

North Herts Council

Corporate Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment

2021/22

Summary

This report sets out the approach taken to consider the cumulative environmental impact of North Herts Council's decision-making process in the civic year 2021/2022.

The report is based on council and committee reports that have been considered throughout the civic year. This includes those council and committee reports that required an environmental impact analysis and those council and committee reports that did not require an environmental impact analysis but demonstrated consideration of impacts on environmental factors, and where necessary, identified mitigating action to avoid any negative implications regarding the environment.

A number of reports were either merely for information only or seeking approval from council to pursue a certain course of action. Therefore, some of these proposals/projects were in the early stages and as such, may need further environmental considerations in the future.

In 2019, the Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency. This declaration asserted the Council's commitment toward Climate Action beyond the current government targets and international agreements.

As part of the declaration, when Council policies are reviewed, specific consideration is given to how the policies and related decisions and actions affect our contribution to climate change, and where necessary, these policies are updated to reduce our impact where possible. The inclusion of an environmental implications section within reports and delegated decision templates ensures that impacts, mitigation measures and risks are identified at an early stage. Environmental Impact Assessments will include considerations that address air quality, biodiversity, adapting to climate change, landscape, noise and nuisance, waste management, water, and flood risks.

Climate action has been a long-term corporate priority area for the Council, and this is currently pursued through our Climate Change Strategy 2021-2026. The key objectives outlined within this strategy are:

- Achieve Carbon Neutrality for the Council's own operations by 2030 (at least Scope 1 and Scope 2).
- Ensure all operations and services are resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Achieve a Net Zero Carbon district by 2040
- Become a district that is resilient to unavoidable impacts of climate change

The table below summarises the environmental impact analysis of key council decisions in the last civic year. Individual environmental impact assessments for key policy decisions will be included as hyperlinks within the table, where relevant.

1. Potential equality impacts identified by Cabinet and Council reports and the mitigating action either carried out or proposed, where appropriate.

Cabinet Decisions	
29 th June 2021	
	Environmental Implications
<p>Agenda Item 8: NEW HERTFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY LOTTERY – NEW POLICIES REPORT OF: COMMERCIAL TEAM LEADER, COMMERCIAL MANAGER AND SERVICE DIRECTOR- COMMERCIAL</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Council to introduce and adhere to new policies associated with the delivery of the North Hertfordshire Community Lottery and Gambling Licence application. As a reminder, the concept of the Community Lottery was approved on 15 December 2020 via Cabinet. Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups such as local charities, community groups, sports clubs and schools will have the opportunity to financially benefit from this project, via funds raised through online lottery ticket sales.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: BALDOCK, BYGRAVE AND CLOTHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>The report details the referendum results for the Baldock, Bygrave and Clothall Neighbourhood Plan and asks Cabinet to formally 'make' (adopt) the Plan.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report</p>

<p>Agenda Item 11: REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2020/21 REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure as at the end of the financial year 2020/21. The net outturn of £19.379m represents a £866k decrease from the working budget of £20.245million. There are corresponding requests to carry forward £317k (of underspends) to fund specific projects that will now take place in 2021/22. There is a further forecast impact on the 2021/22 base budget of a £10k increase. As itemised and explained in table 3, the most significant variance, a decrease of £321k, relates to the financial support provided to Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) to maintain operations during the year. The finance required to allow leisure centres to open as restrictions were eased contributed to a total net additional expenditure due to Covid-19 in the year of £1.5m. Table 6 lists the main financial impacts of the pandemic and shows the extent to which these have been mitigated by additional government funding received.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12 - Referral from Finance, Audit and Risk Committee: INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) END OF YEAR REVIEW 2020/21 REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>As at the end of financial year 2020/21, there is a reduction in Capital spend compared to quarter 3 of £0.521million. The majority of this change is due to revisions to the profile of planned project spend, with £0.527million that will now instead be incurred in 2021/22.</p> <p>During the year the Council has generated £0.184million of interest from its investments. This is slightly below the budgeted total of £0.185million. The Council continued to invest in smaller Building Societies (subject to checks that compare the size of the Society with that of the investment).</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>

<p>The Council has repaid £0.018million of borrowing during the year as it has matured. The Council has £0.405million of remaining borrowing. This borrowing is at a fixed rate for a fixed period. The premium incurred from repaying this borrowing early means that it is not worthwhile to do so.</p> <p>The Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements throughout the year.</p> <p>The forecast for 2021/22 is that investment income will continue to reduce due to market conditions and the use of cash balances to fund the capital programme. To attempt to offset the reduction in interest received from short fixed term investments, the Council is looking at options to diversify its portfolio by investing in longer term, Property Funds and Multi Asset Income Funds.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 13: RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To provide Cabinet with an update on the Corporate risks and the proposed changes to these risks.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 14: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT REVIEW REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - PLACE</p>	
<p>To make recommendations for the future delivery of the maintenance of the greenspaces within North Herts implementing the recommendations below following a contract review process with the aim of shaping the service area for the next five years or more as a result of a Project Board process.</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken regarding this contract Review. https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/documents/s16599/Appendix%20A%20-%20Environment%20Impact%20Assessment.pdf</p>

