



Minutes

of the
Meeting of the
County Council
on
Tuesday, 25 February 2020

1. Agenda

2. Order of Business

3. Minutes

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Minutes



To: All Members of the Council
Chief Executive, Chief Officers

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Elaine Shell
Ext: 25565

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday, 25 February 2020

You can watch the webcast of this meeting here [Webcast of Council Meetings](#)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews	J M Graham	A Plancey
D A Ashley	L Greensmyth	S Quilty
D J Barnard	F Guest	N A Quinton
S Bedford	J S Hale	I M Reay
N Bell	D Hart	R M Roberts
J Bennett Lovell	K M Hastrick	A F Rowlands
P Bibby	T C Heritage	R Sangster
J Billing	D J Hewitt	R H Smith
S N Bloxham	F R G Hill	A Stevenson
S J Boulton	N A Hollinghurst	S J Taylor
A P Brewster	T W Hone	R A C Thake
S Brown	T Howard	R G Tindall
E H Buckmaster	T R Hutchings	A S B Walkington
F Button	S K Jarvis	M A Watkin
C Clapper	J R Jones	J A West
H K Crofton	J S Kaye	C J White
R C Deering	A K Khan	A D Williams
T L F Douris	J G L King	J D Williams
D S Drury	P V Mason	P T Williams
M A Eames-Petersen	G McAndrew	T J Williams
S J Featherstone	R Mills	C B Woodward
B A Gibson	M B J Mills-Bishop	C B Wyatt-Lowe (Chairman)
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	A J S Mitchell	W J Wyatt-Lowe
E M Gordon	M D M Muir	J F Wyllie
S Gordon (Vice-Chairman)	R G Parker	P M Zukowskyj

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Meeting of the County Council held on 25 February 2020, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

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1. MINUTES

1.1 The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) WEBCASTING

Webcasting: The Chairman advised that this meeting of the Council would be webcast live on the internet; that it would also be recorded and published on the Council's website and may also be published in other formats.

Any members of the press and public present were asked to note that if they were in the Council Chamber at any time during the meeting they acknowledged that they would be included in the webcast and recording; that all parts of the room can be seen or heard by the camera or microphones so any members of the press or public in attendance that did not wish to be recorded should leave the Chamber.

Electronic Voting: The Chairman advised that electronic voting would be used during the Council meeting where appropriate.

Speaker Scheduling: The Chairman advised that the 'speaker scheduling' system would be in operation during the meeting; if a Councillor wished to raise a Point of Order they should indicate their wish to speak and stand up to attract the Chairman's attention.

(b) DEATH OF FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL, KEITH EMSALL AND FORMER COUNTY COUNCILLORS MIKE WOOD, DENNIS CLAYTON AND BERNARD ENGEL

Mike Wood

The Chairman advised that Council had received the sad news that former County Councillor Mike Wood had passed away. Mike Wood was elected to the County Council in 1985 as the Liberal Democrat Member for Bishops Stortford (All Saints) and served the Council until 1989. A veteran of local politics Mike Wood also served on Bishops Stortford Town Council from 1987 – 2015, serving as Mayor of Bishops Stortford from 1991 – 1992, and was a Member of East Herts District Council Member from 1991 until 2015. A keen champion of local

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causes he was also a former Chairman of Age Concern in Bishops Stortford, a former admin director of 'The Snap' theatre company, and a trustee of 'The Rhodes Arts Complex'.

J F Wyllie and **C J White** spoke in tribute. **J Billing** offered condolences to the family on behalf of the Labour Group.

Dennis Clayton

The Chairman advised that Council had been informed that former County Councillor Dennis Clayton had also passed away. Dennis Clayton was elected to the County Council in 2001 as the Conservative Member for Waltham Cross serving until 2005. During his time as a County Councillor he sat on a number of committees including the Audit Committee and the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Select Committee.

D J Hewitt spoke in tribute. **C J White** and **J Billing** offered their condolences to the family on behalf of the Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups.

Bernard Engel

The Chairman advised that Council had further been advised that former County Councillor Bernard Engel had passed away. Bernard Engel was first elected to the County Council in 1997, serving as the Conservative Member for the Bishops Stortford Chantry Thorley until 2001 and was elected again in 2001 as the Conservative Member for Bishops Stortford East; he stepped down in 2009 at the age of 82. During his time as a County Councillor he sat on a number of committees including the Children, Schools & Families Select Committee and the Education Committee. An active politician, Bernard Engel also served Bishop's Stortford Town Council, where he also served as mayor in from 1989 – 1990, continuing as a member for another 14 years. From 1988 he was a member of East Herts Council on which he served for 15 years. In 2005 he became a member of Hertfordshire Police Authority and he was also a governor of Herts and Essex High School from 1989 to 2010. His civic roles also included a 12-year term on the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee and trustee of the Kings Cottages Trust, Bishop's Stortford United Charities, the Brazier Trust, Birchanger Woods Trust and the Rhodes Trust.

He was awarded an MBE for his devotion to duty.

C B Woodward spoke in tribute. **C J White** and **J Billing** offered their condolences to the family on behalf of the Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups.

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Keith Emsall

Council remembered Keith Emsall, former Chairman of the County Council, who had recently passed away. Keith Emsall was elected to the County Council in 1997 as the Conservative Member representing Letchworth South and served the Council until 2013. He was appointed to the Hertfordshire Police Authority in 1999. He served on many of the Council's Committees, including the Education Committee of which he was also Chairman, the Policy Committee, the Pensions Committee, and the Community Information & Protection Select Committee, which he also Chaired. He served as Executive Member for Community Safety and Culture and later as the Executive Member for Community Safety, Culture and Libraries and for Education and Culture. Keith Emsall served as Vice-Chairman of the Council from 2001 – 2003 and as Chairman of the Council from 2003 – 2005.

T W Hone, C J White, J Billing, R A C Thake, T C Heritage and C B Wyatt-Lowe spoke in tribute.

Council stood in memory of Keith Emsall, Mike Wood, Dennis Clayton and Bernard Engel.

(c) HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S NEW LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY 'HERTS AT HOME'

The Chairman announced that Hertfordshire County Council's new local authority trading company 'Herts at Home', which started at six weeks' notice after the failure of Allied Healthcare and took over a number of domiciliary care and flexicare housing contracts around the county, had been awarded a 'Good' rating by the Care Quality Commission. Council congratulated all involved in this terrific achievement, providing a valuable resilience tool in a fragile care market.

