



**Northamptonshire
County Council**

Council Meeting

Thursday 19 March 2020

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COUNCIL

19 March 2020

Report by: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STRATEGY, DELIVERY & TRANSFORMATION

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Climate Change, Carbon Management and the Environment |
| Recommendations: | That Council notes progress made to date to address causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire as agreed within the Climate Emergency declaration made in June 2019. |

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 In June 2019, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) declared a Climate Emergency and committed to a target of making Northamptonshire ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030, and to work in partnership with others to achieve this.
- 1.2 This report provides an update to Full Council regarding: progress made to date with tackling the causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire; the carbon emission reductions made by the County Council to date and the actions required to enable the authority to become carbon neutral by 2030; and to note the refreshed partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023.

2. How this decision contributes to the Council Plan

- 2.1 The Council’s vision is for Northamptonshire to be a county where everyone looks after each other and takes responsibility, where the vulnerable are protected and supported and where the people who can help themselves receive the assistance they need to stay independent and healthy.

This initiative helps the Council to deliver this vision through the following strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan:

- Working in partnership with other public sector organisations (such as the seven district and borough councils, the local NHS bodies, and Northamptonshire Police).
- Enabling individuals and communities to achieve better outcomes.
- Engaging with partners and communities to co-design and co-deliver services.
- Using innovation to find better and more sustainable ways of delivering services ensuring they are efficient and affordable in the long term.
- Commissioning and procuring services and goods with partners.
- Utilising the Council’s assets effectively.

3. Addressing Climate Change in Northants – A Partnership Approach

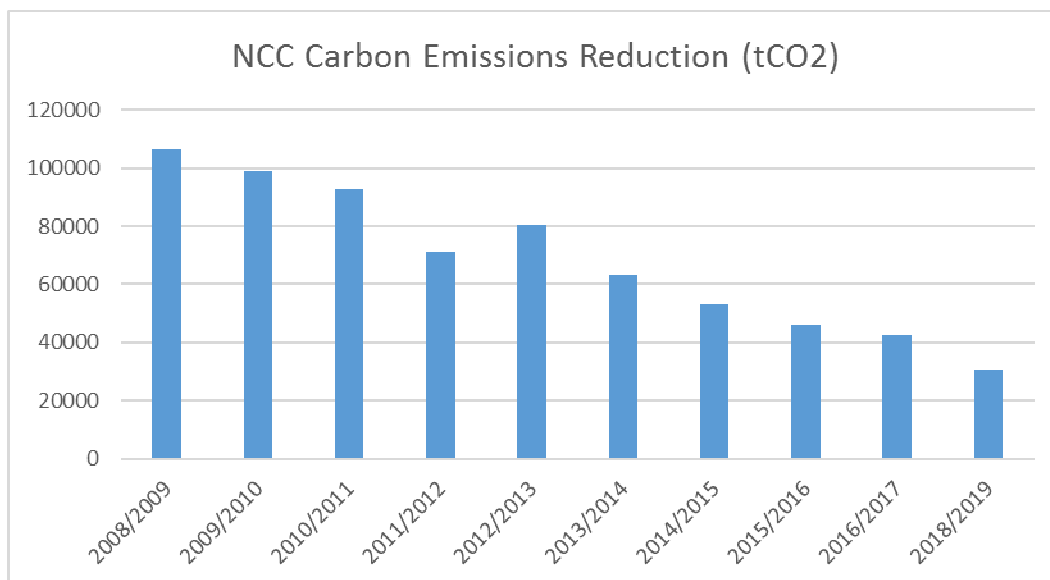
- 3.1 NCC has been committed to taking action to address climate change since 2006 when the Leaders of all eight local authorities in the County were co-signatories of the Nottingham Declaration. This was a public declaration in which all authorities collectively committed to partnership action to address the causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire.
- 3.2 This led to the development of the first partnership Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy which covered the period 2010-2014. It was collectively developed and owned by the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG), which has been meeting regularly since 2008, and comprises officers from all local authorities in the County, other public, and voluntary sector bodies, along with business sector partners. The partnership is chaired by NCC.
- 3.3 The Strategy was endorsed by the then 'Public Service Board' (which became the 'Northamptonshire Partnership' - comprised of the Leaders and Chief Executives of all public, voluntary and business sector partners in the County), and which called upon all partners to formally adopt the Strategy, which NCC did in 2010.
- 3.4 Building upon the success of this approach, the original Strategy was refreshed in both 2014 and again 2017, to cover the periods 2014-2017 and 2017-2020, respectively. The Strategy has three key objectives; raising awareness of the causes and effects of climate change; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and tackling the impacts of climate change. It is implemented via annual Action Plans which collate the individual and collective actions of all partners to address the causes and effects of climate change in the County.
- 3.5 Successes from this partnership approach to tackling the causes and effects of climate change in the county has resulted in significant progress with the reduction of emissions in Northamptonshire, with a 36.4% reduction in per capita emissions and a 27.9% reduction in total emissions recorded between 2005 and 2017 (latest available data) - which exceeds the national reduction targets.
- 3.6 Other notable partnership achievements include;
- Initiatives currently underway to reduce transport emissions include **Smart Move Northamptonshire** see: www.smartmovenorthamptonshire.net, which includes various elements to help raise awareness of low carbon modes of travel and how to access information on these (e.g. cycling and Low Emission Vehicle (LEVs)); and supporting LEVs through the **Smart Commuter Initiative** including promoting the role of e-bikes and LEV charging, and as part of an **INNOVATE UK** sponsored project (VPACH) which will see the installation of on-street LEV charging points;

- NCC in partnership with Woodland Trust has **planted 253,000 trees across the county** over the past 11 years – via the provision of tree and hedgerow packs to community groups, schools, parish councils, and landowners.
- 3.7 NCC has also been successfully working in partnership with a variety of government and non-government agencies supporting vulnerable individuals, schools and communities throughout the county to better manage their energy usage. These projects include:
- The '**Northamptonshire Energy Saving Service**' (known as NESS) which is a 3 year project (2018 – 2021) helping address fuel poverty across Northamptonshire. Over £1.2 million of funding was secured by NCC from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund. NESS is being delivered by Community Law Service in partnership with Citizens Advice Services Corby and Kettering, Care and Repair Northamptonshire, South Northants Volunteer Bureau and Northamptonshire County Council through Public Health. It builds upon previous similar schemes which have operated in the County over the past ten years
 - **Supporting schools** with both energy procurement and statutory energy measures including the successful 'ZECOS' EU funded project which targeted schools to reduce their energy consumption and installed a number of biomass boilers in schools across the county.
 - **National Energy Action**, a national fuel poverty charity, have worked with organisations and local authorities through the Northants Warm Homes Partnership to develop a *Northants Community Directory* which provides details of all agencies offering energy efficiency, fuel debt and other related support for vulnerable householders.
- 3.8 **Adaptation** - NCC along with its partners has undertaken a number of specified actions to help adapt to the impacts of climate change and seek to reduce the risk from these e.g. increased flood risk, reduced air quality, increased temperatures etc. These include:
- Creation of a **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan** to manage and co-ordinate the response to local flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. The strategy incorporates local objectives to tackle the impacts of climate change;
 - Adoption of the **Local Standards and Guidance for Surface Water Drainage in Northamptonshire**, which includes a requirement for all new developments to design surface water attenuation on site to accommodate the +20% climate change allowance, and undertake analysis to understand the flooding implication of the +40% climate change allowance;
 - through a DEFRA/ EA funded Pathfinder project, working with over **90 Northamptonshire communities most at risk** from flooding enabling them to become more resilient by offering a number of tools and the provision of the award winning Floodtoolkit.com website;
 - **Strategic Flood Risk Assessments** have been undertaken for all local authorities in Northamptonshire to help with planning decisions on locations for development. SFRAs are required to include an assessment of climate change.

- A number of **flood alleviation schemes** in Northamptonshire have been implemented, which are required to be designed to include climate change allowances up to 40%; and
- **Climate Change Risk Assessments** have been undertaken for ALL local authorities in Northamptonshire. These identify the potential implications for council services from a changing climate and highlights possible adaptations to be considered in future council practices, policies and decision-making.

4. Towards a ‘Carbon Neutral’ County Council

4.1 NCC has also made significant progress in reducing its own carbon emissions (cause of climate change) as an authority over the past ten years as shown in the table below. This equates to a substantial 72% reduction in emissions (since 2008/9) which was mainly achieved by concerted action to reduce energy usage in our assets.



4.2 Cutting NCC carbon emissions by nearly three quarters was achieved by:

- appointing a senior officer to be responsible for energy and carbon management in 2009 who has, in addition to the service cost savings for the Council from the reduction in energy use, subsequently delivered over £2m in income generation for the Council;
- developing and utilising local and national businesses through innovative strategic partnerships;
- consolidating and reducing the number of office buildings, ensuring more energy efficient buildings and reducing the need for staff to travel between sites;
- making significant capital investments in our buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions – with an estimated 76,000 tCO2e saved over the past ten years saving NCC £9.6m in energy savings;
- making a significant capital investment in upgrading street-lighting throughout the county in order to reduce energy consumption and Co2 emissions; and

- effectively managing our energy systems as evidenced by NCC being the first local authority to be awarded the internationally recognised Energy Management System (EnMS) ISO 50001:2011 accreditation for its work towards continual improvement in managing the county council's energy. The EnMS which contains the Energy Strategy are fundamental to continued success.

4.3 As a result of these efforts, the current carbon emissions produced by NCC has been reduced to 30,500 tCOe tonnes per annum, as at 2018/19, which are the latest consolidated figures. The main sources of these emissions are:

- 23% from heating & lighting our buildings (split c.64% electricity & 31% gas);
- 12% from street lighting (c 57,000 street lights);
- 5% from staff travel for work purposes (including rail and flights); and
- 60% from Landfill emissions (methane)

5. Measures underway for NCC to reduce carbon emissions to zero

5.1 The NCC Energy Management System (EnMS) is vital to the ongoing and continual reduction in the emissions of the County Council. It also enables for the systematic measurement and recording of energy use. Therefore, it is vital that such practice should continue to enable informed decision making on energy reduction activity.

5.2 In June 2019, the commitment by the Full Council's declaration of a *Climate Emergency* has already led to two significant actions by Cabinet. In January 2020 Cabinet demonstrated that they support the approach to zero emissions: by purchasing 'carbon neutral' energy as part of the new LASER energy contract; and new capital investment to further reduce energy consumption in our street lights. These actions collectively will result in a 38% reduction in current NCC emissions.

5.3 The current 5% staff travel emissions could be further reduced by purchasing, leasing or utilising Ultra Low Emission vehicles (ULEV) for staff to use on council business, and ultimately these emissions will be reduced when central government targets concerning such vehicles become mandatory. It should be noted, that NCC has supported this approach, and has delivered a national award-winning project in conjunction with Social Care and Health and De Montfort University.

5.4 The emissions produced from NCC owned waste landfill sites in the form of methane remains a technological, and financial challenge. The Council has previously investigated innovative solutions, such as waste mining and using these closed landfills for solar parks. However, the instability of these sites, the inherent environmental and legal compliance risks, challenges with grid connections, and land ownership issues has meant that progressing these solutions has not been possible to date. Therefore, currently, the carbon equivalent of c 19,700 tonnes per annum from closed historic landfills can only pragmatically be addressed by a methodology of 'off-setting'.

6. Off-setting opportunities in Northamptonshire

- 6.1 'Carbon Off-setting' is the action of compensating for carbon emissions by undertaking actions designed to make equivalent reductions on carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- 6.2 Through its ownership and stewardship of an estimated 600,000 trees in the County (comprised c500k highway trees and 100k trees in our Country Parks), NCC is able to go some way already to off-setting emissions, as 600k trees collectively absorb around **13,000 tCOe tonnes per annum** (based on an estimated average 21kg of carbon absorbed per tree annually).
- 6.3 NCC has already facilitated the planting of 253k trees in the County over the past several years but on others' land with the Woodland Trust (WT). The planting of an additional c.300k of trees requiring 120-300 hectares of land, depending on planting density, would deliver the required 6,700 tCOe tonnes per annum reduction in emissions enabling NCC to be deemed 'carbon neutral'.
- 6.4 With the increased appreciation of using tree planting to help mitigate climate change, a number of NCCOG organisations have expressed interest in participating in the successful NCC/WT partnership tree planting scheme. To date, South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) has already identified £20k towards such a renewed collaborative approach. Discussions are currently underway with the Woodland Trust on how such a wider countywide initiative might best be achieved.
- 6.5 In this regard, Cabinet agreed that NCC, in partnership with others, that NCC would 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 to commence during the autumn - winter 2020/21 planting season.
- 6.6 As an alternate carbon offsetting approach, investment could be made in green energy technology such as Photovoltaics (PV). To off-set the remaining 6,700 tCO₂e tonnes, a 19.1 MW solar plant would be required, which would roughly require a £18.2m investment on 14.4 ha of land with connection to the grid. The advantage of this scheme is that it would generate a yearly income of £1.6m (with a c 25+ life).
- 6.7 In this regard, Cabinet agreed that NCC would explore opportunities to invest in PV's and other such sources of renewable energy on NCC owned land and other areas, with any potential scheme subject to a further Cabinet report.
- 6.8 The Cabinet approval in January 2020 for the new energy contracts additionally gave the flexibility to use these contracts to support partners and service suppliers of NCC. Adoption by such organisations of these contracts

will demonstrate emission reduction which has been directly supported and facilitated by the Council as well.

6.9 The best practice of NCC in energy management and reduction in emissions can also be utilised to support the energy management functions of the new unitary authorities and Children's Trust.

7. A refreshed partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023

7.1 Building upon the success and effectiveness of the ongoing partnership approach towards tackling the causes and effects of climate change in the County as outlined earlier in this report, the partnership Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy has been refreshed for a further three years to cover the period 2020-2023. See:
<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/climate-change/Pages/climate-change-strategy.aspx>

7.2 This refresh has been undertaken by partners under the auspices of the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership to which the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG) now reports. A list of NCCOG Members is listed as an Appendix within the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy.

7.3 The refreshed Strategy provides a review of what has been achieved along with a review of the evidence of progress towards the targets set. It is a working document that can stand-alone, but it also references the preceding strategies where necessary rather than replicating or replacing them.

7.4 In particular the annually updated Climate Change Strategy Action Plans have played a critical role in the co-ordination of activities delivered by partners over the last ten years, and are demonstrative of the success of the Strategy's implementation, with over 90% of actions within each year's Action Plans successfully implemented as intended.

7.5 All three previous iterations of the Strategy proposed a target reduction in emissions per capita of 1.5% per year to match and support the then UK national targets for reducing emissions. However with the UK government's recent commitment to making the UK carbon neutral by 2050, this updated Strategy has amended its target to meet this nationally agreed target which equates to an annual 3% reduction in emissions.

7.6 Whilst it is acknowledged that as individual organisations and collectively as partners we only have a limited ability to affect such a reduction at a local level, we can each play our part in making our best efforts to effect such a step change and it allows partners to adopt even more challenging targets as individual organisations should they so wish.

7.7 This partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire with its associated Annual Action Plans provides the opportunity to capture all this

activity taking place in the County and present it in a coherent way to demonstrate the reduction to overall emissions and other adaptations being achieved collectively throughout Northamptonshire.

8. Commentary – ‘Carbon Neutral’ Reality Sense-Check

- 8.1 All eight Northamptonshire local authorities – whether as businesses in their own right and through their respective activities/ services collectively account for about 1% of overall carbon emissions in the County.
- 8.2 Local authorities could readily become ‘*carbon neutral*’ as organisations through energy efficiency measures, purchasing carbon neutral energy, using electric vehicles and off-setting the remainder through tree planting or investments in renewable technologies as has been demonstrated by NCC.
- 8.3 Local authorities are also well placed to drive and influence emissions reductions in their wider areas through the services they deliver, their role as social landlords, their ability to influence emissions in buildings, surface transport, and waste, as trusted community leaders, and through their regulatory and strategic functions. It is estimated that this ‘influence’ could reduce up to 8% of local carbon emissions.
- 8.4 However, it is central government through legislation and economic policy etc. which is the key player in any significant carbon reduction nationally. Therefore, whilst it can be shown local authorities can as organisations become carbon neutral, the ability of any individual local authority to achieve a ‘carbon neutral’ target for their respective administrative areas is limited.
- 8.5 In this regard, the partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire provides the means through which all local authorities, other public, voluntary and private sector partners and the successor unitary authorities can work collaboratively to address this enormous challenge and do all they can in their ability and scope of influence to make the UK carbon neutral.
- 8.6 Likewise, the impressive carbon emission reduction of NCC as an organisation is something that the whole Council, past and present staff and partners can be extremely proud of. However, it is acknowledged that in order to achieve zero emissions new innovative approaches will need to be implemented in a pragmatic and flexible approach through the Energy Management System (EnMS).
- 8.7 In this regard, Full Council is asked to: Note progress made to date to address causes and effects of climate change in Northamptonshire as agreed within the Climate Emergency declaration made in July 2019. In particular to note the actions agreed by cabinet 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 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.
- That the Cabinet endorsed the refreshed Partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023 which provides the framework for concerted action to tackling climate change in the County.

9. Consultation and Scrutiny

9.1 The Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire is a partnership document and has been collectively produced by the organisations which are members of the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group under the auspices of the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership to which NCCOG now reports. Cabinet is asked to endorse this partnership approach to addressing climate change.

10. Equality Screening

| Reason that no EqlA is required | as appropriate |
|---|----------------|
| The paper is for information only | |
| The proposal/activity/decision has no impact on customers or the service they receive | |
| The proposal impacts upon staff but the proposed staffing changes will not affect the service that customers receive* | |
| Other (Please explain further) | |

11. Alternative Options Considered

11.1 A standalone County Council Climate Change Strategy could have been developed but a decade of partnership working has demonstrated that greater results are achieved through collaborative working in relation to addressing climate change activities.

12. Financial Implications

12.1 All the activities detailed in this report have been undertaken within existing budgets and from the savings received from better energy and carbon management.

12.2 In order to achieve off-setting emissions through tree planting a £20k budget allocation will be required from 2020/21. This will need to be found from within existing NCC budgets.

13. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

| Risk | Mitigation | Residual Risk |
|--|---|---------------|
| Benefits and legacy of partnership working lost in local government review | Refreshed partnership Climate Change Strategy 2020-23 provides an effective framework for continued and ongoing partnership approach towards tackling climate change in Northamptonshire. | Amber |

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

| Risk | Risk Rating |
|--|-------------|
| Loss of Reputation - Failure to meet Climate Emergency Declaration and carbon emission reduction commitments | Red |
| Financial loss to authority | Red |
| Increases in Carbon Emissions | Red |

14. List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Refreshed Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire 2020-2023

| | |
|---|---|
| Author: | Name: Alison Parry/ Darren Perry Team: Environment/ Carbon Management – PLACE Directorate |
| Contact details: | Tel: 07785 234089 Email: aparry@northamptonshire.gov.uk daperry@northamptonshire.gov.uk |
| Background Papers: | https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/climate-change/Pages/climate-change-strategy.aspx |
| Does the report propose a key decision is taken? | YES |
| If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan? | YES |
| Will further decisions be required? If so please outline the timetable here | |
| Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here | No |
| Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework? | NO |
| Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications | YES Name of SFM: Rosemary Pallot NO – N/A |

| | |
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| passed through Capital Programme governance procedures? | |
| Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director? | YES Name of Director: G Kane |
| Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted? | YES Cabinet Member: Cllr Smithers |
| Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted? | N/A Scrutiny Committee: |
| Has the report been cleared by Legal Services? | YES Name of solicitor: D Carter-Hughes |
| Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing? | YES Name of officer: Liam Beasley |
| Have any property Issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management? | YES Name of officer: J Wheeler |
| Have the Procurement Implications been referenced in the Paper: | YES Name of Officer: Gus De Silva |
| Are there any community safety implications? | None |
| Are there any environmental implications: | Decision seeks to tackle causes and effects of climate change in the county and in particular reduce carbon emissions. |
| Are there any Health and Safety Implications: | NO |
| Are there any Human Resources Implications: | NO |
| Are there any human rights implications: | NO |
| Constituency Interest: | All |

**Northamptonshire
Climate Change Strategy
2020 – 2023**

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Executive Summary

The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy sets out a framework for tackling the causes and effects of climate change in the County. It was collectively developed by the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG), which has been meeting regularly since 2008, and comprises officers from all local authorities, other public, and voluntary sector bodies, along with business sector partners.

