



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

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 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 Ian Morris
Councillor Jason Smithers

Portfolio

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

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

Councillor Jane Birch
Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Michael Tye

Councillor Jonathan Ekins
Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Anjona Roy
Councillor Chris Stanbra
Councillor Winston Strachan

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

Officer

Simon Deacon
Anna Earnshaw
Barbel Gale
Theresa Grant
Cathi Hadley
Paul Hanson
Sophia Nartey
Kerry Purnell
Barry Scarr
Louise Spolton
Neil Taylor
Lucy Wightman
Susan Zeiss

Role

Deputy Chief of Staff
Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Democratic Services Assistant Manager (Minutes)
Chief Executive
Director of Children's Services
Democratic Services Manager
Senior Lawyer and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Assistant Director, Corporate & Community Service
Executive Director of Finance
Communications and Engagement Manager
Interim Director of Place and Commercial
Director of Public Health
Monitoring Officer

There were 1 members of the press and public in attendance.

155/19 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Naden-Horley, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Corporate Services.

Paul Helsby, Director of Transformation and Kerry Purnell, Assistant Director, Corporate & Community Services.

156/19 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

157/19 Minutes of the meeting held in public and private on 12 November 2019

RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public and private on 12 November 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

158/19 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

Item	Councillor	Type	Nature
12	Roy	Non statutory discloseable interest	Chair of Dostiyo Asian Women and Girls Association

159/19 Announcements

There were none.

160/19 Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31st March 2020, as at period 7

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explained that the overspend was less than £2m and Children First Northamptonshire had now stabilized their budget.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education praised the Children First Northamptonshire teams for reaching this position.

A Councillor queried if the pay award for staff in 2019/20 was still under review.

The Chairman commended all staff for their hard work.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2019-20, and associated risks.**
- 2. Noted the risk assessment of the 2019-20 saving proposals in Appendix B.**

161/19 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at period 7 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) and explained the capital expenditure was slightly down but the figures were moving the in right direction.

Councillors noted the removal of investment in Moray Lodge however it was queried if there were any associated revenue costs given that an external partner was delivering the project.

The Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing explained that the external partners was receiving the rent and costs to NCC remained the same.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. **Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £76m for 2019-20.**
2. **Subject to approval of the 'Future Sustainability of Chester Farm' report to Cabinet within this Cabinet agenda, approve the extension of the Chester Farm scheme within the current Capital Programme with investment totalling £1,374k.**
3. **Approved the promotion of two schemes from the development pool into the committed Capital Programme with investment totalling £527k.**
 - i. **Highways Depot Maintenance - £100k**
 - ii. **Schools Capital Programme including Devolved Formula Capital- £427k**
4. **Approved the closure and subsequent reduction in capital investment of the Moray Lodge scheme totalling £2,890k from the current Capital Programme.**

Further detail on the above schemes can be found in Section 8

162/19 Corporate Performance Report: 2019-20 quarter two

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

- Congratulations were given to Richard Corless on winning Employee of the Year at the NCC Employee Awards 2019.
- The Assessment Systems (Canary) was transformational, delivering savings and was welcomed.
- Digital Northampton was a collaboration between NCC, led by the Web & Digital Team, University of Northampton and local digital/ tech businesses. The initiative had recently won an award for the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Celebrating Enterprise Awards 2019, held at The House of Lords and had also recently been shortlisted for the LGC Awards 2020 for working across public and private sectors, results would be known in March 2020.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was good to see the Assessment Systems (Canary) technology being used effectively.
- An update was requested on what had happened since the library had been handed over to a community group.
- It was felt that the pattern regarding Children's permanent exclusions had become regular and options needed to be considered to affect a change.
- It was queried why the number of home educated children has risen and continued to increase.
- It was queried why only 90% of the proportion of FOI and FIR were delivered within timescales.

The Chairman recognised the good performance of the Schools Admissions Team and noted the number of apprenticeships had increased.