(d) HERTFORDSHIRE ADULT CARE SERVICES' CONNECTED LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Council was advised that Hertfordshire Adult Care Services 'Connected Leadership Programme' had won a national 'Skills for Care Leadership' award. The programme supports senior and front-line managers to encourage their professional staff to have the right conversations with people who may need care and their family carers to think about people's strengths before their disabilities, think about how they can play the fullest role in their community and how the Council can support people to live the life they want. Council congratulated all those

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involved in delivering the Programme.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 8 (10)

3.1 There were no public questions.

4. PUBLIC PETITIONS – STANDING ORDER 15

4.1 There were no public petitions.

5. OFFICER REPORTS RELEVANT TO EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS

Notes:

1. Members were reminded that in respect of the debate concerning the Council's Integrated Plan, including the setting of the council tax precept, the Standards Committee had exercised its power to grant a dispensation to all Hertfordshire County Councillors from the requirement to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or a Declarable Interest. Accordingly, there was no requirement for any Councillor to make any declaration of interest in respect of this item of business.
2. Members were reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provided that if a Member was in arrears of council tax for two months or more and they were present at a meeting where the Council's budget or the precept was being considered then they should declare this, and that any such Member must not vote on any matter relating to the setting of the Council's budget or the precept; the provisions of S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied even if there was an arrangement to pay off the arrears.

No declarations in this regard were made at the meeting.

- 5A. 5.1 R Sangster** advised Council that he noted that the Liberal Democrat Group was seeking to move two amendments to the motion in his name at 5.1 on the Order Paper. He had been advised that this could be challenged under the Council's Standing Orders but, in the interests of not delaying discussion on the budget, would not be objecting on this occasion; he reserved the right to do so in future.

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5.2 The following motion was proposed by **R Sangster** and duly seconded by **J D Williams**: -

“That Council: -

- (a) *approves the final version of the Integrated Plan as set out in this report and confirmed in the appended tables; noting that amendments to the budget may be required once any outstanding grants have been announced by the Government; and*
- (b) *adopts the Integrated Plan for 2020/21 - 2023/24 (as amended above) be adopted, and specifically that:*

In respect of all Parts:

- (i) *the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources & Performance, be authorised to make any necessary amendments to ensure the plan is in line with decisions taken by the County Council before final confirmation;*

In respect of Parts A & B:

- (ii) *a Revenue Budget of £858.568m and a Council Tax Requirement of £640.689m be agreed as per the updated Revenue Budget Statements included as an appendix to this report;*
- (iii) *a Band D Council Tax of £1,291.21 plus a Band D Social Care precept of £122.99 be agreed for the County Council in 2020/21, and that the amount of tax calculated for all bands be as follows:*

Table 1: Proposed HCC Council Tax for 2020/21 by band

Band	2019/20 Council Tax			2020/21 Council Tax		
	Basic	ASC Precept	Total	Basic	ASC Precept	Total
A	£842.78	£63.85	£906.63	£860.82	£81.98	£942.80
B	£983.22	£74.51	£1,057.73	£1,004.26	£95.67	£1,099.93
C	£1,123.70	£85.14	£1,208.84	£1,147.75	£109.32	£1,257.07
D	£1,264.15	£95.79	£1,359.94	£1,291.21	£122.99	£1,414.20
E	£1,545.08	£117.07	£1,662.15	£1,578.16	£150.31	£1,728.47
F	£1,825.99	£138.37	£1,964.36	£1,865.07	£177.66	£2,042.73
G	£2,106.93	£159.64	£2,266.57	£2,152.03	£204.97	£2,357.00
H	£2,528.30	£191.58	£2,719.88	£2,582.42	£245.98	£2,828.40

- (iv) *the precept amount of £640,688,970.01 be required from the district and borough councils as follows:*

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Table 2: Analysis of HCC 2020/21 precept amount by district and borough

District	Taxbase	Precept Amount £
<i>Borough of Broxbourne</i>	35,446.60	50,128,581.72
<i>Dacorum Borough Council</i>	58,567.40	82,826,017.08
<i>East Hertfordshire District Council</i>	61,272.00	86,650,862.40
<i>Hertsmere Borough Council</i>	41,889.20	59,239,706.64
<i>North Hertfordshire District Council</i>	49,979.60	70,681,150.32
<i>St Albans District Council</i>	62,821.04	88,841,514.77
<i>Stevenage Borough Council</i>	27,780.70	39,287,465.94
<i>Three Rivers District Council</i>	39,212.60	55,454,458.92
<i>Watford Borough Council</i>	33,480.70	47,348,405.94
<i>Welwyn Hatfield Council</i>	42,590.02	60,230,806.28
TOTAL	453,039.86	640,688,970.01

- (v) *the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to issue the Council Tax Information in accordance with demand notice regulations;*
- (vi) *the schools budget be agreed at the level of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) including any use of carried forward DSG. The total amount is currently estimated at £1,024m - less deductions in respect of academies and high needs places in further education; and that the Director of Resources in consultation with the Director of Children’s Services, the relevant Executive Members and the Schools Forum, be authorised to amend the schools budget to match any changes to the DSG and the planned approach to balancing the schools budget in future years of the Integrated Plan;*
- (vii) *the Director of Resources, and the relevant service Chief Officer, be authorised to determine the use of any other non-ringfenced grants not yet allocated to services;*
- (viii) *the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources & Performance, be authorised to make such arrangements as are necessary to enable the Hertfordshire Business Rates Retention Pool to be set up, noting the role of the Council as accountable body for this pool and the ongoing work to confirm the necessary changes to accommodate this (including treatment of s31 compensation amounts);*

In respect of Part C:

- (ix) *based on the information available at the time of preparing the IP, that a capital programme totalling £1,348.956m for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 be agreed and financed as set out in the Integrated Plan Part A, and also in*

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part C. Any changes to these proposals would be required to go through separate decision-making processes in accordance with the Council's financial regulations;

- (x) the Director of Resources be authorised to vary the capital programme during the year to include additional schemes that are wholly funded by grants or third party contributions and to vary existing schemes to match any changes in funding from grants or third party contributions, in accordance with the Council's financial regulations;
- (xi) the Capital Strategy, including the Investment Strategy (included as Appendix E to Part C) be approved;
- (xii) the Minimum Revenue Provision policy and capital expenditure prudential indicators be approved (IP Part C);

In respect of Part D:

- (xiii) the Treasury Management Strategy, including the Borrowing, Lending and Financial Derivative policies (included as required by guidance and set out at p295 and the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators at p307) be approved."

