolds, Santamaria, Stevens, Silwal, Taylor, Timmis, Tindall, Walker, Weston, Wilkie, A Williams, B Williams, and Wyatt-Lowe

OFFICERS:

C Hamilton (Chief Executive)
M Brookes (Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services)
C O'Neil (Democratic Services Manager)
L Fowell (Democratic Services Lead Officer)
J Gowlett (Desktop & AV Support Analyst)

The meeting began at 7.30pm

1. Minutes

Cllr Birnie commented on the change to the constitution and suggested that it should read 'appended' rather than 'amended'. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th July were approved as a correct record.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from members.

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation

4. Announcements

There were no announcements from the Mayor

The Chief Executive made no announcements.

Cllr Tindall noted apologies from Cllrs Bromham, Symington, Bristow, Deacon and Patterson.

Cllr Williams noted apologies from Cllrs Adeleke, Bhinder, Pound, Riddick and Durrant.

Cllr Pesch noted no apologies.

5. Portfolio Holders Updates

Cllr Tindall – Leader

Cllr Tindall raised no items to report.

Cllr Elliot asked when the King's official portrait would be received to be put in the Council Chamber. Cllr Tindall confirmed that he would ask officers to attend to this.

ACTION: To send enquiries regarding expected receipt of King's official portrait for Council Chamber. (Cllr Tindall & Officers)

Cllr Williams referred to the car parking report submitted to the scrutiny committee on 4th July 2023 that was then deferred by Cabinet after it did not receive the expected support. Cllr Williams asked the Leader if he, the portfolio holder, or Cabinet had seen the report and approved its contents before it was published for the meeting on 4th July 2023.

Cllr Tindall suggested that the schedule of charges was prepared by officers under the direction of the previous administration, noting that the document has now been corrected and is out for consultation.

Cllr Williams confirmed that the document was not in report form prior to the May elections and that the budget requirement in February for £100,000 of additional income would equate to a tariff of around £0.20 and no further changes to charges. Cllr Williams suggested that the Liberal Democrat proposals went further than this and asked if the report was signed off by Liberal Democrat members prior to its publication on 4th July 2023.

Cllr Tindall stated that he was unaware of it being signed off and that this is why it was withdrawn

Cllr Douris asked Cllr Tindall if he shares his concerns regarding the impact of the recommendation contained in the proposal to block a significant amount of parking. Cllr Douris noted the proposal to introduce a new minimum stay of 2 hours. A point of order was raised regarding the statement and the Chair requested that all questions be succinct.

Cllr Tindall advised that the minimum stay of 2 hours suggested that this refers to the price levied and does not mean that the person paying the charge must stay for the full 2 hours.

Cllr Guest referred to the last full council and the response to the question from the relevant portfolio holder regarding what would happen to the future of the verge hardening programme. Cllr Guest asked if a clear statement could be provided on this.

Cllr Tindall asked Cllr Guest to write to him and that he would then provide a response. Cllr Barry-Mears raised a point of order stating that the verge hardening is under a different portfolio and is contained within the report.

Cllr Dhyani – Housing & Property Services

The report was taken as read and questions were invited.

Cllr Birnie referred to a new procedure for reporting damage or repairs required involving surveyors and asked the portfolio holder for further information regarding these surveyors.

Cllr Dhyani advised that this is a 5-year programme and that all properties are being reviewed for required work. All necessary work is then logged and will be recorded in the work programme for the year.

Cllr Birnie suggested that some surveyors do not leave details with the resident, making it difficult for ward councillors to follow up any delays. Cllr Birnie asked if it would be possible to have a designated controller of the surveyors to act as a point of contact.

Cllr Dhyani confirmed that she would provide the contact details of the officer who liaises with Osborne on the Council's behalf and suggested that tenants or residents write to her directly if they have any concerns.

Cllr Bromham – Neighbourhood Operations

It was noted that the portfolio holder, Cllr Bromham, was absent and that Cllr Tindall would answer any questions where possible.

Cllr Elliot advised that he has reported several fly-tipping incidents and asked if all reports are followed up with residents.

Cllr Tindall asked the member to provide details of the issues raised and that he would ensure that a full response is received.

Cllr Williams commented that, prior to the May elections, some candidates and canvassers assured residents that the £45 bin charge would be scrapped if they won the election and he asked when this would be enacted.

Cllr Tindall confirmed that he was unaware of the promise made and that this was not authorised by himself or anyone else within the campaign team. The budget is currently progressing through Council and all fees and charges will be reviewed.

Cllr Williams referred to a senior Liberal Democrat councillor responding to a resident on social media to say that their intention would be to remove the green bin charge if they won the election. Cllr Williams asked if this councillor was misleading the public to get votes.

Cllr Tindall stated that whilst a councillor can propose to remove the green bin charge, it would depend on a majority vote and that he was unaware of the post referred to or the councillor concerned.

Cllr Barradell noted the Council's success as referred to in the report regarding countering dog fouling and littering in Gadebridge Park. Cllr Barradell asked how this was achieved and if there are plans to use this knowledge to tackle incidents elsewhere, including Gaddesden.

Cllr Tindall advised that the handling of anti-social behaviour is being reviewed, noting that the previous administration restricted the activities of wardens to the centre of Hemel Hempstead. Cllr Tindall suggested that the work has been achieved by staff and that he would arrange for a portfolio holder to provide a full reply.

ACTION: Cllr Bromham to provide an answer

Cllr England – Climate Change

The report was taken as read and questions were invited.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe asked for the targets and associated baseline measurements that are necessary to prove how effective measures will be.

Cllr England advised that they have taken the list from the previous administration, which contained 225 actions, and are now turning this into a deliverable plan. Cllr England agreed that key performance indicators are required.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe asked how much urgency will be put in to provide this information and ensure that measures are effective, noting her support for the work being done.

Cllr England explained that the lead officer left the council and the role was not reappointed until June 2023. Cllr England noted the small size of the team and advised that he hopes to bring a paper to scrutiny as soon as possible once the action plan has been prepared.

Cllr Freedman agreed with the support for the work the team and portfolio holder are putting into the action list. Cllr Freedman commented on the Conservative government's abandonment of pledges to protect the environment and asked if the Council is at risk of repercussions for its Net Zero objectives and what measures could be taken to protect the resources invested into sustainability, biodiversity and waste reduction initiatives.

Cllr England suggested that the Conservative's abandonment of pledges to protect the environment does put the Council at risk regarding its objectives. The Chair asked for comments to be kept at a local level. Cllr England stated that the Local Government Association has stated that local authorities can decarbonise, though this requires investment and certainty.

Cllr Pringle commented on the movement for the infrastructure for electrical vehicle charging in the borough, noting that residents are keen to see the introduction of roadside charging. Cllr Pringle asked how residents can best propose sites for electrical vehicle charging.

Cllr England noted that the strategy produced by HCC invites residents to come to councils and suggest where they would like to see charging points. Cllr England confirmed that this will be worked into communications so this can be made clearer to residents and recommended that residents sign up as individuals or organisations to Dacorum Climate Action Network to help with a bottom-up approach.

Cllr Douris referred to Cllr England and the team visiting Portsmouth City Council and asked for further details on the meeting, who attended and how they travelled there.

Cllr England confirmed that the meeting was attended by Dacorum officers, himself and Portsmouth City Council officers via Microsoft Teams.

Cllr Pesch welcomed the ideas proposed for residents to walk, cycle and use buses more. Cllr Pesch asked if the portfolio holder would take into account the poor service currently provided by Arriva.

Cllr England confirmed that he has been working on improving the bus service and that he will be attending a meeting on 3rd November 2023 with Cllr Wilkie and officers with HCC to discuss improving the service. Cllr England asked residents to contact them ahead of the meeting for any suggestions on how to improve the service.

Cllr Wilkie - Place

The report was taken as read and questions were invited.

Cllr Pringle referred to the frustration faced by Northchurch residents regarding the poor bus service and asked what the Council can do to assist with this. Cllr Pringle referred to Cllr England's comments regarding the meeting with HCC on 3rd November 2023.

Cllr Wilkie advised that the meeting with HCC to discuss bus routes will also interlink with a number of other projects, including the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan, Hemel Gardens Community plan and the bus infrastructure. Cllr Wilkie stated that if the Council is serious about climate change and neighbourhoods then residents require a reliable and affordable service and that this will be a priority.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe commented on the Nicky Line and asked when a by-law would be passed for cyclists and those on scooters to provide due warning to pedestrians.

Cllr Wilkie advised that the majority of comments from residents are to request more cycling routes and pathways and that she would provide a response to the member in writing.

