



Democratic Services  
One Angel Square  
Angel Street,  
Northampton, NN1 1ED

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## CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 at 2pm

Venue: Covey Room, One Angel Square, Northampton (Meeting held in public)

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### PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

#### Cabinet Member

Councillor Matthew Golby  
Councillor Elizabeth Bowen  
Councillor Fiona Baker  
Councillor Malcolm Longley  
Councillor Ian Morris  
Councillor Sandra Naden-Horley  
Councillor Jason Smithers

#### Portfolio

Leader of the Council  
Deputy Leader  
Children, Families and Education  
Finance  
Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Corporate Services  
Highways and Place

### OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Councillor Richard Auger  
Councillor Martin Griffiths  
Councillor Stephen Legg  
Councillor Bob Scott  
Councillor Chris Stanbra  
Councillor Winston Strachan

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury  
Councillor Eileen Hales  
Councillor Victoria Perry  
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw  
Councillor Danielle Stone

### ALSO PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

#### Officer

Dominic Donnini  
Ian Duncan  
Anna Earnshaw  
Barbel Gale  
Theresa Grant  
Paul Hanson  
Paul Helsby  
Sally Hodges  
Tony McArdle  
Susan Zeiss

#### Role

Director of Commercial & Place  
Executive Director Finance  
Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing  
Democracy Officer (Minutes)  
Chief Executive  
Democratic Services Manager  
Director of Transformation  
Director of Children's Services  
Lead Commissioner  
Monitoring Officer

There were 4 members of the press and public in attendance.

#### 76/19 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Longley.

### 77/19 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

### 78/19 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 14 May 2019

**RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 14 May 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record with the inclusion of the additional comments to section 75/19 Funding of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who are Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE).**

### 79/19 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

### 80/19 Announcements

The Chairman announced there were changes to the Cabinet, the new portfolios were listed below. These changes would take full effect upon the conclusion of this meeting.

- Councillor Matthew Golby - Leader of the Council
- Councillor Elizabeth Bowen - Deputy Leader
- Councillor Fiona Baker - Children, Families and Education
- Councillor Malcolm Longley - Finance
- Councillor Ian Morris - Adult Social Care and Public Health
- Councillor Sandra Naden-Horley - Corporate Services
- Councillor Jason Smithers - Highways and Place

### 81/19 Capital Approvals

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment & Public Protection, Councillor Morris, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The final monitoring position for 2018/19 would be presented to Cabinet in July;
- The proposals included £4.85m for schools and highways capital works across 6 schemes which would be funded from Department for Education and Department for Transport annual grant allocations; and
- A capital grant of £2,580,000 from the Highways Maintenance Block Incentive Fund 2019-20 had been received from the Department for Transport.

Councillors made the following points:

- Investment in the Household Waste Recycling Centres Sinking Fund to improve centres was welcomed; and
- It was queried if any funding had been received from Government to cover the Council's investment in the Northampton International Academy.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education welcomed the agreement from the Northampton International Academy to provide an additional 30 school places for the next 3 years. She was pleased that the Radstone Primary school would be open fully from September 2019.

The Chairman said that he was now a member of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Board.

In response to a question the Chief Executive explained that the Council had submitted strong evidence to the Government to recover its investment in the Northampton International Academy. The Government had then directed the Council to use the proceeds from the sale of school land to cover the additional costs incurred from the Northampton International Academy project.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Approved the promotion of six schemes from the development pool into the committed capital programme with investment totalling £8,234k:**
  - i. Highways Maintenance Block Incentive Fund 2019-20 - £2,560k**
  - ii. Household Waste Recycling Centres Sinking Fund - £260k**
  - iii. Community Equipment 2019-20 - £4,000k**
  - iv. Billing Brook Special Needs School Capacity - £250k**
  - v. Huxlow School Mobiles - £164k**
  - vi. Property Minor Works 2019-20 - £1,000k**
- 2. Approved the extension of three schemes within the current committed programme totalling £1,872k:**
  - i. Schools Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) 2018-19 - £1,341k**
  - ii. Northampton Secondary Schools Capacity - £396k**
  - iii. Radstone Primary School - £135k**

**Further detail on the above schemes can be found in Section 5.**

82/19 Northamptonshire Adult Social Services Strategic Plan 2019-22

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care, Councillor Naden-Horley, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- Cabinet were being asked to note the content and objectives of the draft Northamptonshire Adult Social Services Strategic Plan for 2019-22 and approve the commencement of a stakeholder engagement process ensuring the voice of the user was represented;
- The strategy had to be reviewed every 3 years to ensure it was in tune with the Care Act 2014 and the NHS 10 year plan;
- A clear strategy was key for setting out the priorities including setting out the expectations and inform work to be undertaken;
- A 4 stage model would be used based on best practice; and
- Work would be undertaken to ensure that the effects on those with ongoing health needs would be minimised.

