

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 14 March 2024

Issued: 14th March 2024

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 14th March 2024.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on Friday 22nd March 2024, 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 Scrutiny Management Board 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.

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Part A – Items considered in public

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| Item 5 | Performance Indicator Report 2023/24 (Period 10 - January 2024) | RESOLVED That the Executive noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available indicators at Period 10 (January) 2023/24, set out in Appendix A to this report. |
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| | | <p>Reason for Recommendations – to better understand the Council’s performance as measured by Key Performance Indicators as at Period 10 (January) 2023/24.</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 6 | Appointment of Non-Executive Director to Northamptonshire Children’s Trust | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the completed sequence of events that are contractually required to appoint a Non-Executive Director of the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust Ltd; b) Noted and takes into account in its decision-making, the response from the Secretary of State; c) Agreed the nomination for appointment of Joshua Coleman as the representative for North Northamptonshire Council as Non-Executive Director of Northamptonshire Children’s Trust Ltd |

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| | | <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendations in this report are presented to Executive following a full and thorough recruitment and selection process. The selected candidate is considered the most suitable candidate for the position based on his experience. • The composition of the board of the Trust requires that there are four NEDs on the Board of the Trust, two of which are nominated by North Northamptonshire Council and two by West Northamptonshire Council; the recommendations support compliance with this requirement on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council. <p>Alternative Options Considered: The role of the Board of the Trust is critical in supporting it to achieve its objectives for the benefit of the residents of North Northamptonshire. For the Board to be most effective it is important that all of its positions are filled. It is not recommended that the Council should decide not to appoint to the vacant NED member of the Board.</p> |
| Item 7 | Children's Services Education Case Management System Contract Variation | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> |

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| | | <p>a) Approved that the Council proceeds with a Variation to the contract with Capita Business Services Limited for the Capita One Education Software for a two-year extension and 220 additional licences.</p> <p>b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children’s Services (Interim DCS), to take any further decisions and/or actions required to agree and conclude a variation to the contract of the current CMS with Capita Business Services Limited, to allow continuity of service during full and appropriate implementation of the new Education Case Management System.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered</p> <p>a) Do Nothing – There is the option to allow the contract for Capita One Education to end on Sunday, 31st March 2024 with no extension.</p> <p>b) Re-procure the current system using a Direct Award – Using a compliant framework agreement, so far as permissible by the relevant legislation (Public Contracts Regulations 2015), the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules, and the terms of the framework agreement.</p> <p>c) Explore the use of alternative existing case management systems within the Council.</p> |
| Item 8 | Kitchen Food Waste Service Rollout | RESOLVED |

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| | | <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recognised and accepted the grant from DEFRA for the capital infrastructure relating to introducing a food waste service of £2,495,563 in line with the grant conditions. The approval of the capital project forms part of the Capital Updates report elsewhere on the Executive agenda; b) In line with the approval of the capital project, approved commencement of procurement of vehicles, containers and other items associated with the mobilisation of the new food waste collection service; c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with Executive Director for Place & Economy, Executive Director for Finance and Performance and the Executive Member for Finance, the authority to take any further decisions and actions required to implement the new service including the procurement process and award of the contracts, without the need to return to the Executive. This will include updating the North Northamptonshire Waste and Recycling Policy to reflect the new services. <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed option ensures compliance with Government requirements to collect food waste from residential properties from 1st April 2026. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommended course of action will allow the Council to secure the most cost-effective solution for North Northamptonshire residents. <p>This approach ensures the Council has legally procured and has a compliant contract in place for the provision of services that provide a direct benefit to residents by collecting their waste.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract out the collection service, requiring the supplier to manage the procurement of infrastructure items. This option is not recommended as it does not reflect the operational in-house arrangements in place and is anticipated to be more expensive given the overheads an external provider will place on the procurement of infrastructure items. • Take no action. This option is not recommended as it will mean that the Council does not meet its statutory obligations in respect of its duties as a Waste Collection Authority. |
| Item 9 | North Northamptonshire Council Complaints Remedy Policy | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the Complaints Remedy Policy.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations –</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure a policy reflecting best practice to advise and inform decision making • To support knowledge and understanding on remedy consideration • Promote consistent decision making <p>Alternative Options Considered – Not having a policy reduces efficiency and risks robust consideration being applied to decision making.</p> |
| Item 10 | Post 16 Policy for Home to School Transport | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the revised Post 16 Policy for Home to School Transport for publication.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation: To ensure that statutory obligations are fulfilled by the publishing of a Post 16 Policy for Home to School Transport in line with legislation. The policy currently before the Executive takes into account the changes previously approved for pupils of statutory school age and the legislation and guidance specifically relating to education transport for Post 16 students.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> |

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| | | <p>Do nothing: Failure to adopt a revised policy would result in the current policy being de facto adopted, leading to a two-tier charging system for discretionary seats as well as confusion over entitlement to and availability of services at the transition between Statutory School age and Post 16 services. In addition, failure to adopt the revised charging system would result in the Council being required to continue to subsidise Post 16 transport at its current rate, rather than recouping a higher proportion of the actual cost from service users, which will lead to budgetary pressures.</p> <p>Refer the draft policy back for further revision: If the Executive prefer not to approve the policy as drafted, they may make recommendations as to any alterations they may require. Members are requested to be mindful of the statutory requirement to publish the final version of the policy before the end of May 2024 and the timelines for re-presentation of the policy at Executive for approval. Failure to approve the final version within this timeframe will result in the current policy being de facto adopted for the coming academic year with the same outcomes as Do Nothing. If this option is adopted it is therefore recommended that Members give delegated powers to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets and the Executive Director of Place and Economy to authorise and approve the final draft, without the need to return to Executive.</p> |
| Item 11 | Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) Funding 2024/25 to 2026/27 | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> |