Cllr Tindall suggested that Cllr Wilkie check with officers when a by-law to control cyclists was last questioned by the administration.

Cllr Weston – People and Transformation

The paper was taken as read and questions were invited.

Cllr Douris referred to the third paragraph of the report and the comment that technology will result in greater productivity and a better service for residents. Cllr Douris asked how this improvement would be measured.

Cllr Weston confirmed that a new IT system is being set-up and a presentation will be shortly provided to Cabinet. A paper will then be circulated to members.

Cllr Douris asked how the Council will understand from residents that the service has improved.

Cllr Weston explained that the new IT system will allow residents to call customer services personnel regarding any issues and this will be monitored regularly to ensure all residents are heard and can report any problems.

Cllr Symington – Corporate & Commercial

The paper was taken as read and questions were invited. It was noted that Cllr Tindall would respond to any questions in Cllr Symington's absence.

Cllr Guest referred to the consultation regarding parking charges and asked if Gadebridge Park will remain free.

Cllr Tindall stated that there is currently no intention to charge for parking at Gadebridge Park, though if a charge is suggested via the consultation then it will be considered.

Cllr Guest asked if residents would want the Council to charge for parking at Gadebridge Park given the popular petitions against this that were raised over summer.

Cllr Tindall advised that he does not monitor social media and that he would await the responses received from the consultation.

Cllr Elliot asked if the Council Leader would agree that the green bin charge has been a success given that it has doubled the initial income target.

Cllr Tindall commented that he was pleased that the Council had followed the examples of other Liberal Democrat councils in introducing the green bin charge and he accepted its success.

Cllr Hannell thanked the administration for addressing long overdue structural works and window repairs at Bennetts End Community Centre.

Cllr Tindall shared concerns about infrastructure and noted that this is being gradually identified, noting that if full details of concerns are provided then a full response will be given.

Cllr Williams referred to the recommendation in the report submitted to the scrutiny committee in September that states the Committee notes that the Council intends to retain the free parking policy in Gadebridge Park, Canal Fields and the existing Kings Langley car park. Cllr Williams stated that the recommendation disappeared before it went to Cabinet and asked the Council Leader if he knows the policy of his administration.

Cllr Tindall advised that the policy of the administration is to ensure that the parking charges applied across the borough are fair, equal and are accepted by residents.

Cllr Mitchell asked the Council Leader if he was aware of structural issues at Rossgate shopping centre and the concrete that struck one of the shop managers.

Cllr Tindall stated that he was unaware of the incident and asked the member to contact both him and the Chief Executive regarding this matter so it can be investigated.

Cllr Timmis asked if electrical vehicle charging points will also be rolled out to villages.

Cllr Tindall suggested that they would ensure there is a wide range of charging points for residents and that the portfolio holder could provide a further response.

Cllr Timmis asked if the electrical vehicle charging points will be limited in time or if cars can charge overnight.

Cllr Tindall stated that this will depend on the particular charging point and that the portfolio holder could provide a more detailed response.

Action: Cllr Symington to provide a full response.

Cllr Wyatt-Lowe referred to a previous comment by Cllr Symington regarding the administration looking into car park charging in the interest of equality of provision and also to encourage people to reduce the use of cars.

Cllr Tindall stated that this was one aspect of the debate, noting that there were a number of concerns and that the decision was taken to reduce the consultation paper.

Cllr Douris commented on the proposal for some car parks to have a minimum charge based on a longer period of time and asked if this was correct.

Cllr Tindall stated that he would arrange for a written answer to be provided

Action: Cllr Symington to provide a full response.

6. Questions

Cllr Mitchell confirmed that the pre-submitted question had been responded to by officer K Solely and she thanked the administration for its thorough and comprehensive package of support for Wilko employees.

Cllr Mitchell read out the question as follows:

The 36 workers, now 35 workers, currently employed at the Wilko branch in Hemel Hempstead will be made redundant at the latest in early October; 32 of these workers live in the Borough and 11 of them are not entitled to any redundancy at all. For every one of these workers, losing their job will impact their lives, the lives of their families, and their community. Being put at risk of redundancy has a big emotional impact and is a major life change to come to terms with, especially when an organisation such as Wilko goes into administration. What will this administration and the Borough Council do to assist these workers in finding alternative employment?

Cllr Wilkie noted that an officer has already visited the store manager and that the store closed on 28th September 2023 with the store being cleared the following day. The manager advised that the head office suggested a site visit from Jobcentre Plus but that this hasn't been arranged and therefore support from the Council was welcomed. The store manager has suggested a job support session at the store to take place on 28th September 2023 and a written update on this will be provided to members. Officers are working with partners such as Jobcentre Plus, West Herts College and Community Action Dacorum to provide support on skills assessments, CV and job application writing and interview training as well as completing Universal Credit claims. The session in store will also include signposting to job vacancies, including those at the Council, and provide advice on where job adverts are posted. It was confirmed that the following officers would be in attendance at the in-store session:

- Economic Development Officer
- DBC HR and OD Manager
- Hemel Jobcentre Plus representative
- Jobcentre Plus representative
- Dells representative
- Step2Skills representative
- Sunnyside Rural Trust representative
- CAD representative

- West Herts College representative

Cllr Mitchell commented on the pressures on high street retail and suggested that a similar situation may arise. Cllr Mitchell asked if the Council would consider a similar support strategy policy to be rolled out should the situation occur elsewhere.

Cllr Wilkie noted that officers were aware of the process following the loss of Amazon, though workers could be placed elsewhere within Amazon. There is a system that can be introduced, though it is hoped that it won't be necessary.

Cllr Mitchell asked if the new administration would consider a new strategy for empty buildings and floor space in local precincts that are owned by the Council so they can be used for community projects.

Cllr Wilkie referred to the Hemel Place strategy and Hemel Gardens Community project that looks to reimagine the centre, including looking at the usage of space. Cllr Wilkie agreed that the use of space needs to be more agile and that she would consider the member's comments further

7. Business from the last Council Meeting

The Chair confirmed that there were no outstanding actions and all responses from the previous meeting have been circulated and published as part of the agenda.

8. Cabinet Referrals

Cllr Tindall moved CA6323 Enforcement Report. The report was seconded and approved.

Cllr Tindall moved CA7723 Financial Performance Quarter 1 2023-24. The report was seconded and approved.

The Chair confirmed that the reports were thereby agreed and implemented.

9. Overview and Scrutiny Referrals

No referrals.

10. Changes to the Health Report

Cllr Tindall commented that it was felt that the Health Committee should be expanded to cover wellbeing. It was noted that the proposal is to change the committee's name to the Health and Wellbeing Committee and to expand the terms of reference to ensure the committee can explore any matters affecting Dacorum and its residents, including assessing the impact of services provided directly by the Council as well as external partners. It is a non-statutory committee and does not change the remit of the Council's statutory scrutiny committees. The report also proposes an additional responsibilities allowance for the chairperson to be commensurate with other chairpersons.

Cllr Tindall moved the report and it was seconded. The report was agreed.

The Chair noted that Jim McManus, Director of Public Health, will be moving on and he noted the Council's gratitude for his service through Covid and the work he has engaged with in Dacorum. Cllr Tindall

confirmed that the good wishes of the Council would be passed on. Cllr Douris endorsed the comments made

13. Changes to committee membership

None.

14. Changes to committee dates

The Chair confirmed that an extraordinary council meeting will be held on 25th October 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was formally closed.

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DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

25 OCTOBER 2023

Present:

MEMBERS:

Councillor Tindall (Leader) Councillors, Adeleke, Anderson, Banks, Barradell, Barry, Bhinder, Bristow, Bromham, Capozzi, Cox, Deacon, Dhyani, Douris, Durrant, England, Freedman, Gale, Guest, Hannell, Hobson, Hobson, Johnson, B Link (Deputy Mayor), C Link, Maddern, McAreyve, Patterson, Pesch, Pound, Pringle, Santamaria, Silwal, Stevens, Stewart, Symington, Taylor, Walker, Weston, Wilkie, Williams and Williams

OFFICERS:

James Doe - Strategic Director Planning, Development & Regeneration
Mark Brookes - Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services
Cassy O'Neil - Democratic Services Manager
Layla Fowell - Democratic Services Lead Officer

The meeting began at 7.30 pm

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Tindall gave apologies on behalf of Councillors Allen, Reynolds and Mottershead.

Cllr Williams offered apologies on behalf of Councillors Elliot, Timmis, Riddick and Wyatt-Lowe.