5.3 The following amendment was proposed by **P M Zukowskyj** and duly seconded by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst:-**

"Amend the revenue budget as follows:

Additional expenditure:

		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<i>Modification Description</i>		<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>	<i>£000</i>
<i>RS1</i>	<i>Additional support for bus services and on-demand services delivered through innovative schemes</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>RS2</i>	<i>Evaluate the market and move towards green energy only tariffs across HCC's energy portfolio</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>RS3</i>	<i>Review of CAMHS against 2015 targets</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>RS4</i>	<i>Pilots for self-harm reduction and conduct disorder</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>RS5</i>	<i>Modify the Savercard scheme to provide travel free to anyone purchasing a card who is still in full time education until their 19th birthday</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,000</i>
<i>RS6</i>	<i>School Uniform Subsidy for low income/FSM recipients</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>RS7</i>	<i>Grant for setup costs of community transport schemes</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>RS8</i>	<i>Contribution to capital spend</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Total</i>		<i>£4,750</i>	<i>£3,700</i>	<i>£3,700</i>

Funded from:

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		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<i>Saving Description</i>		£000	£000	£000
RI1	<i>Reduction in corporate communications</i>	250	250	250
RI2	<i>Reduction in security costs for empty and unused buildings and facilities</i>	150	150	150
RI3	<i>Revenue Income from HLL (business property rental)</i>	200	1,000	1,000
RI4	<i>Income from solar generation (CS7)</i>	60	200	350
RI5	<i>Income from community transport schemes</i>	40	50	50
RI6	<i>Additional Council Tax and Business Rates income 19/20</i>	4,050	2,050	1,900
Total		£4,750	£3,700	£3,700

Additional expenditure:

		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<i>Modification Description</i>		£000	£000	£000
CS1	<i>Increase Member Highway Locality Budget to £100k per member</i>	780	780	780
CS2	<i>Increase Highways investment and repairs to improve footway and cycle way networks to encourage Modal Shift</i>	1000	1000	1000
CS3	<i>Funding for on-street Electric Vehicle charging points at strategic locations in Hertfordshire</i>	1000	500	500
CS4	<i>Tree Planting programme</i>	1000	1500	1500
CS6	<i>Off grid solar powered lighting for selected off road cycle and walking routes</i>	500	500	500
CS7	<i>Implementation of additional solar generation capacity</i>	1000	1000	1000
Total		£5,280	£5,280	£5,280

Funded From:

		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<i>Saving Description</i>		£000	£000	£000
CI1	<i>Release of Earmarked Reserves through implementation of a Financial Risk Management approach, identifying reserves which can be reasonably merged and funds released through analysis of likelihood of materialisation</i>	4,930	5,280	5,280
CI2	<i>Revenue contribution to Capital (RS8)</i>	350	0	0
Total		£5,280	£5,280	£5,280

5.4 The following amendment was proposed by **P M Zukowskyj** and duly seconded by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst:-**

“That Council agrees to a Part Night Lighting modification whereby lights remain on until 2am where requested by the local county councillor and are dimmed 5-6am to offset any costs.”

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5.5 The following amendment was proposed by **S J Taylor** and duly seconded by **J Billing**:-

“This Council believes that that government’s continuing failure to recognise the extreme pressures on the vitally important services delivered at local level to local people has now got to breaking point and is negligent.

We note the pressures on this year’s Hertfordshire budget which show overspends in Adult Care Services and a significant growth in the overspend in children’s services. Although this gap has been plugged for this year, the solutions are simply not sustainable in the longer term and we believe that cross-party representation should be increased to government to highlight the disproportionate and devastating impact this has on those who are most vulnerable in our community. There has been no reassurance from the new Government that the ‘hand to mouth’ one year settlements for local government funding will end, or that the long overdue funding review and business rates review will be completed. It is essential that local government can manage its finances on a firm footing particularly as, unlike central Government, we cannot run a deficit budget. It is also essential that the long-awaited green paper on social care is now given priority.

We also condemn the fact that little recognition is given to the fact that the support given to people by the funding delivered through local government services, prevents the higher expenditure in acute services that occurs when these services are restricted. Across Hertfordshire the benefits of targeted public health prevention expenditure are showing dividends, so many of our services could provide such benefits if they were adequately funded.

While recognising the immense importance of tackling the climate emergency, government has not to date recognised the extent to which action to deal with that emergency has to be taken at local level. We urge government to fund local government properly to carry effective local action at the speed necessary.

Council recognises the need to support and encourage the young people in our county with meaningful leisure activity, support with their mental health need, encouragement to use public transport and particularly to help ‘looked after’ young people to make the best start in their adult lives. The recent scrutiny into the Children in Care Council showed what a great difference quick access to mental health services, low-cost transport and leisure would make to them.

We therefore propose the budget amendments set out below which we believe recognise the significant shortfall in government funding for the

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vital services our community need at the same time as recommending some re-prioritising of funding which we believe will help engage our community in tackling climate change, fund some of the action necessary to tackle the climate emergency and benefit particularly the more vulnerable residents and young people in our county.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Notes/Actions
	£K	£K	£K	£K	
<i>Fund for quick wins on climate change</i>	1,000				<i>This fund would allow us to engage the public, particularly young people, the Youth Parliament, schools parliaments and youth councils around the county in being able to access funding for quick wins to tackle climate change.</i>
<i>Council tax discounts for care leavers</i>	55	97	132	155	<p><i>This amendment first appeared in the Labour Budget amendment last year, it was our understanding that it was under active consideration but nothing has been done so far. It would make a huge difference for those transitioning from care to have this one financial burden lifted.</i></p> <p><i>This proposal is for Council tax exemption from 18-21 (rising 18's i.e those eligible each year, rather than all in the 18-21 age range from day 1</i></p>

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<i>Reverse proposed cuts to Youth service and youth connexions</i>	829	829	829	829	<i>We believe the decimation of the funding for youth services has had a really detrimental effect on young people in our county, particularly in the more deprived areas where they are less likely to be able to access 'paid-for' leisure services. We propose that this element of the cuts be reversed so that we can strengthen the outreach services.</i>
<i>Feasibility on all ASC services returning in-house</i>	100				<i>Increasingly, the benefits of in-house ASC services are being recognised across the country as delivering better customer and staff satisfaction, which can reduce costs in the long term, particularly where contracts break down. We would like to see a study into a wider programme of in-house services as current contracts come to an end.</i>
<i>Travel savings for young people - reverse</i>	60	60	60	60	<i>We want to encourage young people to get into the habit early on</i>

