

Public Document Pack



Meeting: Scrutiny Management Board
Date: Monday 29th April, 2024
Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George St, Corby NN17 1QG

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<https://www.youtube.com/c/DemocraticServicesNorthNorthantsCouncil>

To members of the Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor Graham Lawman (Chair), Councillor Philip Irwin (Vice-Chair),
Councillor Lyn Buckingham, Councillor King Lawal, Councillor Steven North

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Sanjit Sull, Monitoring Officer
North Northamptonshire Council



Proper Officer
19 April 2024

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

Head of Democratic Services: Ben Smith

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ITEM	NARRATIVE	DEADLINE
Members of the Public Agenda Statements	<p>If you want to address one of the Scrutiny Committees you will need to give two full working days notice before the meeting.</p> <p>You can make a statement which must relate to an agenda item and you will be expected to attend the meeting to read out your statement. You will have a maximum of three minutes to make your statement and it will be made at the start of the relevant agenda item. Your statement will be considered during the subsequent debate.</p>	5.00pm, Wednesday 24 April 2024

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Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board

At 7.00 pm on Thursday 18th January, 2024 in the
Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, Northants, NN17 1QG

Present:-

Members

Councillor Gill Mercer (Chair)
Councillor Lyn Buckingham
Councillor Lora Lawman

Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Kevin Watt

Also in attendance

Cllr Jim Hakewill
Cllr David Howes
Cllr Joseph Smyth

Officers

Adele Wylie – Executive Director for Customer and Governance/Monitoring Officer
Ben Smith – Head of Democratic Services/Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Graeme Kane – Executive Director of Place and Economy (Interim)
Simon Richardson - Head of Policy & Placemaking, Growth and Regeneration
Ian Smith - Assistant Director - Regulatory Services

Claire Edwards - Assistant Director of Finance & Accounting

13 Apologies for absence

It was noted that there were no apologies for absence.

14 Notification of requests to attend the meeting.

The Chair noted there were a number of speakers to be heard at this meeting, who would be invited to speak at the commencement of the call-in item.

15 Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

16 Call-In of Key Decision Relating to Travellers Temporary Stopping Site - Land at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell

The Scrutiny Management Board considered a report setting out the reasons for call-in by eight councillors of an Executive key decision of 21 December 2023 in respect of 'Travellers Temporary Stopping Site - Land at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell', and

which requested the Board to consider the next steps that it may wish to take in accordance with the Constitution's Scrutiny Procedure Rules relating to call-in. A copy of the report, marked 'item 4' on the agenda, is filed with the agenda for the meeting.

The Chair stated to all those present that the purpose of a call in of an Executive key decision was to scrutinise whether the decision making process had operated effectively and not the merits of the decision taken.

It was noted that there were five speakers who wished to address the Scrutiny Management Board in accordance with Public Participation procedure rules. Each speaker was invited to address the Board in turn.

- i) Councillor Joseph Smyth, ward member for Rothwell, spoke against the siting of the temporary stopping site at Rothwell, stating it was the wrong location in a green belt location, that there had not been sufficient consultation before the decision had been made, and that this was not best use of money to site the temporary stopping site in Rothwell in this way.
- ii) Katherine Cadbury, Chairman of Harrington Parish Council, opposed the establishment of the site stating the location was a greenfield site between Harrington and Rothwell and that the village felt very strongly, evidenced by the number of residents in person at this meeting. She stated the village supported the call-in by led by Cllr Jim Hakewill and that in practice very little consultation had taken place and that other sites had not properly considered.
- iii) Michael Blissett, a resident, felt that the decision was ill thought out and the cost of establishing the site would be detrimental to taxpayers, that the site should instead form part of the wider traveller consultation that was due to start later in the year and not be built until the wider options had been looked into. He also stated that as a wildlife area it should be protected from development.
- iv) Jonny Easter, a resident, felt there had been a lack of engagement with stakeholders particularly with regard to the wildlife value of the site, stating that species of interest including birds of conservation had been recorded, so the site was clearly of value to local wildlife and should be investigated further with the prospect of becoming a pocket park. This would be supported by residents and stakeholders, and so should be included in the North Northamptonshire local nature recovery strategy.
- v) Carl Simper, a Rothwell Town Councillor, spoke against the proposal stating the Town Council's wished for the site to be retained as an area of natural beauty. He stated the site was the main entrance into Rothwell from the motorways from the west and that Rothwell had objected for many years to the site being used in this manner. He felt there had been a lack of scrutiny prior to the Executive decision and that proper scrutiny of other sites should be considered as part of the developing Council's Gypsy and Traveller local plan which he understood was near completion. Mr Simper also considered that the Council had failed to work collaboratively with local residents noting the requirements of the Government's planning policy for traveller sites.

The Chair thanked all of the contributors for speaking on this subject.

The Chair then called Councillor Jim Hakewill to speak, as the lead signatory for the call-in.

Councillor Hakewill spoke in support of the speakers statements, thanking the other local residents for being there. Cllr Hakewill reiterated that he considered the process had not being undertaken properly, that in 2022 there not been a consultation, but an engagement taking place and he believed the reasons for call-in being accepted were strong and firm.

Cllr Hakewill believed that best value should have been considered as part of Gypsy and Traveller local plan, that the site was sensitive and attractive. He considered it would be ill-advised to commence a planning application with significant opposition to the project and that the costings had not been stated properly.

The Board then asked some clarifying questions to Cllr Hakewill before moving on to ask Cllr David Howes, Executive Member for Rural Communities and Localism to speak.

Cllr Howes stated that the site had been identified as it was one that was in council ownership and that the full borrowing costs were set out in the report. He also stated that funding was proposed to be taken from the Development Pool as part of the 2024/25 budgetary process. He considered sufficient consultation and engagement had taken place.

In respect of the Local Plan currently being considered, he stated that this was looking at permanent gypsy and traveller encampments whereas in this case a separate audience was being catered for - not for permanent siteholders, but for transitory travellers. He believed the site was suitable and that there was no merit in delaying the process underway.

Following clarifying questions, Cllr Howes also stated that he believed the land's original purpose was for one of commercial development. It had ended up in public ownership as an asset for public development. He believed best value was being followed in these circumstances.

The Scrutiny Management Board then debated the call-in request, with the following principal points noted:-

- i) It was clarified that of the options available to the Board, officers advised that they did not consider that the Executive decision had been contrary to either the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and so of the three options available to the Board in making a decision, option b) should be ruled out;
- ii) That a central site was needed for transitory travellers and that the issue of best value was not just financial but of social value too;
- iii) That only 50% of the site would be used and that biodiversity could continue to be catered for;
- iv) That there had not been sufficient evidence presented to the Board that the decision making process had not operated effectively in this case and whilst having sympathy with some of the concerns raised, the decision to be made by

the Board was not in respect of the merits of the decision but only of potential failures of process;

- v) The Board concluded that there had not been any failures of process in the decision making made in this case and that it had been made effectively.

The Board therefore voted unanimously that no further action should be taken in respect of the call-in.

Approved:-

That following consideration of the call-in in respect of Travellers Temporary Stopping Site - Land at Junction 3 of the A14 Rothwell and the reasons given that have been deemed as valid, the Scrutiny Management Board has:-

- a) Decided to take no further action, and notes accordingly the original Executive decision will be effective immediately.

(Reason for Decision – Consideration of the call-in was carried out to comply with good governance and the call-in procedure set out in paragraphs 15-18 of Part 7.1 of the Constitution’s Scrutiny Procedure Rules.)

(Alternative Options Considered – In responding to the call-in, the Scrutiny Management Board had three options to consider, to either refer back to the Executive, refer (in specific circumstances) to full Council, or to take no further action and allow the Executive decision to take effect.)

17 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board

At 7.00 pm on Thursday 29th February, 2024 in the Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, Northants, NN17 1QG

Present:-

Members

Councillor Graham Lawman (Chair)
Councillor Lyn Buckingham
Councillor Lora Lawman

Councillor Philip Irwin
Councillor Steven North
Councillor King Lawal

Officers

Sanjit Sull – Director of Law and Governance
Ben Smith – Head of Democratic Services/Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Also in attendance

Kunwar Khan

18 Election of Chair

Resolved:-

That Councillor Graham Lawman be elected Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year, ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2024.

19 Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved:-

That Cllr Philip Irwin be elected Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year, ending with the annual meeting of the Council in May 2024.

20 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

21 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2023.

RESOLVED that:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22 Notification of requests to attend the meeting.

It was noted that there had been no requests to speak at this meeting.

23 Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

24 Scrutiny Workplan - February 2024 Update

The Scrutiny Management Board considered the updated annual workplan for 2023/24, as of February 2024 in order to consider, approve its contents and consider any other items it wished to scrutinise, including from the Executive Forward Plan. A copy of the reported, marked as item 7, is filed with the agenda for this meeting.

Arising from discussion, the following principal points were noted:-

- i) That consideration should be given by officers to providing a greater number of briefings to backbenchers and members of scrutiny to keep them more informed of issues coming before the Council;
- ii) That an update should be provided on the work of the ICT Working Group and that it should be re-instigated in order that its work could be completed to a conclusion;
- iii) That the GP Performance and Availability and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping items would need to be delayed from the 12th March meeting of Health Scrutiny Committee to 14th May 2024;
- iv) That NHS Healthchecks be added to the 14th May Health Scrutiny meeting;
- v) That school inclusions be added to the work programme for Health Scrutiny in July 2024;
- vi) Looking ahead to beyond the current municipal year, the Board began to consider items that they may wish to include for consideration beyond the current municipal year, including:-

Corporate Scrutiny

- Review of Budget Scrutiny Panel process ahead of 2025/26 budget round
- Council Owned Companies Governance Arrangements

Health Scrutiny

- Smoking Cessation;
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Suicide Prevention;
- Sexual health Services

Place and Environment Scrutiny

- Kier
- Household Waste Centres
- Social Housing (Briefing Paper)

Resolved:-

The Scrutiny Management Board:-

- (a) Notes the updated list of dates for when items are to be included in the Workplan are;
- (b) Notes the contents of the current Executive Forward Plan;
- (c) Subject to the comments and changes now made, approves the third iteration of the Workplan;
- (d) Notes that the Workplan remains a living document which will be subject to review and may be updated
 - i. to reflect the changing needs and priorities of scrutiny; and
 - ii. following consideration of items requested by the three scrutiny committees and individual councillors.

Reason for Decisions:-

- *To meet the Constitutional requirements for the Scrutiny Management Board to demonstrate its strategic responsibility for the Scrutiny function, its overall responsibility for the direction and management of Scrutiny, and to fulfil its obligation to develop, approve and monitor the Annual Scrutiny Workplan.*

Alternative Options Considered:-

- *Not to update the Scrutiny Workplan - however this would not demonstrate the Board's strategic responsibility or provide the necessary strategic direction to the three Scrutiny Committees.*

25 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at 8.23pm

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Scrutiny Management Board 29 April 2024

Report Title	Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24
Report Author	Kunwar Khan, Scrutiny Manager (interim) kunwar.khan@northnorthants.gov.uk

Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	N/A
Which Corporate Plan priority does the report most closely align with? Our priorities for the future North Northamptonshire Council (northnorthants.gov.uk)	Modern Public Services

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To enable the Scrutiny Management Board to contribute and comment on the Draft Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24, prior to it being referred to full Council, in line with the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Scrutiny Annual Report summarises the work for all scrutiny activities undertaken in the municipal year 2023/24. The impact of the work of Scrutiny will continue to be evidenced over time by the implementation and impact of its recommendations to the decision-makers and key stakeholder – Executive, Full Council and external partners. The Scrutiny Annual Report will ensure that full Council is informed on the work of Scrutiny, in accordance with statutory guidance.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Management Board:
- a) Note and comment on the draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2023/24.