Cllr Pesch gave apologies on behalf of Councillor Mitchell

Apologies were also received for Councillor Birnie.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

16 CABINET REFERRAL - THE LOCAL PLAN

The Deputy Mayor introduced the item and handed over to Cllr Tindall who moved the cabinet referral;

Cabinet decision;

1. **Resolved to recommend to Council that the Revised Strategy for Growth (Appendix 1) be published for consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).**
2. Cabinet approved the revised timetable for the Local Plan as detailed in the Local Development Scheme (Appendix 2) and delegates authority to the Strategic Director (Place) to make any final minor editorial and typographical revisions to the document including any necessary to reflect the Cabinet's discussions and decision.
3. Cabinet considers the views of Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and officer response (Appendix 4) and sets out any changes to be made to the consultation document.
4. **Resolved to recommend that Council delegates authority to make changes to the Revised Strategy for Growth, including any necessary to reflect the Cabinet's and/or Council discussions and decision, to the Strategic Director –Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place**

Cllr Wilkie seconded the referral and reserved her right to speak.

The referral was taken as read and the Deputy Mayor invited comments, which can be viewed via the video record of the meeting.

Decision

The recommendations were unanimously agreed

The Meeting ended at 7.55 pm



5. Cabinet Member Updates

Members of the Council may ask the Cabinet member any question without notice upon an item on the report as published in this agenda;

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------|--|
| 5.1 | Councillor Tindall | Leader of the Council (verbal update only) |
| 5.2 | Councillor Bromham | Portfolio Holder Neighbourhood Operations |
| 5.3 | Councillor England | Portfolio Holder Climate & Ecological Emergency |
| 5.4 | Councillor Wilkie | Portfolio Holder Place |
| 5.5 | Councillor Weston | Portfolio Holder People & Transformation |
| 5.6 | Councillor Tindall | Portfolio Holder Corporate and Commercial Services |
| 5.7 | Councillor Dhyani | Portfolio Holder Housing & Property Services |



Council Briefing Note 15th November 2023

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES –
COUNCILLOR ROBIN BROMHAM**

The new Neighbourhood operations Directorate has a new team of senior managers and is already starting to have an impact in relation to ways of working, focusing on partnership and collaboration as well as performance.

Neighbourhood Management

- The Parks team have been working in partnership with the Natural History Museum. As part of this, a day was organised at Miswell Park in Tring with pupils from Goldfield Infant and Nursery School taking part in preparing and planting wildflower seed, wildflower turf and bug hunting.
- CSG staff is working in partnership with Butterfly Conservation to increase our meadows and support invertebrate life. We are currently working on the long-term management of Bunkers Park and Chipperfield Common with the aim to cover other sites as well later.
- We are also working very closely with Box Moor Trust at Bunkers Park. Our hazel coppice produce is used in their waterways management and their Belted Galloway cattle are hosted on our sites. We will continue to explore ways to work closely together and follow a joined-up approach for the use of our adjacent sites.
- We continue to support our friends groups and volunteers for the management of our sites as they add much value to what we do.
- A tree management review was carried out to improve how we can protect our stock and keep residents safe. A significant issue facing Dacorum is Ash Dieback caused by a fungus attacking ash trees. This is a national issue and a plan is being prepared to manage the issues in the short and long term.
- We had a significant improvement in performance in quarter two for removal of fly-tip; 486 fly tips were reported in Q2 and 93% of these were cleared within the 7-day target, which is still below the target of 95% but a significant increase on quarter one where the service achieved 77%.
- Substantial improvement also for graffiti removal: In quarter two, 57 reports of graffiti were received and the 95% target for removal was achieved. This is an improvement on quarter one where 89% was achieved.

Environmental Services

- DEFRA announced its new reform called Simpler Recycling, with improved conformity of methods of waste collection which should improve overall efficiencies. The guidance suggests that all districts will collect food waste separately, as Dacorum already does. It also creates opportunities to work with businesses, who are required to recycle all recyclable waste streams, excluding garden waste and plastic film by March 2025.
- Overall, we are experiencing an increase in performance with our waste collection with an increase of household recycling rate, a decrease in residual waste collected and reports of missed collections decreasing. In particular, the figures for reported missed bin collections was averaging 127 per 100K in Q2 this year, which is a decrease of 206 year on year, with 22/23 Qtr 2 at 333 missed bins.

Regulatory Services

- Regulatory Services continues to be very effective in its enforcement duties. In the 1st quarter of the year, the team served 14 waste crime fixed penalty notices, the majority being for fly-tipping. Through our enforcement contractor, District Enforcement, we served 785 Fixed Penalty Notices on those that littered or breached the Councils Public Space Protections Orders.
- The Team have continued to work hard toward improving food inspection rates since the COVID -19 pandemic when the staff were diverted towards infection control work. This now back at target levels. One noticeable result is that Mr Thangarajh Nesarajah of Lemon Plaice, Bellgate, Hemel Hempstead pleaded guilty to 11 charges relating to various breeches of the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations at St Albans Magistrates Court on the 25th October 2023. The magistrates accepted that the breeches amounted to very high culpability in accordance with the sentencing guidelines and the defendant was sentenced to pay a total of £12,000.
- Alongside enforcement, partnership working is deterring antisocial behaviour and working on prevention. Regulatory Services have chaired a multi departmental task force which has been working on improvements in Gadebridge Park and the Water Gardens working together with colleagues within the Council in CSG, enforcement contractors and police colleagues to organise patrols and increase visibility, engaging positively with the community. The Regulatory Service Team continues to support the Local Resilience Forum Working Groups for Covid-19 and also attends District Outbreak Planning Meetings and Winter Planning Groups.
- A review of the Health and Safety Policy is in progress. Staff and services across the Council have been involved in the review and a report will be prepared in due course.



Council Briefing Note 15th November 2023

**CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY—
COUNCILLOR ADRIAN ENGLAND**

Members, we will not be back here until 28th Feb. The heating is going on and inflation has not gone into reverse – it is still sky-high at two and a half times the Bank of England target. COP28 takes place at Expo City, in Dubai, from 30th November to 12th December. We stand at an average 1.28 degrees rise in global temperature, since industrialisation. Countries have agreed – at Paris in 2015 – to try to hold global temperatures to no higher than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

The World Meteorological Organisation now reports a 66% likelihood of exceeding the 1.5 threshold in at least one year between 2023 and 2027. Unfortunately this is a real “smoke and mirrors” moment – there is still too much smoke and we need to look in the mirror, because it is obvious we need to respond to this overshoot, since the UK is not insulated from global markets or climate phenomena.

In Dacorum our drainage systems cannot cope with rain as heavy as frequently it is now, running off roofs and roads and concrete where grass and planting and trees were original features.

Climate Emergency UK recently released rankings to reflect what councils have achieved in tackling climate change. The average score for district councils was 29%. We ranked 33%, 44th out of 164 district councils and 4th in Hertfordshire.

The higher-scoring districts reached the 50% and 60% bands, so Dacorum cannot rest on any laurels. CEUK concludes principally that more government funding is needed to help councils achieve NetZero in their operations by 2030 and across their populations by 2050.

We have now completed a significant review of all actions being undertaken across DBC to help deliver our ambitions in the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and have established a new focused portfolio of projects and programmes that will have the greatest impact on achieving our ambitions. We have also established robust governance and reporting processes to ensure there is focused oversight and accountability on this topic.

I plan a paper to Scrutiny Committees for January, in order to benefit from their overview on this, but for now here is the update:

Sustainable transport:

It was often said at Full Council before May that as Dacorum was not a Transport Authority it could not act on air quality. However, the council is now placemaking with air quality and domestic parking congestion in mind, looking for ways to improve the alternatives, so that using a car is a choice, not a necessity.

- Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Walking and cycling networks maps are approved for engagement. We will be engaging with the public through ESRI story mapping early next year.
- Active Travel Improvement – I pay tribute to John Morrish, parish councillor in Kings Langley and Andrew Freeman of HCC for getting the towpath re-surfaced between Red Lion Lane in Nash Mills, and Kings Langley, with support from CRT and HGC.
- Bus Improvement: HCC are now talking to Dacorum Borough Council about how to get bus services up to 15 minute intervals (ie “just turn up”) in Dacorum. HCC are looking to invest locally because we have signalled this is a priority. It will take time, but we are also activating partnership links with Intalink.

- A new bus service is coming to Dacorum later this year HertsLynx is a new demand responsive transport (DRT) service. There are no fixed timetable or routes, instead passengers choose where and when they want to go within a designated operating area. This service is designed to increase access for residents to employment, education, healthcare and shopping and reduce social isolation for residents living in rural areas where there is limited or no access to existing public transport services. This has been successful in areas of North and East Hertfordshire and is expanding to Dacorum, initially as a pilot project, and will be providing transport links to Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring by the end of the year.