Councillors made the following points:

- The model was centred around buying and commissioning services and it was queried if other models were being considered;
- The model made an assumption that people would seek to utilise support from families and communities, many did not have that type of support available; and
- The strategy suggested some ambitious changes to how services would operate therefore it was queried how the Council would ensure that there was adequate resources and capacity within the teams to deliver it.

Councillor Morris thanked Councillor Naden-Horley for her work with the Adult Social Care directorate. He supported the report which would help to reduce needs, define what the needs were and help to meet needs in the future.

The Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing made the following points in response:

- She explained there were no specific services for black and minority ethnic groups however they were supported through other work streams;
- Healthwatch was being developed to ensure that users of all groups were represented;
- Commissioning was mentioned in the plan in a wider term and could mean engaging with community groups who could deliver services more effectively;
- She explained there was no presumption that people had support within the community;
- Following the move towards unitary provision, she clarified that all decisions were being taken in collaboration with all relevant parties;
- All homecare provision was monitored;
- The Council would need to join up with the district and borough councils and public health to address the issue of homelessness within the county; and
- This was a wholesale review to increase productivity.

The Chairman explained that sessions were being organised on Local Government Reform. He felt this was a once in a generation opportunity to integrate with health and adult social care.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Noted content and objectives of the draft Northamptonshire Adult Social Services (NASS) Strategic Plan for 2019-22**
- 2. Approved the commencement of a stakeholder engagement process to confirm and agree these objectives and ensure that the voice of the user is represented.**

83/19 Delivering infrastructure-led growth, digital connectivity and business support in Northamptonshire

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment & Public Protection, Councillor Morris, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The report covered a wide ranging subject matter and highlighted the Council's ability to successfully bid for funding and working with partners;
- The report sets out the short, medium and longer term activities to support the Council's vision for Northamptonshire and Government's ambitions for economic growth, some of these include:
  - The Strategic Infrastructure Plan – work on the new plan setting out the agenda for investment in infrastructure was being done to ensure the county did not miss out on additional funding, new infrastructure projects and improved services;
  - Smart Move Northamptonshire explained how smart technologies and approaches were being deployed within the county;
  - Enhanced digital technology was regarding supporting delivery of rural broadband infrastructure;
  - New development was regarding taking measures to ensure that new developments contribute to the costs of infrastructure;
  - New funding was regarding joint activity with other local authorities and the University to ensure successful bids for funding for the county; and

- He wished Councillor Smithers all the best with the portfolio going forward.

Councillors made the following points:

- The benefits of the relationships with Northampton Enterprise Partnership and South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) were queried;
- Examples of NCC's support of business growth was requested;
- The report noted that the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce had found that key indicators of economic health had weakened in the first quarter of 2019 and it was queried what support was being given by the Council to reverse this trend;
- It was queried what the Council was being done to address the skills shortage in the County;
- Further information on the level of investment delivered to date from the Growth Deal and the Northamptonshire Arc was requested;
- It was asked why Northamptonshire had not been included in the Cambridgeshire-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc and was the Council represented on the board; and
- Had the Council agreed a 'Growth Deal' with the Government?

The Deputy Leader felt the report was complex and challenging to understand. She noted that there was basic broadband connectivity in many areas of the county and asked what NCC planned to do to encourage the organisations providing the connectivity to fulfil their commitment.

The Chairman explained that SEMLEP was developing a Local Infrastructure Strategy which the Council would feed into and clarified that the Council was fully engaged with the Cambridgeshire-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc.

Councillor Morris agreed that it was an ambitious paper and much of the detail would be developed as the process progressed. Infrastructure would be harder to develop without funding from SEMLEP. He agreed there was a need to find solutions to the connectivity coverage across the county. He clarified that penalties were being issued regarding delivery of the broadband contract to organisations when targets had not been met.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Agreed the need to produce a new Strategic Infrastructure Plan for Northamptonshire and the approach outlined in Section 4 of the report.**
- 2. Supported the introduction of Smart City technology to manage the road network, increase travel options, and improve the availability of live travel information, and agrees the approach outlined in Section 5 of the report.**
- 3. Welcomed the £2m additional funding which has been secured by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) to boost digital connectivity to more rural businesses, and agrees that further investment be made to extend digital coverage as outlined in Section 6 and delegated authority to the Executive Director of Commercial and Place to manage and authorise the necessary variations to contracts to deliver this outcome**
- 4. Noted the important role played by NCC to secure developer contributions for investment in infrastructure, and agrees that the 'Creating Sustainable Communities – Planning Obligations Framework and Guidance' document be refreshed, and that a consultation take place on an revised framework as outlined in Section 7 of the report.**
- 5. Welcomed the positive impact achieved through the two local business support projects involving NCC, and agreed that opportunities should be**

**progressed with local partners to continue to support local businesses as outlined in Section 8 of the report.**

#### 84/19 East Kettering Junction Improvements

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment & Public Protection, Councillor Morris, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- This report was a good example of how the Council was working together with district and borough colleagues;
- As part of the planning process developer obligations had been secured via Section 106 agreements;
- Kettering Borough Council had received the funding for the project and had asked the Council to undertake the work on their behalf;
- The first junction Windmill Avenue/Deeble Road had already been delivered. The Barton Road/Cranford Road was planned to start in July and other junctions would follow as Kettering Borough council received more funding; and
- All County Councillor's whose wards included those junctions had been offered the opportunity to have a briefing with the scheme project manager.