The Strategy has three key objectives;

- Raising awareness of the issues of climate change and its impact on Northamptonshire;
- Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases across the County; and
- Planning for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The Strategy is implemented via annual Action Plans which collate the individual and collective actions of all partners to address the causes and effects of climate change in the County in order to achieve these objectives.

The Strategy was originally developed in 2010 and was refreshed in both 2014 and 2017. These updates were undertaken due to the rapidly changing context to climate change in terms government policy, technological advancements, regional pressures, societal change and initiatives. These ‘refreshes’ also allowed the opportunity to capture and review what had been achieved. The intention is to continue the partnership Strategy for a further three years, as the previous iterations of the Strategy have provided an effective framework for the co-ordination of activities in the county.

In this regard, this latest refresh covers the period 2020 – 2023. It has been ‘refreshed’ under the auspices of the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership to which NCCOG now reports. Whilst this is a partnership document, it should be noted that during the period of this Strategy there will be a change to Local Authorities across the County, with the formation of two Unitary Authorities covering North and West Northamptonshire in April 2021.

This refreshed Strategy provides a review of what has been achieved, along with a review of the evidence of progress towards the targets set and future actions, which will be captured within the associated annual action plans. It is a working document that can stand-alone, but it also references the preceding strategies where necessary rather than replicating or replacing them and in this respect is best read in conjunction with the original Strategy from 2010-2014. In particular the annually updated Climate Change Strategy Action Plans have played a critical role in the co-ordination of activities delivered by partners over the last ten years, and are demonstrative of the success of the Strategy’s implementation, with over 90% of actions within each year’s Action Plans successfully implemented as intended.

All three previous iterations of the Strategy proposed a target of a reduction in emissions per capita of 1.5% per year to match and support the then UK national targets for reducing emissions. Overall there has been clear progress in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions (from transport, domestic, and industry and commercial) in the county, with a 28.8% reduction in total emissions recorded between 2005 and 2017 and a 37.2% reduction in per capita emissions. Whilst latest emissions data at the local authority level made available by government shows that in Northamptonshire, a reduction in per capita emissions of 3.9% was achieved between 2016 and 2017, greater than the annual reduction targets prescribed by the previous Climate Change Strategy.

Progress on adaptation to climate change is less clear, due to the challenges in placing a figure or value on this. However, significant progress has been made towards tackling the biggest climate change risk to the County, that of making the county more flood resilient. This has been achieved through advice on sustainable urban drainage systems on new developments, community flood resilience projects, the implementation of property flood resistance measures, and natural flood management landscape interventions.

With the intense international spotlight on climate change and the UK government commitment to making UK carbon neutral by 2050. For Northamptonshire to match the national government ambitions of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 - a 121 kt/year reduction of CO₂ emissions is required in the 33 years from 2017 (the most recent year for which greenhouse gas emission data is available with emissions totalling 4009.8 kt CO₂) to 2050. Precluding any carbon capture measures - **this equates to an overall annual 3% reduction in emissions.**

The actions associated with this Climate Change Strategy will support the uptake of measures which contribute towards the achievement of these national targets.

Whilst it is acknowledged that as individual organisations and collectively as partners we only have a limited ability to affect such a reduction at a local level, we can each play our part in making our best efforts to effect such a step change and allows partners to adopt even more challenging targets and to commit additional resources as individual organisations should they so wish.

This partnership Climate Change Strategy for Northamptonshire with its associated Annual Action Plans provides the opportunity and a framework to capture all this activity taking place in the County and present it in a coherent way to demonstrate the reduction to overall emissions and other adaptations being achieved collectively throughout Northamptonshire.

1. Introduction

1.1. The 2017-2020 Strategy and 2020-2023 update

The refreshed Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy for 2014-2017 sought to develop and build upon the success of previous strategies developed through the Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group (NCCOG) with this partnership approach providing a mechanism through which local and national climate change policy could be reviewed and assessed in the context of Northamptonshire. The Strategies also highlighted the activities which had taken place to support climate change mitigation and the provisions in place to adapt to future climate change.

In order to implement the Strategies, annual Action Plans detailing the various activities to be undertaken by partners over each forthcoming year were developed. The actions, which follow the headings used in the Strategy, are all funded/resourced and highlight the 'lead organisation' for each activity. These annual Action Plans provide the framework for monitoring and capturing the various activities being undertaken to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. They are actively monitored on a quarterly basis via NCCOG with progress on actions assessed using a RAG rating.

The overall objectives of the Strategy, as detailed in [chapter 5](#) of this document and in line with previous editions, are to:

- 1. Raise awareness of the issues of climate change;**
- 2. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; and**
- 3. Plan for and adapt to the impacts of climate change.**

This document provides a review of what has been achieved over the past three years and updates the Strategy to reflect the changes in the international, national and local context and the developments in the understanding of the impacts of climate change that have occurred since 2017.

1.2. Changes in the local, national and international context since 2017

Reporting on the Climate Change Strategy now takes place through the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP), which will need to endorse this strategy update. The LNP brings together the work of NCCOG with elements of the Local Flood Risk Operational Group, the Biodiversity Partnership and other associated activities.

Local authorities are required to report on data to central government via a 'Single Data List'¹. The Single Data List includes:

- Emissions from local authority own estate and operations;
- Local nature conservation/biodiversity;

¹ The Single Data List is a list of all the data that local authorities are required to submit to central government departments in a given year - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/single-data-list>

- Flood and coastal erosion risk management and sustainable drainage systems;
- The government is also still issuing per capita CO₂ emission data so this can be used for monitoring local change.

It is intended to use national government targets as the basis of the partnership Climate Change Strategy, however individual partners, may wish to set more ambitious targets, depending upon the resources, values, and political will within their respective organisations.

1.3. Developments in the understanding of the impacts of climate change since 2017

Global temperatures continue to increase at an unprecedented rate, attributable to human activity.

- Global temperatures have increased by 0.2°C in the period 2015-2019 compared to 2011-2015² and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) predicts that 2019 will be the warmest year on record.
- Greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide) reached record levels in the atmosphere at 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017.³
- In the 5-year period 2014 -2019, the rate of global mean sea-level rise was 5 mm per year, compared with 4 mm per year over the 10-year period 2007-2016.²
- The amount of ice lost annually from the Antarctic ice sheet increased at least six-fold, from 40 Gt per year in 1979-1990 to 252 Gt per year in the years 2009-2017.²
- The first glacier in Iceland to melt as consequence of global heating did so in 2019.⁴

Evidence of exceptional weather patterns in the UK over the last five years, including periods of unusually cold, dry and wet weather, has led to an increased perception that we are already experiencing climate change in this country. This in turn has led to more of a focus on the need to adapt to climate change as well as to mitigate its impacts through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

One hundred potential impacts of climate change in the UK were identified in a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) carried out in 2012⁵. The government agreed to update this assessment every five years with the latest version released in 2017. This identified the top six areas of inter-related climate change risks for the UK⁶:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy supply and industry;

² https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=5789

³ <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/greenhouse-gas-levels-atmosphere-reach-new-record>

⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-49345912>

⁵ Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report 2012 -

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=10067_CCRAEvidenceReport16July2012.pdf

⁶ Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 - <https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/introduction-to-the-ccra/>

- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive and non-invasive species, affecting people, plants and animals.

The CCRA evidence reports inform the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), which have been created to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change that are inevitable due to past and current greenhouse gas emissions. It establishes what government, businesses and society can do to become more climate ready, in response to the latest Climate Change Risk Assessment. The last NAP was published in 2018, covering the period up to 2023⁷.

National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2018

The NAP stems from the Climate Change Act 2008⁸ which obliges government (including local authorities) to produce and review climate adaptation policies. The initial NAP - which was published in 2013 - established a strategy for adapting to the potential impacts of climate change highlighted in the Climate Change Risk assessment 2012.⁹ The latest programme has a greater degree of specificity: it includes a set of objectives, the CCRA risks addressed, actions with the organisations responsible for delivering them, timescales, and monitoring, whilst keeping to the original priorities of addressing the six areas of inter-related climate change risks in the CCRA.

⁷ National Adaptation Programme 2018 to 2023: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023>

⁸ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-government-report>

2. The international and national context

2.1. International Context

Based on current pledges made by countries that have signed the Paris Climate Agreement, the planet is predicted to warm 2.9 degrees Celsius by 2100 compared to the present day. Only transformative structural change in human civilisation will be commensurate with meeting the challenge of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; the target set by the IPCC to minimise risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth.¹⁰

In response to the limited international political action to address climate change, a number of grassroots movements formed in 2018; *Extinction Rebellion*, *Youth Climate Strikes*, *UK Climate Emergency Network and Campaign against Climate Change*. These movements have received significant publicity and have applied pressure on governments to prioritise action to address the climate crisis. In addition, 11,000 scientists from 153 countries declared a climate emergency, in a letter published in 2019 in *Bioscience*. They state “*Despite 40 years of global climate negotiations, with few exceptions, we have generally conducted business as usual and have largely failed to address this predicament*”¹¹

2.2. Central government policy and greenhouse gas emission targets

Until recently the national target for the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions was an 80% reduction compared to the 1990 baseline to be achieved by 2050, a legally binding target established by the 2008 Climate Change Act. Intermediate targets had also been set with a 34% reduction to be achieved by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2027. Progress to date has been significant with UK emissions [44% below 1990 levels in 2018](#).

However, in June 2019, following the advice of the CCC¹², the UK government pledged for the UK to become carbon neutral by 2050. Some of the significant step-change measures the CCC recommend to reach carbon neutrality in the UK, include:

- Carbon capture and storage to be implemented as a necessity
- Electric vehicle targets to be moved forward to 2035
- Clean energy to quadruple
- Rewilding 20,000 ha of land annually

Current initiatives to support progress towards these targets include:

¹⁰ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

¹¹ <https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/advance-article/doi/10.1093/biosci/biz088/5610806>

¹² The Committee on Climate Change - www.theccc.org.uk

- Participation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which covers energy-intensive industrial installations and the aviation industry.
- Supporting the increasing use of renewable energy generation at all scales, through monetary incentives such as the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The SEG has been introduced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and came into force in January 2020 following the closure of the Feed in Tariffs (FITs) scheme to new applicants in March 2019.
- Limits placed upon the maximum allowable emissions from new buildings through changes to Part L of the Building Regulations.
- The installation of 'smart meters' to facilitate the monitoring of energy consumption.
- Salix finance for energy efficiency improvements by public sector organisations.
- Supporting the increasing use of biofuels for transport and electric vehicles.
- Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, which are primarily nitrous oxide (from fertiliser use) and methane.
- Supporting rural communities across England wanting to set up renewable energy projects in their area through the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF).

The Committee on Climate Change provides independent advice to government on the implementation of the Climate Change Act 2008 and their website is a useful source of accessible data on UK emissions broken down by sector¹³.

2.3. The National Adaptation Programme

The NAP sets out what government and others are doing to become more 'climate ready'.

The current iteration of the National Adaptation Programme 2018 -2023¹⁴ was published in July 2018, and has condensed the six priority areas in the previous plan down to five:

- Natural Environment;
- Infrastructure;
- People and the Built Environment;
- Business and Industry.
- Local Government.

The adaptation section of this Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2020-2023 will use these 5 NAP headings for the 'Adaptation' section and the Action Plan.

¹³ The Committee on Climate Change - www.theccc.org.uk

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023>

2.4. National initiatives

There are two national initiatives that partners in the county have participated in in the past – Climate UK and Climate Local.

Climate UK¹⁵ used to co-ordinate and promote local climate action across the UK, offering support to local authorities, businesses and communities to respond effectively to the challenges posed by climate change. It was a network consisting of all of the climate change partnerships across the UK through which Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and other partners in the county formerly contributed. Previously Climate UK was further split into regional arrangements, with Climate East Midlands covering Northamptonshire. Whilst local authorities throughout the East Midlands still meet to discuss progress on regional climate action, Climate UK and the Climate East Midlands body (and other regional bodies) no longer exist.

Climate Local¹⁶ was an initiative promoted by the Local Government Association to support local authorities' efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change. It built upon the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change that many local authorities, including all of the Northamptonshire Local Authorities, have signed up to. Daventry District Council has been a signatory to Climate Local since December 2012 with Corby Borough Council becoming a signatory in June 2014. Although no longer operating as a distinct initiative the LGA still support local authorities in their effort to address climate change.

The NHS has announced the “For a greener NHS” programme recognising the major threat climate change poses to health and wellbeing. The programme aims at sharing ideas on how to reduce the impact on public health and the environment, save money and work towards net carbon zero.¹⁷

3. The local context

3.1. Changes to local strategies and commitments

The government recognised¹⁸ Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was established to rationalise the number of existing ‘environment’ based groupings operating in the county and provide a coherent framework to ensure that the remaining groups can work effectively together. This has brought together the work of NCCOG, elements of the Local Flood Risk Operational Group, the Biodiversity Partnership and Local Wildlife Sites group.

¹⁵ For more information on Climate UK, visit their website - <http://www.climate-em.org.uk/about/climate-uk/>

¹⁶ For more details on Climate Local, see the Local Government Association website - <https://www.local.gov.uk/climate-local>

¹⁷ For a greener NHS: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/greenernhs/>

¹⁸ Information on the formation of LNP's through Defra's Natural Environment White Paper and Government's recognition of them, can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192580/local-nature-partnerships-overview120402.pdf

The LNP coordinates management of the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. It is a strategic partnership of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people with the credibility to work with and influence other local strategic decision makers.

The Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy continues to facilitate an increasing focus on planning for adaptation to climate change in the county. Planning officials in Northamptonshire (NCC, districts and boroughs and the Joint Planning Units (JPUs)) are aware of and are planning for the threats posed by climate change through inclusion of salient outcomes and policies in Local Plans. For example, the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (adopted July 2016) identifies 'Adaptability to future climate change' as one of ten desired outcomes to be achieved across the area by 2031 and sets out ten linked policies devised to achieve this¹⁹.

Since April 2015, Local Planning Authorities have been required to consult Northamptonshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) on all major planning applications, with the LLFA reviewing the applications in relation to surface water drainage only. The LLFA is also required to provide technical advice on surface water drainage strategies, and on any designs put forward for new major developments.

The Northamptonshire Transportation Plan²⁰ establishes transport-related policies, objectives and aims pertaining to transport in the county, outlining the plans which are in place and how they are to be implemented. The Plan consists of a broad range of strategies covering a number of distinct policy areas, and includes the Northamptonshire Highway Air Quality Strategy²¹. The Plan recognises that the demand for travel within Northamptonshire is accelerating, in conjunction with significant population growth and major co-ordinated development of urban centres. This could mean that it takes 25% longer to make some journeys by 2021, for example between Daventry and Northampton, or between Kettering and Corby. Greater volumes of vehicles on the road, and the resulting elevated levels of congestion, can have a restrictive impact on economic development and prosperity by impinging upon the competitiveness of local businesses. The Plan therefore provides a reminder of the significant opportunities associated with climate change mitigation activities.

The Northampton Low Emissions Strategy, which was endorsed by Northampton Borough Council Cabinet on the 8th June 2017 for full endorsement, aims to influence policies and activities which support the reduction of emissions in the borough of Northampton, with a focus on improving air quality and reducing vehicle emissions. It is recognised that poor air quality can have significant implications on human health, as well as for biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. As such, it is critical that stringent measures are taken to improve air quality within the borough, and one such

¹⁹ North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 - <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/docs/Joint%20Core%20Strategy%202011-2031%20High%20Res%20version%20for%20website.pdf>

²⁰ The Northamptonshire Transportation Plan 2012 - <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Pages/local-transport-plan.aspx>

²¹ The Northamptonshire Highway Air Quality Strategy - <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Documents/Northamptonshire%20Highway%20Air%20Quality%20Strategy.pdf>

action is the formalisation of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Seven AQMAs have been identified within Northampton²², due to the high levels of nitrogen oxide associated at each location. In each case, the most significant contributing factor is emissions from road traffic.

The South East Midlands Local Industrial Strategy²³ was published in June 2019. This was produced by SEMLEP in partnership with stakeholders in Northamptonshire and wider South East Midlands area. This strategy sets out specific interventions to address local productivity challenges, to realise innovation, further improve connectivity and create a balanced environment that provides opportunity for our businesses and enhances our vibrant, sustainable communities. The strategy identified opportunities for the area to take a leading role on the Future of Mobility and Clean Growth Grand Challenges, set out in the National Industrial Strategy, by utilising the wealth of relevant assets and expertise in the area, along with the space and willingness to test new technologies in a real-world setting. The strategy has set out various commitments related to climate change where SEMLEP will work with local organisations to support the necessary provision of low carbon energy, support business energy efficiency, support water supply and flood risk plans, support the implementation of the 25 Year Environment Plan and more.

More recently, following the IPCC reports, UK Parliament's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019 and pressure from grass roots organisations, a number of local authorities in Northamptonshire have declared climate emergencies and committed to the target of becoming 'carbon neutral' by 2030 – twenty years earlier than the UK target of 2050. Those that have declared a climate emergency to date include Northamptonshire County Council, Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council, Corby Borough Council and Kettering Borough Council. Whilst this partnership Strategy continues to reflect the national target of supporting the UK to become carbon neutral by 2050, this does not preclude individual NCCOG partners setting and resourcing this even more challenging target.

3.2. Report on what has been achieved since 2017

The following is a summary of the high-level achievements:

- **The Climate Change Strategy Action Plan has been successfully delivered** each year over the past three years, with over 90% of actions within each year's Action Plans implemented as intended.
- **Former Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets for reduction in CO₂ emissions for the county have been exceeded.** Significant progress has been made with the reduction of emissions in Northamptonshire, with a 37.2% reduction in per capita emissions (former NI186) and a 28.8% reduction in total emissions recorded between 2005 and 2017 – and by 3.9% from 2016 to 2017. (Analysis of the latest available emissions data is included in [chapter 7](#) of this document and in Appendix 2).

²² Northampton Low Emissions Strategy - http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/3802/air_quality_management_areas_aqma_s_in_northampton

²³ SEMLEP Local Industrial Strategy - <https://www.semlep.com/industrial-strategy/>

- An update to the **Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)** has been finalised and endorsed and approved by NCC Cabinet, which details the co-ordination and management of local flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater.
- Building on initial the **DEFRA Community Resilience Pathfinder Scheme**²⁴ which was completed in 2015 and provided support for 15 communities to improve their surface water flood resilience and the development and delivery of the **Northamptonshire County Council Flood Toolkit**²⁵, two further Pathfinder projects are underway:
 - The **Pathfinder II Project**²⁶, funded by the Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, which facilitated community-led improvements in resilience and preparedness amongst 30 communities who were at risk of surface water flooding in Northamptonshire, and a **Pathfinder III project** focussing on 30 urban communities commenced in April 2019;
- NCC's Energy Management System, certified with the **ISO 50001:2011 Energy Management standard**, was independently audited in November 2016 and found to be compliant with the requirements of the standard, with no minor or major non-conformities observed.
- Over the past eight years, NCC has saved 86,000t CO2e, including **significant investment in upgrading street** lighting throughout the county in order to reduce energy consumption and Co2 emissions.
- National Energy Action, a national fuel poverty charity, have worked with organisations and local authorities through the Northants Warm Homes Partnership to develop a **Northants Community Directory**²⁷ which provides details of all agencies offering energy efficiency, fuel debt and other related support for vulnerable householders.
- **'Northamptonshire Energy Saving Service'** (known as NESS) is a 3 year project (2018 – 2021) helping address fuel poverty across Northamptonshire. £1.2million of funding was secured by NCC from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund. NESS is being delivered by Community Law Service in partnership with Citizens Advice Services Corby and Kettering, Care and Repair Northamptonshire, South Northants Volunteer Bureau and Northamptonshire County Council through Public Health. It will target 6000 Northamptonshire households over the 3 year Project and bring financial benefits to households in the region of £10m.
- **Northamptonshire Warm Homes Fund** – running from 2019-2022 the fund supports homes in fuel poverty to install central heating.

