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Meeting: Executive
Date: Thursday 17th March 2022
Time: 10:00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG

To members of the Executive

Councillors Jason Smithers (Chair), Helen Howell (Vice-Chair), David Brackenbury, Lloyd Bunday, Scott Edwards, Helen Harrison, David Howes, Graham Lawman, Andy Mercer and Harriet Pentland

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ITEM	NARRATIVE	DEADLINE
Members of the Public Agenda Statements	Members of the Public who live or work in the North Northamptonshire council area may make statements in relation to reports on the public part of this agenda. A request to address the Executive must be received 2 clear working days prior to the meeting at democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk . Each Member of the Public has a maximum of 3 minutes to address the committee.	5:00 pm Monday 14 th March 2022

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Minutes of a meeting of the Executive

At 10.00 am on Thursday 10th February, 2022 in the Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, Northants, NN17 1QG

Present:-

Members

Councillor Jason Smithers (Leader of the Council) (Chair)	Councillor Helen Howell (Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor David Brackenbury	Councillor David Howes
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Scott Edwards	Councillor Andy Mercer
Councillor Helen Harrison	Councillor Harriet Pentland

Also in attendance – Councillors David Jenney, Elliott Prentice, Mike Tebbutt, Mark Pengelly, Jim Hakewill, Martin Griffiths, Jean Addison, and Wendy Brackenbury

152 Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

153 Notifications of requests to address the meeting

The Chair, Councillor Jason Smithers reported that there were two requests to address the meeting as set out below:

- Cllr Mark Pengelly – Item 4 - to present the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Budget Consultation Submission
- Cllr Dorothy Maxwell – Item 5

154 Members' Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

155 Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee budget consultation submission

The Chair, Cllr Jason Smithers invited the Chair of the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee (F&RSC), Cllr Mark Pengelly to present the committee's budget consultation submission following the conclusion of the process to scrutinise the Council's draft budget for 2022/23.

It was noted that the F&RSC had met with Executive members and officers of each directorate across eight task and finish group meetings (two per directorate) between

6th and 24th January 2022 in order to scrutinise the budget. In total, the meetings had provided over 19 hours of scrutiny.

Cllr Pengelly thanked all those who had taken part in the scrutiny process, noting the difficulty involved in producing a balanced budget as a new authority while facing Covid-19 pressures alongside uncertainty regarding central government funding in the medium-term, the Council having received a settlement figure for only one year. Cllr Pengelly also stated that full scrutiny of the budget had been difficult to achieve in the timescales available to the committee and requested that the process commence earlier in future years.

Cllr Pengelly recognised the efforts made by the Council in publicising the budget consultation but felt that adoption of a Consultation Policy would enable more effective engagement with residents in future.

Cllr Pengelly referenced a number of aspects of the draft budget and recommendations made by the F&RSC during the scrutiny process as set out below:

- Staffing; a number of unresolved issues had been inherited from legacy councils, with particular focus on the use of agency staff and staff retention
- Utility costs; an initial assumption across directorates that utility costs would increase by an average of 15% was deemed optimistic, and although this figure had since been adjusted to 40%, the Executive was asked to consider whether this figure was sufficient
- Children's Trust Budget Setting; the F&RSC wished to have greater input and meaningful consultation regarding the budget-setting proposals and would undertake scrutiny on this area far earlier in the process
- There remained a case for new children's home in the county to reduce the impact on children and costs associated with "out of county" placements
- Legacy charging anomalies relating to car parking and green waste required harmonisation
- Highways Contract; the F&RSC requested updates regarding the formation of a dedicated client team to oversee the new highways contract
- Chester House; the F&RSC required greater understanding of the capital spend associated with the project
- Further information and explanation be provided to the F&RSC regarding variances in void property turnarounds across the two Housing Revenue Accounts
- Capital Programme; only areas which could be developed in the next financial year should be shown, those for future spend could be identified accordingly
- The Council's scrutiny committees required a dedicated scrutiny officer to provide administrative support, with this issue needing to be resolved as a matter of urgency.

The Chair thanked Cllr Pengelly for his presentation and the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for their diligence and understanding in relation to the

complexities and challenges faced within the budget, and for recognising the improvements made by the Council since 1st April 2021.

Cllr Smithers appreciated the recommendations made by the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and noted that many of the issues identified during the scrutiny process were already being addressed. The Chair provided verbal responses to each of the points raised above by Cllr Pengelly and stated that a full written response on each aspect of the recommendations would be provided.

Cllrs Harrison, Mercer, Lawman, Brackenbury, Pentland, Edwards and Howell welcomed the comments and recommendations of the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and responded to points raised by Cllr Pengelly in relation to their own directorates.

The Chair concluded by stating that the Executive and Council as a whole valued positive, relevant scrutiny and noted that the scrutiny of the Council's initial budget setting process was a milestone for the organisation.

156 Draft Budget 2022-23 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

The Chair, Cllr Jason Smithers invited Cllr Dorothy Maxwell to address the meeting. Cllr Maxwell made reference to Children's Services and Education, specifically the provision of Council-employed educational psychologists and speech and language therapists to better meet the needs of local residents and to reduce the backlog of existing cases, concluding with a request to consider factoring such roles into the budget for 2022/23.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maxwell for her contribution.

The Chair stated that the formulation of the draft budget had been a challenge in balancing increased costs with a wish to learn from the past with a need to commit to the right investments while delivering a balanced budget. The Council had faced a challenging initial year as it stabilised as a new authority with the transformation process set to continue into 2022/23. It was noted that confirmation of the Local Government Finance Settlement would allow the Council to deliver its recently adopted Corporate Plan, with a £1m investment made towards combatting climate change. The Chair concluded by offering his thanks to all members of the Finance Team who had pulled together a complex budget while facing significant challenges and uncertainties.

Cllr Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation then introduced a report that set out the final revenue budget (2022-23) and Medium-Term Financial Plan for North Northamptonshire Council. The draft budget proposals had been considered by the Executive on 23rd December 2021 along with an addendum to the main budget report which provided an update following the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, published on 16th December 2021. The settlement set out the funding for individual councils following the Spending Review which was announced on 27th October 2021.

The meeting noted that the draft budget had gone through a consultation period commencing on 23rd December 2021 and ending on 28th January 2022. The consultation had provided residents, local partners and other stakeholders with the

opportunity to review the budget proposals and provide feedback during the five-week consultation period. The draft budgets had also been subject to extensive scrutiny by the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

The report set out the revenue budget for 2022-23 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan for North Northamptonshire Council, including the proposed Council Tax level for 2022-23, with the Executive requested to recommend these proposals to Council for approval at its meeting on 24th February 2022.

Cllr Bunday made reference to the single-year Local Government Finance Settlement, noting that it cast doubt upon levels of future settlements and pointed to several challenges facing the Council in the coming years.

The draft budget before members had been formulated utilising the 2021/22 budget set by the Shadow Executive in February 2021, ongoing budget monitoring forecasts and the outcomes of eight budget challenge sessions with directorates and portfolio holders. Following the conclusion of the public consultation period, analysis of the 504 responses had been undertaken and was included as an appendix to the report. It was noted that although there had been some opposition against a Council Tax increase, the Local Government Finance Settlement had been made on the basis of councils increasing Council Tax by the maximum amounts allowed.

Cllr Bunday stated that although there was a balanced budget this year, next year forecast a deficit of over £25m, rising to nearly £40m by 2025. In light of this, by not increasing Council Tax for the forthcoming year, a further £15m deficit would be added by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. Council Tax remained the most stable and resilient form of income councils had and given that the statutory responsibility of the Council was predominantly demand-led services, it was therefore imperative that all income streams were used to their maximum. Cllr Bunday referenced the support available to those who required assistance in meeting Council Tax payments and noted the need to treat income from its residents with respect.

It was heard that since the December meeting of the Executive, a number of updates had been made to the budget forecast for 2022/23 adding pressures as detailed below:

- £870k - home to school transport
- £165k - commercial lease loss
- £148k - increased fleet fuel costs
- £400k – insurances
- £500k - increase in contingency for increased utility costs

Further savings had been identified as detailed below:

- £115k trade waste
- £203k savings in recycling

The meeting noted that a one-off contribution to the Children's Trust of £594k would be met from reserves to achieve contract savings. This would be financed by a £1.208m increase in Business Rates and a £557k reduction in the contribution to reserves following the announced financial settlement.

Members noted the main headlines of the budget proposals, these having been updated since 23rd December 2021 meeting of Executive to reflect identified changes as well as items raised during the scrutiny process.

The meeting heard that the Dedicated Schools Grant was a ringfenced grant from government allocated to Local Authorities to support a range of education related services. The grant was based on a national formula, and although there was some concern from scrutiny that some areas had been reduced, this reflected a reduction in the number of pupils receiving the service. The total grant was £332.3m, leaving a net revenue budget requirement of £295.9m.

Councillor Bunday referenced the overview of the budget by each directorate and highlighted the main risks facing the Council as part of the budget, specifically Adult Social Care and Children's Services, both being demand-led services subject to volatility.

Reference was made to the Council's Corporate Resources, including Corporate Contingency, Treasury Management Costs and Minimum Revenue Provision. Also noted were details relating to the Pay Contingency and recurring funding for pay increases to the Real Living Wage in 2021-22, to be held centrally until allocation was confirmed.

Cllr Bunday drew attention to the Council's reserves strategy, with a requirement to maintain a prudent level of reserves. It was noted that the true level of reserves would not be fully known until all the legacy sovereign authorities' final accounts had been signed off, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was understood and the final outturn position of the Council's accounts for 2021/22 had been reported.

Cllr Bunday concluded by stating that setting a budget for the Council was not just concerned with managing within available resources, but also where funding should be invested, recognising residents' priorities and working with partners to jointly develop service delivery proposals, giving local families strength and self-reliance to benefit from greater self-determination and improved life chances. It was important to note that there was a balance to be maintained between encouraging growth, providing high quality universal services and protecting those that were the most vulnerable.

Cllr Harriet Pentland spoke to welcome the investment to fund initiatives to tackle climate change, noting the significance of this funding in the context of the Council being a new authority. The move demonstrated the Council's commitment to the environment, with the involvement of the Climate Change, Environment and Growth Executive Advisory Panel being key to this work.

Cllr Graham Lawman spoke to welcome funding allocated for improvements to local bus services, noting that a consultation in this regard was already underway.

Cllr David Howes spoke to recognise the effort and work from officers that had gone into the drafting of the budget and also acknowledged the work and understanding of Cllr Bunday in its development.

Cllr David Brackenbury thanked Cllr Bunday and officers for their work in development of the budget while noting the importance of place shaping to attract high quality

employment and housing and in turn resulting in increased income via Business Rates and Council Tax.

Cllr Scott Edwards responded to Cllr Dorothy Maxwell's comments stating that her recommendation would be put forward as an idea to be developed.

Cllr Helen Howell spoke and stated that it was important to ensure that the Council enhanced the lives of its residents, reinforcing the value to the community of positive health and wellbeing.

RESOLVED:-

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive recommended for approval to Full Council the following:-

- a) the 2022-23 revenue budget for approval and adoption as set out in this report, which sets:
 - i. A budget requirement of £628.1m including Dedicated Schools Grant of £332.3m resulting in a net revenue budget requirement of £295.9m as set out in Appendix A.
 - ii. A total Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes of £178.471m as contained in paragraph 5.29.
 - iii. An average Band D Council Tax of £1,578.73 for North Northamptonshire Council, representing a 1.99% increase in the 'core' Council Tax and a further 1% for the Adult Social Care Precept. Noting that a separate Council Tax Resolution Report will be presented to Full Council as set out in paragraph 5.31.
 - iv. The detailed proposals of savings, pressures and income generation for 2022-23 as set out within the report and Appendix B.
 - v. The provisional dedicated schools grant budget of £332.3m for 2022-23, as detailed in Appendix C, and summarised in paragraphs 5.47 – 5.58.
 - vi. The draft planned use of, contribution to, and movement in, reserves as identified in paragraph 5.60 and section 9 subject to the final call on reserves after any changes are required to account for final charges etc
 - vii. The corporate budget requirements as set out in paragraph 8.1, including a contingency sum of £4.750m as set out in paragraph 8.2.
 - viii. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix H, including the Authorised Borrowing Limit of £859m, and to note a further update to the Strategy will be provided once the disaggregation of Northamptonshire County Council's Balance Sheet

has been finalised, subject to the External Audit of the former County Council's accounts.

- ix. That Council delegate authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to agree any necessary variations to the budget prior to 1st April 2022.
- x. That Council delegate authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to agree the use of the following reserves which will provide the flexibility to manage the overall budget during 2022-23.
 - Social Care Reserve
 - Transformation Reserve
 - Public Health Reserve
 - Waste Management Reserve
 - Risk Reserve which includes the capacity to support further/residual issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

RESOLVED:-

That the Executive:

- a) noted that the financial position has been based on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 16th December 2021 together with any further announcements to the date of the publication of this report.
- b) noted the Consultation feedback as at Appendix G for consideration;
- c) considered the outcome from the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as detailed at Appendix G and any subsequent representations to Committee;
- d) noted the Equality Impact as at Appendix F as having been taken into consideration;
- e) noted the Section 25 Report of the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) as set out in Section 15, including her review of the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves;
- f) delegated authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to draft the recommended budget resolution for Council in accordance with the necessary legal requirements and to take into account the decisions of the Executive and any final changes and other technical adjustments;
- g) noted that the transfer of £6.585m from reserves relates to a timing issue in respect of Business Rates Reliefs to support businesses through COVID-19. This is a timing issues which recognises that these grants were awarded and

accounted for in the General Fund in 2021-22 but the reduced yield in Business Rates is not reflected in the Collection Fund until 2022-23;

- h) delegated authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to conclude the disaggregation of the predecessor Councils, Northamptonshire County Council's accounts following certification and final sign off by the External Auditor.

Reason for Recommendations: To ensure that the Council complied with its Constitution and legislative requirements in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire Council from 2022-23.

157 Capital Programme 2022-25

Cllr Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation introduced a report that set out the final Capital Programme for 2022-23 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan for North Northamptonshire Council. The draft budget proposals had previously been considered by the Executive on 23rd December 2021 with the budget consultation period providing residents, local partners and other stakeholders the opportunity to review the budget proposals and provide feedback during the five-week consultation period that concluded on 28th January 2022.

The report detailed the baseline Capital Programme and identified the key factors and challenges influencing the development of North Northamptonshire Council's future commitments for 2022-23 and beyond.

Cllr Bunday noted that the Capital Programme was comprised of the General Fund, Baseline Development Pool and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme 2022-25. Key principles that underpinned the current Capital Programme and Capital Strategy were outlined to the meeting.

It was heard that the General Fund Baseline Programme totalling £37.0m included funding for the completion of key projects including the Stanton Cross Primary School, and extensions, highways schemes and various property and environmental projects across North Northamptonshire.

The Housing Revenue Account Baseline Programme totalling £38.1m across Kettering and Corby was grouped into statutory and priority works encompassing decent homes, health, safety and compliance works, pre-planned stock investment and enhancements and a significant investment of nearly £21.8m for the Housing Development and New Build Programmes.

Details of a Development Pool totalling £81.8m prioritising 24 key schemes against the associated funding streams making up the Pool was outlined.

Cllr Bunday stated that the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) reflected the minimum amount a Council must charge to the revenue budget each year to set aside a provision for repaying external borrowing. The increase in the MRP provision of £1.549m for 2022/23 was to ensure the provision was aligned to the MRP Policy moving into the medium term.

Cllr Bunday concluded by noting that as part of the scrutiny of this proposed budget there were over 19 hours of meetings with the directorates and Executive members, with a request made that the capital programme be re-addressed by each department to ascertain what was more aspirational than deliverable in the timescales. As a result of this process there had been an element of re-profiling of the report that was brought to the meeting on 23rd December.

RESOLVED:-

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive recommended for approval to Full Council the following:-

- a) The General Fund Capital Programme 2022-25, Baseline Development Pool and HRA Capital Programme 2022-25.

Reason for Recommendations: To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution and legislative requirements in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire Council for 2022-23.

158 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Draft Budget 2022-23 and MTFP Proposals

Cllr Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation introduced a report that sought approval for the proposed draft budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2022/23 and the key principles on which it was based, together with the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) that covered the following four years (2023/24 – 2026/27). The report also set out the proposals regarding rent increases of 4.1% for 2022/23 as required by the Housing Act 1985. This would result in an average rise in weekly rental to £85.54 in Kettering and £81.07 in Corby.

The meeting heard that the HRA was a separate ring-fenced account within the Council for the income and expenditure associated with its housing stock. The HRA did not directly impact on the Council's wider General Fund budget or on the level of Council Tax, with income primarily received through the rents and other charges paid by tenants and leaseholders. The Council owned in excess of 8,200 properties, with a further 884 leasehold properties. This amounted to a projected rental income in excess of £34m.

Local Government Reform meant that the Council held two separate Neighbourhood Accounts, namely Corby and Kettering. Work was planned to be undertaken during 2022/23 to start to move to a single HRA for North Northamptonshire. This would be achieved by developing a new 30-year Business Plan and would also involve the harmonisation of rent and services.

Cllr Bunday stated that the social rent policy of previous governments had resulted in a cumulative loss of rental income amounting to some £130m, which would have a significant impact on this account going forward.

The proposals before members, and the HRA as a whole, had been discussed and debated as part of the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee sessions and with

tenants representing each of the Neighbourhood Accounts. A summary of the comments was included as an appendix to the report.

Cllr Bunday drew attention to the medium-term position 2023 to 2027 that showed a deficit for Corby Neighbourhood Account of £1.860m and a surplus for Kettering Neighbourhood Account of £3.921m, this was mainly due to the structuring of loans against housing stock.

The Council was required by law to avoid budgeting for a deficit on the HRA, in practice the Council was therefore expected to maintain a reasonable balance of HRA reserves to cover any contingencies, with the Executive Director for Finance reviewing these balances annually as part of their risk assessment of the budget. It had been determined that the level of reserves should remain unchanged at £800k for the Corby Neighbourhood Account and that the Kettering Neighbourhood Account be increased from £300k to £650k. This aligned the two Neighbourhood Accounts, so the minimum balances were around 4% of the total budget.

Numbers of “Right to Buy” properties and the number of empty properties must also be taken into account, this was predicted to reduce revenue by approximately £500k. New properties had been added to the stock during 2021 and it was envisaged that there would be further additions in coming years.

Cllr Bunday concluded by noting that as the HRA was a ring fenced, self-financing account with rental levels set by the Housing Rent Regulator, there remained little room for movement save in efficiencies in aggregation and service improvement.

RESOLVED:-

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive recommended for approval to Full Council the following:-

- a. The draft 2022/23 Housing Revenue Account Budgets consisting of the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account as set out in Appendix A.
- b. An increase in dwelling rents for 2022/23 of 4.1% (based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2021 3.1% + 1%) which is in line with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Policy statement on rents for social housing.
- c. The draft Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan consisting of the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account, for 2023/24 to 2026/27 as set out in Appendix B.

Reason for Recommendations: To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at 11.15 am

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Minutes of a meeting of the Executive

At 10.00 am on Tuesday 22nd February, 2022 in the Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, Northants, NN17 1QG

Present:-

Members

Councillor Jason Smithers (Leader of the Council) (Chair)	Councillor Helen Howell (Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor David Brackenbury	Councillor David Howes
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Scott Edwards	Councillor Andy Mercer
Councillor Helen Harrison	Councillor Harriet Pentland

Also in attendance – Councillors Charlie Best, Wendy Brackenbury, David Jenney, Dorothy Maxwell, Gill Mercer and Mike Tebbutt

159 Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

160 Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2022

RESOLVED that: The Executive agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2022 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

161 Members' Declarations of Interest

No declarations were received.

162 Notifications of requests to address the meeting

The Chair, Councillor Jason Smithers reported that there was one request to address the meeting as set out below:

- Cllr Dorothy Maxwell – Items 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 14

163 Performance Indicator Report 2021/22 (Period 9 / December)

The Chair, Cllr Jason Smithers introduced a report that sought to provide an update on the performance of the Council across a range of services as measured by performance indicators, as well as setting out the progress that was being made in the development of the Council's performance monitoring arrangements.

The Chair reported that 89% of performance indicators were currently on target or within 5% of target, with 11% not currently meeting targets. Further work regarding target setting and benchmarking was ongoing, with new Corporate Plan Performance Indicator reports to come to Executive in the new financial year.

Cllrs Helen Harrison and David Brackenbury stated the need to review and improve those performance indicators exhibiting declining trends.

Cllr Graham Lawman welcomed the performance of Highways related targets, noting the increase in road defect repairs and a reduction in outstanding works.

Cllr David Howes referenced and welcomed the improvement in the performance indicator detailing the percentage of calls to Customer Services being answered within target.

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RESOLVED:

That the Executive:

- a) Noted the performance of the Council measured by the available indicators at Period 9 for 2021/22 as set out in the appendices to this report.
- b) Noted the stance that is being taken to developing the Council's approach to benchmarking, comparative data and revised Corporate Plan indicator set.

Reason for Decisions:– to better understand the Council's performance as measured by performance indicators as at Period 9, 2021/22.

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.

164 Procurement of Residential and Nursing Care Home and Respite Services for North Northamptonshire

Cllr Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing introduced a report that sought approval for the procurement of a Dynamic Purchasing System framework agreement for the supply of residential and nursing care home services, including respite provision, for older people predominantly aged 65 years and over in North Northamptonshire.

Cllr Harrison reported that the Council currently commissioned residential and nursing care home services, including respite services, via a 12-month Dynamic Purchasing System with the current agreement set to expire on 31st August 2022, without the option to extend.

A multi-disciplinary project group had been established to conduct a review of the current service provision and engagement with both the care home market and stakeholders. In addition, benchmarking of cost and service model had been

undertaken with neighbouring local authorities and councils nationally, identifying that the Council was an outlier in respect of its current Expected to Pay rate, offering an average of £105 per week less to providers than the average rate paid across surrounding authorities. Consequently, the Council was required to negotiate fees for a significant number of placements on a case-by-case basis, driving up expenditure and resulting in fewer providers contracting with the Council.

Cllr Harrison noted that as part of the options appraisal consideration had been given to co-commissioning a new service with West Northamptonshire Council, however risks were identified that future service delivery needs may differ across the two authorities, and that a single specification would not offer the flexibility to meet the Council's requirements.

It was heard that the findings of the review had identified that a Dynamic Purchasing System was the preferred approach for North Northamptonshire due to the ability to continually add new providers that wished to work with the Council. This would allow flexibility for the provider and a level of assurance for individuals as contracted providers were subject to a contract monitoring regime.

In order to offer certainty and stability, it was proposed that the contract be for a period of four years with the option to extend for a further year, with an estimated total value of £117.84m based on current budget. Cllr Harrison detailed the procurement timetable, noting that subject to Executive approval, the contract start date would be 1st September 2022.

RESOLVED:

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive:

- a) Approved the procurement of residential and nursing care home services for adults predominantly aged 65 and over in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules.
- b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS), to take any further decisions and actions required to conclude this procurement and award the contract.
- c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to amend the Expected to Pay Rate mid-year, within budget constraints, to reduce more expensive spot placements.

Reasons for Decisions:-

- A Dynamic Purchasing System will deliver a flexible contracting model that maximises opportunities for providers to work with the Council. Key benefits of this approach include reduced need for spot purchasing, increased oversight of commissioned providers and improved relationships with a wider market.
- Commissioning of residential and nursing care home services ensures the Council fulfils its statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to provide care and support with daily living activities for adults aged 65 and over.
- Delegated authority to award will ensure the service start date of 1st September 2022 can be achieved.
- Delegated authority to revise the Expected to Pay Rate mid-year will enable the Council to adjust its contracted rates, within the available budgets, ensuring they are more aligned to neighbouring authorities, the true cost of care and are more attractive to the market.

165 Proposed Amalgamation of Tennyson Road and Alfred Street Schools

The Chair welcomed Cllr Dorothy Maxwell to the meeting to address the committee. Cllr Maxwell spoke to request that all residents of Rushden be considered when the consultation process that formed part of the proposal was undertaken. Cllr Maxwell also called on the Executive to be mindful of the development of new housing and the future need for school capacity in Rushden.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maxwell for her contribution before Cllr Scott Edwards, Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills introduced a report that sought approval to commence the Department for Education (DfE) amalgamation process for Tennyson Road and Alfred Street Schools in Rushden at the request of the respective governing bodies and with the support of officers.

Cllr Edwards reported that the two schools had seen declining intake numbers over a period of years and were both currently undersubscribed. It was heard that there were strong views regarding the potential site of a new school and an open and transparent consultation would be conducted to gather the views of all interested parties. A further report would be brought to a future meeting of Executive detailing the results of this consultation.

Cllr Andy Mercer spoke to support the proposal given that both schools were currently and historically undersubscribed.

RESOLVED:

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive:

- a) Authorised the commencement of the statutory process relating to the amalgamation of Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior Schools.
- b) Authorised the commencement of a consultation on the potential location of the proposed 'new' school.
- c) Noted that a follow-up report will be considered by the Executive following the first consultation.

Reasons for Decisions:-

- Ensures full transparency of the process being followed.
- Allows for all interested parties to have their views heard and considered as part of the decision-making process.
- Will evidence that appropriate steps are taken in line with statutory guidelines and within appropriate timescales.
- Allows executive to be further updated on the outcome of the consultation ahead of any further decision making.
- Is in accordance with the DfE legislation and policy on amalgamations.
- Demonstrates to the governing bodies of each school that the council are progressing a shared solution in line with their request.

Alternative Options Considered:- Based upon the financial position and evidence of school performance it is not a viable solution to take no action to progress the consultation on the amalgamation.

166 Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled North Northamptonshire schools for 2023 intakes and the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Schemes for the 2023 intakes

The Chair invited Cllr Dorothy Maxwell to address the committee. Cllr Maxwell spoke regarding the opportunity for children resident in North Northamptonshire being able to attend schools in West Northamptonshire and to query school bus service fees, concluding by noting the importance of choice when making a decision as to which school to attend.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maxwell for her contribution before Cllr Scott Edwards, Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills introduced a report that sought approval of a number of statutory provisions of the School Admissions Code (2021) and legislation relating to school admissions, as follows:

- Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in North Northamptonshire for 2023 intakes
- NNC Primary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2023 intakes
- NNC Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme for 2023 intakes
- The "Relevant Area" for North Northamptonshire schools (to be the North Northamptonshire Council area and its neighbouring local authorities)

Cllr Edwards noted the proposal to remove the 5.00pm deadline from application closing dates allowing parents/carers to apply up until midnight on the closing dates for both Primary and Secondary applications. The meeting further noted an addition to the oversubscription criteria for Little Stanion Primary School giving some level of priority to children of staff members.

RESOLVED:

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive:

- a) Agreed the admission arrangements as detailed in Appendix A of the report
- b) Agreed the two co-ordinated schemes for the 2023 intake as detailed in Appendix B and Appendix C of the report.
- c) Agreed the “Relevant Area” for all North Northamptonshire schools.

Reasons for Decisions:-

- It is the duty of admission authorities to determine the admission arrangements for all their schools annually. Revised PANs have been proposed in line with falling admission numbers.
- It is the duty of local authorities to formulate and publish a co-ordinated scheme for the admission of pupils to all schools in the area. The amendment to closing dates for Primary and Secondary applications to remove the 5pm deadline allows parents to apply until midnight on the closing date making the process easier and fairer for parents.
- It is the duty of local authorities to set the relevant area for its schools.

Alternative Options Considered:- All the above are statutory requirements.

167 Provision of school holiday food vouchers for children and young people eligible for benefits related Free School Meals (FSM) in future school holiday periods

The Chair invited Cllr Dorothy Maxwell to address the committee. Cllr Maxwell welcomed the proposed continuation of the school holiday food vouchers for those receiving benefits-related Free School Meals and requested that all eligible parties be made aware of the scheme.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maxwell for her contribution before introducing a report that sought approval for the funding of school holiday food vouchers for the 2022 Easter school holiday period, at a cost of £306,000 and 2022 May half-term period, at a cost of £153,000, from the ‘Household Support Grant’ received from central government for the purpose of providing financial support to vulnerable families during the pandemic.

The Chair noted that the Council had only been able to fund the vouchers to date as a result of the government’s proactive response to the pandemic. However, as it was

unclear at this point on whether any funds would be left over at the end of the financial year from the original allocation or whether these could be carried over to 2022/23, The Chair proposed an amendment to recommendation (b) in the report, suggesting the following additional wording be added to the end:

“or if these funds have been fully used, that the May half term funding is met from the Council’s Covid reserve (which will be renamed ‘risk reserve’ next financial year’).”

Cllr Andy Mercer spoke to support the proposal, stating his ambition for it to continue should funding be available in future for it to do so.

Cllr Helen Harrison welcomed the suggested amendment to the recommendation as set out above, as it was imperative that the Council could fund its commitment. Cllr Harrison, as well as Cllrs Edwards and Howes stated the importance of publicising the fact that the Council could only continue to fund these vouchers if there was money made available from government to do so.

RESOLVED:

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive:

- a) Approved the funding of school holiday food vouchers for the 2022 Easter school holiday period at a cost of £306,000, from the ‘Household Support Grant’ received from central government for the purpose of providing financial support to vulnerable families during the pandemic.
- b) Approved the provision and funding of school holiday food vouchers for the 2022 May half-term period, at a cost of £153,000 from the ‘Household Support Grant’ received from central government for the purpose of providing financial support to vulnerable families during the pandemic, or if these funds have been fully used, that the May half term funding is met from the Council’s Covid reserve (which will be renamed ‘risk reserve’ next financial year’).

Reasons for Decisions:–

- Customers will receive the maximum benefit from the option proposed and it will provide support to financially disadvantaged residents of North Northamptonshire during school holiday periods.
- The recommendation is consistent with previous decisions taken by the Council.
- Use of the ‘Household Support Grant’ for this purpose is compliant with the terms of the grant.

168 Central Area Growth Board Membership

Cllr David Brackenbury, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration introduced a report that sought approval to join the Central Area Growth Board and agree the associated Terms of Reference.

Cllr Brackenbury noted the role that the Council's Executive had played to date as an active participant in the Central Area Growth Board, demonstrating its commitment to regional working and in so doing bringing together the local authorities located in the middle of the Cambridge - Oxford Arc. Although the board had been on an informal footing to date, it was proposed to formalise the body due to its evolving role and changing membership as a result of local government reorganisation in the last 12 months.

Cllr Graham Lawman welcomed the report, noting that local authorities had a duty to co-operate, and that the Council maintained positive relationships with neighbouring authorities.

Cllr Harriet Pentland also welcomed the report, noting the importance of the working closely with neighbouring authorities to ensure sustainable green growth.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive:

- c) Agreed to North Northamptonshire Council formally being part of the Central Area Growth Board, on the basis of the Terms of Reference document at Appendix A of the report;
- d) Agreed that the Leader will be the representative of the Council on the Central Area Growth Board or a nominated deputy from the Executive;
- e) Agreed to the Council making a final contribution to the operation of the Central Area Growth Board of £5,000 for financial year 2022/23.

Reason for Decisions:- By becoming a full member of the Central Area Growth Board, the Council will be an active participant in contributing to the strategic agenda on items such as strategic planning, economic development, and infrastructure planning at a sub-regional level.

169 Social Care Provision in Prisons in North Northamptonshire

The Chair invited Cllr Dorothy Maxwell to address the committee. Cllr Maxwell queried government funding for the provision of social care to prisoners as well as opportunities for councillors to tour the new facility at HMP Five Wells in Wellingborough.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maxwell for her contribution before Cllr Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing introduced a report that sought agreement for establishing funding arrangements for the provision of social care at the new HMP Five Wells prison in Wellingborough.