20th July 2021

**Agenda Item 8: WAIVER OF ELEMENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S CONTRACT PROCUREMENT RULES FOR THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING TREASURY INVESTMENT FUNDS
REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES**

The report seeks a waiver of the Council's Contract Procurement Rules relating to the standard process for seeking and selecting tenders in relation to long-term Treasury Investments (Multi-Asset Funds and Property Funds). The process to be followed will be a process that has been advised by our Treasury Advisors (Link). The potential value of the procurement could exceed the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) threshold and so approval is being sought from Cabinet.

Following the procurement process, Cabinet are asked to delegate the selection of the fund(s) to the Service Director: Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT. The decisions will be in accordance with the approved Investment Strategy.

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this decision

**Agenda Item 9a: NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY LOTTERY – NEW POLICIES
REPORT OF: COMMERCIAL TEAM LEADER, COMMERCIAL MANAGER AND SERVICE DIRECTOR - COMMERCIAL**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Council to introduce and adhere to new policies associated with the delivery of the North Hertfordshire Community Lottery and Gambling Licence application.

As a reminder, the concept of the Community Lottery was approved on 15 December 2020 via Cabinet. Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups such as local charities, community groups, sports clubs and schools will have the opportunity to financially benefit from this project, via funds raised through online lottery ticket sales.

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

<p>Agenda Item 10: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SPD REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report seeks to extend the July 2020 resolutions of Cabinet in relation to the proposed Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) pending the outcomes of the Local Plan Examination.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. Further information is set out in the July 2020 Cabinet report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: DESIGNATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING FORUM AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREA FOR CHARLTON REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report details the applications to designate a neighbourhood planning forum for Charlton and to designate a neighbourhood planning area for the area of Charlton following consultation on the application.</p> <p>Designation of a neighbourhood planning forum and neighbourhood planning area would allow a neighbourhood plan to be prepared for the area.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: LAND SOUTH OF CLARE CRESCENT, BALDOCK, SG7 6JR REPORT OF THE INTERIM PROPERTY CONSULTANT</p>	
<p>To seek Cabinet's declaration that land south of Clare Crescent, Baldock is surplus to NHDC's requirements.</p> <p>To seek Cabinet's authority to dispose of NHDC's freehold interest in the land south of Clare Crescent, Baldock based on transaction terms presented in the Part 2 report to Cabinet.</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment (Sustainability Appraisal) has been undertaken. This has been considered and is detailed in the following Local Plan submissions and the allocation of this site (BA7): https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-examination/examination-library</p>

21st September 2021

Agenda Item 7: Customer Service Strategy 2021-2026
REPORT OF: Customer Service Manager

This report proposes a new customer service strategy covering 2021-2026. The strategy sets out how we will put customers at the heart of everything we do.

We've taken on board feedback from the 2020 Peer Challenge Review and have incorporated a target operating model to ensure a consistent approach to customer service across all our business areas.

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the Customer Service strategy.

Agenda Item 8: Council Plan and Priorities 2022-2027
REPORT OF: Policy and Communities Manager

This report proposes a new Council Plan and process for finalising the Plan.

Environmental impacts assessments will be carried out against the relevant proposed actions as they reach fruition in the civic year.

Agenda Item 9: RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE
REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

To provide Cabinet with an update on the Corporate risks and any proposed changes to these risks.

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

**Agenda Item 10: FIRST QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET
MONITORING 2021/22
REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES**

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure forecasts for the financial year 2021/22, as at the end of the first quarter. The forecast variance is a £560k increase on the net working budget of £18.801million, with an ongoing impact in future years of a £175k increase and requests to carry forward budget totalling £51k to fund specific projects in 2022/23. Within these summary totals there are a number of budget areas with more significant variances, which are detailed and explained in table 3.

The forecasts in the report are based on a prudent assessment of the continuing impacts of Covid-19. The position relating to support for our leisure centres is being kept under monthly review. Current forecasts are that spend will be within the support budget that has been set, but historically the summer period does see a drop in income and usage. Therefore, at this stage no variance has been reported. The full-year parking income forecasts (as detailed in table 5) are very prudent and reflect the uncertainty over ongoing Town Centre recovery.

