

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

Issued: 14th July 2022

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

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 22nd July 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 2022/23 (Period 2 - May 2022)	RESOLVED: That the Executive noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available indicators at Period 2 (2022/23) as set out in the appendices to this report.
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North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 14 July 2022

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>Reason for Recommendations: To better understand the Council's performance as measured by performance indicators as at Period 2, 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>
Item 6	Garden Waste Future Service Provision	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Garden Waste: Future Service Provision report be deferred to a future Executive meeting date.</p>
Item 7	Homes for Ukraine Programme	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approved the approach to funding as set out at paragraph 5.8 (Table One) of the report b. Noted that the use of the funding will ensure that the Council meets the obligations set out by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure adequate safeguarding and support is provided to sponsoring households and Ukrainian guests to enable the successful integration of Ukrainian refugees in North Northamptonshire.

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>c. Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, in liaison with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take any further decisions and/or actions required to appropriately support both refugees and sponsors in North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: By approving these recommendations, Council Officers will be able to set a clear approach for how the Local Authority funding will be effectively used to support and help the integration of Ukrainian Refugees into their local communities.</p> <p>Alternative Options considered: The alternative is not to set out a clear approach for how the Tariff will be applied in North Northamptonshire.</p>
Item 8	Housing Income Management Policy	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved the Income Management Policy at Appendix A of the report. b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up, in liaison with the Executive Director, Adults, Communities and

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>Wellbeing to take any further decisions and/or actions required to implement these policy documents. This includes making minor amendments.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A harmonised policy will offer one consistent approach to the income management and income collection parts of the tenancy and landlord services. • A harmonised policy will avoid current issues of risk presented by two different approaches in the management and collection of council housing debts. <p>Alternative Options Considered: The only other options are to do nothing or to delay the harmonisation of working practices across the two teams.</p> <p>These are not options that can continue to be maintained effectively over time. The best option is to harmonise working practices as soon as possible to ensure consistency of service, reduce the risk of challenge, and most importantly make improvements to the service.</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Item 9	Procurement of Vehicle Contract Hire for Adult Social Care	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Authorised the commencement of procurement for specialised vehicle hire to support transportation needs within Adult Social Care in North Northamptonshire b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Assets & Environment to take any further decisions and /or actions required to conclude the procurement, contract award and implementation of the provision of vehicles for the Adult Social Care. <p>Reason for Recommendation: The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective and enables the Council to make informed decisions regarding its medium-term financial planning. It ensures the authority complies with its obligations under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and has a legally procured, compliant contract which demonstrates best value in respect of the provision of specialist vehicles.</p> <p>Alternative options considered: Do nothing – however; this leaves the Council open to challenge and increases the risk that the Council will be left without the provision to fulfil its transport responsibilities within the service area. As the contract will expire in November, this could put the Council at risk of exploitation by the current supplier and</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>from challenge from potential bidders who have not been given the opportunity to bid for the services.</p> <p>Outright purchase of vehicles. This was not the recommended option due to the nature of the service demands fluctuating, resulting in the need for a greater or reduced number of vehicles at any one time, and user requirements impacting the specification of the minibus.</p>
Item 10	Rough Sleeping Initiative Programme 2022-2025	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved the allocated spend of the Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding 2022-2025 as detailed in paragraph 4.21 (figure 8) of the report b) Noted the detail of how the allocated funding will be spent as set out from 4.22 to 4.36 of the report c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up, in liaison with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take any further decisions and actions required to enable delivery of the Rough Sleeping Initiative programme <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the Council and its partners can sustain and build upon the success to date in reducing rough sleeping and supporting individuals experiencing rough sleeping • To safeguard this vulnerable cohort of adults who are often experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To not submit a funding application to the Rough Sleeping Initiative programme 2022-2025 • To submit a funding application to the Rough Sleeping Initiative programme 2022-2025 that included a different schedule of activities and proposals
Item 11	Extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order - Kettering Town Centre	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved an extension to the Public Spaces Protection Act (PSPO) for Kettering town centre, with the draft order set out at Appendix A of the report. b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up in liaison with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>Wellbeing, to make any further amendments required to implement the Public Spaces Protection Order for Kettering town centre</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations: To give authorised officers the ability to continue to use enforcement powers under the PSPO to respond to anti-social behaviour within Kettering town centre. Additional recommendation (b) will allow the Executive Member and Executive Director to make minor amendments to wording of the order to ensure it accurately reflects approved prohibitions.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Discontinue with the PSPO – this would have a negative impact on the ability to tackle activities in a public place that causes nuisance, crime and anti-social behaviour. b) Extend the PSPO based on no changes to the current prohibitions – this would effectively ignore the issues and comments raised by the public and partner agencies as part of the consultation.

