

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 14 April 2022

Issued: 14th April 2022

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 14th April 2022.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 26th April 2022, unless the decision is subject to call-in, in accordance with section 18 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules within North Northamptonshire Council's Constitution.

Requests for Call-In

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

The notice must set out:-

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

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

Item 5	Performance Indicator Report 2021-22 (Period 11 / February 2022)	RESOLVED: That the Executive: a) Noted the performance of the Council measured by the available indicators at Period 11 for 2021/22 as set out in the appendices to this report.
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		<p align="center">b) Noted the stance that is being taken to developing the Council's approach to benchmarking, comparative data and revised Corporate Plan indicator set.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to better understand the Council's performance as measured by performance indicators as at Period 11, 2021/22.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – reporting performance data on a less frequent basis is an option but monthly reporting is considered useful at this stage of the Council's existence, reporting alongside budget information.</p>
Item 6	CRM & Low Code Platform – Building Strong Foundations	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(KEY DECISION)</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved the commencement of the procurement process to purchase and implement a single CRM system using a low code platform for North Northamptonshire Council. b) Delegated authority to the Director of Transformation in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, to take any further decisions and/or actions required to conclude this procurement, implement the system and deliver this project.

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations – The Council will gain significant efficiencies from a single CRM system. It will enable Customer Services to move from five geographically separate teams to one single integrated team with a single view of our customers. Levels of customer service will be improved, and process efficiencies implemented.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do nothing • Expand one of the current CRM systems • Procure a proprietary off the shelf CRM system • Procure a 'Lite' CRM system • Build a CRM system from Scratch <p>All of the alternative options shown above have been discounted as they do not provide an effective solution, for reasons set out in section 5 of the report.</p>
Item 7	North Northamptonshire Enhanced Partnership	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(KEY DECISION)</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Made the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Enhanced Partnership Scheme, which form Appendices A and B of the report, as proposed in</p>

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		<p>accordance with Section 138G of the Transport Act 2000. Table 2 within Appendix B of the report is subject to sufficient resources being available.</p> <p>b) Agreed that a policy for subsidising bus services should be developed in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets and, following consultation in accordance with the Transport Act 1985, recommendations should be brought back to the Executive for approval.</p> <p>c) Noted the recent announcement of additional Government funding (Local Transport Fund as referenced in paragraph 5.7 of the report) to support bus services and the requirement to work with bus operators to co-design a financially sustainable and passenger-focused public transport network, that works for changing travel patterns post-pandemic. The allocation for North Northamptonshire is still to be confirmed and this funding will be allocated, in consultation with the Executive member for Highways, Travel and Assets and the Executive Director for Place and Economy.</p> <p>d) Agreed to allocate £50,000 from existing budgets for 2022/23 to work with operators on a marketing strategy for bus services.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: An Enhanced Partnership would form a useful forum to tackle the challenges which the bus industry will face over the coming years and provide the basis to spend any funding secured from Government through the Bus Service Improvement Plan. Meeting the Council's legal duties to consult on and publish a policy on subsidised bus services and to provide North Northamptonshire communities with the best possible level of bus service with post-pandemic travel</p>

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		<p>patterns.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the Council has the flexibility to choose not to make the Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme at this stage, this is not recommended as it would not provide as sound a basis for co-design of a financially sustainable and passenger-focused bus network with local bus operators.
Item 8	Concessionary Bus Travel	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(KEY DECISION)</p> <p>That the Executive agreed to reimburse bus operators for concessionary travel at 100% of pre-Covid levels until 30th September 2022 and then at 90% of pre-Covid levels until 31st March 2023.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: To provide North Northamptonshire communities with the best possible level of bus service with post-pandemic travel patterns.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The Council could provide a lower level of concessionary reimbursement than proposed; however, this would be likely to lead to a reduction in the level of bus service for North Northamptonshire communities.</p>

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Item 9	North Northamptonshire Statement of Community Involvement	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the representations received during public consultation on the draft SCI and officers' response to the representations; b) Endorsed the revised Statement of Community involvement attached at Appendix B of the report; and c) Recommended to Full Council that the Statement of Community Involvement, incorporating the changes set out in Appendix B of the report, be adopted. <p>Reason for Recommendations – To ensure the Council has an up-to-date SCI in place in accordance with government legislation.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – Resolve not to endorse the revised SCI as recommended; however, the Council is required to have an up-to-date SCI in place setting out how the Council will consult on development plans and planning applications.</p>