- b) Subject to the above, delegate to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer / Head of Democratic Services in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board and Scrutiny Manager to finalise the contents of the annual report, prior to its submission to full Council for consideration.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. The Scrutiny function forms an integral part of the Council's decision-making process and governance mechanism. Each year, the Scrutiny Annual Report will provide a summary of the work and impact of the Council's Scrutiny function.
- 4.2. Since its inception in April 2021, the Council has continuously evolved its scrutiny framework to enhance effectiveness and transparency. At the Annual Meeting in May 2021, the Council established two scrutiny committees, namely the Scrutiny Commission and Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as part of a hybrid model of governance.
- 4.3. Initial Model (April 2021 - May 2023): The Council initially operated with two scrutiny committees:
- **Scrutiny Commission:** Responsible for high-level oversight.
 - **Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee:** Focussed on scrutinising financial matters and performance metrics.
 - **Scrutiny Review Panels** were also active as required.
- 4.4. Fundamental Review (2022/23): In 2022/23, the Council conducted a comprehensive review of its scrutiny arrangements. The outcome was a strategic shift toward greater effectiveness and transparency.
- 4.5. New Scrutiny Arrangements (From May 2023) resulted in creation of the following:

Scrutiny Management Board:

- To strategically drive forward the scrutiny function.

Corporate Scrutiny Committee:

- Mirrors the work of the old Finance and Resources Committee.
- Focuses on finance, performance and external partnerships (e.g., Northamptonshire Children's Trust).
- Aims to provide a comprehensive view of performance.

Health Scrutiny:

- Statutory duty to scrutinise health matters.
- Evaluates integration of health, public health, social care and education.
- Aims for optimal outcomes for the public.

Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee:

- Focuses on corporate objectives related to Place and Economy.
- Addresses significant ongoing projects and critical service delivery elements.

4.6. The Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny¹ states “*part of communicating scrutiny’s role and purpose to the wider authority should happen through the formal, public role of full Council – particularly given that scrutiny will undertake valuable work to highlight challenging issues that an authority will be facing and subjects that will be a focus of full Council’s work. Authorities should therefore take steps to ensure full Council is informed of the work the scrutiny committee is doing.*”

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. The Scrutiny Annual Report is an opportunity for all those involved in the scrutiny function to reflect on the activities and outcomes in 2023/24, to consider what has worked well and where further improvements could be made. It provides an opportunity to highlight the important scrutiny work that has taken place during this municipal year.
- 5.2. The draft report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.3. The Scrutiny Management Board is now asked to comment and contribute on the contents of the Scrutiny Annual Report.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1. Resources and Financial

6.1.1 There are no direct resources or financial implications arising from the report.

6.2. Legal and Governance

6.2.1 The legal basis on which scrutiny operates at North Northamptonshire Council is summarised in the Statutory Guidance for Overview and Scrutiny which states:

- The Local Government Act 2000² mandates that local authorities operating executive arrangements must establish one or more overview and scrutiny committees. Localism Act 2011 provides further guidance.
- These committees scrutinise the actions of the executive and the authority itself, providing an overview of matters affecting the authority’s area and its inhabitants.

¹ [Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities](#)

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/1021/made>

- Effective scrutiny is crucial for holding decision-makers accountable and ensuring the efficient delivery of public services.
- The purpose of scrutiny, effective scrutiny practices and benefits are outlined in statutory guidance provided by the government.

6.2.2 Key Points from the Statutory Guidance:

Purpose of Scrutiny:

- Scrutiny plays a fundamental role in local democracy by holding authorities accountable.
- It helps drive improvements within the authority and ensures efficient service delivery.

Effective Scrutiny Traits:

Authorities with effective scrutiny arrangements share certain key traits:

- A strong organisational culture that welcomes challenge.
- Commitment from senior members and officials.

Local Authority Autonomy:

- Authorities are best-placed to determine which scrutiny arrangements suit their individual circumstances.
- However, critical self-assessment and a culture conducive to effective scrutiny are strongly encouraged.

Legal Framework:

- Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 specifically requires local authorities operating executive arrangements to establish overview and scrutiny committees.
- These committees play a vital role in ensuring transparency, accountability and effective governance.

6.2.3 There are no direct legal implications relating to council activities arising from this report.

6.3. **Relevant Policies and Plans**

6.3.1. All corporate priorities listed in the Corporate Plan 2021/25.

6.4. **Risk**

6.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6.5. Consultation

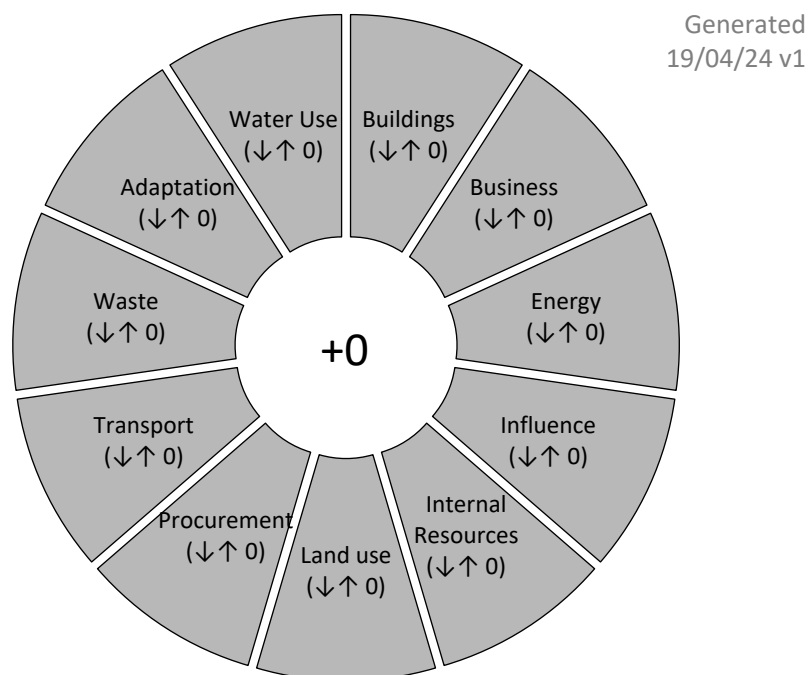
6.5.1. Consultation on the draft contents of the Scrutiny Annual Report has been undertaken with the Chairs of all Scrutiny Committee for their respective activities and is now being reported to the Scrutiny Management Board for consideration of overall content.

6.6. Equality Implications

6.6.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from the report.

6.7. Climate Impact

6.7.1 There are no climate impacts arising from the report.



North Northamptonshire Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, 5 yrs & 8 mos away.

6.8. Community Impact

6.8.1 There is no community impact arising from the report.

6.9. Crime and Disorder Impact

6.9.1 There are no crime and disorder impacts arising from the report.

7. Background Papers

7.1. [Agendas and minutes of the Scrutiny Committees and Scrutiny Management Board during 2023/24](#)

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1. Foreword from the Chair

To be provided by the Chair of Scrutiny Management Board.

DRAFT



Councillor Graham Lawman

Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board

North Northamptonshire Council

2. Foreword from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

2023/24 has been a fulfilling year in the development of scrutiny at North Northamptonshire Council. Following a detailed review of scrutiny governance during 2022/23 I have been pleased to witness the enthusiasm of councillors and officers who have embraced our new structure, led by a dedicated Scrutiny Management Board that has provided clear and focussed scrutiny work planning. The Board has been complemented by an increase in the number of scrutiny committees from one to three that has provided a step change in focus and quality of scrutiny with a greater focus on areas of council business, more expansive budget scrutiny and an increased focus on external scrutiny, particularly through our new health scrutiny committee.

I have also been pleased to welcome our first dedicated scrutiny manager, on an interim basis, during 2023/24 and look forward to providing an expansion of this dedicated support during 2024/25 with the creation of two dedicated scrutiny officer posts. Development of a scrutiny-executive protocol, which is expected during the early part of 2024/25 will only reinforce the important role and relationship that scrutiny holds as a key part of our decision-making process at North Northamptonshire Council.

Ben Smith

Statutory Scrutiny Officer/Head of Democratic Services
North Northamptonshire Council

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3. Executive Summary

The 2023-24 Annual Scrutiny Report offers a detailed examination of the scrutiny activities at North Northamptonshire Council (NNC), showcasing the strides made in enhancing governance since our transition to a unitary authority. This report highlights the integral role of scrutiny in reinforcing good governance, bettering resident outcomes and enriching NNC's performance monitoring processes. Throughout the year, scrutiny has exemplified resilience and collaborative spirit, steadfastly holding the Executive accountable and bolstering the delivery of NNC's strategic vision, corporate plan and priorities¹. Key points:

- △ **Comprehensive Work Programme:** A broad array of topics were addressed, encompassing finance, performance, health, social care and place-shaping, reflecting our commitment to multifaceted scrutiny.
- △ **In-depth Reviews:** Focused reviews on asset management, community levelling up and developer contributions have significantly supported NNC's objectives for Levelling Up and Regeneration.
- △ **Asset Rationalisation Review:** This review has led to substantial potential savings following a thorough evaluation of corporate buildings, demonstrating fiscal responsibility, value for money and strategic asset management.
- △ **Levelling Up Communities Review:** By engaging with various communities, this review has fostered the establishment of Local Area Partnerships and Neighbourhood Plans, enhancing local governance.
- △ **Training Programme:** A comprehensive training initiative for members was conducted by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), ensuring our members have been well-equipped to perform their changed roles effectively in 2023/24 and beyond.

Moving forward, we aim to focus on targeted reviews on pressing issues, monitoring of scrutiny recommendations, effective pre-meetings and enhanced engagement. Our focus will remain on adding value through strategic, evidence-based and outcome-oriented scrutiny activities. Achieving these goals will necessitate unwavering support and collaboration from our senior leadership and the allocation of dedicated resources for an effective scrutiny function.

¹ [Corporate plan | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/corporate-plan)

4. Toplines for Scrutiny in 2023/24

- ▶ **Strategic Leadership:** The Scrutiny Management Board, in its four meetings, focused on strategic leadership aligning the scrutiny function with the council's corporate objectives and its statutory responsibilities.
- ▶ **Corporate Scrutiny Committee's Comprehensive Programme:** With seven public meetings, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee effectively scrutinised key proposals, including, inter alia, detailed scrutiny on budgets and key performance indicators reflecting its dedication to comprehensive analysis.
- ▶ **Place and Environment Initiatives:** Addressing vital sectors like regeneration and climate, the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee's seven public meetings underscored its extensive impact.
- ▶ **Health Scrutiny Engagement:** The Health Scrutiny Committee, through six public meetings, played a pivotal role in examining the Integrated Care System and other areas, contributing to help improving health and social care integration.
- ▶ **Value of In-depth Panel Scrutiny Panels:** Specialised and dedicated scrutiny panels on Asset Rationalisation and Use, Budget Scrutiny, ICT Value for Money, Developer Contributions and reappointments to Outside bodies have underscored the profound insights and value that dedicated reviews can bring to the council's operations.
- ▶ **Training and Development:** Enhanced training by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and active network participation significantly boosted our members' scrutiny proficiency.
- ▶ **Increase in Scrutiny Meetings:** Over 100% increase with 43 meetings in 2023/24 compared with 2021/22 indicates a significant role and surge of scrutiny activity.
- ▶ **Demonstrated Scrutiny Strengths:** The scrutiny function has shown formidable resilience in financial monitoring, influencing executive decisions, impactful review panels and stakeholder engagement and comprehensive member training and development.

5. Introduction

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the scrutiny activities and outcomes at North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) for the 2023-24 period. Building on the progress from our first two years as a unitary authority, it underscores the critical role of effective scrutiny in fostering accountability, transparency and continuous improvement, all of which underpin NNC's strategic corporate plan and priorities.

6. Corporate Plan 2021/25

NNC's Corporate Plan 2021-2025 sets out six key priorities that articulate the Council's commitment to the community's well-being and sustainable development:

1. **Active, Fulfilled Lives:** Promoting health, well-being and active lifestyles.
2. **Better, Brighter Futures:** Investing in education and opportunities for all ages.
3. **Safe and Thriving Places:** Ensuring safety and prosperity in our neighbourhoods.
4. **Green, Sustainable Environment:** Protecting and enhancing our natural surroundings.
5. **Connected Communities:** Strengthening the bonds within and between communities.
6. **Modern Public Services:** Delivering efficient, user-centric public services.

