



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

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## CABINET

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

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

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### 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 Graham Lawman  
Councillor Anjona Roy  
Councillor Chris Stanbra  
Councillor Danielle Stone  
Councillor Michael Tye

Councillor Jim Hakewill  
Councillor John McGhee  
Councillor Bob Scott  
Councillor Judith Shephard  
Councillor Winston Strachan

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

#### Officer

Edwina Adefehinti  
Chrissie Farrugia  
Theresa Grant  
Paul Hanson  
Sofia Neal-Gonzalez  
Brian Roberts  
Lucy Wightman

#### Role

General Counsel and Monitoring Officer  
Chief of Staff to the Commissioners  
Chief Executive  
Democratic Services Manager  
Democracy Officer (minutes)  
Finance Commissioner  
Director of Public Health

### 88/20 Apologies for non-attendance

No apologies

### 89/20 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

Mrs Jean Linekar  
Ms Jessica Slater from SERVE  
Deepa Bakrania from Dostiyo Asian Women and Girls Organisation

### 90/20 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record**

### 91/20 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none

### 92/20 Announcements

The Chairman expressed his sadness at the death of Ron Pinnock, who had been a member of the Council from 2005 to 2013 and served on many committees.

The Chairman advised that the Children's Trust had gone live on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, and he wished to thank everyone for their hard work.

The Chairman noted that Councillors Meredith and Scrimshaw were unwell and wished to convey good wishes for their recovery.

### 93/20 Revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, as at Period 6

The Chairman invited Councillor Longley to present the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was advised that there had been a £3.6 million forecasted underspend for the year. There had been a write-off of £2.8 million of bad debt, this would normally take place at the year's end, but it had been decided that it would occur at the half way point, in order to prepare for unitaries. The report showed that revenue had been in good working order. The report advised of the rates and that Council Tax stood at £18million. The full financial implications of Covid-19 had yet to be seen.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that many local authorities had been suffering, but that NCC seemed to be doing well despite the circumstances.
- It was asked whether the 2021 Revenue budget was at risk due to the current circumstances.
- It was noted that it was uncertain whether or not the Government would cover any deficits that the Council may incur.
- It was asked where the money for food provision had come from, could there be clarification as to where emergency funding comes from.

Councillor Longley made the following comments

. Information regarding the Emergency Fund was stated in table 3 of the report.

- There would be further financial packages, the Council would be required to complete and return documentation.
- The underspend stated in the report was an estimate. This would move over to the unitaries in April next year.

- The amount of supplements to be received from the Government was unknown at this point.

Councillor Smithers wished to make the following comments regarding pot-holes and road upkeep.

- Regarding Roadmaster machines, he advised that site visits had been carried out.
- NCC would be investing half a million pounds on roads, surfaces and upkeep.
- It was advised that Northamptonshire residents would see a further improvement in the in the roads.

The Chairman advised that everything was being done to prepare for the change to unitaries, and that excellent work had been done by officers to achieve this.

**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**
4. **Noted the total debt write-off of £2.8m as set out in paragraph 5.65; and approve individual write-offs over £25k (as per the financial regulations within the Council's constitution) totalling £111,454 as set out in paragraph 5.66**

94/20 Capital Monitoring Report: Forecast Outturn as at Period 6 for the financial year ending 31st March 2021

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Longley presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Councillor Longley advised that he believed the report was not controversial and put it to Cabinet.

Councillors made the following comments.

- Councilors' were pleased that productivity had been monitored.
- It was noted that The Corby Town walking and cycling scheme had put an emphasis on the health and welfare of the residents.
- The £250,000 to support fostering, which helped to support children and families had been noted a positive.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet**

1. **Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £93m for 2020-21.**
2. **Approved and recommended the promotion of four schemes from the Development Pool into the Capital Programme with investment totalling £1,365k:**
  - i. **Parker E-ACT Academy SEND expansion - £496k**
  - ii. **Homes to support fostering - £250k**
  - iii. **S106 Flore Traffic Calming - £159k**
  - iv. **Corby Town Fund Walking & Cycling - £460k**
3. **Approved the extension of three schemes within the current Capital Programme with investment totalling £8,870k**
  - i. **Northampton Secondary Schools Capacity – Northampton School for Girls Bulge Capacity - £200k**

- ii. **Superfast Broadband - £7,363k**
- iii. **Schools Minor Works 2020-21 - £1,307k**

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

- 4. **Noted the approval and inclusion in the Capital Programme of a further £2.0m of DFT Block Grant allocations for 2020-21 as per the approved delegated authority within the March 2020 'Highways and Transport Block Funding' Report.**

#### 95/20 Treasury Management Strategy Update

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Longley presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. One of the main positives of the report was that it showed that loans were depleting, these loans had gone from £150million to £95million. It was advised that the report also showed the maturity of the current loans, it indicated that NCC would be paying off £24.3million during this financial year. It was noted that for the next 10 years NCC would be obliged to pay off £75million.