²⁴ Defra Community Resilience Pathfinder Scheme - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-resilience-community-pathfinder-scheme-prospectus>

²⁵ Northamptonshire Flood Toolkit - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/>

²⁶ Pathfinder II Project - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pathfinder2/>

²⁷ Northants Warm Homes Partnership, Community Directory - <http://www.northantswarmhomes.com/files/2012/09/Copy-of-Northants-Community-Directory-WEB.xlsx>

- **Northamptonshire ECO-flex** – this initiative has helped to support financially low-income homes to install insulation and energy efficient boilers.
- **Nenescape** – the Resilient River Project (restoring 7km of the River Nene) and Farming for the Future project (creating wetland enhancements on agricultural land) have significantly increased the resilience of the Nene Valley to climate change: increasing water storage and slowing flows.
- NCC, along with Nestlé, EA, and Anglian Water is participating in **Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENS)**, a project to brokerage payments for finite natural capital providers from key private and public sector beneficiaries.

3.3. East Midlands Regional Climate Change Partnership

NCC and other local authorities in the East Midlands previously met under the auspices of the publicly funded ‘Climate East Midlands’, however this body no longer exists. Nevertheless, the partners of this group still meet occasionally and actively participate in a regional climate change partnership to deliver action and share best practice.

3.4. Local climate change impact

The UK Climate Impact Programme, UKCIP, continues to disseminate information on the impacts of climate change based on the predicted changes in the climatic system in UKCP 18, which is the latest available source of climate predictions.

The Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) for Northamptonshire that is referred to in the 2010-2014 and 2014-2017 Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategies is also still applicable and has not been updated.

4. The impacts of climate change

For many of the years which have followed the era of extensive industrialisation within the UK, significant efforts have been made to quantify the likely impacts of human-induced climate change, at first within the scientific community only, but now across a number of disciplines. In 2012 the UK government produced a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) which identified one hundred potential impacts of climate change. A second iteration of the CCRA, published in 2017, identified the six most significant inter-related climate change risks or the UK, as detailed in [section 1.3](#) of this document.

As the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy and its annual Action Plans are informed by the NAP, which is in turn informed by the CCRA, it is pertinent to consider each of these risks and the potential impacts they carry for the county.

4.1. Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure

Flooding already poses a severe threat to people, communities and buildings, and climate change is expected to increase the frequency, severity and extent of flooding.

A temperature increase of 2°C, which is now considered to be a modest climate change projection, could result in as much as a 40% increase in the number of residential properties in the UK exposed to frequent flooding (1 in 75 years average) by the 2080s, with a rise of 4°C potentially resulting in as much as a 93% increase in the number of residential properties exposed to frequent flooding²⁸.

In Northamptonshire, large swathes of agricultural land and heavily urbanised town centres provide the ideal conditions for surface water flooding. Indeed, surface water flooding is the greatest source of flood risk posed to Northamptonshire's residents, with almost 57,000 residential properties already predicted to be at risk without taking into account future climate change²⁹. With a rapid speed of onset, surface water flooding can be difficult to respond to, particularly if pre-emptive measures have not been taken to mitigate its risk³⁰.

The economic damages associated with flooding can be severe, impacting upon built infrastructure, business competitiveness and agricultural productivity. Equally, there is evidence to suggest that, for individuals, the stress of experiencing flooding can continue for a long time after the flood water has receded³¹. From a mental health perspective, this can be most pronounced in the two years which

²⁸ Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: Projections of future flood risk in the UK
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CCRA-Future-Flooding-Main-Report-Final-06Oct2015.pdf.pdf>

²⁹ Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Northamptonshire-LFRMS-Report-Final-November-2016.pdf>

³⁰ For more information on how to prepare for a flood, visit the Flood Toolkit - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/emergency/preparation/>

³¹ The Effects of Flooding on Mental Health. Health Protection Agency, 2011.

follow the incident³². Dangerous pathogens carried by flood water can cause illness and disease, the trauma of losing possessions which may have a sentimental value, and the smell and dampness which can take months to erase from homes are all factors which could contribute to the prevalence of poor mental health amongst individuals who have experienced flooding.

There is a great deal of partnership work being undertaken throughout the county in response to these risks, which is detailed in the Northamptonshire LFRMS and associated Action Plan³³.

4.2. Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures

Future changes in climate are likely to result in both changes to mean temperatures and increased weather variability. Ensuring that the risks to health, well-being and productivity associated with these changes are appropriately accounted for in policy is of paramount importance, but at present there are few comprehensive policies in place to adapt existing homes and other buildings to high temperatures, manage the urban heat island effect or safeguard new homes.

Older people are particularly vulnerable to the detrimental health impacts associated with high temperatures, and in the UK the proportion of the population aged over 75 is projected to increase from 8% in 2015 to 18% by 2085, and this is likely to exert increased pressure on the health and care systems. In Northamptonshire, latest figures from 2017 show that the number of individuals aged 65 and over was 131,425 totalling 17.73% of the county's population. This is an increase of 12% from 2014³⁴. The percentage of residents aged 85 and over has grown a little less than the national average, 4.7% in Northamptonshire compared to a national average of 6%. Long term Office of National Statistics projections estimate the county's population of individuals aged 65 and over to increase to around 147,100 in 2022, to 166,600 in 2027 and 217,500 by 2041.

The proportion of older people in the county is therefore growing, and careful consideration needs to be given to how to mitigate the risk of this population being adversely affected by warmer temperatures. For instance, there is a risk that insulating homes to improve thermal efficiency could result in overheating.

The average number of hot days per year is increasing, as is the chance of severe heat waves. Past events provide evidence that extreme temperatures can significantly inhibit production and well-being: in July 2016, with temperatures in London of over 30°C, a surge of health problems and transport disruptions were reported, and the media even reported increased levels of violence³⁵.

³² Alderman, K., Turner, L.R., & Tong, S. (2012). Floods and human health: A systematic review. *Environment International*, 47, 37-47.

³³ See the 'Statutory and Project Documents' section of the Flood Library for the latest versions of the LFRMS and Action Plan - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/>

³⁴ Northamptonshire County Council Older Peoples JSNA
<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/health-and-wellbeing-board/northamptonshire-jsna/Documents/Older%20Peoples%20JSNA%20-%20Updated%20Dec%202019.pdf>

³⁵ Heat waves, productivity, and the urban economy: What are the costs?
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/news/heat-waves-productivity-and-the-urban-economy-what-are-the-costs/>

These impacts are particularly pronounced in urban centres, and therefore it is essential that measures are taken to minimise the adverse effects of high temperatures for people of all ages. Incorporating green infrastructure into urban design is a way to lessen the urban heat island effect, and thus urban temperatures, and planning policy is a critical component of the mechanism through which this can be achieved.

In response to these risks, the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy³⁶ has adopted a number of policies to influence development over the coming decades. Policy 9 – Sustainable Buildings, sets out that *“The layout and design of sites, buildings and associated landscapes should...Maximise the use of passive solar design to address heating and cooling...”*. Furthermore Section 3 ‘The Green Infrastructure Framework’ identifies special policy areas which, amongst other aspects, will be a focus for promoting climate change mitigation, and also highlights that green infrastructure *“supports healthier lifestyles, manages flood water, improves air quality and helps to mitigate the effects of climate change”*. Policies 19, 20 and 21 further expand on these areas and set out how green infrastructure will be delivered in North Northamptonshire.

4.3. Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy supply and industry

Climate change will result in changes to the way that water circulates through the water cycle, and this, coupled with significant population growth, is likely to place a great degree of stress on the availability of water in the future.

This presents a risk to the UK economy, with the availability of water for irrigation likely to become a serious limiting factor to agricultural production, and the requirements of freshwater use for cooling in energy generation expected to rise significantly. The public water supply will also be impacted, and the ecology of rivers and lakes may alter in response to reduced water availability, particularly during the summer months, which could have a devastating effect on biodiversity as well as detracting from the amenity value of these environments.

At present, action is primarily targeted at reducing demand, and water companies, abstractors and governments have worked together to attempt to elicit a change in water consumption behaviour. Adapting to a changing climate necessitates a shift in the way we live our lives, and it is not yet clear how dependent this shift is on the availability of water. Thus, action is needed to conserve water now given the uncertainty of its availability in the future.

In June 2017, the Environment Agency published a document entitled, ‘Drought response: our framework for England’³⁷. Although this document provides a high-level national response, implementation is underway at a regional and local level, through co-ordination with water and

³⁶ North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy - <http://www.nnjpu.org.uk/publications/docdetail.asp?docid=1573>

³⁷ Environment Agency ‘Drought response: our framework for England’, June 2017 - https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/625006/LIT_10104.pdf

sewerage companies, as well as other groups such as the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association.

An infrastructure assessment report is being prepared for the central area growth board by AECOM, which will cover Northamptonshire. Water infrastructure requirements which factor in climate change projections will be a crucial part of this report.

4.4. Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity

Many ecosystems have already begun to adjust and adapt to the impacts of climate change, but it is likely that their capacity to do so in the future will be significantly constrained by the increasing pressures of habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, over-exploitation of resources and the spread of invasive species.

A key risk to natural capital associated with a changing climate is the deterioration of productive agricultural land. Higher levels of soil aridity, coupled with reduced water availability for irrigation, is likely to significantly impact upon crop yields and farming versatility. Thus hampering the agricultural output of UK farms and threatening national food security.

Loss of habitat and the corresponding breakdown of ecosystems, in terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine environments, can not only result in the depletion of species populations and thus biodiversity, but also the ability for natural carbon storage, which will become increasingly critical as levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere continue to rise.

Responding to these identified risks, in Northamptonshire through the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) project, a study was undertaken to map, and place a value on, natural capital and ecosystem services in the Nene Valley³⁸. It highlighted that natural capital and the ecosystem services these provide, are valued at £109 million annually across the Nene Valley NIA and £300 million across the wider Nene Valley.

Further leading edge work is currently in progress on Habitat Opportunity Mapping, to identify areas where habitat creation could enhance natural capital and ecosystem services throughout Northamptonshire, in order to improve air quality, reduce flood risk and better water quality. The GIS maps identify potential areas for the expansion of key habitats, covering three broad habitat types (broadleaved and mixed woodland, semi-natural grassland, wet grassland and wetland), to reduce surface water runoff, reduce soil erosion and improve water quality, ameliorate air pollution, and increase access to natural greenspace. The maps are to be used to assist with the development of green infrastructure strategies and for agri-environment scheme targeting, natural flood risk management and catchment sensitive farming schemes, health and wellbeing initiatives, and UK Woodland Carbon Code projects, and as an important step towards informing the development of a natural capital investment plan for the area.

³⁸ Valuation of ecosystem services in the Nene Valley NIA - <http://www.nenevalleynia.org/project/ecosystem-services/> Mapping natural capital and ecosystem services in the Nene Valley - <http://www.naturalcapitalsolutions.co.uk/previous-projects/case-study-2/>

The development of such a Natural Capital Investment Plan, is being progressed with funding from Defra, via a collaboration between five Local Nature Partnership (including Northamptonshire) covering the South East Midlands area. This Plan will help to influence development throughout this sub-region, identifying areas where an investment in natural capital could greatly enhance the delivery of numerous ecosystem services.

DEFRA and the Environment Agency are also working with a number of stakeholders, including Local Nature Partnerships, to deliver a Local Natural Capital Plan for the Ox-Cam Arc. This will look at assessing the Natural Capital throughout the region, improving habitat condition, and implementing some totemic landscape scale projects. Project areas under consideration in Northamptonshire include: the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area, Yardley Whittlewood Ridge and the Rockingham Forest. These include initiatives related to natural flood management and introduction of catchment land advisors.

Together this work helps to highlight the importance and value of natural capital, in terms of health and wellbeing, economic prosperity and biodiversity, to Northamptonshire and the wider South East Midlands area, as well as the need to address the impacts climate change and future development pressures could have on the ecosystem services they provide.

4.5. Risks to domestic and international food production and trade

Although a changing climate may present opportunities to increase domestic food production, the condition of soils and availability of water, both of which are already impacted by climate change, are likely to be limiting factors to realising these opportunities.

Parts of southern, eastern and central England have already been identified as likely to become unviable for some farming activities due to the intensive water requirements of these activities. The forecasted trend of wetter winters is also likely to exacerbate the problems of soil compaction and erosion, which can severely impact upon agricultural productivity.

Climate change is likely to shift the balance of food production between regions, both internationally and nationally. These changes will influence markets, trade and domestic prices, and the impacts of which are likely to disproportionately affect farmers and lower income households.

A national initiative Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENS) is now active in the County supported by NCC and Anglian Water: a project to brokerage payments to natural capital providers (eg. landowners) from key private and public sector beneficiaries, for which securing better water quality and supply will be an aim.

4.6. New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive and non-invasive species, affecting people, plants and animals.

There is broad agreement within the scientific community that pests and invasive non-native species may increase in number and range in a warmer, wetter atmosphere, and that there is a significant

chance of an increase in the prevalence of pathogens that are already present in the UK, as well as new pathogens arriving from overseas.

However, projections of the impact of climate change on human diseases are uncertain, as it is not clear precisely what conditions are likely to prevail in an altered UK climate. As such, surveillance and monitoring of species and pathogens that are likely to pose the biggest challenge in the changing climate should be prioritised.

The Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership monitors progress being made by partners on several natural environment priorities in the county. Priority 2 focuses on the need to 'promote co-ordinated address and management of specifically threatened habitats or species'.

There are a great many threats from invasive species and emerging diseases both nationally and in Northamptonshire. Two specific examples reported to the Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership include the spread of Ash tree die-back (Chalara), with Woodland Trust volunteers carefully monitoring the situation and delivering 'Tree Disease Recovery Packs' where loss is occurring; and the recent identification of the invasive 'Killer Shrimp' (*Dikerogammarus villosus*) in Pitsford Reservoir, which is being responded to through the draft of an action plan by River Nene Regional Park, in partnership with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. This draft plan aims to raise awareness of the threat of this species and promote soft and hard mitigation actions that can be implemented to slow the spread.

5. Aims and objectives for future action

The Climate Change Strategy recognises the need to establish key aims that will direct efforts to tackle climate change and its impacts within Northamptonshire over the next three years. Broadly, these aims can be grouped under the following three objectives, which constitute distinct focus and review areas within this Climate Change Strategy:

1. [Raise awareness of the issues of climate change](#);
2. [Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases](#); and
3. [Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change](#).

The aims associated with these objectives are identified below, with further information on progress against the objectives provided in chapters 6, 7, and 8.

Progress against these aims and objectives will be measured and monitored through the Annual Action Plan and NCCOG quarterly meetings.

5.1. Raise awareness of the issues of climate change

Key aims within this objective include:

- **Communications and advertising** – engage public and stakeholder organisations through online and social media communications and household leaflets, to help reduce emissions and energy usage as well as assist adaptation to climate change.
- **Events and Workshops** – develop and deliver events to raise awareness of the issues of climate change and sustainability to the public, organisations and partners, to help support behaviour change action.
- **Education in schools** – work with schools to increase awareness of the issues of climate change especially related to waste, energy and adaptation.

5.2. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases

Key aims within this objective include:

- **Improve Home Energy Efficiency** – advise on any funding opportunities available to install energy saving measures, such as insulation and boiler replacements, as well as fuel switching and collective tariff schemes which may help homeowners to reduce their energy bills.
- **Improve Resource Efficiency in the Business, Commercial and Voluntary Sectors** – seek opportunities to develop business support programmes which target the proliferation of resource efficiency measures and activities.
- **Improve Resource Efficiency in the Public Sector** – utilise existing funding programmes to develop and deliver resource efficiency projects and explore opportunities for local authorities to undertake holistic resource management, ethical investment, and sustainable procurement, focusing on energy, waste and water.

- **Reduce Energy Use and Emissions from Transport** – initiate and lead the way on a modal shift to sustainable travel and low carbon fuel infrastructure.
- **Encourage Sustainable New Development and Land Use** – capture climate change considerations within local plans and policies and encourage land development which promotes sustainability.
- **Minimise Waste** – identify and support opportunities to reduce emissions by reducing, reusing and recycling waste.
- **Increase Low and Zero Carbon Energy Use** – work with organisations in all sectors to implement low and zero carbon energy measures, with a focus on renewables and investment in carbon off-setting.

5.3. Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change

Key aims within this objective include:

- **Local Government and Public Services** – embed ‘planning to adapt’ activities into public sector processes, practices and policies.
- **Business, Industry and Commerce** - identify the businesses that are most sensitive to the impacts of climate change and work with them to help them take adaptive action.
- **Built Environment and Infrastructure** – ensure that policies are effective in encouraging sustainable construction and development, and maximise opportunities for ‘greening’ the county through green infrastructure initiatives and activities.
- **Natural Environment, Agriculture and Forestry** – implement natural initiatives which help to adapt to and minimise the impacts of climate change, as well as preserving and enhancing existing natural assets – to include tree planting to off-set carbon emissions.
- **Healthy and Resilient Communities** – enhance the awareness and preparedness of individuals and communities to the effects of climate change and its mitigation.

6. Raise awareness of the issues of climate change

The need to raise awareness on climate change cuts across every area of the Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy and for this reason it has been maintained as a distinct focus area.

Raising awareness and understanding of the issues of climate change, can help highlight the impact individual action can have and what people can do on an individual and community level.

A number of events and workshops have been held in the county with the aim of raising awareness of the issues of climate change and sustainability. Examples of these have included:

A Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership conference is usually held annually to outline the key themes and priorities of the LNP and highlight the natural environment projects being delivered in the county.

A series of engagement events were carried out through the Defra Community Resilience Pathfinder Scheme to raise awareness of the impacts of flooding and flood risk to 15 communities in Northamptonshire. These have continued with Pathfinder 2 and 3.

A number of workshops on climate change and soil management were delivered to farmers and landowners by the National Farmers Union, Climate UK and NCC.

Over the next three years, there is also the opportunity to raise awareness to landlords of properties (in the domestic and non-domestic sectors) that are not energy efficient, that there is now legislation in place which is likely to require them to carry out improvements. For example, since 2016, domestic private rented sector tenants have been able to request consent from their landlord to install energy efficiency improvement measures in the property they rent and the landlord is now unable to unreasonably refuse consent, providing the tenant is able to secure suitable funding for the requested improvements. Furthermore, since 2018, all private rented properties will be required to be brought up to a minimum energy efficiency standard rating, likely to be set at EPC rating "E". This legislation will support the achievement of carbon reduction targets as well as reducing energy costs for tenants.

7. Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases

7.1. Trends in emissions data

Local authority carbon dioxide emissions are published annually by government³⁹, with the latest available data relating to 2017 together with revised figures for each year since 2005. Note that two sets of these figures are published – a full data set and a reduced set showing only emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities. It is data from the latter that is quoted below since these correspond to the former NI186 data (per capita CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority area) that was used for the original strategy. The main difference between these is that transport emissions are much lower in the latter set, due to the inclusion of motorways (through Daventry, South Northamptonshire and to a much lesser extent, Northampton), as well as diesel railways.

Figure 1 below shows the percentage breakdown of the CO₂ emissions by sector in Northamptonshire in 2005 and 2017. This highlights that in 2017, Northamptonshire's transport sector produced the greatest proportion of the county's CO₂ emissions at 43%, where as in 2005 it was the industry and commercial sector, with 38%. Since 2005 the domestic sector has seen a 3% decrease in the proportion of CO₂ emissions in the county, and the industry and commercial sector an 8% proportional decrease.