The Corporate Plan Refresh 2022/23² reaffirms these priorities and introduces Levelling Up and Regeneration as pivotal themes, weaving them into the fabric of our strategic initiatives.

7a. Enhanced Scrutiny Arrangements

Post-review implementation in May 2023, NNC's scrutiny arrangements have been refined to bolster their effectiveness and impact:

- **Scrutiny Management Board (SMB):** Provides strategic leadership, ensuring that the scrutiny function appropriately aligns with the council's objectives.

² The Corporate Plan Refresh 2022/23 of North Northamptonshire Council

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- ▶ **Corporate Scrutiny Committee (CSC):** Concentrates on finance, performance and partnerships, serving as a watchdog for fiscal responsibility and organisational efficacy.
- ▶ **Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC):** With a focus on health, social care and public health, the committee addresses the priority of fostering 'Active, Fulfilled Lives', advocating for comprehensive and accessible health services.
- ▶ **Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee (PESC):** Monitors and scrutinises initiatives related to regeneration, housing, highways, climate and community safety, contributing to 'Safe and Thriving Places' and a 'Green, Sustainable Environment'.

Through these dedicated committees and the overarching SMB, NNC's scrutiny function is becoming more incisive and influential, ensuring that our actions and policies are thoroughly examined and aligned with our community's best interests.

7b. Scrutiny Management Board (SMB)

To provide strategic oversight, the SMB was established to strategically steer the scrutiny function, ensuring that it serves as a catalyst for improvement and accountability. Three new scrutiny committees were instituted, each with a clear and focused remit:

- ▶ **Corporate Scrutiny Committee:** Concentrates, primarily, on financial oversight and organisational performance.
- ▶ **Health Scrutiny Committee:** Addresses health, social care and public health matters.
- ▶ **Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee:** Oversees initiatives related to regeneration, housing and environmental sustainability.

In the 2023-24 municipal year, the Scrutiny Management Board (SMB) at North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) displayed strategic leadership, building upon the foundational years of our unitary authority. The SMB's key activities and outcomes were characterised by a proactive and responsive approach to governance, aligning as closely as possible with NNC's strategic priorities and best practice.

8. Strategic Initiatives and Outcomes

- ▶ **Annual Work Programme Development:** The SMB, through stakeholder engagement, crafted a prioritised work programme that not only aligns with NNC's strategic priorities but also adapts responsively to evolving needs via member workshops and ongoing evaluations.
- ▶ **Executive Forward Plan Oversight:** With meticulous attention, the SMB reviewed the Executive Forward Plan, pinpointing key items for proactive scrutiny and demonstrating commendable oversight.
- ▶ **Community Engagement and Response:** The SMB addressed a sensitive call-in request concerning a proposed travellers' site with adherence to constitutional procedures, showcasing exemplary community engagement and supporting the 'Connected Communities' initiative.
- ▶ **Impactful Recommendations:** Notably, the SMB's recommendations from the Levelling Up Communities Review have led to the creation of Local Area Partnerships, yielding direct benefits for residents and reinforcing the council's Levelling Up agenda.
- ▶ **Committee Synergy:** The SMB ensured that the three scrutiny committees worked in unison, delivering well-rounded and focused programmes that comprehensively address NNC's strategic goals.
- ▶ **Call-in Procedure Adherence:** The SMB's handling of a call-in regarding a proposed Travellers Temporary Stopping Site exemplified its dedication to due process and community engagement.

Looking to the future, the SMB is committed to further elevating the role of scrutiny. Through strategic initiatives, innovative community engagement, and diligent monitoring of recommendations, the SMB aims to continue adding value with a focus on evidence-based results and impactful outcomes.

9. Corporate Scrutiny Committee (CSC)

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee, with its membership of 9 councillors, has over the course of 7 public meetings, demonstrated a commitment to rigorous financial and performance monitoring, ensuring that each session contributes to the council's continuous improvement, as well as holding the Children's Trust accountable.

Key Activities and Outcomes:

- ▶ **Focus on Key Areas and Performance Scrutiny:** The committee along with a dedicated panel held multiple and comprehensive sessions dedicated to budget scrutiny, addressing areas of concern such as pressures in Children's Services, Adult Social Care and reviewing progress on future priorities like the Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) transformation. More details of the budget scrutiny are highlighted in a dedicated section below.
- ▶ **Pre-decision Scrutiny:** Recommendations from reviews, including the Pay and Grading review and the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, were made to the Full Council and the Executive, showcasing the committee's influence on policy-making.
- ▶ **Partnership and In-depth Reviews:** The committee engaged in a thorough mid-year review of the NCT, examining financial risks and partnership arrangements and established the ICT Value for Money Scrutiny Group to ensure fiscal responsibility in technology investments.
- ▶ **Levelling Up Communities:** Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review has played a pivotal role in community engagement, leading to the creation of Local Area Partnerships and ongoing reporting to Executive.

10. Budget Scrutiny 2023/24

To assist the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in formulating its representation to the Executive on the 2024/25 Council budget, phase 1 and phase 2 budget scrutiny sessions were timetabled through a Budget Scrutiny Panel. These sessions were formulated around the main service areas of the Council with each session being attended by the appropriate senior officers from the respective service area and officers from Finance, as well as a dedicated session attended by representatives of the North Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

For phase 1, seven sessions took place during November 2023, which included consideration of budget monitoring information for 2023/24 with the current outturn projections for 2023/24, as well as an early indication of key issues to be taken into account in the formulation of the draft 2024/25 budget proposals. For phase 2, detailed scrutiny of the proposed 2024/25 budget took place, again with seven meetings taking place, each session comprising a presentation from officers relating to the respective service area, with

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a focus on the budget implications as contained in the draft budget proposals 2024/25.

Each session included an opportunity for questions and answers.

The work of the Budget Scrutiny Panel during 2023/24 was praised for its comprehensive nature, culminating in a [detailed report](#) and [clear, focussed recommendations](#) for the Executive to consider. The Leader of the Council thanked the Budget Scrutiny Panel and Corporate Scrutiny Committee for its time and effort in bringing its proposals and noted that the Executive looked forward to working with the committee to review its recommendations. It was further noted that it was beneficial to have an independent arm of the council to provide an overview of the budget setting process, with the Executive finding it useful to lean into the experience that the Panel provided. The Executive approved the scrutiny recommendations, submitting them to full council for consideration as part of the final stage of the budget setting process.

11. Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC)

The Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) is predominantly externally focused and has strived to uphold its statutory role with diligence, actively engaging with key health partners and scrutinising the integration of health and social care services. Through its work, the HSC has endeavoured to support the council's priority of promoting 'Active, Fulfilled Lives'.

Key Activities and Outcomes:

- ▶ **Engagement with Health Partners:** The HSC's collaboration with entities like the Integrated Care Board and local hospitals has been central to its efforts in examining and improving health services.
- ▶ **Focus on Health Inequalities:** The committee has taken a proactive stance on addressing health inequalities, examining strategies for substance misuse and targeting areas where disparities are most pronounced.
- ▶ **Social Care Integration:** The HSC has reviewed the progress of the Integrated Care System, probing to ensure that health and social care services are effectively joined up to serve the community's needs.
- ▶ **Public Meetings and Communication:** A well-attended public meeting on NHS dentistry access has led to improved communication strategies, directly impacting residents' access to healthcare in North Northamptonshire.

- ▶ **Education and Children:** Exclusions and Children's Health checks were recently raised and are expected to be on the list of topics to be reviewed in the next cycle.

12. Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee (PESC)

The Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee (PESC) has been a cornerstone in advancing North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC) strategic priorities, particularly in creating Safe and Thriving Places and fostering a Green, Sustainable Environment. With 11 meetings held, the highest among the scrutiny bodies, the PESC's extensive work programme has significantly contributed to policy development and strategic planning.

Highlights of the Year:

- ▶ **Pre-decision Scrutiny:** The PESC conducted seven pre-decision scrutiny reviews on critical policies such as the Home to School Transport Policy, Kettering Walking and Cycling Plan and the future of Kettering Leisure Village, with a several well-crafted recommendations made to the Executive.
- ▶ **Contract and Project Performance Review:** The committee reviewed key contracts and major projects, including Sustainable Urban Extensions, identifying opportunities for potential savings and improvements.
- ▶ **Policy Development:** The PESC provided valuable input on policies like the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, enhancing NNC's environmental impact and sustainability efforts.
- ▶ **Scrutiny Deep-dive:** Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel; Asset Rationalisation and Use Scrutiny Panel; and Levelling Up Communities Review have all made a positive impact with scrutiny recommendations made to the Executive.

13. In-depth Scrutiny Reviews and Panels – Highlights

- ▶ **Asset Rationalisation and Use:** The dedicated panel reviewed corporate buildings, making recommendations for future use. Due to its success, it has been asked to continue to review carbon neutral and energy efficiency aspects in 2024-25. The endorsement of the recommendations from the Asset Rationalisation and Use Review have supported NNC's Regeneration and Levelling Up corporate priorities.

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- ▶ **Developer Contributions (S106):** *[Due to report its findings at end of April 2024, summary of outcomes to be inserted here].*
- ▶ **Continued Impact of Levelling Up Communities Recommendations to Executive:** Engaged three communities to examine data and propose levelling up actions, leading to the establishment of Local Area Partnerships and resident-led Neighbourhood Plans, endorsed by the Executive and regularly monitored.
- ▶ **Outside Bodies:** A review to consider and make appropriate reappointments to relevant outside bodies to ensure effective engagement on behalf of NNC with the relevant bodies.
- ▶ **ICT value for money:** On-going. To understand the overall value for money of ICT services at NNC; and to determine the value for money of ICT services provided by West Northamptonshire Council. A final report is scheduled for August/September 2024.

14. Scrutiny Meetings – Key Statistics

▶ Total Number of Scrutiny Meetings held in 2023/24:	43
△ Scrutiny Management Board:	4 meetings
△ Corporate Scrutiny Committee:	7 meetings
△ Health Scrutiny Committee:	6 meetings
△ Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee:	7 meetings
△ Budget Scrutiny:	7 meetings (Concluded)
△ Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel (S106):	3 meetings (Concluded)
△ Outside bodies:	2 meetings (Concluded)
△ ICT value for money:	3 meetings (In progress)
△ Asset Rationalisation and Use:	4 meetings (Concluded, with a request to continue in the next phase in 2024-25)

15. Training and Development

An intensive training program delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) has enhanced members' skills in effective scrutiny, chairing, financial scrutiny and children's

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services. Participation in and a period of chairing the East Midlands Scrutiny Network, a network of scrutiny chairs and officers, has facilitated the sharing of best practices and learning among members.

Date	Topic
11 September 2023	The Essential of Effective Strategic Scrutiny
29 September 2023	Chairing and Leading Scrutiny Committees
2 October 2023	Council Finances, Budget, and Commercial Scrutiny
30 October 2023	Budget Scrutiny - Phase 1 (Children's Services)
9 November 2023	Scrutiny Training (Children's Services & Safeguarding)
<p>► Moreover, Scrutiny members were encouraged to attend the East Midlands Scrutiny Network which meets bi-monthly with a mixture of in-person and remote meetings. The former chair of Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee acted as chair for the network for much of 2023/24.</p>	

16. Conclusion

The 2023-24 period marked a significant development of the scrutiny function at NNC. Scrutiny's work has been instrumental in holding the Executive to account, supporting the delivery of NNC's priorities and driving tangible improvements for residents. Key strengths demonstrated include:

- △ Robust financial and performance monitoring.
- △ Effective pre-decision scrutiny influencing Executive decisions.
- △ Dedicated, high-impact review panels.
- △ Improved engagement, particularly by the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- △ Specialist member training and development.

Moving forward, we can't rest on our laurels – there is a lot more needs be done to sustain momentum and to effect further improvements.

