

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 11 May 2023

Issued: 11th May 2023

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 11th May 2023.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 19th May 2023, unless the decision is subject to call-in, in accordance with section 18 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules within North Northamptonshire Council’s Constitution.

Requests for Call-In

A request for call-in shall only be considered to be valid if signed by at least 8 members of the Council (10% of the total number of members) who are not members of the Executive. One of the requestors must identify themselves as the originator of the request and the request must specify the nature of the grounds relied upon. A call-in request must be in the form of a written notice submitted to the Monitoring Officer and received before the published deadline. Either one notice containing all required signatures or up to 8 separate e-mails (as appropriate) will be acceptable.

The notice must set out:-

- (a) the resolution or resolutions that the member(s) wish to call in;
- (b) the reasons why they wish the relevant Scrutiny committee to consider referring it back to the Executive, with particular reference to the principles of decision making set out elsewhere within this Constitution; and
- (c) the alternative course of action or recommendations that they wish to propose.

Agenda Item No	Subject	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

Item 4	Performance Indicator Report 2022/23 (Period 12 - March 2023)	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p align="center">a) Noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available</p>
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		<p>indicators at Period 12 (March) 2022/23, set out in the appendices to this report.</p> <p>b) Noted the progress being made in the development of the Council’s approach to performance management.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to better understand the Council’s performance as measured by performance indicators as at Period 12 (March) 2022/23.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – reporting performance data on a less frequent basis is an option, but monthly reporting is considered useful at this stage of the Council’s existence, reporting alongside budget information.</p>
Item 5	North Northamptonshire Vision	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Noted and commented on the work undertaken to date on the development of the North Northamptonshire Vision (attached as Appendix A)</p> <p>b) Agreed that the Leader and Chief Executive lead on the development of the Big 50 Conference, to be held late Spring 2023.</p> <p>c) Noted that the outcomes of the Conference and the final vision document will be further considered by the Executive along with a proposed commitment to deliver the Council’s role within the action plan.</p>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations – Local councils are ideally placed to act as place shapers and enablers of change in their area. North Northamptonshire Council, in its Corporate Plan adopted in December 2021, made a clear commitment to working in partnership with a wide range of organisations from public, private and voluntary sectors to help improve the quality of life in North Northamptonshire. The work on setting out a broader, longer-term vision for North Northamptonshire represents the next natural step in the achievement of this aim. A shared vision for the future of North Northamptonshire will help focus the efforts of organisations working locally on achieving a common set of priorities and goals for the area. The recommendations ensure that progress to date on setting out a wider vision is understood and that the future activities required to manage a transparent, inclusive and engaging process are in place.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Continue ‘as is’ – In practical terms, this would mean continuing to focus on the Council’s own vision and leaving partner agencies to focus on theirs. There is nothing wrong with this approach. Indeed, there is already a lot of activity focused on aligning approaches and target outcomes which are embedded in the current ways of working. It does however still leave a gap in terms of a common and widely accepted vision for the area that cuts across all sectors and partners. ii) Develop a future vision without facilitating wider partner engagement – this is not considered a viable option. For the future vision to be effective, it needs to be jointly developed and jointly owned. In writing a future vision in

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		<p>isolation the Council would do little to engage partners and encourage ownership and would not be utilising its unique position as an enabler and shaper of future place.</p>
Item 6	Family Hubs Programme Update	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Progress to date in meeting the key milestones, as set out in Table 1 (section 4.7) which align with the DfE requirements and grant terms. b) The planed roll out of implementation of the development of Family Hubs in NNC as set out in section 5.3 of the report c) The allocation and breakdown of the £4m grant funding secured for the Programme period 2022-25, and the process to date of spend and carry over for 2022/23, as set out in Table 4 (section 7.1.3) of the report <p>Reason for Recommendations – Consistency with previous decision resolved by Executive on Thursday 15th September 2022 (see section 8. Background Papers)</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – The alternative option would be to not provide an update and approve the allocation of the funding however this option was discounted due to the nature of this report being an Annual Update report and the need to allocate the funding as per the Executive resolved decision on 15th September 2022 (see Section 8. Background Papers)</p>