EVCPs:

- The first of a new batch of Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) for Dacorum are up and running in Tring and the Old Town, Hemel Hempstead, with Leverstock Green next in line later in November; 19 car parks are included in the programme. Very early usage reports are encouraging.
- We are working closely with HCC to identify additional on street locations throughout Dacorum that would be suitable for EVCP's. HCC are submitting a business case end of November and should receive funding in March 2024, to be allocated across Hertfordshire.

Communities:

- We are holding our third annual DCAN event on 20th November. Instead of showcasing, we are excited to start The Big Conversation, learning from DBC's residents and understanding how we can support the borough to reach NetZero, sharing with residents the actions that we are taking as a council where it arises.
- We are planning to use a thermal imaging camera to show properties 'before' and 'after' effect of energy saving measures. As Hemel has thirteen "archetypes" in the New Town residential streets, we are able to use certain house and flats as great examples.
- The results of Solar Together Round 2 were nearly 6,000 registrations from homeowners, for a quotation on solar panels, with Dacorum again ranking third behind St Albans and North Herts, keeping ahead of East Herts with our 839 registrations – 14% of Hertfordshire demand.
- We are speaking with GUCE about piloting a transition street in Dacorum. Transition Streets bring neighbours together to reduce their carbon footprint and save money, through taking practical action together.

Neighbourhood:

- DBC are exploring the possibility of Air Quality measurements being set-up outside Swing Gate Lane, in preparation for establishing of a Green Screen in 2024/25 and the opportunity to measure and report the effect on air quality for children.
- Work has started on a Nature Recovery Strategy and Action plan. Officers had a positive meeting with HMWT in discussing the development of the County Nature recovery strategy and the role we can play together as a district to lead on the shaping of the action plan and the strategic approach. The first step will be an audit of our assets with further discussions for the development of the Dacorum strategic approach.

Internal/Governance:

- We were the first borough council in the UK to achieve a Silver level of 'Carbon Literate Organisation' accreditation, and it is time to renew and extend this. The CEE team have organised this training for the new cabinet, and recently-joining directors and heads of service, to equip management with the insights and arguments to propel transformative decision-making, which safeguard future generations.
- Additionally two mandatory training modules are set to be rolled out to all DBC staff via DENNIS - Carbon literacy and net-zero and Environmental Awareness at work.

Homes: (Decarbonising)

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) - wave 1 of the programme which involved spending £1.5m grant and council money decarbonising 24 homes completed earlier this year, with 90% of these homes upgraded to EPC A standard and 10% at EPC B. These works prioritised a 'fabric first' approach, increasing insulation to improve energy efficiency and prevent the conditions for damp. We are now working to decarbonise more homes with SHDF wave 2, with the first lot of homes in this wave to be completed by March 2024



Council Briefing Note 15 November 2023

**PLACE PORTFOLIO –
COUNCILLOR SHERON WILKIE**

Planning Services

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- Two temporary enforcement officers are now in post which will work to reduce the backlog of enforcement cases

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- Dacorum continuing to work with other Herts authorities (and wider host authorities as relevant) on specific matters. Key milestone to note deadline 5 on 14 Nov and second round of hearings taking place at the end of November. Matters coming up include, Traffic/transport, Environmental matters & Green Controlled growth and Draft DCO
- Work progresses on the new Dacorum Local Plan the new timetable agreed unanimously at full Council and to go ahead with a regulation consultation
- Consultation is live and closes 11:59pm on 11 December, face to face events will be held throughout the consultation period
- The Dacorum Task and Finish group will be set up with political balance of 3 LD, 2 Conservative and 1 Labour representative
- St Albans Regulation 18 consultation initial report will go to their committee and we continue to engage of duty to co-operate matters
- The revised South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan Vision and Objectives were supported by all six Local Authorities via their committee approvals
- Work will start on the Local Cycle Walking Implementation Plan, initial meeting Monday 8 Jan 2024 also marks the start of 4 week consultation to understand where it is good and not so good to walk and cycle across the borough, to understand a base level of information from the community

Hemel Garden Communities

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- The HGC Health and wellbeing survey closed end of October and received over 500 response which highlighted residents interest in active and sustainable travel, the importance of open space and access to primary healthcare. Full details will be available in due course.
- Ribbon cutting event held 2nd November to celebrate the completion of the Grand Union Canal resurfacing works between Nash Mills and Kings Langley.
- Solar Bulk Buy 2023 closed at the end of October – note, I think Cllr England has included this in his update.

Place and Enterprise

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

- Two successful Velodrome events were held on the Market Square in Hemel Hempstead over the summer, funded through UKSPF funding. Additional activities provided by the BID were also funded as part of their summer activities.

Strategic or significant operational matters which your service would like full Council to be aware of:

- Maylands Masterplan work is now underway involving our consultants Cushman and Wakefield, our key partners St Albans City and District Council, Herts County Council and Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter. The outputs will be a long term strategy for the next stages in Maylands' development; an Immediate Opportunity Plan and a Design Code.
- Following approval by Cabinet of the UKSPF Investment Plan proposals, due diligence on applicants was undertaken. Successful bidders have been notified of conditional award of funding with some follow up due diligence being undertaken on two applications. Officers continue to follow government governance reporting requirements.
- This year's Dacorum's Den awards took place on 3 November 2023. Pitch presentations completed 6th October 2023 – 11 businesses (one no-show); Judges awarded 10 business grants up to max £2,000 each. Total £13,500 awarded.
- Arrangements have been put in place for Christmas lights across the Borough with switch on events for Marlowes, Hemel Old Town, Tring and Berkhamsted and for some of the neighbourhood centres. Christmas trees have also been ordered for some locations and options for additional attractions are being considered.

Communities Arts and Culture

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

KEY STATS THIS MONTH	
• Wake up and Dance engagement no's	291
• Let's Dance (in Supported Housing) engagement no's	100
• Recycling competition and event engagement	*1500 approx. in total (350-400 in person / 1117 online)
• Planet Munch 'Healthy Eating' Puppet Project	300 schoolchildren

Recycling competition and event – Recycle Week 2023

- Successfully delivered recycled sculptures competition and Recycle Week event involving 11 DBC, community and business partners and 6 schools/youth groups.
- Engagement figures above*

Dance Relgnite

- Planning started for the Dance Relgnite project funded by Arts Council England in partnership with Watford, Three Rivers, Welwyn and St Albans districts.
- The project involves community participants working with a visual and performance artist to create a show and workshops to tour to community groups and venues in 2024
- Meetings with 2 local artists took place in October with creative planning and prep sessions starting in November

Nothing On Earth – theatre and film project celebrating inspiring women in Dacorum and their lives.

- Currently arranging to screen films in the Supported Housing Schemes involved in the project in November (Emma Rothschild Court and William Crook House)
- The official launch of film will take place on 5th December with an event planned at Uni of Herts.

Adventure Playgrounds

<p>Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together Fund – 12 week Sports Programme commenced – The playground is now working in partnership with the Health & inequalities Lead Officer to support local residents from Ethnic minority groups to help tackle obesity and physical health. Flyers have been translated and distributed to schools and via contacts within certain minority communities. The programme has 4 sessions left and is well attended, the children are developing new skills through a range of activities and more importantly keeping fit, which contributes to their emotional wellbeing.
<p>Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Shelter Project (Bennetts End) This has now been installed and post installation checks completed. The shelter is now open for use and has been very much welcomed by playground users who are using it for its intended purpose which is to use the shelter as safe space to meet friends and socialise away from the streets, which also allows for a variety of play types and skill development, such as communication skills. We still have some of the funds left for which we are looking into installing a Bluetooth system, so that the children can play music. Building life chances funding management team may be visiting the site to look at the youth shelter and to find out how it's making a difference in the local community.
<p>Adeyfield & Bennetts End</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to work on an inclusion project to help break down cultural barriers for three of the major ethnic groups in Bennetts End and Adeyfield in order to support obesity and physical health. • Meeting arranged with Helen Roe-Wotton to look at projects to support Ethnic minority groups in the New Year.
<p>Adeyfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adeyfeld APG has been in touch with Carers in Herts with a view to starting a new project to help support children who are going through a tough time, or who may have caring responsibilities, so that they can come and make use of our facilities. We want to be able to give children and young people the opportunity to be themselves for a couple of hours a week and remember what being a child is all about, and hopefully meet other children going through the same kinds of issues. The idea is to have someone onsite that children can talk to if they need to disclose anything, or just want to some support. This has already been met with support from the Youth Engagement Lead at HCC and they have offered their support in trying to get this project off the ground.
<p>Grovehill APG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grovehill Adventure Playground has a new football session running, one on a Tuesday this is working with Healthy U and providing girls football. These session now have around 30 young girl from age ranges of 8-12. Five space have been taken up from the APG. They would like to add another session on a Thursday for older girls this is in the planning stage • A new session has been booked in for a Thursday the first session will start November this again will be girls only football but for an older age range.