17. Looking Ahead

Moving forward, our commitment is to continuous improvement. To maintain our positive trajectory and further enhance the effectiveness of scrutiny, our suggested focus is expected to be on the following key areas:

- ▶ Development of Scrutiny Annual Work Programme 2024-25.
- ▶ Development of Scrutiny-Executive Protocol (SEP)
- ▶ Development of a mechanism to monitor scrutiny recommendations and actions.
- ▶ Targeted reviews of high-priority issues.
- ▶ Engagement to improve public/stakeholder knowledge and use of scrutiny.
- ▶ Enhanced effectiveness in the use of pre-meeting planning activities to help achieve scrutiny meeting objectives.
- ▶ Dedicated scrutiny resource: Whilst the scrutiny function has received very good support throughout the year from officers and a recent appointment of a scrutiny manager on an interim basis is very welcome – the benefit of a dedicated scrutiny team working together under a specialist scrutiny manager is recognised as good practice and it is welcomed this will be implemented during the 2024/25 municipal year.

To effectively deliver aforementioned actions will require continued commitment and collaboration from all stakeholders; particularly senior leadership, council members as well as participation of residents.

Appendices:

- A. *Corporate Scrutiny Committee: Annual Activity Update 2023 with a summary table*
- B. *Health Scrutiny Committee Summary: Annual Activity Update 2023 with a summary table*
- C. *Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee Summary: Annual Activity Update 2023 with a summary table of meetings, topics and outcomes.*

Citations:

- [1] *Local Government Act 2000; Localism Act 2011; and Statutory scrutiny guidance for councils (2019)*
- [2] *Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (2019). The Good Scrutiny Guide.*
- [3] *North Northamptonshire Council (2021). Council Plan 2021-2025.*
- [4] *North Northamptonshire Council (2022). Corporate Plan Refresh 2022-23.*
- [5] *North Northamptonshire Council (2023/24). Scrutiny Committees: Agendas and Minutes.*

Appendix A: Corporate Scrutiny Committee | Annual Activity Update 2023/24

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee delivered a comprehensive scrutiny programme, providing robust challenge and oversight as a 'critical friend' in line with its wide-ranging constitutional duties.

Leadership and Members:

- Chair: Councillor Lyn Buckingham
- Vice Chair: Councillor Lora Lawman
- Members: Councillors Martin Griffiths, Richard Levell, Paul Marks, Zoe McGhee, Steven North, Dr. Anup Pandey, Russell Roberts
(Councillor Jim Hakewill served until March 2024)

The cross-party membership of 9 councillors facilitated diverse perspectives and a robust yet consensual approach.

Terms of Reference

The committee's terms of reference were focussed on reviewing and scrutinising the following key areas:

- Undertaking the budget review process and ensuring rigorous challenge of budget proposals
- Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, and Housing Revenue Account
- Corporate performance data
- Council-owned buildings and resources
- Enabling services e.g. IT
- Outside bodies
- Customer services
- Complaints
- Northamptonshire Children's Trust
- Partnerships

Scrutiny Activities and Outcomes

Performance and Budget Monitoring

At all 7 meetings:

- Performance Indicators: Identified areas for future scrutiny work plan (Performance Monitoring) including identifying a training requirement for Committee members on KPIs, that the highways contractor be scrutinised over their performance and this was undertaken by the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 19th December 2023. Also identified was workforce planning and vacancies, including agency spend and this has been added to the scrutiny work plan for early 2024/25.
- Budget Monitoring: Comments and critical friend challenge made around the measures put in place within adults services to deal with high demand for services but not affecting the standard of care provided and the support from staff to the move towards more single-handed care. The Executive Member for Finance and Transformation has also been challenged on how he and his Executive colleagues scrutinise the budgets of the Council. There has also been challenge around how risk was being managed due to the level of vacancies within the Finance and Performance Teams.
- Capital Monitoring on 29 June 2023, 12 Dec 2023 and 9 Apr 2024: Comments and critical friend challenge made on the significant underspend of £73m on the Capital Programme. The Committee has agreed that the Scrutiny Management Board be requested to include the capital programme and why it has significantly underspent on the Scrutiny work plan for further scrutiny.

Pre-decision Scrutiny

- 15 Aug 2023: Pay and Grading - Recommendations made to Full Council to approve the proposed pay structure and terms and conditions for North Northamptonshire Council. These recommendations were considered by Full Council on 31st August 2023 and accepted in full. The Committee is due to consider the implementation of the new pay structure and terms and conditions early in 2024/25 as part of the scrutiny work plan.
- 10 Oct 2023: Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25 - Recommendation made to the Executive that the existing Local Council Tax Support Scheme be continued for 2024/25. This recommendation was considered by the Executive on 16 November 2023 where the recommendation was accepted.
- 10 Oct 2023: Indicative Budget Timeline and Scrutiny Process 2024/25 - Agreed timeline and arrangements (Budget Scrutiny) The Committee challenged how vulnerable residents would be affected due to the budget saving requirements. The Assistant Director of Finance and Strategy advised that a full Equalities Impact Assessment would be developed throughout the process to assess the impact on residents.
- 9 Apr 2024: Review of the Performance Management Framework – Recommendation made to the Executive to support the adoption of the Performance Management Framework and 2024/25 Key Performance Indicator set.

Partnership Scrutiny

- Northamptonshire Children's Trust:
 - 12 Dec 2023 Mid-Year Review: Comments, challenge and agreed to write to LGA and 3 MPs. The Trust has welcomed the challenge of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to seek reassurance on the risk to the Council of the financial position of the Trust. The Committee has agreed to recommend to the Scrutiny Management Board that the Health Scrutiny Committee be requested to examine the partnership arrangements, including health, of the Trust to ensure that all partners are contributing appropriately.

Other Areas

- 15 Aug 2023: Revenues and Benefits Annual Report - Comments and challenge made (Performance Monitoring)
- 10 Oct 2023: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report 2022/23 - Comments and challenge made (Performance Monitoring)
- 12 Dec 2023: ICT Update - Comments and challenge made (Performance Monitoring). The ICT Value for Money Scrutiny Group will be reestablished and report to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee during Quarter 2 of 2024.
- 12 Dec 2023: Scrutiny Work Plan – the Committee challenged the process of how potential items for scrutiny were considered by the Scrutiny Management Board and how these decisions were feedback to the person referring it.
- 23 Jan 2024: Budget 2024/2025 - Recommendations made to the Executive (Budget Scrutiny) that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee considered:
 - (i) That Children's Services' remained one of the budget areas of greatest concern, especially as the deficit on the High Needs Block continued to grow each year, appreciating that the aftermath of COVID had generated a significant backlog in cases and development issues in younger children.
 - (ii) There was also significant concern with Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing service pressures of £19.947m in 2024/25, particularly in Adult Services of £18.648m, against savings of £4.217m. This would need to be monitored carefully in terms of maintaining a balanced budget for 2024/25.
 - (iii) Whilst noting the excellent progress made by the Council following its formation in difficult circumstances and during a global pandemic, to achieve best value, savings and equality of service availability for tax payers across North

Northamptonshire, it would be helpful for the Council to set clearly defined goals and milestones for the transformation and harmonisation of the remaining prior Borough and District based service areas.

- (iv) That, to ensure effective scrutiny of the Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT), Scrutiny should undertake a further review of the NCT's transformation work and its progress around the end of the second quarter of 2024.
- (v) That the budget scrutiny process around NCT commence earlier moving forward, so that recommendations may be put forward before contracts are agreed.
- (vi) That for future budget scrutiny sessions, Equality Impact Assessments be provided to enable effective consideration of the impact of proposals on our vulnerable residents.

These recommendations were considered by the Executive on 8th February 2024 where they referred them to Full Council for consideration as part of the Budget.

- 9 Apr 2024: Customer Services Operations - Comments and challenge made on the delivery of customer services following the implementation of two major transformation projects. The Committee has requested to visit one of the customer service centres to see the number and breadth of the calls received. The Committee has also requested a further update at a future meeting once the new Customer Management System has been implemented.

In-depth Reviews

Asset Rationalisation and Use Scrutiny Review

- Established in January 2022 to consider asset management challenges and develop an asset strategy, including Community Asset Transfer Policy, Asset Disposal Policy and Corporate Property Leasehold Policy.
- Dedicated panel of 6 members met 4 times and conducted site visits
- Submitted interim report on corporate buildings to Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee (25 March 2024) – developed a detailed knowledge of the council's corporate estate, why particular property was held and the approach to developing future management. 12 corporate buildings were reviewed, and the Panel considered potential opportunities for future use and recommended whether the buildings should be retained, exited or looked at for possible community use.
- To be reestablished for continued work including understanding the implications of future energy efficiency targets on the council's estate and to provide reassurance on the management and monitoring of the key risks associated with the council's commercial estate.

Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review

- Established to examine levelling up in 3 wards and develop an action plan
- Working group of 7 members engaged with communities and built consensus
- Final report considered by Executive (25 August 2022)
- Regular progress monitoring of recommendations by Executive. Key achievements have included the establishment of Local Area Partnerships and Community Wellbeing Forums as a systematic approach to community engagement and collaborative problem solving. The Well Northants programme has developed resident-led Neighbourhood Action Groups and Plans for the three left behind communities. Putting communities at the heart of levelling up is at the heart of the Well Northants programme, which takes an asset-based community development approach.

Effective Practices

- Continuity through relevant review panels that add value and provide effective monitoring.

Table of meetings, activities and outcomes

A table highlighting the topics, dates, brief description, outcome and type of scrutiny is provided as Appendix 1 (see overleaf) to this annual activity update for Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

Conclusion

The committee undertook a comprehensive scrutiny programme aligned with its terms of reference. It provided rigorous monitoring, pre-decision scrutiny, partnership oversight and strategic reviews, making recommendations to drive improvements. While demonstrating effective scrutiny practices, opportunities remain, subject to resources, to enhance reporting on qualitative impact, public engagement, coordination and continuous learning.

Appendix A1: Corporate Scrutiny Committee – Table of meetings, scrutiny activities & outcomes

Topic	Date	Brief Details	Outcome	Type of Scrutiny
Performance Indicators	All meetings	Consideration of the Council's performance across a wide range of services.	Identified areas of future work for the Scrutiny work plan.	Performance Monitoring
Budget Monitoring	All meetings	Consideration of the Council's budget monitoring position.	Comments and challenge made.	Performance Monitoring
Capital Monitoring	12 December 2023 9 April 2024	Consideration of the Council's Capital position.	Comments and challenge made. Recommendation to the Scrutiny Management Board for further scrutiny on the capital programme and why it has significantly underspent.	Performance Monitoring
Revenues and Benefits Annual Report	15 August 2023	Consideration of performance.	Comments and challenge made.	Performance Monitoring
Pay and Grading	15 August 2023	Consideration of proposed pay structure and employment terms and conditions.	Recommendations made to Full Council.	Pre-decision Scrutiny
Indicative Budget Timeline and Scrutiny Process 2024/25	10 October 2023	Consideration of the 2024/25 budget setting process and	Agreed the timeline for the setting of the	Budget Scrutiny

		scrutiny arrangements.	budget and scrutiny arrangements.	
Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25	10 October 2023	Consideration of the proposed Local Council Tax Support Scheme.	Recommendation made to the Executive.	Pre-decision Scrutiny
Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report 2022/23	10 October 2023	Consideration of the annual Ombudsman's report.	Comments and challenge made.	Performance Monitoring
Northamptonshire Children's Trust – Mid Year Review	12 December 2023	To scrutinise the NCT Period 6 budget monitoring report.	Comments and challenge made. Agreed to write to the LGA and 3 MPs.	Partnership Scrutiny
ICT Update	12 December 2023	Consideration of an ICT update.	Comments and challenge made.	Performance Monitoring
Budget 2024/2025	23 January 2024	Consideration of outcome of scrutiny budget sessions.	Recommendations made to the Executive	Budget Scrutiny
Northamptonshire Children's Trust	9 April 2024	Consideration of performance of Children's Trust	Recommendations made to the Scrutiny Management Board for further scrutiny.	Partnership Scrutiny
Customer Services Operations	9 April 2024	Consideration of Customer Services Operations following transformational activity.	Comments and challenge made. Further scrutiny to take place once further transformation has taken place.	Performance Monitoring
Annual Review of the Performance Management Framework	April 2024	Consideration of the Performance Management Framework.	Recommendations made to the Executive.	Performance Monitoring

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Appendix B: Health Scrutiny Committee – Annual Activity Update 2023/24

Following its prioritised work programme, Health Scrutiny Committee provided a robust challenge and oversight as a ‘critical friend.’ The activities aligned with its wide-ranging constitutional duties.

