



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

---

## CABINET

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

Venue: Engine Room, One Angel Square, Northampton (Meeting held in public), as well as Remote participation.

---

### 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 Robin Brown	Councillor Pinder Chauhan
Councillor Gareth Eales	Councillor Robert Gough
Councillor Eileen Hales	Councillor Mike Hallam
Councillor Graham Lawman	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Dennis Meredith	Councillor Victoria Perry
Councillor Anjona Roy	Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw	Councillor Judith Shephard
Councillor Chris Stanbra	Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Winston Strachan	Councillor Michael Tye

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

#### Officer

Simon Deacon  
Anna Ernshaw  
Barbel Gale  
Theresa Grant  
Cathi Hadley  
Paul Hanson  
Rhosyn Harris  
Graeme Kane  
Tony McArde  
Sophia Nartey

#### Role

Deputy Chief of Staff for the Northamptonshire Commissioners  
Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Adult Services  
Democratic Services Assistant Manager  
Chief Executive  
Director for Children's Services  
Democratic Services Manager  
Consultant in Public Health  
Executive Director for Strategy, Delivery and Transformation  
Lead Commissioner  
Deputy Monitoring Officer

Sofia Neal-Gonzalez Democracy Officer (minutes)  
Rebecca Peck Assistant Director to Chief Executive  
Brian Roberts Finance Commissioner  
Barry Scarr Executive Director of Finance

#### 69/20 Apologies for non-attendance

No apologies

#### 70/20 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

#### 71/20 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record**

#### 72/20 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none

#### 73/20 Announcements

The Chairman advised that there were a large number of items on the agenda and as such questions should be kept as brief as possible.

#### 74/20 Revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, as at Period 2.

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report, copies of which had previously been circulated. Councillor Longley advised that the Council was expected to break even this year and that the report for Period 3 was in the early stages of production. It was noted that there had been an £18 million shortfall in period 3 and a £270,000 loss of revenue, due to the non-collection of rates. It was advised that any predictions stated in the report were in line with those of the Districts and Boroughs.

Councillors made the following points.

- It was asked whether the fee for external audit, which had been estimated during by the Audit Committee, had been included in the report.
- It was asked if the Council would be required to prove how the money received through the Infection Control Fund had been spent.

Councillor Scrimshaw from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following comments.

- Clarification was requested regarding how the £18 million shortfall had been arrived at, and whether this estimation had come from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) or from a National Forecast.
- It was noted that the report showed that Children's Services had relied heavily on agency staff.

It was advised that the application for an increase in fees from external auditors Ernst & Young had been received and would be under consideration. Councillor Longley asked that any questions should be emailed to him and he would endeavour to answer them.

The Chairman advised that there would be extra financial pressures next year, and stated the importance of leaving NCC in a strong financial position before the change to Unitaries.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2020-21, and associated risks.**
- 2. Noted the deliverability assessment of 2020-21 saving proposals in Appendix B.**
- 3. Noted the financial impact due to covid-19, and associated risks as set out in Section 7**

75/20 Capital Monitoring Report (CMR) – Forecast Outturn as at Period 2 for the financial year ending 31st March 2021

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report, copies of which had previously been circulated. The most significant point made in the report was the £82 million expenditure that NCC had had this year. The report advised that productivity rates had declined, Councillor Longley confirmed that new productivity was always welcomed.

Councillor Smithers advised that a second road master machine had been invested in.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £82m for 2020-21.**
- 2. Approved and recommended the inclusion of one new scheme into the Capital Programme with investment totalling £65k:**
  - a. Sywell Country Park Sewage Treatment**
- 3. Approved and recommended the promotion of five schemes from the Development Pool into the Capital Programme with investment totalling £11,035k:**
  - a. Schools Minor Works 20-21 £2,814k**
  - b. Towcester South Primary School £7,712k**
  - c. Long Buckby Flood Management £207k**
  - d. Denford Flood Management £42k**
  - e. Ncloud Server Replacements £260k**
- 4. Approved the extension of two schemes within the current Capital Programme with investment totalling £1,229k:**
  - a. LTP Integrated Transport Block 2018-19 £120k**
  - b. LTP Integrated Transport Block 2019-20 £1,109k**
- 5. Noted the approval and inclusion in the Capital Programme of £25.7m of DFT Block Grant allocations for 2020-21 as per the approved delegated authority within the March 2020 'Highways and Transport Block Funding' Report**

76/20 Treasury Management Report, Quarter 4 2019-20

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Longley presented the report copies of which had previously been circulated. The report advised that borrowings had been decreasing. It was stated that page 51 of the report presented an overview of the number of loans and the maturity of them.

On behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Scrimshaw, noted that the report presented the number of returns in a good light, but there had been no context given for them.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the Treasury Management Report**

77/20 Final Outturn Report for the Dedicated Schools Grant for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Grant money allocated to NCC had been ring-fenced, this ensured that the manner of spending had been laid out. There had been a £3.7 million pound deficit within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), which included a £0.7 million overspend in the special school budget. The pressures to the budget would be expected to continue for the foreseeable future. The number of SEND cases had grown and had been closely monitored. Although the amount of Early Years spaces had increased, no overspend had been expected.

Councillors made the following comments;

- It was noted there were 280 children who required SEND places, it was asked what plans had been put in place in order to meet these needs.
- It was asked whether funding for SEND places in state schools had been increased.
- It was noted that Northamptonshire had a high number of home schooled children, it was asked what had been done to meet the needs of these children.

Councillor Baker advised that it had been noted that there were not enough SEND places in Northamptonshire, and that it would continue to be a high priority. The lack of SEND places had been a national issue and was ongoing, overall schools in Northamptonshire had performed well.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Noted the Dedicated Schools Grant final outturn position of £3.4m overspend for 2019-20 and the associated financial recovery**
- 2. Noted the School balances and reserves at the end of the 2019-20 financial year.**
- 3. Noted the associated risks in Schools funding in 2020-21 and beyond.**

78/20 Corporate Performance Report: 2019-20 quarter four

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Bowen presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. The majority of the report related to quarter 4 and contained the latest available data. DTOC (Delayed Transfer of Care) data had been suspended due to Covid-19. Adult Social Care reports had shown that there had been a 12% increase in the requirement for new services - shown on page B of the report. Public Health England had noted an increase of 30% in the number of people who had quit smoking. The number of the people who joined Health Check Programmes had also increased.

Page G of the report showed that the rate of referrals of children into social care had increased by 12%, in-house provisions had been used which had been more cost effective. Page H of the report showed that road repairs were up by 3,500, it was advised that this was a normal statistic.

Councillors made the following comments;

- It was asked whether clarification could be given regarding the differences between semi permanent and permanent repairs.
- It was noted that there was high level of deprivation in Corby which had increased since 2015. It was asked if a cross-party group would be a way to improve the situation.

Councillor Bowen advised that the Freedom of Information Act office staff had been redistributed during the Covid-19 crisis and as such requests had been suspended. It was noted that this service had now been reopened. Deprivation in Corby had been noted and Public Health had money put aside for distribution to Corby.

The Chairman advised that he would discuss and look into a potential cross party group to tackle the deprivation in Corby.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet was asked to note the contents of the 2019-20 quarter four corporate scorecard at Appendix A.**

#### 79/20 New Primary School on the Towcester South Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. A new development in Towcester would be built containing approximately 2,500 new homes which would be within the new schools catchment area. It was expected that there would be 2 new primary schools, the first one should be open by September 2021. The report advised that there had been thorough costings carried out regarding their development. The timeframe for the development would be tight, especially due to the impact of Covid-19. It was advised that the construction of the school fitted into the 106 agreement and that a planned secondary school would be constructed using £4 million of 106 money. There had been a significant interest from high quality trusts.

Councillors made the following points;

- The continued shortage of school places was noted.
- It was noted that 6 schools had agreed to take on extra pupils due to lack of spaces.

Councillor Baker advised that Northamptonshire was listed as second in the country for children being placed in one of their top 3 school choices.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet;**

- 1. Noted the inclusion in the Council's capital programme of a new two form entry primary school situated on the new SUE at Towcester South;**
- 2. Authorised the necessary contract awards for Towcester South, following the procurement process and proceed with the construction of the new school, with a proposed opening date of September 2021;**
- 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 Members with responsibility for Children, Families and Education and for Highways and Place to authorise all necessary legal, property and financial agreements to facilitate the scheme;**

5. **Noted that Council Officers will begin the process to appoint an Academy Sponsor to run the new school, in accordance with the 'Free School Presumption' regulations stipulated by the Department for Education.**
6. **Read and noted the EqlA related to this scheme and published on the NCC website.**

### 80/20 Bus Services in Northamptonshire

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Smithers presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was noted that the CBSSG (Covid-19 Bus Service Support Grant) funding received after the 8<sup>th</sup> June, had been £27,000. It was advised that both Stagecoach and UNO bus had expressed interest in the idea of electric buses. The report stated that Commercial Services had so far received £277,000 worth of grants from the government. The CBSSG grant had been used to cover the difference in income that Covid-19 had created.

