



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

## CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 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 Jane Birch	Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury	Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Julie Brookfield	Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Michael Clarke	Councillor Chris Stanbra
Councillor Graham Lawman	Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Arthur McCutcheon	Councillor Winston Strachan
Councillor John McGhee	Councillor Michael Tye

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

Officer	Role
Simon Deacon	Deputy Chief of Staff
Anna Earnshaw	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Steve Freer	Chairman of the Improvement Board
Barbel Gale	Democratic Services Assistant Manager
Theresa Grant	Chief Executive
Cathi Hadley	Director of Children's Services
Maisie McInnes	Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Barry Scarr	Executive Director of Finance
Louise Spolton	Communications and Engagement Manager
Lucy Wightman	Director of Public Health
Susan Zeiss	Monitoring Officer

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

#### 140/19 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Paul Helsby, Director of Transformation and Kerry Purnell, Assistant Director, Corporate & Community Services.

#### 141/19 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

Notifications were received for Item 07, Draft Budget 2020-21, from Mr Christopher Duff, Chief Executive, Age UK Northamptonshire.

#### 142/19 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.**

#### 143/19 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

#### 144/19 Announcements

The Chairman announced that the meeting date for the next Cabinet had been changed to the 17 December 2019. The meeting would take place in the Covey Room, One Angel Square at 2pm on this date.

#### 145/19 Scrutiny of Northamptonshire Adult Social Services budget position and future Target Operating Model

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 generally impressed with the budget position of Northamptonshire Adult Social Services (NASS) and that the in year budget position concluded the service area had performed well. Despite the service pressures that NASS faced, scrutiny were confident that the budget would be on target and recognised the improvement of the in year budget position. In terms of the future Target Operating Model, Scrutiny were disappointed that out of house provision would be sought on the basis that the skills were not held within the council. Overall Scrutiny was satisfied with the budget position and advised that vigilance would be required with the winter months ahead.

In response to Scrutiny, Councillor Morris commended Scrutiny for their work and agreed the recommendations.

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

- 1. Noted the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is reassured by the latest in-year Adult Social Services budget position and action being taken to manage current pressures and forecast demand.**
- 2. Agreed to request case study information on the successful implementation of new adult social care Target Operating Models by other local authorities using the approach proposed by the Council and agrees to share this information with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3. Agreed that fees from public money should only be paid to the partner supporting the design and delivery of the new Target Operating Model once the Council is confident that necessary outcomes are being delivered.**
- 4. Agreed to provide written responses to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report.**

## 146/19 Draft Budget 2020-21

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

- The social wellbeing contract is vital as organisations such as Age UK in the partnership provide support to the council and help to deliver outcomes in adult health and social care.
- The voluntary sector is valuable to the Council and should be recognised.

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Scrimshaw, the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The draft budget for 2020-21 had been published for consultation and the actual budget would be finalised in February.
- The budget had been provided earlier this year to allow scrutiny and members to offer comments and feedback on the budget.
- For 2019-20 the financial gross spend was £617.8m and for 2020-21 £648.2m had been allocated, meaning an extra £30m of additional spending.
- In the budget summary, productivity savings had been made to counter the pressures of inflation and budget pressures.
- The base gross budget for 2019-20 was recorded at £600.167m and for 2020-21 £634.38m was projected.
- Overall the draft budget 2020-21 demonstrated substantial increased funding.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that the draft budget looked much healthier than previous years.
- The savings proposals were welcomed but reassurance was needed that services could be delivered without affecting residents.
- Greater understanding of financial projections from the draft budget report would be sought and working groups would be held where members could put forward any feedback.
- Finance were praised for the draft budget report being provided a month earlier, and thanks were passed onto the Chief Executive and officers for their hard work.
- It was felt that the overspend of £2m should have been balanced.
- It was suggested that more investment in PLACE should be considered, particularly in terms of highways maintenance.
- The 4% pay increase for staff was recognised as rewarding the staff for their hard work and the draft budget demonstrated the council's commitment to reinvest into services to make them more efficient.

Councillor Longley thanked councillors for their contributions and welcomed the input that scrutiny and members would have on influencing the work that would take place in shaping the final budget.