In response Councillor Bowen explained that an update on the progress of all libraries would be given in the New Year and the number of home educated children in the county was a

concern and both she and Councillor Baker would discuss this with the county's MP so that it was discussed at parliament.

Councillor Baker said the number of exclusions was concerning however 99% of the schools with exclusions were academies who had their own admissions and exclusions policies. The Council was working with all schools to reduce the number of exclusions.

In response to the question regarding why only 90% of the proportion of FOI and FIR enquiries being delivered within timescales, the Monitoring Officer explained the team was under resourced and it had been difficult to fill the vacancies. Support for this area was being provided by way of a secondment from LGSS Law for 2 days a week.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet: noted the contents of the 2019-20 quarter two performance report at Appendix A.

163/19 Northamptonshire County Council's Equality Objectives 2019-2021

The Chairman presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The Cabinet were being asked to adopt the following equalities objectives: narrow the gap, ensure that equality considerations were at the heart of what the council did, and playing our part in ensuring that North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire unitary authorities had due regard to equality and diversity in their development.
- The Council had a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to publish its Equality Objectives at least every four years.
- The protected characteristics were: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation.

Councillors made the following points:

- This allowed the Council to provide real leadership in this area across the county.
- It was felt that the objectives were not measurable so therefore they were not SMART objectives;
- It was queried if equality targeting was considered and if not why not.
- There was no evidence of consultation being carried out.
- It was expected that the policy would contain specific targets to combat inequality in each service area.

The Chairman felt the Equalities Objectives were fit for purpose as the county moved towards unitary authorities. The question regarding SMART objectives would be passed on to Councillor Naden-Horley for a response to be provided.

RESOLVED: that Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed to adopt the Equality Objectives proposed at Section 4 in this report;**
- 2. Considered and noted the implications of the Equality Impact Assessment carried out on the proposed objectives.**

164/19 Expansion of Bus Lane Enforcement

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explained that the proposal would assist the move to

sustainable transport solutions. During a trial in 2017, Site 1 Bus gate Wellingborough Town Centre had 793 vehicle contraventions per day, over 14 days and Site 3 the Drapery, Northampton had 427 vehicle contraventions per day, over 7 days. Enforcement was now fixed at those sites and if approved further bus lane instalments would be carried out where the cost of installation was justified.

Councillors welcomed the report and felt that bus lane enforcement in Wellingborough and Northampton was long overdue. It was queried if delivery vehicles and unmarked emergency vehicles would be exempt. It was asked if enforcement would also be carried out on days when the local sports teams were playing.

In response Councillor Smithers believed that enforcement would be carried out twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. He welcomed suggestions for additional sites.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the further introduction of civil enforcement of bus lanes contraventions in the County**
- 2. Noted the steps required to implement civil enforcement; and**
- 3. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Place & Commercial, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Place, to take all steps necessary to commence bus lane civil enforcement at suitable sites across the County.**

165/19 Procurement of a new archive and storage retrieval contract

The Chairman presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining the Council had a statutory duty to maintain its records and needed to ensure there was an archive and storage contract in place to do this. Milton Keynes Council and Cambridgeshire County Council chose not to jointly procure this contract therefore it would only cover the Council.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed to:

- 1. Delegate authority to the General Counsel, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, via LGSS acting on behalf of the Authority to extend the document storage and retrieval contract for Northamptonshire County Council under ESPO terms until the end of March 2020; and**
- 2. Delegate authority to the General Counsel, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, via LGSS acting on behalf of the Authority to re-procure the archive and retrieval contract for Northamptonshire County Council under ESPO terms including award of contract for a period of 2 years to end of March 2022 with option for addition extensions.**

166/19 Safe transition to the end of the Social Wellbeing contract and future commissioning intentions

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

- The Council remained committed to working with its voluntary sector partners to sustain good quality and cost effective provision which achieved measurable public health outcomes for communities.
- The current contract would be extended by a year however the overall Public Health budget for social wellbeing services would reduce from £1.6m to £1.3m.