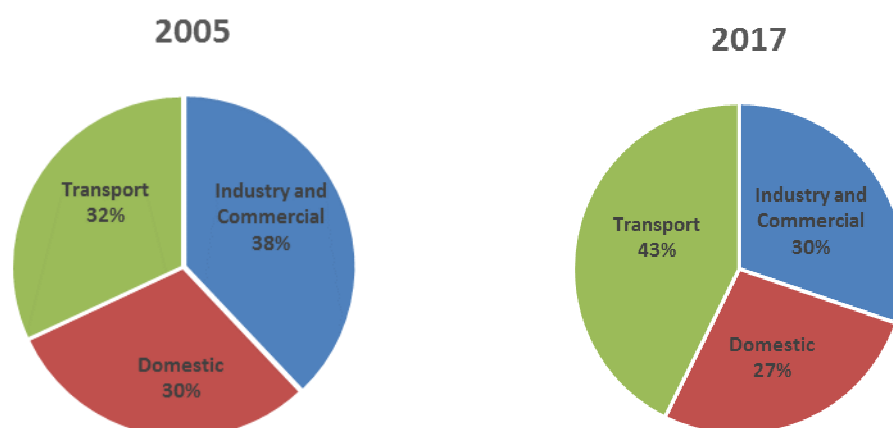


Figure 1: CO₂ emissions by sector in Northamptonshire

The consumption figures between 2005 and 2017 as presented in Figure 2 show that the overall trend is a gradual reduction in the domestic and industry and commercial sectors, whilst transport after a promising trend of diminishing carbon emissions between 2005 and 2013, has seen a year on year increase since then, with 2017 emissions levels almost equivalent to those in 2005, in line with national trends. In this regard, reducing carbon emissions from the transport sector is a key priority

³⁹ Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions data 2005 – 2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>

area of focus both nationally and locally, one which is heavily influenced by central government policy.

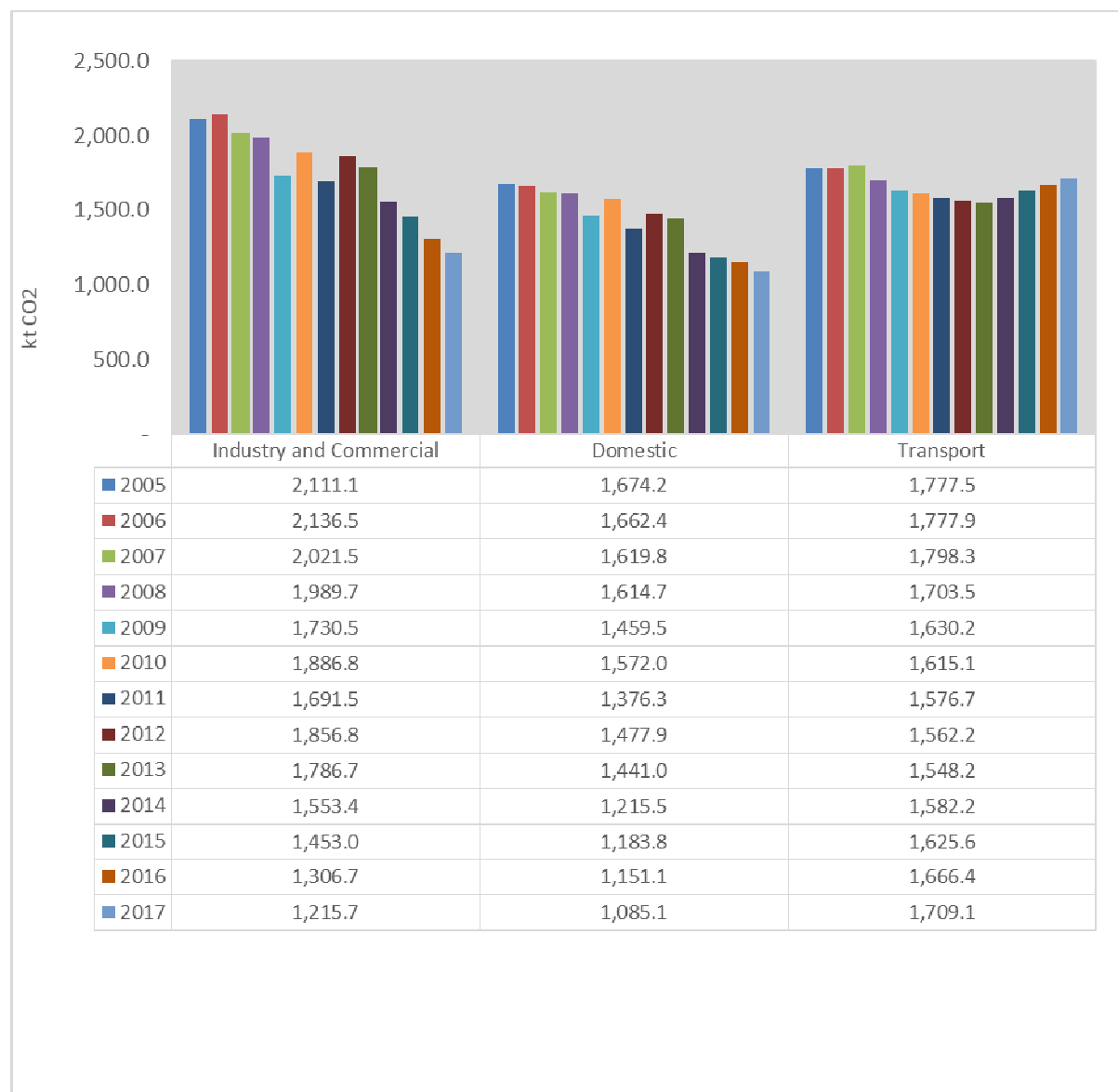


Figure 2: CO₂ emission trend per sector in Northamptonshire

Therefore overall emissions have fallen in all sectors since 2005, but at a slower rate in the transport sector (a reduction of only 8.3% compared to 30.6% in both the domestic and industry and commercial sectors). Overall the reduction in total emissions for Northamptonshire is 28.8%, as detailed in Table 2.

| Year | Northamptonshire | | | England |
|------|---|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Total emissions (kt CO ₂ p.a.) | Population (thousands) | Per capita emissions (t) | Per capita emissions (t) |
| 2005 | 5,627.4 | 654.5 | 8.6 | 7.2 |
| 2006 | 5,628.4 | 663.6 | 8.5 | 7.1 |
| 2007 | 5,490.6 | 672.1 | 8.2 | 6.9 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2008 | 5,360.9 | 678.2 | 7.9 | 6.7 |
| 2009 | 4,857.1 | 683.5 | 7.1 | 6.1 |
| 2010 | 5,120.6 | 688.0 | 7.4 | 6.3 |
| 2011 | 4,682.7 | 694.0 | 6.7 | 5.7 |
| 2012 | 4,937.6 | 700.6 | 7.0 | 5.9 |
| 2013 | 4,798.3 | 706.4 | 6.8 | 5.7 |
| 2014 | 4,424.7 | 714.4 | 6.2 | 5.0 |
| 2015 | 4,304.3 | 723.0 | 6.0 | 4.8 |
| 2016 | 4,124.3 | 732.5 | 5.6 | 4.7 |
| 2017 | 4,009.9 | 741.2 | 5.4 | 4.5 |
| Percentage reduction | -28.8% | 13.3% | -37.2% | -37.5% |

Table 1: Total CO₂ emissions and per capita Northamptonshire vs. England

The figures in Table 1 show that the per capita emissions in Northamptonshire have decreased by 37.2% over this twelve year period with a 28.8% decrease in total emissions. For England as a whole, there has been a similar decrease in the per capita emissions from 7.2 to 4.5 tonnes per year (a decrease of 37.5%). Northamptonshire is thus slightly above the national average in terms of per capita emissions.

Whilst the percentage decrease trends in the emissions for the county have been similar to those for England as a whole, there have been significant differences between the decreases in the local authority areas within the county. Table 2 summarises the total emission reductions in each district and borough, as well as Northamptonshire as a whole.

| Local Authority area | 2005 emissions (kt CO₂) | 2017 emissions (kt CO₂) | Percentage reduction |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Corby | 695.1 | 452.9 | 35% |
| Daventry | 808.2 | 582.8 | 24% |
| East Northamptonshire | 653.7 | 497.4 | 22% |
| Kettering | 745.9 | 615.4 | 17% |
| Northampton | 1,398.3 | 897.1 | 37% |
| South Northamptonshire | 737.7 | 565.0 | 23% |
| Wellingborough | 588.4 | 399.2 | 31% |
| Northamptonshire | 5,627.4 | 4,009.9 | 28.8% |

Table 2: Total emissions by local authority area

These figures indicate that there have been greater percentage reductions in Northampton and Corby in particular and lower reductions in East Northamptonshire and Kettering. However, these differences appear to be primarily due to the respective changes in the Industry and Commercial sector in these areas, which probably reflect changes in economic activity levels, over a period affected by economic recession, rather than investment in measures designed to achieve an overall reductions in emissions.

When the emissions for each local authority area are expressed as per capita (see Table 3 below), a slightly different pattern emerges due to differing rates of population growth, with Corby closely followed by Northampton experiencing the greatest percentage reductions or 49% and 45% respectively.

| Local Authority area | 2005 per capita emissions (t) | 2017 per capita emissions (t) | Percentage reduction |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Corby | 12.8 | 6.5 | 49% |
| Daventry | 10.7 | 7.1 | 30% |
| East Northamptonshire | 8.0 | 5.3 | 32% |
| Kettering | 8.6 | 6.1 | 28% |
| Northampton | 7.1 | 4.0 | 45% |
| South Northamptonshire | 8.7 | 6.2 | 28% |
| Wellingborough | 8.0 | 5.1 | 35% |
| Northamptonshire | 8.6 | 5.4 | 37% |

Table 3: Per capita emissions by local authority area

The 2017-20 iteration of the Climate Change Strategy compared emission data trends from 2014-2017 using publicly available data provided by government. Since the publication of the 2017-20 Strategy, government has released new data which has updated all of the previously provided data. Therefore, for the purposes of this Strategy, total and per capita emissions data by local authority area between 2016 and 2017 has been compared to review progress made towards reducing emissions based on the most up to date and publicly accessible data.

| Local Authority area | 2016 emissions (kt CO ₂) | 2017 emissions (kt CO ₂) | Percentage reduction |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Corby | 467.8 | 452.9 | 3% |
| Daventry | 587.5 | 582.8 | 1% |
| East Northamptonshire | 513.3 | 497.4 | 3% |
| Kettering | 626.8 | 615.4 | 2% |
| Northampton | 935.7 | 897.1 | 4% |
| South Northamptonshire | 579.3 | 565.0 | 2% |
| Wellingborough | 413.9 | 399.2 | 4% |
| Northamptonshire | 4,124.3 | 4,009.9 | 3% |

Table 4: Total emissions by local authority area (2016 – 2017 comparison)

| Local Authority area | 2016 per capita emissions (t) | 2017 per capita emissions (t) | Percentage reduction |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Corby | 6.8 | 6.5 | 5% |
| Daventry | 7.2 | 7.1 | 3% |
| East Northamptonshire | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5% |
| Kettering | 6.3 | 6.1 | 3% |
| Northampton | 4.2 | 4.0 | 5% |
| South Northamptonshire | 6.4 | 6.2 | 4% |
| Wellingborough | 5.3 | 5.1 | 4% |
| Northamptonshire | 5.6 | 5.4 | 3.6% |

Table 5: Per capita emissions by local authority area (2016 – 2017 comparison)

Table 5 demonstrates that between 2016 and 2017, per capita emissions at the county level were overall reduced by 3.6%, a significant reduction which surpasses the 1.5% per annum reduction target prescribed by the 2017-2020 Climate Change Strategy.

A table providing full details of the breakdown of total and per capita emissions by local authority area and by sector is provided in Appendix 2.

7.2. Other local achievements in climate change mitigation

NCC has successfully implemented an energy management system which has been certified with the ISO50001:2011 standard and is the first local authority to have received the certification. The system ensures a documented and auditable approach to energy management is undertaken by the authority, and that measures are taken to continually improve the energy performance of all functions and operations.

It is through the implementation of the energy management system that reductions in NCC's carbon footprint are effectively recorded, reported and monitored. In 2009/10 NCC's carbon footprint was calculated to be 106,625tCO₂; and in 2018/19 it was estimated as 29,425tCO₂, a reduction of 72.4%. This was achieved through capital energy efficiency investment, property rationalisation and effective management of energy systems.

Additional achievements include reduced energy bills for NCC and schools as a result of an energy procurement risk management strategy; solar PV installations for schools, fire stations and libraries; the provision of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) for Waste and Adult Social Care services and the upgrade of the street lighting stock of fittings to LED. For the latter, the street lighting electricity consumption related emissions dropped from 12 tCO₂ in 2009/10 to 4 tCO₂ in 2018/19, a reduction of 67.7%.

The INTERREG IVB Project ZECOS was completed in 2015. The project facilitated a high volume of schools being educated in recycling and energy efficiency, the identification of champion schools within three communities (Oundle, Braunston and Crick and Long Buckby), and the installation of biomass boilers within four schools: Yelvertoft Primary School, Crick Primary School, The Gateway School and Oundle CE Primary School.

The Northants Warm Homes Partnership (NWHP)⁴⁰ has co-ordinated a number of fuel poverty projects including:

'Big Switch Daventry' – Using collective purchasing power to secure better deals on gas and electricity tariffs for householders. More than 4,000 households in the District have signed up since its launch in December 2014 and over 1,600 householders have successfully switched energy provider.

'Switch, Save, Smile' – Households in East Northamptonshire Council are encouraged to sign up to the project to receive guidance on switching energy suppliers and to register for collective switching.

'Climate Friendly Communities' – Providing help and advice to communities seeking to integrate climate friendly practices into the use of buildings, with the overall aim of reducing the community's carbon footprint.

⁴⁰ Northants Warm Homes Partnership - <http://www.northantswarmhomes.com/>

NWHP has also overseen Northamptonshire's involvement in the Community Action Partnership (CAP) programme, an initiative delivered by National Energy Action (NEA) and British Gas in partnership with local authorities in eight key geographical areas. As part of the programme, one hundred 'energy champions' have been recruited in Northampton, Corby, Kettering and Daventry to help people in the community to become more energy efficient and to reduce the cost of household energy bills. The Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service have also received front-line training which has educated crews on the ways in which they can identify people who are in fuel poverty.

A further output of the Northamptonshire CAP programme is the creation of the Northants Community Directory⁴¹, a resource which details the agencies offering energy efficiency, fuel debt and other related support to vulnerable householders. The Directory serves as a mechanism through which support workers and front-line staff across the county are able to provide more streamlined and efficient referral services.

Implementation of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan has ensured that more focus is given to achieving carbon reduction through modal shifts, with an increased emphasis placed upon sustainable travel.

E-Car Club had established four E-Car Club Hubs within Northamptonshire with electric vehicles, available for public use, provided at each. The four Hubs were located at: Campbell Square, Northampton; Guildhall Road, Northampton; Berrywood Hospital, Northampton; and St Mary's Hospital, Kettering. The E-car club was acquired by Europcar which unfortunately decided to cease the scheme in Northamptonshire.

Northamptonshire Waste Partnership (NWP) has implemented a Waste Strategy and Action Plan which seeks to help reduce CO₂ by reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

Chelveston Renewable Energy Park is another example of a local initiative supporting the climate change agenda. Based in East Northamptonshire, the Park is a 750-acre (300ha) scheme which currently generates a combined output around 80MW of renewable energy. The renewable energy includes wind and solar, following an £80m investment by the owners (Chelveston Renewable Energy Ltd). Planning permission has been obtained for an anaerobic digestion plant on the former airfield with a generating capacity of 1 - 5MW. Planning permission was also granted for a bio-fuel proposal with a generating capacity of 6MW. The next phase of the development has commenced with the construction of on-site battery storage, with further investment planned. The energy park currently generates enough power to supply in excess of 10,000 homes.

KierWSP, who run the Northamptonshire Highways contract, has implemented a Sustainability Action Plan. The key performance indicator for this is the reduction in carbon footprint based on fuel (including red diesel), electricity, gas (where available), water (excluding Towcester) and waste to landfill. Latest figures report an overall 47.9% reduction since 2008/09.

⁴¹ Northants Community Directory - <http://www.northantswarmhomes.com/files/2012/09/Copy-of-Northants-Community-Directory-WEB.xlsx>

7.3. Implications of national emissions targets over 2020 – 2023

It is proposed that any emissions targets set for Northamptonshire should again be set in line with national targets. The government has yet to set out detailed interim targets for greenhouse gas emissions based on the net-zero scenario, but the Committee on Climate Change suggests cutting annual CO₂ emissions by around 93% from 1990 levels – which is 13% more than the requirement in the 2008 Climate Change Act.

Most of the target can only be reached by producing energy via non-carbon means. This will require extra CO₂ to be captured or extracted from the atmosphere (“engineered removals”) to counteract residual CO₂ emissions which might be expensive or impossible to eliminate, such as from international aviation, and to compensate for remaining emissions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases - especially from farming - which are costly to eliminate. Such CO₂ extraction methods include planting trees (afforestation) and direct air capture.

For Northamptonshire to match national government ambitions of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 - a 121 kt/year reduction of CO₂ emissions is required in the 33 years from 2017 (the most recent year for which greenhouse gas emission data is available with emissions totalling 4009.8 kt CO₂) to 2050. Precluding any carbon capture measures - **this equates to an overall annual 3% reduction in emissions**. The required sectorial reductions in carbon emissions are;

- 52 kt/year for the Transport sector,
- 36.3 kt/year for the Industry & Commercial sector, and
- 32.7 kt/year for the Domestic sector.

The actions associated with this Climate Change Strategy will support the uptake of measures which contribute towards the achievement of these national targets.

8. Plan and adapt to the impacts of climate change

8.1. Built Environment and Infrastructure

Significant growth is planned across Northamptonshire in the coming decade, with over 60,000 houses and associated infrastructure planned to be built by 2031. The National Infrastructure Commission also suggested the construction of 1 million new properties across the Ox-Cam Arc, to help support increased growth and development in this area to 2050⁴². As such there is a vital need to focus on and plan to adapt and mitigate against these substantial pressures and reduce their climate impacts.

The Local Plan documents of the county's planning authorities have been, or are in the process of being, reviewed to ensure policies are in place to encourage sustainable construction and adaptation. Surface water management plans for new developments have also been reviewed.

District and borough authorities are developing Green Infrastructure Plans as part of their evidence bases to inform their Part 2 Local Plans, which will help guide future infrastructure needs.

A number of Green Infrastructure projects have been implemented across the county. These include the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as part of NCC's role as the LLFA for Northamptonshire; working with KierWSP (the contractor working in partnership with the County Council) to maintain and improve the highways infrastructure; working with borough and district councils to increase the number of street trees in the county; and exploring opportunities for large scale woodland creation in planned sustainable urban extensions.

8.2. Healthy and Resilient Communities

The **Green Leaders** was a three year project funded via Big Lottery Fund and delivered by Groundwork Northamptonshire, which aims to recruit 50 young adults between 14-19 years old each year, to raise awareness of climate change issues and preparedness to impacts, in their local communities.

An update to the **Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy** was endorsed and approved by NCC Cabinet in November 2016 and covers the period until 2021, at which point the Strategy will be updated. An action plan is also updated and monitored annually detailing how local flood risk is being managed across the County.

Surface Water Management Plans⁴³ (SWMP) are now complete for all district and borough councils in Northamptonshire

⁴² MHCLG : The Oxford to Cambridge Arc
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799993/OxCam_Arc_Ambition.pdf

⁴³ See the 'Statutory and Project Documents' section of the Flood Library for the SWMPs -
<https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/>

A **Groundwater Flood Risk Study for Northamptonshire**⁴⁴ was completed in 2016 and serves to improve understanding of the risk from groundwater flooding in the county and as a result three groundwater monitoring systems have been installed in Boughton, Helmdon and Corby, which will collect data until 2021 to inform whether a county-wide groundwater alert system could be developed.

A process and formal protocol for the reporting and investigation of flooding incidents is in use and regularly exercised.

Northamptonshire County Council participated in three **Pathfinder Projects**, funded by DEFRA, as one of thirteen local authorities exploring the ways in which communities can be supported to improve their flood resilience. The Northamptonshire Pathfinder Project set out to provide information about community flood resilience through an online toolkit detailing 'how to' information on the actions residents, businesses and communities can take to improve their flood resilience. The Northamptonshire County Council Flood Toolkit is now live and publicly accessible: <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/>.

Northamptonshire County Council have also secured funding to carry out a **Property Flood Resilience Pathfinder** project across the Ox-Cam Arc, which will help support the uptake of Property Flood Resilience measures in communities and businesses.