It was heard that as of April 2021, the North Northamptonshire Council area had no prisons in operation and consequently received no dedicated grant funding from the Department of Health and Social Care. Since that date, HMP Five Wells, a newly built Category C resettlement prison in Wellingborough had started to receive prisoners in February 2022, with a view to being fully operational by November 2022, with capacity for 1,680 male prisoners.

Cllr Harrison stated that NHS England had conducted a competitive tendering exercise for the healthcare provider contract for the prison, the outcome of which was the award of the contract to the Practice Plus Group who were onsite at the new facility and recruiting for the healthcare team. It was noted that this contract did not include provision for social care.

The meeting heard that Council had responsibility for providing social care to those resident in prisons in its area as a consequence of the Care Act 2014. This report therefore recommended that the Council enter into an agreement with NHS England to secure social care support as a contract variation to the original agreement with Practice Plus Group.

It was reported that the cost to the Council of provision of social care to those resident in HMP Five Wells was a maximum value of £415,739.52 over the three-year period of the agreement, a level of funding allowing 24/7 cover by two workers. Given that the Council had currently received no funding for the care of prisoners, the cost of any care provided in financial year 2021/2022 would need to be covered by the existing care budget. This was anticipated to be in the region of £35,000.

Cllr Helen Howell noted the Council's duty of care for all residents and stated that the Business Manager at HMP Five Wells was keen to engage with the local community.

The Chair and Cllr David Brackenbury welcomed the report, noting that a joined-up approach of social care and a robust rehabilitation process that met the needs of prisoners was of vital importance for all those involved.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive:

- a) Approved the use of social care funding to enter into a contract arrangement for the provision of Social Care support to meet the assessed needs of prisoners at HMP Five Wells.
- b) Agreed that the Council enter into an agreement with NHS England to vary the existing NHSE healthcare contract with PPG to include social care, utilising the flexibility afforded through the Public Contract Regulations 2015 Regulation 12, paragraph 7.
- c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Adults, Health

and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Adults, Communities & Wellbeing, to take any consequent decisions in relation to the contract.

Reasons for Decisions:-

- The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective way of meeting the Council's statutory duty to assess and meet the eligible social care needs of the prison population anticipated for HMP Five Wells.
- The recommended approach delivers maximum benefit to individuals, the Council and other key stakeholders.
- Alternative courses of action have been considered in coming to the above recommendations. These alternatives are summarised in Appendix A of the report.

170 Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ)

Cllr David Brackenbury, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration introduced a report that sought agreement to accept an additional £503,631 grant from Historic England in respect of Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ), and to deliver on the investment before 31st March 2022. The report also requested an agreement to extend the HAZ boundary to incorporate Sawyer's Almshouses and the Manor House Gardens in Sheep Street, Kettering.

The Chair and Cllrs Howell, Edwards and Bunday all welcomed the report and additional grant funding, noting the importance of regenerating town centres that had faced significant challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED:

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive:

- a) Agreed to receive an additional £503,631 of Historic England High Street Heritage Action Zone funding, and to commit to the funding being invested to extend the public realm works in High Street before 31st March 2022; and
- b) Agreed to the extension of the Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone boundary to incorporate Sawyer's Almshouses and the Manor House Gardens in Sheep Street, Kettering.

Reasons for Decisions:–

- To formally accept the additional £503,631 grant offer by Historic England and confirm it will be invested in the project for which it was offered.
- To commit to deliver the additional spend within the timescale conditional to the funding offer.
- To work to optimise the investment for the longer-term benefit of Kettering town centre and its environment.
- To enable Sawyer's Almshouses and Manor House Gardens to benefit from support from the High Street HAZ programme.

Alternative Options Considered:-

- To not accept the extra £503,631 from Historic England that allows NNC to extend the Public Realm works, was considered but rejected on the grounds that with the approved works ongoing it is better to extend them rather than come back should further funding arise. Also considered was that the funding does not require match funding from the Council.
- To not extend the HSHAZ area would prevent any grant funding for the Almshouses. The financial requirement is low at present and should more be required there is an alternative means of funding this from Historic England that would not impact the HSHAZ budget.

171 Procurement of Contract for the Treatment of Collected Organic Garden Waste

The Chair invited Cllr Dorothy Maxwell to address the committee. Cllr Maxwell stated that residents must be made aware of what happened to the contents of organic garden waste bins and be provided with the opportunity to buy resulting compost.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maxwell for her contribution before Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets introduced a report that sought approval from the Executive to commence a procurement project for a contract for treatment of organic garden waste collected as part of the Council's kerbside waste collection service.

Cllr Lawman noted that Council currently had two contracts in place for the disposal of organic garden waste, with the one covering the Kettering and Corby areas set to end on 31st March 2022, the other, covering Wellingborough and East Northamptonshire was set to end on 31st March 2023. Cllr Lawman reported that officers were negotiating an interim arrangement for the year until the end of March 2023 to cover the Kettering and Corby areas.

The meeting heard that officers were seeking to procure a new contract offering industrial aerobic composting of green waste, ensuring as far as possible that this would offer best value for money for the Council as well as recognising adopted policies regarding the Council's carbon footprint.

RESOLVED:

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive:

- a) Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with Executive Director of Place & Economy and the Executive Director for Finance, to commence and conclude a procurement process to identify a preferred bidder and enter into the legal agreements to appoint a preferred bidder for the provision of services relating to the treatment of collected organic garden waste.

Reasons for Decisions:-

- The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective and enables the NNC to make informed decisions regarding its medium-term financial planning.
- This option ensures the authority has a legally procured, compliant processor which demonstrates best value in respect of the treatment of NNC's organic garden waste.

Alternative Options Considered:-

- Extending or modifying the existing contracts. This is not possible as the existing contractual arrangements do not have enough scope to include additional material yield from this activity.
- Do nothing – This is not possible as it leaves the Council open to challenge and increases the risk that the Council will be left with either an unaffordable outlet, or limitations to the avenues for disposal of the material.

172 Update on Garden Waste Service

The Chair invited Cllr Dorothy Maxwell to address the committee. Cllr Maxwell spoke and stated the need for the garden waste collection service be harmonised across all Council areas and queried how the public consultation would take place in relation to future provision of the service.

The Chair thanked Cllr Maxwell for her contribution before Cllr Graham Lawman, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets introduced a report that sought to provide a summary of the existing garden waste service offered to residents of North Northamptonshire. The report also recommended that a public consultation exercise be conducted to seek residents' preferences regarding the future provision of a household garden waste service.

Cllr Lawman reminded members of the differences in service provision across the former sovereign council areas with regard to garden waste collections, noting the importance of moving towards harmonisation of the Council's waste services. It was heard that the public consultation exercise would seek the public's views on a number of issues, including whether the green waste collections should be for part of, or the whole year and whether to levy a subscription charge as was currently the case in the former East Northamptonshire area.

It was noted that no decision had been made regarding the future provision of the service, pending analysis of the consultation responses. It was hoped that the exercise would be completed and a new harmonised service launched by late summer or early autumn 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive:

- a) Agreed to conduct a public consultation regarding the future provision of a kerbside garden waste collection service.
- b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Economy to finalise the content and timing of the consultation.

Reason for Decisions:- The proposed consultation will allow residents to share their views on the future provision of the service. This is particularly important given any decision will affect all residents, including those who do not require or need a garden waste service. Following consultation, the Executive will then be able to consider the responses and determine the nature of the future service.

Alternative Options Considered:- The Executive could decide on the future provision of the garden waste service without consulting with residents. This option is not recommended as it will not enable residents to provide their opinions on this matter nor give the Executive analytical data on which to base their decision.

173 Budget Forecast 2021/2022 as at Period 9

Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation introduced a report that set out the forecast outturn position for the Council based on the Period 9 monitoring forecasts for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

It was noted that there was current a forecast underspend against the General Fund budget of £888,000, a positive movement of £892,000 and budget variances for directorates were outlined to the meeting. Cllr Bunday noted that while this was quite a stable position for a new authority, the size of budget variances should be less pronounced moving forward.

Cllr Bunday stated that the forecast outturn for Children's and Education Service was balanced, although this position would be kept under review with the Finance Director for the Children's Trust regularly meeting with finance officers from the Council to

provide detailed updates on the budget position. It was noted that, at the end of Period 9, the Children's Trust was showing a pressure of £3.287m, this could in part be mitigated by bids to both North and West Northamptonshire Councils for Covid-19 related funding totalling £2.601m relating to pressures arising from the pandemic. Should these bids be successful, the remaining overspend of £686k would be met through the use of the carry forward reserve for the Trust.

Cllr Bunday stated that areas of risk and uncertainty going forward included Adult Social Care as a demand led service, with a need to ensure disaggregation care packages were up to date and correctly aligned. The Children's Trust was another demand led service that was subject to volatility. Cllr Bunday also noted the level of work that had been undertaken to address staffing structures as a new authority, with this significant piece of work ongoing.

Cllr Bunday concluded by referencing the Council's contingency budget designed to meet unforeseen or unplanned/unbudgeted costs. The balance on contingency budget for Period 9 was £3.619m, an increase of £74k from Period 7 to reflect the movement on the Chester House forecast. Any unspent contingency at the end of the financial year would be moved to the Council's reserves.

Cllrs Brackenbury and Harrison welcomed the report, noting the importance of being able to analyse pressures relating to specific directorates.

The Chair thanked the Finance Team for having a tight grip on the Council's finances and encouraged open dialogue with The Children's Trust regarding its financial requirements, so as to avoid any unwanted surprises in relation to the budgetary position.

RESOLVED:

(KEY DECISION)

That the Executive:

- a) Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2021/22 as summarised in section 4, 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 saving proposals in Appendix A of the report.
- c) Noted the latest position on the contingency budget as referenced in paragraph 5.5 of the report

Reason for Decisions:– to note the forecast financial position for 2021/22 as at Period 9 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at 11.13 am

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EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Performance Indicator Report 2021/22 (Period 10 / January 2022)
Report Author	Guy Holloway, Assistant Chief Executive Guy.Holloway@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the Council

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Summary Performance Indicator Report Period 10 (January 2022)

Appendix B – Detailed Performance Indicator Report Period 10 (January 2022)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide an update on the Council's performance across a range of services as measured by performance indicators.
- 1.2. Set out the progress that is being made in the development of the Council's approach to performance measurement.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. A summary of the performance information relating to a range of council services as measured by performance indicators has been provided as **Appendix A**. A more detailed assessment of the performance of services as

measured by performance indicators has been included as **Appendix B** – this includes comments on each performance indicator reported.

- 2.2. The Council recognises the importance of having a full set of meaningful targets as well as comparable and reliable benchmark data and continues to prioritise this work. This will take some time in areas as the Council establishes its baseline position but is work in progress.
- 2.3. The performance team will continue to work closely with directors and service leads to ensure a meaningful set of benchmark networks and comparative data exist moving forward.
- 2.4. A revised set of indicators is being developed to measure progress with the delivery of the Council's priorities set out within the adopted Corporate Plan. It is intended that these be in place from April 2022.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive:
 - a) Note the performance of the Council measured by the available indicators at Period 10 for 2021/22 as set out in the appendices to this report.
 - b) Note the stance that is being taken to developing the Council's approach to benchmarking, comparative data and revised Corporate Plan indicator set.
- 3.2. *Reason for Recommendations – to better understand the Council's performance as measured by performance indicators as at Period 10, 2021/22.*
- 3.3. *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.*

4. Report Background

Benchmarking and comparative data

- 4.1 As detailed within the Performance Indicator Report for Period 9 2021/22, good progress is being made with establishing relative benchmark and comparative data for our suite of Corporate Plan Performance Indicators (CPIs) moving forward. We aim to start measuring against the new dataset from April with reports coming through to Executive in-line with the reporting timetable.

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2022/23

- 4.2 A revised set of indicators will be measured and reported on from April 2022 to align with the vision and key commitments set out within the Council's

Corporate Plan. A report will be taken to the meeting of the Executive scheduled for 14th April 2022 outlining the new suite of indicators for approval.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 It is important that the format and presentation of performance data meets the needs of its audience. Therefore, the Council will always welcome any feedback and/or suggestions on how the performance report could be further developed to help facilitate understanding and performance improvement.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 To continue to develop and embed a strong performance management framework and culture for North Northamptonshire Council.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 This report should be considered alongside the Budget Forecast 2021-22 as at Period 10 report. By looking at both reports together, a broader view of the council's performance can be understood.
- 7.1.2 Performance monitoring allows the Council to drive continuous improvement for North Northamptonshire and identify areas of concern. The services that submit data returns have many projects that are subject to the Council's Transformation Plan and driving excellent service will support these to be realised.

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 The Council is required to provide statutory monitoring returns to central government. The Council is on course to comply with these requirements.
- 7.2.2 Monitoring performance is a key element of the Council's Governance Framework.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 Effective performance management directly contributes to the delivery of key commitments set out within the Council's Corporate Plan.

7.4 Risks

7.4.1 There are a number of risks relating to performance information:

- (a) Poor data quality – Inaccurate data will inevitably lead to less accurate decision making.
- (b) Lack of data – Failing to measure key service activities can leave the Council sightless of its performance. Given the importance of many of the services it provides, this would be an undesirable position.
- (c) Incorrect interpretations – Caution should be applied to the interpretation of performance data, particularly given the adjustments that have been made by services to adapt to the COVID pandemic. Misunderstanding the performance picture can lead to ineffective decision-making and potential reputational damage.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 Formal consultation was carried out in the development of the Corporate Plan.

7.5.2 Informal consultation with relevant stakeholders will continue to take place when developing the Council's performance management framework.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 This report serves as information in respect of the Council's performance for period 10, therefore consideration by the Executive Advisory Panels was not necessary.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 Performance reports will be considered by future meetings of the Scrutiny Committees, following reports to the Executive.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 Equality related performance indicators are being developed.

7.9 Climate Impact

7.9.1 The Council is developing a set of indicators that provide information about how it is meeting its key commitment to helping deliver a green and sustainable environment.

7.10 Community Impact

- 7.10.1 Effective policy and decision-making, and scrutiny, guided by good quality, timely and relevant performance data can make a significant difference to the delivery of public services. It can have an equally significant impact on the local communities.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

- 7.11.1 No crime and disorder impacts have been identified.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Performance Indicator Report Period 9 2021/22 reported to the meeting of the Executive on 13th January 2022.
- 8.2 Corporate Plan, reported to the meeting of the Executive on the 18th November 2021. [Executive on Thursday 18th November 2021](#) and adopted by Council on the 1st December 2021.

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North Northamptonshire Council Performance Report - January 2022

Key to Performance Status Colours

Progress Status Key:
Green - On target or over-performing against target
Amber - Under-performing against target but within 5% corporate tolerance (or other agreed tolerance as specified)
Red - Under-performing against target by more than 5% (or other agreed tolerance as specified)
Dark Grey - Data missing
Grey - Target under review
Turquoise - Tracking Indicator only

Direction of Travel Key	
An acceptable range = within 5% of the last period's performance	
↑G	Performance has improved from the last period – Higher is better
↓G	Performance has improved from the last period – Lower is better
↑	Performance has deteriorated but is still on or above target or within an acceptable range of 5% of the last period – Lower is better
→	Performance has stayed the same since the last period
↓	Performance has deteriorated but is still on or above target or within an acceptable range of 5% of the last period – Higher is better
↑R	Performance has deteriorated from the last period – Lower is better
↓R	Performance has deteriorated from the last period – Higher is better
↑	Actual increased - neither higher or lower is better
⇨	Actual has stayed the same since the last period - neither higher or lower is better
⇩	Actual decreased - neither higher or lower is better

Children's Trust Progress Status Key:
Green - At target or better
Amber - Below target - within tolerance
Red - Below target - outside tolerance
Grey - No RAG

Children's Trust Direction of Travel Key	
↑G	Performance improved since last month
→	Performance the same as last month
↓A	Performance declined since last month

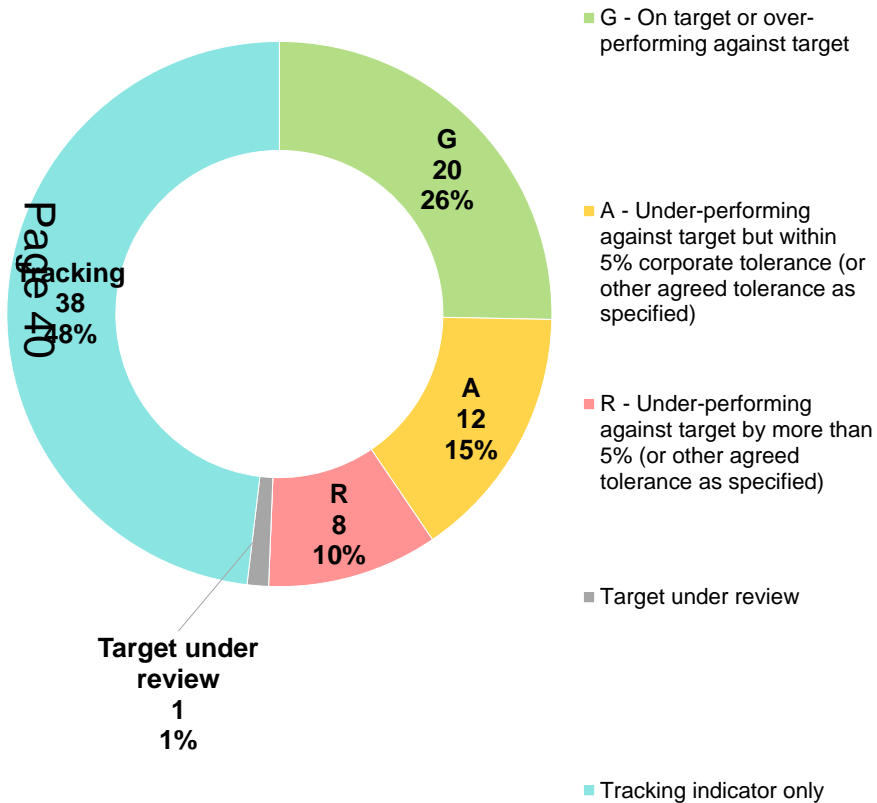
Terminology key

TBC	To be confirmed
TBD	To be determined
n/a	Not applicable
Actual	The actual data (number/percentage) achieved during the reporting period
Benchmark	A comparator used to compare the Council's performance against. The 2020/21 average for Unitary Councils in England has been used where available unless otherwise stated.

Appendix A

North Northamptonshire Council Performance Report - January 2022

January 2022 Performance Summary



Directorate	Underperforming Indicators	Variance from target
Legal & Democratic	T13 % Individual Rights Requests completed in 1 calendar month	-25.92%
Finance Services	% National Non Domestic Rates collected	-7.41%
Children's Services	T44 (LS3a) % of primary schools judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted	-13.98%
Children's Services	T37 (KPI 14) Stage 2 investigations as a % of stage 1 complaints received within the year to date	+70%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T8 Number of rough sleepers (single night snapshot figure)	+11.11%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T76 Smoking quit rate at 4 weeks	-43.83%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T79 % of in-year eligible population offered an NHS Health Check	-87.74%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T80 % of in-year eligible population who received an NHS Health Check	-85.2%

Directorate	Indicators where Direction of Travel has deteriorated (not including PIs still with Green RAG)	% change from last month
Legal & Democratic	T13 % Individual Rights Requests completed in 1 calendar month	-33.33%
Legal & Democratic	T20 Number of working days lost to sickness per employee (Long Term)	+23.68%
Place & Economy	T3 % other planning applications processed in 8 weeks	-6.56%
Place & Economy	T95 Household Waste Arisings which have been sent for Recycling	-5.10%
Place & Economy	T64a Fly tipping: number of fly tips reported	+10.76%
Children's Services	T48 (New 2) Number of looked after children without a school place / missing education	-28.57%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T8 Number of rough sleepers (single night snapshot figure)	+150%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T68 Number of unscheduled review requests	+25.3%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T76 Smoking quit rate at 4 weeks	-77.15%
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	T79 % of in-year eligible population offered an NHS Health Check	-27.46%

Legal & Democratic

	Performance Indicator	January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)
Human Resources	T19 Number of working days lost to sickness per employee (short-term)	TRACKING	↓G
	T20 Number of working days lost to sickness per employee (long-term)	TRACKING	↑R
Information Governance	T11 % of Freedom of Information Requests completed in 20 working days	G	↑G
	T12 % Environmental Information Regulation Requests completed in 20 working days	G	↑G
	T13 % Individual Rights Requests completed in 1 calendar month	R	↓R

Finance Services

	Performance Indicator	January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)
Finance	T14 % of invoices paid within 30 days	G	↓
Revenues & Benefits	T15 % of Council Tax collected	A	↓
	T16 % National Non Domestic Rates collected	R	↓
	T17 Average time taken to process benefits & Council Tax Support Claims (days)	G	↑R
	T18 Average time to process benefits & Council Tax Support Changes of circumstances (days)	G	↑R

Transformation

	Performance Indicator	January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)
Customer Services	T21a % calls answered	A	↓
	T21b Total number of calls received	TRACKING	↑
	T22 Stage 1 complaints received	TRACKING	↓G
	T23 Stage 2 complaints received	TRACKING	→

Place & Economy			
	Performance Indicator	January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)
Planning Development	T1 % major planning applications processed in 13 weeks	G	➔
	T2 % minor planning applications processed in 8 weeks	G	⬇
	T3 % other planning applications processed in 8 weeks	A	⬇R
Environmental Protection	T4 % of food establishments in the area broadly compliant with food hygiene law	A	⬆G
	T5 Number of establishments with Eat out Eat Well award	TRACKING	⬇
	T6 Number of food & environmental samples taken	TRACKING	⬇
Highways	T54 Number of defects repaired in the network	TRACKING	⬇
	T55 Number of defects outstanding on the network	TRACKING	⬇
	T56 Repairs made to the road network that are either permanent or semi permanent	G	➔
Place	T58 Out of work benefits claimants (Ex county Place directorate)	TRACKING	➔

Place & Economy				
	Performance Indicator	January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)	
Waste	T59 KG of Waste per head of population	Q2 data (latest available) - TRACKING	⬇G	
	T93 Residual Household Waste per Household		⬇G	
	T94 % Household Waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting		⬆G	
	T95 Household Waste Arisings which have been sent for Recycling		⬇R	
	T96 Household Waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion (Inc. food and garden waste)		⬆G	
	Household kerbside collection: Tonnes of material collected through kerbside schemes:-			
	T60a -Co-mingled recycling	TRACKING	⬆	
	T60b -Food waste	TRACKING	⬆	
	T60c -Garden waste	TRACKING	⬆	
	T62 Household kerbside collection: Tonnes of material collected through residual waste service	Q2 data (latest available) - TRACKING	⬇G	
	T64a Fly tipping: number of fly tips reported		⬆R	
	T64b Fly tipping: number of fly tips investigated		n/a	
	T65 Percentage of waste treated (residual kerbside waste, HWRC, wood)	TRACKING	⬇	
T66 Percentage of waste re-used, recycled, composted from HWRC sites	TRACKING	⬇		

Children's Services

			Children's Services	
Performance Indicator			January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)
Learning, Skills & Education	T44 (LS3a)	% of primary schools judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted	R	↑G
	T45 (LS4a)	% of secondary schools judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted	G	→
	T46 (LS11f)	Current number of home educated children	TRACKING	↑
	T47 (NI 114)	Number of permanent exclusions from school - Total	TRACKING	↓
	T48 (New2)	Number of looked after children without a school place / missing education	TRACKING	↑R

Children's Services

Performance Indicator	January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)
T24 (KPI 1) % of all referrals with a decision within 2 working days	G	➔
T25 (KPI 2) % of referrals with a previous referral within 12 months	A	⬆️G
T26 (KPI 3) % of single assessments authorised within 45 working days	G	➔
T27 (KPI 4) % of single assessments closing with no further action	A	⬇️A
T28 (KPI 5) % of initial child protection conferences held within 15 days of a strategy discussion being initiated	A	⬇️A
T29 (KPI 6) % of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time	A	⬇️A
T30 (KPI 7) Children who've been in care 2.5 yrs or more, and of those, who've been in the same placement for 2+ years / placed for adoption (%)	G	⬆️G
T31 (KPI 8) % Children in care with three or more placements in the previous 12 months	A	⬇️A
T32 (KPI 9) % of young people now aged 17 - 21 and in employment, education or training who were looked after when aged 16	G	⬆️G
T33 (KPI 10) % of young people now aged 17 - 21 and living in suitable accommodation who were looked after when aged 16	G	⬆️G
T34 (KPI 11) % of qualified social workers with caseloads above target	A	⬇️A
T35 (KPI 12) % of children placed more than 20 miles from their homes, outside LA boundary	G	⬆️G
T36 (KPI 13) % of stage 1 complaints responded to within 10 working days	G	➔
T37 (KPI 14) Stage 2 investigations as a % of stage 1 complaints received within the year to date	R	⬆️G
T38 (KPI 16) % of social worker vacancies	G	⬆️G
T39 (KPI 17) % of social worker posts filled with agency staff	G	⬇️A

Children's Social Care

Adults, Communities & Wellbeing		
Performance Indicator	January Progress Status	Direction of Travel (Dec-Jan)
Housing	T7a Number of households whose homelessness was prevented	TRACKING ↓
	T7b Number of households whose homelessness was relieved	TRACKING ↓
	T8 Number of rough sleepers (single night snapshot figure)	R ↑R
Communities	T10 Number of Anti Social Behaviour incidents reported	TRACKING ↑
Adult Social Care	Assessment Teams	
	T67 Total number of people allocated to each team	TRACKING ↑
	T68 Number of unscheduled review requests	TRACKING ↑R
	Short and Long Term (SALT) Services - Hospital	
	T69 Percentage of new requests for services (all ages) where route of access was discharge from hospital, that had a sequel of ST-MAX (short term support to maximise independence) (i.e. reablement)	TRACKING →
	Safeguarding	
	T70 Number of new concerns received	TRACKING ↓G
	T71 New concerns determined to be enquiries (both s42 and other)	TRACKING ↓
	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)	
	T72 Open cases (No date restriction)	TRACKING ↑
	In-House Provision	
	T73 Therapy Service - Total cases of waiting for booking & assessment	TRACKING ↓G
	Domain Two: Delaying and Reducing the Need for Care and Support	
T74 Long-term support needs met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population (older people)	TRACKING ↑	
T75 Delaying and reducing the need for care and support	TRACKING ↓	

Adults, Communities & Wellbeing

Performance Indicator		Latest Progress Status	Direction of Travel (LATEST)
Public Health	T76 Smoking quit rate at 4 weeks	Jan 22 - R	↓ R
	T77 % of infants due a new birth visit that received a new birth visit within 14 days of birth	Dec 21 - G	↓
	T79 % of in-year eligible population offered an NHS Health Check	Jan 22 - R	↓ R
	T80 % of in-year eligible population who received an NHS Health Check	Jan 22 - R	↑ G
	T93 Breastfeeding rate at 6-8 weeks	Dec 21 - A	↑ G
	T94 % of children who received a 6-8 week review by the time they were 8 weeks	Dec 21 - G	↑ G
	T95 % mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery	Quarter 3 - A	↑
	T96 % substance misuse clients waiting more than 3 weeks for their first intervention	Quarter 2 - Grey	→



North Northamptonshire Council Performance Report - January 2022

Key to Performance Status Colours

Progress Status Key:
Green - On target or over-performing against target
Amber - Under-performing against target but within 5% corporate tolerance (or other agreed tolerance as specified)
Red - Under-performing against target by more than 5% (or other agreed tolerance as specified)
Dark Grey - Data missing
Grey - Target under review
Turquoise - Tracking Indicator only

Direction of Travel Key	
An acceptable range = within 5% of the last period's performance	
↑G	Performance has improved from the last period – Higher is better
↓G	Performance has improved from the last period – Lower is better
↑	Performance has deteriorated but is still on or above target or within an acceptable range of 5% of the last period – Lower is better
→	Performance has stayed the same since the last period
↓	Performance has deteriorated but is still on or above target or within an acceptable range of 5% of the last period – Higher is better
↑R	Performance has deteriorated from the last period – Lower is better
↓R	Performance has deteriorated from the last period – Higher is better
↑	Actual increased - neither higher or lower is better
⇌	Actual has stayed the same since the last period - neither higher or lower is better
↓	Actual decreased - neither higher or lower is better

Children's Trust Progress Status Key:
Green - At target or better
Amber - Below target - within tolerance
Red - Below target - outside tolerance
Grey - No RAG

Children's Trust Direction of Travel Key	
↑G	Performance improved since last month
→	Performance the same as last month
↓A	Performance declined since last month

Terminology key

TBC	To be confirmed
TBD	To be determined
n/a	Not applicable
Actual	The actual data (number/percentage) achieved during the reporting period
Benchmark	A comparator used to compare the Council's performance against. The 2020/21 average for Unitary Councils in England has been used where available unless otherwise stated.

Appendix B

Legal & Democratic																																														
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Target	Comments																																	
Human Resources																																														
TBC	T19	Number of working days lost to sickness per employee (Short Term)	<table border="1"> <caption>Days lost per FTE</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Short Term</th> <th>Long Term</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>0.19</td><td>0.36</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>0.16</td><td>0.36</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>0.23</td><td>0.43</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>0.3</td><td>0.46</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>0.28</td><td>0.56</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>0.27</td><td>0.54</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>0.34</td><td>0.57</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>0.60</td><td>0.40</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.38</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>0.49</td><td>0.47</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Short Term	Long Term	Apr	0.19	0.36	May	0.16	0.36	Jun	0.23	0.43	Jul	0.3	0.46	Aug	0.28	0.56	Sep	0.27	0.54	Oct	0.34	0.57	Nov	0.60	0.40	Dec	0.58	0.38	Jan	0.49	0.47	Local Government 'single tier' national average - 9.2 days lost per employee over 12 months (0.77 days lost per month)	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.02 days lost	0.58 days lost	0.49 days lost	↓ G	*LG Benchmark (Apr-Jan) split: 3.16 days lost short term and 4.5 days lost long term	There has been a decrease in ST sickness from December to January. The YTD sickness shows that we are lower than the benchmark so far in 2021/22 for short term sickness and higher than the benchmark for long term sickness. (Note:- the YTD sickness may total up slightly differently to the monthly sickness rates reported as monthly sickness is recorded on the 1st of following month, each month and the YTD sickness is calculated at the end of the year to date period. So for January the YTD sickness is recorded on the 1st March. This can therefore lead to slight discrepancies as sickness days will have been added retrospectively throughout the year.)
	Month	Short Term		Long Term																																										
Apr	0.19	0.36																																												
May	0.16	0.36																																												
Jun	0.23	0.43																																												
Jul	0.3	0.46																																												
Aug	0.28	0.56																																												
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Nov	0.60	0.40																																												
Dec	0.58	0.38																																												
Jan	0.49	0.47																																												
T20	Number of working days lost to sickness per employee (Long Term)	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.21 days lost	0.38 days lost	0.47 days lost	↑ R																																						
Information Governance																																														
TBC	T11	% of Freedom of Information Requests completed in 20 working days		93%	82.62%	82.22%	85.87%	84.16%	91.30%	93.33%	↑ G	85%	9 active requests as at 22/02. Performance has continued to improve with volume being lower than previous months. This shows that the processes in place work provided there is sufficient resource to back it up.																																	
TBC	T12	% Environmental Information Regulation Requests completed in 20 working days		93%	98.82%	99.07%	98.71%	98.98%	99.32%	100.00%	↑ G	85%	11 active requests as at 22/02. The IG team need to remain vigilant on performance as they will soon be taking on full responsibility for the processing of EIR requests which is an increase to their already high workload.																																	
TBC	T13	% Individual Rights Requests completed in 1 calendar month		81%	74.42%	92.68%	100.00%	85.00%	100.00%	66.67%	↓ R	90%	3 active requests as at 22/02. Lack of resource across supporting directorates impacted results this month. The team will continue to analyse their performance to ensure improvements can be made where applicable. Staff members within IG continue to receive training in this area which should enhance performance moving forward.																																	