Councillors' made the following comments.

- The report discussed Northamptonshire Cricket Ground, it was noted that NCC would be paying off two loans. It was asked if there were any further loans that were due from the County Cricket Ground.
- It was noted that this was a positive outcome, and that the findings of the report gave the two new unitaries a good start with regards to loans.

Councillor Longley advised that he was not aware of any other loans pertaining to the County Cricket Ground.

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

#### 96/20 An Update on the Children First Northamptonshire Social Care Improvement Plan

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Councillor Baker advised that Mrs Linekar's questions had been received prior to the meeting and they had been responded to.

It was noted that the Improvement Plan itself was large piece of work and was well laid out. The Plan had been put in place to ensure that any improvements carried out would be in line with the results of the last Ofsted inspection from July 2019. The plan would also allow Children's Services to be reviewed at the Children' Social Care Improvement Board. The progress update presented in the report gave a snapshot of the current position. It was noted that the Senior Leadership team had been strengthened, and that the majority of managers employed across the service were now full time. There had been an increase in the quality of performance, and any work carried out with partners had increased. The plan showed how important it had been for help to be given to families as soon as they should need it.

Councillor Baker advised that member involvement had been a priority and would continue to be so in the future.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that the improvement plan was crucial to the success of the Children's Trust.
- It was suggested that the report showed some weaknesses at management level. The report showed a significant amount had already been planned.
- It was asked whether it was known how much of an impact Covid-19 had had on the Children's Trust.
- It was noted that the Safeguarding Toolkit gave a much better understanding the risk that young people face. It was asked when this would be in operation.

Councillor Baker made the following comments.

- She advised that she was open to any questions regarding the Children's Trust at any point, Councillors and colleagues did not need to wait until Cabinet meetings to air any concerns or ask any questions.
- It was noted that there were some shortfalls in our staff's knowledge. This was why extra thought had gone into training.
- It was advised that extra information on the toolkit would be provided.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted that the Report was for Information only.**

#### 97/20 Corporate Parenting Board 2019 – 20

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. She stated the report presented to Cabinet was a far easier read compared to previous reports. It was advised that the report gave an overview of the actions of the Corporate Parenting Board over the past year. It was advised that the Board was comprised of a political cross section of members, and included support from partners in Health, Police and Housing. It had been approved that there would be one corporate parenting board to work across both unitary councils.

Councillors made the following comments.

- The report was praised as well-written, interesting and clear.
- It was noted that there was a concern regarding the effect that Covid-19 had on young people. There was a higher risk of unemployment, and whether some thought had been put in to how NCC as Corporate Parents could help with this.
- It was noted that as Corporate Parents NCC had a duty of care to Children up to age of 18. The report mentioned the age of 25 for some of the children, it was asked what the responsibility of the Council was up to that age.
- It was advised that Adult Education had been very proactive during the Pandemic. There had been a recognition of the work that had been done online with Adult Learners.

Councillor Baker made the following comments.

- The Department for Education (Dfe) had highlighted Northamptonshire for the positive way Covid-19 had been handled, and the help that had been given to the children of Northamptonshire throughout.
- The plan that had been put in place was shared with the East Midlands Leadership Team and noted as 'good planning'.
- It was advised that there were Apprenticeship Schemes available.

- It was advised that during the ages of 18-25 (for some children) the role of the Council would be more of a supportive role.

Councillor Baker asked why there had not been a focus on Apprenticeship Schemes, and asked those who work within or for the business sector to mention it to employers.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the content of the report**

98/20 Additional funding for the School Minor Works 2020/21 budget to address condition issues in Northamptonshire's maintained school's estate.

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was noted that NCC's allocation for 2020/21 had been £2.831 million, work had been carried out following the condition surveys that had taken place. NCC had progressed works at 24 County Schools, this had been approved by Cabinet in July 2020. In August 2020 the Government had announced the initial allowance funding for 2021, further allowances would be given, £1.3million would go to NCC. The report had presented in so Cabinet would approve the spending of the additional grant funding, and to delegate the completion of this to the Leader of Children's Services. It was noted that there were some issues across the county regarding the maintenance of schools, and it was advised that the extra funding would go some way towards changing this.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was asked if there was an up to date condition survey of all of the voluntary controlled and community foundation schools in the County.
- It was asked who would hold the responsibility for this when the two new unitaries come into effect.

