

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Council on Thursday 22 February 2024

| Agenda Item No | Topic | Decision |
|----------------|---|---|
| Item 6 | Budget 2024-25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan | <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approves the 2024-25 revenue budget as set out in the Budget 2024-25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan report, which includes and sets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a budget requirement of £763.773m including a Dedicated Schools Grant of £388.440m and a net revenue budget requirement of £375.333m as set out in Appendix A. ii. a total Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes of £201.599m as contained in paragraph 5.25. iii. an average Band D Council Tax of £1,740.22 for North Northamptonshire Council, representing a 2.99% increase in the ‘core’ Council Tax and a further 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept, and as set out within the separate Council Tax Resolution Report attached at Appendix K. iv. the detailed proposals of savings, pressures and income generation for 2024-25 as set out within the report and Appendix B. v. the Dedicated Schools Grant budget of £388.440m for 2024-25, as detailed in Appendix C, and summarised in paragraphs 5.41 – 5.55. vi. the planned use of, contribution to, and movement in, reserves as identified in paragraph 5.56, section 9 and Appendix D of this report, subject to the final call on reserves as a result of the Final Financial Settlement or other changes. vii. the corporate budget requirements as set out in paragraph 8.1, including a contingency sum of £4.101m as set out in paragraph 8.2. |

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| | | <p>viii. the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix H, including the Authorised Borrowing Limit of £907m and to note a further update to the Strategy will be provided once the disaggregation of the former Northamptonshire County Council’s Balance Sheet has been finalised.</p> <p>ix. the recommended Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as set out in Section 10 and Appendix J.</p> <p>b) delegates authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to agree any necessary variations to the budget prior to 1st April 2024.</p> <p>c) delegates authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to agree the use of the following reserves which will provide the flexibility to manage the overall budget during 2024-25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformation Reserve • Public Health Reserve • Waste Management Reserve • Adult Social Care Reserve • Budget Delivery Reserve • Business Rates Retention Reserve • General Risk Reserve <p>d) notes the forecast financial position for 2025-26 to 2027-28, noting that this will be reviewed as further information becomes available and updated as part of the</p> |

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| | | <p>budget process for 2025-26 onwards.</p> <p>e) notes that the financial position has been based on the Final Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 5th February 2024.</p> <p>f) considers the consultation feedback as summarised in the report and attached at Appendix E.</p> <p>g) notes the Equality Impact Screening Assessment as at Appendix F as having been taken into consideration.</p> <p>h) considers the outcome from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, as detailed at Appendix G and any separate representations to Executive.</p> <p>i) considers the Section 25 Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) as set out in Section 15, including her review of the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.</p> <p>j) delegates authority to the Executive Member for Children, Education and Skills and the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (and Children’s Services – Interim) and the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to approve North Northamptonshire’s Schools Funding Formula and to finalise the funding allocation for schools, in line with North Northamptonshire’s Schools Funding Formula.</p> |

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| | | <p>k) delegates authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to draft the recommended budget resolution for Council in accordance with the necessary legal requirements and to take into account the decisions of the Executive and any final changes and other technical adjustments that may be required.</p> <p>Council Tax Setting</p> <p>l) Notes the legal background to setting the budget and Council tax as set out in Appendix I.</p> <p>m) approves the Council Tax Resolution attached as Appendix K to the report which is based on the budget proposals, and which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculates the Council tax requirement in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. • Calculates a basic amount of Council Tax and an amount of tax for each valuation band (the Council element) in accordance with Sections 31B and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, as amended. • Sets an amount of Council Tax for each category of dwellings in each valuation band in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. <p><i>Reason for Decision:-</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution and legislative requirements in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire Council from 2024-25.</i></p> <p><i>Alternative Options Considered:-</i></p> <p><i>The budgets have been subject to a formal budget consultation and scrutiny and the feedback has been considered as part of this process.</i></p> <p>In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the names of the councillors voting for the decision, against the decision or abstaining from voting are as follows:-</p> <p>For the decision:- (41)</p> <p>Cllr Tim Allebone Cllr Valerie Anslow Cllr Paul Bell Cllr Matt Binley Cllr Jennie Bone Cllr David Brackenbury Cllr Wendy Brackenbury Cllr Cedwien Brown Cllr Lyn Buckingham Cllr Lloyd Bunday Cllr Jon-Paul Carr Cllr Robin Carter Cllr Scott Edwards</p> |

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| | | <p>Cllr Jonathan Ekins Cllr Clive Hallam Cllr Larry Henson Cllr Helen Howell Cllr Ken Harrington Cllr David Howes Cllr Bert Jackson Cllr Graham Lawman Cllr Lora Lawman Cllr Steven North Cllr Dorothy Maxwell Cllr Paul Marks Cllr Andy Mercer Cllr Gill Mercer Cllr Macaulay Nichol Cllr Anup Pandey Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood Cllr Harriet Pentland Cllr Eliot Prentice Cllr Russell Roberts Cllr Mark Rowley Cllr Geoff Shacklock Cllr Jason Smithers Cllr Joseph Smyth Cllr Sarah Tubbs Cllr Malcolm Ward Cllr Keli Watts</p> |

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| | | <p>Cllr Lee Wilkes</p> <p>Against the decision:- (10)</p> <p>Cllr Jean Addison Cllr Ross Armour Cllr Leanne Buckingham Cllr William Colquhoun Cllr Matt Keane Cllr Jim Hakewill Cllr Anne Lee Cllr John McGhee Cllr Zoe McGhee Cllr Mark Pengelly</p> <p>Abstaining from the decision:- (2)</p> <p>Cllr Dez Dell Cllr Emily Fedorowycz</p> |
| Item 7 | Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Draft Budget 2024/25 and Medium Tern Financial Plan | <p>That Council: -</p> <p>a) Approves the 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budgets consisting of the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account as set out in Appendix A to the report.</p> |

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| | | <p>b) Approves an increase in dwelling rents for 2024/25 of 7.7% which adheres to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) formula on rents for social housing for both the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account.</p> <p>c) Approves the Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan consisting of the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account, for 2025/26 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix B.</p> <p>d) Notes the forecast reserves for the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account up to 2028/29 as set out in Appendix C.</p> <p>e) Notes the comments from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee as detailed at Appendix D.</p> <p><i>Reason for Decision:-</i></p> <p><i>To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire.</i></p> <p><i>Alternative Options Considered:-</i></p> <p><i>These HRA Budgets have been subject to a formal budget consultation and comments from the consultation have been considered as part of this process.</i></p> |
| Item 8 | Capital Programme 2024-28 | That Council:- |

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| | | <p>a) Approves the General Fund Capital Programme 2024-28 and HRA Capital Programme 2024-28.</p> <p>b) Delegates authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to agree any necessary variations to the capital budget prior to 1st April 2024.</p> <p><i>Reason for Decision:-</i></p> <p><i>To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution and legislative requirements in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire Council for 2024-25.</i></p> <p><i>Alternative Options Considered:-</i></p> <p><i>Any comments from the consultation have been considered as part of this process.</i></p> |
| Item 9 | Municipal Calendar of Meetings 2024/25 | <p>That Council approves the Municipal Timetable for 2024/2025.</p> <p><i>Reason for Decision:-</i></p> <p><i>To provide for approval of the municipal timetable in accordance with the Council's Constitution and to allow for timely planning of meeting dates for members, officers and</i></p> |

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| | | <p><i>the public.</i></p> <p><i>Alternative Options Considered:–</i></p> <p><i>To not to produce a municipal timetable for approval, however this would be contrary to the requirements of the Constitution and contrary to effective planning.</i></p> |

Issued: 23 February 2024