Finance Services														
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
TBC	T14	% of invoices paid within 30 days		n/a	91.80%	91.98%	97.82%	94.23%	97.69%	95.1%	↓	Higher is better	95%	<p>This calculation is based on the invoices paid within the month (rather than invoices received in the month). April data was inaccurate as the dates invoices were received were not available.</p> <p>Invoices not being paid within deadline is due to service users not completing goods receipts or invoice approvals within the required timescales. We will reiterate the correct process to the service users.</p>
Finance Strategy & Accountancy														
					6697 out of 7295	8709 out of 9468	9932 out of 10153	28261 out of 29991	3261 out of 3338	2,923 out of 3,075				

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Revenues and Benefits														
TBC	T15	% of Council Tax collected		96.41%	29.05% (Apr - Jun) 103.8% achieved of the target	56.79% (Apr-Sep) 101.4% achieved of the target	84.11% (Apr-Dec) 100.13% achieved of the target	93.1% (YTD) 99.04% achieved of the target	84.11% (YTD) 100.13% achieved of the target	93.1% (YTD) 99.04% achieved of the target	↓	Higher is better	94%	Dec 21 comment - This is slightly above target and will continue to be monitored. The direction of travel is calculated based on the actual performance achieved as a proportion of the target each month.
					£63,069,552.08	£123,531,775.70	£183,281,458.52	£202,916,527.22	£183,281,458.52	£202,916,527.22				
TBC	T16	% National Non Domestic Rates collected		97.93%	27.97% 99.9% achieved of the target	48.72% (Apr-Sep) 88.6% achieved of target	78.06% (Apr-Dec) 95.2% achieved of the target	87.03% 92.59% achieved of the target	78.06% (YTD) 95.2% achieved of the target	87.03% 92.59% achieved of the target	↓	Higher is better	94%	Dec 21 comment - Collection remains below the target due to affects of extended retail relief and uncertainty within the business sector. The direction of travel is calculated based on the actual performance achieved as a proportion of the target each month.
					£31,646,562.22	£65,922,739.58	£104,818,314.03	£116,929,260.37	£104,818,314.03	£116,929,260.37				
TBC	T17	Average time taken to process benefits & Council Tax Support Claims (days)		18 days	22.74 days 2827 claims	20.53 days 2306 claims	19.71 days 2062 claims	21.12 days 7803 claims	18.72 days 685 claims	20.65 days 608 claims	↑R	Lower is better	21 days	Dec 21 comment - Performance in month is exceeding target and remains on track for year, fluctuation is expected throughout year as Furlough ends and potential increases in Council tax claims.
TBC	T18	Average time taken to process benefits & Council Tax Support Changes of circumstances (days)		5 days	6.61 days 14748 changes	6.66 days 12358 changes	6.02 days 11894 changes	6.39 days 42647 changes	4.33 days 3115 changes	5.83 days 3647 changes	↑R	Lower is better	9 days	Dec 21 comment - This remains within target.

Transformation

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Customer Services														
TBC	T21a	% calls answered	<p>Actual performance: Apr (87.72%), May (80.70%), Jun (85.83%), Jul (77.75%), Aug (91.64%), Sep (87.53%), Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan.</p>	93%	87.72%	80.70%	85.83%	77.75%	91.64%	87.53%	↓	Higher is better	90%	Performance was slightly under target for January however almost 6000 additional calls were answered in January compared to December. In addition some areas were short staffed at the beginning of the month due to vacancies and sickness.
					83637 out of 95345	88385 out of 109521	81298 out of 94717	283081 out of 364078	23850 out of 26026	29766 out of 34008				
TBC	T21b	Total number of calls received	<p>Actual performance: Apr (118580), May (116773), Jun (94717), Jul (364078), Aug (26026), Sep (34008), Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan.</p>	n/a	118580	116773	94717	364078	26026	34008	↑	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	This row was added to show the total number of calls received by the council (as the above performance indicator excluded Corby Calls for April-July).
TBC	T22	Stage 1 complaints received	<p>Actual performance: Apr (497), May (483), Jun (435), Jul (1528), Aug (116), Sep (113), Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan.</p>	n/a	497	483	435	1528	116	113	↓G	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	Complaint levels have remained consistent during the year so far with a wide variety of issues raised.
	T23	Stage 2 complaints received	<p>Actual performance: Apr (28), May (18), Jun (30), Jul (84), Aug (8), Sep (8), Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan.</p>	n/a	28	18	30	84	8	8	→	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	The number of cases reaching stage 2 remains low. This suggests that we are able to resolve issues effectively at stage 1.

Place & Economy

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Planning Services						Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
					Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22				
TBC	T1	% major planning applications processed in 13 weeks	<p>91% (Q1 2021/22 All English Authorities)</p>	95.0%	90.32%	96.0%	93.75%	100%	100%	→	Higher is better	90%	Performance has returned to consistently excellent levels significantly above target.	
					19 out of 20	28 out of 31	24 out of 25	75 out of 80%	14 out of 14	4 out of 4				
TBC	T2	% minor planning applications processed in 8 weeks	<p>88% (Q1 2021/22 All English Authorities)</p>	87.76%	89.31%	80.95%	85.90%	88.10%	85.71%	↓	Higher is better	85%	Staffing and recruitment of effective officers has been difficult resulting in performance dropping to match the target. This reflects national recruitment challenges across the profession.	
					86 out of 98	117 out of 131	102 out of 126	329 out of 383	37 out of 42	24 out of 28				
TBC	T3	% other planning applications processed in 8 weeks	<p>84% (Q1 2021/22 All English Authorities)</p>	93.27%	87.16%	89.74%	89.64%	91.28%	85.29%	↓R	Higher is better	88%	Staffing and recruitment difficulties have resulted in performance dropping below the internal target. This remains a challenging target due to the volume of work and extreme variation in the scale of the proposals. We are exceeding the national benchmark.	
					388 out of 416	387 out of 444	341 out of 380	1203 out of 1342	136 out of 149	87 out of 102				

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Environmental Health														
TBC	T4	% of food establishments in the area broadly compliant with food hygiene law		n/a	88.89% (Jun) 2841 out of 3196	91.76% (Sep) 2874 out of 3132	92.42% (Dec) 2888 out of 3125	93.01%	92.42%	93.01%	↑G	Higher is better	95%	This indicator is now improving towards the target as the food teams catch up with inspections in line with the Food Standards Agencies Covid 19 Recovery Roadmap.
TBC	T5	Number of establishments with Eat out Eat Well award		n/a	23 (Jun)	17 (Sep)	14 (Dec)	13	14	13	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	Eat out Eat Well awards expire after two years and in order to retain their awards it is necessary to reassess the business at the two year mark. Due to the Covid pandemic reassessments have not been carried out resulting in a big reduction in those businesses having awards and eventually all of them will expire. The project needs a complete rebrand and restart now that we are North Northants. Funding is being secured in conjunction with colleagues in Public Health however, this is a significant undertaking so it will be next year before any progress can be made. YTD and Quarterly figures are latest position.
TBC	T6	Number of food & environmental samples taken		n/a	10	0	75	108	47	23	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	Sampling has not been carried out during the pandemic but is now being resumed on a gradual basis. This is deemed a lower priority than statutory inspections and enforcement.

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Highways														
TBC	T54	Number of defects repaired in the network		n/a	5902	4312	5956	17674	1953	1504	↓	No Polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	
TBC	T55	Number of defects outstanding on the network		n/a	977 (June 2021)	881 (Sept 2021)	666 (Dec 2021)	n/a	666	622	↓	No Polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	
TBC	T56	Repairs made to the network that are either permanent or semi-permanent		n/a	99.20%	98.98%	99.32%	99.26%	100%	100%	→	Higher is better	95% to 97%	
Place Directorate														
TBC	T58	Out of work benefits claimants (Ex county Place directorate)		3.8% (Jan 2022)	4.8%	4.3%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	→	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	Snapshot volume each month. Benchmark is East Midlands.

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress	Quarter 2 Progress	Quarter 3 Progress	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (Q1 - Q2)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Waste Services														
TBC	T59	KG of Waste per head of population		n/a	126.7 kg	122.4 kg	TBD	249.06 kg (up to Q2)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	↓G	Lower is better	n/a	Data verified to National Level 1 for Q1 on 19/11/21 & Q2 on 31/01/21. This indicator has stayed stable through the first six months of the year.
TBC	T93	Residual Household Waste per Household		n/a	153.41 kg	140.37 kg	TBD	293.78 kg (up to Q2)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	↓G	Lower is better	n/a	Data verified to National Level 1 for Q1 on 19/11/21 & Q2 on 31/01/21. A very small reduction which is often seen over summer period due to more people being away in summer months.
TBC	T94	% Household Waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting		n/a	47.10%	49.90%	TBD	49.90%	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	↑G	Higher is better	n/a	Data verified to National Level 1 for Q1 on 19/11/21 & Q2 on 31/01/21. This indicator will be higher in the summer months due to seasonal variations in garden waste.
TBC	T95	Household Waste Arisings which have been sent for Recycling		n/a	21.95%	20.83%	TBD	21.34% (up to Q2)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	↓R	Higher is better	n/a	Data verified to National Level 1 for Q1 on 19/11/21 & Q2 on 31/01/21. This indicator has stayed stable through the first six months of the year.
TBC	T96	Household Waste sent for composting or anaerobic digestion (inc. food and garden waste)		n/a	24.78%	28.66%	TBD	27.61% (up to Q2)	n/a (reported quarterly)	n/a (reported quarterly)	↑G	Higher is better	n/a	Data verified to National Level 1 for Q1 on 19/11/21 & Q2 on 31/01/21. Seasonal garden waste tonnages will affect this indicator.

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Waste Services														
TBC	T60a	Household kerbside collection: Tonnes of material collected through kerbside schemes - Co-mingled recycling		n/a	9212.66	8747.31	8616.33	29872.02	3125.14	3295.72	↑	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	January tonnages are always higher due to increased recyclable material over the Christmas period. Q2 data is now verified. This is a relatively stable waste stream, however performance is impacted by the level of contamination created by residents who put the wrong waste in the recycling bin. The Council continues to raise awareness and engage with residents to ensure that co-mingled recycling is clean and not contaminated by wet or dirty materials which affect the performance and presents significant financial risk to the Council when dealing with rejected loads of recyclable material.
TBC	T60b	Household kerbside collection: Tonnes of material collected through kerbside schemes - Food waste		n/a	990.28	986.16	975.96	3284.4	339.26	332	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	Q2 data is now verified. Food waste is currently collected in East Northants and Corby. Factors that affect food waste performance include the level of multiple deprivation, and the availability of alternate capacity such as residual containers. The waste team intend to carry out awareness raising activity during 22/23 to increase participation in food waste collection. Removal of food waste from other waste streams, such as residual waste, is a key activity for effective waste collection systems, and requirements of The Environment Bill 2021 mean that food waste collections should be extended to all households from 2025.
TBC	T60c	Household kerbside collection: Tonnes of material collected through kerbside schemes - Garden waste		n/a	8387.75	8532.85	3789.60	21207.08	424.92	496.88	↑	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	Garden waste tonnages are affected by the greatest amount of seasonal variance and is not collected in Wellingborough during the period November to March. Yields for this material increase during Q1 and Q2 and drop off in the winter by approximately 60%. Arisings for garden waste are also affected by weather conditions, in dry years, the overall yield will be reduced.
TBC	T62	Household kerbside collection: Tonnes of material collected through residual waste service		n/a	17100.14	16532.04	Available approx. April	16532.04 (Q2 latest available)	16532.04 (Q2 latest available)	16532.04 (Q2 latest available)	↓G	Lower is better	No target tracking purposes only	Q3 data will be available approximately April 2022.
TBC	T64a	Fly tipping: number of fly tips reported		n/a	1022	1132	Available approx. April	1132 (Q2 latest available)	1132 (Q2 latest available)	1132 (Q2 latest available)	↑R	Lower is better	No target tracking purposes only	Q3 data will be available approximately April 2022.
TBC	T64b	Fly tipping: number of fly tips investigated		n/a	465	367	Available approx. April	367 (Q2 latest available)	367 (Q2 latest available)	367 (Q2 latest available)	n/a	No polarity	No target tracking purposes only	Q3 data will be available approximately April 2022. No of investigations is dependant on evidence being found in the waste and an alleged offender being identified
TBC	T65	Percentage of waste treated (residual kerbside waste, HWRC, wood)		n/a	90.95%	91.48%	93.12%	91.90%	93.60%	92.60%	↓	No polarity	No target tracking purposes only	While the quantity of waste can fluctuate, the percentage of waste treated is relatively stable, being managed through contract requirements.
TBC	T66	Percentage of waste re-used, recycled, composted from HWRC sites		43.2%	40.01%	42.49%	39.34%	40.18%	35.36%	34.30%	↓	Higher is better	No target tracking purposes only	Quality and quantity of waste that can be reused, recycled or composted is subject to variation throughout the year. Lower visitor numbers in winter months means a reduction in total waste and therefore reduction of percentage waste reused, recycled or composted. There is also no guarantee that the quality of waste being brought to the Household Recycling Centres (HWRC) is fit for reuse or recycling, therefore these can see monthly variations. Compost tonnages is the area most affected by seasonal variance so yields for this material drop off in the winter.

Children's Services

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments																																	
Learning, Skills & Education																																															
TBC	T44 (LS3a)	% of primary schools judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted	<table border="1"> <caption>% of primary schools judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Month</th><th>Actual</th><th>Target</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>73%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>73%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>73%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>73%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>73%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>73%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>74.8%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>75.7%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>74.8%</td><td>85%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>75.7%</td><td>85%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Target	Apr	73%	85%	May	73%	85%	Jun	73%	85%	Jul	73%	85%	Aug	73%	85%	Sep	73%	85%	Oct	74.8%	85%	Nov	75.7%	85%	Dec	74.8%	85%	Jan	75.7%	85%	85%	73% (Jun)	73% (Sep)	74.8% (Dec)	75.7%	74.8%	75.7%	↑G	Higher is better	88%	There is a minor change in the proportion of primary schools that are judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted this month, up to 75.7% from 74.8% as at the end of December, this is an increase of 1 primary school. Of the 111 primary schools in the authority area, 84 are rated either good or outstanding in their latest inspection (as of 31st January 2022)
Month	Actual	Target																																													
Apr	73%	85%																																													
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Jul	73%	85%																																													
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Dec	74.8%	85%																																													
Jan	75.7%	85%																																													
TBC	T45 (LS4a)	% of secondary schools judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted	<table border="1"> <caption>% of secondary schools judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Month</th><th>Actual</th><th>Target</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>70%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>70%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>70%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>70%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>70%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>70%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>78%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>78%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>78%</td><td>71%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>78%</td><td>71%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Target	Apr	70%	71%	May	70%	71%	Jun	70%	71%	Jul	70%	71%	Aug	70%	71%	Sep	70%	71%	Oct	78%	71%	Nov	78%	71%	Dec	78%	71%	Jan	78%	71%	71%	70% (Jun)	70% (Sep)	80% (Dec)	80%	80%	80%	→	Higher is better	65%	There is no change in the proportion of secondary schools that are judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted this month. Of the 20 secondary schools in the authority area, 16 are rated either good or outstanding in their latest inspection (as of 31st January 2022)
Month	Actual	Target																																													
Apr	70%	71%																																													
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Jun	70%	71%																																													
Jul	70%	71%																																													
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Nov	78%	71%																																													
Dec	78%	71%																																													
Jan	78%	71%																																													
TBC	T46 (LS11f)	Current number of home educated children	<table border="1"> <caption>Current number of home educated children</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Month</th><th>Actual</th><th>Trend</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>607</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>607</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>600</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>600</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>600</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>600</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>600</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>600</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>600</td><td>604</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>661</td><td>604</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Trend	Apr	607	604	May	607	604	Jun	600	604	Jul	600	604	Aug	600	604	Sep	600	604	Oct	600	604	Nov	600	604	Dec	600	604	Jan	661	604	n/a	607 (Jun)	600 (Sep)	631 (Dec)	661	631	661	↑	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	The number of children who are electively home educated at the end of January was 661, this is an increase of 30 children from the position at the end of December and an increase from the 604 recorded at the start of the academic year.
Month	Actual	Trend																																													
Apr	607	604																																													
May	607	604																																													
Jun	600	604																																													
Jul	600	604																																													
Aug	600	604																																													
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Dec	600	604																																													
Jan	661	604																																													
TBC	T47 (NI 114)	Number of permanent exclusions from school - Total	<table border="1"> <caption>Number of permanent exclusions from school - Total</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Month</th><th>Actual</th><th>Trend</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>15</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>18</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Trend	Apr	15	7	May	7	7	Jun	7	7	Jul	7	7	Aug	7	7	Sep	7	7	Oct	7	7	Nov	18	7	Dec	7	7	Jan	6	7	35	15	7	26	35	7	6	↓	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	YTD = Academic Year to Date (i.e. September to July). The number of permanent exclusions was 6 in January, a reduction from the 7 in December and 18 recorded in November. Exclusions are impacted by a range of factors within schools and the local authority, as well as seasonal trends which result in higher levels of exclusions at certain times of the year. Covid restrictions also have an impact on schools and pupils.
Month	Actual	Trend																																													
Apr	15	7																																													
May	7	7																																													
Jun	7	7																																													
Jul	7	7																																													
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Oct	7	7																																													
Nov	18	7																																													
Dec	7	7																																													
Jan	6	7																																													
TBC	T48 (New2)	Number of looked after children without a school place / missing education	<table border="1"> <caption>Number of looked after children without a school place / missing education</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Month</th><th>Actual</th><th>Trend</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>21</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>7</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>9</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Trend	Apr	21	7	May	7	7	Jun	7	7	Jul	7	7	Aug	7	7	Sep	7	7	Oct	7	7	Nov	7	7	Dec	9	7	Jan	9	7	n/a	21 (Jun)	7 (Sep)	7 (Dec)	9	7	9	↑R	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	There are currently 9 children in care without a school place or missing from education as of 31st January. This is an increase of 2 from the position on 21st December.
Month	Actual	Trend																																													
Apr	21	7																																													
May	7	7																																													
Jun	7	7																																													
Jul	7	7																																													
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Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr - Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Apr - Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Apr - Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Children's Trust (Please note that this data is for the whole of Northamptonshire and not just the North)														
TBC	T24 (KPI 1)	% of all referrals with a decision within 2 working days		n/a	88% (Jun)	84% (Sep)	98% (Dec)	n/a	98% (1145)	98% (543)	➔	Higher is better	85% (Tolerance 75% - 95%)	Data is for Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) as a whole and therefore covers both West and North Northamptonshire. The RAG position are based upon the tolerances agreed in the contract KPIs between NCT and the Unitary councils.
TBC	T25 (KPI 2)	% of referrals with a previous referral within 12 months		n/a	34%	34%	35%	36%	36% (984)	35% (580)	⬆️G	Lower is better	29% (Tolerance 25% - 40%)	
TBC	T26 (KPI 3)	% of single assessments authorised within 45 working days		n/a	98%	98%	98%	98%	97% (581)	97% (770)	➔	Higher is better	85% (Tolerance 85% - 95%)	
TBC	T27 (KPI 4)	% of single assessments closing with no further action		n/a	35%	40%	40%	40%	37% (581)	39% (770)	⬇️A	Lower is better	35% (Tolerance 30% - 50%)	
TBC	T28 (KPI 5)	% of initial child protection conferences held within 15 days of a strategy discussion being initiated		79.8%	77%	81%	81%	81%	95% (63)	73% (62)	⬇️A	Higher is better	81% (Tolerance 66% - 86%)	

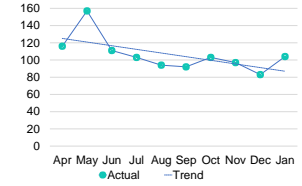
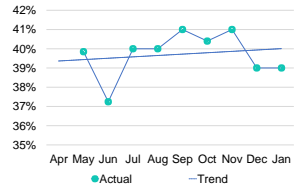
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr - Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Apr - Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Apr - Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments																																	
Children's Trust - continued (Please note that this data is for the whole of Northamptonshire and not just the North)																																															
TBC	T29 (KPI 6)	% of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent time	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for KPI 6</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Actual</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>15%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>20%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>35%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>32%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>48%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>35%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>15%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>22%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>15%</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>32%</td><td>20%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Target	Apr	15%	20%	May	20%	20%	Jun	35%	20%	Jul	32%	20%	Aug	48%	20%	Sep	35%	20%	Oct	15%	20%	Nov	22%	20%	Dec	15%	20%	Jan	32%	20%	18%	22%	29%	26%	26%	15% (53)	33% (49)	↓ A	Lower is better	20% (Tolerance 15% - 35%)	This has been variable and on occasions too high. 16 of the 49 plans starting in January are children who had been on a plan before (9 families). 3 families ended plans within the last year, 2 within 2 years, and 4 ended 3+ years ago. Whilst a review of individual cases is due to be completed, there is an initial indication that the impact of the pandemic may have contributed to increase in stress and pressure for families and consequently escalation of needs.
Month	Actual	Target																																													
Apr	15%	20%																																													
May	20%	20%																																													
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Nov	22%	20%																																													
Dec	15%	20%																																													
Jan	32%	20%																																													
TBC	T30 (KPI 7)	Children who've been in care 2.5 yrs or more, and of those, who've been in the same placement for 2+ years / placed for adoption (%)	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for KPI 7</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Actual</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>63%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>65%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>65%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>65%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>68%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>68%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>71%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>71%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>72%</td><td>66%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>73%</td><td>66%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Target	Apr	63%	66%	May	65%	66%	Jun	65%	66%	Jul	65%	66%	Aug	68%	66%	Sep	68%	66%	Oct	71%	66%	Nov	71%	66%	Dec	72%	66%	Jan	73%	66%	67%	65% (Jun)	68% (Sep)	72% (Dec)	72%	72% (439)	73% (443)	↑ G	Higher is better	66% (Tolerance 56% - 70%)	
Month	Actual	Target																																													
Apr	63%	66%																																													
May	65%	66%																																													
Jun	65%	66%																																													
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Dec	72%	66%																																													
Jan	73%	66%																																													
TBC	T31 (KPI 8)	% Children in care with three or more placements in the previous 12 months	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for KPI 8</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Actual</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>9.2%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>9.2%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>9.5%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>9.8%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>9.8%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>10.5%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>11.2%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>11.2%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>11.8%</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>12.7%</td><td>10%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Actual	Target	Apr	9.2%	10%	May	9.2%	10%	Jun	9.5%	10%	Jul	9.8%	10%	Aug	9.8%	10%	Sep	10.5%	10%	Oct	11.2%	10%	Nov	11.2%	10%	Dec	11.8%	10%	Jan	12.7%	10%	11%	9% (Jun)	10% (Sep)	12% (Dec)	13%	11.8% (1,179)	12.7% (1,174)	↓ A	Lower is better	10% (Tolerance 5% - 15%)	
Month	Actual	Target																																													
Apr	9.2%	10%																																													
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Dec	11.8%	10%																																													
Jan	12.7%	10%																																													

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr - Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Apr - Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Apr - Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Children's Trust - continued (Please note that this data is for the whole of Northamptonshire and not just the North)														
TBC	T32 (KPI 9)	% of young people now aged 17 - 21 and in employment, education or training who were looked after when aged 16		n/a	62%	60%	61%	62%	68% (66)	73% (83)	↑G	Higher is better	55% (Tolerance 50% - 60%)	
TBC	T33 (KPI 10)	% of young people now aged 17 - 21 and living in suitable accommodation who were looked after when aged 16		n/a	93%	91%	91% (66)	92%	91% (66)	95% (83)	↑G	Higher is better	90% (Tolerance 85% - 95%)	
TBC	T34 (KPI 11)	% of qualified social workers with caseloads above target		n/a	14.4% (Jun)	11.5% (Sep)	15.3% (Dec)	16%	15.3%	15.8%	↓A	Lower is better	12% (Tolerance 10% - 20%)	
TBC	T35 (KPI 12)	% of children placed more than 20 miles from their homes, outside LA boundary		21%	19%	19%	19%	18%	19% (1,179)	18% (1,174)	↑G	Lower is better	18% (Tolerance 17% - 27%)	

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr - Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Apr - Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Apr - Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Children's Trust - continued (Please note that this data is for the whole of Northamptonshire and not just the North)														
TBC	T36 (KPI 13)	% of stage 1 complaints responded to within 10 working days		n/a	78% (Jun)	57% (Sep)	50% (Dec)	n/a	50%	50%	➔	Higher is better	50% (Tolerance 30% - 60%)	
TBC	T37 (KPI 14)	Stage 2 investigations as a % of stage 1 complaints received within the year to date		n/a	69% (Jun)	40% (Sep)	51% (Dec)	n/a	51%	51%	↑G	Lower is better	30% (Tolerance 15% - 45%)	Based on 23 stage 2 received and pursued in year (April to Dec) & 45 pursued statutory complaints. There were no new statutory complaints escalated in Jan 22. This is an indicator that needs further consideration. Some of the stage 2 investigations refer to concerns that had been raised some time in the past and are going through the complaints stages.
TBC	T38 (KPI 16)	% of social worker vacancies		n/a	18% (Jun)	21.9% (Sep)	22.5% (Dec)	19.7%	22.5%	19.7%	↑G	Lower is better	20% (Tolerance 16% - 26%)	The number of social work vacancies has decreased by 2.8% since last month.
TBC	T39 (KPI 17)	% of social worker posts filled with agency staff		n/a	18.5% (Jun)	15.4% (Sep)	16.6% (Dec)	17.9%	16.6%	17.9%	↓A	Lower is better	18% (Tolerance 16% - 26%)	

Adults, Communities & Wellbeing

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Housing														
TBC	T7a	Number of households whose homelessness was prevented		n/a	68	61	57	198	23	12	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	Performance has fluctuated between months when looking at year to date figures. This reflects the difficulties the Housing Options team are having trying to secure accommodation solutions, particularly in the private sector.
TBC	T7b	Number of households whose homelessness was relieved		n/a	85	72	83	262	34	22	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	
TBC	T8	Number of rough sleepers (single night snapshot figure)		12	18 (Jun 2021)	25 (Sep 2021)	4 (Dec 2021)	10 (Jan 2022)	4	10	↑R	Lower is better	9	This data is the latest single night snapshot figure taken each month. January has seen a rise in the number of rough sleepers with a high percentage being new to rough sleeping. The team have worked hard to ensure there is a clear plan of action for each case and are being supported to move on or have already been accommodated.
Communities														
TBC	T10	Number of Anti Social Behaviour incidents reported per quarter		n/a	102	493	253	946	91	98	↑	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	See split by area: Corby - 21 East Northamptonshire - 23 Kettering - 17 Wellingborough - 37

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Adult Social Care - Assessment Teams														
TBC	T67	Total number of people allocated to each team		n/a	5584 (Jun)	5248 (Sep)	5488 (Dec)	5531	5488	5531	↑	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	Year to date method is latest snapshot.
TBC	T68	Number of unscheduled review requests		n/a	384	289	283	1060	83	104	↑R	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	The figures for Q1 and Q2 have changed slightly as these were reported incorrectly last month. While this is an increase since Decembers figure, January remains below the monthly average of 106.
Adult Social Care - Short and Long Term (SALT) Services - Hospital														
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr - Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Apr - Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Apr - Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
TBC	T69	Percentage of new requests for services (all ages) where route of access was discharge from hospital, that had a sequel of ST-MAX (short term support to maximise independence) (i.e. reablement)		n/a	37%	41%	39%	39%	39%	39%	→	Higher is better	No target - tracking indicator only	Monthly figures are latest year to date The lag in data from the demand in hospitals "in Month" will reflect in the transfer to long term services after an assessment outside of hospital. The average time from discharged to Permanent service is 60 days, therefore the December / January surge will not reflect until March / April / May. Volume related to requests for services where route of access was discharge from hospital.
					146	290	379	418	379	418				
Adult Social Care - Safeguarding														
Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
TBC	T70	Number of new concerns received		n/a	607	702	804	2336	243	223	↓G	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	Please note historical figures often retrospectively increase slightly due to input delay.
TBC	T71	New concerns determined to be enquiries (both s42 and other) *(A S42 enquiry must take place if there is reason to believe that abuse or neglect is taking place)		n/a	163	182	261	666	63	60	↓	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	This is not a productivity measure as such it just shows the volume of potential enquiries. If a concern is determined to be an enquiry then that means there will be more work as a result. However, an LA can't control if something is S42. However we would want to monitor receiving large numbers as this would be a burden on the teams that carry out the enquiry stage of the process. Please note that historical figures often retrospectively increase slightly due to input delay.

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Adult Social Care - Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)														
TBC	T72	Open cases (No date restriction)		n/a	2023 (Jun)	1970 (Sep)	1831 (Dec)	1879	1831	1879	↑	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	Data is latest snapshot.
Adult Social Care - In-House Provision														
TBC	T73	Therapy Service-Total Cases of Waiting for Booking & Assessment		n/a	635 (Jun)	638 (Sep)	400 (Dec)	396	400	396	↓G	Lower is better	No target - tracking indicator only	There continues to be reduction in the number of open cases throughout therapy services. We are maintaining a 12 week waiting list despite sickness absence within the team. Data is latest snapshot.
Adult Social Care - Domain Two: Delaying and Reducing the Need for Care and Support														
TBC	T74	Long-term support needs met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population (older people)		511.7	175.87	324.66	489.28	527.38	489.28	527.38	↑	No polarity	No target - tracking indicator only	This is a cumulative total. Whilst we always want to avoid admissions to care homes this will always increase since care home admission is the right move for some people.
TBC	T75	Delaying and reducing the need for care and support		84.60%	59.9%	59.8%	60.1%	59.2%	60.1%	59.2%	↓	Higher is better	No target - tracking indicator only	This is a cumulative total and reflects the proportion of people going into short term services, rather than into long term care.

