



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

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2020 at 2pm

Venue: Covey Room, One Angel Square, Northampton (Meeting held in public), as well as remote participation via Zoom.

PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Cabinet Member

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

Portfolio

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

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

Councillor Jane Birch	Councillor Julie Brookfield
Councillor Eileen Hales	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Arthur McCutcheon	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Dennis Meredith	Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw	Councillor Chris Stanbra
Councillor Winston Strachan	

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

Officer	Role
Barbel Gale	Democratic Services Assistant Manager
Paul Hanson	Democratic Services Manager
Tony McArdle	Lead Commissioner
Sofia Neal-Gonzalez	Democratic Services Officer (Minutes)
Brian Roberts	Finance Commissioner
Barry Scarr	Executive Director of Finance
Lucy Wightman	Director of Public Health
Susan Zeiss	Monitoring Officer

53/20 Apologies for non-attendance

No apologies were received.

54/20 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

55/20 Minutes of the meeting held in public and private on 10th March 2020

RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public and private on 10th March 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.

56/20 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

Item	Councillor	Type	Nature
8	Baker	Non statutory discloseable interest	She explained that she was the County Councillor for Brackley which included Magdalen College School.

57/20 Announcements

The Chairman gave a brief statement regarding the current situation. Deepest sympathy was conveyed to those families who had lost loved ones during the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks was given to all those working on the front lines during this time. The Chairman advised that currently Northampton County Council had over 2000 staff working from home, along with many staff still working at One Angel Square and other Council offices across Northamptonshire.

Over 12,000 volunteers had come forward to support communities in Northamptonshire during this time.

Opposition leaders echoed statements made by the Chairman and thanked those working on the front line.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Brackenbury to her first Cabinet meeting explaining she was responsible for Local Government Reorganisation.

58/20 Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31st March 2020, as at period 11

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and noted that the current financial position was an underspend of £151k. He stated that Children's Services budget had been stable for three consecutive months. He believed there would be a slight improvement shown in period 12, meaning the Council had balanced its budget for the past two years. He advised that he was unable to speculate about the impacts of the pandemic on this financial year at this time.

Councillors made the following points:

- The Library Service underspend, could some consideration be given to rolling this over to the next year.
- Section 38 reserve - what consideration had the Council given to the potential need for extra funds in this reserve and it was queried if Ernst and Young were in approval with the approach taken by the Council.
- It was acknowledged that NCC would balance the budget despite the overspend in Children's services caused by the cost of agency staff.
- It was understood that the current national crisis would impact future budgets and assurance was sought that additional funding would be provided from the government in addition to that already received.

The Chairman concluded that Period 11 had demonstrated a significant amount of progress and paid testament to the hard work of the Officers and those members of the Council who were involved. Cabinet was advised that the Government were being made aware, through every available channel, of the Council's need for funding and resources. He advised that an item on the impact of Coronavirus to the Council's resources and finances would be presented to a future meeting.

In response to questions raised the Cabinet provided assurance that rolling over the libraries underspend would be given full consideration once full facts are known. It was clarified that Ernst and Young approved the Council's approach with the Section 38 reserve.

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 the comments in relation to national funding for Covid19 at paragraph 6.5.**

59/20 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at Period 11 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).

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried when the machines to repair potholes in the county would be available for use.
- It was asked if any new schools would be built in the county, as it was noticed that two secondary schools were being increased in size.
- It was asked if more special schools would be developed because they were at capacity as soon as they opened.
- It was queried if any academy trusts were proposing to open additional schools.
- It was asked if further information on the resignation of the interim Chief Executive of the Childrens Trust could be provided.
- The communities library project Section 106 funding is being distributed among various communities.