The Health Scrutiny Committee operates with a cross-party membership of 10 councillors, ensuring a wide range of perspectives and a robust yet consensual approach. The leadership and members are as follows:

Leadership and Members:

- Chair: Councillor King Lawal
- Vice Chair: Councillor Charlie Best
- Members: Councillors Scott Brown, Jon-Paul Carr, Bert Jackson, Graham Lawman, Anne Lee, Dorothy Maxwell, Mark Pengelly
(Councillor Zoe McGhee served until January 2024)

Terms of Reference

1. To exercise the Council’s statutory role in scrutinising health services for North Northamptonshire in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended and associated regulations and guidance.
2. To engage with and respond to formal and informal consultations from local health service commissioners and providers where the Committee wishes to do so. This shall be on behalf of Scrutiny and not on behalf of Council.
3. To scrutinise the commissioning and delivery of local health and social care services to ensure a reduction in recognised health inequalities, improved access to services and the best outcomes for citizens.
4. To hold the Health and Wellbeing Board to account for its work to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of North Northamptonshire and to reduce health inequalities;
5. To respond to referrals from, and make referrals to, Healthwatch North Northamptonshire as appropriate;
6. To appoint a lead health scrutiny councillor for the purposes of liaising with stakeholders on behalf of the Health Scrutiny function, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch North Northamptonshire, and the Executive Member with responsibility for health and social care issues;
7. To have responsibility for scrutinising the Council’s role as an Education Authority.

In-Depth Reviews

- No Scrutiny reviews have arisen from Health Scrutiny yet however, members have indicated a desire to further explore the issue of substance misuse, particularly following the previous two meetings in January and March 2024. Therefore, a potential avenue for wider future work exists in this form.

Effective Practices

- The Committee has considered a wide range of topics to date, in line with its Terms of Reference, from both internal and external report authors. Internal reports generally come from the Director of Public Health (Jane Bethea), or the Executive Director of Adults, Health

Partnerships and Housing (David Watts). External presenters have included representatives from the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), Kettering General Hospital (KGH), East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and The Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT). As a result of this, the primary key achievement of the Health Scrutiny Committee has been its stakeholder engagement. For the first time, Scrutiny has actively engaged with, and held to account, key health partners of the Council.

- Cross-party representation and leadership structure.

Conclusion

The committee undertook a comprehensive scrutiny programme aligned with its terms of reference and engaged with both key health partners and the wider public (specifically at the March 2024 meeting). This has allowed for members to gain valuable information regarding health service provision within North Northamptonshire.

Health Scrutiny has not been so proactive in making recommendations after considering such topics. While meaningful debate has taken place, members rarely draw clear conclusions from discussion and simply ‘note’ reports with little further action taking place.

It is imperative that moving forward, Health Scrutiny remains targeted and focused in its scope. As a general rule, no more than four substantive agenda items are considered at a meeting, to allow for considered debate and the Chair has supported this ‘less is more’ approach for meetings.

Appendix B1: Health Scrutiny Committee – Table of meetings, scrutiny activities and outcome

Topic	Date	Details	Scrutiny Type	Outcome
Health Scrutiny Work Plan	All meetings	Considered the work plan and potential areas of interest, in line with the Committee’s ToR.	Internal – Monitoring	Identified areas of future work for the Health Scrutiny work plan.
Background to new Scrutiny arrangements	11 July 2023	Consideration of new Scrutiny arrangements and Terms of Reference for the Committee.	Internal – Overview and Monitoring	Better understanding and learning to improve scrutiny function.
Introduction to the Integrated Care System in Northamptonshire	11 July 2023	Scrutinised the Integrated Care System and its aims and ambitions.	Internal – Overview and analysis	Comments made - Report noted.
Children and young people’s short breaks and respite – New model and engagement	12 September 2023	The Commissioning Manager of the NCT presented work and public engagement carried out regarding the development of a new model for short break for children with disabilities.	External – Scrutiny and Monitoring	Feedback provided.
NHS Foundation Trust Joint Work Community-Bed Approach	12 September 2023	The Group Director of Strategy and Partnerships of the NHS Foundation Trust presented its joint-work and the ‘community-bed’ approach around this work.	External – Reviewing details and providing feedback	Feedback provided.
Kettering General Hospital Annual Report	14 November 2023	Representatives from KGH were in attendance to present	External –	Reviewed and feedback provided.

		the annual report for 2022/23.	Monitoring and feedback	
Dentistry Availability and Performance	14 November 2023	Representatives from East Midlands ICBs attended to present information regarding NHS primary care dental services in North Northamptonshire.	External – Scrutiny and Monitoring	Feedback provided.
Update on Kettering General Hospital Rebuild	9 January 2024	Scrutinised the progress of the planned KGH rebuild.	External – Monitoring and Scrutiny	Reviewed and feedback provided.
Health Integration – Progress from the Local Area Partnerships/Community Wellbeing Forums	9 January 2024	Provided an update regarding how key local partnerships, arising from Integrated Care in Northamptonshire, were performing and meeting their outcomes.	Internal – Monitoring and Scrutiny	Reviewed and feedback provided.
Specialist Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services for individuals rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping	9 January 2024	Scrutinised NNC's use of Public Health Reserves to fund activities up to £600,000 for specialist drug and alcohol treatment services for people rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping until 31st March 2026.	Internal – Monitoring.	Recommendations referred to Executive meeting held on 18 January 2024 – Executive approved use of PH reserves (£600k) to fund services.
EMAS Annual Report	9 January 2024	Scrutinised EMAS's annual report, published on 21 June 2023.	External – Review and Monitoring.	Reviewed and feedback provided..
Short Breaks and Respite for Children with Disabilities	9 January 2024	Provided an update regarding work and public consultation completed to date to develop a new model for short breaks and respite for children with disabilities.	Internal -	Comments made – Report noted.
Substance Misuse	12 March 2024	Scrutinised strategies in dealing with substance misuse.	Internal (with external speakers also in attendance from local substance misuse organisations)	Comments made – Report noted.

NHS Health Checks	12 March 2024	Provided an update regarding the NHS Health Checks programme and contract (hosted by NNC).	Internal – Monitoring	Comments made – Report noted.
Adult Social Care Strategic Framework	14 November 2023	Pre-decision scrutiny of the report being considered by the Executive on 21 st December 2023.	Internal – Input into policy making or decision. Pre-decision scrutiny.	Executive approved proposal to remove reference to Department of Work and Pensions DS1500 Certificates from the Adult Social Care Fees and Charges Policy and not extend the exemption to charging to the SR1 Form.
NNC Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28	12 March 2024	Scrutinised the proposed adoption of the new strategy by the Executive on 14 th March 2024 following statutory consultation and subsequent amendments.	Internal – Pre-decision Scrutiny	Executive approved that the allocated spend of Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP) funding.

Future Work Plan:

Topic	Date	Reasons for Scrutiny
Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – Quality Report	14 May 2024	To scrutinise the annual report of the Foundation Trust.
NHS Northamptonshire ICB Five-Year Joint Forward Plan 2023-28	14 May 2024	To scrutinise the proposals and targets of the Integrated Care Board over the next five years.
GP Performance and Availability	14 May 2024	To scrutinise GP appointment availability.
Beyond April 2024, to be reviewed and confirmed as part of annual work programme development 2024-25 and agenda planning:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children’s Health checks (particularly around mental health issues service provision and waiting lists). Performance of Kettering General Hospital – Update Exclusions Family Hubs Disabled Facilities Grants 	TBC	TBC

Appendix C: Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee – Annual Activity Update 2023/24

The Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee has delivered an updated scrutiny programme providing challenge and oversight as a 'critical friend' in line with its constitutional duties.

Membership and Leadership

Whilst there have been some membership changes in-year, the current membership of the committee is shown below:

- Chair: Councillor Gill Mercer (June to January) now Councillor Graham Lawman (elected 5 February 2024);
- Vice Chair: Councillor Kevin Watt (June to January) now Councillor Philip Irwin (elected 25 March 2024);
- Members: Councillors Valerie Anslow, Melanie Coleman, Emily Fedorowycz, Macaulay Nichol (joined February 2024), Mark Pengelly, Geoff Shacklock and Lee Wilkes.

The cross-party membership of nine councillors has facilitated good and challenging scrutiny and pre-scrutiny during this period.

Terms of Reference

The committee's terms of reference were agreed at its first meeting on 27th. June 2023 and encompass the following key areas for review and scrutiny:

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|---------|
| • Transport | Regeneration | Neighbourhoods | Housing |
| • Highways | Climate | Community Safety | Leisure |
| • Tourism | Social Housing | Enviro-crime | Waste |

Scrutiny Activities and Outcomes

Appendix A - Table of meetings, activities and outcomes

A table highlighting the topics, date, brief description, outcome and type of scrutiny is provided as Appendix A.

Pre-decision Scrutiny

Please find details below of the pre-decision scrutiny decisions and the Executive decisions made.

1. Home to School Transport Policy – 27th. June 2023

Recommendation made by Scrutiny to Executive:

- The format and wording of the policy be updated to make it easier to understand;
- Free transport to linked schools be ceased, for new applications, unless it is the nearest suitable school with places, with effect from September 2024.
- New applicants pay the full cost of the fare for those not eligible for free transport, but, those pupils currently within the system pay a suggested fare of £760, rising potentially over a three-year period from September 2024, with a caveat that consideration be given to the cost implications on older pupils undertaking examinations and to multiple children travelling from the same household;
- The 'guaranteed seat' option be removed, and applications received before the May deadline be offered on a first-come first-served basis.

Executive decision:

Agreed:

- that the format and wording of the policy be updated;

- (ii) the discretionary service provision for all age groups be retained subject to:
 - (a) The guaranteed discretionary seat for early applicants to be withdrawn from all *new* applications for transport for September 2024 onwards. In doing so, discretionary seats will only be available on a first-come-first-served basis if there is spare capacity on transport arranged for pupils eligible for free transport.
 - (b) From September 2024, increase the fare contribution to £760/seat/year to reduce the subsidy provided by the council, funded from general taxation. This will apply to existing passengers as well as new applicants.
- (iii) the fare be reviewed annually in line with the council's fees and charge's structure.
- (iv) cease to provide free transport to linked schools unless it is the nearest suitable school with places. This would only affect net applications from September 2024 onwards.
- (v) the approval of the final draft of the policy be delegated to the Executive Member of Highways, Travel and Assets in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

2. Kettering Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Kettering – 28th. August 2023

Recommendation made by Scrutiny to Executive:

- (i) The findings of the public consultation on the Kettering LCWIP be noted;
- (ii) The comments made by the committee be noted;
- (iii) The Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets be requested to recommend to the Executive that the routes identified in the Kettering KCWIP be progressed as soon as possible.

Executive decision:

Agreed:

- (i) the findings of the public consultation analysis for the Kettering Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) be noted;
- (ii) the Draft Kettering LCWIP be adopted as a council policy document;
- (iii) prioritisation of routes within the Kettering LCWIP should form the basis of work to develop preliminary designs for the routes within existing budgets to form the basis of future funding bids. Any further external funding secured as a result will form the basis of future report(s) to Executive.

3. Cornerstone Art Gallery – 28th. August 2023

Recommendation made by Scrutiny to Executive:

- (i) the report and presentation be noted;
- (ii) the comments of the committee be noted;
- (iii) the chair would inform the Executive of the urgent need to progress the repairs to the library roof to enable Cornerstone to open.

Executive decision:

Agreed

- (i) That Council approve a budget of £6,807,000 to be added to the Capital Programme to fulfil the Executive's longstanding commitment to replace the Kettering Library roof and to commit to repair the roof of the Art Gallery.
- (ii) Delegated authority be given to the Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the Director of Public Health and the Director of Place and Economy, to procure the necessary works to replace the Kettering Library roof and undertake any actions required to deliver the project within the approved financial envelope.

Council approved the above on 7th. December 2023.