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

<p>Agenda Item 11: FIRST QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2021/22 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2021/22, as at the end of June 2021.</p> <p>To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2021/22 – 2030/31. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2021/22 of £0.124million and an increase in spend in future years of £0.312million. The most significant individual changes relate to £0.130M Car Park Resurfacing and £0.107M Lairage Car Park Structural Repairs. These are being reprofiled into 2022/23.</p> <p>To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first three months of 2021/22. The current forecast is that the amount of investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £0.040million. This is a reduction of £0.063million on the original estimate. There are no direct equalities implications directly arising from the adoption of the Capital Programme for 2020/21 onwards. For any individual new capital investment proposal of £50k or more, or affecting more than two wards, an equality analysis is required to be carried out. This will take place following agreement of the investment proposal.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY REPORT OF: Service Director- Resources</p>	
<p>This report recommends the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2022/23 to 2026/27 to guide and inform the Council's Business Planning Process. The focus is primarily on setting a budget for 2022/23, as well as determining the actions that will be necessary in setting a longer term budget following on from that. It reflects on the many uncertainties that the Council faces, including impacts of Covid-19. Whilst it recommends a five year budget strategy, there is likely to be a need to amend the strategy over time as further information becomes available.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>The MTFFS supports and is supported by the Council Plan. This reflects that the Council can only deliver priorities and projects that it can afford and should prioritise its spending around delivering its priorities.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 13: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 14: The Future of the Wilbury Hills Crematorium Project REPORT OF: Service Director - Commercial</p>	
<p>To provide Cabinet with an update regarding the outcome of the planning process for a Crematorium at Wilbury Hills Cemetery, Letchworth Garden City and to explore other alternatives for the site going forward.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to the recommendation at 2.1. However, an Environmental Implications Assessment will need to be completed, either for an amended Crematorium proposal or for an alternative that arises from the subsequent investigation.</p>
<p>21st December 2021</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8: DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>Cabinet is asked to consider the latest forecasts in relation to funding, income and expenditure in relation to the revenue budget for 2022/23. It is expected that an addendum report will be provided in relation to the Local Government settlement. Cabinet are asked to consider the savings and investment proposals that were presented to the budget workshops, as well as any new savings and investment proposals that have emerged since those workshops. This should consider the feedback from those workshops, as well as taking appropriate measures to meet the net savings target of £200k. Cabinet are asked to consider the capital project proposals that were presented to the budget workshops, as well as any other opportunities that have emerged since those workshops. This should consider the feedback from those workshops, as well as considering the forecast revenue impact of capital expenditure.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 9: RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To provide Cabinet with an update on the Corporate risks and any proposed changes to these risks.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: SECOND QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2021/22 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2021/22, as at the end of September 2021.</p> <p>To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2021/22 – 2030/31. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2021/22 of £13.124million and a decrease in spend in future years of £10.661million. The most significant change is the removal from the capital programme of the Acquisition of Property Investments capital scheme, for reasons detailed in table 2 and paragraph 8.11. A total of £20m had been earmarked in the programme (£8m in 2021/22 and £4m in each of the next three financial years). The £2.649M Provide Housing at Market Rents scheme is also being removed from the capital programme, while the £1.193M Museum Storage Solution is being withdrawn and replaced with a new capital bid in 2022/23.</p> <p>To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first six months of 2021/22. The current forecast is that the amount of investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £0.050million. This is an increase of £0.010million on the working estimate reported at 1st quarter.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: SECOND QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure forecasts for the financial year 2021/22, as at the end of the second quarter. The forecast variance is a</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>£1.256m decrease on the net working budget of £19.361million, with an ongoing impact in future years of a £228k decrease and requests to carry forward budget totalling £160k to fund specific projects in 2022/23. The reduction in the forecast outturn to £18.105million primarily relates to a £1.1million reduction in the estimated additional financial support required by SLL to maintain operations at the Council's leisure centres. All other significant component variances are detailed and explained in table 3.</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 12: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022/2023 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS</p>	
<p>To provide Cabinet with an update on how the Scheme is operating. To consider whether any changes should be made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for year ten (2022/2023).</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: DE-COMMISSION OF THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP REPORT OF: Policy and Communities Manager</p>	
<p>This report seeks to review one of the Council's current engagement structures – the non statutory Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which is currently known as the North Hertfordshire Partnership.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 14: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 15: ASHWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – EXAMINERS REPORT REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>To consider the examiner’s report and the proposed modifications to the Ashwell Parish Neighbourhood Plan and to agree that officers make arrangements to conduct a referendum within the Ashwell designated neighbourhood planning area.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p> <p>The Council, as “responsible authority”, determines if the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. It was determined, in a Screening Determination, dated July 2019 that the neighbourhood plan would not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 16: LEISURE COVID RECOVERY UPDATE REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - PLACE</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide a general update on the recovery of our major leisure facilities from COVID-19.</p>	<p>Due to the pandemic, the demand on the boilers has been low, while the recently installed new CHP (Combined Heat and Power unit) continues to reduce pressure on the boilers. The forth coming project regarding the installation of solar thermal at the Royston Leisure Centre will aim to reduce the environmental impacts of the SLL facilities.</p>
<p>25th January 2022</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 7: CORPORATE STATEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT POLICY REVIEW REPORT OF: LEGAL REGULATORY TEAM MANAGER & DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>This Report reviews the Council’s Corporate Statement of Enforcement Policy (the ‘Policy’) so that enforcement decisions and actions are consistent throughout the Council.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 8: INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The Investment Strategy provides the following key information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A capital programme of £7.546m in 2022/23 and £20.219m for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27. • Recommendations on the Prudential and other Treasury indicators that will be monitored and reported on during the year (2022/23) • As the Council has identified a need to borrow for capital purposes, a borrowing and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy • The scope of treasury investments where the Council will invest any surplus cash. 	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9: REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>Cabinet is asked to recommend a budget for 2022/23 on to Council for their consideration and approval. The budget will need to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding that the Council would expect to receive in 2022/23 and in future years • The forecast net spend required to enable the continued delivery of the Council services in 2022/23 and beyond • The prioritisation of any investments in line with the priorities of the Council Plan • The exceptional spend in relation to Covid-19 • The other risks in relation to the budget (e.g. higher spend or lower income) and providing reasonable financial protection against those risks • The implications of all the above on future years and ensuring that actions are in place to deliver a balanced budget in the medium term. 	<p>Some of the savings and investments identified in Appendix B could have an environmental impact. For some of these (e.g. Green Space maintenance contract savings) the description in the Appendix provides details of the specific implications. For others there may be indirect implications (e.g. recruiting additional staff could require increased travel), and for these the impacts will be managed as much as possible. Overall the Council still plans to deliver the commitments contained within its Climate Change Strategy. Some of the specific actions contained within the Climate Strategy will be dependent on opportunities and funding being available. They may not therefore be in this budget, but could be incorporated in future years.</p>