- Public Health would work with Borough and District Housing Authorities and Adult Social Care to ensure that allocation of all funds were better aligned to local housing and homelessness strategies and with adult social care's prevention plans and strategies.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was felt that the delayed publication of the report did not provide people with enough time to register to speak.
- Concern was expressed that the proposal was a reduction to the funding available.
- There was a lack of consistency within the report regarding how the outcomes would be reported with the methodology used being changed a number of times.
- It was felt the proposal would lead to higher costs in the future.

In response Councillor Morris explained that contractors had to meet specific criteria.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agrees:

- 1. that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to:**
 - a. Extend the Social Wellbeing contract by one year in line with previous approvals in order to support a safe transition to a new set of prevention services for vulnerable groups.**
 - b. Vary the existing Social Wellbeing contract to ensure:**
 - i. A more equitable distribution of resource;**
 - ii. A clear and more consistent outcome reporting;**
 - iii. Development of more innovative approaches to delivery of services.**
- 2. Undertake a procurement process to commission a new set of services from 2021 onwards that reach local vulnerable groups and support these outcomes but that also:**
 - i. Have an extended reach to other more vulnerable groups who also experience health inequalities;**
 - ii. Focus on more 'upstream' interventions;**
 - iii. Demonstrate an impact on wider health and wellbeing outcomes and a reduction in demand for more intensive health and wellbeing services (e.g. primary care, A&E, Adult Social Care, etc.);**
 - iv. Are part of a wider strategic collaborative approach to reducing health inequalities for vulnerable groups.**

167/19 Children's Trust Memorandum of Understanding

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

- This was an important milestone.
- The Trust would be set up as a teckal company owned at arm's length by the Council.
- The Children's Trust would be operational in July 2020, subject to meeting the readiness requirements.
- The North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire unitary authorities would need to appoint a Director of Children Services to work with the Trust.
- All staff would be transferred via the TUPE arrangements.

Councillors made the following points:

- Concern was expressed that elected members would have no accountability within the Trust.
- Would the minutes of the board meetings be available to all to view?
- Who would monitor the progress of the Trust and would Overview and Scrutiny have a role in monitoring the Trust.
- It was noted that Education and SEND services would be excluded from the Trust and it was asked who would monitor those services and manage any relationships with the academy trusts.
- It was queried if the Trust could seek additional funding.
- It was queried why no Councillors had been appointed to the Trust and felt there was a need to them to be appointed to share their expertise.

Councillor Baker explained the terms of the MOU had been set out by the DfE and the Commissioner but that it was also subject to change. She indicated that an all member briefing could be held to provide an update. She clarified that each of the unitary authorities would hold the board to account.

The Chief Executive explained that the proposal was that the Trusts board comprise of a Chair, a Chief Executive, up to four non-executive Directors who were appointed by the Chair and four non-executive Directors appointed by the local authority. The decision on who those four nominees would be was made by the Leader of the Council and his Cabinet and could include either officers of elected members however most Children's Trusts did not include elected members. She clarified that the details of this had yet to be agreed. She indicated that the Children's Commissioner was due to attend Full Council in February 2020 which would provide members with an opportunity to ask further questions.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the Statutory Direction by the Secretary of State as set out at Appendix A to Appendix 1, and in particular the requirement to work with the Secretary of State for Education and/or the Children's Services Commissioner Team towards the establishment of a wholly-owned council company for the delivery of children's social care services in Northamptonshire;**
- 2. Noted the Memorandum of Understanding that has been developed as per the Department for Education (DfE) Statutory Direction;**
- 3. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the DfE's appointed Children's Commissioner, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families to sign the Memorandum of Understanding at Appendix [1];**
- 4. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the DfE's appointed Children's Commissioner, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families to develop the Trust and its governance arrangements. This includes developing the Service Delivery Contract between the Council and the Trust and all implementation steps to ensure the transition of services from the Council to the Trust;**
- 5. Acknowledged that further details will come back to Cabinet for example, formal contracts to include the service specification, governance arrangements, financial mechanisms and performance management framework as they are developed; and**
- 6. Noted that, as the discharge of children's social care functions is an executive function, Cabinet will be required to act as the decision making**

body for further matters relating to the establishment of the Trust as well as such decisions as may be required in relation to the ownership of the Trust.