The impact of climate change on health also needs to be considered. In particular, extreme weather conditions such as heat waves, severe cold snaps and flooding present challenges to the delivery of health services as well as introducing new risks to health. The NHS funded Sustainable Development Unit works to promote sustainability across the public health and social care system. They have developed a toolkit – “Under the Weather - Adapting to a changing climate”⁴⁵ – to support Health and Wellbeing boards, and others, and ensure organisations and communities are prepared for the impacts of climate change.

8.3. Natural Environment, Agriculture and Forestry

The Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) has created and restored 115 hectares of wildflower meadows, enhanced 4km of river through improvement to water quality and river habitats, and improved public access to the area which attracts 2.4 million visitors a year. A Business Plan for the NIA has been created, which covers 2015-2020⁴⁶.

An annual **Northamptonshire Tree Planting Scheme**, delivered in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, has resulted in over **250,000 trees being planted in schools, communities and farms** across Northamptonshire since 2012.

⁴⁴ See the 'Statutory and Project Documents' section of the Flood Library for the Groundwater Study - <https://www.floodtoolkit.com/pdf-library/>

⁴⁵ Under the Weather – Adapting to a changing climate - <http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/areas-of-focus/community-resilience.aspx>

⁴⁶ <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/Nene%20Valley%20NIA%202015-20%20Business%20Plan.pdf>

The **Yardley Whittlewood Ridge project** has engaged with over 250 landowners in an attempt to enhance ancient woodland habitats in the region with tree packs being delivered to over 40% of the landowners engaged.

There has also been the continued **development of the Guidance on Highway Tree Planting**, helping to encourage tree planting on new and existing developments, as well as a trial of a slow/low growing climate resilient grass seed mix for the county verges to help reduce maintenance costs and help in adapting to a changing climate. This trial was completed in 2016 and seed mix sent to Development Control to be used as the standard mix for the future.

Biodiversity in the county has improved, with the percentage of Local Wildlife Sites in positive management up to **43% in 2017/18**; from 22% in 2008/9.

The **Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 – 2020**⁴⁷ has now been published on the planning section of the NCC website. This document sets out the highest priorities for action to conserve Northamptonshire’s most threatened and declining habitats and species.

Numerous **Wildflower Projects** have been initiated by Daventry District Council since 2014, providing a total of 135 community groups with various mixes of wildflower seeds to improve biodiversity in their local community.

The **Nene Catchment Partnership**⁴⁸ (between Natural England, the Environment Agency and River Nene Regional Park) has been running since 2009 with the aim of promoting Catchment Sensitive Farming. This is land management that minimises pollution of watercourses through an arrangement of measures such as appropriate management of the use of fertilisers and pesticides and promoting good soil structure and rain infiltration.

8.4. Business, Industry and Commerce

Business and supply chain resilience is high on the agenda of many of the partners involved in the Climate Change Strategy.

The **Greater South East Energy Hub** is an excellent source of technical support regarding energy efficiency, or the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme.

SEMLEP also keeps a list of regularly updated business energy funding and networking opportunities on its website⁴⁹.

8.5. Local Government and Public Services

‘Planning to adapt’ activities will continue to be embedded into public sector processes, practices and policies.

⁴⁷ Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 - <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-policy/archaeology-biodiversity-and-landscape/Pages/biodiversity.aspx>

⁴⁸ River Nene Regional Park, Catchment Sensitive Farming - <http://www.riverneneregionalpark.org/projects/catchment-sensitive-farming-csf/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.semlep.com/energy/>

9. Implementation of the Climate Change Strategy

The Climate Change Strategy will continue to be implemented by NCCOG in association with a range of partners as relevant for each activity. In addition there are a number of groups that focus on specific areas of the Strategy (e.g. NCCOG, Northants Warm Homes, Northamptonshire Local Nature Partnership and many others) to ensure that the actions are taken forward and that objectives and targets are met.

Each year, the Strategy will be supported by an annual Action Plan that covers each area of the Strategy and provides additional information about what will be done, the measures that will be used to track progress, and the targets that have been set. The actions, which will follow the headings used in the Strategy, will highlight the 'lead organisation' for each activity and be funded/resourced appropriately.

These annual Action Plans will provide the framework for monitoring and capturing the various activities being undertaken to tackle the causes and effects of climate change. They will be actively monitored at the quarterly NCCOG meetings with progress on actions assessed using a RAG rating.

The Action Plan will be reviewed at the end of each financial year and a further Action Plan will be developed for the following year. Targets will also be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are consistent with the evolving science and any changes to related national or regional strategies.

This Climate Change Strategy covers the period 2020-23. Following this period, the Strategy will be reviewed to report on whether the objectives have been met, and to highlight any and all achievements over those three years. A refresh to this Strategy for 2023 will then be considered in light of any legislation changes, and national, regional and local priorities and in light of the formation of the two new Unitary authorities for Northamptonshire.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Northamptonshire Climate Change Officer Group (NCCOG) – Membership

Appendix 2 – Summary of emissions by Local Authority area

Appendix 1 – Northamptonshire Climate Change Officer Group (NCCOG) Current Membership

- Northamptonshire County Council
- Corby Borough Council
- Daventry District Council
- East Northamptonshire Council
- Kettering Borough Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- South Northamptonshire Council
- Borough Council of Wellingborough
- Northamptonshire Police
- Northamptonshire General Hospital
- University of Northampton
- SEMLEP
- Groundwork Trust
- Northamptonshire ACRE
- North Northants Joint Planning and Delivery Unit
- West Northants Joint Planning Unit
- Northamptonshire Waste Partnership
- Northants Warm Homes Partnership
- Northamptonshire Highways (KierWSP)
- Electric Corby
- Environment Agency
- Northampton Partnership Homes

Appendix 2 – Summary of emissions by Local Authority area (within scope of Local Authority influence)

| Local Authority Area | Year | Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO ₂) | Domestic Total (kt CO ₂) | Transport Total (kt CO ₂) | Grand Total Emissions (kt CO ₂) | Population ('000s) | Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t) | Domestic Per Capita (t) | Transport Per Capita (t) | Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t) |
|--------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Corby | 2005 | 462.0 | 138.7 | 94.3 | 695.1 | 54.5 | 8.5 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 12.8 |
| | 2006 | 458.8 | 138.2 | 92.7 | 689.6 | 55.4 | 8.3 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 12.4 |
| | 2007 | 440.0 | 134.4 | 92.8 | 667.1 | 56.8 | 7.7 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 11.7 |
| | 2008 | 423.7 | 134.2 | 88.4 | 646.3 | 57.9 | 7.3 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 11.2 |
| | 2009 | 364.9 | 122.3 | 85.8 | 573.0 | 59.0 | 6.2 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 9.7 |
| | 2010 | 412.2 | 133.0 | 85.7 | 630.9 | 60.1 | 6.9 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 10.5 |
| | 2011 | 357.2 | 117.0 | 84.0 | 558.1 | 61.6 | 5.8 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 9.1 |
| | 2012 | 385.8 | 124.9 | 82.5 | 593.3 | 63.1 | 6.1 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 9.4 |
| | 2013 | 385.9 | 123.3 | 82.4 | 591.6 | 64.2 | 6.0 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 9.2 |
| | 2014 | 328.6 | 103.6 | 85.2 | 517.4 | 65.4 | 5.0 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 7.9 |
| | 2015 | 297.5 | 102.4 | 87.2 | 487.2 | 66.9 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 7.3 |
| | 2016 | 280.7 | 101.3 | 85.7 | 467.8 | 68.3 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 6.8 |
| | 2017 | 269.7 | 98.3 | 84.9 | 452.9 | 69.5 | 3.9 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 6.5 |
| Percentage change | | -41.6% | -29.1% | -10% | -34.8% | 27.5% | -54.1% | -44% | -29.41% | -49.2% |
| Daventry | 2005 | 287.6 | 205.5 | 315.1 | 808.2 | 75.7 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 4.2 | 10.7 |
| | 2006 | 288.6 | 205.5 | 316.3 | 810.3 | 76.5 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 4.1 | 10.6 |
| | 2007 | 271.8 | 199.5 | 323.9 | 795.2 | 77.0 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 4.2 | 10.3 |
| | 2008 | 262.4 | 199.5 | 300.5 | 762.3 | 77.1 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 3.9 | 9.9 |
| | 2009 | 241.7 | 180.9 | 285.4 | 708.0 | 77.7 | 3.1 | 2.3 | 3.7 | 9.1 |
| | 2010 | 265.8 | 194.5 | 284.3 | 744.6 | 77.7 | 3.4 | 2.5 | 3.7 | 9.6 |
| | 2011 | 240.6 | 169.8 | 283.5 | 693.9 | 78.1 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 3.6 | 8.9 |
| | 2012 | 240.8 | 182.2 | 282.6 | 705.7 | 78.3 | 3.1 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 9.0 |
| | 2013 | 230.8 | 176.0 | 277.2 | 683.9 | 78.6 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 3.5 | 8.7 |
| | 2014 | 195.9 | 146.3 | 281.7 | 623.9 | 79.0 | 2.5 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 7.9 |
| | 2015 | 196.4 | 140.3 | 283.8 | 620.6 | 80.0 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 3.5 | 7.8 |
| | 2016 | 171.5 | 140.4 | 275.6 | 587.5 | 81.1 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 3.2 | 7.2 |
| | 2017 | 151.0 | 131.8 | 300.1 | 582.8 | 82.6 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 3.7 | 7.1 |
| Percentage change | | -47.4% | -35.9% | -4.8% | -27.9% | 9.1% | -52.6% | -40.7% | -11.9% | -33.6% |

| Local Authority Area | Year | Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO ₂) | Domestic Total (kt CO ₂) | Transport Total (kt CO ₂) | Grand Total Emissions (kt CO ₂) | Population ('000s) | Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t) | Domestic Per Capita (t) | Transport Per Capita (t) | Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t) |
|--------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| East Northamptonshire | 2005 | 168.1 | 213.0 | 272.6 | 653.7 | 81.9 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 8.0 |
| | 2006 | 172.5 | 213.4 | 269.2 | 655.1 | 83.3 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 7.9 |
| | 2007 | 162.3 | 209.0 | 271.7 | 642.9 | 84.8 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 7.6 |
| | 2008 | 156.4 | 207.5 | 258.6 | 622.5 | 85.6 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 7.3 |
| | 2009 | 139.5 | 188.5 | 248.0 | 576.0 | 85.9 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 6.7 |
| | 2010 | 153.3 | 204.6 | 243.1 | 601.0 | 86.3 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 7.0 |
| | 2011 | 137.3 | 177.6 | 238.4 | 553.3 | 86.9 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 6.4 |
| | 2012 | 145.0 | 192.0 | 238.3 | 575.3 | 87.4 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 6.6 |
| | 2013 | 132.5 | 185.7 | 235.6 | 553.8 | 88.0 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 6.3 |
| | 2014 | 136.8 | 155.4 | 239.5 | 531.7 | 88.9 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 6.0 |
| | 2015 | 168.2 | 150.0 | 247.6 | 565.8 | 89.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 2.8 | 6.3 |
| | 2016 | 116.4 | 149.2 | 247.8 | 513.3 | 91.4 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 5.6 |
| | 2017 | 105.0 | 138.9 | 253.5 | 497.4 | 93.1 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 5.3 |
| Percentage change | | -37.5% | -34.8% | -7% | -23.9% | 13.7% | -47.6% | -42.3.7% | -18.2% | -33.8% |
| Kettering | 2005 | 221.8 | 223.7 | 300.4 | 745.9 | 86.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 3.5 | 8.6 |
| | 2006 | 241.2 | 223.0 | 308.3 | 772.5 | 88.0 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 8.8 |
| | 2007 | 222.0 | 216.9 | 314.2 | 753.1 | 89.9 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 3.5 | 8.4 |
| | 2008 | 222.1 | 217.0 | 298.4 | 737.5 | 91.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 3.3 | 8.1 |
| | 2009 | 193.1 | 195.6 | 277.6 | 666.2 | 92.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 7.2 |
| | 2010 | 239.2 | 212.0 | 280.4 | 731.6 | 92.9 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 7.9 |
| | 2011 | 219.5 | 184.9 | 274.4 | 678.8 | 93.8 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.9 | 7.2 |
| | 2012 | 232.4 | 199.4 | 270.9 | 702.7 | 94.8 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 7.4 |
| | 2013 | 234.6 | 194.1 | 269.4 | 698.1 | 95.8 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.8 | 7.3 |
| | 2014 | 199.7 | 161.8 | 277.4 | 638.9 | 96.9 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 2.9 | 6.6 |
| | 2015 | 191.2 | 157.9 | 286.1 | 635.2 | 97.7 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 6.5 |
| | 2016 | 180.8 | 156.9 | 289.1 | 626.8 | 98.9 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 6.3 |
| | 2017 | 172.6 | 148.2 | 294.6 | 615.4 | 100.3 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 6.1 |
| Percentage change | | -22.2% | -33.7% | -1.9% | -17.5% | 15.8% | -34.6% | -42.3% | -17.1% | -29% |

| Local Authority Area | Year | Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO ₂) | Domestic Total (kt CO ₂) | Transport Total (kt CO ₂) | Grand Total Emissions (kt CO ₂) | Population ('000s) | Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t) | Domestic Per Capita (t) | Transport Per Capita (t) | Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t) |
|--------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Northampton | 2005 | 585.5 | 490.2 | 322.6 | 1,398.3 | 196.8 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 7.1 |
| | 2006 | 578.0 | 481.9 | 321.0 | 1,380.9 | 200.4 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 6.9 |
| | 2007 | 546.5 | 469.1 | 320.8 | 1,336.4 | 203.0 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 6.6 |
| | 2008 | 547.2 | 469.7 | 308.6 | 1,325.5 | 205.6 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 6.4 |
| | 2009 | 448.8 | 418.1 | 296.3 | 1,163.3 | 207.9 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 5.6 |
| | 2010 | 466.6 | 450.7 | 292.2 | 1,209.5 | 210.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 5.8 |
| | 2011 | 424.6 | 392.8 | 283.2 | 1,100.6 | 212.5 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 5.2 |
| | 2012 | 487.0 | 424.8 | 279.7 | 1,191.4 | 214.6 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 5.6 |
| | 2013 | 445.8 | 413.0 | 277.7 | 1,136.4 | 216.7 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.3 | 5.2 |
| | 2014 | 397.5 | 342.6 | 286.1 | 1,026.3 | 219.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 4.7 |
| | 2015 | 332.0 | 332.0 | 289.8 | 953.8 | 222.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 4.3 |
| | 2016 | 294.4 | 325.7 | 315.5 | 935.7 | 224.5 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 4.2 |
| | 2017 | 273.6 | 307.6 | 315.9 | 897.1 | 225.7 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 4.0 |
| Percentage change | | -53.3% | -37.2% | -2.1% | -35.8% | 14.7% | -60% | -44% | -12.5% | -43.7% |
| South Northamptonshire | 2005 | 220.1 | 225.6 | 292.1 | 737.7 | 84.9 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 8.7 |
| | 2006 | 217.3 | 226.6 | 289.2 | 733.1 | 85.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 8.6 |
| | 2007 | 203.9 | 222.6 | 293.2 | 719.7 | 85.9 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 8.4 |
| | 2008 | 204.5 | 222.7 | 279.6 | 706.8 | 85.8 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 8.2 |
| | 2009 | 189.1 | 199.7 | 264.4 | 653.2 | 85.7 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 7.6 |
| | 2010 | 195.1 | 216.0 | 261.6 | 672.7 | 85.6 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 7.9 |
| | 2011 | 177.0 | 189.6 | 257.6 | 624.2 | 85.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 3.0 | 7.3 |
| | 2012 | 198.0 | 203.2 | 257.6 | 658.8 | 86.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 7.6 |
| | 2013 | 189.8 | 197.3 | 255.3 | 642.3 | 87.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 7.4 |
| | 2014 | 190.7 | 166.2 | 260.5 | 617.4 | 88.2 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 3.0 | 7.0 |
| | 2015 | 167.1 | 159.5 | 270.0 | 596.6 | 89.1 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 6.7 |
| | 2016 | 137.0 | 156.6 | 285.7 | 579.3 | 89.9 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 3.1 | 6.4 |
| | 2017 | 128.2 | 145.7 | 291.1 | 565.0 | 91.1 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 3.2 | 6.2 |
| Percentage change | | -41.8% | -35.4% | -0.4% | -23.4% | 7.3% | -46.1% | -40.7% | -5.9% | -28.7% |

| Local Authority Area | Year | Industry and Commercial Total (kt CO ₂) | Domestic Total (kt CO ₂) | Transport Total (kt CO ₂) | Grand Total Emissions (kt CO ₂) | Population ('000s) | Industry and Commercial Per Capita (t) | Domestic Per Capita (t) | Transport Per Capita (t) | Grand Total Per Capita Emissions (t) |
|--------------------------|--------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Wellingborough | 2005 | 223.2 | 180.8 | 184.4 | 588.4 | 74.0 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 8.0 |
| | 2006 | 226.2 | 178.4 | 182.3 | 586.9 | 74.5 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 7.9 |
| | 2007 | 219.4 | 173.2 | 183.4 | 576.1 | 74.7 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 7.7 |
| | 2008 | 211.7 | 173.2 | 175.1 | 560.1 | 75.1 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 7.5 |
| | 2009 | 187.7 | 155.0 | 174.7 | 517.4 | 75.1 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 6.9 |
| | 2010 | 192.6 | 166.3 | 171.6 | 530.5 | 75.2 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 7.1 |
| | 2011 | 164.8 | 144.7 | 164.2 | 473.7 | 75.6 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 6.3 |
| | 2012 | 190.1 | 156.6 | 163.7 | 510.4 | 76.1 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 6.7 |
| | 2013 | 179.9 | 151.7 | 160.5 | 492.1 | 76.0 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 6.5 |
| | 2014 | 179.4 | 126.2 | 163.5 | 469.2 | 76.4 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 6.1 |
| | 2015 | 152.5 | 122.8 | 169.8 | 445.1 | 77.2 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 5.8 |
| | 2016 | 125.8 | 121.0 | 167.0 | 413.9 | 78.4 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 5.3 |
| 2017 | 115.6 | 114.6 | 169.0 | 399.2 | 78.9 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 5.1 | |
| Percentage change | | -48.2% | -36.6% | -8.3% | -32.1% | 6.6% | -50% | -37.5% | -16% | -36.2% |
| Northamptonshire Total | 2005 | 2,168.3 | 1,677.5 | 1,781.6 | 5,627.4 | 654.5 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 8.6 |
| | 2006 | 2,182.5 | 1,666.9 | 1,779.0 | 5,628.4 | 663.6 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 8.5 |
| | 2007 | 2,065.9 | 1,624.6 | 1,800.1 | 5,490.6 | 672.1 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 8.2 |
| | 2008 | 2,027.9 | 1,623.8 | 1,709.3 | 5,360.9 | 678.2 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 7.9 |
| | 2009 | 1,764.7 | 1,460.1 | 1,632.3 | 4,857.1 | 683.5 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 7.1 |
| | 2010 | 1,924.7 | 1,577.1 | 1,618.8 | 5,120.6 | 688.0 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 7.4 |
| | 2011 | 1,721.1 | 1,376.5 | 1,585.2 | 4,682.7 | 694.0 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 6.7 |
| | 2012 | 1,879.1 | 1,483.0 | 1,575.4 | 4,937.6 | 700.6 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 7.0 |
| | 2013 | 1,799.3 | 1,441.0 | 1,558.1 | 4,798.3 | 706.4 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 6.8 |
| | 2014 | 1,628.7 | 1,202.1 | 1,594.0 | 4,424.7 | 714.4 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 6.2 |
| | 2015 | 1,504.9 | 1,164.8 | 1,634.5 | 4,304.3 | 723.0 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 2.3 | 6.0 |
| | 2016 | 1306.7 | 1151.1 | 1666.4 | 4124.3 | 732.5 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 5.6 |
| 2017 | 1215.7 | 1085 | 1709.1 | 4009.8 | 741.2 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 5.4 | |
| Percentage change | | -44% | -35.3% | -4% | -28.8% | 13.2% | -51.5% | -42.3% | -14.8% | -37.2% |



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

Audit Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 at 10am

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

PRESENT (for all or part of the meeting):

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Bill Jessup (Independent Chairman) |
| Councillor Irving-Swift | Councillor Stephen Legg |
| Councillor Steve Osborne | Councillor Bill Parker |

Also in attendance (for all or part of the meeting)

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Mark Ashton | LGSS Interim Managing Director |
| Robin Bates | Head of Revenue and Benefits |
| Andrew Cardoza | Director, KPMG |
| Stephen Clarke | Partner, Ernst & Young |
| Dominic Donnini | Director of PLACE & Commercial |
| Ian Duncan | Executive Director of Finance |
| Jacinta Fru | Head of Audit West, LGSS |
| Barbel Gale | Democratic Services Assistant Manager |
| Gareth Jones | Service Director Public Sector IT Northamptonshire |
| Stephen Mangan | Audit and Risk Manager, LGSS |
| Maisie McInnes | Democracy Officer (Minutes) |
| Duncan Wilkinson | Chief Internal Auditor, LGSS |
| Susan Zeiss | Monitoring Officer |

There were 4 members of the press and public in attendance.