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<i>savercard</i>					<i>of using public transport. The cuts to the savercard went against all the principles of our transport strategy (encouraging public transport) and our climate change declaration.</i>
<i>Highways - increase locality budget up to £100k capital per year</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>253</i>	<i>These targeted local highways budgets have not been increased since they started in spite of the high cost of the works commissioned and the inflation they are showing.</i>
<i>HWRC - open 7 days a week</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>We believe the closure days for our HWRC mitigate against people's wish to recycle as much as they can and inevitably increase fly-tipping as people do not wish to return their recycling home if they were not aware it was a site closure day. Our climate change strategy suggests we should be encouraging greater recycling, not making it more difficult for people</i>

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CAMSH	250	250	250		To be used to strengthen the Community Targeted Team particularly for supporting young people in care or transitioning from care.
Proposals with no net cost implication					
Bus Fund and Discretionary use of Member £10k Locality Budget to support reintroduction of bus subsidies	200	200	200		To enable members to influence the return or partial return of bus subsidies for their areas where these have resulted in withdrawal of services. Funds to be ringfenced from the £300k funding in the IP for sustainable Herts strategy
Discretionary use of Member £10k Locality Budget &/or £90k Highways budget to support street lighting					There is still considerable concern about the impact of part night lighting in some parts of the County. This would enable members to influence the hours during which PNL operates
TOTAL COST	3,427	2,409	2,484	2,297	

Funding Sources

Management review		1,726	1,726	1,726	top 100 managers review - 120 managers at £8.6m. 20% reduction - 24
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S J Featherstone
S Gordon
J M Graham

M B J Mills-Bishop
A J S Mitchell

W J Wyatt-Lowe
J F Wyllie

Those abstaining (0):-

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5.8 The amendment at 5.4 was then voted upon and LOST, the recorded vote being:-

Those in favour of the amendment (27)

S Bedford	J S Hale	A F Rowlands
N Bell	K M Hastrick	S J Taylor
J Bennett-Lovell	N A Hollinghurst	R G Tindall
J Billing	S K Jarvis	A S B Walkington
D S Drury	A K Khan	M A Watkin
M A Eames-Petersen	J G L King	C J White
B A Gibson	R Mills	P T Williams
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	R G Parker	T J Williams
E M Gordon	N A Quinton	P M Zukowskyj

Those against the amendment (46):-

D Andrews	L Greensmyth	M D M Muir
D A Ashley	F Guest	S Quilty
D J Barnard	D Hart	I M Reay
P Bibby	T C Heritage	R M Roberts
S N Bloxham	D J Hewitt	R Sangster
S J Boulton	F R G Hill	R H Smith
A P Brewster	T W Hone	A Stevenson
E H Buckmaster	T Howard	R A C Thake
F Button	T R Hutchings	J A West
C Clapper	J R Jones	A D Williams
H K Crofton	J S Kaye	J D Williams
R C Deering	P V Mason	C B Woodward
T L F Douris	G McAndrew	C B Wyatt-Lowe
S J Featherstone	M B J Mills-Bishop	W J Wyatt-Lowe
S Gordon	A J S Mitchell	J F Wyllie
J M Graham		

Those abstaining (0):-

5.9 The amendment at 5.3 was then voted upon and LOST, the recorded vote being:-

Those in favour of the amendment (28)

S Bedford	T Howard	A F Rowlands
N Bell	K M Hastrick	S J Taylor
J Bennett-Lovell	N A Hollinghurst	R G Tindall
J Billing	S K Jarvis	A S B Walkington

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D S Drury	A K Khan	M A Watkin
M A Eames-Petersen	J G L King	C J White
B A Gibson	R Mills	P T Williams
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	R G Parker	T J Williams
E M Gordon	N A Quinton	P M Zukowskyj
J S Hale		

Those against the amendment (45):-

D Andrews	J M Graham	M D M Muir
D A Ashley	L Greensmyth	S Quilty
D J Barnard	F Guest	I M Reay
P Bibby	D Hart	R M Roberts
S N Bloxham	T C Heritage	R Sangster
S J Boulton	D J Hewitt	R H Smith
A P Brewster	F R G Hill	A Stevenson
E H Buckmaster	T W Hone	R A C Thake
F Button	T R Hutchings	J A West
C Clapper	J R Jones	A D Williams
H K Crofton	J S Kaye	J D Williams
R C Deering	P V Mason	C B Woodward
T L F Douris	G McAndrew	C B Wyatt-Lowe
S J Featherstone	M B J Mills-Bishop	W J Wyatt-Lowe
S Gordon	A J S Mitchell	J F Wyllie

Those abstaining (0):-

5.10 The substantive motion at 5.2 was then voted upon and CARRIED as follows, the recorded vote being:-

Those in favour of the substantive motion (46)

D Andrews	L Greensmyth	M D M Muir
D A Ashley	F Guest	S Quilty
D J Barnard	D Hart	I M Reay
P Bibby	T C Heritage	R M Roberts
S N Bloxham	D J Hewitt	R Sangster
S J Boulton	F R G Hill	R H Smith
A P Brewster	T W Hone	A Stevenson
E H Buckmaster	T Howard	R A C Thake
F Button	T R Hutchings	J A West
C Clapper	J R Jones	A D Williams
H K Crofton	J S Kaye	J D Williams
R C Deering	P V Mason	C B Woodward
T L F Douris	G McAndrew	C B Wyatt-Lowe
S J Featherstone	M B J Mills-Bishop	W J Wyatt-Lowe
S Gordon	A J S Mitchell	J F Wyllie

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J M Graham

Those against the substantive motion (27)

S Bedford	J S Hale	A F Rowlands
N Bell	K M Hastrick	S J Taylor
J Bennett-Lovell	N A Hollinghurst	R G Tindall
J Billing	S K Jarvis	A S B Walkington
D S Drury	A K Khan	M A Watkin
M A Eames-Petersen	J G L King	C J White
B A Gibson	R Mills	P T Williams
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	R G Parker	T J Williams
E M Gordon	N A Quinton	P M Zukowskyj

Those abstaining (0):-

“That Council: -

- (a) approves the final version of the Integrated Plan as set out in this report and confirmed in the appended tables; noting that amendments to the budget may be required once any outstanding grants have been announced by the Government; and*
- (b) adopts the Integrated Plan for 2020/21 - 2023/24 (as amended above) be adopted, and specifically that:*

In respect of all Parts:

- (i) the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources & Performance, be authorised to make any necessary amendments to ensure the plan is in line with decisions taken by the County Council before final confirmation;*

In respect of Parts A & B:

- (ii) a Revenue Budget of £858.568m and a Council Tax Requirement of £640.689m be agreed as per the updated Revenue Budget Statements included as an appendix to this report;*
- (iii) a Band D Council Tax of £1,291.21 plus a Band D Social Care precept of £122.99 be agreed for the County Council in 2020/21, and that the amount of tax calculated for all bands be as follows:*

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Table 3: Proposed HCC Council Tax for 2020/21 by band

Band	2019/20 Council Tax			2020/21 Council Tax		
	Basic	ASC Precept	Total	Basic	ASC Precept	Total
A	£842.78	£63.85	£906.63	£860.82	£81.98	£942.80
B	£983.22	£74.51	£1,057.73	£1,004.26	£95.67	£1,099.93
C	£1,123.70	£85.14	£1,208.84	£1,147.75	£109.32	£1,257.07
D	£1,264.15	£95.79	£1,359.94	£1,291.21	£122.99	£1,414.20
E	£1,545.08	£117.07	£1,662.15	£1,578.16	£150.31	£1,728.47
F	£1,825.99	£138.37	£1,964.36	£1,865.07	£177.66	£2,042.73
G	£2,106.93	£159.64	£2,266.57	£2,152.03	£204.97	£2,357.00
H	£2,528.30	£191.58	£2,719.88	£2,582.42	£245.98	£2,828.40

- (iv) the precept amount of £640,688,970.01 be required from the district and borough councils as follows:

Table 4: Analysis of HCC 2020/21 precept amount by district and borough

District	Taxbase	Precept Amount £
Borough of Broxbourne	35,446.60	50,128,581.72
Dacorum Borough Council	58,567.40	82,826,017.08
East Hertfordshire District Council	61,272.00	86,650,862.40
Hertsmere Borough Council	41,889.20	59,239,706.64
North Hertfordshire District Council	49,979.60	70,681,150.32
St Albans District Council	62,821.04	88,841,514.77
Stevenage Borough Council	27,780.70	39,287,465.94
Three Rivers District Council	39,212.60	55,454,458.92
Watford Borough Council	33,480.70	47,348,405.94
Welwyn Hatfield Council	42,590.02	60,230,806.28
TOTAL	453,039.86	640,688,970.01

- (v) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to issue the Council Tax Information in accordance with demand notice regulations;
- (vi) the schools budget be agreed at the level of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) including any use of carried forward DSG. The total amount is currently estimated at £1,024m - less deductions in respect of academies and high needs places in further education; and that the Director of Resources in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, the relevant Executive Members and the Schools Forum, be authorised to amend the schools budget to match any changes to the DSG and the

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planned approach to balancing the schools budget in future years of the Integrated Plan;

- (vii) the Director of Resources, and the relevant service Chief Officer, be authorised to determine the use of any other non-ringfenced grants not yet allocated to services;*
- (viii) the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources & Performance, be authorised to make such arrangements as are necessary to enable the Hertfordshire Business Rates Retention Pool to be set up, noting the role of the Council as accountable body for this pool and the ongoing work to confirm the necessary changes to accommodate this (including treatment of s31 compensation amounts);*

In respect of Part C:

- (ix) based on the information available at the time of preparing the IP, that a capital programme totalling £1,348.956m for the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 be agreed and financed as set out in the Integrated Plan Part A, and also in part C. Any changes to these proposals would be required to go through separate decision-making processes in accordance with the Council's financial regulations;*
- (x) the Director of Resources be authorised to vary the capital programme during the year to include additional schemes that are wholly funded by grants or third party contributions and to vary existing schemes to match any changes in funding from grants or third party contributions, in accordance with the Council's financial regulations;*
- (xi) the Capital Strategy, including the Investment Strategy (included as Appendix E to Part C) be approved;*
- (xii) the Minimum Revenue Provision policy and capital expenditure prudential indicators be approved (IP Part C);*

In respect of Part D:

- (xiii) the Treasury Management Strategy, including the Borrowing, Lending and Financial Derivative policies (included as required by guidance and set out at p295 and the Treasury Management and Prudential Indicators at p307) be approved."*

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5B. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES 2020/21 – Report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances

5.11 The following motion proposed by **J D Williams** and duly seconded by **T C Heritage** was CARRIED:-

"(1.) *That the Council approves a Scheme for Members' Allowances for 2020/21 which adopts all the recommendations of the Independent Allowances Panel.*

(2.) *That the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to make a Scheme in accordance with (1.) above to commence on 1 April 2020."*

6. QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

6.1 During the period for questions to Executive Members under SO 8 (7)(c) the following Members asked questions (and, where indicated, supplementary questions) of the Executive Member or their Deputy as stated. [Questions and responses are listed by portfolio and can be viewed on the webcast of this meeting here [Webcast Council Meetings](#)

[Questions are listed by portfolio (in alphabetical order)].

Executive Member	Questioner	Subject
Leader of the Council	S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	Requesting information on measures being considered and taken by the County Council in relation to the coronavirus, including advice to County Council employees on self-isolation particularly those returning from affected areas ^{1 2}
	J Billing	The Hertfordshire Growth Board and whether there is mechanism for interested councillors to find out more and/or be involved
Adult Care & Health	R G Tindall	Whether the closure of 3 respite care centres is premature given that the strategy for respite care services has yet to be developed ¹
	E Gordon	The government's new points-based immigration system and the potential impact on the care sector in the County, particularly given the fragility of the market and the difficulty in recruiting

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		and retaining care workers ¹
	D Hart	Requesting an update on the Meals-on-Wheels service in Hertfordshire
Children, Young People & Families	M A Watkin	Whether the Executive Member and her officers have been involved in the planning process for the closure of respite care centres
	N Bell	Opening of Greenway Lodge (children's home) – when the next centre is due to open, and whether Children in Care Council and young people have been involved in the process ^{1 2}
	I M Reay	In her Deputy Leader capacity with responsibility for sustainability, requesting an update on the Council's current and planned actions to reduce its carbon footprint ²
Community Safety & Waste Management	J S Hale	County Council investment in the redevelopment of Longfield joint emergency services academy; requesting information on the contribution being made by the Police and Crime Commissioner and total cost of the project ¹
	J Bennett-Lovell	The government's recently announced points-based immigration system and potential risk to recruitment of firefighters in Hertfordshire; requesting information on plans to protect EU workers applying to work for as firefighters for the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service after 31 December 2020 and asking whether representations have been made to government in this respect ¹
Education, Libraries and Localism	M A Watkin	Requesting a review to establish whether greater consistency of service provision at Education Support Centres could be achieved across Hertfordshire
	J Billing	Requesting an update on the transfer of the operation of the library service from the County Council to Libraries for Life on 1 April 2020 ¹
	S J Boulton	New library premises in Hatfield
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & the Economy	S K Jarvis	LTP4 (Local Transport Plan 4) objectives – low spend on footways and cycleways compared with spend on the County's highways ¹
	S J Taylor	Given the growing body of evidence