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Item 7	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Contractor Procurement	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing, to procure, negotiate, award, and enter into contracts for the delivery of Electrical Installation Condition Reports, Energy Efficiency upgrades, Kitchens & Bathrooms replacements, Roof Replacements and Homes for the Future retrofit upgrades, to ensure that the Council’s housing stock is maintained.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation: By approving this recommendation, Council officers will be able to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Closely align services with Government legislation, regulation and initiatives, through the use of procured contractors across the two Housing Property Services team areas. · Procure the new contracts in the most efficient and timely manner, to ensure a fully compliant procurement process is in place for the delivery of its services. · Provide better value for money to the Council. · Ensure tenants benefit from the investment in the housing stock across North Northamptonshire.

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		<p>Alternative Options Considered –The main alternative to procuring contractors to complete these capital works programmes would be to expand the Council’s in house Direct Labour Organisation. This option has been rejected at the present time whilst we focus on harmonising our approach to other areas of the Housing Property Services team. Our Direct Labour Organisation resources are currently being fully utilised to reduce our responsive repairs backlog and undertake void repairs, meaning that we do not currently have capacity within the team for these additional capital works. Some of the projects, such as roofing, are also only expected to occur during a set period of time each year. The option to expand the Council’s in house Direct Labour Organisation will be explored further, via a viability study, during the lifetime of the proposed contracts within this report. A further option that will also be explored as part of this study is the suitability of a hybrid model of part contractor and part in house.</p>
Item 8	Procurement of Grounds Maintenance Consortia Contract	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Assets & Environment, to commence and conclude a procurement process to identify a preferred bidder and enter into legal agreements to appoint a preferred bidder for the provision of this service. Contractual arrangements will be subject to the Consortia members formally committing to the contract. b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and

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		<p align="center">Assets, in consultation with the Assistant Director Assets & Environment, to enter into suitable interim arrangements to ensure continued provision of the Grounds Maintenance Services should the procurement process not complete before the expiry of the current contract.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) This approach ensures the Council has a legally procured and compliant contract in place for the provision of Grounds Maintenance Services. b) This approach provides best value for the Council in terms of the amenity land which is not already managed as part of the in-house arrangements. c) This approach allows the Council and its Consortia partners to ensure that any contract price has been market tested and allows the Council to compare its own service costs against that of commercial providers, which will enhance the Council's own commercial services. d) The recommendation presents an opportunity to provide a quality and cost-effective solution to local parish councils. e) This approach contributes to the resourcing of a multi-disciplinary team who deliver additional benefits such as patrols and promoting environmental quality by utilising education and enforcement techniques where appropriate.

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		<p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Officers have explored whether the Council’s in-house teams could take on the Town & Parish Council contract, however, as most of the land is not the responsibility of the Council, including cutting of highway verges delegated to the parish councils, there would be significant setup costs for equipment and vehicles, along with additional resource required to do this. Further, the Council would not be able to make a return on the contract above its operating costs, therefore, an outsourced model is the preferred method of providing this service. · As the Council has limited land ownership and the local highway verges are the responsibility of the Consortia members, the Council could step away from the contract management role it takes in this area and allow the local Town and Parish Council to make their own contractual arrangement, however, it would still need to make provision for the maintenance of locations within the operational area that are the responsibility of the Council.
Item 9	Road Maintenance in North Northamptonshire - Petition Referral from Full Council	The Executive noted the petition from Full Council
Item 10	Capital Programme Update	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

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		<p>That Executive approved the following changes into the capital programme, to be moved from the Development Pool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mawsley Primary School SEND Unit - £186.4k in 2023/24 which is to be funded from Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital grant. b. Thrapston Primary School SEND Unit - £372.3k in 2023/24 which is to be funded from Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital grant. <p>Reasons for Recommendations: These are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To support the statutory delivery of SEND school places across North Northamptonshire. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As both the schemes in this report are grant funded, the use of the funding is in line with the agreements, so there are no alternative options proposed in this report.