33/19 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Chief Executive, Theresa Grant.

34/19 Notification of Requests from Members of the Public to Address the Meeting

There were none.

35/19 Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

36/19 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Maisie McInnes, the new Democracy Officer to the Audit Committee and congratulated Barbel Gale on her promotion to Democratic Services Assistant Manager. He informed the committee that Maisie would assist the Audit

Committee with any committee matters going forward and to communicate with her directly.

The Chairman addressed the recent issue of the lateness of reports and expected that this would not happen for the next meeting on 28 November 2019. He informed the committee that Item 7A, Corporate Risk Register, would be presented by the Chief Executive at a future meeting, and that the report for item 11B, Northamptonshire County Council ISA 260 Action Plan, was not available. He expressed his sadness to hear the IT Director had recently been involved in a serious road traffic accident and given these circumstances the papers would be presented at the meeting but discussed at a future meeting.

The Chairman announced that it was Ian Duncan's last day at Northamptonshire County Council and personally thanked Ian for supporting him as Chairman and for his contribution to the Audit Committee. He confirmed that Dominic Donnini, the Executive Director of PLACE and Commercial had resigned from his position and would be leaving at the end of October.

37/19 Minutes of the committee meeting held in public on 30 July 2019

RESOLVED that: the Audit Committee agreed and signed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2019.

38/19 Northampton International Academy Report

At the Chairman's invitation, Duncan Wilkinson, Chief Internal Auditor, presented the report. The Chief Internal Auditor, explained that the genesis of the work carried out by Internal Audit was summarised in section 2 which started following a complaint from a member of the public, the Chief Executive tasked Internal Audit to review documentation relating to the project to provide an independent overview of the management of the project that resulted in the overspend.

He stated that the work derived from a resident's freedom of information (FOI) request so Internal Audit reviewed historic decisions not to release information requested, as well as the effectiveness of the project management and wider learning surrounding complaints handling and best value considerations. In addition to the report, Internal Audit had provided the complainant with a full schedule of information in respect to issues raised.

Through the submission of papers through the Audit Committee, the Council had been able to adhere to the need for transparency and evaluate the complaint in its entirety. He stated that Internal Audit had sought to consider all information requests by the complainant. A member questioned how many hours had been dedicated to fulfilling the request and in response Chief Internal Auditor responded by stating that multiple requests had been received over a period of several months. Therefore it was difficult to provide an exact answer to this question.

The Chief Internal Auditor went on to explain that in addition to the FOI request, Internal Audit reviewed all relevant cabinet reports from 2014 to date. From the review Internal Audit concluded in section 4 of the report that multiple factors combined to create a perception that information was being 'hidden' and with the benefit of hindsight the reports focussed on reassuring members rather than an objective evaluation of the risks and costs arising. Detailed information was included,

but not in a narrative that would have drawn members attention to the need for greater scrutiny of the reports provided to cabinet.

In section 4.2 of the report, Internal Audit considered the significant point made by the complainant in regards to effective project management and the need for best value. In the report, the Chief Internal Auditor emphasised that in the public sector, best value can be 'defined by wider socio-economic and environmental benefits' as drawn from the 1999 Local Government Act and Social Value Act 2012. In conclusion, if this was applied to the regeneration of the Brownfield site there is sufficient evidence that this did deliver best value.

In terms of budget, the Chief Internal Auditor iterated that it was important to note that the original budget was not adequate and did not contain a contingency. He stated that he was not convinced that members would have understood in reports relating to the budget that the budget was inadequate. Therefore it could be concluded that the narrative was focussed on reassuring members as opposed to highlighting the risks within the project and the potential risk mitigations that would be needed should certain presumptions prove unreliable. It was also important to note that the report considered whether fraud had occurred through collusion and no evidence had been found to support this.

Members felt that there was an issue with oversight regarding the project as problems stemmed from the decision to regenerate a derelict building rather than levelling the land and building upon this to save budget. The Chief Internal Auditor explained that the project was not the sole responsibility of the Council and joint decisions were made between the Education Funding Agency and Northamptonshire County Council. There had been a lack of clarity given the pressure for more school places and added time pressure that drove the project.

The Chief Internal Auditor moved on to state that in section 4.3 of the report, Internal Audit found that there was no persuasive reason not to provide the information that been requested by the complainant.

Members asked how we could move forward from this and ensure there was not a repeat of the instance in future. The Chief Internal Auditor responded by acknowledging that many improvements to the council have been made to date and lessons would be learned from this instance. The culture of the organisation had changed and officers knew to seek further advice from the monitoring officer if they were intending to refuse a FOI or on other matters. Improvements in terms of governance had been made with all reports going through an approval process which included the Commissioners and elected members before publication. The Decision Making SORP had recently been revised and was now regularly referred to during the decision making process.

The Chief Internal Auditor concluded his summary of the report by stating that the whole council had adopted the need for change and for a risk register to be used within projects. In future if funding was received for projects from any source an honest review to cabinet would be provided to decide how this should be best approached.

Members accepted that the organisation had worked hard to make improvements and this had been recognised by the commissioners at their latest address to the workforce. Members asked if there was an effective whistleblowing policy. The Chief Internal Auditor responded by stating that an increased effort to publicise the

whistleblowing policy had been made and as a result more referrals are being made which exemplifies the improved process. It was suggested that the Chief Executive could attend audit committee and provide a report and an update at a future meeting on how these learnings are being implemented within the wider council.

RESOLVED: The Audit Committee noted the findings and conclusion in the Report. The Chief Executive would be invited to the next meeting on 28 November to present an update.

39/19 Risk Management within PLACE & Commercial Directorate

At the Chairman's invitation, Dominic Donnini, the Executive Director of PLACE and commercial, presented the report and presentation (copies of which had been previously circulated) and made the following points:

- The PLACE risk management register was not solely at corporate level but filters down to service level risk.
- The Executive Director reported that monthly PLACE boards now take place, as well as boards for major projects and individual project boards.
- Mitigation meetings were held on a weekly basis and an increased understanding of risk was demonstrated allowing risk to be managed.
- Monthly finance reporting meetings were held to ensure budgets were discussed and understood within PLACE and the correct resourcing was acquired.
- Systems were in place to monitor severe weather and health and safety was a key priority. This was now on every agenda on the senior leadership team board.
- PLACE worked with external contractors to ensure members of the public remained safe particularly at waste recycling centres where risk was increased. There was regular communication and monitoring of gases to ensure health and safety was adhered to.
- Long term asset condition (highways, property, schools, and closed landfills) and how risk was managed was looked into to ensure mitigation in any case of asset failure.

Members felt that it would give them reassurance if a monthly report of incidents and accidents and how these were managed was provided. It was also asked if investigations of waste recycling centres are carried out regularly and if these were ad hoc or planned. The Executive Director of PLACE and commercial confirmed that random investigations took place.

Members asked about health and safety measures in regard to the use of asbestos. It was confirmed that rigorous cleaning of any material containing asbestos took place and that material which contained asbestos was safe until disturbed or damaged.

Members questioned what could be done regarding staff recruitment and retention and the Executive Director responded by stating that it was important to instil confidence into staff and ensure there was involvement with the move to Unitaries and managers communicated with their staff and had regular 1:1 meetings.

Concern was expressed regarding the cost to keep older buildings maintained. The Executive Director confirmed that budget was allocated to maintain those buildings.

It was important that listed bridges were maintained and remain safe. If there was a need for investment to be made a business case would be brought forward.

RESOLVED: That Audit Committee noted the report.

40/19 External Audit ISA 260 Report 2017/18 – September 2019

At the Chairman's invitation, Andrew Cardoza, Director of KPMG, presented the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) and made the following points:

- The final settlement of accounts was delayed until revaluation of One Angel Square had taken place. Page 20 of the report demonstrated the update from September. The valuation was intended to take place before the end of financial year 2017/18 but took place on 1st April 2018.
- The valuation on 1st April showed the valuation increased by £10m. This meant that KPMG had to consult with experts to decide which evaluation to use.
- KPMG were happy to sign off the accounts for 2017/18 with the fee variation to be agreed with the Executive Finance Officer and the Strategic Finance Manager.

The Director of KPMG thanked everyone on the Audit Committee for their diligence and thanked the accountants for their hard work. He announced that there would be a public interest report to address the overspend that would be produced within six months.

The Executive Finance Officer seconded the work of KPMG and thanked Andrew for his cooperation. He explained to the committee that the accounts for 2017/18 would be checked over once more before being signed off. The matter with fee variation and the cost of the report would be discussed outside of the meeting and finalised at a later point.

RESOLVED: That Audit Committee noted the report.

41/19 Draft External Audit 18/19 Timetable

At the Chairman's invitation, Steve Clark, Partner, Ernst & Young (EY) presented the verbal update. He stated the subject to the resignation of Andrew Cardoza, Director of KPMG, they would take over as auditor. There would be an indicative timetable brought to the meeting in November, along with an audit resource to the February meeting.

Members asked if the timetable presented at the meeting in November could include the outstanding accounts and current year accounts so the audit committee could aim to get back on schedule. In addition a timetable to take the committee through to the 2019/20 accounts. In response to this, EY recommended that the council produce its own timetable of when they would be looking at the accounts. The Head of Integrated Finance, Jon Lee, stated that the deadline for the draft accounts for 2018/19 would be 31st May 2020. He stated that it was to be decided how audit would fit around this process but finance would work towards that date.

Members also asked for a fee update to be provided by EY at the November meeting and for the Audit Committee to be aware of the key issues that would need be

addressed at the budget meeting in November. In response, EY stated that they had spent time on a significant number of issues which were relatively complex so the fee amount would be higher than the scale fee.

RESOLVED: That Audit Committee noted the report and approved that a timetable and fee update would be provided at the next meeting on 28 November 2019.

42/19 Internal Audit & Fraud Update Report for Period Ending 31st August 2019

At the Chairman's invitation, Jacinta Fru, Head of Audit West, presented the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) and made the following points:

- The report showed the team had worked hard to complete audits from 2018/19 and start to address audits from 2019/20.
- In terms of progress against the plan there were pressures in delivering the plan. To resolve this, a further update would be brought to the November meeting.
- The service are currently undertaking a recruitment exercise for a principle auditor post. To date, only one application has been received, and so the intention was to extend the closing date and extend the reach of the job advertisement if no further applications were received.
- The implementation of recommendation would be picked up as part of corporate action tracker and significant work has been undertaken on this by Internal Audit and the Council.
- Work undertaken by the counter fraud team had been very useful and they would continue to support the council in investigating fraud and providing advice.

A member asked the Executive Director of Finance what happened with Shaw Health Care. The Executive Director responded by stating that the contract with Shaw Health Care did not allow the Council to access information to do checks therefore they were unable to progress that audit due to that reason.

The Head of Audit West delegated to Robin Bates, Head of Revenue and Benefits, who presented the Internal Audit Debt Recovery Systems Report 5 June 2019 and made the following points:

- The report demonstrated six recommendations, and five of these were relevant to Northamptonshire County Council.
- In terms of aged debt, auto-reminder letters on the system had been disabled. The first recommendation stated that a review take place to determine whether this facility should be reintroduced. A proposal to switch turn on automated reminder letters was completed in July 2019. Following a test period it was decided reminders would be switched on 1 October 2019.
- The time line functionality had been amended so that reminders would be sent seven days after due date of payment so that avoidable customer contact was reduced.
- Automated write offs was investigated as write offs were being signed off without the relevant authorisation. The recommendation was to find a fix to the issue and automated write offs were disabled on the system as a result. The service are working with the Business systems team to test and fix this functionality and write off authorisation levels are also being reviewed.

- Third recommendation stated that unauthorised write offs should be investigated and that debt recovery managers should liaise with Business Systems Team to identify any write offs that had not been properly authorised. All known write offs during the period have been reviewed to ensure no unauthorised accounts had been written off without the required authorisation.
- The Debt Recovery Team were recommended to undertake review of write offs. £400k currently identified as doubtful debt and being investigated.
- Adult Social Care Debt of just under £18m with £11m of this being doubtful debts. Improved process at collecting debt. Reporting showed collected £3.8m more debt collected this year vs the same period last year.

Members asked how much debt the Council was likely to recover. The Head of Revenue and Benefits responded by confirming that there was debt that was highly collectable and was moving toward legal action or with collection agents. He hoped to present a much improved position in six months' time in terms of the overall managed debt position of the Council

The Executive Finance Officer seconded the work and confirmed that when write offs occurred, money was set aside to cover the write off. The activity of debt being managed through the recovery cycle including collection would be evident in the next monitoring report. It was asked if safeguards were in place, particularly in terms of adult social care debt, to ensure the vulnerable were not at risk. The Head of Revenue and Benefits confirmed that the relevant checks were in place so that vulnerable people would not be chased. Those who do have debt receive a huge amount of support where required and the service work hard to identify those struggling to cover repayments.

The Head of Revenue and Benefits delegated to Mark Ashton, LGSS Interim Managing Director and Gareth Jones, Service Director Public Sector IT Northamptonshire, who then presented the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) and made the following points:

- The key findings from the IT Disaster Recovery report showed that the service provided was not in line with the current business need of the Council.
- It was reported in the IT Governance report that the current strategy was not in line with the corporate strategy and was not incorporated in corporate risk.
- In terms of IT Procurement, there was a coordinated approach in how IT purchase equipment.
- In respect of hardware, it was reported that there was no disaster recovery planned other than the ERP primary data sensor and the backup stored in Cambridgeshire. It was confirmed that data was backed up.
- Lack of resilience within the data centre meant that there would be little ability to recover data if it was lost. It was recommended that we established recovery time objectives and invested in hardware servers or take out a third party contract.

Members felt that this matter should be urgently referred to the senior leadership team and that an update be provided at the November meeting. Members were very concerned and requested that the IT disaster recovery be looked into as a matter of urgency.

RESOLVED: That Audit Committee noted the report and an update would be provided at the next meeting on 28 November 2019 regarding the IT disaster recovery.

43/19 Corporate Actions Tracker

At the Chairman's invitation, Ian Duncan, Executive Director of Finance, presented the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) and made the following points:

- Information in the report was gathered by internal audit and management were responsible for ensuring actions were implemented.
- These recommendations were categorised as audit recommendations followed up with revised action dates and progress status provided; recommendations being followed up as part of audits with 2019/20 plan and recommendations where action due date was not yet scheduled for follow up.
- As part of the Internal Audit Action Plan 39 recommendations had been followed up.
- There were 52 outstanding actions scheduled where the date had not yet been reached.

Members felt that it was good to see audit placed high on the agenda by management.

RESOLVED: That the Audit Committee reviewed and monitored the progress of implementation of actions noted on the Corporate Action Tracker and considered management's responses.

44/19 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.05PM.

Maisie McInnes, Democracy Officer, Democratic Services

This Information can be made available in other formats upon request.
Please contact Maisie McInnes, Democracy Officer, and Democratic Services on telephone: 01604 366591 or E-mail: mmcinnnes@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Audit Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2019 at 10am

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

PRESENT (for all or part of the meeting):

Bill Jessup (Independent Chairman)
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift Councillor Bill Parker
Councillor Steve Osborne

Also in attendance (for all or part of the meeting)

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Councillor Malcolm Longley | Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance |
| Stephen Clarke | Partner, Ernst & Young |
| Jacinta Fru | Head of Audit West, LGSS |
| Barbel Gale | Democratic Services Assistant Manager |
| Stephen Mangan | Audit and Risk Manager, LGSS |
| Maisie McInnes | Democracy Officer (Minutes) |
| Peter Moore | Advisor to the Finance Commissioner |
| Bobby Mulheir | Advisor to the Finance Commissioner |
| Brian Roberts | Local Government Commissioner |
| Laura Rowley | Advisor to the Finance Commissioner |
| Barry Scarr | Executive Director of Finance |
| Sarah Ward | Service Manager |
| Duncan Wilkinson | Chief Internal Auditor |
| Susan Zeiss | Monitoring Officer |

45/19 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Stephen Legg and Councillor John McGhee.

46/19 Notification of Requests from Members of the Public to Address the Meeting

There were none.

47/19 Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

48/19 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman apologised for the mix up with the ordering of pages for item 9 Action Tracker, the remaining appendices could be found after item 10 Northampton International Academy Report. He explained that due to the pre-election period for

the General Election, the risk register had been postponed until February's meeting after consideration.

The Chairman announced that Jon Lee, Head of Integrated Finance Services, LGSS, had resigned from his post and would be moving onto pastures new. Jon was commended for having done a sterling job for the Council, and thanks were passed onto him for his hard work on behalf of the committee who wished him the very best for the future.

49/19 Minutes of the committee meeting held in public on 26 September 2019

RESOLVED that: the Audit Committee agreed and signed as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2019.

50/19 Financial Management Improvement Plan

At the Chairman's invitation, the Finance Commissioner Brian Roberts, introduced the report. He thanked the chairman for the opportunity to attend the Audit Committee and commended Audit for their diligence in papers being brought to the committee. He highlighted the role of the Audit Committee in improving Northamptonshire County Council's financial management. He shared that he regularly met with the Chairman of the Audit Committee, and how the Commissioners were impressed with the work of the committee and its vital role in monitoring the progress of the improvement plan and financial management.

The Commissioner recapped the financial situation of Northamptonshire County Council, with a recorded deficit of £40m in 2017/2018; a £30m overspend in 2018/2019; and a funding gap of £60m in 2019/2020. He explained that the council had dealt with the 2017/18 problem through capitalisation and depreciation and had applied for capital dispensation. The council had identified the problem and aimed to resolve the situation through financial monitoring and clear plans to manage the budget.

The Commissioners recognised the leadership team's and officer's responses to the financial problem and this had been put forward to the secretary of state. He emphasised that the financial situation had come a long way, but was still a work in progress. He announced he was pleased to see Steve Clark was present at the meeting and that the council would soon be working on the 2018/19 accounts and the Commissioners would be monitoring the budget closely, to ensure the council continued to be disciplined. The Commissioners were pleased with the good process made so far, and hoped the hard work would continue.

At the Chairman's invitation, Peter Moore and Bobby Mulheir, introduced the report. Peter Moore shared that he had 40 years' experience of working in Local Authority and held the position of Section 151 Officer at Lincolnshire County Council for 19 years. He currently helped undertake national reviews for the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and other financial bodies. Bobby Mulheir shared her background of working for Bracknell Forest Council, and her knowledge of Customer Service, Finance and IT.

Peter indicated that the Financial Management Capability Review report had been circulated previously to the committee, and set out the context and the scope of the

review as detailed in the report. He summarised that the review focussed on the following key areas:

- Effectiveness of the current structure and governance of the finance function, including the relationship with LGSS
- Performance management of the finance function
- The positioning and influence of the finance function
- Financial stewardship
- Budget management within services
- Financial management skills for non-financial staff

Over 40 people had been interviewed as part of the review process, internal documents were reviewed and the council itself was compared to 4 other similar authorities. No individuals were named within the review and evidence had been used within the report where possible.

Peter and Bobby thanked the council for their cooperation with the review and shared how they had received a positive response from officers in regards to being interviewed and requests for information. They reported that they had seen progress within the council during the time of their review so this should be encouraging news. However, there were some areas where work had been already started, but needed to be accelerated in order to keep the momentum going, and areas where work still needed to be done.