Councillors welcomed the report and requested that Junction E the Barton Road/Windmill Avenue junction be completed ahead of the other junctions.

#### **RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Welcomed the funding secured via Kettering Borough Council for junction improvements.**
- 2. Agreed to the phased implementation of the junction improvements, starting with Barton Road /Cranford Road, as set out in section 4 of this report.**

#### 85/19 New Safeguarding partnership arrangements

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Families and Education, Councillor Baker, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The report listed the changes in legislation that had required this proposal along with the opportunities it would bring;
- The new arrangements would create a more flexible and proactive approach to holding each other to account;
- The board would agree its own scrutiny arrangements and its own independent structure;
- The proposals would strengthen the previous arrangements; and
- It was proposed that the board would hold 2 conferences a year with the first being held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 centring on child exploitation and gang activity.

Councillors made the following points:

- The report was welcomed;
- It was queried when the effectiveness of the of the new arrangements would be evaluated;
- The costs of the new arrangement was queried;
- The lack of trust in the council by all agencies including schools needed to be addressed;

- There was a need to reflect why partnerships were no working and it was felt that stability within the council and its partners was needed;
- It was queried if the child exploitation team had been consulted with regarding the decision on Funding of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who are Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE) taken on 14 May 2019;
- Concern was expressed regarding certain cohorts such as children missing from education or those who were off role or home educated; and
- It was queried how the independent scrutineer would be appointed.

In response to questions the Director of Children's Services made the following points:

- She was satisfied that the new arrangements provided a strong partnership;
- There was a strong commitment to ensure the partnership arrangements were robust going forward;
- The scrutiny committee would appoint the independent scrutineer;
- She shared the Councillor concern about those cohorts of children however there was a good process for identifying and tracking those particular children;
- Relationships with partners were improving over time; and
- There was a shared commitments from all to ensure that things improved.

Councillor Baker agreed that trust was being rebuilt with partners. She offered her thanks to the Independent Chair of the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board, Keith Makin for all of his very good work.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the contents of the Local Safeguarding Arrangements, Plan 2019-21.**

#### 86/19 Children's Services Improvement Plan

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Families and Education, Councillor Baker, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining that a lot of work had been carried out on the plan which would be circulated to all members.

Councillors made the following points:

- Disappointment was expressed at the late availability of the document;
- The Council was 6 years into its improvement journey and improvements were expected;
- There was a need to carry out research into what was considered good practice and test processes to see if they work before implementation;
- It was felt that services should be co-designed and co-delivered rather than be commissioned;
- Further information regarding the unaccompanied asylum seeking children's accommodation was sought;
- It was queried who owned the document and who was responsible for delivery of the plan;
- It was asked how would the council ensure that the required resources and capacity was available;
- The report was welcomed but acknowledged the reliance on the workforce to deliver it;
- Feedback on the Overview and Scrutiny review of progress with Children First Northamptonshire improvement work was overdue; and

- It was queried why the performance information dashboard from Children's Services was not be received by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a monthly basis.

The Chairman indicated the Children's Improvement Plan would be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and explained this was the current improvement plan that needed to be adhered too and everyone had the aspiration to move the service on.

The Director of Transformation made the following points:

- He clarified that ownership of the plan sat within the corporate management team and the plan set out the responsibilities;
- Part of transformation was to discover what worked that could be replicated; and
- There was a need to build the infrastructure and ensure there was capacity within the service.

The Director of Children's Services indicated that feedback on the Overview and Scrutiny review of progress with Children First Northamptonshire improvement work and the performance information dashboard would be shared with members. She indicated that plans were reviewed on a monthly basis by senior officers and a broad range of partners had oversight. It was clarified that Children's Services and the Transformation team were working together and supporting each other to understand the impact of what had been done previously.

Councillor Baker felt there was a very dedicated team of senior officers in Children's Services who were all working hard to move the service forward.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet received the Children's Services Improvement Plan and noted its contents.**

87/19 Contract extension for services to support young people in Northamptonshire that are not or at risk of not being in education, training or employment (NEET).

The Chairman announced that the special urgency rule had been applied to this item therefore this item is not subject to the normal call-in procedure.

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Families and Education, Councillor Baker, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explained this was a support services contract extension. Due to funding restrictions the amount of funding paid to the current provided had been reduced.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education to extend the current contract for NEET services to 31 March 2021.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.10PM

Barbel Gale  
Democratic Services

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_