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Public Health														
TBC	T76	Smoking quit rate at 4 weeks		n/a	61.5% (Jun 2021)	61.1% (Sep 2021)	59.7% (Dec 2021)	33.7% (Jan 2022)	59.7% (Dec 2021)	33.7% (Jan 2022)	↓ R	Higher is better	60%	Q3 figure is still above the target, however December's and January's figures dropped below the target. January is significantly lower than the target. (Reported monthly only so latest value is reported at each quarter and YTD)
TBC	T77	% of infants due a new birth visit that received a new birth visit within 14 days of birth		86.8%	97.8%	96.8%	97.50%	97.3% (YTD to Dec 21)	97.70%	TBD	↓ (Nov 21 to Dec 21)	Higher is better	90%	This indicator represents the whole of Northamptonshire, 2021-22 data not available at a North Unitary level. January 2022 data will be available in March's report.
TBC	T79	% of in-year eligible population offered an NHS Health Check		1.5%	2.5% (Jun 2021)	2.3% (Sep 2021)	1.42% (Dec 2021)	1.03% (Jan 2022)	1.42% (Dec 2021)	1.03% (Jan 2022)	↓ R	Higher is better	8.4% (100% annual target)	Health check activities are calculated based on the location of the GP surgery that the patient is registered with, rather than the residence of this patient. Some patients may be residents of West Northants but registered to a GP in North Northants. These patients are included in the North rather than West.
TBC	T80	% of in-year eligible population who received an NHS Health Check		0.6%	0.8% (Jun 2021)	1.6% (Sep 2021)	0.69% (Dec 2021)	0.74% (Jan 2022)	0.69% (Dec 2021)	0.74% (Jan 2022)	↑ G	Higher is better	5% (60% annual target)	GPs are still very much recovering and capacity to deliver NHS Health Checks in practices is still limited, considering the winter pressures and the backlog from the 1st and 2nd wave that GPs have to focus on. Compared with national figures, we are much in line with national performance. Benchmark is England Q1 2021/22. (Reported monthly only so latest value is reported at each quarter and YTD)

Key Commitment	Ref No.	Description of Performance Indicator	Infographic / Chart	Benchmark	Quarter 1 Progress (Apr, May, Jun)	Quarter 2 Progress (Jul, Aug, Sep)	Quarter 3 Progress (Oct, Nov, Dec)	Year to Date	December 2021/22	January 2021/22	Direction of Travel (December - January)	Polarity	Target	Comments
Public Health (continued)														
TBC	T93	Breastfeeding rate at 6-8 weeks			53.2%	54.7%	55.3%	54.4%	54.6%	TBD	 G (Nov 2021 to Dec 2021)	Higher is better	55%	This indicator represents the whole of Northamptonshire, 2021-22 data not available at a North Unitary level. January 2022 data will be available in March's report.
TBC	T94	% of children who received a 6-8 week view by the time they were 8 weeks			98.1%	98.0%	98.65%	98.2%	98.6%	TBD	 G (Nov 2021 to Dec 2021)	Higher is better	90%	This indicator represents the whole of Northamptonshire, 2021-22 data not available at a North Unitary level. January 2022 data will be available in March's report.
TBC	T95	% mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery			11.9%	11.0%	11.2%	11.8%	n/a	n/a	 (Q2 to Q3)	Lower is better	11%	This indicator represents the whole of Northamptonshire. Q4 figure will be available in April's report.
TBC	T96	% substance misuse clients waiting more than 3 weeks for their first intervention			0%	0%	TBD	TBD	n/a	n/a	 (Q1 to Q2)	Lower is better	TBD	This indicator represents the whole of Northamptonshire. National target will be set up in April 2024. Q3 data is still not available from NDTMS.

EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Kettering Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Museum Project Update (Cornerstone)
Report Author	David Watts, Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Well-being
Lead Member	Cllr Helen Howell – Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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 for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Brand presentation

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to bring Executive Members up to date with the current progress of the Gallery, Library and Museum project including the progress of the capital development and current financial projections, the new branding, business plan development and planned activity for 2022.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In August 2020 Kettering Borough Council secured £3,000,000 from the Getting Building Fund, which is being administered by South-East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), this funding was match funded by the council and represents a total capital project value of £3,940,000. A further £120,100 was allocated from the Kettering Borough and NCC library property betterment budgets to bring the total budget to £4,060,100.

- 2.2 The project, formerly referred to as GLaM, aims to revitalise the cultural services within the heart of Kettering Town Centre, helping to unify the three sites including; Alfred East Art Gallery, Kettering Library and Kettering Museum. The funding will deliver significant improvements to the Alfred East Art Gallery and Kettering Library and will welcome a new two-storey extension to the rear of the Art Gallery.
- 2.3 The project has a professional team appointed to support the ambitious programme which has a series of milestones aligned to the funding drawdowns from SEMLEP, as well as a set of key outputs which are anticipated to be delivered by the project.
- 2.4 The capital works are due to be completed in the Spring of 2022 with the anticipation of the full services being mobilised in several phases over the first 6 months and being fully operational (see below regarding the Museum) by September 2022.
- 2.5 This report sets out the progress to date regarding the capital programme and current financial projections. It introduces the new name and brand adopted for the venue; details the work begun on the integration of the exiting services on site, the business mobilisation programme and the development of a new business plan. It also explains some of the challenges being faced, proposed mitigations and finally sets out the further work and activities to be undertaken over the next 6 to 12 months.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
- a) Notes the positive progress to date with the Gallery, Library and Museum capital works programme and future business development.
 - b) Notes the contingency uplift of £75,000 requested as part of the Capital Budget report for Executive, 17th March 2022
 - c) Endorses the new name of Cornerstone and branding set out at paragraph 5.3
 - d) Delegates authority to the Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism, in conjunction with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take the actions necessary to ensure successful completion of the capital programme, mobilisation of the site in readiness for re-opening, and further development of the business plan.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendations: Approval for these recommendations will allow for officers to:
- To ensure successful completion of the capital programme
 - To develop a communications and marketing plan to promote the new offer on site and to deliver appropriate signage and wayfinding on site.

3.3 Alternative Options Considered – None as this is a progress update only.

4. Report Background

4.1 On 15th September 2020, Kettering Borough Council's Executive Committee endorsed the indicative funding and recommended the additional capital budget, which was subsequently approved by Kettering Borough Council's Full Council on 23rd September 2020. A notification report was later taken to the North Northamptonshire Unitary Shadow Executive on 24th September 2020, where members resolved and noted the significant investment secured.

4.2 The capital project's objective is to revitalise and extend the physical assets and the offer within them to become a creative and cultural anchor for North Northamptonshire. The investment has enabled the construction of a two-storey extension to the rear and between the library and Alfred East Gallery which are adjacent to the Museum – unifying the facilities, providing a blend of cultural amenity, space and teaching facilities.

4.3 The enhanced offer will include and enable:

- **Flexible “interactive” workspace and exhibition space** supporting creative start-ups, with wrap-around support provided by the **British Library led Business and IP Centre (BIPC)** Northamptonshire, providing the correct environment for creative and cultural businesses to start up and grow.
- **Increased engagement with schools and educational institutions** to deliver collaborative programmes, to build curiosity, develop a pipeline of creative and cultural talent, creating future user and visitor opportunities.
- **A new atrium space, café and improved public gardens** on the site, enabling a wider range of events and activities including commercial events and opportunities.

4.4 On 22nd June 2021 Executive approved the awarding of the Main Capital Works JCT contract to GF Tomlinson Ltd, the contractor previously procured by Kettering Borough Council; and on 16th December 2021 the Council Executive approved a procurement process for the Concession Catering Contract at 'GLaM'.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 Capital Programme

5.1.1 Works are progressing on site as follows;

- The groundworks are now complete on site
- The steel frame is complete on site for the new extension and the retaining wall is poured.
- Pre-cast concrete stairwell is in fabrication
- The Gallery wall linings / flooring have been stripped and redecoration is underway.

- British Library Business Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) construction and refurbishment is substantially complete (new window and final internal finishes outstanding)
- Archaeological supervision continues on site as required by planning

5.1.2 A new visual of the extension was developed and is shown here:



5.2 SEMLEP

5.2.1 The monitoring report for July-September 2021 was issued in line with SEMLEP requirements in October 2021. A mid-year report was also issued as requested by the funders. The latest monitoring report was submitted on 26th January 2022 and a financial claim was made against the second milestone (BIPC progression and bat planning condition discharged).

5.2.2 The evaluation template for monitoring of outputs post construction has also now been agreed with SEMLEP.

5.2.3 Relations continue to be very positive with SEMLEP who provide consistent support as well as championing the project. They are aware of the significant challenging market conditions that are being experienced in relation to supply issues, labour shortages and increased prices which are not unique to this project but exist across their portfolio.

5.2.4 The client team are currently reviewing the cashflow to assess when the full £3m SEMLEP funding will be spent against the programme.

5.3 Branding

5.3.1 This service was tendered to four suppliers, two of which were local. Productive Designs were appointed in October 2021 and a series of workshops were held with the staff teams between then and December 2021. A number of brand naming options were considered. The preferred brand, **Cornerstone**, was agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Sport, Leisure and Tourism before Christmas and was informally presented to the Executive on January 13th 2022.

- 5.3.2 Cornerstone is the overall brand for the site, which is a North Northamptonshire Council-wide asset, reflecting how the old parts of the library and gallery buildings will coalesce with the new extension, as well as the site's corner position within Kettering town centre. However the brand also encapsulates the individual identities of Kettering Library, Kettering Museum, the Alfred East Gallery and the Manor House Gardens.
- 5.3.3 The strapline **Discover | Explore | Inspire** has been adopted to reflect the theme of learning and the site's wide-ranging offer that allows visitors to discover the past, explore the present and inspire for the future.
- 5.3.4 A visual representation of the Cornerstone brand is shown at **Appendix A**.
- 5.3.5 Productive Design have also been contracted to provide signage and wayfinding and the designs for this are currently being scoped.

5.4 **Opening programme**

- 5.4.1 The opening programme continues to be developed by the Council's project team and the relevant service leads. This is likely to be a phased approach with the library fully re-opening first, along with the BIPC, followed by the rest of the building/services.
- 5.4.2 The library continues to operate within a reduced footprint and hours have now been extended to 9am-5pm.
- 5.4.3 A website update focussing on the BIPC and its functions was delivered in December 2021 to raise awareness of the service and the opportunities it will provide for our businesses and communities.
- 5.4.4 A formal launch of the new site is being planned for September 2022 to coincide with a large community art exhibition. There are some dependencies that might affect this programme such as the final practical completion date, and any impact on the recant programme due to the time required to allow for 'off gassing' post decoration of the art store before the recant can commence. Officers are currently working through the detail in order to finalise the opening programme.
- 5.4.5 It remains unlikely that the Museum will re-open fully during 2021. Previous surveys of the museum building demonstrated that the top floor was structurally unsound and woodworm in the roof timber required treatment. Staff offices and some of the collections have had to be decanted to lower floors and the top floor remains unusable. The movement of objects to the lower floors currently affects how the museum might operate should it re-open to the public.
- 5.4.6 Council officers are using the closure period to undertake a comprehensive price of work to 'understand the collection' which meticulously involves reviewing and updating both documentary and digital records which curate the collection.
- 5.4.7 This curation programme will enable the Council to begin early engagement with

museum stakeholders and the wider public, probably through events held in the new extension and other parts of the Cornerstone site, on the collection and its future exhibition and interpretation. These events are being planned as part of the opening and first year programming for Cornerstone.

- 5.4.8 The ambition is that there will be a second phase of the Cornerstone capital project in the future, subject to securing the necessary funding, which will include a refurbished and extended Museum. An improved facility will enable an extended programme of activity including educational and commercial activity

5.5 Stakeholder and Community Engagement:

- 5.5.1 A number of key stakeholder engagement sessions, site tours and meetings were held late in 2021 including key community leaders, Friend of Groups and commercial stakeholders. Feedback was very positive from each session.
- 5.5.2 A communications plan is under development to effectively promote the new brand an offer over the coming months.
- 5.5.3 A further session will be held before site completion later in March where the new brand and the communications plan will be shared.

5.6 Business Plan development and site mobilisation

- 5.6.1 The development of a Cornerstone business plan, for the future operation the site, is well underway. Work to understand fixed costs and benchmarking across similar venues has been completed with support from within the Transformation team. Some further modelling of the potential commercial income is required before the plan can be completed.
- 5.6.2 The emerging business plan sets out the aims of the site:
- To revitalise and extend their physical assets and the offer connecting people and places through culture, heritage and learning
 - To provide an inclusive, modern, sustainable and high-quality public service at the heart of every community
 - To build, develop and enhance sustainable communities by providing cultural activities to meet the needs of local people for their economic, social and personal wellbeing.
 - To ensure more people have access to quality and diverse cultural experiences and events, especially those less likely to access arts and culture.
 - To sit at the heart of communities, reflecting and responding to local needs with a reach that extends right across income brackets, ages and ethnicities.
 - To play a vital role in promoting local community cohesion and providing many with access to vital online services.
- 5.6.3 Existing staff structures and resources have been reviewed. It was identified that other than a Library Manager there was no operational management resource in place for the Gallery or Museum or moving forward, to deliver across

the whole site. A case was made for a revenue budget uplift to be allocated in the Council budget 2022-23 of £50,000. This uplift is included in the Council's Annual Budget report approved by Executive on 10th February 2022 and by Full Council on 24th February 2022.

- 5.6.4 This new additional revenue funding will be used to recruit an Operations Manager for Cornerstone. This key post is required to drive the whole project forward. Once in place the manager will complete the Business Plan to maximise new and commercial opportunities and partnerships, to successfully bring the Gallery, Museum and Library services together, coalescing them around the delivery of the new vision and Business Plan and ensuring the site works well for our customers.
- 5.6.5 A number of key workshops have taken place with the wider council teams to further define the business mobilisation plans. These include ICT, Facilities Management, Legal, Procurement, Environmental services finance as the focus of the programme slowly shifts from construction to business and site mobilisation. Work is focussing on such issues as a connecting the different IT, income management and room booking systems that were in place for the services when they operated under Kettering Borough Council and the County Council.
- 5.6.6 Due to the significant changes to operations once the buildings re-open, a change management session for existing staff was scheduled in December. Unfortunately, due to quantities of staff in attendance this was cancelled because of Covid concerns and a staff newsletter was produced instead. The session has been rescheduled for March 2022.
- 5.6.7 Regarding the new catering offer on site, a café options appraisal was commissioned via Turpin Smale who are industry experts with a specialism in visitor attractions/heritage sites. They recommended progression of a concession model for the new café within the extension which was approved by the Council's Executive in December. The procurement process is underway and is anticipated to take 6 to 9 months.

5.7 Capital Programme Financial Projections

- 5.7.1 The project is experiencing budget pressures due to the speed of the design process for this redevelopment. Usually for a project of this nature it would be expected that the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) design stages 1 to 4 to take at least 12 months whereas they were completed in 6 to 9 months for Cornerstone in order to meet the funder's timelines. The consequence of this is that there are now some design co-ordination issues on site which are increasing costs. Like most construction projects at the moment the contractors are challenging the Council at every opportunity to minimise costs, in an industry also affected by the economic impacts of Covid, supply chain issues, labour shortages and rising inflation.
- 5.7.2 The Council so far has received two Extension of Time (EOT) claims from the contractor in October for delays on site due to design issues, such as changes to the steel structure, to the mechanical ventilation and to the external doors, needing to be revisited and rectified. Each claim is being rigorously scrutinised

and challenged by the Council's client team so that there is a robust approach to the authorisation by the Senior Responsible Officer of any contract variations.

- 5.7.3 To date the Council has accounted for a 5-week delay in the most recent cost report and is in the process of undertaking a full commercial review with the contractor and design team. As a result, the cost report from end of January 2022 estimates that once the EOTs are agreed, the project is currently projected to be £8k over budget, inclusive of contingency.
- 5.7.4 However there are still coordination issues emerging from the design information and this projection could increase over the next reporting period. Design workshops are also taking place to attempt to finally resolve any outstanding issues so that risks can be fully and accurately costed. The risk of unknowns, the current construction market and the condition of the historic buildings still presents a risk to the project.
- 5.7.5 Throughout the project the project team has consistently reviewed scope to maximise value engineering in order to control costs, whilst not compromising quality or SEMLEP outcomes. To date £106,500 has been removed from scope.
- 5.7.6 The risk register cost projections currently exceed the remaining contingency, 172k of risk against a remaining contingency of £132k. Following the design workshops and the commercial review the project team will review outstanding risks against the updated budget position. Cashflow projections show that the project will not be overspent until May 2022.
- 5.7.7 Based on a projected overspend of between 8k and 50k a recommendation has been brought before Executive to approve an uplift to the contingency of £75k to ensure the project can be successfully completed within the next few months, without incurring further delays, which would only further increase contract costs.
- 5.7.8 This 75k uplift is presented to the Executive as part of the Capital Budget report dated 17th March 2022.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 Following the design workshops and the commercial review the project team will review outstanding risks against the updated budget position and report to the Project Board which meets monthly.
- 6.2 Confirmation of practical completion date will be sought from the Contractor, estimated to be May 2022., and successful completion of the capital project
- 6.3 Recruitment of the Cornerstone Operations Manager and finalisation of the business plan and site mobilisation, including signage.
- 6.4 Finalise the proposals for the site re-opening and include in a comprehensive communications plan for delivery from April 2022 onwards.
- 6.5 Completion of the procurement of the café operator.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

7.1.1 The full budget breakdown is set out in Table 1; the reduction in scope is set out in Table 2; and the full expenditure breakdown is set out in Table 3.

Table 1: Budget Breakdown

GLaM Project (original)	
SEMLEP Grant Funding	£3,000,000
Match Funding (<i>former Kettering BC</i>) GLaM Capital £100,000 Economic Dev Reserves £440,000 Town Centre Improvement S106 £100,000	£640,000
S106 (Hanwood Park) £300,000	£300,000
	£3,940,000
Existing Property Betterment	
Library Betterment (<i>former NCC Property Budget</i>)	£47,000
Stock Condition Budget (<i>former KBC Museum</i>)	£70,600
Timber Treatment (<i>former KBC Emergency Property Budget</i>)	£2,500
	£120,100
Total	£4,060,100

Table 2: Reduced Scope

Reduced Scope to date: £106,509	
Reception Desk	£10,000
Gift shop fit out	£15,000
Gallery Lighting	£38,509
AV	£10,000 (being funded by Adult Learning)
Gallery Roof	£13,000
Minor Betterment works	£10,000
Business Mobilisation	£10,000

Table 3: Current Budget overview to date February 2022

GLaM Project Spend	
Original Main Contract sum	£3,102,737
	£600,224
Professional Fees (Various contracts)	
Property Betterment	£120,100
Contingency remaining	£132,014

Client Direct costs (various)	£225,125 (fixtures, equipment, branding, comms, decant/recant etc) includes 10k contingency
Total	£4,060,100

7.1.2 The project, formerly known as GLAM, was supported by the Transformation Team on the development of the Business Case to ensure commerciality. Work was also undertaken with the Change and Engagement Manager in enabling workshops with the architect and the gallery library and museum staff to work together to develop and understand the new building and the new ways of working required to deliver that business plan. This change and engagement support will continue as the building comes into operation.

7.2 Legal and Governance

7.2.1 The capital uplift to the contingency budget, should it be approved by the Executive, will require approval by Full Council, as it will require additional capital borrowing.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 Cornerstone's objectives align with the priorities within NNC's emerging corporate plan supporting the following objectives:

Active, fulfilled lives:

Value and support our carers and volunteers

Improve the accessibility and use of leisure, culture and sport

Better, brighter futures:

Promote better training, further education and employment opportunities for young people

Safe and thriving places:

Strengthen the cultural identity of towns, villages and rural communities

Help town centres and villages respond to changing trends

Attract tourism, visitors and inward investment

Support the creation of high-quality, better skilled jobs

Connected communities:

Respect and engage our local communities

Empower a thriving voluntary and community sector

Modern public services:

Provide good quality and efficient services valued by our customers

Enhance the services provided at our community hubs

Use our assets, skills, knowledge and technology to make a real difference

7.3.2 **Kettering Town Centre Area Action Plan:** The plan's vision is to create a vibrant heart for Kettering and focal point for North Northamptonshire. Cultural and Heritage facilities are recognised within the plan as playing a vital role,

providing a powerful sense of place, belonging and acting as a key visitor draw. Cornerstone supports this objective with the provision of quality space to showcase culture, heritage and creative industry enabling people and businesses to flourish. By removing barriers to accessing cultural and creative activities, Cornerstone will contribute towards job creation, skills development and social.

- 7.3.3 **Kettering Town Centre Delivery Plan 2018-2025:** The plan recognises that although town centres are still important shopping places, they are also important places for people to live, work and enjoy leisure time. The rich mixture of usage builds successful safe, adaptable and resilient town centres. It further identifies those plans for Kettering, such as Cornerstone, must encompass the wider view of the Town Centre as a community hub or civic heart incorporating leisure, education, arts, entertainment as well as a strong evening/leisure offer for families, young people and older generations.

7.4 Risk

- 7.4.1 The programme set by central Government via the funders is extremely ambitious for a project of this nature. The risk of coordination issues on site relating to the design as noted in section 5 of this report, has led to variations to the contract which impact cost and programme. Although the majority of these items are in fact minor, the current market conditions exacerbate time and cost pressures with the contractor.
- 7.4.2 Without the uplift to the capital contingency budget of £75,000 there is a risk the project will over commit against approved budgets. If the uplift is not made in a timely way, then the Council will not be able to continue to instruct the contractor on site, which will lead to delays and further Extension of Time claims which will incur more cost to the Council.
- 7.4.3 Procurement of the café operator may not result in successful or compliant tenders affecting ability to offer this service.
- 7.4.4 It is difficult to finalise the opening programme without a confirmed practical completion date due to outstanding extension of time claims.
- 7.4.5 Failure to recruit a suitable Operations Manager will make completion and effective delivery of the new business plan challenging. In addition, the day-to-day management of key personnel will be hindered.

7.5 Consultation

- 7.5.1 There is regular dialogue with SEMLEP, as the main partner funding body.
- 7.5.2 As detailed in paragraph 5.5 there is ongoing community and stakeholder engagement around the project.

7.6 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.6.1 This report has not been considered by Scrutiny. It is not a key decision report.

7.7 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.7.1 This report largely provides an update to an existing project so has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 There are opportunities of positive impacts on the local community from the whole project including the local economy through employment and supply chains and social and environmental through encouraging more visitors to Cornerstone.

7.8.2 In addition to the SEMLEP commercial space output noted, new jobs creation is also a key output. Eight new jobs are required to be created by March 2024 of which 2.5 roles have currently been secured.

7.8.3 The café concession would create opportunities for employment of local people and will contribute to the SEMLEP objectives.

7.8.4 The cafe offers a town centre, accessible meeting space for the community which includes enhanced access and certified changing place toilet.

7.8.5 Thousands of visitors and service users, and all members of the public will have somewhere to meet within the facility and can be catered for.

7.9 Climate Impact

7.9.1 The contractor operates a BS EN ISO 14001:2015 accredited Environmental Management System (EMS) which is audited by UKAS approved BM TRADA and is applied to all construction sites. Included within their EMS is their Environmental Policy that demonstrates their commitment to protection of the environment in the construction of their works throughout all stages including assessment, procedures, review and audit.

7.9.2 The contractor also operates a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) which is based on the principles of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

7.9.3 The project capital works are focused on heritage buildings, all of which have listed building status. Whilst heritage buildings create limitations in relation to 'green' modifications that can be made, the project team have targeted improvements to refurbishment where possible to ensure the heritage assets are improved and restored thereby future proofing them for generations to come.

7.10 Community Impact

- 7.10.1 There has long been ongoing support and recognition of the need to effectively invest capital to enhance, protect and future proof the prime heritage assets for existing and future generations of North Northamptonshire. The investment has wider benefits of promoting social inclusion by improving connectivity and offering improved community access to a wider cultural, heritage and learning offer, which the public may not have previously engaged with.
- 7.10.2 The project will further secure long- term sustainability of the assets by strengthening the local delivery, management and improving digital connectivity. Exploring new income, funding streams, and developing new cultural and commercial opportunities to capitalise on improved facilities. For example, from Jan to March 2020, for the first time, artwork from the Tate, which has galleries in London, Liverpool and Cornwall, visited Kettering as part of the 2020 Vision exhibition at the town's Alfred East Art Gallery. Investment into improved facilities will enable future, more frequent and larger exhibitions of this calibre

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

- 7.11.1 None identified.

8 Background Papers

Kettering executive Committee 15 September 2020 -

https://www.kettering.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1858/executive_committee

Kettering Full Council 23 September 2020 -

<https://www.kettering.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1861/council>

North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive 24 September 2020

[Meeting of North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive Committee on Thursday 24th September, 2020 - North Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

North Northamptonshire Executive 21 June 2021

[Meeting of North Northamptonshire Executive - 21st June 2021](#)

North Northamptonshire Executive 16 December 2021

[Meeting of North Northamptonshire Executive - 16th December 2021](#)

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Cornerstone
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Cornerstone



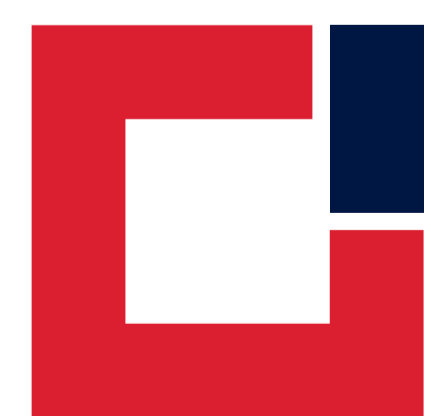
Cornerstone
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Kettering
Library



Kettering
Museum



Alfred East
Gallery



Manor House
Gardens

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EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Strategic Voluntary Sector Grant Agreements and programme of work to define the future working arrangements with Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector
Report Author	David Watts – Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Lead Member	Cllr Andy Mercer – Executive Member for Housing & Community

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 1974	Not applicable

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Table outlining the current strategic grant funding arrangements

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to seek approval to develop a new Communities Strategy to guide the Council’s relationships and framework which will address future working arrangements with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, principally in the area of delivering specialist support to residents in North Northamptonshire.
- 1.2. This is a significant piece of work that will involve considerable co-production with the VCSE sector, other public sector partners and Council departments, to define our future relationships with the voluntary sector to effectively support the delivery of our objectives set out in the Corporate Plan.

- 1.3. The programme of work in developing the Communities Strategy and Strategic Funding Framework will use the objectives in the Corporate Plan as guiding principles to ensure VCSE organisations are commissioned accordingly. **Appendix A** provides a summary of the current funding arrangements against the six Corporate Plan Priorities. For example:
- a) The current grant funding to the Youth Works organisation would support the **Building better, brighter futures** objective through the work they undertake in supporting young people with opportunities to help them flourish, in particular those excluded from formal education.
 - b) The community safety funding which supports the work of the Northants Sunflower Centre in providing support and advice to victims of domestic abuse falls under **Helping people to lead active, fulfilled lives** by supporting them to move away from an abusive situation to enable those affected to live independently and safe from harm.
- 1.4. The proposals in this report include putting short-term arrangements with the sector in place to help retain vital support while the Council develops its Communities Strategy.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The VCSE provides valuable support to people across Northamptonshire. Some organisations provide very specialised work such as debt casework, counselling and drug treatment and recovery. The range and geographical coverage of organisations in the sector is comprehensive.
- 2.2. This report sets out the current funding arrangements between the Council and VCSE organisations inherited from the sovereign councils, including the objectives for each project brief, funding allocations and performance summary.
- 2.3. The Executive is asked to support the proposal to continue with the current funding arrangements for a two-year extension, which includes the opportunity to strengthen the Performance Indicators and to review the project briefs and Grant Agreements, to ensure best value from the ongoing investment.
- 2.4. North Northamptonshire Council has the opportunity to work with the VCSE and other public sector partners to develop a strategic approach and framework which will shape and define how we work across a number of potential thematic areas, that include:
- Adoption of a corporate commitment to working in equal partnership through co-production;
 - Strengthen the ability of the VCSE sector to deliver projects and connect communities through engaging residents, leading community action, supporting people in the most vulnerable situations and brokering relationships between statutory bodies and communities; and

- VCSE infrastructure support arrangements to improve sustainability and increase growth in the VCSE sector, developing fit for purpose, sustainable organisations able to deliver high quality projects with diversified income streams and less reliance on grants, with a more commercial focus and which are flexible and adaptable to change.

2.5. The Executive is asked to recognise the programme of work required to develop a Communities Strategy and delivery framework, including refreshed investment arrangements which might take up to two years to complete if we are to co-produce this in a meaningful way.

3. Recommendations

3.1. It is recommended that the Executive:

- a) Approves the proposed programme of work to develop a Communities Strategy and framework which set out our future relationships and working arrangements with the VCSE.
- b) Approves the extension of current strategic grants for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- c) Delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, in liaison with the Executive Director, Adults, Community & Wellbeing, to take any further decisions and/or actions required to deliver the programme of work to develop the strategy and to deliver the strategic grants during 2022-23 and 2023-24.

3.2. Reasons for Recommendations:

- a) To provide funding with the current VCSE organisations as set out in Appendix A, providing stability in the sector for the next two financial years.
- b) Sets out a clear approach to working with the VCSE and other public sector partners to develop a strategic approach and framework to commissioning projects in the voluntary sector.

3.3 Alternative Options Considered: These are set out in paragraphs 5.10-5.18 below.

4. Report Background

4.1. The VCSE provides valuable support to people across Northamptonshire. Some organisations provide very specialised work such as debt casework, counselling and drug treatment and recovery. The range and geographical coverage of organisations in the sector is comprehensive.

- 4.2. In recent years, financial cuts both nationally and locally have put significant pressure on the organisations in the sector. In some cases, organisations have been forced to use their reserves to continue operating, which of course is not sustainable in the long-term. It is expected that this scenario will increase in the coming years as more pressure is placed on public sector budgets.
- 4.3. The current funding arrangements with VCSE organisations involve a mixture of grants, service level agreements and contracts that were created by North Northamptonshire Council's predecessor councils. Some of those arrangements have been in place for some considerable time and most have extensions to the original agreement periods to support their transfer into the current authority from 1st April 2021. Appendix A provides a summary of the current arrangements, annual grant payments totalling £1,415,766¹ per annum.
- 4.4. The current funding arrangements with VCSE organisations created by the sovereign councils were subject to an application process and were awarded accordingly.
- 4.5. Before Vesting Day officers at the previous sovereign councils sought approval to extend the grant funding as outlined below:
- a) Borough Council of Wellingborough's grants were agreed to be extended until March 2022;
 - b) Corby Borough Council's grants were agreed to be extended in July 2018 until March 2024;
 - c) East Northamptonshire Council's grants were agreed to be extended until March 2022; and
 - d) Kettering Borough Council's grants were agreed to be extended in November 2019 until March 2023.
- 4.6. Overall, the current arrangements are performing well, and current grant agreements are closely monitored. However, they were introduced and set up by the predecessor councils. As a new authority, the Council now needs to develop a Communities Strategy to develop its working arrangements with the sector to maximise the Council's resources and that of the sector for the benefit of our residents and communities. Furthermore, it provides a good opportunity to take a holistic view of how wider services across the Council could be part of this new relationship. Several services utilise the sector to deliver projects, either through contracts or other agreements.
- 4.7. Performance of the current providers is monitored on a quarterly basis. Prior to the formation of the Council, East Northants Council did not report to committee regarding performance, however, they did publish the quarterly

¹ Of this £261,325 is funding received by NNC from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the Domestic Abuse Service Level Agreements – further details provided in Appendix 1.

results on their website. All other sovereign councils reported performance to appropriate committee on a regular basis:

- a) Borough Council of Wellingborough – half yearly reporting
 - b) Corby Borough Council – half yearly reporting; and
 - c) Kettering Borough Council – half yearly reporting.
- 4.8. Through the arrangements in place between the Council and VCSE organisations there are options available for the Council to withhold payment, for example, if the recipient does not make satisfactory progress with the delivery of the project or uses the funds for purposes other than those for which they have been awarded.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. The VCSE sector is vital to the life of North Northamptonshire. Its organisations connect communities, support individuals, deliver services and bring people together. The sector is innovative, dynamic, and resourceful. It does not just fill the gaps in between public services; it's more often the first port of call for people, where they go for friendship, support and to give something to their local area.
- 5.2. Voluntary and community groups of every shape and size have seen huge changes over the last few years, positives, and negatives. Financial challenges, the new Unitary Councils and the response to Covid-19 have prompted a re-focus within the sector, a fresh look at what is being delivered and achieved, what is needed and what the aspirations are. Quality and sustainability are essential not just for survival, but to thrive. Relationships have been challenged, and have changed, but seem to have emerged stronger than ever, with more demand and desire for collaboration, within and across sectors, and greater recognition and valuing of voluntary and community groups.
- 5.3. Strong communities are ones where individuals and families have opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing, achieve their aspirations through education and employment, feel safe, can enjoy their environment, and can play an active part in their local community.
- 5.4. Local people are often best placed to support each other and take positive action to improve their area. Individual residents can take action that has a huge impact on their family, friends, and neighbours, from volunteering with a local group, improving their own health and wellbeing, or just by being neighbourly.
- 5.5. Best practice in this field, focusses not just on strong partnerships, collaboration, and sustainable financial investment into voluntary and community organisations, but on meaningful co-production with the sector. The sector should have opportunities to shape public services at an early stage, acting as equal partners in both development and delivery of local services.

