

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 June 2022

Issued: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022, unless the decision is subject to call-in, in accordance with section 18 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules within North Northamptonshire Council's Constitution.

**Requests for Call-In**

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

The notice must set out:-

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

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

Item 5	Performance Indicator Report Period 1 April 2022-23	<b>RESOLVED:</b>  That the Executive:  a) Noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available indicators at Period 1 as set out in the appendices to this report.
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		<p align="center">b) Noted the progress being made in the development of the Council's approach to performance management.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to better understand the Council's performance as measured by performance indicators as at Period 1, 2022/23.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – reporting performance data on a less frequent basis is an option but monthly reporting is considered useful at this stage of the Council's existence, reporting alongside budget information.</p>
<b>Item 6</b>	Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff	This item was withdrawn prior to the meeting and deferred to a future Executive meeting date.

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Item 7	Core UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Multiply Initiative	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Welcomed the opportunity to submit Investment Plans to secure funding for North Northamptonshire via the Core UKSPF and Multiply initiative</li> <li>b) Delegated authority for final submission of the Core UKSPF Investment Plan to the Executive Member for Growth &amp; Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Members for Adults, Health &amp; Well-Being; Housing, Communities &amp; Levelling Up; and Children, Families, Education &amp; Skills, the Executive Director for Place &amp; Economy and the Section 151 Officer</li> <li>c) Delegated authority for final submission of the Multiply Investment Plan to be agreed by the Executive Member for Adults, Health &amp; Well-Being in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, the Executive Director for Adults, Communities &amp; Well-Being, the Executive Director of Children’s Services and the Section 151 Officer</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations: To secure additional investment into North Northamptonshire through the submission of Investment Plans for Core UKSPF and Multiply to address local challenges and deliver improved outcomes</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The submission of these Investment Plans is not mandatory, but failure to submit a plan would involve the area missing out on Core UKSPF and Multiply financial support</p>
<b>Item 8</b>	Levelling Up Fund Round 2 - Bid submission	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Delegated to the Executive Member for Growth &amp; Regeneration; in consultation with the Executive Members for Highways, Travel and Assets; Sport, Leisure Culture &amp; Tourism; Housing, Communities &amp; Levelling Up; and Climate and the Green Environment, the Executive Director of Finance and the Executive Director of Place and Economy authority to submit a bid/s to the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 by noon on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</li> </ul> <p>Reason for Recommendations – The submitted bid(s), if approved will unlock the</p>

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		<p>funding for the identified projects and deliver significant benefits to the area. If funding is secured each project will commence as soon as possible with spend expected in the 2022/2023 financial year.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – The only alternative option would be to not submit the bids for the projects identified. The consequences of this would be that there was no possibility of any funding from the Levelling Up Round 2 fund.</p>
Item 9	Family Hubs	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Agreed that Council adopts a Family Hubs model for North Northamptonshire</li> <li>b) Noted that the Family Hubs model will be based upon local need and be developed in co-production with children, parents, carers and the wider community partnership.</li> <li>c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Children’s Services to establish a Partnership Board to oversee the</li> </ul>

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		<p style="text-align: center;">development of the Family Hubs model</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation: The development of a Family Hub Model will help to deliver the Council's strategic ambitions. Early intervention can improve children's well-being, educational attainment and life chances, reduce family poverty, improve mental health and reduce negative outcomes such as unemployment which carry significant costs to the public purse.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: That we do nothing and do not develop Family Hubs in NNC. This is not recommended because NNC would lose the opportunity to enhance and co-ordinate services for families. Furthermore, they would lose the opportunity to attract additional investment into the local area.</p>
Item 10	Household Support Fund (HSF) 2	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted that the Household Support Fund (2) investment to be managed locally</li> <li>b) Approved the Recommended Scope and Diversity of Distribution as set out</li> </ul>

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		<p>in section 4 of the report</p> <p>c) Approved the control and oversight approach through a central operational team</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distribution of funds must meet the wider communities’ financial needs, where other grants and funding are not available</li> <li>• Where possible the level of duplication of grants for the same purpose must be minimised which is why the in-house team is recommended</li> <li>• It provides real benefit to underpin the Public Health Wellbeing Programme and aligns to the Recovery and Wellbeing Programme</li> <li>• The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective.</li> <li>• The residents of NNC will receive the maximum benefit from the option proposed</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The option not to draw down the funds was considered; however, this was discounted as many vulnerable residents would miss additional support at a time when there are increased concerns regarding the cost-of-living increases. An option to provide all households claiming Universal Credit with an</p>

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		additional payment from the Fund was also considered, however, as there are 20,000+ on the database the amount predicted to receive per household would be derisory to the current cost-of-living increases.
Item 11	Ise Valley Strategic Plan	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted the contents of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan and acknowledge it has been prepared by the River Nene Regional Park (RNRP) on behalf of, and with input from, the River Ise Partnership, of which the Council is an actively participating member</li> <li>b) Approved the content and approach set out in the Ise Valley Strategic Plan to enable project development and delivery that will bring about environmental, social and economic benefits to the Ise Valley</li> </ul>