The table at the end of the report summarised 25 improvement areas. They concluded that these recommendations related to the culture of the organisation and the need for further training in some areas. The Financial Management Improvement Plan addressed these issues and looked at the updated financial management. Bobby highlighted that there were some good practices within the organisation, and some issues that still needed to be addressed. One of the issues was the disparity between budget holders/managers, as there was a divide between those who took ownership of their budget and those who did not take full responsibility or possessed a lack of financial knowledge and understanding. It appeared that there was a reluctance from some budget holders to acknowledge the seriousness of the council's financial situation. It was felt that this could be resolved by providing training to budget holders/managers and addressing the cultural issues.

In terms of audit, some managers were fearful of auditors and did not view audit as a positive prospect. This was seen by both internal and external auditors but there was more experience of this with internal auditors. Audit should be taken more seriously and welcomed as an opportunity for improvement and assurance. The Council's relationship with audit needs to be improved, there was a good relationship with internal audit.

Internal audit and the Audit Committee should be recognised for their important roles in ensuring good financial governance in the council. The action plan addressed the issue of a delay in actions being implemented and it was recognised that the Audit Committee was vital in monitoring the delivery of the action plan and ensuring actions were completed. They emphasised that the action plan should be a collective effort, and should be monitored by the senior leadership team and finance leadership team. Peter and Bobby thanked everyone for their cooperation and being open and honest to allow them to write the report.

Members asked if losing qualified staff would have a huge impact on the council and how this could be addressed. They asked for reassurance that the situation regarding the finances would not affect the council's ability to deliver the best service possible in the county, and in terms of risk what could be done differently in order to solve cultural issues within the organisation. In response, Bobby stated that it was a people issue rather than a technical issue so this could be addressed with internal marketing campaigns and workshops on how savings could be identified and how the Council could improve its budgeting.

Another point was that leadership saw differences in leadership focus, and it was vital that the corporate management team ensured everyone was going in the same direction using common language. The finance team needed to be developed so this would be a challenge for the Executive Director of Finance.

At the Chairman's invitation, the Executive Director of Finance Barry Scarr, discussed the Financial Management Improvement Plan. He summarised that the report picked up from previous finance reports and many of the actions listed in the report were already underway as part of the judgements made from the review. He stated that he endorsed the report and it was endorsed by the leadership team and showed the importance of financial management within the council. The vast majority of the report was action related, and showed leadership and culture elements. The Executive Director of Finance shared that the most important thing going forward was the need to put mechanisms to monitor improvement in place going forward and have the finance leadership team create more of a presence in the organisation and it was important to celebrate success. In terms of retrospective purchase orders, directorates should take responsibility and have more of a visual presence.

Members asked the Executive Director of Finance as a newly appointed director, what he envisaged could be done differently when he took up the position and who the programme manager would be in finance. The Executive Director of Finance responded that he had previously worked under Commissioners and in the next 8 months it was about how performance was monitored and to ensure that repeat non-performance was not tolerated and addressed. Individual training, monitoring and coaching should be given and changes implemented to ensure cultural processes are carried over to the Unitaries. He said that the finance team was to be restructured, but James Smith was currently the programme manager.

RESOLVED that: Audit Committee commented on the Financial Management Improvement Plan.

51/19 Internal Audit Update Report for period ending 30th October 2019

At the Chairman's invitation, the Head of Audit West, Jacinta Fru discussed the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). She explained the quarter 2 report was truncated given the context of purdah with the general election. Audit were not far off from achieving the audit plan but had full confidence they would achieve this soon. Point 3 of the report showed the list of audits since the last committee meeting and point 4 showed the implementation of management actions which would be picked up with the corporate tracker. In terms of service performance, they were currently at 32% against target of 40% so only slightly behind target. The report highlighted the number of unique factors at the Council in section 6.1.2 of the report and the pressures the service was under. Internal audit were confident they would be able to achieve 90%+ of the 2019-20 Internal Audit

Plan by the end of April 2020. As at the end of October 2019 the team's productivity was at 88% against target of 90% so only slightly behind target.

Members were concerned that fieldwork was still being done in quarter 3 which could impact progress in the upcoming months and asked if any of the items would be taken out of the plan. The Chief Internal Auditor, Duncan Wilkinson explained that internal audit were playing a degree of catch up but a new Principal Auditor had just taken up the position. There was an issue of resourcing people within Audit as a Senior Auditor had recently resigned who was a specialist in IT audit, based in Milton Keynes so it was a case of timing when they could come in to complete those audits. They were carefully having to time work, as they were at capacity and regular unplanned or additional work could be taken with additional resourcing or it was a case of officers prioritising work.

Members asked for clarification on what unplanned work consisted of and in response the Chief Internal Auditor explained that it varied from small end allegations and referrals, whistleblowing policy and that audit would receive a few every month, subject to risk assessment some would require no further action and some would require further work, depending on the nature of the allegation.

RESOLVED that: Audit Committee noted the report.

52/19 Action Tracker

At the Chairman's invitation, the Executive Director of Finance presented the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). He made the point that the report showed all of the items on the action tracker but for future meetings only the outstanding actions would be presented to the Audit committee. Members asked if the action tracker could include a system of rag rating and priority rating so the committee could analyse the information more easily. In response to this request the Executive Director of Finance agreed to implement this system in future reports.

RESOLVED that: Audit Committee noted the progress on implementation of audit actions and actions from various external inspections.

53/19 Update on the Approval of 2017-18 Accounts – Verbal Update

At the Chairman's invitation, the Executive Director of Finance updated the Audit committee. He explained that KPMG had received the final audits which meant that the Council could now liaise with Ernst & Young to move forwards with the 2018-19 audit. The final certificates had not been received as KPMG were still considering a public interest report.

RESOLVED that: Audit Committee noted the verbal update.

54/19 EY Verbal Update

At the Chairman's invitation, Steve Clark Partner, Ernst & Young, updated the Audit committee. He explained that the plan was to focus on pensions audit and counterparties. There were a number of issues and protocols that needed to be addressed such as the valuation of One Angel Square and the use of transformation monies. The biggest concern was completing the audits after 18/19 as the physical logistics of completing the 19/20 and 20/21 audits when the authority would have

disbanded would pose a challenge to the auditors. He confirmed that by February they should have a detailed timeline, a key audit plan, key judgemental issues, materiality and a better idea of fee estimates. After KPMG archived their files it would be 3-4 weeks until they would be able to review their files, which would bring them to January, so by February they would have a much clearer idea.

Members asked for reassurance that the auditors would not be short of people to deliver the contract and if there was any chance the Council could catch up with the accounts and get back on schedule. In response to this it was said that it was wholly unrealistic and the reality was that the Council would have a delayed set of accounts next June. As for staffing, the person who had put the account together was leaving but they would have resources in place. Northamptonshire County Council was a high profile account so they gave assurance they would have the right team to deliver audit quality. Our contract was not to deliver to timescale but to deliver quality.

RESOLVED that: Audit Committee noted the verbal update.

55/19 Northampton International Academy Report

At the Chairman's invitation, the Chief Internal Auditor Duncan Wilkinson, introduced and discussed the report (copies of which had previously been circulated). He explained that at the last meeting an extensive audit report on Northampton International Academy issue was brought to the committee, and this follow up report would address the clarification that members requested. The first point was the estimated cost of managing the complaints, on this point we had been partially successful and had provided a blended daily rate across seniority. However, they were unable to give exact numbers as it took a significant amount of time from a number of senior officers. The second point the committee asked for was wider learning which was covered in the report.

Members asked if a timing sheet to record the amount of time spent dealing with a complaint could be produced. The Chief Internal Auditor responded that it would not be proportionate to introduce a complaint timing system but they did need to consider the establishment of a trigger process if a complaint became vexatious.

RESOLVED that: Audit Committee noted the management action in respect of the wider learning set out in the Audit report.

56/19 Audit Committee Meeting Dates 2020-21

The Chairman outlined the Audit Committee meeting dates for 2020-21 and proposed that the dates should be agreed, rooms booked in advance and recorded in diaries. The proposed date for February had been moved forward to 13 February, and the other dates may be changed once Ernst & Young and the Executive Director of Finance agreed a timetable for the accounts.

RESOLVED that: Audit Committee noted the change of date for the meeting in February and approved the meeting dates for 2020-21.

57/19 Urgent Business

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:58AM.

Maisie McInnes, Democracy Officer, Democratic Services

This Information can be made available in other formats upon request.
Please contact Maisie McInnes, Democracy Officer, and Democratic Services on
telephone: 01604 366591 or E-mail: mmcinnnes@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2019

* Statements in bold indicate additional/amended resolutions made in the meeting

🔑 Denotes a key decision

| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|----------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 03. | 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. | Maisie McInnes Barbel Gale |
| 06. | Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31 st March 2020, as at period 7 | 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. | Iain Jenkins Barry Scarr |
| 07. 🔑 | Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at period 7 for the financial year ending 31st March 2020 | 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 | Andrea Devereux Barry Scarr |
| 08. 🔑 | Corporate Performance Report: 2019-20 quarter two | RESOLVED: That Cabinet: noted the contents of the 2019-20 quarter two performance report at Appendix A. | Richard Corless Theresa Grant |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2019

* Statements in bold indicate additional/amended resolutions made in the meeting

🔑 Denotes a key decision

| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|----------|---|---|------------------------------|
| 09. 🔑 | Northamptonshire County Council's Equality Objectives 2019-2021 | 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 | Emma Gadsby Theresa Grant |
| 10. 🔑 | Expansion of Bus Lane Enforcement | 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. | Nick Henstock Neil Taylor |
| 11. 🔑 | Procurement of a new archive and storage retrieval contract | 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. | Nick Byrom Susan Zeiss |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2019

* Statements in bold indicate additional/amended resolutions made in the meeting

🔑 Denotes a key decision

| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|----------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 12. 🔑 | Safe transition to the end of the Social Wellbeing contract and future commissioning intentions | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet agrees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | Rhosyn Harris Lucy Wightman |
| 13. | Children's Trust Memorandum of Understanding | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | Luiza Morris-Warren Theresa Grant |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2019

* Statements in bold indicate additional/amended resolutions made in the meeting

🔑 Denotes a key decision

| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|------|-------|---|-----------------------|
| | | <p>Services Commissioner Team towards the establishment of a wholly-owned council company for the delivery of children’s social care services in Northamptonshire;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 17 December 2019

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|----------|---|---|------------------------------|
| 14. 🔑 | A Social Prescribing Social Impact Bond | 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. | Lucy Wightman |
| 15. 🔑 | The future sustainability of Chester Farm | 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. | Kerry Purnell Barry Scarr |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2020

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| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|----------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 03. | Minutes of the meeting held in public on 17 December 2019 | RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 17 December 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record. | Maisie McInnes Barbel Gale |
| 06. | Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31 st March 2020, as at period 8. | 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. | Iain Jenkins Barry Scarr |
| 07. 🔑 | Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at period 8 for the financial year ending 31st March 2020 | RESOLVED: That Cabinet: 1. Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £75m for 2019-20. 2. Approved and recommend the inclusion of two new schemes into the Capital Programme with investment totalling £383k: i. Libraries Free Public Access Wi-Fi - £83k ii. Chedworth House - £300k 3. Approved the promotion of the Tablet Refresh scheme into the committed capital programme with investment totalling £400k Further detail on the above schemes can be found in Section 8. | Andrea Devereux Barry Scarr |
| 08. 🔑 | Proposal to close Evelyn Wright care home and transfer the customers to other services which are better able to support their care in the longer term. | RESOLVED: That Cabinet: 1. Considered the notes and feedback received from the consultation process 2. Agreed to the closure of Evelyn Wright Care home and transfer of the customers to other services 3. Declared the Property surplus to requirements once the service has closed and delegate authority to the Executive Director Place and Commercial in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place and the Cabinet Member for Finance to agree the terms of any disposal 4. Noted the contents of this report. 5. Noted the content of the Equality Impact Assessment. | Katie Brown Anna Earnshaw |

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|----------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 09. 🔑 | Street Lighting PFI Contract Deed of Variation relating to Project Synergies, LED upgrades and amendments to the Project Agreement | RESOLVED: That Cabinet: 1. Noted that none of the proposed variations require a change to the Street Lighting Policy 2. 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 agree and sign the Deed of Variation | Steve Lilley Neil Taylor |
| 10. 🔑 | Determination of the admission arrangements for schools where Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) is the admission authority for the 2021 intake. | RESOLVED: That Cabinet: 1. Determined the 2021 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 2021 intakes remain the same as those for the 2020 intakes; 2. Agreed the 'relevant area' for schools in Northamptonshire. The 'relevant area' is defined as the area of the local education authority (e.g. the geographical area covering all schools in Northamptonshire and contiguous local authorities); 3. Agreed the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated schemes used by the School Admissions Team to allocate pupils (aged 4+, 7+ and 10+) at the normal point of entry. An explanation of the schemes can be found in section 1.4 of this report. | Jan Baines Cathi Hadley |
| 11. | Northamptonshire Health, Care & Wellbeing Plan | This item was withdrawn. | |
| 12. 🔑 | Energy Procurement Risk Management Strategy | RESOLVED: That Cabinet: 1. Noted the success of the previously agreed, existing Risk Management Strategy with the LASER Energy Buying Group (as detailed in Sections 2 | Darren Perry Neil Taylor |

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| | | <p>& 7.2 and Appendices A, B & C of the main report).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Noted the contribution that the strategy has made to the financial operations of the Council and ongoing cost saving of energy and carbon management activities. 3. Approved the award of new energy contracts for the period from October 2020 to September 2024 that are based upon procuring via a public sector consortium contract using the LASER Energy Buying Group (as detailed in Section 6 of the main report). 4. Agreed a specification that the Council's energy be secured from green energy (as detailed in Section 6.9 of the main report). 5. Agreed to the extension of the scope of any agreed contracts to include other public sector bodies or service providers to the Council (as described in para. 8.2 of the main report). 6. Delegated authority to the Interim Director for Place & Commercial in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Place, to proceed with detailed negotiation, procurement and award of the contracts. | |
| 13. 🔑 | Early Intervention/Targeted Support Services for Children in Corby from 2020/21 onwards. | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Agreed to grant a further contract on the same terms and conditions to the existing supplier for the period up to 31st March 2021. ii. Agreed to the waiver of the Contract Procedure Rules in the NCC Constitution in order to make the direct award of this contract without a competitive process. <p>That Cabinet also:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> iii. 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 Early Intervention/Targeted Support Services for Children under 5 years old and their families in Corby from 1st April 2021 onwards. | Sarah Burr Cathi Hadley |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2020

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Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2020

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✂ Denotes a key decision

| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 03. | Minutes of the meeting held in public on 14 January 2020 | RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 14 January 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. | Maisie McInnes Barbel Gale |
| 06. | Scrutiny Review of Draft 2020/21 Council Budget Proposals | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted the headline themes from the Budget Scrutiny Review as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report. 2) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers that the proposed investment included in the Northamptonshire Adult Social Services draft budget for inflation, demography and re-baselining seems well-considered and reasonable. 3) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the following draft budget proposals to be deliverable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19-001-16 (Fair contributions policy) • 18-001-11 (Learning disability programme – new learning disability provider framework) • 18-001-19 (Shaw PFI programme – contract variation) 4) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers proposal 19-001-08 (Rapid response falls & admission avoidance service) to be deliverable and that the Committee supports the approach reflected in the new service. 5) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is concerned about the level of risk to the full delivery of proposal 19-001-14 (Strengths based working) in 2020/21 in light of questions about the timing of the appointment of the external partner and the use of external case studies to inform the Council's approach. 6) Agreed to ensure it is confident in the deliverability of proposal 19-001-14 (Strengths based working) before it recommends the proposal to Full | Barry Scarr Councillor Longley |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2020

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|------|-------|---|-----------------------|
| | | <p>Council.</p> <p>7) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee supports the need for investment in the Children First Northamptonshire budget for inflation, demography and re-baselining.</p> <p>8) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee remains concerned about whether the proposed investment included in the Children First Northamptonshire draft budget is sufficiently well-considered, with particular regard to the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of the new children’s social worker career pathway achieving its intended outcomes • The degree of challenge involved in the service area • The track record of achieving service improvement in the service area • Potential risks to different elements of the proposed investment <p>9) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee supports the identification of in-house foster care capacity as an area where savings can potentially be achieved but that the Committee is not confident that the full saving from proposals 19-002-02 (Improvement in capacity building in foster care) and 19-002-10 (In-house foster carers) can be delivered in 2020/21.</p> <p>10) Agreed to ensure it is confident in the deliverability of proposals 19-002-02 (Improvement in capacity building in foster care) and 19-002-10 (In-house foster carers) before it recommends the proposals to Full Council.</p> <p>11) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee supports the identification of the functions covered by proposal 19-002-07 (Improved children’s outcomes) as areas where savings can potentially be achieved.</p> <p>12) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is concerned about the level of risk to the full delivery of proposal 19-002-07 (Improved children’s outcomes) in 2020/21 in light of questions about the robustness of the</p> | |

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| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | | <p>£588,000 figure and the importance of securing Department for Education funding.</p> <p>13) Agreed to ensure it is confident in the deliverability of proposal 19-002-07 (Improved children's outcomes) before it recommends the proposal to Full Council.</p> <p>14) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers that the proposed investment included in the Place draft budget for inflation, demography and re-baselining seems well-considered and reasonable.</p> <p>15) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers that proposal 18-006-10 (Targeted delivery of road maintenance) should not proceed due to the risk that its impact will have unintended consequences that outweigh the benefit of the proposed saving.</p> <p>16) Recognised that the Overview & Scrutiny is not confident that the full saving from proposal 19-006-03 (Home to school transport) can be delivered in 2020/21.</p> <p>17) Agreed to ensure it is confident in the deliverability of proposal 19-006-03 (Home to school transport) before it recommends the proposal to Full Council.</p> <p>18) Agreed to ensure it is confident in the deliverability of proposal 19-006-13 (Bus lane enforcement) before it recommends the proposal to Full Council.</p> <p>19) Agreed to ensure it is confident that proposal 19-004-05 (Customer service centre) will not risk producing unintended consequences that may outweigh the benefit of the proposed saving before it recommends the proposal to Full Council.</p> | |
| 07. | Final Budget 2020-21 | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved and recommended to Council:</p> <p>a) The Revenue Budget 2020-21, which sets:</p> <p>i. Subject to approval of the 'Fair Contributions Policy' report within this</p> | Iain Jenkins Barry Scarr |