5.6. As a new Council North Northamptonshire has a real opportunity to work with the VCSE and other public sector partners to develop a strategic approach and framework which will shape and define how we work across several thematic areas:

- Adoption of a corporate commitment to working in equal partnership through co-production
- Strengthen the ability of the VCSE sector to deliver projects and connect communities through engaging residents, leading community action, supporting people in the most vulnerable situations and brokering relationships between statutory bodies and communities
- Financial investment into the sector which promotes sustainability through strategic grant giving, commissioning or other arrangements such as Social Investment Bonds
- VCSE infrastructure support arrangements to improve sustainability and increase growth in the VCSE sector, developing fit for purpose, sustainable organisations able to deliver high quality projects with diversified income streams and less reliance on grants, with a more commercial focus and which are flexible and adaptable to change
- Support for Volunteering
- Asset based community development which increases community resilience and empowers our residents and communities to work together to help themselves and each other and make positive change happen in their communities
- Support to emerging Social Enterprise organisations
- Define our approach to the devolution of Council services to local councils and VCSE organisations.

5.7. There is recognition that the work required to develop a Communities Strategy and delivery framework, including refreshed investment arrangements, might take up to two years to complete if we are to co-produce this in a meaningful way. This programme of work is being scoped and detailed timelines are yet to be defined. However, advice from legal services is that the existing grants and contracts inherited from the former sovereign councils are outdated, having been extended in some cases multiple times.

5.8. A decision is therefore required by the Executive on the interim grant agreement arrangements to cover the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

5.9. On the advice of legal services, there are three options as to the approach to these interim arrangements.

5.10 Option 1 – Do Nothing

5.10.1. Do nothing means that notice would be served on all organisations currently funded to assist vulnerable residents across North Northamptonshire as listed in Appendix A. As per the agreements notice of termination is three months' notice in writing.

5.10.2. Table 1 sets out the advantages and disadvantages for this option:

Criterion	Comment
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential saving of £1,415,766 for 2022-23 with the cessation of these grants
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to cause additional financial pressures to the sector • Potential reduction of assistance available for vulnerable residents • Adverse publicity for the Council

5.11 Option 2 – Interim Commissioned Arrangements

5.11.1. The Council establish new grant giving agreements for an interim period, 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2024, which would involve a simple application process leading to a grant award.

5.11.2. It is envisaged that such an application process would require six months to complete and that would cover:

- Internal consultation and proposals on what the Council wished to fund
- preparation of application documents including project briefs;
- application stage;
- evaluation and analysis stage; and
- grant awards procedure approved by the Executive.

5.11.3. In practical terms under this option, the application process could not commence until 1st April 2022. Therefore, it would be necessary to extend the current arrangements from 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022. The new grants would therefore commence 1st October 2022 and terminate 31st March 2024.

5.11.4. Officers would then continue to develop and build on the Council's relationship with the sector and put in place the arrangements it needs in terms of service delivery, including the development of a co-produced Community Strategy and a strategic funding policy and procedures.

5.11.5. This option would allow the opportunity to strengthen the Performance Indicators and to review the project briefs and would open the opportunity to bid for funds to the wider sector, to ensure best value from the ongoing investment, albeit on a tight timescale.

5.11.6. Table 2 sets out the advantages and disadvantages for this option:

Criterion	Comment
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and fair process for all the sector organisations • Continuation of assistance to vulnerable residents • Maintains and develops relationship with the sector • Would demonstrate best value for money • Allows for the opportunity to design and deliver the future Community Strategy
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer capacity to undertake a review of all the current arrangements and preparation of new project proposals and briefs and the grant agreements in a short timescale • Potential to cause additional financial pressures to the sector • No funding policy for strategic grants to the voluntary sector yet in place

5.12 Option 3 – Extension of Current Arrangements

- 5.12.1. The extension of the current arrangements would see the existing provisions, as set out in **Appendix A**, continue for a further two financial years – 2022-23 and 2023-24.
- 5.12.2. Officers would then continue to develop and build on the Council’s relationship with the sector and put in place a co-produced Community Strategy and a Strategic Funding Framework.
- 5.12.3. This option, as outlined in point 5.11.5, would still allow the opportunity to strengthen the Performance Indicators and to review existing arrangements, to ensure best value from the ongoing investment, but in a more considered and less time pressured way.
- 5.12.4. This option allows the opportunity to use the new strategy, alongside the Corporate Plan to define what future investment the Council wishes to make in services and projects that are or could be delivered by the VCSE, transform those as required and realise the aggregation benefits of ‘one council – one service’. It is expected that this may result in savings from 2024-25.
- 5.12.5. Table 3 sets out the advantages and disadvantages for this option:

Criterion	Comment
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of existing arrangements to vulnerable residents • Maintains relationship with the sector

Criterion	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for the opportunity to design and deliver the Community Strategy
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May exclude organisations in the sector who do not currently benefit from funding while the Council develop the Community Strategy May be more difficult for the Council to demonstrate that they are achieving best value

- 5.13. It is recommended that the Executive approve Option 3. This would enable the current funding agreements with the current VCSE organisations as set out in Appendix A, to continue through extensions to existing grant agreements, Service Level Agreements or contracts, unless there is an opportunity to align those where more than one of the sovereign Councils funded the same organisation, then these will be aggregated into a single agreement.
- 5.14. Additionally, approving Option 3 would provide Officers time to develop and establish a robust Strategic Funding Framework as a result of the new Communities Strategy, for the awarding of funding in line with the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 5.15. The Council does not have any statutory duties to fund the voluntary sector or commission projects from organisations within it. However, there is wide recognition that a thriving and sustainable voluntary sector can support the achievement of several of our corporate plan outcomes.
- 5.16. The recommendation details above uses already established processes and methods to:
- a) put in place medium-term grant arrangements to maintain much-needed provisions; and
 - b) build the Council's long-term relationship with the sector through these with the service delivery arrangements and the commitment to co-produce the Communities Strategy
- 5.17. There will be no significant operating impact on the end user by extending the arrangements, and there is an opportunity to provide continuity of provision over the next two financial years.
- 5.18. Extending the arrangements would provide a level of financial stability and sustainability for the voluntary sector.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. If the Executive agrees to the recommendations of this report, the next stages will be to implement the proposals as per the following indicative timetable:

Action:	Indicative Timings:
Inform current providers of the funding position	By end of March 2022
In conjunction with current providers, review service specifications	By end of March 2022
Issue revised grant agreements, in conjunction with Legal Services	By end of April 2022
Initiate the work programme to develop a Communities Strategy which includes a review and develop a consistent approach for Strategic Funding Framework	By end of June 2023
Undertake a strategic grant application process for the delivery of provisions from 1 st April 2024	Start no later than September 2023

- 6.2. Officers have considered the timetable to be realistic given that Year 1 allows for the development of a Communities Strategy, to ensure meaningful engagement can be had with residents, service users, VCSE organisations and community groups, along with Members and key strategic partners.
- 6.3. Year 2 would see the development of a Strategic Funding Framework for the commissioning of provisions with the VCSE organisations. To ensure a fair and open tender process is followed for the projects to commence from 1st April 2024.
- 6.4. Should the steps outlined in 6.2 and 6.3 be accelerated into 2022-23 then new arrangements could be in place for 2023-24, which may result in savings being realised a year earlier.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 The proposed Budget for 2022-23, subject to approval at Full Council on 24th February 2022, assumes that the current revenue budgets for the VCSE strategic grant giving arrangements, as outlined in Appendix A, will remain at the same levels as seen in the financial year 2021-22.
- 7.1.2 The current grant funding provision stands at £1,415,766 per annum. Should the Executive agree to fund the grant arrangements for a further two-year period the total cost to the Council would be £2,831,532.

- 7.1.3 This contribution to the voluntary sector allows vital services to continue to be delivered to vulnerable residents across North Northamptonshire and stability to the sector for the next two years.
- 7.1.4 Due to the capacity within the current Communities and Wellbeing Team, which comes under the Housing and Communities Directorate, officers are also seeking to increase the current FTE by 1.5, to create dedicated Grant Officers. This will be funded from within the current allocated budget for the Communities and Wellbeing service.
- 7.1.5 Whilst the report reflects continuous improvement and the intent to ensure that the Council has robust governance which ensure value for money for the whole of North Northamptonshire, it does not form part of the Transformation Plan.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 Legal Services have advised that some of the current arrangements are outdated with some agreements having been extended numerous times. Not undertaking an open, fair and transparent process to award funding may disadvantage organisations who are not currently receiving funding for the period in which we develop the Community Strategy. The extensions may also make it difficult for the Council to demonstrate that they are achieving best value.
- 7.2.2 A standard grant agreement will be issued for the delivery of projects by the VCSE on behalf of the Council. Associated with the current service specifications will be reviewed, in conjunction with service providers, to ensure there is a consistent approach to:
- a) strengthening the Performance Indicators and monitoring arrangements;
 - b) consistency and alignment of arrangements from sovereign councils;
 - c) encouraging partnership working across the sector; and
 - d) ensuring best value from the continued investment.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 When reviewing the current service specifications account will be taken of the six key thematic priorities laid out in the Council's Corporate Plan. The current grant arrangements cover provisions that deliver across the breadth of these priorities and are outlined in Appendix A.
- **Helping people to lead active, fulfilled lives** – helping people be more active, independent, and fulfilled

- **Building better, brighter futures** – caring for young people, providing them with a high-quality education and opportunities to help them flourish
- **Develop safe and thriving places** – enabling a thriving and successful economy that shapes great places to live, learn, work and visit
- **Create a green, sustainable environment** – taking a lead on improving the green environment, making the area more sustainable for generations to come
- **Build connected communities** – ensuring communities are connected with one another so they are able to shape their lives and areas where they live
- **Develop modern public services** – providing efficient, effective, and affordable services that make a real difference to all our local communities.

7.4 Risk

7.4.1 By extending the current arrangements, as set out in Option 3, it allows funding to remain in place to support the arrangements being provided to vulnerable residents. In taking this approach, there is a small risk to the Council by not undertaking an application process for the interim period, as it could be seen as being unfair to other organisations in not being able to access funding.

7.4.2 However, other grants are available for VCSE organisations to access through national organisations such as the National Lottery Community Fund or through the Northamptonshire Community Foundation.

7.4.3 All existing arrangements were awarded through the sovereign councils funding arrangements and had oversight by Members on a regular basis. Through the extension of existing arrangements, organisations will be issued with new agreements and the project briefs will be revise, until a new Strategic Funding Framework is developed.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 If Executive approve the recommendations in this report, Officers will undertake a programme of consultation:

- a) through the review of the current service specifications consultation will be undertaken in conjunction with the relevant organisations; and
- b) to develop the Communities Strategy which will inform the Council's approach to funding and commissioning projects by the voluntary sector, with key stakeholders including Members, local VCSE Infrastructure organisations and their member organisations and strategic partners.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 This has been reviewed by the Health & Wellbeing and Vulnerable People's Executive Advisory Panel on the 3rd March 2022 and who were supportive of the recommendations set out in this paper.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 This has not been reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee; therefore, no comments or recommendations have been received.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 The initial Equality Screening Assessment (ESA) identified that if the Executive decided to cease funding these agreements, the impact would have a negative effect on protected groups, as the services, outlined in Appendix A summarises, would no longer be available and therefore lead to a reduction in services being available. May disadvantage groups who are not currently helped.

7.8.2 Due to the impact identified in the ESA, an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a negative impact was identified and will be mitigated by the Executive Committee agreeing to continue funding the current arrangements while a full review is undertaken.

7.9 Climate Impact

7.9.1 The Council declared a climate change emergency in June 2021 and is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions.

7.9.2 Through a review of the service specifications and grant agreements the Council will seek to encourage organisations to consider the environmental and climate impact of their projects, in line with the Council's priorities in this area.

7.9.3 All the VCSE organisations funded by the Council are local to Northamptonshire, with many locally based in the area of delivery. In being locally based, including the use of technology for meetings, reduces the carbon footprint.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 Through the current funding arrangements, the Council funds projects which demonstrate how they support the Council's priorities and in addition how they:

- support volunteering, community involvement, neighbourhood and community led activities;
- enable voluntary youth action and the development of provisions for young people;
- prevent homelessness, improve social mobility, and tackle inequality; and
- promote social inclusion and community resilience.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 Under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council has equal statutory responsibility with the Police to exercise its various functions with *'due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area'*.

7.11.2 By continuing with the current funding arrangements there are several projects funded by the Council that support crime prevention and disorder across its area. Examples of such projects include:

- Neighbourhood Watch - Development of community led crime reduction schemes;
- NREC - Equalities awareness raising and promote incident reporting with a focus on hate crime awareness training;
- Groundwork Northamptonshire and Youth Works programme Activities for Young People - Provision of activities for young people prioritising people who are not in employment education or training, which keep them engaged in positive activities.

8. Background Papers

8.1. Sovereign Council's Records of Decisions for extending the funding arrangements prior to the formation of the unitary authority:

8.1.1 Borough Council of Wellingborough – 30 September 2020
https://www.wellingborough.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1177/resources_committee

8.1.2 Corby Borough Council – 28 August 2018
<https://www.corby.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Core%20Organisations%20Review.pdf>

8.1.3 East Northamptonshire Council – 2 November 2020
https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1100/policy_and_resources_committee

8.1.4 Kettering Borough Council – Wednesday 13 November 2019
https://www.kettering.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1787/executive_committee

- 8.2. Equality Screening Assessment
- 8.3. Equality Impact Assessment
- 8.4. Strategic Grants Performance

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Sovereign Council	Provider	Arrangement	Funding Allocation (£)	Payment Schedule	Brief Description	Corporate Priorities					
						Active Lives	Brighter Futures	Safe & Thriving	Sustainable Environment	Connected Communities	Modern Services
Borough Council of Wellingborough	Central & East Northamptonshire Citizens Advice	Contract	40,365	50:50 Apr/Nov	Money management services and debt advice, including supporting people into housing.	X		X			
	Shire Community Services	Contract	25,000	50:50 Apr/Nov	Community transport - Wellibus/Shopmobility/medical car scheme.			X	X	X	
	Serve (previously provided by Nene Valley Community Action)	Contract	20,000	50:50 Apr/Nov	Provision of infrastructure support to voluntary organisations across Wellingborough locality.					X	X
	Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council (NREC)	Contract	15,000	50:50 Apr/Nov	Equalities awareness raising and promote incident reporting with a focus on hate crime awareness training.	X		X			
	Victoria Centre	Contract	11,326	50:50 Apr/Nov	Community hub for newly arrived communities.		X	X			
	Glamis Hall for All	Contract	10,000	50:50 Apr/Nov	Provision of services including a day centre for community activities and room hire on the Queensway estate.	X				X	
	Hemmingwell Centre CIC	Contract	10,000	50:50 Apr/Nov	Community and Skills Centre on the Hemmingwell estate.	X	X				
	Teamwork Trust	Contract	5,000	50:50 Apr/Nov	Mental health counselling and advocacy services.	X					
Corby Borough	Core Funded Organisations:										
	Citizens Advice Services Corby & Kettering	SLA ¹	28,000	50:50 Apr/Oct	Money management services and debt advice.	X		X			
	Teamwork Trust	SLA	5,000	50:50 Apr/Oct	Day care provider for adults with learning disabilities, Autism or mild mental health issues.	X				X	
	The Wildlife Trust for BCN	SLA	4,000	50:50 Apr/Oct	Woodland management of Kingswood and Great Oakley Meadow, working with the woodland project.	X			X		
	Groundwork Northamptonshire	SLA	7,500	50:50 Apr/Oct	Sustain delivery across environmental, youth, voluntary sector, volunteering and Made with Many. Support Kingwoods and Hazel Leys and deliver small project initiatives.	X	X			X	
	Homestart Corby	SLA	9,200	50:50 Apr/Oct	Support families with children under 11 who may be at risk from social exclusion, debt, mental health issues, or require support.	X	X				
	Groundwork Northamptonshire (previously provided by Corby Voluntary	SLA	19,500	50:50 Apr/Oct	Local Infrastructure Organisation providing support to voluntary organisations.					X	X

¹ SLA – Service Level Agreement

Sovereign Council	Provider	Arrangement	Funding Allocation (£)	Payment Schedule	Brief Description	Corporate Priorities						
						Active Lives	Brighter Futures	Safe & Thriving	Sustainable Environment	Connected Communities	Modern Services	
Page 100	& Community Services)											
	NREC	SLA	1,800	50:50 Apr/Oct	Providing an information and support service to victims of discrimination or hate crime.	X		X				
	The Core Theatre	Contract	297,500	50:50 Apr/Oct	Theatre management offering a wide variety of shows, developing and delivering youth and community initiatives to engage residents in all forms of performance and theatre production.	X						
	Devolved Community Facilities:											
	The Autumn Centre	SLA		37,000	50:50 Apr/Oct	Manage the community facility, providing day care to the over 50's (Mon – Fri) also support residents with Dementia and their families. The facility to be made available for community use in the evenings and weekends.	X					X
	Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre			17,200	50:50 Apr/Oct	Manage as a community facility, available to the public to hire for a range of activities.	X					X
	Ennerdale Community Centre			8,660	50:50 Apr/Oct		X					X
	Beanfield Community Centre			11,660	50:50 Apr/Oct		X					X
	Danesholme Communicare Centre			11,660	50:50 Apr/Oct		X					X
	Stephenson Way Community Association			8,660	50:50 Apr/Oct		X					X
	Oakley Vale Community Centre			8,330	50:50 Apr/Oct		X					X
	Arran Community Centre			5,000	50:50 Apr/Oct		X					X
	Woodsen Bowls Club			3,240	50:50 Apr/Oct		Manage the facility for bowls in the summer and available to hire for a local football team in the winter to access the adjacent football pitch.	X		X		
Corby Olympic Amateur Boxing Club			1,170	50:50 Apr/Oct	Manage the facility offering boxing and fitness training to young people and adults	X					X	
East Northamptonshire	Community Law Service		Grant Agreement	50,000	25% every Quarter	Provision of debt and money advice, money management support and assisting residents to understand the benefits systems.	X		X			
	Service Six	Grant Agreement	20,000	25% every Quarter	Providing enhanced counselling and support services for adults and young people.	X	X					
	Serve and Voluntary Action	Grant Agreement	20,000	25% every Quarter	Providing transport for medical related appointments and a community transport service for East Northamptonshire.				X	X		

Sovereign Council	Provider	Arrangement	Funding Allocation (£)	Payment Schedule	Brief Description	Corporate Priorities						
						Active Lives	Brighter Futures	Safe & Thriving	Sustainable Environment	Connected Communities	Modern Services	
	Oundle Consortium											
	Groundwork Northamptonshire	SLA	15,000	25% every Quarter	Provision of Youth Development Worker to support activities with young people in East Northamptonshire.	X	X					
	Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Services	SLA	15,000	25% every Quarter	Provision of Targeted Support Worker to support and offer advice to victims of domestic abuse in East Northamptonshire.	X		X				
Page 101 Kettering Borough	Groundwork Northamptonshire	Grant Agreements	13,250	60:40 Apr/Nov	Provision of activities for young people prioritising people who are not in employment education or training, which keep them engaged in positive activities.	X		X				
	Youth Works CIC		13,250	60:40 Apr/Nov								
	Neighbourhood Watch		5,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Development of community led crime reduction schemes.				X		X	
	Citizens Advice Services Corby & Kettering		80,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Provision of debt and money advice, money management support and assisting residents to understand the benefits systems.	X			X			
	NREC		5,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Core objective is to challenge organisations and support people who are suffering discrimination under the nine protected characteristics.	X			X			
	Groundwork Northamptonshire		10,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Delivering projects to improve poor physical and mental health, through environmental and outdoor activities.	X	X				X	
	Citizens Advice Services Corby & Kettering		30,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Working in partnership with the Kettering locality Housing Options team to provide support and advice.	X			X			
	Age UK Northamptonshire		20,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Providing outreach services, activities and information and advice to older people (65+) to live independently.	X					X	
	Vine Community Trust		20,000	60:40 Apr/Nov								
	Evans Hearing & Healthcare		13,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Provision of mobility scooters and wheelchairs to residents to access Kettering town centre.				X			
	KCU Ltd		20,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Provision of upcycling services for furniture and essential household items, minimising the amount of landfill waste, access to affordable household items and opportunity for upskilling individuals.	X	X			X		
	Groundwork Northamptonshire		19,000	60:40 Apr/Nov	Local Infrastructure Organisation providing support to voluntary organisations.						X	X
Combined Grants	Armed Forces Covenant		15,429	Annually	Annual partnership contribution.		X					
	Northamptonshire Sport	SLA	78,502	Annually	Countywide service to encourage healthier lifestyles, reduce crime and fear of crime, support communities to improve their quality of life, to promote social cohesion, to be inclusive by delivering sports sessions. Contribution from West Northamptonshire Council of £52,320.	X				X		

Sovereign Council	Provider	Arrangement	Funding Allocation (£)	Payment Schedule	Brief Description	Corporate Priorities					
						Active Lives	Brighter Futures	Safe & Thriving	Sustainable Environment	Connected Communities	Modern Services
	Office of Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner	Co-operation agreement	70,239		Through the OPF&CC (lead commissioner) procure the provision of an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) service, including the Sunflower Centre and the co-ordination of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for high-risk domestic abuse victims.		X	X			
	Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS)	Grant Agreement	155,237		Countywide provision of support services and refuge for victims of domestic abuse. Contribution of £178,637 by West Northamptonshire Council. NB: This is an externally funded grant, via DLUHC.		X	X			
	NDAS	Grant Agreement	61,000		Countywide provision for victims of domestic abuse, specialising in support female victims with drug/alcohol misuse. Contribution from West Northamptonshire Council of £69,000. NB: This is an externally funded grant, via DLUHC.		X	X			
	Eve	Grant Agreement	45,088		Provision of refuge for women and their children from domestic abuse, as well as a recovery programme from the trauma of abuse. Contribution from West Northamptonshire Council of £51,875. NB: This is an externally funded grant, via DLUHC.		X	X			

EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Annual Inflationary Uplift Adult Care and Support 2022/23
Report Author	David Watts, Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Lead Member	Cllr Helen Harrison – Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider and approve the proposed uplift in fees paid to adult social care providers in 2022/23 across the full range of community-based provision which includes residential and nursing care, home care, day care, supported living and direct payments.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Section 5 of the Care Act 2014 establishes a duty on each local authority to ensure a sustainable market of care in their area. The 'market of care' includes the full range of service types and provisions applicable to adult social care

which includes residential and nursing care, homecare, day care, supported living and the provision of direct payments to employ personal assistants.

- 2.2. Annual fee uplifts take into consideration market pressures and market sustainability. This includes the care market's ability to maintain adequate capacity and supply, whilst adhering to regulatory and quality requirements within the general and commercial environment in which the market operates. The uplifts also take into consideration central government's annual position on setting the National Living Wage.
- 2.3 The Council has a range of contract frameworks in place to deliver care and support services to individuals with Care Act eligible needs. These frameworks specify fee levels against the different types of care arrangements commissioned for individuals and apply a number of contractual requirements relating to good practice and measures of quality. The frameworks therefore allow the Council to assert control over the cost of care and the standards and quality of care delivered.
- 2.4 In addition to the individual packages of care arranged using the contract frameworks, there continues to be packages of care arranged outside of the contract frameworks as 'spot' arrangements. Generally spot arrangements are made when an individual's needs cannot be met within the fee or skill parameters defined within a contract framework, for example the needs of the individual are so complex that payment to a provider is made above and beyond the fees stipulated in a framework contract, or where there are additional costs involved in providing care to an individual because of individual circumstances such as residing in a very rural location or requiring day to day support from workers with sign language skills. Spot arrangements are also made when demand is outstripping supply within a framework; if capacity within a framework contract is exhausted, then the Council will arrange care using 'spot' arrangements to fulfil its statutory duties. Fee levels for spot arrangements are generally between 20-40% higher than framework fee levels.
- 2.5 This report provides an overall consideration of an uplift of 6.5% to contracted framework providers and a 0% uplift to spot providers. The rationale for the application of these fee increases is laid out in the body of this report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Executive is recommended to approve the following proposed increases in fee levels for 2022-2023:

Provision Type	Recommendation	Current Annual Cost £	Proposed Annual Cost £	Net increase Cost £
All Framework contracted provision	A fee uplift of 6.5% to all Providers currently on a contract framework. This uplift accounts for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in the National Living Wage • Market pressures in recruitment and retention • An incentivisation to continue to be party to the Council's contract frameworks 	£41,096m	£43,767m	£2,671m
Non-Framework 'spot provision'	A fee uplift of 0% to all spot Providers. This uplift accounts for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued higher fee levels already paid to spot providers • An incentive to join the Council's contract frameworks 	£56,073m	£56,073m	£0
Totals		£97,170m	£99,840m	£2,671m

3.2 Reason for recommendations

3.2.1 The National Living Wage for 2022/23 is 6.6 %. This compares to 2.2% in 2021/22.

3.2.2 The care and support market in North Northamptonshire continues to experience difficulties with the recruitment and retention of care staff. This is caused by competition from other industries and the ongoing influence of Covid-19. The position in North Northamptonshire is in keeping with the national picture.

3.2.3 In order to meet the council's statutory responsibilities, there has been an increase in the numbers of packages of care individually commissioned using spot providers with a commensurate increase in spend. Spot provision is costly to the Council and the proposed uplift seeks to positively influence existing contract framework supply through retention and sustainability whilst also incentivising an increase in supply through leveraging better rates of pay and reward.

3.2.4 The Executive is reminded of the uplift in 2021/22 as being 2.75% and 0% for older adult services and younger adult services, respectively. The uplift in 2021/22 has not been sufficient to stabilise the market during the pandemic and pressures in capacity and demand have increased.

3.3. Options considered

3.3.1 Several options have been considered in arriving at the proposal and recommendation contained within this report. The options considered include a 0% uplift, a 4.3% uplift to contracted suppliers only, a 4.3% uplift to both contracted and non-contracted suppliers and a 6.5% uplift to contracted suppliers only. The recommended option is made in order to strengthen the range and number of contracted suppliers whilst stimulating stability and account for market pressures that include the impact of Covid-19 as well as market inflation and the forthcoming changes to the National Living Wage.

4. Report Background

4.1 The Care and Support market is competing with other industries in addressing recruitment and retention of staff. In November 2021 feedback from North Northamptonshire care and support providers highlighted the following as significant risks to maintaining existing capacity and in expanding to provide new capacity:

- 77% of providers mentioned the impact of COVID-19 on their businesses (prior to the announcement by Government of mandatory vaccination).
- All providers said staff retention and recruitment were their main concern, explaining that they were unable to compete with other industries. They variously cited apprenticeships, low skilled work such as basic manual labour, office work, hospitality, logistics/Amazon, and supermarkets as key competitors paying higher hourly rates.
- Most complained of a lack of local authority uplifts in recent years, and that these have not kept up with increases in the National Minimum Wage or pay in other sectors.
- 75% of providers felt the general appeal of care work in comparison to other employment was a significant factor, especially as rates of pay were much lower and the added environmental and health implications of Covid-19.
- Homecare providers felt the additional difficulties for staff, such as working in numerous locations, regular changes to rotas/ hours and increased fuel costs were overlooked and not reflected in the rates they received.

- 4.2 The Executive has received reports pertaining to the recommissioning of key adult care and support services, notably the recommissioning of homecare services and the recommissioning of care home services. These reports provided the executive with benchmarking information which concluded the Council's homecare and care home expected to pay rates as being below regional comparators by approximately 16%. These below average contracted rates have given rise to the increase in spot packages.
- 4.3 The percentage of all care and support arrangements delivered by a 'spot' provider is now 58%. This compares with approximately 50% in 2021/22 and 40% in 2020/21. This changed position is largely caused by the lack of capacity in contracted suppliers who are experiencing difficulty retaining and recruiting staff at the council's fee rates, effectively forcing an increase in the use of spot providers to fulfil the Council's statutory duties. Increasing the Council's fee rates will positively influence recruitment and retention and reduce spend on spot provision.
- 4.4 The National Living Wage increase for 2022/23 is 6.6%. This compares to 2.2% in 2021/22.
- 4.5 Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic additional one-off payments have been made to regulated services using the conditions asserted through the Department for Health and Social Care's (DHSC) Infection Control Grants. These grants have relieved some of the pressures associated with the use of agency staff, and enabled sickness payments to staff, to reduce transmission of the virus and maintain safe working practices. The grants have been made according to the numbers of individuals each service type is supporting at the time of the grant allocation and all recipient providers have been required to confirm how monies have been spent against the conditions of the grant as stipulated by the DHSC.
- 4.6 The Council is in the process of distributing the DHSC Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund to regulated providers as one-off payments to staff who have worked or have been newly recruited over the winter period. This is in keeping with the conditions and intention of the fund.
- 4.7 The Infection Control Fund grants and the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund grant have supported the care and support market with specific elements of pressure over the past 18 months. However, there is a need to lever greater stability within the market over the next 12 months; enabling a more sustainable recovery from the impact of the pandemic and incentivising contracted relationships that will aid partnership working to deliver against the Councils core aims and statutory responsibilities.
- 4.8 The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) allows for an uplift spend in adult social care of £4.1m. Additional budgeted provision has been made for increased acuity (complexity of needs) and changes in demography. The total recommended uplift sum is £2.671m. The Council's Expected to Pay Rates will also be adjusted to 'close the gap' with regional comparators at the point of re-procurement and the net residual from the MTFP allocation and recommended

annual uplift spend will account for this and any ad hoc reasonable and fair requests relating to specific and individual provisions.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1. The following table provides competitor information on pay rates – comparing the pay rates of care and support workers with pay rates in other competitor industries, using entry level pay scales for over 21-year-olds.

Average pay rate care work	Average pay rate hospitality	Average pay rate supermarkets	Average pay rate Amazon
£9.47	£10.82	£9.95	£13.56

5.2 The November 2021 survey of providers advised us of the following disaggregation of income (averages)

Income against staff costs	63%
Income against training	18%
Income against travel	3.5%
Income against management and quality assurance	9.7%
Other (insurance, premises, regulation, profit)	5.8%

5.3 Options

<p>Option 1 Do nothing. No uplift award to all care and support services.</p>	<p>This option is not recommended. The Council will have significant problems meeting its statutory duties and avoiding market failure.</p>
<p>Option 2 4.3 % market inflation only award to all contracted providers</p>	<p>This option is not recommended. The market requires increased investment to achieve post pandemic stability and level out recruitment and retention issues.</p>
<p>Option 3 4.3% market inflation award to all provisions - contracted and spot</p>	<p>This option is not recommended. The contracted market requires increased investment to achieve post pandemic stability and level out recruitment and retention issues, whilst spot provision is already 20-40% above contracted fee levels.</p>
<p>Option 4 6.5% award to all contracted providers only.</p>	<p>This is the recommended option. This option will aid the recovery of the contracted market and support partnership working to create stability and achieve the Council's aims.</p>

- 5.4 The preferred option is Option 4 a 6.5% uplift to all contracted provision. This recommendation is applied based on the 4.3% market inflation position, the 6.6% national living wage increase, and the strategic consideration of stabilising the care and support market through improved recruitment and retention.
- 5.5 Market feedback is indicating an average request of between 6% and 9% uplift for 2022/23 to meet current responsibilities. The Council's current fee rates are on average 16% below regional comparators. To stimulate a vibrant and robust care and support market the difference between the Council's fee rates and regional comparator rates must be reduced.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Following approval from the Executive, the following communications and transactions will be completed by:

Executive	17 th March 2022
Provider letters - uplift award	11 th April 2022
Electronic records (fees and schedules) updated	11 th July 2022

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources and Financial

7.1.1. The recommended uplift award for 2022/23 is 6.5% at a cost of £2.761m. The Council's MTFP makes allowance for this uplift.

