



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

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2020 at 2pm

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

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 Jane Birch	Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
Councillor Pinder Chauhan	Councillor James Hakewill
Councillor Eileen Hales	Councillor Amy Howard
Councillor Andrew Kilbride	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Arthur McCutcheon	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Anjona Roy	Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Chris Stanbra	Councillor Danielle Stone

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

Officer

Simon Deacon
Anna Earnshaw
Chrissie Farrugia
Barbel Gale
Theresa Grant
Cathi Hadley
Paul Hanson
Graeme Kane
Rebecca Peck
Kerry Purnell
Brian Roberts
Barry Scarr
Susan Zeiss

Role

Deputy Chief of Staff for the Northamptonshire Commissioners
Director of Adults' Services, Public Health and Wellbeing
Commissioners Chief of Staff
Democratic Services Assistant Manager (Minutes)
Chief Executive
Director for Children's Services
Democratic Services Manager
Executive Director for Strategy, Delivery and Transformation
Assistant Director to Chief Executive
Assistant Director, Corporate & Community Service
Finance Commissioner
Executive Director of Finance
General Counsel

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

31/20 Apologies for non-attendance

There were no apologies.

32/20 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

33/20 Minutes of the meeting held in public and private on 11 February 2020

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held in public and private on 11 February 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.

34/20 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

Item	Councillor	Type	Nature
20	Golby	Non statutory disclosable interest	He's a member of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership Board but did not take part in the Boards discussion.

35/20 Announcements

The Chairman explained that work was being undertaken to address the potential effects of Covid-19 and members would be briefed at the appropriate points.

36/20 Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31st March 2020, as at period 10

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated).

Councillors made the following points:

- It was asked that Public Health and the NHS sought information regarding the financial aid available to address the pressures associated with Covid-19.
- It was queried why the libraries book fund was underspent and asked if the funding could be transferred to the new financial year.
- It was asked how much money the Section 38 reserves contain and had that amount been approved by the external auditors.
- The report contained a lot of staff vacancies.

The Cabinet recognised the hard work from everyone in achieving that financial position.

The Assistant Director, Corporate & Community Service explained that multi-agency incident control procedures were in place to manage the impact of Covid-19. A working group had been established to discuss the implications of any associated costs for the Council.

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.**

- 3. Noted and approved the request to write off debt and petty cash balances as set out in Paragraph 5.21-5.24 of the main report.**

37/20 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at Period 10 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 explained that the anticipated spend for the capital program was £65m.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £65m for 2019-20.**
- 2. Approved and recommended the promotion of seven schemes from the development pool into the committed Capital Programme with investment totalling £3,906k:**
 - i. Red Kite Academy Sixth Form Block - £700k**
 - ii. Corby Secondary Schools Temporary Bulge Capacity - £1,200k**
 - iii. Broughton Primary School Improvements - £340k**
 - iv. Meadowside Primary School Improvements - £50k**
 - v. East Hunsbury School SEND Accommodation - £240k**
 - vi. Schools Dedicated Formula Capital 2019-20 - £721k**
 - vii. Pothole Machinery Purchase - £655k**
- 3. Approved the extension of four schemes within the current Capital Programme with investment totalling £31,029k:**
 - i. Prince William Academy Phase 2 - £140k**
 - ii. HS2 Road Safety Fund works - £947k**
 - iii. North West Relief Road - £29,442k**
 - iv. Community Equipment 2019-20 - £500k**
- 4. Approved the removal of the £250k Billing Brook Mobiles Scheme from the current Capital Programme.**

38/20 Quarterly corporate report on performance – Quarter Three

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Bowen presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). She highlighted that the number of requests to stay in hospitals had increased, the Council was below the national average for those quitting smoking however the service to address this was being redesigned.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried what was being done to reduce the number of permanent exclusions linked to home educated children.
- It was asked if the work was being undertaken to address the number of FOI requests not being processed within deadlines.

The Cabinet explained that the number of apprentices employed was on an upward trend and the number of defects repaired on the road network continued to rise. The Council was raising the profile of home educated children where possible and had asked the Local Government Association to conduct a national review. The backlog of outstanding FOI requests was being addressed.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the contents of the 2019-20 quarter three corporate scorecard at Appendix A and the supporting narrative at Appendix B.

39/20 Climate Change, Carbon Management and the Environment

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

- The Council had been committed to addressing the cause and effects of climate change since 2006 and had received awards for many of its initiatives.
- The Council had achieved a 72% reduction in its own carbon emissions and had committed to buying green energy going forward.
- A new tree planting initiative with the Woodland Trust would be later this year.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was asked the Council would be carbon neutral by 2030.
- It was queried what was being done to address emissions from landfills.
- Could consideration be given to creating green spaces around schools?
- The number and locations of electric vehicle charging points needed to be addressed.
- The Climate Change motion to Full Council had not been incorporated into the Council's policy so therefore could not be taken into account when considering a recent planning application for a waste plant in Corby.
- The Cabinet was asked to consider how this could be incorporated into policy going forward.

