

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 25 August 2022

Issued on 25th August 2022

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 25 August 2022.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 5th September 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.

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Part A – Items considered in public

Item 5	Performance Indicator Report 2022/23 (Period 3 - June 2022)	RESOLVED That the Executive: a) Noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available indicators at Period 3 2022/23 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 3, 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	Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive make the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan, so that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: As the plan was approved at the local referendum and the council is satisfied that the making of the plan would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations, the council is procedurally required to “make” the Ringstead Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for the Ringstead Neighbourhood Area within the timeframe set out by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The local planning authority is required by the Localism Act and provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) to ‘make’ a neighbourhood plan within 8 weeks of the day following</p>

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		a successful referendum. The only circumstance where the council should not make this decision is where the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligation. Failure to make the Plan would prevent it being adopted.
Item 7	Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive make the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan, so that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: As the plan was approved at the local referendum and the Council is satisfied that the making of the plan would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations, the council is procedurally required to ‘make’ the Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for the Hargrave Neighbourhood Area within the timeframe set out by the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).</p>

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		<p>Alternative Options Considered: The local planning authority is required by the Localism Act and provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) to 'make' a neighbourhood plan within 8 weeks of the day following a successful referendum. The only circumstance where the council should not make this decision is where the making of the plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligation. Failure to make the Plan would prevent it being adopted.</p>
Item 8	Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) Annual Report 2020 - 2021	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Received the Annual Report of the Northamptonshire Local Safeguarding Adults Board 2020-2021 (Appendix A); b) Invited the Scrutiny Commission to review the Annual Report and consider any feedback it may wish to provide. <p>Reason for Recommendations – Under the Care Act 2014 section 43, the Local Authority has a duty to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board, which in turn has a core duty to publish an annual report. The report provides assurance to the Council that adults are safeguarded across the North Northamptonshire area.</p>

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		<p>Alternative Options Considered – There are no alternative options to consider, consideration of the report is a statutory requirement.</p>
Item 9	<p>Levelling Up Scrutiny Commission - Levelling Up North Northamptonshire Final Report</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Noted the work undertaken by, and on behalf of, the Scrutiny Working Group as instructed by the Scrutiny Commission ii) Noted and considered the feedback from the Scrutiny Commission regarding the final report iii) Discussed and provided feedback on the “Levelling Up North Northamptonshire” (June 2022) report attached as Appendix A to the report iv) Noted the priority recommendations set out in the report as a potential framework to develop a “Levelling Up plan” for the Council v) Noted the difference between scope and intentions of the Council’s Levelling- Up

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		<p>Scrutiny Review and the national programmes of work around the Government's "Levelling Up" agenda</p> <p>vi) Supported the proposal for the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling up to take forward, with officers, the development of the Council's Levelling Up plan.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <p>i) The levelling up agenda is both a national and local priority and of importance to council members. The scrutiny review was undertaken because of an amended motion and discussion at Full Council.</p> <p>ii) For the Executive to consider the report of Scrutiny Commission and explore ways that the findings can inform and influence local policy and strategy in the delivery of council functions</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The Council's constitution clearly sets out the scrutiny procedure rules to be followed in reporting back recommendations to either the Executive or Full Council, therefore alternative options to those set out in the Council's constitution have not been considered.</p>
Item 10	Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) - Phase 3	RESOLVED

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		<p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Noted the content of this report; and ii) Agreed to redirect investment in delivering Phase 3 of the plans for public realm into Gold Street, and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place and Economy to investigate and execute the delivery through the Scape Framework. <p>Reason for Recommendation: To provide Member awareness and seek agreement to the shaping of investment in the remaining period of the Kettering High Street Heritage Action Zone programme, in particular with regards the Phase 3 public realm works</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The same spend profile could be retained as was set in the original Stage 2 Programme Design over two years ago. However, circumstances changed during the period of the programme, and fresh priorities emerge. It is important that investment is optimised, whilst still meeting the parameters of the project. Retaining the same spend profile has been considered, but risks of limited impact or unspent funds are considered greater from taking this approach.</p> <p>The Project Team have been pleased with the standard of workmanship from the team delivering the public realm improvements, and the support it has gained from working through the Scape Framework. It has explored options for retaining the same team and undertaking further procurement through Scape</p>