4. Household Waste Contract – 31st. October 2023

Recommendation by Scrutiny to Executive

- (i) approve the commencement of the procurement of the council's future HWRC contract;
- (ii) the operation of the HWRC facilities in North Northamptonshire be delivered under an outsourced operating mode for a duration of 15 years;
- (iii) an extension to the current lease for the Corby HWRC for three years to enable a review to be undertaken for alternative provision in the area;
- (iv) that officers undertake a review of alternative provision of a HWRC facility in the vicinity of Corby and to consider the sourcing of a new lease for, or purchase of, new or existing land, or utilisation of existing council owned land, dependent on which provided the greatest value to both the council and delivery of the service;
- (v) that delegated authority be given to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with the Executive Director of Place & Economy, the Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Director for Finance, to take any further decisions and/or actions required in connection with the procurement and award of the HWRC contracts, without the need to return to the Executive.

Executive decision:

Agreed

- (i) That the procurement of the council's future Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) contract commence.
- (ii) that the operation of HWRC facilities in North Northamptonshire will be delivered under an outsourced operating model for a duration up to 15 years.
- (iii) the extension of the current lease for the land for Corby HWRC be agreed by 3 years to enable a review to be undertaken on alternative provision for the area.
- (iv) officers undertake a review of alternative provision at Corby to consider the sourcing of a new lease for, or purchase of new or existing land, or utilisation of existing council owned land, dependent on which provides the greatest value to both the Council and delivery of the service, on which to provide a HWRC facility in the vicinity of Corby.
- (v) Delegated authority be given 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/or actions required in connection with the North Northamptonshire procurement process and award of the HWRC contracts, and property related transactions without the need to return to the Executive.

5. Local Development Scheme – 31st. October 2023

Recommendation by Scrutiny to Executive

Resolved that the committee recommend that the Executive be presented with the Local Development Scheme for adoption.

Executive decision:

Agreed that the LDS be adopted.

6. Communities Strategy & Strategic Investment into the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector – 5th. February 2024

Recommendation by Scrutiny to Executive

- (i) The Communities Strategy be approved;
- (ii) Approval be given to the proposed VCSE Strategic grants framework and the proposed VCSE Infrastructure support arrangements for the period 2024-2027.

Executive decision:

Agreed

- (i) the Communities Strategy be approved;
- (ii) approval of the VCSE Strategic Grants framework and the proposed VCSE Infrastructure Support arrangements for the period 2024-2027.
- (iii) Delegated power be given to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up, in consultation with the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing to procure the new VCSE Infrastructure support contract and undertake any activities required to deliver this strategy.

7. The future of Kettering Leisure Village – Options Review - Additional 25th. March 2024

Recommendation made by Scrutiny to Executive:

- (i) Officers be thanked for the considerable piece of work undertaken and for supporting the ongoing business growth and continuing work with PLMS;
- (ii) the position regarding the legal ownership of the KLV site arising from the nature of the council's and PLMS's leasehold interest be noted;
- (iii) the Options Review by Max Associates be noted and that such options predicate the council having full control of the site, which is not currently the case;
- (iv) the council is not able to take control of the site, nor the day to day running of KLV, under any of the options in the Options Review, due to the nature of its legal interest;
- (v) should the site return to the full control of the council, it was noted that, in the short term, an external contractor would be the most sustainable solution as recommended within the Options Review; there would also be considerable budgetary pressures whilst the wider management model for the council's entire leisure portfolio was considered;
- (vi) it be noted that KLV was of great importance to North Northamptonshire and the local community and that PLMS should be encouraged to engage with users, councillors, stakeholders and parish and town councils;
- (vii) any business plan, financial projections and costings along with other data from PLMS be reviewed on a regular basis.

Executive decision:

Awaiting decision by Executive.

In-depth Reviews

Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel

- Established in October 2023 by the committee;
- Dedicated panel of six members who have met on three occasions, 4th. January 2024, 29th. February 2024 and 4th. April 2024, with dedicated support from Stacey Wylie, Senior Project Manager – Developer Contributions, Rob Harbour, Assistant Director - Growth & Regeneration, Ian Achurch, Head of Economic Growth & Sustainability and Carol Mundy, Senior Democratic Services Officer, to consider the management of developer contributions, also known as Section 106 contributions.
- Report on the findings will be presented to the Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 30th. April 2024 by Stacey Wylie.

Effective Practices

- Cross-party representation and leadership structure

Conclusion

The committee has dealt with several reports as aligned to its terms of reference. It has provided pre-decision scrutiny, and strategic reviews, making recommendations to drive improvement, ensure value for money and aim for best results for the residents of the authority. It has undertaken some monitoring of contracts and made recommendations for continued improvement. As a new committee it has taken a while to establish itself, but, it now feels that the committee is making good and effective decisions, particularly in relation to pre-scrutiny.

Appendix C1 | Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee summary of meetings, topics and outcomes

Topic	Date	Brief Details	Outcome	Scrutiny Type
Home to School Transport Policy	27 June 2023	To consider updating the policy to make it easier to read and to make financial savings	Recommendation to Executive	Pre-decision
Kettering Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan	28 August 2023	Following a consultation exercise to consider the routes and recommendations	To request that the Executive Member, Highways, Travel and Assets to recommend the KLCWIP to the Executive	Pre-decision
Cornerstone (Art Gallery)	28 August 2023	To consult on the need to fund urgent repairs to the roof of the Library	Recommendation to Executive	Pre-decision
Local Development Scheme	31 October 2024	To consider the updated NN Local Development Scheme	Recommendation to Executive	Pre-decision
Setting up of Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel	31 October 2024	To agree the terms of reference and membership of the panel	Approved by committee	Decision
NNC Electric Vehicle Infrastructure	31 October 2024	To agree the EVI Strategy for publication	Approved by committee	Decision
Review of Household Waste Recycling Centre April 2025	31 October 2024	To consider the future operation of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)	Recommendation to Executive	Pre-decision
Highways Contract Provider	19 December 2023	To review the performance of existing contract and make recommendations regarding any areas of concern	Approved by committee	Decision
Progress of Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs)	19 December 2023	To consider how the SUEs were progressing	Approved by committee	Decision
Communities Strategy & Strategic Investment into the Voluntary,	Additional 5 February 2024	To consider the strategy	Recommendation to Executive	Pre-decision

Community and Social Enterprise Sector				
Bus Service Improvement Plan	Additional 5 February 2024	To consider the improvement plan and develop an updated plan to incorporate the additional funding received	Approved by committee	Decision
Surplus Assets (incl. exempt report)	Additional 5 February 2024	To consider the disposal of under-utilised assets	Approved by committee	Decision
The future of Kettering Leisure Village – Options Review	Additional 25 March 2024	To consider the options review	Recommendation to Executive	Pre-decision
Waste Management – Three Year Plan	Additional 25 March 2024	To consider the progress made to date and the future delivery of the service in the East Northants area	Approved by committee	Decision
Asset Rationalisation Scrutiny Panel	Additional 25 March 2024	To consider the findings of the scrutiny panel	Approved for consultation with unions and staff	Decision
Findings of Developer Contributions Scrutiny Panel (Section 106)	30 April 2024	To provide feedback and recommendations on the items listed for this meeting	To review and provide feedback/recommendations	To be confirmed but likely to be pre-decision scrutiny.
Carbon Management Plan				
Taxi De-Zoning				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Bus Service Improvement Plan Air Quality Plan 	Additional Meeting date to be agreed, likely to be May-June 2024	TBC	TBC	TBC



Scrutiny Management Board 29 April 2024

Report Title	Scrutiny Annual Workplan 2023/24 – April 2024 Update
Report Author	Ben Smith, Head of Democratic Services/Statutory Scrutiny Officer ben.smith@northnorthants.gov.uk

Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	N/A
Which Corporate Plan priority does the report most closely align with? Our priorities for the future North Northamptonshire Council (northnorthants.gov.uk)	Modern Public Services

List of Appendices

- Appendix A – Proposed Revisions to Scrutiny Workplan 2023/24**
- Appendix B – Executive Forward Plan May – August 2024**
- Appendix C – Additional Items Proposed for Scrutiny Consideration**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. For Scrutiny Management Board to consider the updated annual workplan for 2023/24, attached as Appendix A, and to approve its contents.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Scrutiny Management Board has overall responsibility for the direction and management of Scrutiny to ensure that non-executive members make an effective contribution to the improvement and development of the Council, its services, and other external public services for the benefit of North Northamptonshire.

- 2.2. As part of this responsibility, the Scrutiny Management Board developed an Annual Scrutiny Workplan during the summer of 2023, approving it on 7 September 2023. This report provides an updated position following recent meetings of the three scrutiny committees and makes suggestions about the process of work planning for 2024/25.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Management Board:-
- (a) Provides comments about whether the updated list of items included in the Workplan are satisfactory;
 - (b) Considers whether any items in the current Executive Forward Plan, attached as Appendix B, should be added for pre-scrutiny at this stage;
 - (c) Considers whether any items recently generated by scrutiny should be added to the Workplan, attached at Appendix C;
 - (d) Subject to comments made, approve the final iteration of the 2023/24 Workplan attached at Appendix A.
 - (e) Agrees to the proposed process for creating the 2024/25 scrutiny work plan, as set out at paragraphs 5.5 to 5.8 of the report, in order to reflect the changing needs and priorities of scrutiny in the final year of the current Council.
- 3.2. *(Reason for Recommendations – To meet the Constitutional requirements for the Scrutiny Management Board to demonstrate its strategic responsibility for the Scrutiny function, its overall responsibility for the direction and management of Scrutiny, and to fulfil its obligation to develop, approve and monitor the Annual Scrutiny Workplan.*
- 3.3. *(Alternative Options Considered – Not to update the Scrutiny Workplan - however this would not demonstrate the Board’s strategic responsibility or provide the necessary strategic direction to the three Scrutiny Committees.)*

4. Report Background

- 4.1. Statutory guidance on scrutiny issued by the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in May 2019 states that effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well it can help lay the foundations for targeted, incisive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done badly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any work done is likely to be minimal.

- 4.2. There are several inputs that should be considered in building an effective workplan. These are member ideas, community concerns, the Corporate Plan, Executive Members and discussions about their individual portfolio objectives, officers and the Executive Forward Plan. It is also important to obtain input from partner organisations.
- 4.3. The Scrutiny Management Board adopted a two-stage approach to work planning for 2023/24. This consisted of information gathering from Executive members and Corporate Leadership Team officers at a workshop held on 8 August 2023, and a further workshop with the Statutory Scrutiny Officer to consider carry forwards from the previous 2022/23 workplan and new items proposed for the 2023/24 year.
- 4.4. The first iteration of the Workplan was then considered and approved at the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on 7 September 2023.

5. Issues and Choices

2023/24 remaining workplan

- 5.1. The draft updated workplan is attached at Appendix A. The format of the proposed workplan is designed around each scrutiny committee and its meetings schedule for 2023/24, together with a section for scrutiny review panels, in order of priority.
- 5.2. Scrutiny Management Board members received a number of possible items that it may wish to consider at its Scrutiny/Executive Conference on 8 August 2023 from Executive Members and Corporate Leadership Team officers. Board members then developed a proposed list of items at a further workshop held with the Statutory Scrutiny Officer held on 24th August 2023.
- 5.3. In considering its priorities for 2023/24, the Scrutiny Management Board prioritised some aspects of the outstanding 2022/23 workplan that had not been completed, together with new priorities for 2023/24.
- 5.4. Appendix A to this report sets out the remaining items of business for 2023/24.

2024/25 work planning

- 5.5. Appendix A also sets out items already proposed for the 2024/25 work programme. It includes proposed agenda items for the next scheduled meetings of each committee, inclusive of the next meetings after the municipal year end in May to promote continuity and to allow certainty for officers preparing reports.
- 5.6. It should be borne in mind that the 2024/25 scrutiny cycle will be foreshortened due to the May 2025 North Northamptonshire Council elections and the pre-election period that precedes that which will commence

during March 2025. Due to the shorter year of activity and noting the number of carry forward items already proposed it is recommended that that a workshop style approach be undertaken by the Scrutiny Management Board, Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees (where membership differs), Head of Democratic Services, Scrutiny Manager and Scrutiny Officers to determine the 2024/25 work programme, prior to returning to a Scrutiny/Executive Conference format following the May 2025 elections.

