

FULL COUNCIL – 2023/2024

ACTION POINTS FOR PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Date of meeting	Action point	PH responsible for action	Response / Investigation Ongoing
July 2023	Cllr Symington to circulate cost of the strategic review to members.	Cllr Sally Symington	<p>The work streams planned for the Strategic Asset Review (SRA) are reported in the Report to Cabinet 20 June 2023 and listed in Table 1 on page 5. In total, the costs for the SAR are estimated at £516k. These are being partly funded from existing budgets provided for by the previous administration. However, there is a shortfall across the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) of £95,500 and the General Fund (GE) of £115,500, giving a combined total shortfall of £211k. The HRA funding requirement is being funded by a one-off reduction to the 2023/24 HRA revenue contribution to capital and the GF funding requirement is being funded from the Dacorum Development Reserve.</p> <p>The Strategic Asset Review will enable the Council to make best use of Council assets to support the delivery of housing growth and regeneration throughout Dacorum; and to generate long term income streams that support service delivery for the benefit of Dacorum’s communities.</p>
July 2023	Cllr Bromham to provide written answer regarding timescale for verge hardening.	Cllr Robin Bromham	<p>“I appreciate the amount of reported parking congestion we have on residential streets, and the effect that has, especially on pedestrians of restricted mobility. Our streets were not designed for the quantity and size/weight of modern vehicles.</p> <p>As this problem was neglected by the previous administration, and a backlog of potential schemes has built up, I have asked for policy options, based on evidenced parking congestion, desire-lines for pedestrians and co-ordination with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which is now being progressed properly by the new administration.</p> <p>I believe that the LCWIP will serve to reduce the need for reliance on cars for local travel, and hence support the choice to reduce levels of multiple car ownership.</p> <p>Thus, I am investigating the provision of more parking on residential streets where the need is shown to be most acute, with an ability to restore to grass or planting in the long-term.”</p>

<p>July 2023</p>	<p>Cllr Wilkie to provide written information on fast-tracking to Cllr Johnson</p>	<p>Cllr Sheron Wilkie</p>	<p>Further to the question from Cllr's Anderson and Johnson in Full Council meeting on 12th July , please find my written response to all members as requested.</p> <p>In November 2022 Planning Officers provided a Member Briefing Note regarding fast-track appeals after a request from the previous portfolio holder Cllr Anderson – please find attached.</p> <p>Cllr Anderson and Johnson asked at FCM on the 12th July;</p> <p><i>'In the last year there have been two highly controversial planning appeals in Kings Langley that have been fast-tracked. The fast-tracking process has been used for some years, but this is the first time it has been used for cases where the officer's recommendation has been overturned by Development Management Committee, and the decision to fast-track an appeal against the decision of Development Management Committee is made by Dacorum Planning Department, not the Planning Inspectorate. The fundamental problem with the process is that the appellant gets another opportunity to include disputed information, but neighbours and ward councillors who have objected to the application are denied a role in the fast-track process. They are denied a fair hearing. The previous portfolio holder banned fast-tracking controversial appeals, resulting from the first case, but this ban would appear to have been discontinued. Does the portfolio holder agree with me that fast-tracking these cases is fundamentally unfair, and will the portfolio holder reinstate the ban to stop this from happening?'</i></p> <p>As per the Member Briefing in 2022:</p> <p><i>'A householder appeal is an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for development attached to a dwelling or within its grounds (i.e., householder planning applications); or against conditions attached to such planning permissions. The householder appeal service was introduced in April 2009 to streamline the procedure for householder appeals, with quicker timescales for making an appeal, and the overall appeal decision-making process". In other words, a 'fast track appeal' is simply the process by which <u>ALL</u> householder appeals are heard. In that sense Cllr Anderson has misunderstood the fast-track appeals process as this is not a process that Dacorum's Planning Department can choose.'</i></p>
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			<p>Cllr's Anderson and Johnson are correct that the appellant has a further opportunity to provide the Planning Inspectorate with their comments (their 'full case'). However, given the appellant will not previously have seen the Officer's report and the reasons for refusal it is in my view proportionate and proper that they have an opportunity to respond to these.</p> <p>Cllrs Anderson and Johnson are incorrect to say that there was a ban in place through the previous portfolio holder (Cllr Anderson), as it is not the Council / Planning Department that decides this process.</p> <p>As such, I have not lifted any such ban, nor do I have the powers to re-instate one.</p> <p>Moving on to the two specific cases referenced by Cllrs Anderson and Johnson:</p> <p>1) 22/00015/FHA: 36 Belham Road, Kings Langley WD4 8BY</p> <p>This appeal was allowed on 21.02.23. The Planning Inspector agreed with the recommendation of Officers and concluded that the development would not adversely affect the character and appearance of the area. The key section is as follows:</p> <div data-bbox="920 839 2119 1396" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"><ol style="list-style-type: none">6. I consider that the proposed two storey side extension incorporating the existing garage and extending to the rear elevation of the main house would be of a scale, height, bulk and design in keeping with the character of the existing house itself and the prevailing pattern of development along the street. The extended hipped roof would reflect the existing roof pitch and would be a visual improvement over the existing side dormer when viewed from the street. The size of the plot is ample to accommodate the increase in built form.7. The proposed first floor rear extension over the existing single storey extension would be relatively modest in scale with a hipped roof and would be in keeping with the main house. It would be visible from the rear windows of properties in Hempstead Road over the long rear gardens but not from the street.8. I conclude that the proposed extensions, together with the minor alterations to the chimney and rooflights and other openings, would not harm the character and appearance of the street scene or the wider area and that they are consistent with Core Strategy policies CS11 and CS12.</div>
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July 2023	Cllr Weston stated that she would provide a written reply to this question “What work was being done with	Cllr Carol Weston	Hertfordshire County Council staff members regularly attend the Hertfordshire Head of Human Resources meetings and recruitment is a frequent item at the meeting. We had an external presentation on how to best use social media and LinkedIn to assist with recruitment. As a result we are now utilising a recruiter license which allows us to proactively contact candidates who match the job vacancy skill set and are open to work.