7.1.2. There are no further financial implications arising from this proposal.

7.2. Legal and Governance

7.2.1 Section 5 of the Care Act 2014 establishes a duty on each local authority to ensure a sustainable market of care in their area. The 'market of care' includes the full range of service types and provisions applicable to adult social care which includes residential and nursing care, homecare, day care, supported living and the provision of direct payments to employ personal assistants.

7.2.2 Annual fee uplifts take into consideration market pressures and market sustainability. This includes the care market's ability to maintain adequate capacity and supply, whilst adhering to regulatory and quality requirements within the general and commercial environment in which care and support providers operate. The uplifts also take into consideration central government's annual position on setting the National Living Wage.

7.2.3 The Care Act requires councils to ensure there are enough high-quality providers and services for people to choose from in their local area. This includes understanding the true costs of care, ensuring providers are paying care staff the national minimum wage and for the time spent travelling between calls, and working with providers to minimise the risk of unexpected failure. The legislation also requires councils to consider the impact of their own commissioning practices, avoiding any actions that could threaten the sustainability of the sector.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 This proposal supports North Northamptonshire's Corporate Vision of being: "A place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life." The proposal also aligns to Northamptonshire's Health and Care Partnership vision of "a positive lifetime of health, wellbeing and care in our community."

7.3.2 The proposal supports delivery of the following Council priorities:

- a) Active Fulfilled lives - access to better quality adult social care and providing enhanced support to improve mental health and wellbeing
- b) Thriving places - supporting the creation of high-quality jobs and better skills
- c) Modern public services – provide good quality and efficient services valued by our customers

7.4 Risk

7.4.1 The provision of the proposed recommended uplift to the Council's contracted providers will drive a reduction in risk. Since the beginning of the pandemic in mid-2020 there have been increasing risks associated with our ability to meet needs assessed as eligible under the Care Act because there continues to be a strain on capacity within the homecare market particularly, driven by the impact of Covid-19 on transmission rates and isolation rules, and in the care home market driven by temporary home closures due to Covid-19 outbreaks. This position coupled with the general difficulty recruiting and retaining staff requires the Council to respond to help sustain the care and support market. The proposed uplift will alleviate some of these risks and create an environment for stability.

7.4.2 There are no risks identified to the provision of a 0% uplift to spot providers. Fees levied by these providers are generally 20-40% higher than the Councils contract framework rates.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 The Council has received views from the care and support market relating to increasing pressures around recruitment and retention and the influence of non-care related competitors.

7.5.2 Annually the Council receives correspondence from many providers requesting uplifts in the approaching fiscal year. These communications have been considered in arriving at the proposal and recommendation.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 This paper may be considered by Executive Advisory Panel for Health, Wellbeing and Vulnerable People as part of the Council's governance process.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 This proposal may be subject to consideration by Scrutiny Committee.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 There are no equality duty implications arising from this proposal and recommendation.

7.9 Climate Impact

7.9.1 The Council will work continuously with providers to ensure services maximise the use of technology and exploit service innovations that support the Council's commitment for a greener environment.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 This proposal and recommendations seek to strengthen care and support provision throughout the North Northamptonshire localities.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 The Council will work with providers to maximise employment opportunities within the local community.

7.11.2 Independent Sector services will work collaboratively across the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sectors to deliver joined-up and holistic care and support to individuals accessing services.

7.11.3 To support the Council's vision of enabled Connected Communities, the Council will work with providers to support residents to have continuing access to appropriate and innovative community resources.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None.

EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Corby Town Fund – Sixth Form College Summary Business Case Document
Report Author	George Candler, Executive Director of Place and Economy
Lead Member	Cllr David Brackenbury, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To approve the submission of a Business Case Summary Document for the Sixth Form College, one of the four projects of the Corby Town Fund to the Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUHC). If approved by North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) and subsequently approved by DLUHC, the £9.5m of allocated funds for this project will be available for drawdown and the project can commence.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Corby Borough Council applied for funding to the government's Towns Fund. This application was accepted by DLUHC and in June 2021, the Executive considered and agreed the Heads of Terms for the Corby Town Fund, which were then submitted to DLUHC.

The funding bid accepted in principle was to the value of £19.9m for four projects detailed within Corby's Town Investment Plan (TIP) allocated as below:

Project	Allocation (m)
Sixth Form College	£9.50
Corby Town to Station link road	£8.59
Market Walk East multi-use building	£1.50
Smart and Connected Corby	£0.31

- 2.2. Acceptance of the project by DLUHC means that NNC is now required to develop individual business cases for each of the four projects. Each of the business cases must follow the guidelines set by government through "The Green Book 2020"^[1].
- 2.3. The Sixth Form College project is being expedited due to the advanced stage of this project and due to the planned intake of students to take place at the start of the 2023/24 academic year. Acceptance of the Business Case Summary Document by DLUHC will unlock the £9.5m funds allocated for this project.

[1] The Green Book: appraisal and evaluation in central government - HM Treasury guidance on how to appraise and evaluate policies, projects, and programmes - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938046/The_Green_Book_2020.pdf

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive:
- a) Approve the submission of a Business Case Summary Document for the Sixth Form College Corby Town Investment Plan project to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;
 - b) Delegate to the Executive Director of Finance, in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Economy, authority to prepare and submit the Summary Business Case for the Sixth Form Corby Town Fund project to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;
 - c) Approve the drawdown of funding for the Sixth Form College project once released by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;
- 3.2. Reasons for Recommendations –
- The submitted Business Case Summary Document, if approved by DLUHC will unlock the funding for this project to the sum of £9.5m.

- Once funds are received, this project can commence. It is estimated this build will take 10/12 months to complete, opening in the Summer of 2023 for the 2023/24 academic intake.

3.3 Alternative Options Considered - The only alternative options would be to not submit the Business Case Summary Document and therefore not to drawdown the remaining funding of £9.5m (less the 5%, approx. £475k already received from DLUHC) which would mean that the Sixth Form College could not be delivered. As this project is a deliverable project which benefits Corby and the surrounding area by providing a high-quality education resource this is not a viable option

4. Report Background

4.1. In September 2019, DLUHC (formally MHCLG) announced 101 towns who were eligible to bid for up to £25m each through the Towns Fund. The objective of the Towns Fund is to drive the economic regeneration of towns for long-term economic and productivity growth. This was approved by Corby Borough Council's (CBC) One Corby Policy Committee in December 2019 (stage 1) and January 2021 (stage 2) to:

- 1) Establish a Town Investment Plan for Corby - by the formation of the Town Deal Board and to produce a Town Investment Plan (TIP).
- 2) Use the TIP to bid for Town Deal funding – bid for £25m for the four projects selected by the Town Deal Board.

4.2. On 8th June 2021, government confirmed that the Corby Town Deal had been successful in securing £19.9m for the four projects detailed in the TIP.

4.3. Executive, on 22nd June 2021, agreed to delegate authority to the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place and Economy, to approve and sign Heads of Terms in connection with Corby's Town Fund from DLUHC. Following this, the Heads of Term were reviewed by the Leader and Portfolio holder for Growth and Regeneration and signed by the Chair of the Town Deal Board and North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC's) Section 151 Officer.

4.4. Following the submission of the signed Heads of Terms on 29th June 2021 to DLUHC an Options Appraisal paper was taken to the Town Deal Board on 6th August 2021 to approve the relocation, phasing and scaling back of the projects to bridge the £5.1m funding gap between the bid amount of £25m and the awarded fund amount of £19.9m.

4.5. DLUHC confirmed that it would automatically release a payment of 5% of the approved £19.9m funding, which is £995,000, to allow the development of the business cases and the initial progression of these projects.

- 4.6. In November 2021, a paper was taken to Executive to approve the early release of this fund (£995,000) award to the Capital Programme to fund the design work, feasibility studies and business case development.
- 4.7. This Sixth Form College project is being expedited due to the progress made on the project. It is anticipated the completion of the Sixth Form College by Bedford College Group will occur in the Summer of 2023, with an intake of students planned for September 2023.
- 4.8. Bedford College Group have submitted their business case to the council, and this has been reviewed by officers who are specialists in their fields. Therefore, it is proposed that the submission of the Business Case Summary Document by the Council is brought forward from June 2022, which was the original deadline and submitted as soon as possible. This will, once approved by DLUHC, unlock the balance of the £9.5m funds allocated by DLUHC for this project. The DLUHC approval processes will take approximately 2 months.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. Throughout the development of the Town Fund various options have been considered which have been in line with the governments 'Green Book' guidelines and NNC's constitution. It is proposed to submit the Business Case Summary Document to DLUHC as soon as complete. This business case delivers the scheme identified in the Corby Town Fund bid.
- 5.2. The only alternative option would be to not submit the Business Case Summary to DLUHC which would mean that the Sixth Form College could not be delivered. As this project is a deliverable project which benefits Corby and the surrounding area by providing a high-quality education resource this is not a viable option.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. The next stage of the process is for the Council to submit the Business Case Summary document. DLUHC require this document to be signed by the Council's Section 151 Officer, therefore it is proposed that authority to sign the submission be delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer (that is the Executive Director of Finance) in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy. The Summary Business Case document will also be submitted to the Town Deal Board's Chair for comment.
- 6.2. If Executive approval is granted for the Summary Business Case document to be submitted to DLUHC, this will be done as quickly as possible. This document will then be reviewed by DLUHC. Once the review is complete and the summary business case approved, the Council will be able to draw down the balance of the funds.

- 6.3. It is anticipated that the build could commence shortly after DLUHC approval is given provided planning permission is granted - pre-application discussions have begun. The sixth form college has been projected by the college to be completed in the summer of 2023 for intake of students at the start of the academic year in September 2023.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

7.1.1. This funding was awarded to the Council on 8th June 2021 by government. Corby TIP proposed a range of projects as part of its submission to government. This included the Sixth Form College, which was allocated £9.5m. The Bedford College Group match funding is £10.1m, this is the estimated cost for staff and running costs etc. of this sixth form college over 5 years.

7.1.2. The investment, if approved by DLUHC, into a new Sixth Form College would be transformational in terms of supporting the wider regeneration of this building within the town centre. It would also drive additional footfall into the area with several hundred students attending the new facility and in so doing supporting the wider local economy. A business case has also been presented to the Strategic Capital Board to request the project to be included within the Capital Programme for 2022/23 and will be presented to Executive Committee in April, once approval for the submission of the business case to DLUHC is received, as outlined in this report.

7.2. Legal and Governance

7.2.1. The Council will enter into a grant agreement with the Bedford College Group to contractually oblige it to deliver this project in Corby's town centre. The legal team will put in place this agreement between both parties prior to the awarded fund being transferred to the Bedford College Group. This will mitigate any risks to the Council.

7.2.2. A working group has been assembled within the Council which contains various subject matter experts to advise and review the Business Case and the Summary Business Case document to ensure all documents are robust and give assurances of the content contained within.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1. The Corby Town Deal and in particular, the Sixth Form College project which help deliver our vision for North Northamptonshire "A place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life."

7.3.2. This scheme will contribute to several NNC's key commitments:

- We will care for our young people, providing them with a high-quality education and opportunities to help them flourish – by providing a Sixth Form College in Corby town centre, an excellent facility for students in Corby and the surrounding area.
- Safe and thriving places: We will enable a thriving and successful economy that shapes great places to live, learn, work and visit – As the college is based in Corby town centre this will provide additional footfall to help the businesses in this area.
- Green, sustainable environment: We will take a lead on improving the green environment, making the area more sustainable for generations to come – The redevelopment of the building will include sustainable technologies and will allow the college to showcase these.

7.3.3. The Corby Town Fund projects also bring forward the principles identified in the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Part 2 Corby Local Plan formally adopted at North Northamptonshire's Full Council Meeting on 29th September 2021. Both plans are underpinned by extensive consultation and a robust evidence base, which has further helped to inform and shape the preparation of the TIP and the projects within.

7.4. **Risk**

7.4.1. There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report save for the risk of missing out on funding as a consequence of missing DLUHC timescales

7.4.2. The risks regarding the delivery of this projects are considered as part of the project management process and are recorded and monitored in the Risk Register. These are regularly reviewed and discussed at the Corby Town Deal Working Group.

7.5. **Consultation**

7.5.1. The Town Fund involved a range of engagement with Corby residents through several platforms. Engagement has been ongoing with various stakeholders through the Town Deal Board Members and ongoing discussions with other partners.

7.5.2. Engagement will continue throughout this project with residents and businesses in the Corby area, the college have also planned workshops/engagement with students within their campuses.

7.5.3. Statutory consultation will be carried out in accordance with planning guidelines.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1. This scheme has not been considered by any of the Executive Advisory Panel's although the wider project will be taken to the Climate Change, Environment and Growth EAP at a later date in 2022.

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1. As the project and work progresses there will be opportunities for scrutiny to look at and scrutinise this important regeneration project for Corby.

7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1. There are no specific equality implications relating to this business case, however equalities are something that the college are ensuring is dealt with as part of their scheme and once funding is secured the scheme will be progressed to the next level to provide a facility accessible for all.

7.9. Climate Impact

7.9.1 This project will seek to minimise climate/environmental impact and will strive to change the carbon footprint of this building.

7.9.2 Chisholm House will be re-purposed. The sixth form centre will occupy the upper two floors of this property, the majority of which has been vacant and in bare shell condition for many years. It will be renovated aiming to be a carbon negative standard using the very latest innovative technologies which are ground-breaking and will deliver a modern fit for purpose building in the heart of the town centre.

7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1. This intervention will potentially drive the sustainable economic regeneration of the area for long-term economic growth which meets local need, has local support, and aligns with the criteria set out in the Town Fund guidance.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1. There are no specific crime and disorder implications relating to this business case. The Bedford College Group will need to submit a planning application for the Sixth Form College part of which will be the consultation with statutory bodies including the police to ensure that any crime and disorder issues are addressed.

7.11.2. The Bedford College Group will work with the town centre owners to ensure the safety of their students with the assistance of the town centres security team.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1. Towns Fund Prospectus
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/townsfund-prospectus>
- 8.2. Towns Fund Further Guidance
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance>
- 8.3. Executive report – Corby Town Fund 22nd June 2021
<https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=537&Ver=4>
- 8.4. Executive Report – Corby Town Investment Plan Programme of projects 18 November 2021
<https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=326&Ver=4>

EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Local Transport Plan – Integrated Transport Plan 2022/23 Funding Allocation and Capital Funding 2022/23
Report Authors	George Candler, Executive Director for Place and Economy
Lead Member	Cllr Graham Lawman - Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

None.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform the Executive of the grants received from the Department for Transport (DfT) for infrastructure improvements and the intention to spend these amounts on the highways network.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Each year, the Department for Transport (DfT) provides annual allocations of capital funding to local authorities for the maintenance and improvement of transport and highway networks to achieve the policies and outcomes set out in their Local Transport Plan. The DfT have confirmed by letter, and published online, their funding allocations for 2022-25.
- 2.2 The grants consist of the following, totalling £9.955m, for each of the three years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:
- Highways Maintenance Block needs element - £3.735m

- Highways Maintenance Block incentive element - £0.934m
- Potholes Fund - £3.735m
- Integrated Transport Block Funding - £1.551m

- 2.3 These allocations, which are for the same amounts as in 2021/22, are all firm allocations for 2022/23. For 2023/24 and 2024/25, they are also firm allocations, except for the Highway Maintenance block incentive element which is an indicative allocation pending further engagement with local authorities.
- 2.4 Both the Highways Maintenance Block and the Potholes Fund are intended for maintenance of our highways, such as resurfacing or bridge repairs. The Integrated Transport Block is intended for small scale improvement work, such as road safety engineering or improved footways or pedestrian crossings.
- 2.5 It is recommended that the funding is used to progress highways schemes and routine maintenance. These are selected based on their potential to improve the network in accordance with the priorities laid out in the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan. The funding is used to progress as many of the priority schemes that can be funded from the grants.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
- a) Accept the receipt of Government grants totalling £9.955m per annum in 2022/23 made up of the following:
 - Highways Maintenance Block needs element - £3.735m
 - Highways Maintenance Block incentive element - £0.934m
 - Potholes Fund - £3.735m
 - Integrated Transport Block Funding - £1.551m
 - b) Note the allocation of a similar sum of funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25, except that the Highways Maintenance Block incentive element is indicative pending further engagement with local authorities.
 - c) Agree that the grants accepted at para. 3.1(a) will be spent on maintaining and upgrading the highways network in line with the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations: Utilisation of government grant to support and maintain the Council's Highways infrastructure and transport network
- 3.3 Alternative Options Considered: The alternative is to spend only part or none of the allocated funding. This option is not recommended as it would reduce the opportunity to invest in the highways network across North Northamptonshire.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Each year, the DfT provides local highway and transport authorities with annual allocations of capital funding for the maintenance and improvement of their

transport and highway networks in order to achieve the policies and outcomes set out in their Local Transport Plan. The DfT have confirmed by letter, and published online, their funding allocations for 2022-25.

4.2 The grants consist of the following, totalling £9.955m, for each of the three years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

- Highways Maintenance Block needs element - £3.735m
- Highways Maintenance block incentive element - £0.934m
- Potholes Fund - £3.735m
- Integrated Transport Block Funding - £1.551m

4.3 These allocations, which are for the same amounts as in 2021/22, are all firm allocations for 2022/23. For 2023/24 and 2024/25, they are also firm allocations, except for the Highway Maintenance block incentive element which is an indicative allocation pending further engagement with local authorities. It is worth noting that the allocations are not linked to inflation and therefore it can be expected that in real terms there will be a reduction in funding from the DfT during this period.

4.4 The funding will support projects which will be prioritised from a list of schemes as having the best fit with the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (the authority's Local Transport Plan), which the Council has a statutory duty to deliver. The benefits include:

- Maintaining the existing highways infrastructure assets
- Investing in and improving the highways infrastructure
- Improving access by cycle and foot, including safety improvements
- Improved safety and traffic flows by upgrading traffic signals.

4.5 **Highways Maintenance Block and Pothole Funds £8.404m.**

This funding is used to support routine maintenance of the highways network to a safe standard in accordance with the Northamptonshire Asset Management Plan and Network Management Plan. As part of this, it also delivers the annual Capital Maintenance Programme which consists of a range of maintenance schemes across the Council which are developed annually on the basis of need.

4.6 The Maintenance Fund is made up of the following funding streams from DfT:

Pothole Fund	£3,735,000
Incentive Fund	£934,000
Highways Maintenance Block	£3,735,000

4.7 **Integrated Transport Block £1.551m.**

This proposal delivers comparatively small-scale measures which will contribute towards achieving the objectives in the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan. These are principally around extensions to the walking and cycling networks (including new crossings), the maintenance of traffic signals and Road Safety engineering measures. In addition, the block

allocation is also being used to fund contributions agreed by the former County Council for the A14 Cambridge – Huntingdon scheme.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Options would include not spending the money and allowing DfT to recoup it. Alternatively, the Council could choose to spend the money on schemes that are not a priority in line with their Northamptonshire Transportation Plan. Neither option is recommended.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Once approved, the budget will be allocated to specific highways schemes. The delivery timetable will be carefully monitored and managed to consider the end of the current highways services contract and if necessary, works will be transferred to any new highway services contractor.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 The budget requirements are funded from contributions from external grants from the DfT. They are intended for the purposes of improving or maintaining the highways network. There is no requirement for the Council to undertake borrowing to support these schemes.
- 7.1.2 Whilst this report reflects continuous improvement in services, it does not form part of the Council's Transformation Plan.

7.2 Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1 The Council must utilise this DfT funding in line with the restrictions and requirements as set out in the agreements linked to that funding.
- 7.2.2 Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders may be required in order for some of the works being funded to be carried out.
- 7.2.3 The funding helps to deliver the objectives of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (the Council's Local Transport Plan), which the Council has a statutory duty to deliver.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1 The proposal will assist the Council in meeting the priorities in the Corporate Plan around:
- Safe and Thriving Places

- Maintain our highways infrastructure to help people move safely around North Northamptonshire
- Enable people to travel across North Northamptonshire and beyond
- Green, sustainable Environment
 - Promote sustainable, active travel
 - Embed low carbon technology, sustained and improved green infrastructure, and sustainable forms of transport fit for the future.

7.3.2 The proposal will assist the Council in delivering the objectives of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (the Council's Local Transport Plan), which the Council has a statutory duty to deliver.

7.4 Risk

7.4.1 These schemes will form part of the authority's Capital Programme. The deliverability of the Capital Programme is monitored by each accountable project manager and senior officer. There is further review throughout the financial year reported through the Executive Committee.

7.4.2 If any overspends or emerging pressures are identified during the year then mitigating actions will be sought and management interventions undertaken.

7.4.3 Details of pressures, risks and mitigating actions implemented will be provided as part of the project highlight reports as the year progresses and reported through the Strategic Capital Board.

7.4.4 There is a risk that delays and cost increases may arise as a result of the significant volatility within the supply chain and high inflation rates arising from the current, national (and international) economic situation. This generally relates to the supply and price of materials with projects requiring increased lead in times. Whilst every attempt is made to cost these implications into the project, the risks remain.

7.4.5 The schemes are fully funded by the DfT. Based on the current programme of works, it is anticipated that the schemes will be delivered through KierWSP, the current highway services provider for North Northamptonshire or the future highway service provider. The delivery timetable will be carefully monitored and managed to consider the end of the contract and if necessary, works will be transferred to any new highway services contractor.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 Highway improvement schemes are often suggested or requested by local Councillors or members of the public. They are assessed against the priorities of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan. If they are subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) then public consultation is carried out through this process. In advance of any works, communication is shared with local Councillors and local communities to minimise the impact of any works or road closures.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

- 7.6.1 Not applicable at this stage. The Environment, Growth and Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel may choose to examine highway schemes and the development of a new North Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan in the future.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

- 7.7.1 Not applicable at this stage. At their meeting in March, the Scrutiny Commission intend to consider how major highways capital works are prioritised for implementation within existing budgets. Scrutiny may also choose to scrutinise highways schemes and any new North Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan in the future.

7.8 Equality Implications

- 7.8.1 An overall Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed for the programme of works and no negative impacts to groups with protected characteristics were identified as a result of that screening. Where applicable, an Equalities Screening Assessment will be conducted for individual highways schemes to ensure they consider and support all residents including those with protected characteristics.
- 7.8.2 The highways and transport system is used by all who travel across North Northamptonshire. The initial list of schemes identified focuses on maintenance activity, and all sectors of the community can be expected to benefit from a more even carriageway or footway surface. It will be of proportionately greater benefit to the older age groups, those with disabilities, particularly those who have difficulty walking and/or need to use a wheelchair, and those who are pregnant or using pushchairs. There are no identified negative impacts on the nine protected characteristics within the Equalities Act 2010.

7.9 Climate Impact

- 7.9.1 Maintaining a safe highway with fewer defects improves carbon efficiency by avoiding accidents, congestion and delays. Innovative highway maintenance techniques are being explored by highway maintenance providers during reactive and planned maintenance activity; these seek to reduce carbon emissions. Schemes to be included in the full programme will also enable improvements to cycling and walking routes and therefore encourage sustainable travel and a potential reduction in carbon dioxide.

7.10 Community Impact

- 7.10.1 These proposals can be considered to have a positive impact on the community as the programme delivers the infrastructure to support and connect communities. An efficient highway network supports all manner of

social benefits including access to education, healthcare, social networks and economic opportunities.

7.11 **Crime and Disorder Impact**

7.11.1 There are no evident crime and disorder implications of the proposals in this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Northamptonshire Transportation Plan
<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/transport-plans-and-policies/Pages/local-transport-plan.aspx>

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EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	War and War Widow(er)'s Pension Disregard in Housing Benefit
Report Author	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance
Lead Member	Cllr Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the continuing disregard of War Pensions (WP) and War Widow(er)'s Pensions (WWP) in calculating Housing Benefit entitlement.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report provides details of the background and current position with regards to the voluntary disregard of WP and WWP in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement, to enable Members to make a recommendation to Council on the disregard going forward.
- 2.2. The Council already disregards these pensions within its Council Tax Support Scheme and does not take them into account when assessing income and expenditure for Discretionary Housing Payments. Other benefits payable are

either the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or HM Revenues and Customs and therefore outside the remit of the Council.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Executive recommend to Full Council that:
- a) The Council re-affirms its decision to approve the disregard of War Pensions and War Widow(er)'s Pensions in full as income above the statutory £10.00 per week disregard in the calculation of Housing Benefit entitlement.
- 3.2. Reason for Recommendation – to continue to support our Armed Forces community.
- 3.3. Alternative Options Considered - Not re-affirming the disregard means that war pensioners and widowers would lose the discretionary disregard in their calculation of their Housing Benefit entitlement.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Before the introduction of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, there was a statutory £10.00 per week disregard on War Disability and WWP in means tested social security benefits including Housing Benefit. Above the £10.00 per week disregard, the pensions were counted as income, reducing the amount of benefit received.
- 4.2 Section 134(8) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 allowed councils to disregard up to 100% of WP and WWP above the £10.00 per week disregard. This had to be agreed by full Council as the cost of this disregard was borne by the council. The four sovereign councils in North Northamptonshire agreed to disregard War Pensions in full at some point in the 1990s.
- 4.3 From April 2004, the Government agreed to subsidise 75% of the discretionary disregard councils made if the amount did not exceed 0.2% of the total Housing Benefit subsidy received. This means that the council now only contribute to 25% of the discretionary disregard.
- 4.4 From April 2005, the WP and WWP schemes were closed to applicants who were injured or became a widower after this date and was replaced by the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). Payments from the AFCS were given a full statutory disregard in means tested benefits, including Housing Benefit.
- 4.5 The £10.00 disregard also applied to Council Tax Benefit, but when this was replaced by Local Council Tax Support Schemes (LCTSS) in 2013, the four sovereign councils in North Northamptonshire fully disregarded WP and WWP in their own local schemes. North Northamptonshire Council's LCTSS that was

implemented on 1st April 2021 also fully disregards this income when calculating entitlement to Local Council Tax Support.

- 4.6 Last year, as a part of the external audit of Housing Benefit Subsidy claims, councils were asked to provide evidence that they had passed resolutions disregarding WP and WWP. Many councils no longer had the documentation confirming the disregard due to this being over 20 years ago therefore auditors agreed to accept the historic position but insisted that councils re-affirmed their agreement to the disregard going forward. Without this the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will no longer subsidise 75% of the expenditure incurred due to disregarding this income.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1. Option 1 - Not to re-affirm the decision to disregard WP and WWP

Not re-affirming the disregard means that war pensioners and widowers will lose the discretionary disregard in their calculation of their Housing Benefit entitlement. As a result, most, if not all, will have to either pay some rent for the first time or pay more rent due to their Housing Benefit entitlement being reduced.

5.2. Option 2 - Re-affirm the decision the decision to disregard WP and WWP

Re-affirming the decision means that existing support for these customers in our community will continue as it is currently. In addition, the council will still be able to claim from the DWP 75% of the expenditure it incurs due to disregarding this income as the council will be able to demonstrate to the auditors that the disregard has been approved.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. It is requested that the Executive makes its recommendation to full Council at its meeting on 31st March 2022.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1 As before, there remains a financial cost to the Council, as it will bear 25% of the cost of the discretionary disregard. The headline figures, the amount funded by the DWP and the amount funded by the Council, are detailed below for 2020/21, an estimate is also provided for 2021/22.

Financial Year	Total Discretionary Disregard	Disregard Funded by the DWP	Disregard funded by the Council
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2020/21	£58,882	£44,162	£14,720
2021/22	£42,850	£32,138	£10,712

7.1.2 There will be no extra cost to the Council, as the amount funded by the Council has already been factored in as part of the budget setting process.

7.1.3 There may be some fluctuations over time, but the changes are likely to be minor, with an anticipated steady reduction in expenditure. This is because the WP and WWP schemes closed in 2005 and although it is still possible for people to apply to this scheme if their injuries arose before 2005, the numbers are expected to be extremely low.

7.1.4 There are no further staffing resources or ICT system changes required to continue with the disregard.

7.1.5 There are no transformational implications contained within this report.

7.2 Legal and Governance

7.2.1 Relevant legislation and implications are contained within the body of the report.

7.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

7.3.1 On 7th October 2021, the Council signed a national Covenant showing its commitment to supporting members of the Armed Forces community to ensure they are treated with fairness in all aspects of their life. Continuing to disregard WP and WWP will demonstrate continuing commitment to the Covenant.

7.4 Risk

7.4.1 As previously stated in 5.1, the risk of not re-affirming the disregard means that war pensioners and widowers will lose the discretionary disregard in the calculation of their Housing Benefit entitlement. As a result, most, if not all, will have to either pay some rent for the first time or pay more rent due to their Housing Benefit entitlement being reduced. Other than the financial impact, this is also likely to present a reputational risk to the Council.

7.5 Consultation

7.5.1 Consultation has not taken place.

7.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

7.6.1 This report has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

7.7 Consideration by Scrutiny

7.7.1 This report has not been considered by Scrutiny.

7.8 Equality Implications

7.8.1 An Equality Screening Assessment has been completed and no negative impacts on one or more equality groups have been identified.

7.9 Climate Impact

7.9.1 There is no impact on the climate as a result of the recommendation.

7.10 Community Impact

7.10.1 Removal of the disregard will have an impact on some of our community who are currently in receipt of either WP or WWP and Housing Benefit.

7.11 Crime and Disorder Impact

7.11.1 There is no impact on crime and disorder arising from the recommendation.

8 Background Papers

8.4 The Social Security Administration Act 1992
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/5/contents/enacted>

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EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Budget Forecast 2021/22 as at Period 10
Report Authors	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance Janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Savings Schedule

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The revenue budgets (2021/22) and Medium-Term Financial Plans for North Northamptonshire Council for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account were approved by the Shadow Authority at its meeting on 25th February 2021. The purpose of this report is to set out the forecast outturn position for the Council based on the Period 10 monitoring forecasts for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.
- 1.2. The monitoring report sets out the material financial issues identified since the 2021/22 budget was set in February 2021, based on the income and expenditure as at end of January 2022 (Period 10) and the views of the budget managers.
- 1.3. The report recognises that the forecast outturn position is based on indications of spend in a new Council. As previously reported, work is continuing to examine the spend and activity data, including the staffing details and forecasts,

against the available budgets to ensure that the position presented is robust. This has also helped to shape the medium-term financial plan.