22nd MARCH 2022

**Agenda Item 7: COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN FOR 22-23
REPORT OF: REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR -
RESOURCES**

This report presents the Council Delivery Plan for 22-23, which includes

- The setting of key Council projects
- The identification of risks relating to delivery of the projects and
- The setting of Performance Indicators (PIs) to measure progress

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. However, a number of the projects to be monitored throughout the year are related to key environmental issues.

**Agenda Item 8: THIRD QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY
(CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2021/22
REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES**

To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2021/22, as at the end of December 2021.

To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2021/22 – 2031/32. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2021/22 of £0.621M and an increase in spend in 2022/23 of £0.821M. The most significant individual changes relate to £0.195M Parking Charging Payments Management System, £0.100M Match Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging and £0.100M Community Facilities Refurbishments. These are being reprofiled into 2022/23.

To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first nine months of 2021/22. The current forecast is that the amount of investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £0.066M. This is an increase of £0.016M on the working estimate reported at 2nd quarter.

There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.

<p>Agenda Item 9: THIRD QUARTER REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2021/22 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the summary position on revenue income and expenditure forecasts for the financial year 2021/22, as at the end of the third quarter. The forecast variance is a £510k decrease on the net working budget of £17.994million, with an ongoing impact in future years of a £42k increase and requests to carry forward budget totalling £196k to fund specific projects in 2022/23. The significant component variances are detailed and explained in table 3.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: GREENSPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-2027 REPORT OF: Service Manager, Greenspace</p>	
<p>To agree the proposed Greenspace Management Strategy (GSMS) 2022 – 2027 as the basis for the Council’s future strategic approach to maintaining the Greenspace provision in North Herts</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment has been undertaken. This Strategy has been considered and no relevant adaptations mitigation measure that could be applied that have not been considered already as part of ongoing Planning considerations or already covered in the previous Grounds Contract Review</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: KNEBORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – EXAMINERS REPORT REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY</p>	
<p>To consider the examiner’s report and the proposed modifications to the Knebworth Parish Neighbourhood Plan and to agree that officers make arrangements to conduct a referendum within the Knebworth designated neighbourhood planning area.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p> <p>The Council, as “responsible authority”, determines if the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. It was determined, in a Screening Determination, dated July 2019 that the neighbourhood plan would not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>

Agenda Item 12: Shared Waste Service Governance REPORT OF: Shared Service Manager – Waste Management	
The shared client team for waste services has been in operation with oversight from the Joint Partnership Board for waste since December 2017. This report identifies options around governance of the shared service to support future partnership working and service resilience.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.
Agenda Item 13: STRATEGIC PLANNING MATTERS REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY	
This report identifies the latest position on key planning and transport issues affecting the District.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