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Item 11	Pollinator Strategy	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the Pollinator Strategy at Appendix A to the report.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy establishes guiding principles relevant to the operational management of the council's parks and open spaces services and helps meet the council's obligations under the Environment Act 2021, which includes provisions to strengthen and improve the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy by the end of 2023. • The Strategy provides the basis for unifying and building on the varying practices adopted by the legacy councils. • The Strategy supports the council's key commitments to a greener, sustainable environment. • The Strategy provides a clear statement to residents of how the council is seeking to improve habitats for pollinator species (and other wildlife) in its parks and open spaces. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option of continuing historic land management approaches such as 'short mowing' large areas of green spaces was not considered to be in keeping with

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		<p>the council's duties towards nature recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option to not have a Pollinator Strategy and to continue with management of parks and open spaces under the principles devised by the individual officers in the parks and green spaces was rejected in favour of establishing guiding principles for the council's land managers.
Item 12	Tree Management & Care Policy	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive agreed the Tree Management & Care Policy at Appendix A to the report</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A harmonised policy will offer one consistent approach to tree management across the council. • A harmonised policy will minimise current issues with different approaches to requests for work and enable the Council to meet its duty of care, legal and health and safety obligations. • The policy provides the basis for unifying the varying practices adopted by the legacy councils. • The policy supports the Council's key commitments to a greener, sustainable environment and the council's obligations under the Environment Act 2021, which includes provisions to strengthen and improve the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to produce a Local Nature Recovery

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		<p>Strategy by the end of 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council receives many queries from the public about its trees and there is a wide range of expectations about the council's responsibilities. The policy provides a clear statement to residents of how the council is seeking to manage its trees and a sound basis for officers to respond to queries. • The policy provides a foundation on which to develop a wider, comprehensive tree strategy which will include aspirational targets for planting and woodland expansion. <p>Alternative Options Considered: The only other option is to not have clear policies for tree care and management, delaying harmonisation of working practices and fragmented Policies across the separate service areas. This is not an option that can continue to be maintained effectively over time.</p> <p>The option to not to have a Council wide tree policy and to continue with management under existing practices and policies has been discounted in favour of harmonising working practices and Policies as soon as possible, clearly establishing consistent guiding principles for the care and management of trees for North Northamptonshire Council and improving the service.</p>
Item 13	Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (iCAN) Case for Change	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Supported the broad direction of travel set out in the iCAN case for change</p>

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		<p>and the ambitions and intentions to improve the experience of people</p> <p>b) Agreed that the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing formulates a written response to the Senior Responsible Officer for the iCAN collaborative and the Chair and Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board setting-out the Executive's position regarding concerns identified including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member oversight of the collaborative when it does not report in to the health and wellbeing board and no elected members are members of the Integrated Care Board - Governance around financial decision making and operational boards if commissioning of services currently funded through the Better Care Fund and earmarked for meeting the needs of North Northamptonshire residents if it were to be included in a countywide pooled budget - Seeking an opportunity to discuss and address the concerns identified with key members of the Integrated Care Board in order to provide sufficient assurance and resolution to the Council's Executive regarding the concerns it has identified. <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The broad direction of travel is one that fits with the overarching priorities set out within the corporate plan.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst socialising the case for change with elected members within the council, there have been some concerns raised regarding adequacy of governance arrangements that it is important are raised with the ICB as part of the Executives feedback on the case for change. • Member oversight of performance and expenditure for which it is responsible is a fundamental requirement in ensuring that local-authority public money is being spent in accordance with national requirements alongside the priorities set out in the corporate plan.
Item 14	Recommissioning of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to date and its benefits to children, young people, and families in North Northamptonshire. b) Approved the procurement of a supplier to coordinate the delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme in North Northamptonshire in partnership with the Council from March 2023 in line with the Contract Procedure Rules. c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education & Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of