- 1.4. Some areas remain unchanged from the previous report, however, the detail of those variations is included within the report for completeness.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report provides commentary on the Council's current forecast financial revenue outturn position for 2021/22 for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account. With the move to a new Unitary Council from 1st April 2021 and the continuing issues presented by COVID-19, financial forecasting remains challenging. The Council will continue to assess and refine the forecasts on a regular basis using the latest intelligence available. The forecast presented in the report is based on the best available data and information of the operations of the Council and the actual and potential impact of the pandemic. However, determining the outturn under the current circumstances presents an element of risk which will continue to be closely monitored during the financial year.
- 2.2 There are a number of areas which will impact on the forecast outturn that are still to be finalised. Most notably from a finance perspective these include the charging arrangements for the lead/host arrangements between West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council following the Local Government Reorganisation across the County. Therefore, these services remain forecast at budget at this stage with work continuing between the two authorities to confirm the charges.
- 2.3 The Council retains a level of contingency within the base budget, and this is referred to elsewhere in this report. The contingency can be used to manage risks including pressures that were unknown at the time the budget was set. At present the contingency is considered to be fully committed by year end, however, to the extent that the budget is not used then it can fall back to support the reserves position for future years.
- 2.4 Whilst there are draft balances on the reserves brought forward to the Council, these will not be complete until the accounts of its predecessor Councils are signed off. The draft outturn position for both Kettering Borough Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough were reported to this Committee on 26th August 2021. The draft accounts 2020/21 for Kettering Borough Council were presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 27th September and the reserves position previously reported to this Committee remains unchanged. The accounts for the Borough Council of Wellingborough were reported to the Audit and Governance Committee at the meeting on 8th November 2021 with the reserves position remaining unchanged.
- 2.5 The 2020/21 outturn position for both Corby Borough Council, East Northamptonshire Council and the County Council for 2020/21 were reported to this committee in November. The 2019/20 audit results for both Corby Borough Council and East Northamptonshire Council were reported to the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on 31st January 2022, with the results of the 2020/21 audit to follow.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive:
- a) Note the Council's forecast outturn position for 2021/22 as summarised in section 4, alongside the further analysis, risks and other considerations as set out from section 5 of the report onwards.
 - b) Note the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2021/22 savings proposals in Appendix A.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2021/22 as at Period 10 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.

4. Report Background

General Fund

- 4.1 The Council's Revenue Budget for 2020/21 was set at the meeting of the Shadow Authority in February 2021. The overall outturn forecast for the General Fund for 2021/22, as at Period 10 is a forecast underspend of £949k against the approved budget of £292.5m. This is summarised in the table below:

General Fund Forecast Outturn 2021/22			
	Net Budget	Forecast Position at 31/03/22	P10 Forecast Variance at 31/03/22
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Net Total Available Resources	292,505	292,505	0
Total Corporate Budgets	23,950	23,950	0
Children's & Education	59,498	59,498	0
Adults Communities & Wellbeing Services	120,581	121,200	619
Place & Economy	54,617	53,248	(1,369)
Enabling & Support Services	33,859	33,660	(199)
Total Directorate Budgets	268,555	267,606	(949)
Total Budget	292,505	291,556	(949)
Net Position 2021/22	0	(949)	(949)

- 4.2 The forecast underspend as at Period 10 of £949k is a favourable movement of £69k since the last report to Executive (Period 9) where an underspend of £880k was reported. The following table summarises the movement.

General Fund Forecast Movement (Period 9 v Period 10)				
	Report Reference	P9 Variance £000	Movement in Forecast £000	P10 Variance £000
Adults	5.13 – 5.34			
Adults – Commissioning	5.13 – 5.26	(227)	0	(227)
Adults – Public Health	5.27 – 5.29	596	0	596
Adults – Housing & Community	5.30 – 5.33	250	0	250
Place – Growth & Regeneration	5.39 – 5.42			
Place – Planning Service	5.39	372	108	480
Place – Temporary Toilets	5.40	36	0	36
Place – Markets	5.41	16	0	16
Place – Growth and Regeneration Other	5.42	45	96	141
Place – Assets & Environment	5.43 – 5.52			
Place – Car Parking Income	5.43 – 5.45	529	9	538
Place – Facilities Management	5.46 – 5.48	571	(76)	495
Place – Commercial Income	5.49	(655)	0	(655)
Place – Transport	5.50	(480)	0	(480)
Place – Assets & Environment Other	5.51 – 5.52	78	26	104
Place – Highways & Waste	5.53 – 5.69			
Place – Highways	5.53	331	0	331
Place – Waste Management	5.54 – 5.59	(1,211)	(48)	(1,259)
Place – Concessionary Travel	5.60 – 5.62	(842)	0	(842)
Place – Bus Service	5.63 – 5.66	22	(15)	7
Place – Transport	5.67 – 5.68	617	(7)	610
Place – Highways Other	5.69	(116)	0	(116)
Place – Regulatory	5.70 – 5.76			
Place – Emergency Planning	5.70 – 5.71	(556)	0	(556)
Place – Trading Standards	5.72	81	5	86
Place – Environmental Health	5.73	(143)	(31)	(174)
Place – Other Regulatory	5.74 – 5.76	(93)	(38)	(131)
Enabling Services	5.77 – 5.92	(101)	(98)	(199)
Total		(880)	(69)	(949)

Housing Revenue Account

- 4.3 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separate ring-fenced account within the Council for the income and expenditure associated with its housing stock. The HRA does not directly impact on the Council's wider General Fund budget or on the level of council tax. Income to the HRA is primarily received through the rents and other charges paid by tenants and leaseholders.
- 4.4 Within North Northamptonshire prior to 1st April 2021 there were two HRA accounts, covering the sovereign Councils of Kettering and Corby respectively. As part of the move to a single unitary council for North Northamptonshire, there was a statutory requirement to create a single HRA for the area. Whilst North

Northamptonshire Council must only operate one HRA it will, for a period of time, operate two separate Neighbourhood Accounts, these being:

- the Corby Neighbourhood Account - responsible for the stock that was managed by Corby Borough Council and
- the Kettering Neighbourhood Account - responsible for the stock that was managed by Kettering Borough Council.

4.5 The Council's overall outturn forecast for the Housing Revenue Account as at Period 10, is a forecast pressure of £116k (Period 9 £183k) against the approved budget of £35.150m. This will be managed through seeking mitigation in year or use of the HRA reserve. This is summarised in the table below and further details are set out in Section 7. It is important to note that this is subject to continual review.

Housing Revenue Account Forecast Outturn 2021/22				
Directorate	Expenditure	Income	Net	P10 Forecast Variance at 31/03/22
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Corby Neighbourhood Account	19,647	(19,647)	0	86
Kettering Neighbourhood Account	15,503	(15,503)	0	30
Net Position 2021/22	35,150	(35,150)	0	116

5. Overview of Forecast Position 2021/22

Available Resources and Corporate Costs

- 5.1 The Council is responsible for the collection of local taxes (Council Tax and Business Rates). At the end of January 2022, 93.10% of Council Tax had been collected. The Council has re-introduced debt collection procedures for Council Tax following their suspension during 2020/21 as a result of the uncertainties posed by COVID-19 at that time.
- 5.2 Business Rates collection is 87.03% at the end of January 2022. The sum of Business Rates collected is particularly impacted by the volatility of appeals and the effect of COVID-19. Currently, a number of businesses are in receipt of business rates relief and other financial support because of COVID-19. The Government for the first three months of the 2021/22 financial year (April to June) extended the 100% relief available throughout 2020/21 so that there is 100% business rate relief for properties in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors. From July 2021, those properties will get 66% relief until March 2022. The impact of extended retail relief and the change from 100% relief to 66% during the year, aligned with the need to reapply for relief, has lowered the collection rate at this point in time, however, it is expected that this will level out over the year. Further to this the Government has recently announced further reliefs for the hospitality and leisure sector to run until March 2022. This was reported to Executive at its meeting on 13th January 2022.

- 5.3 It is unknown how businesses will be affected in the longer term following the reduction / cessation of financial support. Further to this discretionary rate relief applications have been issued and the impact of the subsequent awards is likely to be positive on the collection rate.

Corporate Resources

- 5.4 The total net budget for Corporate Resources is £23.950m which consists of the contingency budget and budgets for treasury related costs.
- 5.5 The contingency budget is held to meet unforeseen or unplanned/unbudgeted costs. The balance on the contingency budget as at Period 10 is £3.619m which is unchanged to that reported in Period 9.

Directorate Budgets

- 5.6 This section of the report provides an analysis of the forecast variations against the 2021/22 General Fund for each of the Directorates as set out in the table at paragraph 4.2.

Children's and Education Services – Balanced

- 5.7 The net revenue budget for Children's Services is £59.498m which includes the Northamptonshire Children's Trust and Education Services not funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 5.8 The budgeted figure for the Children's Trust is £137.18m for 2021/22. This is split £60.57m (44%) to North Northamptonshire Council and £76.61m (56%) to West Northamptonshire Council. The original contract for the services of the Trust will run for 17 months to 31st March 2022. It is currently forecast that the outturn position for the Trust will be within the contract sum, which has been confirmed with the Trust.
- 5.9 The Children's and Education Services remaining in the Council include the Intelligent Client Function for the Northamptonshire Children's Trust and the Local Authority statutory education functions as listed below:
- Education Inclusion
 - Education Psychology
 - Support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
 - School Improvement
 - Virtual Schools (lead in the North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority)
 - School admissions and school place planning
 - Early Education and Child Care
- 5.10 The full year effect of prior year savings decisions already built into the budget is £1.7m with the bottom line having been adjusted to reflect this planned level of savings. The savings include improving the edge of care support and intervention (£400k), working to minimise the amount of time a child is in care (£300k), step down from high end residential placements to fostering placements (£200k), reduced requirement for inflation (£300k), reducing agency

staff (£100k) and capacity building within foster care (£400k). These services and savings are currently being delivered through Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

- 5.11 The forecast outturn is for a balanced budget across Children's and Education Services which includes the delivery of the savings targets. The situation is kept under review and the Finance Director for the Trust is meeting regularly with senior finance officers of both North and West Northamptonshire Councils to provide a detailed update on the budget position. The Children's Trust at the end of Period 10 is showing a pressure of £3.461m (across the County). This may, in part, be mitigated through bids for COVID related funding totalling £2.631m. These bids are currently being considered by both of the Unitary authorities. If the bids are successful, then the overspend would reduce to £830k, which would be met through the use of the carry forward reserve within the Trust and which relates to the period November 2020 to March 2021. However, if the bids are not successful, then any balance which cannot be funded through financial capacity and mitigations within the Trust will be met from Council resources, in line with the agreed funding arrangements. The main pressure item within the Trust's budget continues to relate to the numbers and costs for Looked After Children placements.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Directorate - Forecast overspend of £0.619m

- 5.12 The net revenue budget covers Adult Social Services, Community Services and Public Health and Wellbeing and totals £120.581m in 2021/22. Significant work continues to be undertaken to understand the likely ongoing commitment to packages of care within the Council following disaggregation and the impact of the pandemic. The details of the forecast are set out in the paragraphs which follow and are in line with those previously reported.

Adult Social Care, Safeguarding and Wellbeing and Commissioning and Performance Services – Forecast underspend £227k.

- 5.13 Under the 2014 Care Act, local authority Adults Services have a responsibility to make sure that people aged over 18 years who live in their areas are provided with personal day to day care (helping people get dressed, washed, going to the bathroom, eating etc.) where they cannot do things for themselves or access family support. The service also provides other physical or psychological support to people with disabilities in order to help them live a full life. The overriding responsibility is to keep people safe and protect them from harm or neglect.
- 5.14 Care can take in many forms and can be provided directly by the Council, through contracted organisations or families can receive a personal budget to buy suitable care for themselves. Although receiving formal or long-term care is subject to people meeting the Council's eligibility criteria, the service also has a key responsibility for helping people to stay independent and preventing or delaying the need for care.
- 5.15 The service has supported an uplift award ranging between 2.2% and 2.65% to care providers for providing care packages on framework rates during 2021/22, this is expected to cost approximately £1.2m during the year which has been

met through additional investment in Adult Social Care as part of the 2021/22 budget setting process.

- 5.16 At this point in the year, whilst there is some capacity for further net growth in care costs there remains a risk to the financial position from the volatility of demand predominantly due to underlying care conditions and the ongoing pressures on the care sector from the pandemic.
- 5.17 Within Adult Social Care there is £1.3m for demographic growth of which £0.3m relates to Mental Health Services; these are driven by the forecast number of additional clients requesting care. The past four years' growth in adult social care costs in Northamptonshire have tended to be driven by two factors, general market inflation (predominately wage related) and acute care needs for existing clients, rather than increased clients due to demographic changes. However, it is too early to confirm whether this trend will continue in North Northamptonshire.
- 5.18 COVID-19 has had a significant impact in Adult Care budgets with additional pressures forecast in 2021/22 of £4.6m of which £3.9m relates to CCG discharges in to care facilities as part of the rapid response discharge process from hospital and £0.7m relates to pressures within the Mental Health Pooled Fund. There are budgeted care related savings of £4.4m proposed to be delivered by Adult Social Care in 2021/22. Prior year savings of £2.1m are also assumed to be delivered. The 2020/21 savings were not achieved in full due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, however due to a revised phasing methodology adopted as part of the 2021/22 budget proposals this has partly been mitigated down to £1.1m, and it is currently forecast that these will be met in 2021/22. The position will continue to be monitored throughout the year.
- 5.19 The existing savings programme includes saving proposals being delivered over a number of financial years. These include savings proposals that formed part of the Future Northants Transformation Programme covering:
- Admissions Avoidance Service (£1.9m), which is a new service (initially funded by the business rates pilot fund) provided by Adult Social Care with health partners. The Admission Avoidance care model focuses on patients/clients presenting at acute hospitals with relevant conditions who can be rapidly assessed, diagnosed and treated without being admitted to a ward, if clinically safe to do so. Currently the Crises Response Team supports the back door discharges at the acute hospitals, where Admission Avoidance will focus on the significant opportunity to provide care on/at the front door to avoid hospital admissions and care costs increases client outcomes. These savings have been adversely impacted in 2021/22 as a result of COVID-19, however they have been mitigated in part through early discharge income.
 - Strength Based Working Project (£2.2m) which is the Transformation of Adults Services pathways and processes to ensure focus on client outcomes, independence, better decision making, and best practice approaches reduce delays and spend.
- 5.20 Additional savings for 2021/22 total £0.6m and cover Learning Disability Provider Framework efficiencies, Specialist centre for Step down Care Mental

Health and Acquired brain injury, Prevention contract cessation/redesign and Sheltered Housing Contracts cessation/redesign.

- 5.21 The current forecast is a £227k underspend against budget as set out in the paragraphs which follow. However, it should be noted that further work is being undertaken within the service to review the service users assigned from the County to each of the successor Councils (North and West) at vesting day as well as the potential care commitments that are included within the position as both may impact on the forecast.
- 5.22 Specialist and Complex - Mental Health - forecast underspend of £1.5m. This is the result of clients transferring from the Mental Health Pool previously managed by the CCG and which Northamptonshire County Council gave notice to withdraw from the pool arrangements as at 31 March 2021. The disaggregation of the County Council budget was based on an initial analysis of the ordinary residence of 40% of the pool clients which suggested that the mix of pool clients included 45% to North Northamptonshire. However, analysis of the actual clients transferred is currently at c30% and therefore is forecasting an underspend against the allocated budget. Obviously, this service, like most services within Adult Social Care, is subject to demand fluctuation.
- 5.23 Specialist and Complex - Older People - there is a forecast pressure of £2.1m (variance of 3% against budget) against older people services which is related to the mix (costs) of clients and the number of clients, within this financial year compared to the bought forward disaggregated budget from 2020/21.
- 5.24 Specialist and Complex - Mental Health - there is a forecast underspend of £0.5m related to underlying Adults only Mental Health clients (non-pool) due to reduced number of actual clients being provided a service by the Council compared to the disaggregation analysis. The original disaggregation assumed 59% of the Countywide clients would be North Northamptonshire clients but to date c46% have transferred to the Council.
- 5.25 Additional income of £227k has been received from health partners to cover the first 4 weeks of care following hospital discharge covering costs already forecast within Older Persons Residential & Nursing care.
- 5.26 Other variances across the directorate total a forecast £0.1m underspend.

Public Health – Forecast pressure £596k

- 5.27 Public Health and Wellbeing is currently leading Northamptonshire's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The gross expenditure budget is funded by Public Health England.
- 5.28 The service is working with a number of funding streams that have been made available as a result of COVID-19 such as the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The potential commitments against such funding streams are influenced by the incidence of COVID-19 cases which may change the priority and profile of spend against this funding.

- 5.29 A forecast pressure of £0.596m is reported and this reflects the split between grant and expenditure following disaggregation of the Public Health budget, this remains unchanged from that previously reported.

Housing and Community Services – Forecast pressure £250k

- 5.30 Housing and Community Services includes provision of housing services and support for homeless people. It also includes libraries, cultural facilities (such as museums, theatres, art galleries and heritage sites), sports and leisure facilities (such as swimming pools, tennis courts, golf, playing pitches, indoor courts/sports halls etc), archaeological archiving and activities and access to parks and open spaces for play and recreation. The Service is also responsible for community grants as well as providing education and outreach services and advice and support. The forecast remains in line with the previous report.
- 5.31 There is a forecast £0.1m pressure related to staffing costs within Housing, Homelessness and Community Leisure services due to the high level of temporary staff currently employed covering permanent posts due to a number of factors such as vacancies, maternity leave, etc. This is being reviewed by the service at present and exploring ways of mitigating costs.
- 5.32 The forecast also includes a pressure of £0.6m related to a reduction of income for leisure services mainly at the Corby International Pool (£0.3m) and Corby Lodge Park Sports Centre (£0.2m) with a further £0.1m in other areas, due to the current restrictions on visitor numbers. This is in part offset by lower staff costs which are estimated to be around £0.2m. The service has made a claim against COVID-19 funding which is available from Government until the end of June. This will reduce the pressure by £250k which has been included in the forecast.
- 5.33 The Chester House Estate has now had a successful go-live event. The revised Business Plan had projected a £115k pressure in the first six months of trading to the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The latest forecast indicates a position closer to breakeven, which will not require the use of contingency as planned, however West Northamptonshire Council has confirmed its intention to withdraw from the service as of 23rd October 2021 and there will be a reduction in contributions as a result, which will be met by North Northamptonshire Council. This shortfall will be around £99k for a full year and will amount to £41k for 2021/22 the use of the contingency has been reduced by £74k to reflect these changes.

Place and Economy - £1.369m Underspend

- 5.34 The Place and Economy net budget totals £54.617m and is forecasting an underspend of £1.369m, which is an adverse movement of £29k from Period 9. Place and Economy covers the following four areas:
- Growth and Regeneration
 - Assets and Environment
 - Highways and Waste
 - Regulatory Services

- 5.35 Services within Asset and Capital Management include the management of the Council's corporate assets and capital programmes, together with the effective management of the Council's strategic assets and landholdings.
- 5.36 Other key components within Place and Economy are Waste Management, Highways and Transportation, (including the Streetlighting PFI), Economic Development, Infrastructure and Funding, Trading Standards and Flood and Water Management.
- 5.37 Within Place the key budgets affected by demand/volumes are Home to School Transport, Concessionary Fares and Waste Disposal and Collection. The Directorate also includes responsibility for the Council's commercial estate which will often be influenced by economic conditions.
- 5.38 The Service has a forecast underspend of £1.435m which consists of the following main movements as outlined in the paragraphs below

Growth & Regeneration – £673k Pressure

Planning Fees Income - £480k Pressure

- 5.39 Income from Planning Fees is forecast to be lower than budget, the forecast pressure is £38k this is unchanged from Period 9. Consultancy & legal costs remain unchanged from Period 9 with a forecast pressure of £76k. Staffing pressures relating to Development Management due to agency costs covering vacant posts and increased workload across the service has increased the forecast by £108k from £258k in Period 9 to £366k. This is an area that remains difficult to predict in the current economic climate and is one that will continue to be closely monitored. Overall, this results in an increase pressure of £108k from Period 9.

Temporary Toilets - £36k Pressure

- 5.40 During COVID-19 temporary toilets were set up at Meadow Road in Kettering and these are expected to remain until the end of the year resulting in an additional pressure of £36k (Period 9 was £36k).

Markets - £16k Pressure

- 5.41 The responsibility for the markets is being transferred to Kettering Town Council (KTC) and the net impact is forecast to be around £16k, unchanged from last month, as the costs associated with managing the market will also transfer to Kettering Town Council.

Minor Variances - £141k Pressure

- 5.42 Other minor variances relating to Growth and Regeneration amount to £141k in Period 10.

Assets and Environment – £2k Overspend

Car Parking Income - £538k Pressure

- 5.43 As previously reported in Period 9 there was a forecast pressure for car parking income in relation to Kettering following the suspension of charges for a number of months, this pressure remains the same in Period 10 at £158k. Car Parking charges were reintroduced from 9th August following the removal of COVID-19 restrictions on 19 July.
- 5.44 There is also a forecast net pressure in Period 10 of £135k (Period 9 £135k) for Corby car parking income as, although charging is in place, receipts have been lower than would normally be expected. The Council will seek support from the Government Scheme to reimburse Local Authorities for lost income which is paid at 75% once the Council has met losses equivalent to 5% of the budget. This funding is only payable in respect of claims for losses in the first quarter of 2021/22 and is not available where Councils have chosen to suspend car parking charges. This is reflected in the forecast net pressure. There is a further pressure of £35k (Period 9 £26k) relating to additional costs for maintenance work at the car parks in Corby.
- 5.45 The forecast pressure on the number of Fixed Penalty Charges for on-street parking in Period 10 is estimated to be £210k (Period 9 £210k).

Facilities Management - £495k Pressure

- 5.46 There is a reduction in income due to the expiry of a lease at Eaton Walk in May 2021. The year-to-date impact of this is a loss of income is £143k (Period 9 £143k). In addition, there is an underspend on street lighting of £16k (Period 9 £28k), offset by minor pressures elsewhere in the service of £75k (Period 9 £18k). This reflects a saving on the budget for repairs and maintenance works.
- 5.47 Further pressures in facilities management relating to one-off maintenance at Grosvenor House and Corby Cube were identified amounting to £108k. In addition, this is offset through salary and lower running costs of £145k.
- 5.48 There are pressures of £330k (Period 9 £330k) relating to Knuston Hall which is a facility which provides various types of learning, both residential and day courses, for international and national customers. Over the past two years of the pandemic Knuston Hall has suffered losses of income due to lockdown and COVID-19 rules for indoor gatherings etc. The facility is now providing a greatly reduced service because of social distancing rules and clients moving to virtual meetings, with maintenance issues also requiring the closure of the site to overnight guests. The facility is expected to return to normal trading during 2022/23.

Commercial Income - £655k Underspend

- 5.49 The Council's commercial estate remains an important source of income to the Authority as well as providing a good basis for regeneration and increasing economic activity and jobs creation. The Council's Property Management Team continue to work closely with tenants and despite the challenging economic

climate the commercial income portfolio is forecast to be around £655k better than budget (Period 9 £655k).

Transport - £480k Underspend

- 5.50 Additional income of £480k was identified in relation to identifying dedicated routes across North Northamptonshire which aim to aid traffic flow in Wellingborough, this remains unchanged in Period 10.

Other Assets & Environment Areas - £104k Pressure

- 5.51 A pressure of £89k (Period 9 £75k) for fleet costs has been identified, although fuel consumption remains broadly on budget the cost of fuel has increased.
- 5.52 Minor Variances for Assets and Environment amount to £15k in Period 10 (£3k Period 9).

Highways and Waste – £1.269m Underspend

Highways and Traffic Management - £331k Pressure

- 5.53 There is a forecast pressure of £24k relating to highways and grass verge maintenance, this remains unchanged to that reported in Period 9. Additional pressures include Street lighting £84k (Period 9 £84k), winter maintenance £89k (Period 9 £89k) and additional maintenance work of £134k delivered through the Highways Contract (Period 9 £134k).

Waste Management - £1.259m Underspend

- 5.54 There is a forecast net underspend of £95k (Period 9 £149k) on the Refuse and Recycling Collection Service across the Kettering and Corby areas. This comprises a projected saving of £259k on co-mingled waste and a projected saving of £19k on food waste due to reduced gate fees. This is partly offset by pressures on garden waste of £121k due to a higher gate fee and a pressure of £62k as the Council previously received an income stream for paper.
- 5.55 There is a total net underspend (overachievement of income) of £359k in Period 10 (Period 9 - £304k) from waste income, this results from forecast additional income for Kettering and Corby trade waste of £216k (Period 9 £216k), additional recycling income of £203k (Period 9 £202k) and additional bulk waste income of £145k (£97k Period 9); these are partially offset by additional costs of £6k (Period 9 £13k) relating to East Northamptonshire area trade waste and £199k relating to an increase in disposal costs for the Wellingborough area (Period 9 £199k).
- 5.56 There is work being undertaken to migrate the Wellingborough disposal service from Norse into an inhouse function. Migration costs are currently estimated to be around £130k (Period 9 £100k) which have been reflected in the forecast outturn position.
- 5.57 The Waste Management service is also forecasting an underspend of £297k (Period 9 £272k) due to lower than anticipated tonnages for:

- Domestic waste £165k
- Hazardous Waste £79k
- Closed landfill sites £53k

5.58 There are savings relating to Street cleansing staff of £98k (Period 9 £107k) due to a higher number of vacant posts.

5.59 The Housing Waste Recycling Centres are forecasting an underspend of £540k (Period 9 £479k). The variances relate to;

- Basket price of commodities £273k
- Transportation efficiencies from haulage contractors £82k
- Income from Permits £26k
- Disaggregation savings £195k
- Staffing savings £29k
- Additional Site Opening £37k pressure, and
- Traffic signage pressure £28k

Concessionary Fares - £842k Underspend

5.60 The Department for Transport had requested that authorities continue to reimburse bus operators based on the average number of journeys in the winter months prior to the COVID-19 outbreak (December 2019 to February 2020).

5.61 The alternative is that the Council reverts to paying bus operators on the actual number of journeys. Reimbursing bus operators based on the average rather than the actual usage is estimated to be between £500k and £700k higher. The Council's support to the bus industry helps safeguard local bus services for residents throughout the pandemic and during the recovery period. This approach was agreed by the Executive at the meeting on 26th August. The estimated underspend is £242k (Period 9 - £242k).

5.62 Further to this it is forecast that the Council will underspend against the budget determined through the disaggregation principles by around £0.6m.

Subsidised Bus Services - £9k Underspend

5.63 There is a forecast underspend of £9k which is a movement of £15k from Period 9 where a £6k pressure was reported this reflects a forecast pressure of £6k on subsidised bus services due to the potential difference between the anticipated cost of the service and the funding available from parish councils, S106 developer contributions and Bus Services Ring-Fenced Grant and a £15k saving on lower IT costs.

Bus Service W8 Wollaston and Bozeat: Local Bus Contract - £16k Pressure

5.64 The operator informed the Transport Authority that the service is no longer commercially viable and without subsidy, it will withdraw the service. Furthermore, the driver shortage situation that is reported nationally has affected the service locally, whereby it may not be able to provide a service even

with subsidy from the Council. Therefore, the operator submitted a formal notice of intention to terminate the service on 15th November 2021.

- 5.65 In order to find an alternative operator, a tendering exercise under the Northamptonshire County Council Local Bus Services Framework was conducted and has generated a compliant bid from Stagecoach Midlands. In a subsidy-based bid, they have requested £139/day from the Council to support the service. Under this agreement, they will retain all on-bus revenue as a subsidy-based arrangement.
- 5.66 In accordance with the Constitution the requirement for an urgent decision was agreed between the Executive Director of Finance (S151 Officer) and the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation to provide funding up to £16,263 to the operator of the Bus Service W8 between Wollaston, Bozeat and Wellingborough to cover the period from 20th October 2021 (or as soon as reasonably practical to start the service after this date) to 1st April 2022.

Transport - £610k Pressure

- 5.67 Transport pressures include a contract management pressure of £158k (£158k Period 9). Loss of income from roundabout sponsorship remains unchanged from Period 9 at £11k. In addition, there is a pressure on the Home to school transport of £740k due to higher student numbers and vehicle related costs. (Period 9 £740k) due to two items, namely, walking routes which have not been completed as initially envisaged when setting the budget, leading to a pressure of £232k from unachievable savings, together with a £508k pressure due to confirmed higher pupil numbers.
- 5.68 These pressures have been partially offset by a number of underspends, these relate to staffing savings of £28k and Bridge Maintenance, hire of skips and scaffolding of £68k. In addition, savings have been identified in relation to disaggregation of Highways amounting to c£203k

Other Highways and Waste - £116k Underspend

- 5.69 As part of the disaggregation process a budget of £125k remains unallocated and is forecast to be underspent. A £9k pressure reflects minor variances within Highways and Waste.

Regulatory Services – £775k Underspend

Emergency Planning - £556k Underspend

- 5.70 There is an underspend of £276k for emergency planning due to higher-than-expected staff turnover. The underspend remains unchanged from Period 9.
- 5.71 In Period 9 a favourable variance of £280k was identified as costs previously relating to PPE and funded through emergency planning are covered through COVID-19 funding.

Trading Standards - £86k Pressure

- 5.72 There is a pressure of £86k for trading standards (£81k Period 9), this is due to increased costs of £99k for a new Trading Standards Database; partially offset by costs recovered from a fraud prosecution case of £21k. There is also a net pressure of £8k due to the impact of the disaggregation.

Environmental Health - £174k underspend

- 5.73 Staffing vacancy savings of £201k (Period 9 £170k), partially offset by a pressure of £27k (£27k Period 9) from reduced income for training courses.

Other Regulatory Services - £131k underspend

- 5.74 Savings were identified in relation to Licensing amounting to £256k (Period 9 £182k) reflecting staffing savings due to vacant posts.
- 5.75 These savings have been partially offset by £93k relating to maintenance costs at Wellingborough Doddington of £40k and utility charges at Kettering Crematorium of £53k in Bereavement Services
- 5.76 A number of smaller savings amounting to £32k account for the remaining variance

Enabling and Support Services - £199k underspend

- 5.77 Enabling and Support Services consists of the following main grouping of services which also includes a number of corporate budget areas:

- Finance, Procurement and Revenues and Benefits Service
- Human Resources, Legal and Democratic Services
- Transformation, ICT and Customer Services

- 5.78 Overall, for these services the net revenue budget is £33.865m in 2021/22. Currently there is a forecast saving of £434k (Period 9 - £101k) which is set out in the following paragraphs.

- 5.79 There is a forecast pressure of £534k (Period 9 £534k) relating to income assumptions within the treasury management function. This is due to two pressures which have arisen following the disaggregation of the County Council's budget, the first is a budget for the capitalisation of interest of £282k, the second variance relate to interest on equity of £212k both remain unchanged from Period 9. Both areas of income are no longer considered achievable and will become a pressure in 2021/22 and the longer term. In addition there is a £40k shortfall in the investment income forecast which assumes that the historically low interest rates will continue throughout the year.

- 5.80 Work is ongoing to mitigate budget pressures through reviewing the council's investment portfolio and seeking further opportunities.

- 5.81 The Revenue and Benefits Service are forecasting an overspend of £17k at the end Period of 10 which is a movement of £50k from Period 9 where an underspend of £33k was reported. The Council received additional New Burdens Grant of £127k from Government for the distribution of grants. The

remaining variance relates to the under recovery of court costs of £345k, offset by additional income relating to the business rates cost of collection of £53k. The under recovery of court costs reflects the decision the Council made in not taking recovery action for Council Tax arrears in the first quarter of the financial year, leaving a shortfall against the budget. Recovery commenced in quarter two of this year. The additional income for business rates cost of collection reflects the position calculated for the annual estimated return to Government, which was higher than the prior year legacy budgets on which the 2021/22 budget was based. This is further offset by additional grant income of £148k for the Housing Benefit Administration Grant which was higher than the prior year legacy budgets on which the 2021/22 budget was based.

