THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Three Rivers House
Northway
Rickmansworth
Herts WD3 1RL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

NOTICE AND AGENDA

For a meeting to be held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Northway, Rickmansworth on Monday, 26 January 2026 at 7.00 pm

Members of the Policy and Resources Committee:-

Councillors:

Stephen Giles-Medhurst OBE (Chair)
Oliver Cooper
Stephen Cox
Steve Drury
Vicky Edwards
Rue Grewal
Philip Hearn
Sarah Nelmes (Vice-Chair)
Chris Lloyd
Chris Mitchell
Louise Price
Reena Ranger
Jon Tankard

Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
Friday, 16 January 2026

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public on agenda items at the Policy and Resources Committee meetings. Details of the procedure are provided below:

For those wishing to speak:
Members of the public are entitled to register and identify which item(s) they wish to speak on from the published agenda for the meeting. Those who wish to register to speak are asked to register on the night of the meeting from 7pm. Please note that contributions will be limited to one person speaking for and one against each item for not more than three minutes.

In the event of registering your interest to speak on an agenda item but not taking up that right because the item is deferred, you will be given the right to speak on that item at the next meeting of the Committee.

Those wishing to observe the meeting are requested to arrive from 7pm.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 any matters considered under Part I business only of the meeting may be filmed, recorded, photographed, broadcast or reported via social media by any person.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the recording and reporting to ensure compliance. This will include the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Legislation and the laws of libel and defamation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2025.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

Items of other business notified under Council Procedure Rule 30 to be announced, together with the special circumstances that justify their consideration as a matter of urgency. The Chair to rule on the admission of such items.

5. COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT AGREEMENTS (Pages 13 - 52)

That:

- P and R Committee entering all contracts and/or grant agreements above £25,000.
- P and R to delegate authority to the Associate Director of Corporate, Customer and Community for grant extensions of up to 6 months and amendments to grant agreements.

Organisation	2026-29 Funding allocation (£
Citizens Advice Service Three Rivers (CASTR)	260,000
Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT)	40,000
Home-Start Watford and Three Rivers	4,800
Watford FC Community, Sports and Education Trust	5,000
Roundabout Transport	5,500
Services for Young People (Hertfordshire County Council)	2,000
Mental Health	10,000
Total	327,300

6. FINANCIAL PLANNING - CAPITAL STRATEGY AND THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY (Pages 53 - 84)

That:

- The report is noted.

7. FINANCIAL PLANNING - REVENUE SERVICES (Pages 85 - 120)

That:

- The report is noted

8. FINANCIAL PLANNING - RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 121 - 130)

That:

- The Policy and Resources Committee notes that the Administration will publish its final recommendations on Financial Planning 2026/27 to 2028/29 five working days prior to the Council meeting on 24 February 2026 and present them at this meeting.

9. DRAFT EQUALITY AND INCLUSION POLICY 26-30 AND DRAFT EQUALITY OBJECTIVES 26-30 (Pages 131 - 156)

That:

- The committee review, and if required amend the draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy for 2026-30.
- The committee review, and if required amend the draft Equality Objectives for 2026-30.
- The committee agrees to a public consultation on the draft Policy and Objectives.
- That public access to the report be immediate
- That public access to the decision be immediate.

10. COUNCIL PLAN 2026-2029 - FINAL (Pages 157 - 190)

That:

- Committee to approve the progression of the proposed Council Plan 2026-2029 to Full Council on 24 February 2026 for adoption.

11. SME SOLAR PV AND BATTERY GRANT PROPOSAL (Pages 191 - 260)

That:

- Committee approve the launch of the SME Solar PV and Battery Grant, using £50,000 of existing climate change budgets across the financial years 25/26 and 26/27.

12. BIODIVERSITY DUTY REPORT 2026 (Pages 261 - 308)

That the Policy & Resources Committee recommend Full Council;

- Note the content of the report, updated policy and Strengthened Biodiversity Duty Report

- Approve the updated Three Rivers Biodiversity Policy

- Approve the reporting cycle of Biodiversity Duty to be every 5 years and for the Council Biodiversity Policy to be reviewed on the same timeline.

13. BATCHWORTH DEPOT SOLAR ARRAY EXTENSION (Pages 309 - 336)

That:

- Policy and Resources Committee approve a 22 kWp solar array and a 10.36kWh battery to Batchworth depot offices, requiring investment of £20,708 excluding VAT with a capital payback period of 5.5 years.

14. REVIEW OF HMO ADDITIONAL LICENCING AND CONSIDERATION OF ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION (Pages 337 - 350)

That:

- Based on evidence at this time, additional licensing for HMOs is not progressed, however, this will be reviewed in 12 months' time.
- Based on evidence at this time, that an Article 4 direction is not progressed. However, Officers agree to keep this under review and if circumstances change, Officers will consider the position.
- Resident input into HMO licence applications to be included as part of the forthcoming HMO Licensing Policy that will be presented to Committee later this year.
- The address of any property subject to an application for a HMO licence to be added to the council's HMO Register.
- Ward Councillors, County Councillors and Parish Councillors (if applicable) are advised if a HMO licence application is received for their area.
- Neighbours of a property that has applied for an HMO licence application will be notified by Officers upon receipt of that application. (pending approval of the council's Data Protection and Resilience Manager)

15. REGULATION 19 PUBLICATION DOCUMENT (Pages 351 - 568)

That Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:

- Approve and recommend to Full Council the Local Plan Regulation 19 Part 1: Policies document as set out in Appendix 1 for public consultation in accordance with the regulations and the Local Development Scheme
- Grant delegated authority to the Head of Planning Policy & Conservation and the Director of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for the Local Plan to make any subsequent changes that are required before the documents are published for consultation
- Grant delegated authority to the Head of Planning Policy & Conservation and the Director of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for the Local Plan to propose minor modifications to the Local Plan and submit the plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in public.
- Agree significant proposed modifications to the Local Plan be agreed by Urgent Decision under the council's constitution prior to submission

to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in public.

16. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 569 - 570)

To approve the work programme.

17. Other business - if approved under item 3 above

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If the Committee wishes to consider the remaining item in private, it will be appropriate for a resolution to be passed in the following terms:-

"that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraph **3** of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act. It has been decided by the Council that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information."

(Note: If other confidential business is approved under item 3, it will also be necessary to specify the class of exempt or confidential information in the additional items.)

19. REGULATION 19 SITE ALLOCATION (Pages 571 - 3852)

That Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:

- Approve and recommend to Full Council the Local Plan Regulation 19 Part 2: Site Allocations document as set out in Appendix 1 for public consultation in accordance with the regulations and the Local Development Scheme
- Grant delegated authority to the Head of Planning Policy & Conservation and the Director of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for the Local Plan to make any subsequent changes that are required before the documents are published for consultation
- Grant delegated authority to the Head of Planning Policy & Conservation and the Director of Finance in consultation with the Lead Member for the Local Plan to propose minor modifications to the Local Plan and submit the plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in public.
- Agree significant proposed modifications to the Local Plan be agreed by Urgent Decision under the council's constitution prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in public.