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		<p align="center">Children's Services (DCS) to take any further decisions and actions required to conclude this procurement and award the contract.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering the Holiday Activities and Food Programme makes best use of resources from central government • The programme will deliver benefits to vulnerable children, young people, and their families • Commissioning a provider to coordinate the programme alongside the council will allow the Council to benefit from the expertise and experience of the successful provider in delivering similar programmes and working with Community and Voluntary Sector organisations that deliver holiday activity programmes whilst also retaining an element of input and control of the programme <p>Alternative Options Considered –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do nothing and not deliver a Holiday Activities and Food Programme • Coordinate the Holiday and Activities and Food Programme directly using in-house resources • Commission a provider to deliver the programme independently with minimal council input • Commission a service for North and West Northamptonshire with a shared contract and service specification

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Item 15	Update on the proposed amalgamation of Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School in Rushden	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Approved the publication of a Statutory Notice proposing the amalgamation of Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006; ii) Agreed to receive a further report following the formal consultation to enable a decision to be made on the amalgamation of the Schools <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To support children and young people and their families to access high quality sustainable education that facilitates the achievement of best outcomes ii) To progress the amalgamation of the Schools in accordance with legislative requirements and Department for Education statutory guidance. iii) Based upon the financial position and school performance it is not a viable solution to take no action to progress the statutory process for the amalgamation

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Item 16	Land sale agreement - Oakley Vale Phase 8	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Agreed in principle to the sale of the land as shown at Appendix A of the report. ii) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets in consultation with the Assistant Director of Assets & Environment, to agree the sale price (subject to best value requirements for local authority disposal), authorise the completion of the land sale and finalise sale terms. iii) Noted that the gross receipt will be realised over the period of the build licence, as advised by LSH <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The joint venture requires each party to use reasonable endeavours to maximise and realise the value of the land and mutually agree to the amount of land to be offered on the open market for disposal, the timing, the terms of such a disposal and to whom. b. The sum being offered for approval represents “best value” for the

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		<p align="center">Council</p> <p align="center">c. The gross receipt realisation over the period of the build licence has been recommended by the Council's agent, represents the least risk for the Council and ensures best consideration is obtained</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: As the joint venture agreement is a legally binding agreement, there is no opportunity for the Council to consider retaining the land, which forms part of the masterplan for the area.</p>
Item 17	Provision of Council Fleet Arrangements	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Confirmed the preferred procurement route of using an established framework agreement as set out paragraph 5.3 of the report b) Delegated authority to procure and execute the necessary contracts to secure the required fleet and equipment to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

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		<p>c) Noted that appropriate logistical, garaging and fuelling arrangements will need to be in place to allow the new arrangements to work effectively and efficiently once secured.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendation provides a cost-effective solution, which can be deployed to suit the timescales for existing contractual arrangements. • The proposed option will provide a reliable fleet service, providing quality services for North Northamptonshire residents. • The proposed framework route will allow flexibility to change vehicles as new technology becomes available, supporting the Council's climate change policy objectives. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of options were considered, including, purchase of new fleet and equipment; both short and long-term leasing. The preferred option was deemed to offer the best value for money to the Council in terms of payment routes, access to preferred vehicles, flexibility over time, and overall value for money.
Item 18	Capital Outturn 2022/23 - Draft Outturn as at Period 3	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

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		<p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Noted the draft capital outturn position for the General Fund (GF) Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2022/23. b. Noted the new schemes that have been approved since 1st April 2022. <p>Reason 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 19	Budget Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 3	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the Council's forecast outturn position for 2022/23 as summarised in Section 4, alongside the further analysis, risks and other considerations as set out in Section 5 and Section 6 of the report. b) Noted the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2022/23 savings proposals in Appendix A of the report.

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2022/23 as at Period 3 and consider the impact on this year and future years budgets.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The report focuses on the forecast revenue outturn against budget for 2022/23 and makes recommendations for the Executive to note the current budgetary position as such there are no specific choices within the report</p>