Councillors made the following points;

- It was asked how much of the £30 million funding received from the government, NCC would receive.
- It was noted that a proportion of the grant money received by NCC had been returned. This had been due to the required figures, regarding the number of passengers on routes, not being produced.
- It was asked how funding would continue once NCC ceased to exist, and whether the Unitaries would continue to fund these services.
- The Demand and Respond Transport Services were noted as open to help restore some services.

Councillor Smithers advised that the council had a statutory duty to provide services that it deemed as appropriate, and was aware that this meant that some budgets had been cut. It was advised that whether or not the unitaries would continue to run all the services would be their decision to make. A formal consultation would need to take place regarding the use of the Demand and Response Transport Service.

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

1. **Noted the challenges faced by the bus industry due to COVID-19 and the funding that is being provided by the Government and County Council to ensure that bus services continue to operate, as set out in Section 5 of this report.**
2. **Welcomed the expressions of interest for Rural Mobility Fund set out in Section 7 of this report.**
3. **Welcomed the allocation of £277k of Supported Bus Service Funding to the County Council and agrees the approach set out in Section 8 of this report for spending the monies.**

### 81/20 Reprourement of services to support young people in Northamptonshire who are not or who are at risk of not being in education, training or employment (NEET).

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Barker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. The lowest level of NEET in the Counties history had been recorded, this was also lower than the national average. The NEET contract would expire

on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, it was proposed that the contract would be re-procured for a year, the Unitaries could then amend if necessary. The £971,000 annual budget was recommended to Cabinet.

Councillors made the following points;

- It was asked if NEET services could be provided in-house as had been done previously.
- It was noted that it had been difficult for people to self refer to services within NEET.
- It was asked if more information of users of NEET services could be produced in order to provide a better understanding of their needs.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education to re-procure and award services to support young people in Northamptonshire who are not or at risk of not being in education, training or employment (NEET) from 1st April 2021 onwards, with a contract period of 1 year with two additional 1 year extensions available.**

82/20 Update on highways procurement and delegation to allow the appointment of legal, commercial and financial advisors to the procurement project team

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Smithers presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. A KierWSP contract had been negotiated until the end of July 2021. It was advised that any that plans undertaken had been done so with the cooperation of the Shadow Operatives. The project team had estimated that £1.4 million would be the cost of the management of the procurement process, the BRRP (Business Rates Retention Pilot) would cover half of the cost for 2020/21. Any costs in 2021/22 would need to be met by the Unitaries.

Councillors made the following comments;

- It was noted that there were concerns about whether the Unitaries would cover the costs.
- It was advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been pleased with the report and that there should be a full scrutiny of the contract.
- It was asked if an in-house option could be included as a choice in the contract process.

Councillor Smithers advised the cost incurred would be to renew a contract and not full procurement exercise. The unitary authorities should carry on the contract in the future.

The Chief Executive made the following points;

- The proposals had been discussed by the shadow authorities.
- The contract sign off would occur after vesting day.
- The shadow authorities had received regular updates with regards to the contract.
- The cost of the re-procurement would be an average amount for the amount of work done.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Noted the progress to date of the highways procurement project.**
- 2. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Strategy and Transformation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and**

**Place to appoint legal, commercial and financial advisors to support the highways procurement exercise**

- 3. Approved the use of NCC budget to part fund the highways procurement project (until end March 2021), including funding the appointment of legal, commercial and financial advisors,**
- 4. Noted that additional funding from BRRP (Business Rate Relief Project) will be used to part fund the project costs until end March 2021**

83/20 2020/21 Update to the 'School Minor Works' budget to address condition issues in Northamptonshire's maintained schools estate

