



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

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2019 at 2pm

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

PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Cabinet Member

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

Portfolio

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

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

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury	Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Julie Davenport	Councillor Anjona Roy
Councillor James Hakewill	Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Eileen Hales	Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Graham Lawman	Councillor Chris Stanbra
Councillor Andy Mercer	Councillor Winston Strachan
Councillor Gill Mercer	

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

Officer	Role
Liam Beasley	Media Relations Specialist
Roy Boulton	Assistant Director Environment and Planning
Anna Earnshaw	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Barbel Gale	Democratic Services Assistant Manager
Theresa Grant	Chief Executive
Paul Hanson	Democratic Services Manager
Paul Helsby	Director of Transformation
Sally Hodges	Director of Children's Services
Maisie McInnes	Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Kerry Purnell	Assistant Director, Corporate & Community Service
Brian Roberts	Finance Commissioner
Barry Scarr	Executive Director of Finance
Susan Zeiss	Monitoring Officer

There were 9 members of the press and public in attendance.

129/19 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Dominic Donnini, Executive Director of PLACE & Commercial with Roy Boulton attending as substitute.

130/19 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

Notifications were received for Item 07, Monthly Revenue Monitoring Report for the Financial Year Ending 31st March 2020, as at period 5 from, Ms Olivia Anderton and Mr Kevin Standishday, Branch Secretary, Northants County Unison.

131/19 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 8 October 2019

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held in public on 8 October 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

132/19 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

133/19 Announcements

The Chairman welcomed the new Executive Director of Finance, Barry Scarr. He wished him well for the challenging months ahead and said that he looked forward to working with him going forward.

He explained the adjusted format to the Cabinet meeting would give relevant members the opportunity to address cabinet and keep Cabinet in line with the constitution. He invited Members to attend a briefing on the 5 November that would provide an update on the move to Unitaries.

The Chairman addressed the issue raised at the last Audit Committee which regarded short term IT disaster recovery and announced that a report and action plan would be taken to Audit Committee. He confirmed that our IT information was currently backed up in Cambridgeshire, and some protection was in place but the report would identify any issues.

134/19 Progress within Northamptonshire County Council Transformation Programme

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Scrimshaw, the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). Councillor Scrimshaw summarised that Scrutiny were impressed with the current progress of the transformation programme being mostly on target. He stated that scrutiny recognised the challenging situation regarding transformation and children's services. However, Scrutiny welcomed a robust approach to business planning and hoped that this model would be used next year.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Scrimshaw for the report from scrutiny and confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with the Chief Executive to discuss the situation in children's services and how to move forward in the future with the appointment of the new Children's commissioner. The Chairman supported the recommendations provided in the report.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee acknowledges the progress made with the Transformation Programme and the hard work of the staff involved to achieve this.**
- 2) Agreed the need to maintain progress with the existing approach that has enabled the Transformation Programme to deliver £29 million savings so far, in order to address the current forecast year-end shortfall of £8.566 million and prevent this creating an additional pressure on the 2020/21 Council budget**
- 3) Agreed that any new Transformation Programme projects that are identified by the Council must be realistic, must enhance service effectiveness, and must minimise the risk of projects subsequently proving not to be deliverable at all or to the intended timescale.**
- 4) Agreed that the integration of the Transformation Programme in the Local Government Reform Programme should be done in a way that maintains the existing momentum of the Transformation Programme and provides for a seamless transition in its management.**
- 5) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee encourages that the development of the draft Council budget 2020/21 applies the same rigour and intelligence-based approach as is used within the Transformation Programme.**
- 6) Agreed to provide written responses to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report.**

135/19 Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31st March 2020, as at period 5

At the Chairman's invitation, Mr Christopher Duff addressed Cabinet and made the following points:

- The partnership

At the Chairman's invitation, Kevin Standishday addressed Cabinet and made the following points:

- Asked on behalf of employees why there had been no pay rise or introduction of incremental pay progression.
- He stated that there had been a petition signed by staff members and agency staff who would become permanent staff if the pay rise took place.
- It was felt that a pay increase would improve productivity, staff commitment and reduce stress levels.

The Chairman invited Councillor Baker to respond to Olivia Anderton. Councillor Baker confirmed that the initiative had not yet been rolled out and stressed that they were in the pilot stage with only a few schools involved. She admitted that there had been some issues which were being addressed and the council would continue to liaise with head teachers, and that parents would be contacted and each child assessed individually. She shared that some children were pleased with having the independence but she appreciated that all children are different. Councillor Baker confirmed that she would provide a full response to the speech if it could be sent to her by email.

The Chairman responded to Mr Standishday by stating that he acknowledged the points that had been made and that there was some contingency in the budget but if the council did get to a point where they could award staff the pay rise then it would be awarded. The council was dealing with a financial challenge and staff were important but we had to keep it in the context.