Old Town Hall

KEY STATS THIS MONTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Occupancy – Without Cinema 81% (20 performances) - With Cinema 60% (27 performances)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Ticket Sales – Without Cinema £16,385 (20 performances) - With Cinema £17,009 (27 performances)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Bar Sales - £3,355
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Customer Satisfaction – 98% Excellent/Good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2023 Value for Money – 89% Excellent/Very Good

PROJECT	STATUS
<p>A new venue management system and pre order/ticket dispatch system being investigated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two systems, YesPlan and CrowdEngage are being investigated for their usefulness to the venue. • CrowdEngage is a mobile ticket and pre order system used by the RSC and The Bridge theatre to improve customer interaction and increase sales 	Ongoing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YesPlan is a venue management system that allows for smooth operation of the venue, including but not limited to performance/hire diary, contract creation, staff management, financial reporting etc • ICT sign off complete • Awaiting Commercial Board review 	
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Health

KEY STATS THIS MONTH	
➤ 615 people, across 4 GP surgeries, applied for a space on the September Shape Up courses	
➤ £5k additional funding has been secured from HCC for further work with Bikes Without Barriers	
➤ £3k funding from NHS has been secured to produce the recipe book and outdoor cooking session detailed below	
➤ Q2 (July-September 2023) shows we have supported 555 residents with a health and wellbeing issue	

PROJECT	STATUS
<p><u>Bikes without Barriers</u> The project DBC funded has now been completed – we were very pleased with the results, as were HCC, stats were on Sept update.</p> <p>HCC have funded £5k to further this work – we have met with BWB and are looking to use this money to commission some work with younger children as well as adults. BWB also plan to use some money from schools. The final proposal is currently being developed and we should have it by the end of the month.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Progressing</p>
<p><u>Shape Up</u> – 7 cohorts of 12 week fitness and nutrition courses run by Watford Football Club’s Community Sports and Education Trust , commissioned by DBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was overwhelming demand for the 2nd and 3rd cohorts (one for men and one for women) with over 615 applicants (many multiple applicants taking the gross figure to over 1,000) across 4 surgeries. Some of these applicants were directed by the NHS Health and Wellbeing Coaches. • 2nd and 3rd cohorts commenced on 27th Sept. There are still issues with attendance and retention which we are working on with the Trust. • A comprehensive Lessons Learnt exercise took place after the 1st cohort (men) ended due to the disappointing numbers of participants completing the course. Measures have included; utilising a more personal ‘touch’, over subscribing and having a reserve list. • Further work has taken place including looking at an alternative venue and introducing a pre-course session to allow participants to see the venue beforehand, talk to the team etc. • To ensure compliance with the SLA, DBC have worked with Shape Up and they will be putting on an additional cohort, at their expense. • We are working with Herts Sports Partnership to create a directory of physical activity for the unsuccessful applicants as well as those who complete the programme so they can continue with their fitness journey. • We will retain the details of the existing applicants for the remaining cohorts we have commissioned as well as continuing to take names from the NHS Health and Wellbeing Coaches rather than texting all patients again. 	<p>In progress</p>



Council Briefing Note 15th November 2023

**CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL PORTFOLIO –
COUNCILLOR RON TINDALL**

Significant service achievements since last Council meeting:

Financial Services

The Audit Committee have reviewed the draft audited financial statements and draft Audit findings report, that at present provides a clean set of accounts, which are just awaiting HCC pensions review to conclude. The team have continued to lead on the Corporate financial performance framework, including the delivery of the quarter 2 financial report to Finance & Resources Overview & Scrutiny.

Revenues and Benefits service

The service continues the process of consultation into possible council tax support changes, for further consideration by the Portfolio Holder and Cabinet. It continues to offer advice, signposting and support to residents in regards to Council Tax, benefits and financial support.

Legal & Democratic Services:

A Polling District & Polling Place review has now been completed and the community have been consulted on the current location of all polling places and the current polling districts. The outcome of the review has been discussed at the Electoral Review Committee and the updated Polling District & Polling Place Order will be recommended for approval by full Council.

The Legal Team are progressing a project to carry out a statutory compliance review as part of ongoing assurance that the Council is meeting all of its full statutory duties. This review involves all services throughout the Council and will provide a comprehensive overview of all statutory and discretionary services.

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) has been commissioned to carry out a review of Dacorum's Scrutiny arrangements, with a particular focus on decision-making and the role of Overview and Scrutiny. Chairs and Vice Chairs of all scrutiny meetings will be contacted for interview and an on-line survey for all councillors and relevant officers has been made available to complete. The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete and will remain open until 17th November 2023.

Commercial Development

The informal consultation on the proposed increases to parking tariffs and changes to charging policies was undertaken during September and October.

Strategic or significant operational matters for Council to be aware of:

Financial Services

The approval of the 2023 MTFS at Cabinet has set the foundations and core assumptions for the 2024/25 budget setting process. The first budget report will be presented at Finance & Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee in early December.

Legal & Democratic Services:

The next Police and Crime Commissioner election will be held on the 2nd of May 2024. Preparations are already well underway with polling stations and staff being contacted and reserved for election date.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) have begun the electoral review for Dacorum. Various Officer and member briefings have been held in order to raise awareness.

Commercial Development

Garages – The Garage Service continues to be focused on delivering an increased income target for 2023/24, with a net increase of an additional 82 garages being rented so far this year. Work is also underway to focus on repairs in areas where there is known demand.

Parking – Following the conclusion of the informal consultation on proposed changes to parking tariffs and charging policies, the responses are being reviewed, and Cabinet will consider the proposals again in December, following presentation of a report to Finance & Resources OSC in December.

Procurement – A review of procurement and contract management processes is underway, to assure these continue to support the Council in securing best value in the services, works and goods it procures. Plans are also progressing on contract management training to ensure officers continue to effectively manage the Council's contracts.

Commercial – Electric Vehicle Charge Points (EVCPs) continue to be installed in certain Council car parks across the Borough. Over the next few weeks and months, residents will start to see an increase in the number of EVCPs being installed and becoming operational, which will support the Council's commitment to climate change.

Commercial – Work has recently started on a Garage Portfolio Asset Review, which forms part of a wider review of the Council's Strategic Assets. The Garage Asset Review focuses on opportunities to make best use of the portfolio going forward, which is an important income stream for the General Fund. That will include evaluating opportunities for driving growth from the existing garage assets, as well as potential opportunities for alternative use of some of the garage sites to support additional commercial income generation and wider strategic objectives.

Commercial Occupancy & Income

Commercial Occupancy levels remains high at 95.73% whilst Income M6 equates to £3,484,725 with a budget target of £3,462,950 so over by £21,775 or 0.6%.

Poppy Fields Cemetery

The team has worked with the Legal Team on terms for the Joint Committee Agreement (overarching governance document) to the West Herts Joint Crematorium Committee in respect of land at Poppy Fields being used by the Crematorium operation. A final draft is in circulation.

Commercial Rents Audit

TIAA have undertaken an Audit. The Auditor's Report awarded the team a 'Substantial Assurance' assessment, which is the highest result possible. Audit Committee took place on 20th September and the report was presented there by Finance with Property Services in attendance.

Bennetts Gate Window Renewal & Concrete Repairs

There is capital budget for a window renewal programme, which comprises the residential elements above the shops, concrete render repairs & redecoration to pillars. The works will commence as soon as Herts County Council grant scaffold licences as the footpaths outside the building are adopted highway and Herts County Council permits are required. Once works commence, it is anticipated the programme will take 10 weeks to complete.

Boxmoor War Memorial.

The Building Services Team are arranging the annual wash and clean of the memorial in advance of Remembrance Sunday.

Moor End Road, Watergardens Jellicoe Fountain.

The Fountain, which is managed by Clean, Safe & Green has been out of order for a number of weeks. Following investigation by the Building Services Team, it was discovered that the pump motor that serves the fountain had burnt out. Building Services instructed contractors to remove the pump and undertake extensive repairs and re-install it. The Fountain is now working as intended.