The Cabinet explained that tree planting had been reinstated and was included on all highway schemes and thanks was given to South Northamptonshire Council for contributing to the tree planting campaign. The plan was to be carbon neutral by 2030 however this was not binding on the Council. Consultation on electric vehicle charging points was already being carried out. The unitary authorities would be able to consider how they would address the issue of climate change.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted progress made to date to address causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire.**
- 2. Considered actions to enable the County Council to be carbon neutral by 2030 in particular:**
 - **that NCC re-instate the partnership tree planting initiative, building upon the success of previous approaches with the Woodland Trust to plant more trees with landowners throughout the County, at a cost of £20k per annum for a minimum of the next 5 years; and**
 - **that NCC explore opportunities to invest in Photovoltaics (PV's) and other sources of renewable energy on NCC owned land and other areas with any potential scheme subject to a further Cabinet report.**
- 3. Endorsed the refreshed Partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023.**
- 4. Agreed that this report be taken to Full Council to demonstrate progress with addressing climate change as agreed within the Climate Emergency declaration made in June 2019.**

40/20 School organisational changes: Establishment of an amalgamation policy

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Baker presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explained that there were 18 pairs of linked primary schools in the county with 6 of those being maintained by the Council. The new policy if

agreed would apply to those 6 maintained schools. The policy had been amended as a result of consultation undertaken.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the educational, governance, leadership and financial benefits that can be realised through the amalgamation of linked Infant and Junior schools to form 'all-through' primary provision;**
- 2. Approved the establishment of a Northamptonshire County Council 'Amalgamation Policy';**
- 3. Noted that any proposed amalgamation of a linked Infant and Junior school would be subject to distinct Cabinet approval and an associated statutory process.**

41/20 New school places for Corby: Provision of mainstream, temporary 'bulge' secondary school capacity and permanent additional SEND capacity

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Baker presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated).

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried why the increase in demand in SEND school places had not been predicted.
- It was felt that the free school presumption made school place planning more difficult.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted that Red Kite SEND Academy is increasing its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 100 to 120, to accommodate an additional students;**
- 2. Agreed the capital scheme for the new sixth form modular block at Red Kite Academy and authorise the scheme to proceed to the construction phase within available and agreed financial resources;**
- 3. Approved the financial and governance arrangements associated with the capital scheme;**
- 4. Delegated authority to the Director of Children First Northamptonshire, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, to approve, accept, award and appoint the preferred bidders and to execute or authorise the execution of all the necessary documentation to facilitate the scheme;**
- 5. Noted that Corby Technical School and Brooke Weston Academy will temporarily increase their PANs from 150 to 234 and 180 to 186, to provide an additional three forms of entry of temporary 'bulge' capacity in Corby for the 20/21 and 21/22 academic years;**
- 6. Approved the capital funding required to provide the additional capacity required to accommodate the increased number of students that will attend each of the schools named above; and**
- 7. Noted the findings of the Equalities Impact Assessment form completed in relation to this report.**

42/20 Transport Studies and Highway Scheme Preparation

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining that the proposal created the ability to unlock additional funding for infrastructure in Northamptonshire. The Borough Council of

Wellingborough were contributing to the A509 Isham Bypass scheme. South Northamptonshire Council were contributing to the A422 Farthinghoe Bypass to progress the scheme. Northampton Borough Council were contributing funding towards the Northampton Transport Strategy.

Councillors acknowledged that the A43 Northampton to Kettering Improvements Phase Three would assist with housing growth and traffic congestion in the area.

The Cabinet praised the benefits of working in partnership to deliver infrastructure schemes that would provide good transport links across the county.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. agreed the programme of Transport Studies and Highway Scheme Preparation set out in Section 5 of this report, and**
- 2. agreed that delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Highways and Place, to agree terms and the award of contracts for the programme following appropriate procurement as set out in section 6 of this report.**

43/20 Bikeability Cycle Training

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining the Bikeability scheme was funded by the Government at no cost to the Council. Funding being provide for the first year of the four year scheme was expected to be £143,565 and it could be passed on to the Unitary Authorities to manage.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed that delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Place, to agree the terms and award of a contract for Bikeability cycle training.

44/20 Purchase of machinery to repair potholes

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). The proposal was to purchase three new machines to increase the Council's ability to conduct road repairs. The machines would provide both environmental and cost benefits to the Council with repairs lasting longer.

Councillors made the following points:

- Clarity on the number of defects/pot holes repaired was sought.
- The rural areas should not be prioritised because the machines were needed across the whole county.

The Cabinet explained the machines would be used in all areas of the county and would increase productivity.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Endorsed the proposal to purchase machinery to repair potholes;**
- 2. Supported capital investment for the proposal; and**
- 3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Strategic Delivery and Transformation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and**

Place, to progress the procurement, subject to appropriate finance being agreed.