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		against smart motorways and 'hold' applied by the Secretary of State on their further development, whether the A1M smart motorway is still going ahead on the Stevenage section of the A1M ¹
	S Quilty	Requesting an update on how rail operators will be improving their services in the County
Highways & Environment	S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	Expressing disappointment that 1555 trees had been felled along the County's highways with only 658 planted in their place and requesting information on activities being undertaken to ensure this is addressed ¹
	N Bell	Permissions given by Highways to third party utility companies; requesting a review of the procedure used to give permission and closer liaison with Local Members ¹
Public Health and Prevention	N A Quinton	Funding for public health; how any additional money made available for public health in Hertfordshire will be spent and spending priorities ¹
	M A Eames-Petersen	In light of the Marmot Health Inequalities Report, requesting a health inequalities audit in Hertfordshire by division (to include access to GP surgeries, distances from GP surgeries, and public health outcomes re cancer particularly in light of the ongoing review of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre) ¹
	S Featherstone	Extension of St Peter's School in St Albans and whether the pupils will still have room for their daily mile running facilities
Resources and Performance	P M Zukowskyj	Cabinet approval to borrowing up to £100m for business premises purchases for rental; requesting how much has been committed so far, how many schemes are involved and whether their location best serves Hertfordshire's economic priorities ¹
	S J Taylor	What consultation there will be around the climate and sustainability strategy and what funding is in the budget to enable young people to contribute to the climate change action programme ¹

Notes: 1 - denotes that a supplementary question was also asked

2 – denotes that a written reply will be given

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6.2 Written questions to Executive Members – Standing Order 8(9)

6.2.1 Written questions to Executive Members and responses are set out in the attached Annex.

7. REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7.1 The following motion was proposed by **S Quilty**:- and duly seconded by **K M Hastrick**:-

“That the report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received.”

7.2 In seconding the motion **K M Hastrick** requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s attention be drawn to the feedback on the process adopted for the scrutiny of the Council’s Integrated Plan (set out on page 12 of the report for Item 5A(i) of the agenda).

7.3 At the request of Members **S Quilty, Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee**, confirmed that he would apprise **D Andrews, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**, and Scrutiny Officers of the feedback received from Members at the meeting in order that this could be considered and addressed for future scrutinies.

7.4 The motion at 7.1 was then voted on and CARRIED as follows:-

“That the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received.”

8. REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8.1 The following motion proposed by **S Quilty** and duly seconded by **C J White** was CARRIED: -

“That the report from the Health Scrutiny Committee be received.”

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9. NOTICES OF MOTION – STANDING ORDER 9(6)

9A. 9.1 Council AGREED to suspend Standing Orders in order to enable the motion received under SO 9 (6) at item 9A of the Council agenda to be seconded by two Members.

9.2 The Chairman advised Council that, in accordance with Standing Orders 9(8) and 9(9), she would allow the motion at 9.3 below to be debated at the Council meeting and that normal rules of debate would apply.

9.3 The following motion was proposed by **J D Williams** and and duly seconded by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and **J Billing**:-

“This Council is committed to challenging discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between our communities. It abhors racism and hatred of all forms and is concerned at the rise in profile and frequency of antisemitism across the country.

Hertfordshire County Council wishes to join with the Government and other local authorities across the UK in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities.”

This Council therefore resolves to:

Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism, discrimination and hatred in all its manifestations

Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism across the Council for identifying, challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism.”

9.4 In the absence of a formal County Council commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day, at the **Chairman’s** request Council stood to remember all those affected by the Holocaust.

9.5 The motion at 9.3 was then voted and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY as

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follows:-

“This Council is committed to challenging discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between our communities. It abhors racism and hatred of all forms and is concerned at the rise in profile and frequency of antisemitism across the country.

Hertfordshire County Council wishes to join with the Government and other local authorities across the UK in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities.”

This Council therefore resolves to:

Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism, discrimination and hatred in all its manifestations

Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism across the Council for identifying, challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism.”

- 9B. 9.6** The following motion was moved by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**: -

“Council requests the Highways and Environment Panel to recommend to Cabinet that a review be undertaken of: -

- i) the intervention levels of Category 1 reported highways faults so that serious faults such as those that exceed 300mm wide and more than 100mm deep are classed as a serious defect requiring urgent intervention (made safe within 24 hours) regardless of the category of road*
- ii) the feasibility of undertaking "one and done" with a view to saving time and money on repairing highways faults in the proximity of a similar reported fault requiring intervention in accordance with the Defect Management Response that could be repaired at the same time thereby avoiding a further works team visit at a later stage, especially if a temporary road closure has been undertaken at the said site.”*

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9.8 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

9C. 9.9 The following motion was moved by **C J White** and duly seconded by **R G Tindall**: -

“This Council notes that: -

- *A ‘Climate Emergency’ was declared by Hertfordshire County Council in 2019*
- *Burning fossil fuels poses a serious risk to the stability of the climate upon which our well-being and economy depend*
- *Research demonstrates that up to 80% of the world’s proven fossil fuel reserves will have to remain unburnt if we are to have a reasonable chance of keeping global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius, the globally agreed target for climate change mitigation*
- *Since 80% of fossil fuels must remain in the ground, the reserves of the fossil fuel industry risk becoming ‘stranded assets’ with little or no value – representing a substantial financial risk for those that invest in them.*

This Council further notes that: -

- *Hertfordshire Pension Fund currently has over £94.5 million invested in the oil, coal and gas industries – nearly 1.8 per cent of the total pension investments*
- *To date, over 1,100 institutions representing nearly \$11.5 trillion in assets have committed to divest from fossil fuel companies*
- *Over a dozen UK councils have committed to divestment*
- *Divesting from fossil-fuel industries is both environmentally and financially responsible, with fossil-free portfolios outperforming non-divested equivalents in recent years.*

This Council, therefore, requests the Pensions Committee to: -

- *Review its Investment Strategy with a view to developing a Responsible Investment Policy, which does not involve new investments in fossil fuel companies*
- *To consider divesting from fossil fuels by*
 1. *Immediately freezing any new investment in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies;*
 2. *Divesting from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within three years;*
 3. *Setting out an approach to quantify and address climate change risks affecting all other investments, and*
 4. *Actively seeking to invest in companies that will reduce*

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greenhouse gas emissions and minimise climate change risk.”