Council Briefing Note 15th November 2023

**PEOPLE AND TRANSFORMATION PORTFOLIO –
COUNCILLOR CAROLE WESTON**

Our People and Transformation teams continue to work on delivering the four key strategies (Customer, Digital, People and Communications) which were agreed at the start of 2023.

The customer strategy aims to ensure that the resident is at the heart of everything we do. To enable the ambitions set out in our Customer Strategy, a new target operating model was designed which focuses on simplifying and improving customer journeys whilst creating more efficient and effective ways to deliver services to our customers. This will involve redesigning services across Dacorum to align with the future operating model and we are in the process of identifying which services we will be working with over the next 12 months.

In the meantime, we are developing a Customer Charter which sets out a series of commitments to improve customer service across the organisation. We have also developed a new webpage content guide, in line with Government Digital Services standards, that will help us develop web content in a more customer friendly way.

The team have established a new Project Management Office (PMO) approach for Dacorum to ensure greater accountability and assurance of project and programme delivery across the organisation.

Our People team continue to support the Council through a new leadership training programme for all tier four managers. I am also pleased to announce that Dacorum is now a Disability Confident Level 2 Employer. We have also appointed three new graduates as part of the National Graduate Development Programme.

A new video streaming PC has been installed to stream council meetings on YouTube. The first stream to use this new technology was the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 25th October. We have also rolled out MS Teams calling, meaning that all staff with a DBC laptop can use Teams to make and receive telephone calls directly on their laptops.

We are currently undergoing our annual ICT Health check in preparation for our Public Service Network (PSN) re-certification. Certification demonstrates that the Council has a suitable level of security to minimise the risk to other Public Service Network users.

The Communications team have launched our new engagement platform “Let’s Talk Dacorum”, which will house all consultations in one place, providing a user-friendly portal to engage with our residents and stakeholders.

Finally we have delivered the hugely successful Halloween in the Old Town event, which was attended by thousands of residents, and finished with a spectacular fireworks display in Gadebridge Park.



Council Briefing Note 15th November 2023

**HOUSING & PROPERTY PORTFOLIO –
COUNCILLOR SIMY DHYANI**

Property Services

Resident Engagement Strategies for High Rise Blocks

Block specific resident engagement strategies are being developed with consultation events taking place at five developments in October and November. The first two events (Pelham Court and Fennycroft Road) have been well received with constructive feedback from residents. We have started actioning the resident consultation strategies for the high risk blocks owned by the Council. There was a good turnout of residents at Pelham court and staff were able to share the bespoke safety strategy for the block and pick up and address other general concerns (and appreciation) fed back from residents. All high risk blocks will have been visited by the end of November 23.

RAAC

The programme has been finalised to complete the RAAC replacement following interim safety measures being completed. All works are to be completed by March 24.

Repairs, Maintenance and Capital Delivery Commissioning Process

A scope of works has been finalised for the future contract with the commercial procurement route to be agreed with Cabinet in January 24. Once agreed, the Council will undertake a pre-tender market dialogue event to discuss the Council's requirements with the aim to commence the procurement process in April 24.

Domestic Heating and Ventilation re-procurement Process

The Council is currently reviewing Expression of Interest documents from bidders (known as Supplier Questionnaires) to identify companies to short list and invite to tender for the contract. The moderation process took place on Friday 27th October 23, with the tender process having commenced w/c 30th October 2023.

Interim Contract Strategy

Approval to award a number of non-compliant contracts was approved by Cabinet on the 17th October 23. The Council are now finalising the final contract documentation before providing these to Contractors for comment. This were also a number of contract areas where further works are required, so the team will continue to work on these prior to obtaining formal sign-off from the Strategic Director of Housing and Property Services.

Total Asset Management Contract Improvement Plan

Work has now commenced on the contract improvement plan, which is being managed by the Commercial Contract Manager who will work with colleagues across the Council and Osborne Property Services.

Contract Review

Meetings are taking place with Heads of Service across Housing and Property Services to 1) identify future contract requirements and ensure these are captured on the Housing and Property Services Procurement Forward Plan; and 2) review current contract management arrangements for all live and procurement compliant contracts.

Performance

Improvements have been reported in 6 key Performance Indicators, including the number of repairs completed on time, appointments made and kept, and first time fix rates.

Stock Condition Survey

All stock condition survey data has been loaded into the MRI Asset Test system, and we are conducting 'user acceptance testing' to resolve any issues before we sign off to implement these modules in our live system.

Osborne Property Services Ltd (OPSL)

A service improvement plan has been finalised with OPSL.

Condensation, Damp and Mould

Workshops have been held with approx. 60 residents to increase awareness and provide research data within the Net Zero innovation programme.

Communal Heating Systems Upgrades

The upgrades of two communal heating systems at supported housing schemes have been completed. One scheme (Betty Patterson House) was also suitable for Solar PV panels that have been installed. These upgrades will introduce renewable technologies (air source heat pumps) that will reduce our running costs and carbon footprint. The installations were completed over the summer months to reduce tenant disruption.

Fire Safety

Fire safety works at Gade Tower are near completion with 100% of flat entrance doors having been replaced. Internal decorations have commenced, and the lift replacement programme is also now on site

Following the completion of the remedial works to replace non-compliant materials to the balconies at Kylna Court, the removal of non-compliant decking material on the rooftop gardens has now commenced. Scaffolding has been erected and the old system will be taken down in the coming weeks followed by the installation of a compliant Ali-Deck system.

Fire safety projects at Langley House and Phyllis Courtnage House have been tendered and contracts awarded; work will be completed this financial year. An additional fire safety tender is currently live for blocks of flats at Townsend and Church Street; this project is subject to Section 20 consultation.

Community Alarm System Upgrades

The community alarm system at William Crook House has been upgraded with fire detection also being addressed at the same time. The next scheme on the programme is Phyllis Courtnage House.

Housing Operations

The Supported Housing Service was successful in assessment for EROSH and achieved re-accreditation.

The service led a positively received tenant mystery movie event in partnership with Old Town Hall team.

Engagement has taken place with the Tenant Improvement Panel to gain support for a Community Garden proposal, and the first spade was put in the ground on 30 October.

Cabinet approval has been gained to apply to vary the council's lease agreement.

The team have met the commitment to visit all HRA streets, with follow up actions & improvement plans in place.

Safe Communities

Improved satisfaction ratings for ASB have been achieved & a successful outcome in a long standing ASB case in partnership with HCC.

One property has been acquired via the Local Authority Housing Fund with a further two acquisitions in pipeline, to provide resettlement opportunities for asylum seekers.

Two Private Rented Sector warrants have been executed with support of Scorpion Team (Police) due to unlicensed HMO activity in Bennetts End.

Engagement has taken place with the Strategic Migration partnership to deliver wellbeing & employability skills support for overseas nationals.

Strategic Housing & Delivery

New Housing Forum with Registered Providers

The Council's first Housing Forum with Registered Providers takes place on the 14th November with our local housing association partners. The aim is to hold this event at least annually to promote partnership working to help meet the housing needs of Dacorum residents.

New Developments

Construction work is due to start at two new housing developments for the Council in November. Marchmont Fields and Paradise Depot, both in Hemel Hempstead, will provide 32 and 56 new social rented homes once they are completed in 2025/26. A meet the contractor event is being held for local residents on the 7th November.

Dacorum Borough Council has marked the completion of six new council homes near Tring. The homes are a mixture of two and three-bedroom houses, providing much needed housing for social rent in the village of Wilstone. One house is fully accessible. The formal opening ceremony was held on the 18th October with the ribbon cut by myself together with one of the new residents.

The homes were built on under-used Council land and are designed to complement the surrounding properties. They are energy-efficient and feature photovoltaic panels, electric air source heat pump heating/hot water and increased insulation. Each home has an electric charger point and a private parking bay.

