

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 19 May 2022

Issued: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 19 May 2022.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 27<sup>th</sup> May 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 12 - March 2022)	<b>RESOLVED:</b>  That the Executive:  a) Noted the performance of the Council measured by the available indicators at Period 12 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 12, 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	Corporate Plan Performance Indicator Set Proposal 2022/23	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Reviewed the proposed Corporate Plan Indicator Set for 2022/23 and provided feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>b) Adopted the proposed Corporate Plan Indicator set for 2022/23</p>

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Item 7	Homelessness Temporary Accommodation: Dynamic Purchasing System	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the implementation of a Dynamic Purchasing System to manage and regularise the Council's use of private sector temporary accommodation suppliers</li> <li>b) Noted that the spot-purchasing of supported temporary accommodation at S&amp;H will continue for an interim period pending the outcome of the Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-2025 bid and the implementation of an alternative arrangement; and</li> <li>c) Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, in liaison with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to approve the detailed specification, terms and conditions and relative schedules for Nightly Purchased, Supplier Managed Temporary Accommodation.</li> <li>d) Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, in liaison with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take any further decisions and actions required to implement the Dynamic Purchasing System and award contracts in relation to this.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure the Council’s compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which regulates the purchasing by public sector bodies of contracts for goods, works and services.</li> <li>• To enable the Council to monitor the delivery of service and performance of private sector housing suppliers to ensure that good quality homes and related services are being provided to homeless households</li> <li>• To reduce the use of unsuitable and more costly forms of temporary accommodation</li> <li>• To ensure that S&amp;H, a much-needed supported emergency accommodation resource to safeguard single homeless people in North Northamptonshire, is able to continue to operate in the short term. This would be pending activity to regularise its use via the Dynamic Purchasing System assuming a successful Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25 bid.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the Council to continue solely with its current existing arrangement of spot purchasing nightly paid temporary accommodation from all third-party private providers; and /or</li> <li>• For the Council to cease use of S&amp;H pending the outcome of the Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25 bid</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

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Item 8	Corby Town Centre to Station Link (Oakley Road) and Smart and Connected Corby combined Summary Business Case Document	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Delegated to the Executive Director of Finance, in consultation with the Executive Director of Place &amp; Economy, and Executive Member for Growth &amp; Regeneration authority to prepare and submit the Business Case Summary Document to DLUHC for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corby Town Centre to Station Link (Oakley Road); and</li> <li>• Smart &amp; Connected Corby</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Approved the drawdown of funding for these projects once released by the DLUHC.</li> </ul> <p>Reasons for Recommendations –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The submitted Business Case Summary Document, if approved by DLUHC will unlock the funding for these projects to the sum of £8.9m.</li> <li>• Once funds are received, each project can commence. It is estimated these projects will commence their next stage in September 2022.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Alternative Options Considered - The only alternative option would be to not submit the Business Case Summary Document and therefore not to drawdown the remaining funding of £8.9m (less the 5%, approx. £445k already received from DLUHC). The consequences of this would mean that the Corby Town Centre to Station Link (Oakley Road) and Smart &amp; Connected Corby projects could not be delivered. These projects are deliverable projects which benefits Corby and the surrounding area. The link road project proposes to provide improvements to this road from the train station, past Tresham College to the town centre encouraging active travel. The sensor network aims to provide valuable data to build a picture of pedestrian and cyclist use to develop future schemes in the area. This option is, therefore, not a viable alternative to consider.</p>
<b>Item 9</b>	Community Asset Transfer Policy	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the Community Asset Transfer Policy at Appendix A to the report</p> <p>The reasons for the recommendation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy supports good governance in relation to the Councils’ obligations to comply with the legislation that govern land transfers.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy and process support the evaluation of community asset transfer enquires and provide a guide to community organisations.</li> <li>• Adopting the policy provides for a consistent and transparent approach to be administered which reduces the risks associated with asset transfers.</li> <li>• Adopting the policy supports the Councils Corporate Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council could choose not to adopt the proposed policy and manage each request as it is received, however this could lead to inconsistencies in the approach to community asset transfers.</li> <li>• The Council could adopt an approach to not support community asset transfers to avoid the risks detailed in the policy and retain direct control of assets, however this would limit the benefits that can be achieved from community delivery.</li> </ul>