<h2>Council Decisions</h2>	
<h3>1. Council – 15th April 2021</h3>	
	Environmental Implications
<i>No reports presented at this meeting</i>	
<h3>2. Council 26th May 2021</h3>	
Agenda Item 9: NOTING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR 2021/22 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER	
The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the Leader’s appointment of members of the Cabinet for 2021/22.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

<p>Agenda Item 10: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND PANELS FOR 2021/22 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Members of Committees for 2021/22.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES FOR 2021/22 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees (except Area Committees) for 2021/22.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: KEY DECISIONS - ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES OF SPECIAL URGENCY REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of any occasions over the past year where the provisions relating to “Special Urgency” have been used in connection with the publication of an intention to make a Key Decision, as required by legislation.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2021/22 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a programme of ordinary meetings of the Council for the Civic Year 2021/22.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 14: NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES FOR 2021/22 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to present a list setting out the nomination of representatives on Outside Organisations and Other Bodies for 2021/22.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 15: RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 6 MONTH RULE – SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>To consider an extension of the six-month rule for Councillors unable to attend Committee meetings (for reasons related to the pandemic, including health reasons) following the cessation of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 No.392 and the requirement for Local Authorities to hold meetings in person.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 16: CONSTITUTIONAL REPORT TO COUNCIL UNDER Section 2.6.6 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>To present a report to Council regarding amendments to the Constitution following legislative changes and virtual meeting arrangements as per section 2.6.6, with effect from May 2021. Further amendments were made under 2.6.2 with regards the NHDC Code of Conduct which have to be notified to all Members (as opposed to reported to Full Council). These are included in the appended Delegated Decision and Appendix A Schedule.</p>	<p>As per the attached delegated decision.</p> <p>In respect of the Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020 changes, these had perceived environmental benefits for the public, Members and Officers - by removing the requirement to physically travel to and attend a meeting. In so far as the Council is able it will continue to promote such measures where practical even after the Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020 provisions lapse.</p>
<p>3. Council – 8th July 2021</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 8: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>To present an annual review report and confirmation of any further amendments made since last Council meeting (Cabinet portfolio changes and Area Committee grants).</p>	<p>None from the amendments above, other than potentially recommendation 2.3 and more flexible informal meetings that take place virtually.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 9: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2020/2021 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2020-2021</p>	
<p>To consider the Annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the 2020/21 Civic Year.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>To consider the Annual Report in relation to ethical standards for the preceding civic year.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>4. Council – 23rd September 2021</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY REPORT OF: Service Director- Resources</p>	
<p>This report recommends the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2022/23 to 2026/27 to guide and inform the Council’s Business Planning Process. The focus is primarily on setting a budget for 2022/23, as well as determining the actions that will be necessary in setting a longer term budget following on from that. It reflects on the many uncertainties that the Council faces, including impacts of Covid-19. Whilst it recommends a five year budget strategy, there is likely to be a need to amend the strategy over time as further information becomes available.</p> <p>The MTFS supports and is supported by the Council Plan. This reflects that the Council can only deliver priorities and projects that it can afford and should prioritise its spending around delivering its priorities.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 10: Council Plan and Priorities 2022-2027 REPORT OF: Policy and Communities Manager</p>	
<p>This report proposes a new Council Plan and process for finalising the Plan.</p>	<p>Environmental impacts assessments will be carried out against the relevant proposed actions as they reach fruition in the civic year.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: COUNCILLORS PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR: LEGAL AND COMMUNITY</p>	
<p>This report provides a draft Councillor Parental Leave Policy for approval. This would introduce a right to such leave, that would potentially stretch to beyond 6 months, with continued allowances.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: ELECTORAL CYCLE CONSULTATION REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>A timetable for the Electoral Review of North Hertfordshire District Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has been agreed. The first stage of the review is for the Council to produce a submission to the LGBCE on Council Size.</p> <p>Prior to the submission there needs to be a decision on whether to retain the current electoral cycle of elections by thirds or to move to whole council elections, as this will impact on the number of councillors the authority recommends within the submission to the LGBCE.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>5. Council – 11th November 2021</p>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES 2022 – 2025 REPORT OF: LICENSING MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is for the Licensing and Regulation Committee (“the Committee”) to consider the draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles (“the Policy”) prepared by officers and the public consultation responses in order to recommend the adoption of a final Statement of Licensing Principles to Full Council.</p>	<p>There are no known environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this Policy.</p>