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| | | <p>a) Approved that the allocated spend of Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP) funding to deliver supported accommodation for adults experiencing rough sleeping with complex support needs as outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>b) 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 undertake any decisions and actions required to enable the delivery of this funding.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the Council utilises the grant funding secured to effectively help deliver supported accommodation provision in North Northamptonshire for individuals with high levels of complex needs. • To safeguard this vulnerable cohort of adults experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness by providing accommodation to help them move away and recover from a life on the streets. • To enable a new contract to be established to deliver the required supported accommodation for the funding period 2024/25 to 2026/27. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To not utilise the grant funding to deliver supported accommodation provision |

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| | | resulting in a loss of the grant funding. |
| Item 12 | Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Noted the findings of the public consultation analysis for the Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy which forms Section 7.5 of this report. ii) Approved and adopted the Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy which forms Appendix A of this report as a Council policy document. <p>Reason for Recommendations: The Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy has been prepared in line with the governments guidance and has been developed to enable the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and audit of sustainable travel options within the local authority, • Develop a strategy for the promotion of sustainable travel to schools and other educational or training facilities. • Identify prioritised cycling and walking infrastructure improvements for future investment. |

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| | | <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While it would be possible to develop a Sustainable Travel to Education Strategy based on a different methodology to that contained in Government Guidance, this is not recommended as it would mean that the Council would be unlikely to fulfil its duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. • Not adopt the Northamptonshire Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy. <p>Neither of these options are recommended.</p> |
| Item 13 | Update to North Northamptonshire Council Unacceptable Customer Behaviour Policy | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approves the North Northamptonshire Council Unacceptable Customer Behaviour Policy</p> |

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| | | <p>Reasons for Recommendations –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current policy confirming how the Council will manage unacceptable behaviour was drafted under the Future Northants programme board and adopted by the Shadow Executive. It is recommended that policies are reviewed regularly to reflect the environment the authority operates in. • The Council has a responsibility to mitigate risk and ensure health, safety and wellbeing of staff and contractors and a robust policy should provide clarity on what behaviours are considered unacceptable and how those behaviours will be managed. The policy will also address persistent vexatious contacts and how these will be managed; these place a strain on the Council’s ability to deliver services impacting other customers by monopolising resources. <p>Alternative Options Considered: Option to not revise and continue to operate under policy drafted by Future Northants and adopted at vesting day. This is not recommended.</p> |
| Item 14 | Adult Social Care Strategy "The Lives We Live" 2024 - 2029 | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Approved the Adult Social Care Strategy 2024 – 2029 for public</p> |

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| | | <p>consultation as set out in Option 2 of this report</p> <p>b) Noted the co-production approaches used to develop the draft strategy.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity delivered by public bodies should be underpinned by a clear strategy that gives the mandate for the way services should be provided and commissioned. • This draft strategy is an important step following, the creation of the Council through Local Government Reform (LGR), in setting out how the Council intends to meet its statutory duties for adult social care. • Co-production has played an important role in developing the current draft of the strategy, gathering the views of frontline staff, strategic partners and people that use services and their carers. <p>Alternative Options Considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 (not recommended): Continue “as-is” without renewing the legacy strategy developed by Northamptonshire County Council. This is not recommended as caselaw, expectations and provider markets evolve and change over time. Reviewing and renewing strategies is an important part of ensuring that council services and provision remain relevant and support our residents to lead the best lives possible. • Option 2 (recommended): Develop the draft strategy using engagement and co-production approaches and consult on the draft strategy and present to the Executive for approval to consult on the draft |

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| | | <p>strategy. This is the recommended option and is based on best practice approaches, utilising co-production as part of the development of the draft strategy.</p> |
| Item 15 | Capital Programme Update 2023-24 | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Approved the following changes into the capital programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ground Maintenance Equipment – virement of £42.3k in 2023/24 from Chesham House budget, funding to remain as approved from borrowing. b. Barnwell Country Park Play Area – budget approval for £88.3k in 2023/24 to be funded £78.8k grant funding and virement of £9.5k from Country Parks Minor Works Budget. c. Kerbside Kitchen Food Waste – budget approval for £2.495m in 2024/25, to be funded from external grant. d. Deeble Road Pedestrian Crossings – budget approval for £185k in 2023/24, to be funded from external grant. |

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| | | <p>Reasons for Recommendations: These are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as helping to meet the Council’s corporate plan objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green sustainable environment - Connected Communities <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those schemes which are grant funded, they are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the grant conditions and, therefore, there is no alternative option proposed in this report. • The budget virement in support of ground maintenances equipment and Barnwell country park could have been released, however, the replacement of play equipment and maintaining green infrastructure is an important element of ensuring that the Council has the appropriate equipment to support and deliver services and further investment is required in this area. • Where individual schemes are over £0.5m, separate reports are included elsewhere on this agenda, and these set out the wider options that were considered before reaching the proposals put forward |
| Item 16 | Budget Forecast Update 2023-24 - Period 10 | <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the Council’s forecast outturn position for 2023/24 as summarised in Section 4, alongside the further analysis, risks and other considerations as set out in Section 5 to Section 7 of the report. |

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| | | <p align="center">b) Noted the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2023/24 savings proposals in Appendix A.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2023/24 as at Period 10 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The report focuses on the forecast revenue outturn against budget for 2023/24 and makes recommendations for the Executive to note the current budgetary position as such there are no specific choices within the report.</p> |