	Hertfordshire County to promote roles with young people		<p>There is other work continuing at the Council, which will support the recruitment/retention of young people. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the number of our national graduate development programme intake, from 1 per year to 3 per year. • Continuing HR and management presence at career fairs • We have a stage in recruitment approval process to ensure managers consider the option to amend the vacancy to a trainee/apprentice role. • Bespoke marketing campaigns for graduate positions, latest one for the graduate environmental health officers. We received 12 applications. • We offer apprenticeship training for staff and currently have 11 members of staff on apprenticeship courses. • We offer a work experience programme for schools, this will be expanded in the next offer. • We are exploring partnerships with local colleges/universities with an aim to provide a pathway to job opportunities with the Council. • We have recently registered our interest in the planning graduate scheme run by the Local Government Association (LGA). This will be launched in the New Year. • The appraisal process now includes a succession planning element to ensure that future training is bespoke to the needs of personal career development as well as job related training.
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	Cllr Bromham	Regarding Gaddesden, I have received queries about signage locally, to advertise the fact that PSPO against dog fouling is in force. When I visited the Great Gaddesden, I did notice that a sign to that effect has now been put up on the parish notice board. We could consider adding signs to posts, although that is a compromise between the deterrent effect and the visual impact of such signs. Please encourage residents to report things like dog fouling online, which helps identify hotspots. https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/do-it-online/report-it .

	<p>and if there are plans to use this knowledge to tackle incidents elsewhere, including Gaddesden.</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>The reduced dog fouling in Gadebridge is likely to be due to the increased presence of park staff and the standard of tidiness and beauty of planting in the area.</p>
<p>September 2023</p>	<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>	<p>Cllr Tindall</p>	<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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	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	This is correct and is as set out in the proposals that went to Scrutiny and Cabinet in September 2023 and again in December 2023

	Cllr Tindall stated that he would arrange for a written answer to be provided		
November 2023	Cllr Barradell asked if there was data available of fixed penalty notices, specifically dog fouling outside of Hemel Hempstead and Berko.	Cllr Bromham	In the previous financial year, out of 3015 FPNs issued, 96% of FPNs were issued in Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted. 0.4% of the total were for dog fouling and 0.3% were for not carrying dog poo bags. 82% were for tobacco-related litter.
November 2023	Cllr Birnie asked if trading standards could offer regular reports on the selling of nicotine products to underage people	Cllr Bromham	Trading Standards (in Herts. County Council) said that vapes have been seized from 6 premises in Dacorum in current financial year and continue to do Test Purchasing for under age sales of vapes. Schools have been encouraged to report instances of children found in possession of vapes to a particular Herts CC email. HCC are considering how to share press releases on this topic to District/Borough Council Colleagues/ Members. I hope that UK government regulations will deter the use of disposable vapes among those who were not previously smokers and reduce incidence of these problematic devices in litter and waste-streams.
November 2023	Cllr Douris referenced the point in the report “: 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” He asked if Cllr England could tell them which particular bus services these were	Cllr England	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. ...and said that you were pleased I had used the plural. You then asked me which services: I look forward to inviting you to join me for a trip to and from Luton on the 721 and/or Stevenage on the 302, in the New Year?