<p>Agenda 10: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – REPORT OF DELEGATED DECISION AMENDMENTS UNDER SECTION 2.6.2 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER</p>	
<p>To report the delegated decision of 22 October 2021 to Full Council under section 2.6.2 with two further minor changes as detailed under sections 7 & 8.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11: Independent person on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee REPORT OF: Service Director: Resources</p>	
<p>This report recommends that the Council has an independent person (i.e. a non-Councillor) on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. This is recommended as best practice by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). If approved the role would be appointed to so that they could start from the beginning of the 2022/23 Civic Year.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12: USE OF URGENCY IN RELATION TO CALL-IN FOR DECISION ON BUSINESS RATE POOLING REPORT OF: Service Director: Resources</p>	
<p>To notify Council that the urgency provisions in relation to call-in were applied to a delegated decision made by the Service Director: Resources (in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and IT) in relation to Business Rate Pooling on 8 October 2021. This was due to the timing and availability of the information required to make the decision and the deadline for submitting the pooling application. Allowing for potential call-in would have made it impossible to meet the deadline set by Government of 8 October 2021. As per the Constitution, the Chair of the Council agreed to the decision being treated as a matter of urgency. The Constitution requires that use of this provision is reported to the next meeting of Council, together with the reasons for urgency.</p> <p>Provisions for the use of call-in and urgency are set out in paragraph 6.3.11 (b) (i) of the Constitution.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this decision.</p>

6. Council, Extraordinary– 7th December 2021	
Agenda Item 3: RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE 6 MONTH RULE – SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER	
To consider an extension of the six-month rule for Councillor John Bishop, having regard to the circumstances for absence from meetings.	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.
7. Council, NEW; Extraordinary – 7th December 2021	
Agenda Item 3: ELECTORAL CYCLE REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER	
<p>A timetable for the Electoral Review of North Hertfordshire Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has been agreed. The first stage of the review is for the Council to produce a submission to the LGBCE on Council Size.</p> <p>Prior to the submission there needs to be a decision on whether to retain the current electoral cycle of elections by thirds or to move to whole council/all-out elections, as this will impact on the number of councillors the authority recommends within the submission to the LGBCE.</p> <p>A resolution for whole-council elections must not be passed unless there have been reasonable steps by the council to consult “such persons as it thinks appropriate on the proposed change” and the resolution to move to whole council elections must be:</p> <p>(a) at a meeting which is specially convened for that purpose; and (b) by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it.</p> <p>If a resolution for whole council elections is not passed by a two third majority the current electoral cycle of elections by thirds will remain.</p>	There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

8. Council – 20 January 2022

<p>Agenda Item 8: COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ('LGBCE') REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The first stage of the Electoral Review of North Herts Council by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is determination of Council Size (number of Councillors) to represent North Herts Council from May 2024.</p> <p>The Council needs to agree the submission to the LGBCE by the required deadline of 21 January 2022. Failure to agree the submission will result in the LGBCE imposing a council size.</p> <p>Having discussed Council Size at the Boundary Review Project Board, Group Leaders suggested a Council Size of 50 Members given the projected growth in the Local Plan; and the nature of the district with its mix of more densely populated towns and sparsely populated large rural areas that need to be a manageable size geographically for the rural ward councillors. It is also believed that reducing the number of Members (thereby increasing workload for others) could deter or discourage individuals from standing as a Councillor, thereby further impacting on diversity of representation.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE, PROJECT MONITORING AND RISK REPORT OF: Service Director: Resources</p>	
<p>This report recommends that the Council changes the way that it approaches the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The setting, and monitoring of, Performance Indicators (PIs). • The setting, and monitoring of, key Council projects • The identification process in relation to risks and oversight of risks • The setting, and publication of, the Service Delivery Plan and Service Action Plans 	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report</p>

<p>The intention of the changes is to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the above are better aligned to the Council Plan • That there is better ownership by Cabinet and improved oversight by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee • That the results are contained within one document, which is more accessible to Councillors, residents and other stakeholders 	
<p>Agenda Item 11: SECOND QUARTER INVESTMENT STRATEGY (CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REVIEW 2021/22 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To update Cabinet on progress with delivering the capital and treasury strategy for 2021/22, as at the end of September 2021.</p> <p>To update Cabinet on the impact upon the approved capital programme for 2021/22 – 2030/31. The current estimate is a decrease in spend in 2021/22 of £13.124million and a decrease in spend in future years of £10.661million. The most significant change is the removal from the capital programme of the Acquisition of Property Investments capital scheme, for reasons detailed in table 2 and paragraph</p> <p>A total of £20m had been earmarked in the programme (£8m in 2021/22 and £4m in each of the next three financial years). The £2.649M Provide Housing at Market Rents scheme is also being removed from the capital programme, while the £1.193M Museum Storage Solution is being withdrawn and replaced with a new capital bid in 2022/23.</p> <p>To inform Cabinet of the Treasury Management activities in the first six months of 2021/22. The current forecast is that the amount of investment interest expected to be generated during the year is £0.050million. This is an increase of £0.010million on the working estimate reported at 1st quarter.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>