The Chairman invited Councillor Longley to present the report (copies of which had already been previously circulated). Councillor Longley confirmed the report was a similar rerun of the previous two months. He reported that the forecast overspend of £4.4m was just over half a million improvement from the last report and that each month we were reporting an improved financial position. However, the forecast for Children's First Northamptonshire was at £7,634,000 and was progressively worse and the other areas have made up for this deficit. This needed to be stabilised going forward.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that the trajected overspend for children's services had decreased but there were increased pressures in the area. It was hoped that the overspend could be stabilised without affecting the delivery of services.
- Concern was felt regarding the proposed mitigating actions outlined in the report as they were tentative and reassurance was needed.
- The outlined cost of £77,000 for senior management raised concern given the pressure for staff needed in other areas.
- It was believed that agency staff conversion to permanent staff would help reduce costs.
- Concern was raised regarding the home to school transport pilot as parents had not received information and the trial would be taking place in the winter months which would cause more issues given the darker nights and weather conditions.
- The Adult Social Services team were thanked for their work, and Anna Earnshaw was commended for her hard work and the reported £479,000 underspend.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2019-20, and associated risks.**
- 2. Noted the planned approach for bringing the Council's forecast position within budget in Section 4.**
- 3. Noted the risk assessment of the 2019-20 saving proposals in Appendix B.**

136/19 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at period 5 for the financial year ending 31st March 2020

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). He reported that the forecast capital expenditure of £85m was slightly lower than the month previous.

Councillors made the following points:

- Concern was expressed that the Place Shaping Board did not share information with councillors or the cabinet members.
- It was felt that the North West relief road would not alleviate congestion and would cause more problems in the future.
- It was believed that the infrastructure was a strategic priority that would allow for more vehicle movement and would help the county's growth.
- It was felt that the council did a good job at raising infrastructure funding.

Councillor Longley responded to comments by inviting councillors to the monthly PLACE Shaping Board. He expressed that he was satisfied with the way the board was handled and that it was a good operation and confirmed that he looked over the reports monthly.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. **Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £85m for 2019-20.**
2. **Approved the promotion of the Community Libraries Programme scheme from the development pool into the committed capital programme with investment totalling £27k.**
3. **Approved the extension of the A509 Isham Bypass scheme within the current capital programme with investment totalling £475k.**

Further detail on the above schemes could be found in Section 8.

137/19 Northamptonshire Youth Justice Plan

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Baker presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). She explained that the annual report from the Youth Justice Service demonstrated the service had a positive impact on young offenders and there was a good working relationship between the partnerships. She shared that she was happy to be a member of the partnership board and believed it worked exceedingly well.

Councillors made the following points:

- The report was informative but sometimes difficult to understand with the use of abbreviations. It was great to read that our performance was better than national level.
- It was felt that the report could go further on the topic of children in care and children leaving care to reduce criminilisation of children in care and once they leave care.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet considered the document as the Youth Justice Plan for Northamptonshire 2019/20 and recommended the report to full Council for approval.

138/19 England's Economic Heartlands (EEH) – Outline Transport Strategy: *Framework for Engagement and Shaping the Future Together* – West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Issues Consultation

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). He explained that the England's Economic Heartlands was an alliance of local authorities and would become a transport body. The strategic plan currently extends to 2050 and included the whole of Northamptonshire. There was a continued commitment to superfast connectivity as a driver for economic growth as well as improved rail connectivity to be implemented.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that more emphasis needed to be placed on moving traffic off road to better the environment.
- It was asked if there would be a similar paper for North Northamptonshire as the paper concentrated on West Northamptonshire.
- The report was received as an exciting piece of work for the unitaries to build on and take forward.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Welcomed the production of the Outline Transport Strategy for EEH and the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan Issues Consultation.**
- 2. Agreed the proposals and themes outlined in Section 5 as a basis for responding to these consultations.**
- 3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Commercial and Place, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways, Environment and Public Protection, to finalise and submit the responses to both consultations**

139/19 Target Operating Model with NASS

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Morris presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). Councillor Morris read out the recommendations and asked Cabinet to support adult services. He stated the report contained some main objectives.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that scrutiny could offer some guidance with the Target Operating Model and explore how other authorities operated.
- It was suggested that a report be brought to cabinet before

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Services to undertake a competitive procurement process to select a partner to support Adult Services in the design and implementation of a new operating model, pathways and process based on the analysis and diagnostic recently undertaken.**
- 2. Agreed that following the procurement process a further report on the outcome be presented to Cabinet for consideration, prior to any contract being awarded.**
- 3. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Services to negotiate the contract for the design and delivery of the new operating model subject to any fixed terms and conditions that may apply to any chosen framework selected.**
- 4. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Services to award a contract following this procurement process. It is intended to commence the new contractual arrangements with the selected provider with effect from December 2019.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3:34pm

Maisie McInnes
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____