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Northamptonshire County Council had an obligation to maintain 80 schools out of the 92 in the county as they were part of the Northampton PFI contract. The SMW (Schools Minor Works) budget allowed Northamptonshire County Council to fulfill those obligation. Surveys took place in 24 schools in the County in order to understand which schemes needed implementation , those that had known conditions were a priority.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Approved the 2020/21 'School Minor Works' budget to address condition issues in maintained schools, which will ensure NCC continues to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school's estate;**
- 2. Noted that NCC's allocation of 'School Condition Allocation' funding for 20/21 has now been confirmed by the Department for Education (DfE) at £2.813m and that this grant funding will be utilised as NCC's 'School Minor Works' budget for 20/21;**
- 3. Noted that any works undertaken under the 'Schools Minor Works' budget will be informed by a rolling programme of conditions surveys at maintained schools in the county;**
- 4. Delegated authority to the Director of Children First Northamptonshire, in consultation with the Director of Place and the Cabinet Member for Children Families and Education, to authorise all necessary legal, property and financial agreements to ensure effective delivery of condition schemes;**

84/20 Northamptonshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Approve the adoption of the revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Smithers presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was noted that Rights of Way were a significant part of our heritage and that many had provided access to services and interests. Public consultation had occurred which had helped shape the plan. It was advised that extra funding would be sought when available. There had been a half a million pound investment set aside in order to action the plan.

Councillors made the following points;

- It was asked how the Council would engage with the public to ascertain which routes would need improving.
- It was asked how the Council would manage the expectations of the public regarding the improvements it would be able to make.



- It was asked whether there had been involvement and consultations with Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the adoption of the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan.**

85/20 The Commissioning of Safeguarding Targeted Interventions and Appropriate Adults and PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) transfer service

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Staff had been working with families within the social care sector with the intention of keeping children at home.

There were three providers of this service, each provider had a specific speciality regarding Safeguarding, the goal had been to ensure that as many children as possible were able to live at home with their families.

In 2019/20 290 children and young people were supported whilst in police custody ensuring that they had appropriate accommodation.

The funding for 2020/21 was £940,000 which was a lower amount, this was due to a reduced grant income. It was advised that many future services would be out for consultation and that feedback of this would be analysed.

Councillors made the following comments;

- It was noted that children had been seriously impacted by Covid-19
- It was noted that the lack of grant funding was a concern.
- It was asked if in-house services could be looked at to see what type of support they could provide.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet Agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education to commission, procure and award contract/s for services for:**

- Safeguarding Targeted Interventions**
- Appropriate Adults and PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) transfer service**

86/20 East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Fund Governance

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Smithers presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. The report discussed the East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility (ENRMF) situated near the village of Kings Cliffe, the disposal of low level radiation waste had occurred there since 2011. It was advised that the fund used for this had been in operation since 2013 and was administered by NCC under a 106 agreement. Activities that had been supported by the governance grant also included funding for, Health & Wellbeing, Sports, Educational & Learning and the costs incurred when running other groups.

Councillors made the following points;

- It was asked if the allocation of funds could become more transparent and be put out into the public domain.
- It was noted that there had been concern regarding the quality of the waste processed at the Kings Cliffe site, specifically the levels of radioactive waste.

Councillor Smithers acknowledged the concerns made.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet**

1. **Agreed the updated criteria for applications to the East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Fund as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;**
2. **Agreed that the East Northamptonshire Resource Management Facility Fund should operate in future on the basis set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report, involving:**
  - a. **Two funding rounds in the financial year**
  - b. **Division of the total funding available in the financial year equally between the two funding rounds**
3. **Endorsed the decision-making process for future applications to the East Northamptonshire Management Facility Fund outlined in paragraph 4.9 of the report.**

87/20 Local Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan

At the Chairmans invitation Councillor Morris presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. The report advised of the Council of the Northamptonshire COVID-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan, the intention was to communicate effectively and transparently with the public.

Councillors made the following points;

- It was asked whether the £3.27 million granted to NCC to cover any Covid-19 costs would be expected to cover a 4 year period.
- It was asked whether there were any other plans to release any further information into the public domain.

Councillor Morris advised that he would respond to questions after further investigation had been carried out. It was advised that the document would be live, and would continue to develop and change.

Rhosyn Harris a Consultant in Public Health advised that the speed at which reports, (regarding key dates), had been received were a week behind, it was noted that this timeframe had been an improvement from previous reports.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the content of the Northamptonshire Covid-19 Outbreak Prevention and Control Plan.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3:53pm

Sofia Neal-Gonzalez  
Democratic Services

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