45/20 Residential Short Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children (Children with Special Education Needs and Disability - SEND)

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Baker presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining the proposal was to extend the current contract until March 2021. Consultation would be undertaken.

Councillors queried if there was enough provision available and asked what the scale of need was against that provision. It was also asked why the Council was not providing this service directly.

The Cabinet explained that any new contract procured would start in March 2021 and that on the occasion outsourcing the service had proved the best option.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed the proposed exemption and extension of the contract for Northampton Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT) to continue to deliver the residential short breaks service until 31 March 2021.**
- 2. Agreed with the principle that the model for residential short breaks will be reviewed and market tested over the next 4 months.**
- 3. Agreed that the most successful model following the pilot will be used as the basis to recommission the service for delivery from 1 April 2021.**
- 4. Agreed the proposals to consult with families and the public regarding the future model of residential short breaks provision.**

In keeping with this, it was requested that Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed that delegated authority is given to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services, to exempt and extend the current contract and re-procure the residential short breaks offer.**
- 2. Agreed to award the contract/s based on a transparent and fair competitive process.**

46/20 Street Lighting PFI –Conversion to LED lighting and full CMS

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining that the Council was replacing the existing lighting with LED units. It was anticipated that the proposal could generate projected energy savings of £24m over the remaining life of the contract.

Councillors queried why a business case had not already been developed for the proposal.

RESOLVED: That subject to there being no requirement for prudential borrowing, Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Place and the Commissioners to agree the financial business case for the investment.**
- 2. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director Strategic Delivery and transformation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Place, to take all steps necessary to agree and sign a Framework Agreement with Balfour Beatty**

- 3. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Strategic Delivery and Transformation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to take all steps necessary to agree and sign and enter into agreements with Salix Finance Ltd to allow this project to be delivered.**

47/20 Disaster Recovery

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Bowen presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining this was an interim solution and a longer term solution would be developed as part of the unitary authorities work program.

Councillors highlighted that this issue was first raised at the Audit Committee and agreed that the final solution should be agreed by the unitary authorities.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the progress in reviewing options to put in place a suitable disaster recovery solution to cover the council against a range of IT failures.**
- 2. Approved the recommended option to implement an interim solution for Disaster Recovery.**
- 3. Noted that any longer term solution so far scoped, will be further developed and considered as part of the Future Northants Programme.**
- 4. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for IT services to take necessary steps to implement the interim solution.**

48/20 Highway and Transport Block Funding

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining that the Government had not yet confirmed the annual funding level therefore delegated authority was sought for this proposal to ensure work could continue where needed.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Finance, in consultation with Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, Executive Director of Strategic Delivery and Transformation, the Cabinet Members for Finance and Highways and Place, and the Commissioners to promote from the Development Pool to the committed Capital Programme any schemes funded from the main annual capital grant funding received from the Department for Transport as set out in section 5 of this report, up to the value of the grant allocations.

49/20 Approval of the following updated Northamptonshire County Council policies on the Anti-Money Laundering Policy, the Counter Fraud Corruption Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Naden-Horley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining that the policies were reviewed by the Audit Committee in June 2019 and have been subsequently updated.

Councillors praised the work of the Audit Committee for reviewing these policies and assurance was sought that the updated policies addressed public accountability.

The Chief Executive indicated that any allegations of fraud should be reported to her for consideration.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the updated Anti-Money Laundering Policy;**
- 2. Approved the updated Counter Fraud Corruption Policy;**
- 3. Approved the updated Whistleblowing Policy;**
- 4. Agreed that the above named Policies are published on the Council's website and the Intranet; and**
- 5. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member with the responsibility for Corporate Services to approve any additional guidance related to the updated policies.**

50/20 Northampton North West Relief Road

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Smithers presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explained that the proposal was subject to planning permission and contract award. This proposal did not comprise or pre-determine any decision due to be considered by the Development Control Committee later this year.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed that, subject to a grant of planning permission for the scheme by the Development Control Committee, delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place & Highways, to acquire the land necessary for the construction of the scheme, including if necessary a Compulsory Purchase Order, as outlined in section 6 of this report.**
- 2. Agreed to award a Design & Build Contract for the scheme to Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering Limited, subject to a break clause exercisable by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways & Place before progress to Stage 2, as set out in Section 7 of this report;**
- 3. Supported capital investment for the scheme as set out in Section 8 of this report.**

At this point in respect of further discussion on item 21, Update on the Shaw PFI contract variation and item 22, LGSS Review of Future Options, 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.

51/20 Update on the Shaw PFI contract variation

At this point in respect of further discussion on this item 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.

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.

52/20 LGSS Review of Future Options

At this point in respect of further discussion on this item 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.

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 4PM

Barbel Gale
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____