5.7. Written proposals for items to be considered can be requested in advance from Executive Members, Scrutiny Members and Corporate Leadership Team as necessary, caveated by the need for expectation management of the:-

- i) number of items that can be considered at individual meetings whilst still allowing for effective scrutiny;
- ii) number of meetings to be held as a whole due to the May 2025 elections;
- iii) the need for work undertaken, especially through scrutiny review panels, to be completed and submitted to the Executive (and partners as necessary) prior to the commencement of the pre-election period during March 2025.

5.8. Recommendations from the workshop would then be reported to the Scrutiny Management Board meeting of 26 June 2024 for approval, prior to being disseminated to scrutiny committees, all members of the Council, Corporate Leadership Team and other key officers.

Executive Forward Plan May – August 2024

5.9. Attached at Appendix B is the latest Executive Forward Plan. It is important for the Scrutiny Management Board to regularly review the Executive Forward Plan, to ensure that it also fulfils its obligations for 'pre-scrutiny' to comment on and seek to influence positively Executive decisions that may be forthcoming, either during consultation periods or following consultation periods in advance of the relevant Executive meeting.

General issues for consideration

5.10. It is proposed that in order to provide for effective and focussed scrutiny, no more than two detailed items are considered at each meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. Feedback from scrutiny members and officers has been that at times during 2023/24 some meetings have become unwieldy and not allowed for enough time to undertake effective scrutiny where too many items have been placed on the agenda.

5.11. In terms of scrutiny panels, the scrutiny procedure rules within the Council's constitution provide for the Scrutiny Management Board to add Panels to the Annual Workplan and determine which Committee shall be responsible for the Panels work. Panels should be used to ensure that the relevant Committee is having an impact and meeting its statutory duties.

- 5.12. Within the Council Constitution's Scrutiny Procedure Rules, there is provision for a maximum of four panels established at any one time across all Committees unless the Scrutiny Management Board agrees that there are exceptional circumstances (taking into consideration resource implications and advice from the statutory Scrutiny Officer). This exclude long standing Panels which meet annually (Outside Bodies Scrutiny Panel and Budget Scrutiny Panel).
- 5.13. There are specific items referred to Scrutiny Management Board for its consideration from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at this meeting, attached at Appendix C.
- 5.14. No items from individual members have been submitted for consideration to this meeting.
- 5.15. It is for the Scrutiny Management Board to decide what action to take on any proposed items, be they for committee or panel consideration, ensuring any that are added are properly thought out in terms of value, duplication and resource.

6. Next Steps

- 1.1. Following approval of the updated scrutiny workplan for 2023/24 and intentions for 2024/25 work planning, this will be communicated to all members of the three Scrutiny Committees, together with Executive members and Corporate Leadership Team officers.

2. Implications (including financial implications)

2.1. Resources and Financial

- 2.1.1. Scrutiny Committees and Panels will be supported by Democratic Services Officers and officers with subject matter expertise from within the relevant departments of the Council. Scrutiny may make recommendations that will have financial implications and these will be identified on a case by case basis.

2.2. Legal and Governance

- 2.2.1. The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a requirement to have an overview and scrutiny committee. The principal power of a scrutiny committee is to influence the policies and decisions made by the council and other organisations involved in delivering public services. The Scrutiny Management Board or the three scrutiny committees are not decision making but have the power to gather evidence and make recommendations based upon its findings.

2.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

2.3.1. The work of Scrutiny assists with the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan.

2.4. Risk

2.4.1. Failure to ensure an effective scrutiny function can lead to governance not being as robust. Failure to workplan would not be in line with statutory guidance and may lead to resources being allocated to matters which do not have an impact on the organisation and North Northamptonshire.

2.5. Consultation

2.5.1. None specific, although informal engagement has taken place with partners around items to be included on the workplan, and will continue throughout the municipal year.

2.6. Consideration by the Executive

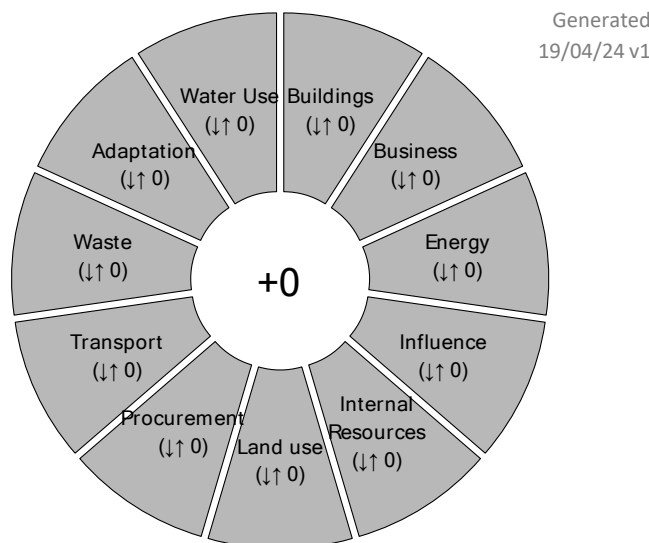
2.6.1. The Executive participated in the Scrutiny/Executive workshop held on 7 August 2023, at which its departmental executive priorities were communicated to Scrutiny Management Board members.

2.7. Equality Implications

2.7.1. None specific to this report.

2.8. Climate Impact

2.8.1. None specific to this report.



North Northamptonshire Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, 5 yrs & 8 mos away.

2.9. **Community Impact**

2.9.1. None specific to this report.

2.10. **Crime and Disorder Impact**

2.10.1. None specific to this report.

3. Background Papers

3.1. [Scrutiny Procedure Rules – Part 7.1 of the Council's Constitution](#)

3.2. [May 2019 - Overview and Scrutiny Statutory Guidance for Councils and Combined Authorities](#)

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Scrutiny Work Plan Remainder of 2023/2024 and Initial Proposals for 2024/25

The Scrutiny Work Plan outlines the areas of work which are expected to be scrutinised over the coming months/year by or on behalf of the Council's Scrutiny function and any Panels/Task and Finish Groups convened for review work.

Topics added to the work plan will have expected outcomes to add value to the services delivered by the Council and its partners and/or improve the quality of lives of North Northamptonshire residents. It is recognised that there is a need for flexibility in the work plan so as to allow relevant issues to be dealt with as and when they arise.

Numerous sources of information can help to inform topic selection, including:

- Concerns that have been raised by the public/stakeholders (whether they are Council service specific or wider national/local issues)
- Issues relating to Councils outcomes, objectives and priorities
- Consultations and interviews
- Underperformance
- Executive recommendations about the pertinent issues that are emerging and any opportunities or threats on the horizon
- Central government priority changes
- Forward Plan
- Budgetary analysis

Scrutiny should always link back to the Council Corporate Plan so that it is scrutinising whether the Council is meeting its strategic aims.

Scrutiny should use effective processes to select topics that will contribute towards the best possible work plan for Scrutiny. This means looking at the sources of information that may help and using them to choose the right topics. A Scrutiny Conference was attended by Scrutiny members to develop this work plan where they reviewed information to inform the work plan and then prioritised the topics.

Successful Scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members will need to be selective whilst also being able to demonstrate clear arguments in favour of including or excluding topics. A common pitfall for Scrutiny can be the inclusion of topics on the work plan that are unmanageable, of limited interest to the community, purely for informational purposes, have few outcomes and fail to 'add value' to the work of the Council or the wellbeing of the community. As such the selection and prioritisation of topics is critical to the effectiveness of Scrutiny as such processes can ensure clearer focus, particularly in poor or weak areas of performance or major issues of concern to the wider community. It is not possible to include every topic suggested as Scrutiny has limited time and resources and therefore workplans need to be manageable.

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

26th June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Scrutiny Workplan 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider and finalise the Scrutiny Workplan 2024/25 	Head of Democratic Services/Statutory Scrutiny Officer	
Page 58	Scrutiny/Executive Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider and approve a Protocol for working relationships between Scrutiny and the Executive, following consultation with the Executive, Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, and CLT. 	Head of Democratic Services/Statutory Scrutiny Officer	

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Review of Scrutiny Workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and update the workplan as required; To consider scrutiny agenda requests and allocate to the relevant Committee if they are approved. 	Head of Democratic Services/Statutory Scrutiny Officer	
2.	To determine call in requests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine any call-in requests requested by members following consideration of relevant key decisions by the Executive. 	Head of Democratic Services/Statutory Scrutiny Officer	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 59	1. Agency/OPUS Staff	To scrutinise whether best value is being received from the contract and the impacts of vacancies on the Council.	Marie Devlin-Hogg, Assistant Director of HR	
	2. Review of Implementation of Pay and Grading	To scrutinise the implementation of the new pay structure and terms and conditions	Adele Wylie, Chief Executive	

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide members with an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services, as measured by Key Performance Indicators, with the aim of informing scrutiny, to include quarterly complaints reporting. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
	Capital Monitoring 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 capital programme was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic Areas Beyond June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
Page 61	1. ICT Value for Money Scrutiny Review		Assistant Chief Executive, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	To report back to Committee with its final report in August 2024
	2. Transformation		CLT Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	Requested to be added to Workplan by Scrutiny Management Board on 27/11/23
	3. Revenues and Benefits Annual Report		Executive Director of Finance and Transformation	<i>Usually considered annually during August</i>
	4. Indicative Budget Timeline and Scrutiny Process 2025/26		Executive Director of Finance and Transformation	<i>Usually considered annually during October</i>
	5. Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26		Executive Director of Finance and Transformation	<i>Usually considered annually during October</i>

DRAFT TO BE TABLED AT 29/04/24 SMB meeting

6.	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report 2023/24		Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Housing	<i>Usually considered annually during October</i>
7.	Mid-Year Review of Northamptonshire Children's Trust		Executive Director of Finance and Transformation	<i>Usually considered annually during December</i>

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
Page 62	3.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide members with an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services, as measured by Key Performance Indicators, with the aim of informing scrutiny, to include quarterly complaints reporting. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation
	4.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation
	3.	Capital Monitoring 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 capital programme was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 May 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 63	1. Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – Quality Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the annual report of the Foundation Trust 	Representative of the NHS Foundation Trust, TBC, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	
	2. NHS Northamptonshire ICB Five-Year Joint Forward Plan 2023-28	To scrutinise the proposals and targets of the Integrated Care Board over the next five years.		
	3. GP Performance and Availability	To scrutinise GP appointment availability		

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic Areas Beyond May 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 64	1. Exclusions			
	2. Family Hubs			
	3. Disabled Facilities Grants			
	4. Children's Health checks	Particularly around mental health issues service provision and waiting lists	Jane Bethea, Director of Public Health	
	5. Performance of Kettering General Hospital and its Rebuild	To build on previous discussions and maintain regular updates	External representation	
	6. Public Health Commissioning		Jane Bethea, Director of Public Health	

PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 April 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 65	1. Developer Contributions Scrutiny Review Panel	To report back the outcome of the Scrutiny Review Panel taking place between January and April 2024.	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	
	2. Carbon Management Plan	To scrutinise the annual report.	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Climate and Green Environment	

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Hackney Carriage De-Zoning	To pre-scrutinise the proposal to remove hackney carriage zones in North Northamptonshire following a consultation process	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets	To be considered by Executive on 13 June 2024

PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Additional Meeting (*provisionally*) 21 May 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 66 3.	Review of Changes to Planning Service	One year follow up to review impact of changes to planning service following LGA Peer review and subsequent changes to service provision.	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	
4.	Section 106 Agreements	To report back the outcome of the Scrutiny Review Panel taking place between January and April 2024.	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	First meeting of Scrutiny Panel has taken place, second one is scheduled for 29 2 2024

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
2.	Air Quality Strategy	To pre-scrutinise the proposed Air Quality Strategy following public consultation	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets	To be considered by Executive on 13 June 2024
3.	NNC Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028	To pre-scrutinise the proposed adoption of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy following statutory consultation and subsequent amendments	Executive Director – Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing, Executive Member – Housing, Communities and Levelling Up	To be considered by Executive on 13 June 2024
4.	Bus Service Improvement Plan	To pre-scrutinise the proposal to adopt the Bus Service Improvement plan that supports improvements to bus services and measures to improve passenger experience	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets	To be considered by Executive on 13 June 2024

PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic Areas Beyond May 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 68	1. Asset Rationalisation and Use - Scrutiny Panel	To report back on the second stage of the Panel's work	Executive Director of Place and Economy,	Provisionally Autumn 2024
	2. Surplus Assets		Executive Director of Place and Economy,	Expected August 2024
	3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy for North Northamptonshire		Executive Director of Place and Economy,	Expected February 2025
	4.			