9.10 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Resources and Performance for consideration.

9D. 9.11 The following motion was moved by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**: -

“Given the Council has declared a Climate Emergency, Full Council requests that Cabinet sets up a cross party Members Advisory Group to advise Cabinet and Cabinet Panels on all aspects of the Council’s activities and to report to Panels as applicable.

Furthermore Full Council requests that Cabinet requires that all future Cabinet Panel reports shall include a Climate Emergency Implications section in relation to all proposals in its reports.”

9.12 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Resources and Performance for consideration.

9E. 9.13 The following motion was moved by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**: -

“Council, noting the need for action on the Climate Emergency and benefits of tree planting, requests the Highways and Environment Panel requests Cabinet to consider and adopt an action plan on tree planting whereby for every tree removed from the county’s stock, whether on highways or other county land, two are planted.”

9.14 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

**QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – STANDING ORDER 8

1. Written question from S K Jarvis to J D Williams, Leader of the Council

“What has been the cost of the Council’s Brexit preparations up to 31st January 2020 and what is the expected additional expenditure until 31st December 2020?”

J D Williams has replied: -

“The costs of the Council’s Brexit preparations have been funded by additional Government monies provided to local authorities for Brexit preparation. Hertfordshire County Council received £262,500 in this respect and disbursements from this include:

Disbursements up to 31st January 2020:

- *£35,605 - Contract for a Trading Standards Officer who provided and updated the County Council’s Trading Standards staff with specific changes to Trading Standards related EU law and associated Government guidance, and how such changes relate to the advice and investigation that Trading Standards Officers will be undertaking post Brexit. In addition, the officer aided businesses through the provision of accurate and timely information, to prepare for the EU exit.*
- *£23,751 – Proportional salary costs for Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service members of staff seconded into the Council’s Resilience Team for resilience and Brexit related work.*
- *£2000 – Barrister advice on the European Union (Withdrawal) Acts*
- *£8,558 - Fuel tank hire and associated delivery cost*

Disbursements from 1st February 2020 until 31st December 2020 have been forecasted and estimated as:

- *£19,800 – Proportional salary costs for member(s) of staff likely to be seconded into the Council’s Resilience Team for resilience and Brexit related work.*
- *£405 – Adult Care Services Brexit Resilience exercise with commissioned services*
- *£1,034 - Fuel tank hire and associated removal costs*

Senior staff have attended a number of regional and national briefing and coordination events in preparing for Brexit, and communication channels have been used to provide relevant information, such as the use of the Council’s website to promote settled status, and the Growth Hub to promote information to businesses.

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Additionally, priorities of some Council staff were re-adjusted and prioritised as necessary, which is business as usual for any issues or risks that present themselves to the Council. Staff attended Brexit meetings as part of their job including Local Resilience Forums, and Brexit Incident Management Team (IMT) meetings. Preparations for the risks amplified by Brexit have been absorbed within the County Council's wider commitment to strategic risk management."

2. Written question from S B A F H Giles-Medhurst to T L F Douris, Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Localism

"Given there are no drop off points for recycling used small electrical appliances in Hertfordshire that many councils have in libraries or public authority offices will the Executive Member consider how these could be introduced?"

T Douris has replied: -

"Each of our 17 Household Waste Recycling Centres offers recycling of household Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment irrespective of size, and Dacorum, Hertsmere, St Albans, Three Rivers, Watford and Welwyn all have recycling banks for small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

There are many requests for libraries to support broader initiatives, most recently to provide clothing swap rails and drop off points for re-using packaging associated with transporting goods. These are considered carefully by officers in the Library Service and decisions made on how well the initiatives align with Library Service priorities, resource and space implications.

Recycling small electrical items is not a service that Libraries provide currently and is not included in the specification for the service that will transfer to Libraries for Life in April. At this stage the Council would need to pass this request on to Libraries for Life for consideration post April 2020."

3. Written question from S B A F H Giles-Medhurst to D Ashley, Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & The Economy

"Would the Executive Member agree with me that despite the Council declaring a Climate Change Emergency that it is disappointing that there is no mention of climate change or anti idling in the Partnership Plan and Scheme.

Similarly in the Bus Strategy whilst Clean air zones are highlighted in this there no specifics on climate change and/or idling to reduce Co2 emissions.

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Given this, what action will the Executive Member now take to demonstrate a commitment in this area to reducing Co2 emissions and with bus operators themselves in order to contribute to the net reduction in emissions and improvement in air quality?"

D Ashley has replied: -

"There has been extensive consultation on various iterations of the Partnership Plan and Scheme and Bus Strategy via the Cabinet Panel and wider stakeholder and public engagement. We have received no feedback over the last 12 months while developing the Scheme and Strategy regarding anti idling. The issues highlighted in the Scheme and Strategy were supported by stakeholders and operators alike and reflect the feedback we received. However, I do agree that we should work with operators to lower emissions arising from bus travel which is why this ambition is reflected in the Scheme and Strategy in the focus on bus priority schemes and reciprocal requirements from operators. Section 11.1 of the Intalink Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme address vehicle emissions targets.

Also, the powers already exist to take action on idling vehicles; under section 88 of the Environment Act 1995 a local authority (district) can issue a fixed penalty notice under The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002. No 1808) to drivers who are stationary and sit with their engines running. I have in the past 'encouraged' relevant officers at North Hertfordshire District Council to use these powers and will continue to do so. I'd encourage other Members to do the same with their own local authorities."

4. Written question from S B A F H Giles-Medhurst to P Bibby, Executive Member for Highways & Environment

"Can the Executive Member please inform Council of the following:

(i) For 2018/19, 2019/20 to date in each period how many highways trees – i.e. in verges/streets/longabouts were removed by the County Council?

(ii) For the same periods how many trees were planted in the highway funded directly by the County Council, excluding Members' Highways or Locality Budgets. If the later information is available can that please be detailed?"

P Bibby has replied: -

"The County Council owns and maintains circa 196,000 highway trees as recorded on its asset management system. Circa 99,000 of these are managed and maintained under the Highway Service with the remaining circa 97,000 managed and maintained by Borough and District Councils as agents on behalf of the County Council. Recognising the importance of highways

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trees, the County Council has employed its own qualified Tree Officer since October 2018, which has had a positive impact on the service.

- (i) The number of highway trees in verges/streets/longabouts removed/felled by the County Council was:-
 - (a) For 2018/19 – 461 no. (representing 2.6% of the 18,000 trees surveyed/inspected);
 - (b) For 2019/20 – 1,194 no (representing 3.2% of the 37,514 trees surveyed/inspected) in 2019/20.