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Item 10	Chester House Estate Update and Refreshed Business Plan 2022-2026	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the achievements of the Chester House Estate since its opening and the planned events, activities and opportunities for 2022-23 and the coming years. b) Approved the refreshed Business Plan attached at Appendix A of the report c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Leisure, Sport, Culture and Tourism, in conjunction with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take the actions necessary to ensure successful delivery of the Business Plan. <p>Reasons for Recommendations: Approval for these recommendations will allow for officers to ensure that the Executive are able to strategically manage Chester House Estate and that Chester House Estate is resourced to ensure successful delivery of the Chester House Business Plan</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The Chester House Business Plan is a live document as projections and activity planning is refreshed on a regular basis. However, the Executive has previously requested that when the Business Plan is formally revised to correspond with the start of a financial year that it is brought before the Executive for approval. If the Estate is not resourced appropriately then there could be a detrimental effect on service delivery.</p>

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Item 11	Cottingham Neighbourhood Plan	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(KEY DECISION)</p> <p>That the Executive made the Cottingham Neighbourhood Plan, so that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: As the plan was approved at the local referendum and the council is satisfied that the making of the plan would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations, the council is required to make the Cottingham Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for the Cottingham Neighbourhood Area within the timeframe set out by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended)</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: None. The local planning authority is required by the Localism Act and provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) to ‘make’ a neighbourhood plan within 8 weeks of the day following a successful referendum. The only circumstance where the council should not make this decision is where the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligation.</p>

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Item 12	Transformation Plan 2022-25 – Inspiring Improvement	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Executive approved the Transformation Plan 2022 – 25 – Inspiring Improvement, as set out in Appendix A of the report.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option proposed aligns with local government reform and transformation outcomes • Proposed recommendation aligns and is consistent with the transformational activity and assumptions reflected within the Medium-Term Financial Plan • The Council and its customers will receive the maximum benefit from the option proposed. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By not approving the Transformation Plan, the Council would be less able to deliver financial sustainability or realise the benefits that the plan will contribute towards. • As part of the development of the Plan, there was a range off transformation projects that were considered for prioritisation. During this process officers and members were engaged and consulted, to cocreate the final plan presented here. Consideration on the length of the Transformation Plan. It was thought useful to have the plan over three years to provide future direction, pipeline

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		<p>projects and align with the MTFP process. The plan is agile and flexible and will be monitored regularly through the monthly Officers and Members Transformation board where changes can be requested and reviewed</p>
Item 13	Budget Forecast 2021/22 as at Period 11	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(KEY DECISION)</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2021/22 as summarised in section 4 of the report, alongside the further analysis, risks and other considerations as set out from section 5 of the report onwards. b) Noted the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2021/22 savings proposals in Appendix A of the report. c) Approved a contribution of up to £742k to external leisure providers to support in year pressures, with any remaining budget moved to a reserve to smooth potential future requirements, as set out in section 5.34 - 5.40 of the report.

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		<p>d) Noted that the Council has been allocated £561,450 of grant funding for discretionary support to energy bill payers outside the core rebate scheme for Council Tax Bands A-D, as set out in paragraph 5.92; and delegate authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance to develop and implement a discretionary scheme for the allocation of this funding.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2021/22 as at Period 11 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets. Specific approval is required to provide financial support to specific external leisure providers in order to help safeguard the service provision following the impact of COVID on the sector. The Executive is also requested to delegate authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation to develop a discretionary council tax rebate scheme in order that this can be implemented in a timely manner.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the leisure sector may be withheld or restricted further, however, this is likely to have a detrimental impact on the sustainability of the service provision in the longer term. The support package proposed is up to £742k based on the information presented to date and will be subject to due diligence checks before payment is made. • The development of a discretionary scheme to provide support to energy bill

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		<p>payers who are outside the core rebate scheme for Council Tax Bands A-D, is part of a national requirement for billing authorities. A discretionary scheme is currently being drawn up and will be funded through Government grant as indicated in the report. There is no alternative option.</p>
Item 14	Capital Programme Update 2021/22	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>(KEY DECISION)</p> <p>That the Executive approved the following changes to the capital programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Corby Town Investment Plan, Sixth Form College Project with Bedford College – increase capital programme for 2022/23 by £9.5m, which is to be funded from the Towns Fund Grant. b. End user devices phase 1 – increase the capital programme for 2022/23 by £0.460m, which is to be transferred from the development pool budget and will be funded from capital receipts. c. Thrapston Library Improvements - to increase the capital programme for 2022/23 by £0.072m, which is to be funded from S106 developer contributions. <p>Reasons for Recommendation are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement phase 1 of the Corby's Town Investment Plan in relation to the £19.9m awarded from the Town Fund in June 2021. • To support staff with ICT equipment which is fit for purpose as the Council works towards a hybrid working based model. There were ad hoc solutions/arrangements put in place by the legacy councils to facilitate remote working during the pandemic, which now needs to be reviewed. • To utilise S106 funding to deliver improvements to a community library facility. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilisation of the funding for the Corby Town Investment Plan is funded through Government grant and must be utilised in line with the approved grant award. There are no alternative options to be considered in this instance • Use of the S106 funding is in line with the agreement, there is no alternative option proposed. • By not approving these recommendations there would be an adverse impact on service provision in North Northamptonshire.