Councillor Baker advised that at present she did not know whose responsibly it would be, but stated that Children's Services would be divided between the two new unitaries, and as such it would be their decision. With regards to the up to date condition survey, this information would be shared once there had been clarification.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

1. **Noted the Cabinet Report in July 2020, approving the School Minor Works 2020/21 budget of £2,813,896;**
2. **Approved an uplift of £1,306,826 to the School Minor Works 2020/21 budget, due to the announcement of an additional tranche of School Condition Allocation funding from central government;**
3. **Noted that any works undertaken under the Schools Minor Works scheme would be informed by a rolling programme of conditions surveys at maintained schools in the county; and**
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.**

### 99/20 Determination of the admission arrangements for the 2022 intakes in schools where Northamptonshire County Council is the admission authority

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was advised that NCC was the admission authority for all voluntary and community controlled schools in Northamptonshire, and was responsible for setting admission arrangement for the schools. After much discussion it was agreed that the Education Team would stay as one team for the moment, until all of the 2021 admissions had been dealt with. It was advised that 98% of children gained admission to one of their top three choices.

A Councillor made the following comment.

- It was asked whether there were enough school places available to counteract the amount of house building that had occurred.

Councillor Baker made the following comments.

- It was agreed that there had been a lot of new building.
- It was advised that the Planning and Education Authorities had been working together on this.
- It was noted that the schools team had been very active, and they had assured that there would be enough capacity.

#### **RESOVLED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Determined the 2022 admission arrangements for the schools where Northamptonshire County Council is the admission authority (i.e. for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools). The admission arrangements for the 2022 intakes remain the same as those for the 2021 intakes;**
- 2. Agreed the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated schemes to be used by the School Admissions Team to allocate pupils (aged 4+, 7+ and 11+) at the normal point of entry for 2022. An explanation of the schemes can be found in section 1.4 of this report**

### 100/20 Approval for the Procurement of an Education Management Solution and ongoing support for a period of three years

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. The report advised that approval of Educational Management Solution removed the challenges of updating the software to the latest version, as the system would be maintained by Capita. The amount of support received would increase and the amount of downtime the system required would decrease. Capita would deliver this in November 2020. It was advised that the system would begin as one, splitting into two once the unitaries come into effect.

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

- 1. Approved the tactical decision to move the Capita ONE EMS system onto a hosted cloud platform.**
- 2. Approved the decision to go to market for a solution that provided two instances of an Education Management System and split and migrate the current data into the two Unitary solutions.**
- 3. That Cabinet agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education to approve the award of the contract.**

101/20 Care home commissioning intentions - residential and nursing care services for older people aged 65 and over.

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Morris presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated, and was noted that the report had been to the Chief Executives and Leaders of the two new unitaries. It was advised that report was looking to gain approval to extend the current framework until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, and that the service would continue to develop. It was noted that NCC had funded externally commissioned care home services for around 1,244 older people. The amount of care home places is split fairly evenly across the county. The approval of the report would also allow NCC to develop future services whilst having ensured that Covid-19 be taken into consideration. The report also advised that there were 2 contracts running at the same time, they had different end dates and fee amounts, this had meant that costs varied across the county.

Councillors made the following points.

- It was noted that it would have been a good idea for the report to be more contextualized and have more scope about what the future would bring.
- It was noted that a strategy in place in order to hold people to account would be welcome.

The Chief Executive made the following points.

- Work was being done with health colleagues, this should improve the service and decrease the amount of unnecessary hospital admissions.
- The idea was to support older people effectively at home, in order for them to remain there for as long as possible.
- Transformation work would be on-going within care provision.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet was asked to note the proposed approach to commissioning and procuring residential and nursing care homes services for the future and agree that delegated authority be given to the acting Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Services to:**

- a) Re-awarded contracts to existing providers under the Care Home Services Framework until 31 August 2021 in order to maintain existing supply during the commissioning and procurement exercise; and**
- b) Continued with the commissioning and procurement exercise to inform and secure a future supply of contracted care home services within affordable fee rate arrangements for further consideration by the West and North Unitary Authorities following their creation on 1 April 2021.**

102/20 A community based approach to addressing health inequalities in Northamptonshire

At the Chairman's invitation Jessica Slater from SERVE and Deepa Bakrania from Dostiyo spoken to the committee.