168/19 A Social Prescribing Social Impact Bond

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

- This provided an important and cost-effective non-clinical support system to help residents and patients and reduce the over reliance on hospitals, medication and formal care.
- The proposed programme would be funded jointly by the Nene and Corby CCG's subject to agreement and NCC via the Public Health and the Life Chances Fund.
- This included £3.4m Public Health investment, £7.4m CCG investment and £3.6m Life Chances Fund investment.
- This proposal highlighted how Public Health was working with other partners to improve the outcomes in Northamptonshire.

Councillors made the following points:

- While the proposal was welcomed it was queried why it had taken so long to come into effect.
- More information was requested on how this proposal would link to the adult social care community hubs.
- It was felt that the impact on the wider community of any decisions being taken should be considered.
- A detailed financial breakdown was requested.
- Overview and Scrutiny would welcome the opportunity to consider the business case.

In response Councillor Morris gave his thanks to everyone who had worked together to bring this proposal forward. The funding of £14 was for the whole 6 years and an all member briefing could be arranged and Overview and Scrutiny would be given the opportunity to consider the business case when it became available.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Supported the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership proposal for investment in a Northamptonshire-wide social prescribing programme to support residents with multiple long term conditions, mental health conditions, who are carers and/or who are socially isolated.**
- 2. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, to enter into a Social Outcomes Contract with partner organisations (specifically Nene and Corby CCGs) to fund a Social Prescribing programme for a period of six years.**

169/19 The future sustainability of Chester Farm

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

- It was noted that the Chester Farm asset would be managed by NCC.
- The Council had a statutory responsibility to preserve and maintain the site's heritage and financial support had been secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund which enabled the Council to develop the site.
- There was a need for further capital investment by the Council in the scheme.

- The preferred option was to complete a revised and refreshed scheme for the site.
- The report's recommendations include the ability to progress the procurement of a new contractor to complete the construction.
- If all goes to plan then construction would begin in March or April 2020.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund had agreed to extend their deadline to October 2021.
- It was felt this was the best option to achieve the desired vision for the site.

Councillors made the following points:

- Chester Farm had been a difficult scheme.
- It was queried how much had the original contractor already been paid.
- It was felt that the scheme had to be completed or the Council would have to return the funding already received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- There was a time when the project could have been stopped however that time had long since passed and the Council now had to continue to invest in the site.
- The business plan and ongoing revenue position required the Council to continue contributions and it was felt that if those were not made then the project would become unviable.

Councillor Baker queried how the project would be funded in the future when the Council was no longer in existence, would the costs be shared between the two unitary authorities.

Councillor Bowen explained that the site was of national significance to the whole of the county therefore funding would need to be discussed by both unitary authorities. The business plan had been amended to ensure the project was more financially viable.

The Chairman suggested that a visit to the site should be arranged during the spring to allow members to view the progress made.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted that the Chester Farm asset will be managed directly by Northamptonshire County Council.**
- 2. Endorsed the refreshed business plan for Chester Farm.**
- 3. Supported a further capital investment for the revised scheme, as described in section 5, to ensure the successful delivery of a sustainable business plan.**
- 4. Noted the need to re-procure a contractor to complete the necessary construction works.**
- 5. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Finance, in consultation with the Deputy Leader (portfolio holder for Chester Farm) to progress with the procurement of a new contractor to complete the construction, subject to appropriate finance being agreed.**

There being no further business the Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and the meeting concluded at 3:22pm

Barbel Gale
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