In response to questions raised the Cabinet explained the Community Libraries programme was distributing Section 106 funding among various community libraries. The contract to purchase the pot hole repair machines was being finalised. A report on the SEND suficiency strategy would be presented to Cabinet at a future meeting. Discussions for a SEND school in South Northamptonshire were in the early stages.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £67m for 2019-20.**
- 2. Approved and recommended the promotion of two schemes from the Development Pool into the Capital Programme with investment totalling £5,695k:**
 - i. Magdalen College School Expansion - £3,223k**
 - ii. Moulton School and Science College Expansion - £2,472k**
- 3. Approved the extension of three schemes within the current Capital Programme with investment totalling £800k:**
 - i. Community Libraries Programme – S106 Funding - £383k**
 - ii. Country Parks Minor Developments - £114k**
 - iii. Elizabeth Woodville School Refurbishment - £303k**

60/20 Moulton School and Science College - provision of a teaching block and internal reconfiguration to existing teaching spaces and Magdalen College School – provision of a new teaching block to increase secondary capacity within Brackley

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

- She stated that after an assessment survey at Moulton School several deficiencies had been identified and the school would be utilising £350,000 of banked S106 money.
- The school intended to use £2.4 million of banked S106 funding to construct a new teaching block to provide general teaching space as well as specialist spaces – particularly science, this would ensure compliance with the general guidelines identified.
- The school had already increased their PAN from 240 to 224, no further increase in PAN was expected.
- Magdalen College School was seeking to use S106 funding to build a new teaching block which would include various classrooms, associated spaces and changing facilities for the adjacent sports hall.
- This would enable the school to increase admission numbers by 30 places per year group.
- The school had commissioned property consultants to manage the project, planning permission for which was granted in 2018.
- This was an academy run project and NCC have no involvement other than 'passporting' section 106 monies to the school.
- The agreement also stated that in the event of overspend no extra funding would be available from NCC, and there was no commitment to any further funding.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- **Noted the proposal from Moulton School and Science College to utilise Section 106 money to build a new teaching block as well as remodel some internal classrooms to make them suitable for modern teaching;**
- **Noted the proposal from Magdalen College School to utilise Section 106 money to build a new teaching block to facilitate an increase in capacity at the school by 30 pupils per year group;**
- **Approved the financial and governance arrangements associated with the capital schemes;**
- **Noted both Moulton School and Science College and Magdalen College School, as academy's, will manage their own project, following their procurement processes;**
- **Delegated authority to the Director of Children First Northamptonshire to authorise all necessary legal, property and financial agreements to support effective delivery of these schemes.**

09/20 Director of Public Health Annual Report

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

- The Role of Public Health had become more pertinent and important in the recent times and would continue to do so, especially during this crisis.
- The Public Health annual report provided awareness and understanding of the wellness of the county and identified key issues and challenges relating to the wellbeing of the local population.

- The report proposed recommendations for future actions to health and wellbeing locally.
- The report built on last years report and will continue that good work – particularly as the county headed towards the creation of two new unitary authorities.
- Councillor Morris thanked Lucy Wightman and Anna Earnshaw for the report and their clear and concise work.

Councillors made the following points:

- Regarding the figures from the the police on pages 16-17, it only stated 'violence', could a further breakdown of this figure be provided, bearing in mind the increased risk of domestic violence in this crisis.
- Under paragraph 'Our Surroundings' our parks were discussed including the benefit they gave through health and wellbeing. Consideration should be given to how people with no transport could access those parks.
- Under 'Education and Skills', could Home Education be included, as there had been a massive increase, along with considering the health, wellbeing and life expectations of those children.
- Under 'Public Health Finances' – the extra figures added were appreciated.
- On page 68 could the graph be amended to correspond to the that of last year, regarding its layout.
- Under 'Recommendations going forward' could there be an item regarding the coronavirus included.
- It was suggested that the report could include more praise for the work carried out by the voluntary sector.
- The long term effects of the use of vapes on people's health were still not fully understood.
- A glossary of accronyms used in the report would be beneficial.

In response to questions raised the Cabinet explained that the Police and Crime Commissioner was fully aware of the stats around domestic abuse compared to the national average and was very concerned.

The Chariman stated that this report would normal go to full Council for consideration.

The Director of Public Health, asked for any questions, comments or concerns regarding the report to be forwarded to her to be addressed individually.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the Director of Public Health's annual report for 2019/20, the key recommendations made in the report and the requirement of the Health & Wellbeing Board to publish the DPH Annual Report.

The Democratic Services Manager was thanked for his work in enabling members to participate in the meeting remotely.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2:58pm

Sofia Neal-Gonzalez
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