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

Remainder of 2023/24

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 69	1. Asset Rationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct the existing work being undertaken 	Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets	First Stage of Panel Work Now Completed
	2. Section 106 Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether S106 monies are being fully utilised Whether members have access to S106 information for their wards. Identify where S106 money was not effectively used. Review how effective the S106 policies have been in each area Understand where and why there have been slippages against the programme and Develop a consistent and combined S106 methodology 	Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	Panel to report its findings to Committee on 30 April

		<p>looking at new legislative requirements of the Council, i.e. biodiversity, carbon offsetting, building in green initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide recommendations on procedures to ensure that S106 money is always put to good use in time, before entitlement lapses. • To provide recommendations on recording of S106 spend that is transparent and accessible 		
3.	ICT Value for Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conclude the existing work being undertaken 	Assistant Chief Executive, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	Panel to resume and complete its work by August 2024

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

First half of 2024

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Crime and Disorder/Knife Crime		Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

Second half of 2024

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
Page 72	1. Annual Budget and Capital Programme (Regular Panel item)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the proposed budget and capital programme for 2025/26 <p>NB. This will carry over to January 2025</p>	Executive Director of Finance and Performance, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
	2. Annual Review of Outside Bodies (Regular Panel item)	To undertake a regular review of the appropriateness of Outside Bodies sat on by councillors, in accordance with the Outside Bodies Procedure Rules and Scrutiny Procedure Rules within the Constitution.	Head of Democratic Services	

ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR SCRUTINY TO BE REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE ADVISORY PANELS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION

First half of 2024

	Suggested Topic	Reasons Requested for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
Page 73	1. Green Burials	To inform and develop a green burial policy.	Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	Referral made to EAP Planning Communities – on its forward workplan
	2. Adoption of Roads		Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	

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North Northamptonshire Council

1 MAY 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2024

Published by: Democratic Services

Leader of North Northamptonshire Council: Councillor Jason Smithers

INTRODUCTION

This is the North Northamptonshire Council's Forward Plan. It is published pursuant to The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. Its purpose is to provide the required 28 days' notice of the Council's intention to take 'key decisions' and to hold meetings or parts of meetings in private. It gives advance notice of all the "key decisions" and "exempt decisions" which the Executive or another body or officer so authorised are likely to take over a four-month period. The Plan is updated on a rolling monthly basis.

The Members of the Executive are:	
Councillor Jason Smithers	Leader of North Northamptonshire Council
Councillor Helen Howell	Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism
Councillor Gill Mercer	Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Scott Edwards	Children, Families, Education and Skills
Councillor Harriet Pentland	Climate and Green Environment
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Finance and Transformation
Councillor David Brackenbury	Growth and Regeneration
Councillor Matt Binley	Highways, Travel and Assets
Councillor Mark Rowley	Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up
Councillor David Howes	Rural Communities and Localism

The concept of a "key decision" is intended to capture the most important or significant decisions. "Key decisions" will normally be made at meetings open to the press and public. The press and public will only be excluded from such meetings as and when the Council's Monitoring Officer considers that this is necessary in order to avoid the public disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

The authority has decided that a Key Decision is one which is likely:-

- (a) to result in the authority incurring expenditure of which is, or the making of savings which are, significant; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards in the area of the authority."

The Council has decided that significant expenditure or savings are those amounting to above £500,000.

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes North Northamptonshire Council will also have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000.

At times it may be necessary for the North Northamptonshire Council to give consideration to items where the public may be excluded from the meeting. Members of the public are excluded from meetings whenever it is likely that, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed. This includes exclusion from access to any pertinent documents. Details of the exemption categories can be found in the 'Access to Information Procedure Rules' section in the Council's [Constitution](#). This plan provides advance notice of any items which may be held in private.

Paragraph 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 provides for members of the public to make representations to the Council on why an exempt item should be considered in public, rather than in private. Persons wishing to make such representations and/or obtain further details in respect of any issues referred to in the Plan should contact the undermentioned officer.

The Monitoring Officer may also include in the Forward Plan references to such other decisions, which are to be taken by the Council or any of its Committees or Sub-Committee or officers as they consider appropriate. These will be those decisions that are considered to be significant or sufficiently important and/or sensitive so that it is reasonable for a member of the public to expect it to be recorded and published.

All general questions or queries about the contents of this Forward Plan or about the arrangements for taking key decisions should be raised with David Pope, Democratic Services.

Please email: democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk

May 2024

Subject of the Decision:	Purpose of Report	Decision Maker	Is it a key decision?	Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any	Consultation undertaken	Anticipated Date of Decision:	Report Author and Executive Lead Member
Capital Programme Update 2023-24 Page 78	To report any adjustments to the in-year programme	Executive	Yes	No		16 th May 2024	Executive Member - Finance and Transformation Executive Director - Finance & Performance
Capital Outturn Report 2023/24 - Period 12	To report on the Capital Budget on a quarterly basis	Executive	Yes	No		16 th May 2024	Executive Member - Finance and Transformation Executive Director - Finance & Performance
Waste Management Three-Year Plan Update	To provide Executive with an update regarding the Three-Year Waste Management Plan	Executive	Yes	Part exempt; By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the		16 th May 2024	Executive Member - Highways, Travel and Assets Executive

				Local Government Act 1972			Director - Place and Economy
DWP Household Support Fund 4 Extension	Delivery plan for the DWP Household Support Fund 4 extension	Executive	Yes	No		16 th May 2024	Executive Member - Housing, Communities and Levelling Up Director of Public Health
Alfred Lord Tennyson Primary School Refurbishment Page 79	To approve the capital project of Refurbishment at Alfred Lord Tennyson Primary School.	Executive	Yes	No		16 th May 2024	Executive Member - Children, Families, Education and Skills Executive Director - Children's Services
North Northamptonshire Housing Strategic Framework	To approve the North Northamptonshire Housing Strategic framework with a view to development of the housing strategy ahead of public consultation.	Executive	Yes	No		16 th May 2024	Executive Member - Housing, Communities and Levelling Up Executive Director - Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS)

<p>Funding for relocation of Wilby CE VA Primary School to Glenvale Park</p>	<p>To approve funding for the relocation of Wilby CE VA primary School to Glenvale Park</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>16th May 2024</p>	<p>Executive Member - Children, Families, Education and Skills</p> <p>Executive Director - Children's Services</p>
<p>Sensory Impairment Service (in Education) Disaggregation</p> <p>Page 80</p>	<p>To provide an update and approve a change of approach in relation to the Sensory Impairment Service (in Education) Disaggregation</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>16th May 2024</p>	<p>Executive Member - Children, Families, Education and Skills</p> <p>Executive Director - Children's Services</p>
<p>Proposed use of Wilby School Building</p>	<p>Proposed new educational use of the Wilby School building from September 2024.</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>16th May 2024</p>	<p>Executive Member - Children, Families, Education and Skills</p> <p>Executive Director - Children's Services</p>

June 2024

Subject of the Decision:	Purpose of Report	Decision Maker	Is it a key decision?	Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any	Consultation undertaken	Anticipated Date of Decision:	Report Author and Executive Lead Member
Budget Forecast 2023-24 - Period 12 Page 81	To report any adjustments to the in-year budget	Executive	Yes	No		13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Finance and Transformation Executive Director - Finance & Performance
Capital Programme Update	To report any adjustments to the in-year programme	Executive	Yes	No		13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Finance and Transformation Executive Director - Finance & Performance
Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant Funding	Approval of Traffic Signals Obsolescence Grant Funding from Department for Transport	Executive	Yes	No		13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Highways, Travel and Assets Executive

	2024/25						Director - Place and Economy
Page 82	<p>NNC Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028</p> <p>To seek the Executive's approval to adopt the proposed Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy following statutory consultation and subsequent amendments</p>	Executive	Yes	No	<p>Initial consultation event was held 21/9/22. Feedback from this event was utilised to develop the draft strategy. The draft document will undergo a 6-week formal statutory consultation and additional proactive consultation with service users is planned</p>	13 th June 2024	<p>Executive Member - Housing, Communities and Levelling Up</p> <p>Executive Director - Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS)</p>
	<p>North Northamptonshire Bus Service Improvement Plan 2024</p> <p>To seek the Executive's approval to adopt the Bus Service Improvement plan that supports improvements to bus services and measures to</p>	Executive	Yes	No	<p>Local area partnerships and the Enhanced Partnership will be engaged in the update to the Bus</p>	13 th June 2024	<p>Executive Member - Highways, Travel and Assets</p> <p>Executive Director - Place and Economy</p>

	improve passenger experience				Service Improvement Plan		
Hackney Carriage De-zoning	To determine whether the Council should remove hackney carriage zones in North Northamptonshire following a consultation process	Executive	Yes	No	A consultation process was undertaken between 30/10/23 and 21/01/24	13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Growth and Regeneration Executive Director - Place and Economy
Carbon Management Plan Annual Report Page 83	To consider and note the annual report	Executive	Yes	No		13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Climate and Green Environment Executive Director - Place and Economy
NNC Housing Compliance and Fire Safety Policies	Adoption of NNC Housing Compliance and Fire Safety Policies	Executive	Yes	No		13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Housing, Communities and Levelling Up Executive Director - Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS)

Air Quality Strategy	To request approval of the Air Quality Strategy following public consultation	Executive	Yes	No	A consultation process was undertaken between 11/3 and 7/4/24	13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Growth and Regeneration Executive Director - Place and Economy
Asset Acquisition Policy	To consider adopting an NNC policy.	Executive	Yes	No		13 th June 2024	Executive Member - Highways, Travel and Assets Executive Director - Place and Economy

July 2024

Subject of the Decision:	Purpose of Report	Decision Maker	Is it a key decision?	Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any	Consultation undertaken	Anticipated Date of Decision:	Report Author and Executive Lead Member
Capital Programme Update Page 85	To report any adjustments to the in-year programme	Executive	Yes	No		11 th July 2024	Executive Member - Finance and Transformation Executive Director - Finance & Performance
Disposal of Land off Rothwell Road, South Desborough	To approve disposal of the land	Executive	Yes	Part exempt; By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972	Public notification carried out under s.123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972	11 th July 2024	Executive Member - Highways, Travel and Assets Executive Director - Place and Economy
Draft Compliments, Comments and Complaints Policy	To seek approval of the Draft Compliments, Comments and Complaints Policy	Executive	Yes	No		11 th July 2024	Executive Member - Finance and Transformation

for the Council

Director of
Governance and
HR

August 2024

Subject of the Decision:	Purpose of Report	Decision Maker	Is it a key decision?	Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any	Consultation undertaken	Anticipated Date of Decision:	Report Author and Executive Lead Member
Capital Programme Update	To report any adjustments to the in-year programme	Executive	Yes	No		15 th August 2024	Executive Member - Finance and Transformation Executive Director - Finance & Performance

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Additional Items Requested for Consideration at Scrutiny Management Board

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Requested By	Notes
1.	Children's Trust Partnership	Health Scrutiny Committee recommended to have a deeper look at the invoicing/outstanding payments from partners of the Trust.	Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 9 April 2024	
2.	Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)	Corporate Scrutiny Committee to receive an update on the CRM rollout (October/November 2024)	Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 9 April 2024	
3.	Capital Programme	To understand the Capital Programme and why it has failed to be delivered.	Corporate Scrutiny Committee, 9 April 2024	

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