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		<p>Reason for Recommendations: Approval from the Executive will enable Officers of the Council to use the Ise Valley Strategic Plan as a tool to attract funding streams and develop and deliver collaborative projects that will protect and enhance the Ise Valley and deliver priorities set out in the Council’s Corporate Plan (2021).</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Executive could resolve not to approve the content of the Ise Valley Strategic Plan. However, not approving the Plan would send a message to the River Ise Partnership that the Council does not see the River Ise Strategic Plan as a credible tool with which to attract funding for the development and delivery of projects that will protect and enhance the Ise Valley.</li> <li>• This approach could diminish the Council’s credibility as an active participant within the Partnership which could reduce the Council’s ability to make recommendations for project development and delivery.</li> <li>• Rejecting the Ise Valley Strategic Plan and the opportunity to actively participate on the River Ise Partnership will not stop the Council delivering against priorities set out in the Corporate Plan (2021) but it will reduce the number of opportunities available to deliver multiple priorities effectively and efficiently</li> </ul>

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Item 12	Community Managed Libraries Transfer Programme update	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted the programme to provide library services through a community managed model, as adopted by Northamptonshire County Council in 2018.</li> <li>b) Noted the current progress on the 3 remaining libraries, including the completion of the existing work around the leases for Irchester Library and Rothwell Library with the existing partners, which have been delayed due to works required to the associated properties.</li> <li>c) Noted that a further report will be brought forward to seek approval to enter into the lease agreement for Raunds library.</li> <li>d) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take actions necessary to complete the transfer process</li> </ul>

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		<p align="center">for Irchester and Rothwell Libraries.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations: The approval of these recommendations will enable the officers to continue to progress the 3 remaining transfers via the agreed processes outlined in this report, whilst maintaining the integrity of the Community Managed Library transfer programme as a whole and the duty of NNC to obtain best value.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The only other option considered as part of the library service transformation programme, established by the former County Council as detailed in section 4 of this report, is that where no viable proposal for a community managed library is forthcoming, that library would close.</p>
Item 13	A509 Isham Bypass	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the route shown in Appendix B of the report as the new preferred route for the A509 Isham Bypass;</li> <li>b) Approved the proposal to undertake further public consultation and exhibition ahead of a new planning application;</li> </ul>

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		<p>c) Noted the further work to be undertaken and permissions and funding obtained as set out in section 6 of this report.</p> <p>d) Delegated to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with Executive Director for Place &amp; Economy, Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Director for Finance, the authority to take any further decisions and/or actions required in connection with the procurement and award of a contract to provide professional services to support the delivery of the A509 Isham Bypass.</p> <p>Reason for recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To tie the bypass into the improvements to the A509 being constructed by the Symmetry Park development.</li> <li>• To allow the public to see and have a comment on the proposals before the submission of the new planning application.</li> <li>• To ensure continued access to consultancy resource required for the development of the planning application and Outline Business Case, and any further similar work required as the scheme progresses.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining the existing Preferred Route would mean that the improvements to the A509 being constructed by the Symmetry Park development were superseded. That would be wasteful and lead to increased costs.</li> <li>• Not holding a further public consultation and exhibition would mean that the public would not have an opportunity to see and comment on the proposals before the submission of the planning application.</li> <li>• It is not feasible to progress with the planning application and Outline Business Case without the support of external professional services skilled and able to undertake the work.</li> </ul>
<b>Item 14</b>	Adoption of a Policy in respect of investigatory powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and Investigatory Powers Act 2016	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Adopted the policy attached at Appendix A to the report in respect of the use of covert investigation and surveillance techniques, and the accompanying guidance as attached at Appendix B to the report.</li> <li>b) Designated the officers occupying the following posts as responsible for authorising the use of covert investigation and surveillance techniques:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Chief Executive;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p>ii. Executive Director of Place and Economy;                      iii. Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing;                      iv. Assistant Director, Regulatory Services</p> <p>c) Required the Senior Responsible Officer (Director of Governance and HR) to report the use of covert investigation and surveillance techniques to the Audit and Governance committee at least twice in a municipal year, and notify the Executive of any use of powers on a monthly basis.</p> <p>d) Confirmed that the changes required to the Constitution as a consequence of the above recommendations be implemented by the Director of Governance and HR.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The above recommendations fulfil the Council's statutory obligations to adopt a policy on the use of covert surveillance techniques and support that policy through the accompanying guidance.</li> <li>• The officers identified to approve the use of such techniques have been identified in accordance with guidance issued by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office, who are responsible for overseeing the use of these techniques.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered: In the event that the policy is not adopted, the Council</p>

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		may be unable to fulfil its statutory enforcement obligations and will be subject to adverse comments when inspected by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office. Failing to adopt a policy and guidance is not therefore considered a viable alternative option.