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

- a) **Approved the 2020-21 Draft Budget, for the purposes of consultation, which includes:**
  - i. **an estimated net revenue budget of £447.71m**
  - ii. **a Band D Council Tax of £1,285.42, an increase of 3.99% from 2019-20. (1.99% increase in 'core' Council Tax and 2% Social Care Precept)**
  - iii. **savings proposals of £23.2m and income generation proposals of £1.0m as set out in Appendix E.**

- iv. fees and charges at Appendix C and detailed schedule at Appendix D
- b) Noted the forecast financial position for 2020-21 at Appendix A
- c) Noted the Fees and Charges Policy at Appendix B
- d) Noted the Future Northants Strategy and planned use of flexible capital receipts as set out in section 12
- e) Noted the planned utilisation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2020-21 pending the final DSG settlement
- f) Delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with s151 Officer and the Leader, to represent the County Council on the Board of the Business Rates Pilot and to agree any allocation of business rates in line with the specified projects approved by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- g) Delegated authority to the s151 Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Leader, to monitor and track the spending of the agreed £2.4m contribution to the Future Northants programme in line with the Implementation Plan and regularly report back to Cabinet.

147/19 This is the Revenue Monitoring Report for the Second Quarter of the Financial Year 2019-20

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). He reported that the projected overspend in Children's Services, recorded at £7,510,000 at period six was significant as it demonstrated signs of stabilisation as £7,634,000 was reported at period five. The current projection for year end overspend was reported at £2,230,000 but this may increase with the winter period ahead.

Councillors made the following comments:

- It was felt that the overspend was a concern but it was a great improvement and a sign that things were moving in the right direction.
- It was hoped that the noted overspend in Children's services was a sign of financial stabilisation and that lessons had been learned regarding PLACE.
- Concern was raised regarding staffing and improving recruitment.
- Overall the financial position was welcomed and the work to improve the budget would continue.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

1. Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2019-20 of a deficit of £2.2m and associated risk assessment.
2. Noted that the projected deficit of £2.2m includes a projected shortfall of £7.2m arising from the under-delivery of savings. The risk assessment of the delivery of saving proposals is set out in Appendix B.
3. Noted that the Council is not in a position at the end of Quarter 2 to confirm a staff pay award for 2019-20 due to the Council's current projected deficit of £2.2m. The possibility of a pay award will be kept under review.

148/19 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at period 6 for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). He reported the capital expenditure of £81m for 2019-20 and that this figure was consistently going downwards over the years. Overall the report demonstrated a severe grip on capital.

Councillors made the following points:

- The investment into the Moray Lodge development was well received and it was felt that it would deliver much needed care.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

1. **Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £81m for 2019-20.**
2. **Approved and recommend the inclusion of the IT Stock Management scheme as a new scheme into the capital programme with investment totalling £100k.**
3. **Approved the extension of two schemes within the current capital programme with investment totalling £443k.**
  - i. **Assistive Technology - £148k**
  - ii. **Community Library Programme - £295k**
4. **Approved the promotion of the Beech Close scheme from the development pool into the committed capital programme with investment totalling £76k.**
5. **Approved the promotion of the Beech Close scheme from the Investment Estate Portfolio - £16,366k  
Angel Out of Scope Provision - £491k**
6. **Noted the Daventry Development Link Road scheme extension requested in a separate report on this Cabinet agenda.**

#### 149/19 Treasury Management Report, Quarter 2 2019/20

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). He explained that year end borrowing was predicted at £850m and that in terms of borrowing, the council had secured £110m which is down from £150m last year. In August the Council secured £100m over between 43.5-50 years with principal repayable on maturity at an average rate of 1.68%. This would be a long term commitment with very low rates which would save the council £1m in the budget next year

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the Treasury Management Report and forward to Council.**

#### 150/19 Annual Report of the Chair of the Improvement Board

The Chairman introduced the report and announced that the board had been set up to demonstrate increased transparency in services and finances. It aimed to improve the council's financial position and had been well attended with representatives from Essex County Council and London Borough Councils. The board has worked extremely well and report to Cabinet regularly.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that the aims and outcomes of the board could have been included in the report.
- It was asked how much it would cost to run the improvement board and how it was funded.
- It was felt that there should be a push on supporting staff and ensuring they feel listened to.

The Chairman clarified that a surgery for staff was an monthly, with a log and action plan produced after every surgery. It was emphasised that staff are listened to and are valued for their hard work in the council. In terms of funding, the cost of the improvement board is funded by the Local Government Agency (LGA) who administered the board. The purpose

of the board was to show transparency and demonstrate to partners they can participate and share ideas, and demonstrate the council is as transparent as possible.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the report.**