Jessica Slater spoke on behalf of the Charity SERVE, making the following comments.

- It was asked what the proposal means, and what it hoped to achieve.
- It was noted that the proposal is a duplication of what networks had been already doing.
- It was asked what the point of the consultation had been.

Deepa Bakrania from Dostiyo made the following comment.

- As a contract holder what consideration had been taken with regards to the BAME community and their needs.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that the voluntary services would be left in un-certainty. Autumn Centers had been planned, without the funding these centers would not be able to run.
- It was asked if the exact amount of funding available could be given.

It was asked whether this should be joint commissioned due to a need for stability

Councillor Morris presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated, and made the following comments.

- It was noted that the voluntary sector played a vital role.
- The current contract had already been extended last year, for a year.
- It was advised that Hubs had been set up by Adult Social Care, and that NCC had been working closely with the community outreach groups.
- NCC would continue to work closely with voluntary groups with regards to the grant application.
- It was noted that within the current contract there was £900,000, with £700,000 granted to services.
- The funding had been extended in order to smooth through any changes that would be required.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to implement a community development programme to help address health inequalities and improve social wellbeing.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to procure support from organisations who can support the delivery of community based approaches to addressing health inequalities**
- 3. Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to implement a grants programme to support local communities to set up initiatives to improve social wellbeing.**
- 4. Note the outcome of the needs assessment and consultation informing the proposed approach in Appendix 1**

#### 103/20 Update on Chester Farm

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Bowen presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was advised that the report would go to both the North and West Shadow Executives, and any decisions would be joint ones. Once the two unitaries come into effect Chester farm would move to North unitary. It was advised that Chester Farm

would be renamed as Chester House, as this was the site's historical name. There should be grant of £700,00 received from the Heritage Lottery Fund. If this grant doesn't come through there would need to be discussions regarding what the next step might be. The completion of the site should be due around February 2021; it was advised that there had been a real push to get as much done as possible. The cost of construction was £3.4million, this had gone up from £2.4million. This shortfall had occurred due to the liquidation of one of the construction companies. It was noted that everything possible had been done to keep the project within budget. It was advised that the project would become an educational community, with high profit levels.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that there had been insufficient amount of business planning from the start.
- It was noted that there had been no money in the budget for Grendon Hall, the type of facility that was needed.
- It was noted that the project was deeply concerning due to the increase in costs.
- It was advised that there had been no talk of the report going to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
- It was asked whether it was fair to ask the two unitaries to fund the project, could the project be given to the Heritage Trust.
- The report proposed free parking, it was noted that other similar sites do charge for parking.

Councillor Baker wished to congratulate Councillor Bowen for the hard work put in during difficult circumstances, and advised that the site would be self-funding in the future.

Councillor Bowen made the following comments.

- An invitation for a tour of the site was extended to all Councillors.
- It was advised that the report had gone to the scrutiny committee.
- It was stated that Councillor Bowen is always open for colleagues to ask questions about the site.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Endorsed the updated Business plan for Chester Farm and acknowledges the progress made over the last 6 months.**
- 2. Supported the proposed media launch (date to be determined).**
- 3. Approved the proposal to uplift the budget by £850k for the bond funding which is required in order to complete the capital works as indicated in the December 2019 Cabinet report.**
- 4. Approved the uplift of the capital budget by £722k in respect of Heritage Lottery Grant Funding previously assigned to revenue for project management and other fees which will now be capitalised.**
- 5. Approved the further uplift of the capital budget by £700k in anticipation of a further Heritage Lottery Grant**

104/20 Modern Slavery - (The General Exception Rule has been applied)

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Naden-Horley presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was noted that 36 million companies were required to publish how they had addressed human rights within their companies. The report had arrived late to cabinet as there had been a transfer of resources due to Covid-19. It was noted that the statement had been reviewed and rewritten.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that since 2012 there had been an increase of 47% in the amount of victims, but only 34 convictions.
- It was noted that some companies had not adhered to the government legislature.
- It was asked how many complaints and allegations had been made, and whether there could be more publicity on the subject.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet approves the statement on Modern Slavery as a position statement for Northamptonshire County Council.  
The decision is taken under the General Exception Rule.**

105/20 Shaw Healthcare (PPP) Contract Variation

At this point in respect of further discussion on item 18, Shaw Healthcare (PPP) Contract Variation, 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 4.20pm

Sofia Neal-Gonzalez  
Democratic Services

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