FULL COUNCIL - JULY

ACTION POINTS FOR PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Date of meeting	Action point	PH responsible for action	Response / Investigation Ongoing
September 2023	To send enquiries regarding expected receipt of King's official portrait for Council Chamber. (Cllr Tindall & Officers)	Cllr Tindall	Picture has been ordered and should be in situ for Full Council in November
September 2023	Cllr Barradell noted the Council's success as referred to in the report regarding countering dog fouling and littering in Gadebridge Park. Cllr Barradell asked how this was achieved and if there are plans to use this knowledge to tackle incidents elsewhere, including Gaddesden. Cllr Tindall advised that the handling of anti-social behaviour is being reviewed, noting that the previous administration	Cllr Bromham	Followed up for response 07/11/2023

	restricted the activities of wardens to the centre of Hemel Hempstead. Cllr Tindall suggested that the work has been achieved by staff and that he would arrange for a portfolio holder to provide a full reply.		
September 2023	<p>Cllr Timmis asked if the electrical vehicle charging points will be limited in time or if cars can charge overnight.</p> <p>Cllr Tindall stated that this will depend on the particular charging point and that the portfolio holder could provide a more detailed response</p>	Cllr Tindall	<p>I'm delighted to see these first three Osprey EV charging points go operational earlier than expected. Tring leads this wave of modern infrastructure being installed right across Dacorum, helping local residents, shoppers and other visitors to be confident in leaving behind vehicles which require outdated fossil fuels.</p> <p>The following public car park locations are included in the current programme:</p> <p>Hemel Hempstead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Lane End car park • Alexandra Road car park • Queensway car park • Park Road • Bellgate neighbourhood centre • The Queen's Square neighbourhood centre • Durrants Hill car park • Leverstock Green village shops • Water Gardens • Cowper Road • The Gables car park • Henry Wells Square • Bennetts End neighbourhood centre • High Street Car Park <p>Berkhamsted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John's Well Lane car park <p>Tring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frogmore Street (East) car park • Forge Car Park

			<p>Kings Langley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Langley Hill car park <p>Markyate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hicks Road car park
September 2023	<p>Cllr Douris commented on the proposal for some car parks to have a minimum charge based on a longer period of time and asked if this was correct.</p> <p>Cllr Tindall stated that he would arrange for a written answer to be provided</p>	Cllr Tindall	Followed up for response 07/11/2023

Agenda Item 7

Cabinet Referrals

17th October 2023

CA/86/23 ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT

Decision

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

1. Cabinet **recommended that Council** approved the contents of the report on Treasury Management performance and the Prudential Indicators for 2022/23.

Corporate Priorities

Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery

Statutory Officer Comments:

Monitoring Officer:

This report is a statutory requirement under the Local Government Act 2003 and is an important part of the Council's financial governance to enable officers and Members to review the Council's financial position

Deputy S151 Officer:

This is a S151 Officer report

Advice

Cllr Tindall introduced the report and welcomed questions.

There were no questions.

Recommendation agreed



Full Council

Report for:	Council
Title of report:	Polling District & Polling Place Order
Date:	15 November 2023
Report on behalf of:	Councillor Tindall, Leader & Portfolio Holder for Corporate & Commercial Services
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	n/a
Appendices:	Appendix A – Polling Districts & Polling Places Order
Background papers:	Report to the Electoral Review Committee 31.10.23: ‘Parliamentary Boundary Review’ Report to the Electoral Review Committee 31.10.23: ‘Polling District & Polling Place Review’
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

Report Author / Responsible Officer

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Corporate Priorities	Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery
Wards affected	All of Dacorum
Purpose of the report:	1. To approve the updated Polling Districts & Polling Places Order
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	1. That Council approve the updated Polling Districts & Polling Places Order

Period for post policy/project review:	Every 5 years as part of the Polling District & Polling Place Review
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1 Introduction/Background:

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district.

The following definitions may be helpful when reading the report and Appendices.

- “Polling districts” are geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided.
- “Polling places” are the buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.
- “Polling stations” are the number of issuing desks in the building or area that is the designated polling place.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years.

The intention of the legislation was reviews would be completed by the January before a UK parliamentary general election. However, since the repeal of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011, there is no longer any certainty as to when the next general election will be.

The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 means:

- the UK Parliament can be dissolved by the King on request of the Prime Minister, at any time within the 5 years of the life of the Parliament
- the next general election must take place before Tuesday 28 January 2025, but it could happen at any point before then

These issues mean it is important that the polling district and places review is carried out as early as possible, so that Dacorum Borough Council has agreed polling districts and places to be used for the next parliamentary election (as well as the scheduled Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2024) and has a polling scheme in place which reflects the new constituencies.

2. Updated Polling Districts & Polling Places Order

Following the recent Polling District & Polling Place Review and further to the outcome of the Parliamentary Boundary Review, carried out by the Boundary Commission for England, the Polling Districts & Polling Places Order for Dacorum Borough Council requires updating.

3. Amendments made

A new parliamentary constituency created called Harpenden & Berkhamsted.

The Hemel Hempstead and South West Herts constituencies to be amended as per recommendations from the Boundary Commission for England.

A new polling place is created at Chipperfield Village hall, to replace Chipperfield Youth Club.

A new Polling place is created at Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church, to allow electors in the AGBA (Boxmoor ward) polling district to vote within the correct warded area.

To tidy the electoral register and combine the following polling district:

- Polling District BAB (Nash Mills Ward) to move to Polling District BAA (Nash Mills Ward)

- Flats 1-11 Nash House Polling district AFAA (Apsley and Corner Hall ward) to move to Polling District BA (Nash Mills Ward) following the incorrect set up when the address location was created by Royal Mail.

4 Consultation

The Returning Officer; Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services, all councillors; Parish Councils, DBC Consultation website, St Albans District Council Returning Officer, Three Rivers District Council Returning Officer.

5 Financial and value for money implications:

The provision of Polling Stations for elections is reviewed on a regular basis and the funding is overseen by the Electoral Commission and the Elections Claims Unit.

6 Legal Implications

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. This must be reviewed every five years.

Following the completion of the Parliamentary Boundary Review, carried out by the Boundary Commission, the amendments must be completed prior to holding the next Parliamentary election.

7 Risk implications:

Electoral matters require continual review to ensure that the democratic process operates effectively. A failure to provide polling places would likely result in legal challenges to elections and subsequent reputational damage.

8 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

There are no equalities or community impacts arising directly from this report. Polling stations have been fully assessed and are deemed fully accessible for all members of the public.

9 Sustainability implications

There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

10 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

There are no council infrastructure implications arising directly from this report.

11 Conclusions:

After consideration, the above recommendations are deemed appropriate amendments to the councils Polling Districts & Polling Places Order.

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE BOROUGH OF DACORUM (POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES) ORDER 2023

COMING INTO OPERATION – 1 December 2023

Claire Hamilton

Chief Executive

The Forum

Hemel Hempstead

Herts

HP1 1DN

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983

THE BOROUGH OF DACORUM (POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES) ORDER 2023

DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL in exercise of the powers conferred by the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended, DO HEREBY ORDER as follows:

1. This Order shall come into operation on the 1 December 2023 provided that for the purpose of all proceedings preliminary or relating to an election to be held on or after that day the said Order shall be deemed to have come into operation forthwith.
2. The Electoral Registration Officer shall be directed to make such rearrangements or alterations as may be necessary to the Register of Electors on account of the coming into operation of this Order.
3. From and after coming into operation of this Order the Parliamentary Constituency of Hemel Hempstead and so much of that part of the South West Hertfordshire Constituency and Harpenden & Berkhamsted Constituency within the Borough of Dacorum shall be divided into polling districts specified in columns (1) and (2) of the Schedule annexed to this Order and more particularly described in Maps on the Dacorum Borough Website.
4. For each Polling District constituted by this Order there is hereby designated a Polling Place situated at or near the place specified in column (3) of the said Schedule.
5. As from coming into operation of this Order, the Borough of Dacorum (Polling Districts and Polling Places Order 2021) and any subsequent variation orders made to it shall be repealed.
6. The Chief Executive of the said Council shall maintain on the Dacorum Borough Council website a copy of the Maps showing the boundaries of the Polling Districts and the situations of the Polling Places constituted and designated by this Order.
7. This Order shall be cited as “The Borough of Dacorum (Polling Districts and Polling Places) Order 2023”.

