

Cabinet
8 October 2024

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL CABINET held on Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

PRESENT: Councillors M.Holloway (Leader of the Council, Executive Member for Climate Change)

J.Quinton (Deputy Leader of the Council, Executive Member for Leisure and Community)

S.Bonfante (Executive Member for Environment)

J.Broach (Executive Member for Resources)

R.Grewal (Executive Member for Planning)

G.Moore (Executive Member for Housing)

K.Thorpe (Executive Member for Governance)

ALSO
PRESENT: Councillor T.Kingsbury (Leader of the Opposition)

OFFICIALS PRESENT: R.Baker, Executive Director (Finance & Transformation)
S.Saunders, Legal Services Manager
M.Sherry, Communications Service Manager
C.Cade, Governance Service Manager

294. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd September were approved as an accurate record.

295. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

296. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PETITIONS

No public questions or petitions were received.

Cabinet
8 October 2024

297. ACTIONS STATUS REPORT

Cabinet noted the Action Status report.

298. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 8

No notifications for urgent business were received.

299. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

No declarations of interest were received.

300. ITEMS REQUIRING KEY DECISION

The following item was considered from the Council's Forward Plan:

300.1. FP2072 Medium Term Financial Plan

Cabinet received a report from the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) on the review of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

During the discussion, officers were thanked for their work on a difficult budget setting process.

Decision taken

The Cabinet:

1. Noted the contents of the report
2. Approved the principles to be adopted for the 2025/26 budget setting process as highlighted in the report, in particular the 2025/26 budget setting process should focus on closing the indicative budget gap.
3. Agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation), in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources, to submit an application for the 2025/26 Business Rates Pooling arrangement for Hertfordshire, if after full consideration, there is a financial case for doing so.

Reason for decision

The report provided an update to the Medium-Term Financial Forecast based on Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Reports. It was highlighted that a number of the variances would be ongoing, and have added additional pressures in the future such as the crematorium income and housing benefit subsidy.

301. SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

There were no items of urgent business.

Cabinet
8 October 2024

Meeting ended at 6.35 pm