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|------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|---|--------|-------|--------|---|--------|-------|--------|---|----------|--------|----------|---|----------|--------|----------|---|----------|--------|----------|---|----------|--------|----------|---|----------|--------|----------|---|----------|--------|----------|--|
| ⚡ | | <p>Cabinet agenda, a gross General Fund Revenue Budget of £645.87m and a Net Revenue Budget of £445.71m,</p> <p>ii. A total Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020-21 of £321.06m</p> <p>iii. A Band D Council Tax of £1,285.42, an increase of 3.99% (1.99% on 'core' Council Tax and 2.00% on Social Care Precept) from 2019-20 with Band A to H Northamptonshire County Council precept detail for 2020-21 as set out in the table below</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Council Tax Band</th> <th style="text-align: center;">'Core' Council Tax £</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Social Care Precept £</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A</td> <td style="text-align: right;">780.66</td> <td style="text-align: right;">76.29</td> <td style="text-align: right;">856.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">B</td> <td style="text-align: right;">910.76</td> <td style="text-align: right;">89.01</td> <td style="text-align: right;">999.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">C</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,040.88</td> <td style="text-align: right;">101.72</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,142.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">D</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,170.98</td> <td style="text-align: right;">114.44</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,285.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,431.20</td> <td style="text-align: right;">139.87</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,571.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,691.42</td> <td style="text-align: right;">165.30</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,856.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">G</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,951.64</td> <td style="text-align: right;">190.73</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,142.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">H</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,341.96</td> <td style="text-align: right;">228.88</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,570.84</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>b) The detailed proposals underpinning the revenue budget for 2020-21 as set out within Appendix B.</p> <p>c) The fees and charges for 2020-21 as set out within Appendix C.</p> <p>d) The utilisation of Dedicated Schools Grant for 2020-21 as at Appendix E.</p> <p>e) The Capital Strategy as at Appendix F.</p> | Council Tax Band | 'Core' Council Tax £ | Social Care Precept £ | Total £ | A | 780.66 | 76.29 | 856.95 | B | 910.76 | 89.01 | 999.77 | C | 1,040.88 | 101.72 | 1,142.60 | D | 1,170.98 | 114.44 | 1,285.42 | E | 1,431.20 | 139.87 | 1,571.07 | F | 1,691.42 | 165.30 | 1,856.72 | G | 1,951.64 | 190.73 | 2,142.37 | H | 2,341.96 | 228.88 | 2,570.84 | |
| Council Tax Band | 'Core' Council Tax £ | Social Care Precept £ | Total £ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A | 780.66 | 76.29 | 856.95 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B | 910.76 | 89.01 | 999.77 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C | 1,040.88 | 101.72 | 1,142.60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | 1,170.98 | 114.44 | 1,285.42 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E | 1,431.20 | 139.87 | 1,571.07 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F | 1,691.42 | 165.30 | 1,856.72 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| G | 1,951.64 | 190.73 | 2,142.37 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H | 2,341.96 | 228.88 | 2,570.84 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | | <p>f) The Treasury Management Strategy 2020-21 as at Appendix G, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Prudential Indicators, including the Capital Financing Requirement of £680.0m and the Authorised Borrowing Requirement of £750.0m, ii. The Annual Investment Strategy as at Appendix G-5. <p>g) The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as at Appendix G-4.</p> <p>h) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as at Appendix H, which sets out the latest transformation projects to be funded by the flexible use of capital receipts.</p> <p>That Cabinet noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Consultation feedback as at Appendix I as having been taken into consideration. j) The Equality Impact feedback as at Appendix J as having been taken into consideration. k) The Chief Finance Officer's Section 25 Report as at Appendix K. <p>That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> l) Approved the responses to the Scrutiny recommendations as at Appendix L. m) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Finance to manage any variation in budget prior to the start of 2020-21 as a result of final confirmation of funding/income, or unforeseen commitments; in consultation with the Chief Executive, Commissioners and Finance | |

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| | | Portfolio Holder. | |
| 08. | This is the revenue monitoring report for the third quarter of the financial year 2019-20 | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2019-20 of £29k surplus and associated risk assessment. 2. Noted that the projected surplus of £29k includes a projected shortfall of £8.1m arising from the under-delivery of savings. The risk assessment of the delivery of saving proposals is set out in Appendix B. | Iain Jenkins Barry Scarr |
| 09. 🔑 | Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn as at Period 9 for the financial year ending 31 st March 2020 | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £70m for 2019-20. 2. Approved and recommend the inclusion of four new schemes into the Capital Programme with investment totalling £3,328k: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Country Parks Pay & Display Equipment - £35k ii. Elizabeth Woodville School S106 Scheme - £68k iii. LGSS Law Refinancing - £475k iv. Northampton School for Girls extension of facilities - £2,750k 3. Approved the extension of three schemes within the current capital programme with investment totalling £285k: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Server 2008 - £72k ii. Manor School S106 Works - £46k iii. Community Libraries Programme £167k 4. Approved the closure and reduction of £392k in capital investment for the William Knibb refurbishment scheme within the current capital programme. | Andrea Devereux Barry Scarr |
| 10. 🔑 | Northamptonshire Highway Services Contract Scrutiny Review | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed to consider the recommended areas for action set out in the Northamptonshire Highway Services Contract Scrutiny Review; and 2. Agreed to provide a written response to the Overview & Scrutiny | Neil Taylor Councillor Smithers |

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|----------|---|---|---|
| | | Committee identifying actions it proposes to take as a result of the Scrutiny Review and the timescales for this. | |
| 11. 🔑 | Supporting Economic Growth and Better Outcomes through Digital Infrastructure, Ultra-Low Emission Charging, Harnessing Technology and Construction Skills | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed the approach outlined in the report to increase full-fibre coverage, including the target of 40% coverage by December 2023 2. Welcomed the approval of the Digital Northampton European Regional Development Fund Priority Axis 2 outline bid and agrees that a full application be submitted 3. Supported the concept of a Digital Hub at the Central Library in Northampton as part of a wider transformation of the building 4. Supported proactive work with ULEV charge point operators, including through the VPACH2 project, to enable the installation of charging points for plug-in electric vehicles and introduce associated parking bays and restrictions 5. Endorsed the proposals to encourage active travel and public transport use through new initiatives 6. Welcomed the outcomes and outputs achieved to date through the Northamptonshire Construction Skills Centre programme and agrees that opportunities be explored to extend the initiative 7. Delegated authority to the Interim Executive Director of Place and Commercial, in liaison with the Cabinet member, to submit the required funding applications, and authorise the required agreements, including any contract variations, to deliver the agreed recommendations | <p>Ian Achurch Sarah Ellwood Esme Cushing Neil Taylor</p> |
| 12. | Procurement of Adult Weight Management Services | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public | <p>Chloe Gay Lucy Wightman</p> |

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
🔑 Denotes a key decision

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| 🔑 | | <p>Health to procure Tier 2 Weight management Services through an open tender process.</p> <p>2. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to develop and procure Tier 1 community based to support people to address the causes of obesity.</p> | |
| 13. 🔑 | Fees and Charges Policy for Adult Social Care | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considered the notes and feedback analysis from the consultation process (report and analysis) 2. Noted the content of this report 3. Noted the content of the Equality Impact Assessments 4. Agreed to implement the charging proposals which were the subject of a recent consultation 5. Agreed the new Fees and Charges Policy for Adult Social Care incorporating the changes following consultation (effective 1st April 2020) and delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Services to take any actions necessary to bring the new Policy into effect | Ashley Leduc Anna Earnshaw |
| 14. 🔑 | LGSS ERP Gold Cloud Hosting Procurement | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the procurement of a new cloud hosting service for ERP Gold; 2. Granted delegated authority to the Managing Director of LGSS, in consultation with the Finance Portfolio Holder to make an award to the successful provider. | Shaun Fennings Mark Ashton |
| 15. 🔑 | Integrated Children's Services (Public Health and CCG) | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Finance, to extend a Section 75 agreement (or | Margaret Eni-Olotu Lucy Wightman |

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| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
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| | | <p>equivalent public sector agreement) with partners, Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to jointly procure 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services and a range of health commissioned services supporting children and young people in Northants from April 2021 – March 2025 with an option to extend for up to a further four years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in collaboration with the Director of Children Services and Cabinet Member for Public Health, to agree future governance arrangements for this service with the CCGs. 3. Agreed to extend the current S75 arrangement for the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service beyond April 20/21 so to align with the ambition outlined in the Northamptonshire Health, Care and Wellbeing Plan and integrated cross-county commissioning arrangements for 0-25 year olds. 4. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Finance, to secure 0-19s Public Health Nursing Services from April 2021 – March 2025, with an option to extend for up to a further four years through a Section 75 agreement (or equivalent public sector agreement) and to secure services via an open tender process in the event that the approval for Section 75 Agreement extension is not in place by April 2020. | |
| 16.  | <p>Community Safety Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy 2019-2022 • Tackling Anti-Social | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted and approved the contents of the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy 2019-2022 • Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2019-2022 • Action Against Hate Strategy 2019-2022 | <p>Lisa Morris Tom Mead Kerry Purnell</p> |

Cabinet Decision Statement for meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2020

* Statements in bold indicate additional/amended resolutions made in the meeting

🔑 Denotes a key decision

| Item | Topic | Resolutions | Action to be taken by |
|----------|--|---|-----------------------|
| | Behaviour Strategy 2019-2022 • Action Against Hate Strategy 2019-2022 • Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Strategy 2019-2021 | • Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism Strategy 2019-2021' That the Community Safety Board be notified of the Councils approval | |
| 17. 🔑 | Target Operating Model NASS | 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. | Anna Earnshaw |



COUNCIL

19 March 2020

Report by: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Report by the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee |
| Recommendations: | That Council notes the report. |

Scrutiny of the draft 2020/21 Council budget has been the main focus of activity by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the period since my last report, as councillors would expect. The Committee needed to ensure it made an effective contribution to the development of the last budget to be set by Northamptonshire County Council. I hope it is generally agreed that the Committee met this challenge.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee was assisted this year by the earlier publication of the draft budget and by the amount of information it received from Council directorates about specific proposals. In turn, the Committee was able to take a more considered approach to its task, which focussed its attention on those areas of the draft budget where this was most merited. Crucially, this included proposed investments intended to address underlying pressures and re-baseline services as well as proposed savings. The Committee ultimately concluded that this draft budget was generally more robust than previous examples. At the same time, it highlighted risks associated with proposals where full delivery was dependent on reaching agreement with third parties or on service changes that were still being put in place. The Committee was also particularly aware that the deliverability of this budget would have a significant impact on the legacy left for the new Northamptonshire unitary authorities. The Committee’s final report included recommendations urging the Cabinet to ensure it was confident in the ability to deliver proposed savings relating to the Adult Social Services target operating model, in-house foster care provision and home to school transport; the Committee recommended that the proposed saving on highways maintenance should not proceed due to the risk of its impact outweighing the intended benefit. Now that the 2020/21 budget has been agreed the Committee will monitor delivery in-year in the hope that that the risks it highlighted to the Cabinet do not arise.

Overview & Scrutiny concluded a second piece of task-and-finish work at the end of 2019 on the Northamptonshire Highway Services Contract. This scrutiny review was set up to look at the operation of the contract and the effectiveness of services delivered under it, reflecting the significant value of the contract, its high-profile nature and issues relating to the value for money of highway services that had been reported to Committee members by local residents. Based on the information it gathered the scrutiny working group’s key conclusion concerned the need for the Council to increase its in-house capacity to monitor the operation of the Highway Services Contract and the service provider’s performance against key targets. The scrutiny working group also encouraged the Council to maximise the use of new technology in highway services in the interests of cost-effectiveness; to enhance public communication about the criteria and timescales for highway works; and

to consider the case for protecting and prioritising the budget for this service area to a greater extent relative to other potential uses. The Cabinet agreed to give further consideration to the areas for action identified by the scrutiny review and to advise the Committee of resulting actions.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has used recent formal meetings to scrutinise specific projects underway in the county that will shape future service delivery in different areas. In December the Committee considered the latest position regarding the Chester Farm project in light of the Council's continuing financial contribution to it. The Committee sought to check the robustness of the refreshed business plan agreed by the Cabinet and the approach it proposed to get Chester Farm to a financially sustainable position. The Committee supported the need to maximise the benefit of the Chester Farm asset, reflecting its significance as an archaeological and heritage site and the Council's legal responsibilities for preserving it. However, the Committee concluded that there remained risks connected with the business plan and particularly questioned whether Chester Farm could be considered a commercial proposition when the financial plan relies on previous capital investment and continuing revenue funding from the Council and its successor.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee also met with the Children's Commissioner in February to discuss the forthcoming creation of the Northamptonshire Children's Trust and the process for managing the transition from the Council's existing children's services. The Committee saw a case for scrutinising this matter from a finance, service improvement and risk perspective, whilst recognising that the decision to create the Trust was taken at a national level. As a result of its scrutiny the Committee highlighted a range of challenges that must be addressed in the remaining period before the Trust comes into operation, including the additional risks connected with establishing a trust at the same time as reorganising local government in the county; the importance of maintaining current children's services improvement work; and the need for the Council and the Trust to develop an effective working relationship that reduces the risk of disconnection between the Trust's operational independence and the Council's continuing statutory responsibility for children's services. The Committee also highlighted the need for in-depth monitoring of the service delivery contract during its life. The Committee agreed to send its conclusions directly to the portfolio holder: it will also be circulating them to all councillors.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is now looking beyond the end of the current municipal year when considering future topics for scrutiny. Its activity in 2020/21 will reflect the establishment of the shadow authorities and is likely to focus on those areas that will have the most significant implications for the situation handed on to the new unitary authorities: the delivery of the Council's budget and children's services performance. Overview & Scrutiny will continue to strive to make a difference to Northamptonshire and its residents in this way.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 1: Overview & Scrutiny Committee action notes

- a) Meeting on 27th November 2019
- b) Meeting on 18th December 2019
- c) Meeting on 29th January 2020
- d) Meeting on 26th February 2020

a) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (27 November 2019) – Outcomes

| Item | Subject | Resolution |
|------|---|---|
| 5. | Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 30 th October 2019 | RESOLVED that: the Committee agrees the accuracy of the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 30 th October 2019. |
| 6. | Overview of the Draft Council Budget 2020/21 | <p>RESOLVED that: the Committee:</p> <p>a) Requests further written information explaining the make up of the Fees & Charges line in the Budget Summary 2020/21 included in the draft budget report and the reduction from £34m in 2019/20 to £25m in 2020/21.</p> <p>b) Requests to be advised when the district and borough councils confirm their Collection Fund positions to the Council and the implications of this for the tax base and Collection Fund surplus.</p> <p>c) Agrees the importance of the Budget Scrutiny Review considering proposed investments included in the draft budget 2020/21 in addition to savings proposals.</p> <p>d) Requests that information is provided in advance of Budget Scrutiny Review challenge sessions identifying the directorate budget proposals that are based on a business case and which of those business cases are still to be signed-off.</p> <p>e) Agrees to add the Northamptonshire Adult Social Services draft budget proposal on the Fair Contributions Policy to the list of areas selected for consideration during the Budget Scrutiny Review.</p> <p>f) Requests that written briefing information be provided to all councillors on the latest position regarding the Voluntary & Community Sector organisations funded through the current social wellbeing contract and actions on this matter to be taken as a result of the motion agreed by Full Council on 21st November 2019.</p> |

| Item | Subject | Resolution |
|------|--|--|
| 7. | Children's Services – Placement Costs | <p>RESOLVED that: the Committee:</p> <p>a) Agrees that progress with work to build in-house fostering capacity and the effectiveness of the Council's recruitment process relative to agencies' be considered during the Budget Scrutiny Review challenge session on Children First Northamptonshire, as factors that could affect the delivery of proposed savings in this area.</p> <p>b) Requests further information on the Council's number of out of county placements costing £4,000 and over a week, the costs in each case and the reasons why the Council has a limited choice of resources and providers.</p> |
| 8. | Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme and responses to previous resolutions | RESOLVED that: the Committee notes the update on its work programme and the responses to previous resolutions. |

b) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (18 December 2019) – Outcomes

| Item | Subject | Resolution |
|------|--|--|
| 5. | Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27 th November 2019 | RESOLVED that: the Committee agrees the accuracy of the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27 th November 2019. |
| 6. | Chester Farm Project | <p>RESOLVED that: the Committee:</p> <p>a) Requests to be provided with the following additional off-agenda written information on this topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of the status of discretionary capital borrowing used to fund the project and the need for this to be repaid. • Confirmation of the Council’s exact statutory responsibilities relating to preserving and maintaining heritage on the Chester Farm site. • Further information on the reasons for Chester Farm being considered a heritage site of national significance. • Further detail on the basis for the income and expenditure figures given in the Strategic Business Plan financial forecast for training digs, living history events and Christmas at Chester Farm. • Confirmation of whether contingency funding is built into the budget for the project. • Confirmation of arrangements for insuring the site. • A breakdown of what is included in the Services expenditure line in the Strategic Business Plan financial forecast. <p>b) Supports the need to maximise the benefit of the Chester Farm asset.</p> <p>c) Recognises that there are risks involved in the Strategic Business Plan and particularly questions that Chester Farm can be considered a commercial proposition when the financial plan includes the previous capital investment by Northamptonshire County Council and continuing revenue funding from the Council or its successor.</p> |

| Item | Subject | Resolution |
|------|--|--|
| 6. | Chester Farm Project | <p>RESOLVED that: the Committee:</p> <p>d) Recognises that effective governance arrangements for the project are now in place and encourages that the Council learns from this experience and ensures that robust governance arrangements are maintained for all similar projects in future.</p> <p>e) Agrees that the Chair writes to the Cabinet setting out the Committee's conclusions on the Strategic Business Plan.</p> |
| 7. | Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme and responses to previous resolutions | <p>RESOLVED that: the Committee:</p> <p>a) Notes the update given at the meeting regarding the latest position of the Northamptonshire Highway Services Contract Scrutiny Review.</p> <p>b) Notes the update on its work programme and the responses to previous resolutions.</p> <p>c) Notes the following items of business scheduled for the Committee meeting on 29th January 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northamptonshire County Council in year budget position • Draft 2020/21 Council Budget Scrutiny Review Report • Northamptonshire Highway Services Contract Scrutiny Review Report |

c) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (29 January 2020) – Outcomes

| Item | Subject | Resolution |
|------|--|--|
| 5. | Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 18 th December 2019 | RESOLVED that: the Committee agrees the accuracy of the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 18 th December 2019. |
| 6. | Scrutiny Review of Draft 2020/21 Council Budget Proposals | RESOLVED that: the Committee: a) Agrees the recommendations from the Budget Scrutiny Review as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. b) Agrees the headline themes from the Budget Scrutiny Review as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report subject to the addition of a reference to Overview and Scrutiny having been mindful of Local Government Reform and the legacy that will be left for the new unitary authorities when it scrutinised the draft budget. c) Agrees to delegate authority to the Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs to approve the final version of the Budget Scrutiny Review report for presentation to the Cabinet. |
| 7. | Northamptonshire Highway Services Contract Scrutiny Review | RESOLVED that: The Committee agrees the report and recommendations of the Northamptonshire Highways Services Contract Scrutiny Review subject to the addition to the Chair's introduction of thanks to members of the public who contributed information to the scrutiny review. |
| 8. | Delivery of the 2019/20 Council Budget | RESOLVED that: the Committee expresses confidence in the current direction reflected in the forecast outturn as at period 8 of 2019/20 whilst also recognising risks that might affect the final outturn position. |
| 9. | Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme and responses to previous resolutions | RESOLVED that: the Committee notes the update on its work programme and responses to previous resolutions. |

d) Overview & Scrutiny Committee (26 February 2020) – Outcomes

| Item | Subject | Resolution |
|------|---|---|
| 5. | Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29 th January 2020 | RESOLVED that: the Committee agrees the accuracy of the minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29 th January 2020 |
| 6. | Northamptonshire Children’s Trust | <p>RESOLVED that: the Committee:</p> <p>a) Agrees that the Chair writes to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education emphasising the following considerations relating to the establishment of the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The additional risk connected with establishing a children’s trust at the same time as a reorganisation of local government takes place. • The need to resolve remaining areas of uncertainty relevant to the functioning of the Children’s Trust, particularly regarding the delivery of the education function in the county following local government reorganisation. • The importance of ensuring that the focus on establishing the new unitary authorities does not detract from the attention given to establishing the Children’s Trust effectively. • The importance of ensuring that the focus on establishing the Children’s Trust effectively does not detract from the attention given to maintaining current children’s services improvement work. • The need to anticipate and mitigate potential risks that might arise from the new unitary authorities adopting differing approaches on children’s services from 2021. • The need to provide shadow councillors with appropriate information and training to support them when taking any decisions that may be relevant to the functioning of the Children’s Trust. • The importance of developing an effective working relationship between the Council and the Children’s Trust that enables any competing pressures between service targets and funding requirements to be dealt with constructively and that reduces the risk of a disconnection between the Children’s Trust’s operational independence and the Council’s continuing statutory responsibility for children’s services. |

| Item | Subject | Resolution |
|------|--|--|
| 6. | Northamptonshire Children's Trust | <p>RESOLVED that: the Committee:</p> <p>b) Agrees that the Chair's letter to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education be circulated to all councillors for information.</p> <p>c) Requests to receive off-agenda information confirming where the legal responsibility for a child who is subject to a court order will lie following the establishment of the Children's Trust.</p> <p>d) Requests to receive off-agenda information advising of any decisions that the shadow authorities will need to take between May and July 2020 relevant to the functioning of the Children's Trust.</p> <p>e) Requests that the Memorandum of Understanding for the Children's Trust be provided to the Committee.</p> |
| 7. | Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme and responses to previous resolutions | RESOLVED that: the Committee notes the update on its work programme and responses to previous resolutions. |

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