#### 151/19 School and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding Arrangements for 2020/21

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Baker presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). She announced that the report marked the beginning of a consultation process. The Department for Education had increased the funding for schools to £2.6b. In Northamptonshire there has been an increased £30.7m for schools. The consultation would end on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that high needs funding was a concern as the demand for high needs in Northamptonshire is rising, and a rise in pupils with SEND, therefore the provision for this needs to be made as demand increases.
- The uncertainty in funding for nurseries was a concern and it was felt it should be explored in how to fund these properly.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1) **Noted the latest position with the Government's National Funding Formula for the DSG for 2020/21 and the potential implications on Northamptonshire.**
- 2) **Delegated authority to the Director for Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Executive Director of Finance (S151 Officer) following consultation with the Schools Forum to determine:**
  - a) **The 2020/21 school funding formula for Northamptonshire to enable the required submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency on 21 January 2020;**
  - b) **Northamptonshire's funding arrangements for 2020/21 for pupils with high needs in line with Department for Education guidance; and**
  - c) **Northamptonshire's funding arrangements for 2020/21 for the Early Years Single Funding Formulae in line with Department for Education guidance.**
- 3) **Noted the latest position with the Government's National Funding**
- 4) **Noted the work being undertaken in conjunction with Schools Forum, schools and other relevant providers to consult with:**
  - a) **Primary and secondary schools on:**
    - i. **The Northamptonshire local schools formula for 2020/21; and**
    - ii. **Potentially transferring an amount not greater than 0.5% of the DSG Schools Block to the High Needs Block to cover increasing budget pressures.**
  - b) **Early Years providers on:**  
**The Early Years Single Funding formula for 2020/21; and Early Years DSG funded central expenditure in 2020/21.**

#### 152/19 Northamptonshire 'Pause for a Fresh Start'

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Baker presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). She announced that Pause is a specialist intervention programme that works directly with women who have had multiple children taken into care. The programme hoped to reduce the number of women who have already had one or more children removed from their care or who are considered to be at risk of a recurrent pregnancy with the same outcome. Northamptonshire has a number of women who have

had more than one child taken away from them, and currently 300 women have been found to be eligible to participate in the scheme. The programme is looking for 50 women to take part.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that the report does not specify the reasons why women have managed to get into the situation or address why the numbers are higher in the county.
- It was reported that a foster carer was delighted to hear of the programme.
- It was questioned if the provision would be dealt with in-house or out of house given the sensitivity and need for safeguarding.
- In terms of outcomes, more clarity was requested to understand the outcomes needed in order for the funding to be delivered.
- Concern was felt that one of the issues for women is housing and it was suggested that work should be done to address housing needs be addressed as part of the programme.

In response to questions, the following answers were provided:

- Participation in this programme would be completely voluntary and an assessment would be made prior to 'enrolment' to ensure women fully understood the commitment and the expectations of them over the period of the programme. Although they would be free to leave the programme at any point, Practitioners would be careful to select women who demonstrated a desire to commit/break their cycle of recurrent pregnancies and care proceedings to achieve the highest programme completion rate possible.
- We would be able to gather insights into the reasons why women end up in this destructive cycle and this would help us develop programmes further 'up stream' in future to avoid initial issues. However this is an informal outcome and therefore would not be part of the programme outline with the provider.
- The direct award was sought to secure provision through the accredited provider and to maximise the opportunity presented to us to reduce outcomes payments with Life Chances funding.
- The two main outcomes for the programme are:
  - a. Women who participated voluntarily and chose to 'pause' from pregnancy during the initial 18 months of the Pause programme.
  - b. New care proceedings not instigated against mothers who have participated and are beneficiaries of the local Pause programme.

Outcome payments are linked with the achievement of these two outcomes at particular points in time (a. at 18 months post enrolment and b. at 24/36 months post enrolment)

- In-house provision was explored as part of the options appraisal for this programme and it was deemed that this would be high risk as we would not be able to ring-fence the staff as would be required for successful delivery.
- Practitioners would have a small but focussed caseload and will receive support from the wider management structure to ensure they are able to access peer support and continuing professional development, as required for their registration and wellbeing.
- We have asked for an update on progress six months after the programme starts.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

1. **Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, to procure a**

**National Pause programme locally for the benefit of Northamptonshire vulnerable mothers and children.**

- 2. Agreed that the Pause Programme can be directly awarded to a sole provider via a Social Impact Bond, and for a period of 5 years.**

153/19 A45 Daventry Development Link

At this point in respect of further discussion on item 14, A45 Daventry Development Link the Cabinet agreed that it was:

**RESOLVED: that under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business on the grounds that if the public were to be present it would be likely that exempt information under part 3 of schedule 12A to the act would be disclosed to them.**

The meeting then reconvened in public where it was:

**RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the report, which was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of part 1 of 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.**

154/19 Highways Contract Update

At this point in respect of further discussion on item 15, Highways Contract the Cabinet agreed that it was:

**RESOLVED: that under section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business on the grounds that if the public were to be present it would be likely that exempt information under part 3 of schedule 12A to the act would be disclosed to them.**

The meeting then reconvened in public where it was:

**RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed the recommendations as set out in the report, which was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of part 1 of 12a of the Local Government Act 1972.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3:48pm

Maisie McInnes  
Democratic Services

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