The COMMON SEAL OF THE
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL
was hereunto affixed this 1st
day of December 2023
in the presence of

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

Borough of Dacorum Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

1. HEMEL HEMPSTEAD CONSTITUENCY

(1) Polling District Letters	(2) Areas comprised in Polling Districts	(3) Polling Place
AAA	Hemel Hempstead Town (part)	George Street Primary School
AAAA	Hemel Hempstead Town (part)	Highfield Hall, Bellgate
AABA	Hemel Hempstead Town (part)	Highfield Hall, Bellgate
AABB	Hemel Hempstead Town (part)	Carey Baptist Church, Marlowes
AAB	Hemel Hempstead Town (part)	Carey Baptist Church, Marlowes
ABA	Highfield Ward (part)	Highfield Hall, Bellgate
ABA	Highfield Ward (part)	Highfield Hall, Bellgate
ABB	Highfield Ward (part)	St Pauls Church Hall, Solway, Hemel Hempstead
AC	Adeyfield West Ward (part)	Communal Room, Old House Road
AC	Adeyfield West Ward (part)	Communal Room, Old House Road
ACA	Adeyfield West Ward (part)	Adeyfield Community Centre, Queen's Square
ADA	Adeyfield East Ward (part)	Hobletts Manor Junior School, Adeyfield Road
ADB	Adeyfield East Ward (part)	Adeyfield Community Centre, Queen's Square
AFA	Apsley and Corner Hall Ward (part)	Apsley Community Centre, London Road
AFAA	Apsley and Corner Hall Ward (part)	Apsley Community Centre, London Road
AFB	Apsley and Corner Hall Ward (part)	Two Waters Primary School, Highridge Road
AFC	Apsley and Corner Hall Ward (part)	Tudor Primary School, Redwood Drive
AFC	Apsley and Corner Hall Ward (part)	Tudor Primary School, Redwood Drive
AGA	Boxmoor Ward (part)	St Francis Parish Hall, Glenview Road
AGB	Boxmoor Ward (part)	Camelot RFC, Chaulden Lane

AGBA	Boxmoor Ward (part)	Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church
AGC	Boxmoor Ward (part)	South Hill Centre
AHA	Chaulden and Warners End Ward (part)	Warners End Community Centre, Stoneycroft
AHA	Chaulden and Warners End Ward (part)	Warners End Community Centre, Stoneycroft
AHB	Chaulden and Warners End Ward (part)	Gt Sturgess Communal Hall, Great Sturgess Road, HH
AHC	Chaulden and Warners End Ward (part)	Chaulden Community Centre, Long Chaulden
AJ	Gadebridge Ward	Gadebridge Community Centre, Rossgate, Galley Hill
AJ	Gadebridge Ward	Gadebridge Community Centre, Rossgate, Galley Hill
ALA	Leverstock Green Ward (part)	Parish Hall, Ritcroft Street, Hemel Hempstead
ALB	Leverstock Green Ward (part)	Leverstock Green Village Hall, Village Centre
ALB	Leverstock Green Ward (part)	Leverstock Green Village Hall, Village Centre
ALC	Leverstock Green Ward (part)	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Peascroft Road
ALCA	Leverstock Green Ward (part)	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Peascroft Road
AMA	Woodhall Farm Ward (part)	Woodhall Farm Community Centre, Datchet Close
AMB	Woodhall Farm Ward (part)	Brockswood Primary School, Shenley Road
AMB	Woodhall Farm Ward (part)	Brockswood Primary School, Shenley Road
APA	Grovehill Ward (part)	Grove Hill Community Centre, Henry Wells Square
APA	Grovehill Ward (part)	Grove Hill Community Centre, Henry Wells Square
APAA	Grovehill Ward (part)	Grove Hill Community Centre, Henry Wells Square
APB	Grovehill Ward (part)	St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, St Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead
AQA	Bennetts End Ward (part)	Bennetts End Community Centre
AQB	Bennetts End Ward (part)	Belswains JM School, Barnfield

AQC	Bennetts End Ward (part)	Belmont Baptist Church Hall, Belmont Road
BA	Nash Mills Ward (part) (Nash Mills Parish)	Nash Mills Village Hall, 4 Lower Road
BA	Nash Mills Ward (part) (Nash Mills Parish)	Nash Mills Village Hall, 4 Lower Road
BAA	Nash Mills Ward (part)	Nash Mills Village Hall, 4 Lower Road
LA	Bovingdon , Flaunden and Chipperfield Ward (part) (Bovingdon Parish)	The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon
LA	Bovingdon , Flaunden and Chipperfield Ward (part) (Bovingdon Parish)	The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon
LB	Bovingdon , Flaunden and Chipperfield Ward (part) (Flaunden Parish)	The Village Hall, Flaunden
LC	Bovingdon , Flaunden and Chipperfield Ward (part) (Chipperfield Parish)	Chipperfield Village Hall, The Common
LD	Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield Ward (part)	Bourne End Village Hall
LE	Bovingdon, Flaunden and Chipperfield Ward (part)	The Boxmoor Trust Centre

2. HARPENDEN AND BERKHAMSTED CONSTITUENCY

EAA	Aldbury and Wigginton Ward (Aldbury Parish East Ward)	Aldbury Memorial Hall
EAB	Aldbury and Wigginton Ward (Aldbury Parish West Ward)	The Iron Room, Tring Station
EB	Aldbury and Wigginton Ward (Wigginton Parish)	St Bartholomews Church Hall
FA	Ashridge Ward (part) (Little Gaddesden Parish)	The Sports Pavilion, Little Gaddesden
FB	Ashridge Ward (part) (Nettleden with Potten End Parish)	Potten End Village Hall
KAA	Berkhamsted West Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish West Ward (part)	Lagley Hall, Douglas Gardens
KAB	Berkhamsted West Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish West Ward (part)	All Saints' Church Hall, Shrublands Road
KAB	Berkhamsted West Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish West Ward (part)	All Saints' Church Hall, Shrublands Road
KBA	Berkhamsted Castle Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish Castle Ward (part)	Bridgewater Middle School, Bridle Way

KBB	Berkhamsted Castle Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish Castle Ward (part)	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club, Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted
KBC	Berkhamsted Castle Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish Castle Ward (part)	Court House, Church Lane
KCA	Berkhamsted East Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish East Ward (part)	Evangelical Free Church Hall, Kings Road
KCB	Berkhamsted East Ward (part) Berkhamsted Parish East Ward (part)	Swing Gate First School, Swing Gate Lane
JA	Northchurch Ward (Northchurch Parish)	Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane
DAA	Tring East Ward (Tring Parish Dunsley Ward)	Tring Scout Hall, Adjacent to 35 Grove Road, Tring
DBAA	Tring Central Ward (part) (Tring Parish Bunstrux Ward – part)	Nora Grace Hall, Faversham Close, Tring
DBBB	Tring Central Ward (part) (Tring Parish Bunstrux Ward – part)	Tring Community Centre, Silk Mill Way
DBCC	Tring Central Ward (part) (Tring Parish Bunstrux Ward – part)	New Mill Baptist Church, New Road, New Mill
DCAA	Tring West and Rural Ward (part) (Tring Parish Miswell Ward – part)	Goldfield Infants School, Christchurch Road
DCBB	Tring West and Rural Ward (part) (Tring Parish Miswell Ward – part)	Roman Catholic Church Hall, Langdon Street
DDAA	Tring West and Rural Ward (part) (Tring Rural Parish – part)	Long Marston Victory Hall
DDBB	Tring West and Rural Ward (part) (Tring Rural Parish – part)	Wilstone Village Hall
GA	Watling Ward (Flamstead Parish)	The Methodist Church Hall, Trowley Hill Road
GB	Watling Ward (Markyate Parish)	Markyate Village Hall, Cavendish Road
GB	Watling Ward (Markyate Parish)	Markyate Village Hall, Cavendish Road
GCA	Watling Ward (Great Gaddesden Parish – Part)	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall
GCB	Watling Ward (Great Gaddesden Parish – Part)	Gaddesden Row Community Hall

3. SOUTH WEST HERTS CONSTITUENCY

(1)	(2)	(3) Polling Place
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Polling District Letters	Areas comprised in Polling Districts and Reference	
PA	Kings Langley Ward (Kings Langley Parish North Ward)	The Community Centre, Rucklers Lane
PB	Kings Langley Ward (Kings Langley Parish South Ward)	All Saints Church Hall, Church Lane
PB	Kings Langley Ward (Kings Langley Parish South Ward)	All Saints Church Hall, Church Lane
PC	Kings Langley Ward (Kings Langley Parish Central Ward)	Methodist Church Hall, Hempstead Road

Agenda Item 10

WAIVER OF 6 MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE (SEC.85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972).

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six month consecutive period, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. This requirement can be waived and the time limit extended if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Authority, in advance of the six month period expiring.

Councillor Mottershead represents the Tring West and Rural Ward.

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that “if a member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.” Attendance can be at any committee or sub-committee, or any joint committee, joint board or other body where the functions of the Authority are discharged or who were appointed to advise the Authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.

Councillor Mottershead has not been able to attend any Council or committee meeting since the commencement of the committee cycle, due to illness. The Monitoring Officer has received a request for the Council to consider approving an extension to the usual six month attendance rule enabling him to remain in office until he is able to resume normal duties.

This request has been submitted to approve an extension of the usual six month rule.

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a Local Authority to approve the reason(s) for non-attendance of a Member at any meeting of the Authority throughout a period of six consecutive months, provided that approval is given by the Authority before the expiry of the six month period.

The Council is asked to approve Councillor Mottershead’s non-attendance at meetings of the authority due to ill health for a six month period up to 9th May 2024 pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.