- 5.82 During Period 5 an ongoing levy of £31k was identified in relation to the management of historic insurance liabilities associated with the former Councils within North Northamptonshire through Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI). This remains unchanged in Period 10.
- 5.83 Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) is the body a number of local authorities have used to appoint external auditors. The revenue PSAA receives covers the costs of its auditors and operating expenses. As PSAA operates on a not-for-profit basis surplus funds are redistributed to those authorities who opted into the PSAA, this amounts to one off income for the Council of £41k. This has been offset by a £10k pressure which relates to additional audit fees for the Kettering audit in 2018/19 due to additional work carried out by the external auditors in relation to valuations and pensions. The fee is set by the PSAA.
- 5.84 During Period 9 additional Income of £84k was identified in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant. This income variance reflects the Council's Statutory and Regulatory duties in this area and remains unchanged in Period 10.
- 5.85 The required level of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2021/22 has been reviewed, together with the provisional slippage of the capital programme in 2020/21 from the legacy authorities, realising a potential underspend of £500k.
- 5.86 The contingency budget is held to meet unforeseen or unplanned/unbudgeted costs. The balance on contingency budget for Period 10 is £3.619m which is unchanged to that reported in Period 9.
- 5.87 North Northamptonshire Council has a dedicated transformation team working to deliver the changes required in the North to bring services together effectively and move towards more efficient operating models for services. This will include reviewing how the Council interacts with its customers, residents, partners and other stakeholders and will involve contractual arrangements, opportunities to expand and enhance the digital experience and realising property efficiencies, thereby reducing costs and improving services going forward.
- 5.88 As approved within the 2021/22 budget the service is, in the main, funded through a time limited contribution from reserves. Any variance against the £2.3m budget will be met through an adjustment to the movement to or from reserves.

- 5.89 A review of all income budgets within the Transformation Directorate is underway, with £300k already being identified as unachievable in relation to ex LGSS income budgets for business systems and change management. These budgets were allocated between Councils as part of the general disaggregation principles for the County Council's budget. This has now been reflected as a pressure within the ICT budget.
- 5.90 There is an estimated underspend of £605k (Period 9 - £400k) in relation to in year transformation salaries and customer services. This reflects the significant level of vacancies held by those teams during 2021/22, plans are in place to recruit to the majority of these vacancies.
- 5.91 The ICT budget is forecasting a pressure of £143k (Period 9 £75k). This is in relation to a historical budget pressure inherited from a legacy borough in relation to contract inflation and remote support from a contract with Capita.
- 5.92 There are other savings which amount to £4k this is a movement of £11k from Period 9 where a pressure of £7k was reported.

Summary of General Fund Savings Delivery

- 5.93 The Council had a savings requirement of £19.161m (including income proposals) within its 2021/22 budget. The deliverability of these proposals is being monitored by each accountable service lead, budget manager and senior officer up to Service Director level. These are summarised in the following Table and full details are provided in **Appendix A**. It is recognised that the continuing numbers of COVID-19 cases may put some savings at risk particularly with regard to Adult Social Care. Where there is concern regarding the achievement of savings mitigations are being sought. The position is unchanged from Period 9.

	Children's & Education	Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Services	Place and Economy	Enabling & Support Services	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Service Savings					
Demographic/ service demand	0	(25)	(2,817)	(750)	(3,592)
Legislative changes	0	0	0	(356)	(356)
Full year effects of previous decisions	(1,706)	(8,637)	(452)	(723)	(11,518)
Pay	(113)	(46)	0	(667)	(826)
Technical changes	(142)	0	(383)	0	(525)
LGR	0	(44)	0	(2,300)	(2,344)
Service Savings	(1,961)	(8,752)	(3,652)	(4,796)	(19,161)

6. Housing Revenue Account

- 6.1 Within North Northamptonshire prior to 1st April 2021 there were two HRA accounts, covering the sovereign Councils of Kettering and Corby respectively. As part of the move to a single unitary council for North Northamptonshire, there was a statutory requirement to create a single HRA for the area. Whilst North Northamptonshire Council must only operate one HRA it will, for a period of time, operate two separate Neighbourhood Accounts, these being.
- 6.2 The forecast position for the Corby Neighbourhood Account at the end of Period 10 shows a pressure of £86k which is a reduction of £88k from Period 9 (£174k). Rental income from dwellings is forecast to be £92k less than budget – this is a result of the Right to Buy Sales and the void rates being higher than budgeted. There is also a pressure of £44k from lower service charge income. These pressures are partly offset by salary savings from vacant posts within General Management (£16k) and Special Services (£45k).

Corby Neighbourhood Account			
	Current Budget 2021/22	Projection P10 2021/22	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
INCOME			
Rents - Dwellings Only	18,956	18,864	92
Service Charges	622	578	44
HRA Investment Income	69	69	0
Total Income	19,647	19,511	136
EXPENDITURE			
Repairs and Maintenance	5,550	5,556	6
General Management	5,176	5,160	(16)
HRA Self Financing	12,963	12,963	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital	3,791	3,791	0
Transfer To / (From) Reserves	(8,946)	(8,946)	0
Special Services	692	647	(45)
Other	421	426	5
Total Expenditure	19,647	19,597	(50)
Net Operating Expenditure	0	86	86

- 6.3 The forecast position for the Kettering Neighbourhood Account at the end of Period 10 shows a pressure of £30k which is an increase of £21k to that reported in Period 9 (£9k). Rental income from dwellings is forecast to be £45k less than budget – this is a result of higher void rates than budgeted and there is also a pressure of £19k from lower service charge income. These pressures are partly offset by savings of £34k in General Management which relate to salary savings due to vacant posts.

Kettering Neighbourhood Account			
	Current Budget 2021/22	P10 Projection 2021/22	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
INCOME			
Rents - Dwellings Only	15,066	15,021	45
Service Charges	430	411	19
HRA Investment Income	7	7	0
Total Income	15,503	15,439	64
EXPENDITURE			
Repairs and Maintenance	3,964	3,964	0
General Management	2,784	2,750	(34)
HRA Self Financing	4,585	4,585	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital	2,632	2,632	0
Transfer To / (From) Reserves	(119)	(119)	0
Special Services	1,111	1,111	0
Other	546	546	0
Total Expenditure	15,503	15,469	(34)
Net Operating Expenditure	0	30	30

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The forecast underspend as at Period 10 is £949k which is an favourable movement of £69k since Period 9 where an underspend of £880k was reported.
- 7.2 The key risks which are set out in the report will continue to be monitored and mitigations sought as required throughout 2021/22. The achievement of the approved savings targets is also integral to this process and will continue to be closely monitored and reported. Further work is ongoing in a number of areas to strengthen the forecast, most notably related to the disaggregation of the budget and services from the County Council.
- 7.3 The prior year outturn position and accounts of the predecessor Councils are yet to be reported and formally signed off. The Council may be required to consider any legacy issues arising as a result of the closedown and subsequent audits. Further updates relating to this will be provided at future meetings of the Executive.
- 7.4 The Council holds a contingency budget of c£3.6m as referenced in paragraph 5.86. This will support unforeseen risks and is particularly important for a new Council, where a number of transactions remain to be actioned to enable a full year of operation to be assessed, and also at a time of increased uncertainty as COVID-19 continues to impact.

8. Implications (including financial implications)

Finance and Transformation

- 8.1 The resource and financial implications of North Northamptonshire Council are set out in this report. The current forecast position for the General Fund is an underspend of £949k and the Housing Revenue Account is forecasting an overspend of £116k.
- 8.2 The Council retains a contingency for in-year, unfunded requirements. If the contingency is not utilised, then it can be used to replenish reserves for greater resilience and/or future use.
- 8.3 Transformation is integral to service change, including the continuing programme of service disaggregation between West Northamptonshire Council and this Council. The work of transformation is designed not only to help deliver service improvement but also to do this within available resources. As stated in this report, North Northamptonshire Council has a dedicated transformation team working to deliver the changes required to bring services together effectively and move towards more efficient operating models for services. This will include reviewing how the Council interacts with its customers, residents, partners and other stakeholders and will involve contractual arrangements, opportunities to expand and enhance the digital experience and realising property efficiencies, thereby reducing costs and improving services going forward.
- 8.4 The Council's programme of transformation has previously been reported to Executive at its meeting on 23 December 2021.

Legal

- 8.5 The provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 set out requirements for the Council to set a balanced budget with regard to the advice of its Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer).
- 8.6 The robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the proposed reserves were considered under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 prior to the Shadow Authority agreeing its 2021/22 budget.

Risk

- 8.7 The deliverability of the 2021/22 Revenue Budget is monitored by Budget Managers. However, it is acknowledged that the Council's budget has been arrived at through using a number of disaggregation methodologies from the predecessor County Council budget rather than being built up over a period of time and as such there are inherent risks in the forecast position as the actual activity for North Northamptonshire takes place during the year which may not directly align to the split within the disaggregation.

- 8.8 Where any variances or emerging pressures are identified during the year then mitigating actions will be sought and management interventions undertaken.
- 8.9 Details of pressures, risks and mitigating actions implemented will be provided as part of the finance monitoring reports as the year progresses. The main risks identified include demand led services such as Adult Social Care, commercial income which is at risk due to the prolonged impact of COVID-19 and the continuing review of budgets disaggregated from the County Council against actual/likely commitments both expenditure and income.
- 8.10 The staffing budget is a significant part of this review and officers are working to ensure that funded posts and associated costs are understood and within budget. Controls are in place with regard to approval of recruitment requests whilst the budgets are reviewed.
- 8.11 The Council holds a contingency and a number of reserves to help safeguard against the risks inherent within the budget for 2021/22. Where required pressures and other movements were included as part of the Council's 2022/23 budget and medium-term financial plan approved by Council at its meeting on 24th February 2022.

Consultation

- 8.12 The 2021/22 budget was subject to consultation prior to approval by the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority in February 2021.

Climate Impact

- 8.13 Among the new Council's priorities will be putting in place plans to improve the local environment and tackle the ongoing climate emergency. Where these have a financial impact then it will be reflected in the budget.

Community Impact

- 8.14 No distinct community impacts have been identified because of the proposals included in this report.

9. Issues and Choices

- 9.1 The report focuses on the forecast revenue outturn against budget for 2021/22 and makes recommendations for the Executive to note the current budgetary position as such there are no specific choices within the report.

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 The following background papers can be considered in relation to this report.

Final Budget 2021/22 and Medium-Term Financial Plans, including the Council Tax Resolution, North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority, 25 February 2021.

Monthly Budget Forecast Reports to the Executive.

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Budget Savings

Directorate	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	Proposal Ref	Category	2021/22 £000	RAG
Children & Education	Improvement in capacity building in foster care	Ensuring that adolescents are not placed in residential home settings due to lack of in house fostering capacity, skill and abilities through the development of an in house specialist fostering service. Positive impact on children placed in a family setting, and savings will through reduced reliance on residential placements.	04-02-02-01	Full year effects of previous decisions	(458)	A
Children & Education	Reducing Reliance on Agency Staff	A proposal to increase the proportion of permanent staffing within the Children's Trust, reducing reliance on agency staff, through a refreshed Workforce Strategy and Quality Assurance Framework that creates a stable and effective workforce.	04-02-02-02	Full year effects of previous decisions	(115)	A
Children & Education	Reduction in Residential Care	Step down from high end residential places to Independent Fostering Agencies through reviews and joint working/incentives that drive better outcomes. This will drive reduced placement costs and more children will be cared for in a family setting.	04-02-02-03	Full year effects of previous decisions	(179)	A
Children & Education	Improved children's outcomes	Ensuring that only children and young people who need to be in public care are placed, as a result of improved Edge of care support and intervention with families. Working towards minimising the amount of time a child is in care before they are united with their parents.	04-02-02-04	Full year effects of previous decisions	(301)	A
Children & Education	Supported Accommodation	A new model of progressive semi-independent accommodation to support the transition for young people to self-supported housing.	04-02-02-05	Full year effects of previous decisions	(85)	A
Children & Education	In-House Foster Carers	Increase use of in-house fostering through an improved recruitment and retention strategy for standard carers. This will reduce reliance on agency placement.	04-02-02-06	Full year effects of previous decisions	(194)	A
Children & Education	Transport optimisation	Review of transport requirements to reduce costs to ensure an efficient use of service.	04-02-02-07	Full year effects of previous decisions	(97)	A
Children & Education	UASC	Changes to the Council subsidy required in addition to Home Office funding of support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and former UASC (those aged 18 and over). (Ref 04-02-01-02)	04-02-02-08	Full year effects of previous decisions	(277)	A
Children & Education	Innovate Team and PIP (Partners in Practice) team	Removal of one off expenditure for additional social worker capacity in the duty and assessment team throughout April-May 2020 to safely manage current demand and stabilise the service, and an extension of the Court Team throughout April-June 2020 as provided by Partners in Practice to ensure skills transfer and an exit strategy are in place.	05-02-02-02	Pay	(113)	A
Children & Education	Family Group Conferencing	Removal of one off funding in respect of DfE grant funding for the Supporting Families: investing in practice programme. The DfE are working with a number of local authorities, including NCC, to test a model of Family Group Conferencing to gather robust and usable evidence on the effectiveness in keeping children and parents together.	06-02-02-01	Technical changes	(142)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Library Book Fund	Reduction in budget spent on book supplies for libraries - reflection of move to on line resources	03-01-02-01	Demographic/service demand	(25)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Library Agency Staff	Removal of budget only required during transformation period	03-01-02-02	Pay	(46)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Theatre Interim Mgt Costs	Reduction in Contract Costs relating to the Castle Theatre	04-01-02-01	Full year effects of previous decisions	(8)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Specialist centre for – Step down Care Mental Health and Acquired brain injury	Moray Lodge development providing specialist and step down supported living for people with an acquired brain Injury and mental health support needs.	04-01-02-02	Full year effects of previous decisions	(154)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Rapid response falls & admission avoidance service	A new service (initially funded by business rate pilot fund) provided by health, social care and East Midlands Ambulance Service providing support following falls in the home to reduce hospital admissions and likelihood of long term social care.	04-01-02-03	Full year effects of previous decisions	(1,918)	R
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Strengths based working	Transformation of adult social care pathways and processes to ensure focus on client outcomes, independence, better decision making and best practice approaches to reduce delays and spend.	04-01-02-04	Full year effects of previous decisions	(2,153)	A

Directorate	Proposal Title	Proposal Description	Proposal Ref	Category	2021/22 £000	RAG
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Rebaselining	This reduction in care budgets is to realign the base budget to the position reported for 20-21, where the service has seen a reduced demand against original budget.	04-01-02-05	Full year effects of previous decisions	(3,209)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Prevention contract cessation/redesign	The new adult social care Target Operating Model has resulted in the decision to cease (following their termination dates expiring) a number of contracts. These services will now be delivered through an overarching approach to service delivery.	04-01-02-06	Full year effects of previous decisions	(149)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Sheltered Housing Contracts cessation/redesign	The adult social care Target Operating Model has resulted in the decision to cease (following their termination dates expiring) a number of sheltered housing contracts. These services will now be delivered through an overarching approach to service delivery.	04-01-02-07	Full year effects of previous decisions	(71)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Independent Care - Physical Disability	Rebaselining based on latest monitoring position against the Physical Disability cohort budget.	04-01-02-08	Full year effects of previous decisions	(762)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Learning Disability Provider Framework efficiencies	Review activity to support progression for people with a Learning Disability, including implementation of new provider framework with improved pricing strategy, outcomes and incentivised step down	04-01-02-09	Full year effects of previous decisions	(213)	A
Adults, Communities & Wellbeing	Housing Options Saving	Saving relating to the harmonisation of the Housing Options Allocation System	08-03-02-03	LGR	(44)	A
Place & Economy	additional income	Additional income from fees and charges relating to additional demand	03-06-02-01	Demographic/service demand	(230)	A
Place & Economy	Home to School Transport Demography	Change required reflecting the population trend in the county. Trend analysis has been used to provide a forecast position. (Ref 03-06-01-03)	03-06-02-02	Demographic/service demand	(22)	G
Place & Economy	Recycling Credits	Realignment of Recycling Credits Budget	03-06-02-03	Demographic/service demand	(565)	G
Place & Economy	Enterprise Centre Business Case	Increase in income based on appointed operators business case.	04-06-02-03	Full year effects of previous decisions	(202)	A
Place & Economy	Concessionary Fares	Removal of surplus budget for Concessionary Fares based on forecast underutilisation of the scheme.	04-06-02-05	Full year effects of previous decisions	(95)	G
Place & Economy	Volume changes on Waste Budgets	Forecast based on projections of how much waste will be produced in the area including recycling, composting and food waste tonnages.	03-06-02-04	Demographic/service demand	(2,000)	A
Place & Economy	Reduction in Grants	This reflects a reduction due to a one off increase in Grants in 2020/21 returning to the substantive budget.	04-06-02-01	Full year effects of previous decisions	(140)	G
Place & Economy	Country Parks	Annual revenue benefit of capital investment in Sywell Country Park sewage treatment plant.	04-06-02-07	Full year effects of previous decisions	(15)	G
Place & Economy	Fees and Charges	Harmonisation of Prioritised Fees and Charges	06-03-02-01		(37)	A
Place & Economy	Fees and Charges	Inflationary Uplift of Fees and Charges owing to a new charging strategy.	06-03-02-02		(346)	A
Enabling & Support Services	Insurance Contract	Estimated reduction in the Insurance Contract due to self insuring	03-04-02-05		(750)	A
Enabling & Support Services	Removal of ICT, FM & General Risk Budgets	Removal of specific Contingency Budgets owing to the creation of a corporate contingency.	04-04-02-01	Full year effects of previous decisions	(493)	G
Enabling & Support Services	Reductions in Technical Finance Budgets	Removal of base budget relating to the cost of Commissioners.	04-04-02-02	Full year effects of previous decisions	(230)	G
Enabling & Support Services	Vacancy Factor	Increase in the Council's Vacancy Factor by £250k to £1.6m	05-04-02-01	Pay	(250)	A
Legal & Democratic Services & HR	Local Elections	Removal of one off increases in budget to cover local elections, subsequently deferred to May 2021.	07-05-02-01	Legislative changes	(356)	G
Enabling & Support Services	Pension contributions	Reduction in Council contribution payment to Pension Fund following transfer of staff to Children's Trust (Ref 05-02-01-01)	05-04-02-02	Pay	(417)	A
All Directorates	Staffing Savings	Estimated savings related to the Senior Leadership Structure	08-03-02-01	LGR	(2,300)	A
Total Savings					(19,161)	

EXECUTIVE 17th March 2022

Report Title	Capital Programme Update 2021/22
Report Authors	Janice Gotts, Executive Director of Finance Janice.gotts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Lead Member	Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval for capital schemes that have come forward for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme. Approval of the funding will allow the schemes to move forward to procurement and delivery.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report contains details of schemes which have been submitted by officers to the Council's Strategic Capital Board as part of the Council's Capital Approval Process. Each scheme must complete a business case setting out the changes requested to the Capital Programme, including the purpose of the spend, the expected outcomes and the financial implications together with funding routes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Executive approve the following changes to the capital programme:
- a) Kettering Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Museum Project - increase contingency budget by £75k, to be funded from borrowing
 - b) Wellingborough Norse Fleet and Equipment – to increase budget by £0.630m for the provision of Waste and Street Cleaning fleet and equipment to be funded from capital receipts. Of this sum, £123k will be for the purchase of new equipment and will be recovered over time as a revenue contribution following the cessation of the Norse contract
 - c) Revenue and Benefits single ICT system – to increase budget by £0.750m for the provision of single source revenue and benefits system, to be funding from borrowing
 - d) Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone – to increase budget by £0.504m to be funded from additional grant from Historic England
 - e) Highways Funding – to increase to the Capital Programme for 2022/23 by £9.955m in respect of the Department for Transport grant allocation announced on 28th February 2022, which covers the following areas:
 - i. Pothole Funding - £3.735m
 - ii. LTP Maintenance - £3.735m
 - iii. LTP Incentive for Maintenance - £0.934m
 - iv. LTP Integrated Transport - £1.551m
 - f) To amend the Development Pool in light of the confirmation of the highways grant funding for 2022/23 and the indicative funding for 2023-25, which is as per the allocation at item (e) above, noting that the final allocation for these years will be subject to the results from the self-assessment of the existing highways maintenance incentive programme. The detail is set out in paragraphs 5.17 to 5.20 of this report.
- 3.2 It is recommended that Council approves the borrowing proposals for the following schemes:
- a. Kettering Alfred East Art Galleries, Library and Museum - £75k.
 - b. Revenues and Benefits single ICT system - £0.750m.
- 3.3 Reasons for Recommendation are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:
- To help mitigate any delays to the Kettering Gallery, Library and Museum project and ensure that funding deadlines are met recognising construction market conditions and fluctuating prices.

- To procure fleet and equipment to ensure continued service provision to the Wellingborough area for Waste Management and Recycling, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance.
- To deliver one single system for revenues and benefits across North Northamptonshire to improve service efficiency, reporting and consistency of practice.
- To support continued investment and improvement in Kettering High Street recognising its history and heritage.
- To ensure that the grant funding allocation for Highways maintenance and repair is included within the capital programme from 2022/23 to enable works to continue in line with annual plans.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Capital Programme is the Council's plan for investing in assets to efficiently deliver its statutory services, and to improve the local infrastructure of North Northamptonshire, with the benefits lasting over a number of years. The Council is required to set a balanced revenue budget and therefore must ensure that where borrowing is proposed to fund the cost of capital that the cost of servicing the debt is affordable within the Council's revenue budget.
- 4.2 Resources come from a number of sources including Government grants, capital receipts from surplus land and buildings, revenue contributions, other external contributions and borrowing. The Council captures its projected capital expenditure within the Capital Programme to monitor the same, help to control costs and ensure transparency. Given that the Capital Programme is approved by Executive, changes to it are also approved by Executive unless authority has been delegated in accordance with the Council's constitution.
- 4.3 This report provides an update to the Capital Programme 2021/22 and 2022/23 as adopted by the Council in February 2021 and February 2022 respectively, and requests that the proposed changes are approved and reflected within these programmes.

5. Issues and Choices – Further Detail on the Recommendations and Updates to the Capital Programme

- 5.1 **Kettering Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Museum Project – capital increase of £0.075m.** The project, currently aims to revitalise the cultural services within the heart of Kettering Town Centre, supporting to unify the three sites including Alfred East Art Gallery, Kettering Library and Manor House Museum. The funding will deliver significant improvements to the Alfred East Art Gallery and Kettering Library and will welcome a new two-storey extension to the rear of the Art Gallery.
- 5.2 Often for a project of this nature it is expected that the RIBA stages 1 to 4 would take around 12 months to progress, however, to meet the funders deadline it was completed in six to nine months for this project. Whilst the majority of the

project remains on track, there are some design co-ordination issues on site which are increasing costs.

- 5.3 Action has been taken to mitigate a number of the cost pressures, however, risks remain due to the vagaries within the current construction market and the condition of the historic buildings. It is therefore recommended to increase the budget by £0.075m to provide additional contingency to support the project to completion.
- 5.4 There is a separate report elsewhere on the agenda regarding this scheme.
- 5.5 **Wellingborough Norse Fleet and Equipment purchase – budget approval for up to £0.630m.** The proposal will deliver the provision of the Waste and Recycling, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance services to ensure the continuation of these key areas in Wellingborough when the contract with Wellingborough Norse ends on 31st March 2022. The equipment that is currently in place belongs to Norse Commercial Services. The proposal is to seek to purchase the relevant fleet and equipment to ensure the service has adequate provision and to avoid service disruption.
- 5.6 There is a separate report elsewhere on this agenda which sets out the proposals.
- 5.7 **Revenue and Benefits single ICT system – budget approval for £0.750m.** This project sets out to achieve the successful procurement and implementation of a single Revenues and Benefits ICT system for North Northamptonshire, the remit for which was approved by Executive at its meeting on 18th November 2021. The single system across will replace the previous four legacy District and Borough Council systems.
- 5.8 The Revenues and Benefits Team are responsible for the billing and collection of Council Tax and Business Rates. They are also responsible for the administration, calculation and payment of Housing Benefit, Local Council Tax Support and Discretionary Housing Payments to residents.
- 5.9 In addition, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the team has also administered a significant number of grant schemes to businesses within the area on behalf of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Alongside this they have also delivered Test and Trace Support Payments of behalf of the Department for Health and Social Care.
- 5.10 However, following Local Government Reorganisation in Northamptonshire, and the creation of a single North Northamptonshire Council on 1st April 2021, the original teams have been unable to fully amalgamate and continue to operate using the separate revenues and benefits systems inherited from each of the four sovereign District and Borough Councils.
- 5.11 There are currently two main systems providers that support the revenues and benefits systems in North Northamptonshire, namely the Capita Academy System and the Northgate System. Operating from multiple platforms is

operationally inefficient and introduces challenges and risks around the ability to produce consistent and timely management information including providing government statistical returns as well as ensuring general compliance, value for money and good practice.

- 5.12 The Council will not only gain productivity efficiencies from a single system for Revenues and Benefits enabling single source reporting and support for billing as well as ensuring that residents and businesses can contact a single point for information and queries, help to improve and simplify their interaction with the Council.
- 5.13 **Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone – budget approval for £0.504m.** Officers have been working closely with Historic England and the Council's delivery partners on public realm enhancements in Kettering town centre. Progress has been made such that work on the public realm enhancements started on site on 17th January 2022, the programme plans for the scheme to be complete during July 2022, with the Historic England element of the investment complete by 31st March 2022.
- 5.14 An Expression of Interest for additional funds from projected underspend nationally on projects was considered by Historic England late last year. This resulted in them offering North Northamptonshire Council an additional £503,631 to invest in public realm enhancements as a part of the Kettering High Street HAZ programme.
- 5.15 The funding is conditional on the Council spending the projected additional £503,631 by 31st March 2022. The projected spend for this year is already challenging, but with the contractors now on site, and committing extra staff to deliver the project, it is considered achievable.
- 5.16 The area identified for investment is an extension of the current scheme northwards in High Street, Kettering. The scheme design will reflect the choice of materials and design principles already established in the implementation of the design under construction immediately to the south, in High Street.
- 5.17 Further information on the scheme is available from the separate report to Executive on 22nd February 2022.
- 5.18 **Highways Funding 2022/23 – overall budget approval for £9.955m.** North Northamptonshire Council is allocated funding from the Department for Transport to invest in highways maintenance and other works. The funding allocation for 2022/23 is £9.955m. There is also indicative funding of £9.955m for each of the following two years 2023-25, with the final allocation for those years dependent upon the results of the existing highways maintenance incentive element, which will be based on a self-assessment from each Local Authority.
- 5.19 The funding will support the following main work programmes, namely:

- Pothole Funding, which helps to fund the repair of potholes across the highways network
- Highways Maintenance, including the incentive allocation, which is used to support routine maintenance to ensure that there is sufficient funding to maintain the highways network to a safe standard in accordance with Northamptonshire Asset Management Plan and Network Management Plan and to deliver the annual Capital Maintenance Programme. The Capital Maintenance Programme consists of a range of maintenance schemes across the Council which are developed annually based on need in accordance with the Northamptonshire Asset Management Plan and Network Management Plan. It is necessary to use some of the funding provided by central government to support routine maintenance due to the level of revenue funding provided to the service.
- Integrated Transport Block – which delivers a programme of small-scale measures which will contribute towards achieving the objectives in the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (the authority’s Local Transport Plan). These are principally around road safety engineering, network improvements (including walking and cycling measures and new crossings), works to satisfy community aspirations and the maintenance of traffic signals.

5.20 The funding allocation for North Northamptonshire is as follows:

Funding Item	2022/23 £m	2023/24 Indicative £m	2024/25 Indicative £m
Pothole Funding	3.735	3.735	3.735
Highways Maintenance Block	3.735	3.735	3.735
Incentive Highways Maintenance Block	0.934	0.934	0.934
Integrated Transport Block	1.551	1.551	1.551
TOTAL	9.955	9.955	9.955

5.21 The proposal is to include the funding allocation for 2022/23 of £9.955m over the main spend areas into the capital programme, removing any provisional allocations from the Development Pool. For 2023/24 and 2024/25 the Development Pool will be revised for the indicative allocations as shown in the table above.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Finance and Transformation

6.1.1 The additional budget requirements are funded from grant, capital receipts and borrowing. The detail of the funding arrangements is set out in the main body of the report. The request to increase the level of borrowing to finance two schemes within the proposed increase will be recommended to Council for approval.

6.1.2 A number of the projects support the Transformation Programme, most notably the changes to bring Revenue and Benefits into a single system which will help service improvement and productivity.

6.1.3 There is further investment in Kettering as part of the Heritage Action Zone work which will help to transform the town centre as highlighted previously in this report.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 The council must utilise funding and deliver schemes in line with the restrictions and requirements as set out in the agreements linked to that funding and the requirements as set out in the Council's Constitution, in particular the budget setting and policy framework and the financial regulations.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 The deliverability of the 2021/22 Capital Programme is monitored by each accountable project manager and senior officer. There is further review throughout the financial year reported through the Executive.

6.3.2 If any overspends or emerging pressures are identified during the year, then mitigating actions will be sought and management interventions undertaken.

6.3.3 With most capital projects there is a risk that delays and cost increases may arise as a result of general inflation and COVID-19 impact. Generally, this relates to the supply and price of materials with projects requiring increased lead in times. Whilst every attempt is made to cost these implications into the project, the risks remain.

6.3.4 There is a risk in relation to funding, particularly where it is from third parties including grants, and appropriate agreements must be entered into to ensure that the funding is secured and spend is in accordance with any criteria stipulated by the funder, both the nature of the spend and the timing (where a deadline applies).

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 The 2021/22 Capital Strategy and Capital Programme were subject to consultation prior to approval by the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority in February 2021. The 2022/23 programme was approved by Council at its meeting on 24th February 2022 and was subject to consultation from 23rd December 2021 to 28th January 2022.

6.5 Climate Impact

- 6.5.1 The climate impact of each capital project will be considered and managed within the relevant scheme.
- 6.5.2 Improvements in Kettering town centre are intended to create an attractive and sustainable environment for people to live and visit, thereby reducing the numbers who need to travel away from the town. Also, the town centre benefits from a broader range of public transport and active travel options, encouraging their use rather than use of the private car. The public realm enhancements have set a target of achieving at least 10% biodiversity net gain, this through retaining all existing trees and planting 4+ new trees, and the planting of native species or off-site planting in Meadow Road Park.

6.6 Community Impact

- 6.6.1 These proposals can be considered to have a positive impact on the community as the Capital Programme delivers the infrastructure to support and connect communities.
- 6.6.2 The Kettering Alfred East Library, Art Gallery and Museum project will improve and extend the facilities available to the community.
- 6.6.3 The Kettering Town Centre High Street HAZ will help to restore the historic character of the town centre, providing growth and investment to bring residents and visitors to enjoy the facilities and environment created. It will also contribute towards securing an important historic building in Kettering town centre.

7. Background Documents

- 7.1 The following background papers can be considered in relation to this report.

Capital Programme Budget 2021/22, North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority, 25 February 2021.

[https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/Data/North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority/20210225/Agenda/Item 05 - Annex 3 - NNC Final Capital Programme Report 2021-25.pdf](https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/Data/North%20Northamptonshire%20Shadow%20Authority/20210225/Agenda/Item%2005%20-%20Annex%203%20-%20NNC%20Final%20Capital%20Programme%20Report%202021-25.pdf)

Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone, Executive, 22 February 2022

[https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5738/Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone HSHAZ.pdf](https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5738/Kettering_High_Street_Heritage_Action_Zone_HSHAZ.pdf)

Capital Programme Budget 2022/23, North Northamptonshire Council, 24 February 2022.

[https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5799/Capital cover report.pdf](https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s5799/Capital_cover_report.pdf)

Agenda Item 14

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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