<p>Agenda Item 12: APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR 2023/24 TO 2027/28 REPORT OF: Service Director: Resources</p>	
<p>The Council is required to appoint an auditor for the period from 2023/24 onwards, when the current arrangement with Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) come to an end. It is considered that continuing with PSAA provides the only realistically viable option.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2022/2023 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - CUSTOMERS</p>	
<p>To approve the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for North Hertfordshire for 2022/2023</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 14: REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>To agree the Member's Allowances Scheme 2022/2023 having taken into account the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel ('IRP').</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 15: ELECTORAL SERVICES – SCALE OF FEES 2022/23 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>To agree the Scale of Fees for electoral events held during 2022/23.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 16: APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT MEMBER AND CHAIR TO THE PLANNING CONTROL COMMITTEE (& NOTING APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND DEPUTY LEADER) REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>The purpose of this report is to confirm the appointment of a new / replacement Member to the Planning Control Committee, substitute Member and new Chair of the Committee.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>

<p>This follows the appointment of Councillor Ruth Brown, the current Chair of the Committee, to the position of Executive Member for Planning, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and Deputy Leader of Council, who shall resign from the Committee as at this meeting date (and prior to the decision being taken below)</p>	
<h2>9. Council – 10 February 2022</h2>	
<p>Agenda Item 9: CHANGE TO POLLING PLACE & POLLING STATIONS REPORT OF: RETURNING OFFICER AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</p>	
<p>To agree the designation of polling places, to come in to effect at the upcoming local government elections.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to these actions.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10: REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 REPORT OF: THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES</p>	
<p>Cabinet has recommended a budget for 2022/23 to Council for their consideration and approval. The budget considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding that the Council would expect to receive in 2022/23 and in future years • The forecast net spend required to enable the continued delivery of the Council services in 2022/23 and beyond • The prioritisation of any investments in line with the priorities of the Council Plan • The exceptional spend in relation to Covid-19 • The other risks in relation to the budget (e.g. higher spend or lower income) and providing reasonable financial protection against those risks • The implications of all the above on future years and ensuring that actions are in place to deliver a balanced budget in the medium term. 	<p>Some of the savings and investments identified in Appendix B could have an environmental impact. For some of these (e.g. Green Space maintenance contract savings) the description in the Appendix provides details of the specific implications. For others there may be indirect implications (e.g. recruiting additional staff could require increased travel), and for these the impacts will be managed as much as possible. Overall the Council still plans to deliver the commitments contained within its Climate Change Strategy. Some of the specific actions contained within the Climate Strategy will be dependent on opportunities and funding being available. They may not therefore be in this budget, but could be incorporated in future years.</p>

Agenda Item 11: INVESTMENT STRATEGY (INTEGRATED CAPITAL AND TREASURY) REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES	
<p>The Investment Strategy provides the following key information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A capital programme of £7.696m in 2022/23 and £19.969m for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27. • Recommendations on the Prudential and other Treasury indicators that will be monitored and reported on during the year (2022/23) • As the Council has identified a need to borrow for capital purposes, a borrowing and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy • The scope of treasury investments where the Council will invest any surplus cash. 	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to recommendations of this report. The projects at section 8.4 may have impacts that contribute to an adverse impact. As these projects go forward, an assessment will be made where necessary.</p>
9. Council – 23 March 2022	
Agenda Item 9: PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23 REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES	
<p>This report sets out a draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/3 (Appendix 1) for Council's consideration and approval in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act), associated guidance issued under Section 40 of the Act, the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 and any other relevant legislation. The Statement incorporates elements of existing policy and practice and is required to be agreed annually.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.</p>
Agenda Item 10: Churchgate update REPORT OF: Service Director - Commercial	
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the Council's previous approaches to the Churchgate Shopping Centre in Hitchin, and to confirm the Council still supports the decisions taken by Full Council at its meetings on 11 February 2016 and 7 February 2019 and a Council led approach to regeneration.</p>	<p>There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report, although there is likely to be some in relation to the regeneration.</p>

2. Completed Environmental Impact assessments

In November 2021, a delegated decision was taken for the Authority to participate in a Joint Authority (Hertfordshire/ Buckinghamshire/ Berkshire) Solar Bulk Buy Scheme scheme, which will enable residents to participate and purchase at a reduced rate (due to multi-purchase discount resulting from higher levels of resident participation).

An Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken for this delegated decision. There are positive environmental implications arising from this decision as it supports the deployment of renewable energy within North Herts and takes steps towards helping residents to decarbonise their homes energy usage, and therefore towards meeting our net zero by 2040 target for the wider district.