The above figures exclude those highway trees removed/felled by those Borough and District Councils who act as agents to the County Council and also those trees damaged or brought down as a result of storms and severe weather events.

- (ii) The Highways Service endeavours to replace trees that have been removed/felled with appropriate species in appropriate locations subject to affordability, maintainability and sustainability. The number of trees planted in the highway funded and delivered through the maintenance service (so excluding Members' Highways or Locality budgets) was
 - (a) 308 no in 2018/19
 - (b) 350 no in 2019/20.

In addition to the above we are undertaking tree planting as part of the A120 Little Hadham Bypass scheme and have so far planted in excess of 10,000 trees with a further 39,000 planned under the current contract. Around 900 trees were planted in advance of the current contract including some on land owned by rural estates.

Across the wider Council, HCC is exploring the potential to enhance the existing woodland portfolio on its rural estate. In 2017 the Rural Estate Service planted 4,000 new trees near London Colney and funding to plant 37,000 new trees near Potters Bar is currently being finalised.”

5. Written question from S B A F H Giles-Medhurst to P Bibby, Executive Member for Highways & Environment

“Given that the role out of LED lighting is almost complete, can the Executive Member inform Council what actions will be taken to address the issue of ‘black spots’ identified by officers and Members due to the positioning of the lighting columns that were not evident with the former sodium lighting that had a greater light spread? Given that officers have indicated to Members that some additional columns or repositioning is/maybe required, what provision has been made for this in the 2020/21 budget?”

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P Bibby has replied: -

“It should be noted that the ‘black spots’ existed under the previous lighting regime (orange sodium lighting) but were not perceived as apparent due to the light spillage from the older style lamp. The white LED lighting now installed was designed to and has met the ‘no worse than before’ criteria of lighting the public highway.

To date, eight of the ten District/Boroughs have now been completed with Welwyn Hatfield and Three Rivers programmed to be completed by the end of March 2020. Circa 108,000 LED lanterns have been installed to date with minimal adverse feedback from our residents and customers.

The Council’s policy is that no additional street lighting installations should be introduced to the existing highway network unless it becomes a statutory (e.g. when a traffic calming scheme is introduced) or a safety requirement (ie as part of a specific casualty or crime reduction measure/scheme/initiative). Therefore, there are no plans for additional lighting columns or provision for this within the 2020/21 budget.

Members do have the discretion, in line with Council policy, to have the internal shields removed and/or have the angle of tilt of the lanterns adjusted to alter the distribution and level of lighting.

Members also have the discretion, in line with Council policy, to fund from their Highway Locality budget, additional lighting columns installed on remote footpaths/footways (ie more than 5 metres from an adjacent carriageway).

Operationally, the opportunity to reposition lighting columns where justified, will be considered as part of replacing knock down columns, highway improvement works or development works.

It should be remembered that the role out of LED lighting has made a significant contribution towards reducing our energy usage and therefore our carbon footprint and energy bill. These points should be taken into account whenever we are considering any changes to our current lighting regime.”

6. Written question from S K Jarvis to P Bibby, Executive Member for Highways & Environment

“What performance requirements are set for the Highways Term Contractor relating to the maintenance of white lining and what has been their performance against these standards for each of the last five years?”

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P Bibby has replied: -

“White lines are remarked through a range of programmes including as part of the annual routine maintenance programme, through carriageway resurfacing schemes and under the integrated transport programmes as part of a ‘one & done’ approach.

Members also have the discretion, in line with Council policy, to fund the replacing road markings from their Highway Locality budget. Wherever possible, this is coordinated with the aforementioned core maintenance programmes to deliver value for money.

There are no separate contract Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s) for white lining.”

7. Written question from N A Quinton to T R Hutchings, Executive Member for Public Health & Prevention

“Would the Executive Member confirm that, as discussed during the IP scrutiny panel session (despite what is documented in the Report of the IP Scrutiny), it is his intention that Public Health priorities will be developed across the whole Council? Would he further confirm that, in future, reports to the IP will be clearer in defining (a) how money from the Ring Fenced Grant is spent between the different departments and (b) how much money from other sources (e.g. NHS) than the Ring Fenced Grant is spent on Public Health initiatives which Public Health has influence over?”

T R Hutchings has replied: -

“It is my intention that Public Health priorities continue to be developed across the Council. Work currently underway includes:

- *the Prevention Strategy,*
- *development of our Health in all Policies Work (HIAP)*
- *leading on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the whole Council and the recommendations from this are used to support our commissioning work across all departments.*
- *Supporting the transformation agenda of the Council through our behaviour change unit and evaluation advisers so the Council is better at shaping, identifying benefits from and evaluating the impact of projects*
- *A range of commitments to the sustainability strategy including our work on active travel and healthy planning*

Practical examples of our intentions to develop HIAP include our commitment to support corporate ambitions for our children to reach adulthood as

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rounded, independent, thriving adults and to encourage healthy independent living in old age. Simultaneously our work in drug and alcohol abuse, weight management and smoking cessation continue to contribute to our ambitions to reduce health inequalities.

The recent Peer Challenge of Public Health by the Local Government Association and the Corporate Peer Challenge identified that this had started, and Community Protection and Environment Directorates were singled out as good examples of work where they have incorporated public health priorities into their strategies.

The IP Report covering the whole Council's income and expenditure has, for reasons of practicality, to confine itself to headline figures, however, the process is designed to enable more detailed information to be prepared ahead of the examination if required. I will always be pleased to ensure that this is done as long as reasonable notice is provided. That having been said, Officers have already started work on producing reports which provide more detail on how money is spent, and what money comes in from other sources; I will consider how that information can be best communicated.

More generally we always seek to influence partners and stakeholders as to how they use their resources to benefit the residents of Hertfordshire. We achieve this through many ways including embedding our own senior staff in the Clinical Commissioning Groups, our participation in the Health and Wellbeing Board, leading on the development of Population Health Management across the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, regular peer to peer contact, a thriving university partnership, etc. To provide detailed financial information across such a range of activity is not practical but we will always be pleased to try and respond to questions which are more specific.

It is worth noting that the Public Health Team also regularly help the voluntary sector and research teams apply for funding to external funders. Most recently, a primary school in Hatfield obtained funding for two youth outreach workers from the Diocese of Westminster from a grant funder thanks to support the Public Health Team gave them. The team also helped the University of Hertfordshire secure research funding from Public Health England.”

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