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Item 10	Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) Policy	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) Policy.</p> <p>The reasons for the recommendation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has a legal responsibility to process and maintain a list of assets of community value, the policy and processes support the council in discharging this obligation.</li> <li>• Adopting the policy provides for a consistent and transparent approach to be administered which reduces the risks associated with such decisions.</li> <li>• Adopting the policy supports the Council’s Corporate Plan.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The Council has a statutory duty to keep a record of assets that have been nominated as community assets and, for the successfully listed assets, provide regulatory oversight to ensure that a moratorium is provided for should the owner decide to sell the asset. Additionally, the considerations for determining if an asset of community value should be listed are defined by legislation. The Council therefore has limited alternative options to deviate from the proposed policy structure.</p>



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Item 11	Stanton Cross - Sale of Land Delegations	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Noted the ongoing legal obligations on the Council created by the Landowner agreement.</p> <p>b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel &amp; Assets, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Assets &amp; Environment, to agree future land sales for the Stanton Cross development site that are covered by the existing Landowner Agreement.</p> <p>The reasons for the recommendation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has a legal responsibility to process land sale requests in a timely manner within the conditions of the landowner agreement.</li> <li>• The agreement seeks to ensure successful development of Stanton Cross, supporting the growth and prosperity of North Northamptonshire, whilst</li> </ul>

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		<p align="center">generating a land receipt for the Council.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To require each decision to go to the Executive for consideration. Given votes on land sales are majority led, it is likely a decision by the two other landowners will have been determined prior to any report being considered by the Executive.</li> <li>• The terms of the Landowner agreement are binding, including any minimum land value receipts received, therefore cannot be renegotiated or renege on.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 12</b>	Council Housing Policy Update Report	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the Tenancy and Estate Management Policy at <b>Appendix A</b> to the report</li> <li>b) Approved the Lettable Standard and Tenant Involvement Plan at <b>Appendix B</b> to the report</li> <li>c) Approved the Tenant Involvement Plan at <b>Appendix C</b> to the report</li> </ul>

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		<p>d) Approved the creation of a Tenancy Advisory Panel as part of the Tenant Involvement Plan and delegates authority to the Executive Member for Housing and Communities in consultation with the Assistant Director of Housing and Communities to agree Terms of Reference.</p> <p>e) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing and Communities, in liaison with the Executive Director, Adults, Communities and Wellbeing to take any further decisions and/or actions required to implement these policy documents. This will include changing some of the photographs within both the Lettable Standard and the Tenant Involvement Plan and making minor amendments.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer one consistent approach to the tenancy and estate management part of the tenancy and landlord services.</li> <li>• Comply with regulation that requires all social housing providers to incorporate tenant involvement into their service.</li> <li>• Offer one consistent standard for letting council owned homes throughout the North Northamptonshire area.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only other option is to do nothing or to delay the harmonisation of working practices across the two teams.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is not an option that can continue to be maintained effectively over time. The best option is to harmonise working practices as soon as possible to ensure consistency of service, reduce the risk of challenge, and most importantly make improvements to the service.</li> </ul>
Item 13	Enterprise Telephony including IT Infrastructure, Architecture and Contact Centre	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the commencement of the procurement process to purchase and implement a new cloud-based telephony system (Software as a Service) for North Northamptonshire.</li> <li>b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Director of Transformation, to take any further decisions and /or actions required to conclude the procurement and implementation of the new system.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Replace the analogue lines and end of life telephony infrastructure, which in a number of areas, will cease to work as BT Openreach will decommission in 2024, with a digital network.</li> <li>b) Scalability: A cloud system does away with having to purchase expensive hardware or dedicated lines as the Council grows, which is key whilst disaggregation of services takes place from West to North.</li> <li>c) The Council will gain efficiencies from a unified telephony platform. It will enable services to make savings as a result of restructuring and harmonising their processes such as Customer Services team, Future ways of working</li> <li>d) Enable standardisation of telephony systems across NNC which makes it easy to adapt to changes in business operations.</li> <li>e) To align with the green agenda – the organisation will be greener because of this when the Council moves off the old infrastructure to a newer infrastructure that is more climate friendly i.e., energy efficiency</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered – All the current telephony platforms across North Northants are separate, with a number of different suppliers and this causes a number of issues with services being able to create efficient processes and a good experience for residents. The current telephony infrastructure is also end of life and</p>