The completed Environmental Impact Assessment is included below:

1. Name of activity:	<i>County-wide Solar Group Purchase Scheme</i>				
2. Main purpose of activity:	<i>To enable Hertfordshire residents to have solar panels (and battery storage and EV charging if desired) installed at their houses at a reduced rate due to multi-purchase discount.</i>				
3. List the information, data or evidence used in this assessment:	<i>Reports compiled by Hemel Garden Communities about the group purchase scheme.</i>				
Area of Potential Impact	Examples to Consider (non-exhaustive)	Neutral (X)	Negative (X)	Positive (X)	<i>Describe the contribution/impact on the area that the decision may have - assess whether this impact is a negative or positive or neutral one. Negative: What are the risks? Positive: What are the benefits?</i>
1. Impact on greenhouse emission and support adaption	Will energy needs be met through renewable sources? Will it reduce emissions through retrofitting new technology?			X	Negative

<p><i>to the effects of climate change</i></p>	<p>Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel?</p>				<p>Positive</p> <p>The scheme is expected to have positive impacts around meeting energy needs through renewable sources and reducing carbon emissions through curbing reliance on fossil fuel energy. This will be achieved by making it easier and cheaper for residents to fit their houses with solar panels and battery storage. For the Council, this helps us meet our climate commitments and move closer to our target of having a net zero district by 2040 through the retrofitting of private housing stock.</p>
<p><i>2. Use of natural resources including water and energy</i></p>	<p>Will it reduce water consumption? Will it reduce energy consumption?</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>Negative</p> <hr/> <p>Positive</p> <p>It is anticipated that the increased use solar energy will reduce normal over the grid electricity usage which will be assisted with the use of batteries to power properties at night.</p>

<p><i>3. Minimisation of flood risks to the area (i.e. promotion of SUD's. protect surface and ground water quality)</i></p>	<p>Will it minimise flood risk from all sources of flooding?</p>	X			Negative
	<p>Will it reduce property damage due to storm events/ heavy rainfall by improving flood resistance and flood resilience?</p>				
					Positive
<p><i>4. To protect, enhance and create environments that encourage and support biodiversity</i></p>	<p>Will it protect, enhance and increase biodiversity and protect habitats?</p>	X			Negative
	<p>Will it improve access to and promote educational value of sites of biodiversity interest?</p>				
					Positive
<p><i>5. To improve Air Quality</i></p> <p><i>(air quality describes how polluted the air we breathe is)</i></p>	<p>Will it improve air quality?</p>			X	Negative
	<p>Will it reduce emissions of key pollutants?</p>				
					Positive
					The scheme has the potential to improve air quality by offering residents EV charger installation as part of their package, thereby enabling greater uptake of electric vehicles.
<p><i>6. To reduce need to travel, the use of private motorised vehicular</i></p>	<p>Will it encourage increased walking, cycling and use of public transport?</p>				Negative

<i>transport as well as encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transport</i>	Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes other than a car?	X			Positive
<i>7. To reduce waste production and increase recycling, recovery and reuse of waste</i>	Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources? Will it reduce household waste? Will it reduce construction waste? Will it increase recovery recycling and re-use?	X			Negative Positive
<i>8. To enhance the public realm and street improvements</i>	Will it reduce litter? Will it enhance the quality of public realm?	X			Negative Positive
<i>9. To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space</i>	Will it improve open space? Will it improve landscape character? Will it minimise development on Greenfield sites?	X			Negative Positive

<i>10. To reduce noise and impact of noise</i>	Will it reduce noise pollution from vehicles?	X			Negative
					Positive
					This impact could be positive, however, if the scheme is successful in increasing uptake of electric vehicles.

6.0 Results			
	Yes	No	
<i>Were positive impacts identified?</i>	X		<i>Will increase resident uptake of renewable energy within their homes.</i>
<i>Were negative impacts identified (what actions were taken)</i>		X	
7.0 Consultation, decisions and actions			
<i>Describe the decision on this activity (refer to section 3.2)</i>			
No major change – The analysis demonstrates that the policy is robust, and the evidence shows no potential of adverse impacts.			

<i>List all actions identified to address/mitigate negative impact or promote positive impact</i>		
<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible person</i>	<i>Completion due date</i>
<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>When, how and by whom will these actions be monitored?</i>		
<i>N/A</i>		
<i>Assessment date: 23.11.21</i>	<i>Review date: 23.11.22</i>	

3.0 Conclusion

As noted at the introduction, the Council would give specific consideration as to how the decisions it made might impact on the Environment. The report template was amended in May 2020, to include a specific Environmental Implications Section with accompanying guidance. This will be an ongoing process to ensure that impacts and mitigation measures and risks are identified at an early stage. The annual assessment will feed into the annual monitoring of North Herts Council's Climate Change Strategy delivery and impact in the district. This will also contribute to the fuller evaluation proposed to take place in 2025.