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Item 12	Software Licence Procurement	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Authorised commencement of procurement for productivity and infrastructure software licences for North Northamptonshire Council b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Director of Transformation, to take any further decisions and /or actions required to conclude the procurement, contract award and implementation of the Council's software licensing. <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To unify all of our legacy software agreements into a single North Northamptonshire Council contract b) To enable the service to employ the most effective and compliant route to renew the Council's license agreements c) To allow the organisation to continue its business day to day running through its use of the productivity and infrastructure licencing. <p>Alternative Options Considered: The option to do nothing and continue without a contract was considered but discounted as not a viable option. The current contract for software licences will end in August 2022, thereby leaving the Council without service and liable to challenge unless procured through a compliant route</p>

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

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Item 13	Kettering Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Museum Capital Project and Financial Update (Cornerstone)	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the content of the report which sets out the current budget challenges for the capital programme, what has changed since March 2022, and the comparison with other projects of this nature. b) Approved the uplift to the capital budget of £412,000 to cover the worst-case scenarios and risks, in order to ensure there is sufficient budget to successfully complete the build in a timely fashion c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Leisure, Sport, Culture and Tourism, in conjunction with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take the actions necessary to ensure successful completion of the capital project. <p>Reasons for Recommendations: Approval of the recommendations will allow the Council to ensure the capital project is successfully delivered in a timely manner and do so without exceeding approved budget whilst achieving best value.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The capital programme cannot be completed without a further budget uplift. The alternative would be to act within current budget which would mean the site would not be fully complete and may be unable to open to the public until it is complete. This will have huge reputational impact and will also mean that the</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>Council will not be able to deliver some of the outcomes set by the external funders, which might expose the Council to the risk of not being able to draw down final claims or having to pay some of the funding back.</p> <p>Furthermore, identified risks would not be mitigated and instructions to the contractors for variations would be hampered, as Officers have to instruct variations to mitigate risks within the approved budget. Officers cannot instruct if the budget approval is not in place. This would mean that the project would be further delayed, potentially subjecting the Council to more Extension of Time claims which would be in excess of the amount requested in this report for the budget uplift.</p>
Item 14	Treasury Management Outturn Report - 2021/22	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the treasury management outturn report detailing the activity undertaken during the financial year ended 31st March 2022 and the performance achieved set out in Appendix A to this report; and b) Noted that all treasury activities were undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy/Annual Investment Strategy <p>Reason for Recommendations: The Council's TMSS is underpinned by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management ("the Code") which requires that members are informed of treasury management activities at least twice a year. Full Council has</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>delegated the formulation and monitoring of the Council's treasury management strategy, policy, and activity to the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: There are no alternative options to be considered for this report, which is for noting only</p>
Item 15	Revenue Budget Draft Outturn Forecast 2021/22	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the Council's draft outturn position for the General Fund 2021/22 which is an underspend of £1.771m and the Housing Revenue Account 2021/22 which is an underspend of £0.538m as summarised in section 4, alongside the further analysis which is set out in Section 5 and Section 6 of this report. b) Approved the following transfers to reserves which are reflected in the draft outturn position. <p>Transfer to reserves included within individual Directorates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness (Section 5.30) - £228k • General Risk Reserve (Leisure – Section 5.36) - £0.556m • Planning Reserve (JPU – Section 5.47) - £224k • Capital General Fund (MRP – Section 5.98) - £1.494m <p>Transfer to Earmarked Reserves from Available Resources:</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoothing Reserve – Home to School Transport £2.500m • Smoothing Reserve – Knuston Hall - £0.600m • Smoothing Reserve – NORSE - £1.100m • Budget Delivery Reserve - £0.750m • Members Empowerment Fund - £78k <p>In addition, a further £1.5m is to be transferred to the Transformation Reserve to enable investment into the Council's Highway's function to improve important elements of the Highways across North Northamptonshire</p> <p>c) Noted the assessment of the 2021/22 savings as shown in Appendix A.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to note the draft outturn position for 2021/22, approve the transfer to reserves and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.</p>
Item 16	Capital Outturn 2021/22 - Draft Outturn as at Period 12	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Noted the draft capital outturn position for the General Fund (GF) Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2021/22.</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>b) Approved the proposed capital carry forwards for the GF and HRA capital programmes as detailed in Appendices A and B of the report.</p> <p>c) Approved year end budget adjustments for the GF as shown in paragraph 5.7 and Appendix A of the report.</p> <p>d) Approved virements over £100k in line with the Council's constitution as set out in paragraph 5.8 for the General Fund and paragraph 5.13 for the HRA.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: This is in line with the Council's constitution and financial regulations in relation to governance.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: By not approving these recommendations there would be an adverse impact on service provision in North Northamptonshire.</p>
Item 17	Capital Programme Update	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the following changes to the capital programme:</p> <p>a) Corby Town Investment Plan, Train Station to Town Centre - Link Road (via Oakley Road) & Smart and Connected Corby (combined) – increase capital programme for 2022/23 by £8.055m, which is to be funded from the Towns Fund Grant.</p>