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		<p>unscalable in majority of the Council’s legacy areas. BT Openreach will also switch off the analogue public telephone services; Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), which most sites utilise in 2024, moving to a digital Internet Protocol (IP) network ready for the future. Doing nothing is therefore not a viable option. Of the options for the new telephony platform, a new cloud-based telephony system (Software as a Service) to replace existing telephony systems is the preferred option as set out in this report.</p>
<p><b>Item 14</b></p>	<p>Highways Procurement</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted the continued progress to procure new arrangements for highways and transport services and the readiness to make an award post Final Tender submission and evaluation</li> <li>b) Agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Director for Finance and the Monitoring Officer to award the contract and to take any further decisions and /or actions required to conclude the procurement.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council has a statutory duty to provide highways services as set out in the Highways Act 1980, which are currently met by the hosting arrangement with WNC</li> <li>• The Council must provide these services and the Council is procuring a new contract in order to do so in the future;</li> <li>• Failure to make an award will have a number of implications for the Council, not least the need to establish and mobilise alternative delivery arrangements from the end of the KierWSP contract in September 2022 and the cost and risk associated with commissioning and /or delivering an alternative solution in the medium to long term;</li> <li>• The delegations requested will enable the procurement process to proceed with appropriate governance through to its conclusion within the required timeframes.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered – The Executive could decide not to delegate authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets. This would require the Executive to make a decision relating to the award of the contract at a future meeting. Given the timeframes involved in completing the procurement process, awarding the contract and mobilising the new contract, this would require the timeframes to be adjusted and more time created to complete all these steps. This may require an extension of the current contract with KierWSP and the hosting arrangements with WNC.</p>

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Item 15	Income Management Solution	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the procurement of a new, modern Income Management Solution and</li> <li>b) Delegated authority to the Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Director of Transformation to conclude the procurement, award the contract and implement the new system</li> </ul>



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		<p>Reasons for recommendation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Expiry of the incumbent contracts</u> – the current system contracts expire in April 2023, and a waiver has been submitted to allow time to ensure a safe transition to the new system. A competitive process needs to be followed to ensure continuity of the functionality required of income management systems, whilst creating an opportunity to harmonise and modernise the income management systems inherited by NNC.</li> <li>• <u>Economies of scale</u> – by choosing to implement the IMS with partners, implementation and support costs can be shared, providing better value for money for the taxpayer. Furthermore, expertise and experience gained from partner organisations can be used to benefit citizens of NNC.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative options considered: The recommendation is based on the alternative options not being viable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ‘do nothing’ option is not recommended due to the incumbent systems contracts expiring.</li> <li>• The option for NNC to procure a replacement income management system and carry out the implementation would also not be recommended.</li> </ul> <p>Further information regarding the alternative options is detailed in section 5 in the report.</p>

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Item 16	Loan Disaggregation	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted the disaggregation of the former County Council loan book based on the agreed methodology of Council Tax base 2020/21 and the novation of individual loans to reflect this split as closely as possible, including the consideration of the repayment requirements.</li> <li>b) Approved an equalisation payment of £193k to West Northamptonshire Council based on the proposed split of the loan book.</li> <li>c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and the Monitoring Officer to finalise the novation of the loans to North Northamptonshire Council.</li> </ul> <p>Reasons for Recommendation are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note proposed split of the loan book of the former County Council to North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council and based on the detailed review in section 5, recommend the equalisation payment to</li> </ul>

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		<p align="center">West Northamptonshire of £193k.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed distribution of the former County Council loans was made to closely reflect the agreed proportionate split of 44.64% and 55.36% between North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council respectively. The value of each loan, repayment timeline and interest rates were considered in order that each Authority had a comparable and fair distribution. Alternative options would be to alter the individual loans allocated to each Local Authority which would affect the profiling and any settlement payment. The allocation of the loans, that form the basis for this report, has been agreed with West Northamptonshire Council (S151 Officer). There is, therefore, no alternative option proposed.</li> </ul>
Item 17	Capital Programme Update 2021/22	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the following changes to the capital programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre Development Plan – increase capital programme for 2022/23 by £81,820, which is to be funded £71,820 from FCC Community Foundation Funding and £10,000 from KHL Big Local.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reasons for Recommendation are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To work in partnership with community funding initiatives to help modernise the youth club room at the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre into a multipurpose/multiuse community room.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the funding is in line with the agreement, there is no alternative option proposed.</li> <li>• By not approving these recommendations there would be an adverse impact on service provision in North Northamptonshire.</li> </ul>