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>b) Kettering Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Museum (Cornerstone), increase budget by £0.412m, to be funded from capital reserves.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: These are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement phases 3 and 4 of Corby's Town Investment Plan in relation to the £19.9m awarded from the Towns Fund in June 2021. • To help mitigate any delays to the Cornerstone project to meet funding deadlines and the current construction market conditions, with fluctuating prices. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the funding is in line with the agreement, there is no alternative option proposed. • By not approving these recommendations there would be an adverse impact on service provision and the completion of projects in North Northamptonshire.
Item 18	Budget Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 2	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

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

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		<p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2022/23 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 2022/23 savings proposals in Appendix A of the report. c) Approved the inclusion of a grant and associated expenditure of £98k in respect of support for developing the Council's approach to Social Care Reforms. See paragraph 5.23. d) Approved the use of earmarked reserves totalling £3.938m to mitigate in year pressures relating to Home to School Transport, short-term vehicle leasing costs, commercial income for grounds maintenance and facilities management from the previous Wellingborough NORSE contract, and Knuston Hall as referenced in paragraphs 5.33 and 5.37 respectively. e) Approved an increase in the gross budget of £2.696m to provide support for families and individuals in specific financial hardship to be funded from the Household Support Fund 2 grant of £2.466m as reported to Executive in June and a further contribution of £230k from the Public Health Reserve to underwrite the potential shortfall in the School Holiday Food Voucher Scheme over the Summer break. See paragraphs 5.49 and 5.50.

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

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
		<p>f) Noted the use of £650k of the contingency budget to support the Maintained Nurseries as previously agreed by Council.</p> <p>g) Noted the use of £1.150m of the contingency budget to fund a salary increment for all eligible employees in 2022/23. This will include staff not at the top of their grade where their protected TUPE terms and conditions of employment have no contractual entitlement to incremental progression as agreed by the Employment Committee at meeting on 28th June 2022, alongside staff with a contractual entitlement to increments. See paragraph 5.53.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2022/23 as at Period 2 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.</p>