

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Tuesday 27th September 2022

Issued: 27th September 2022

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 15 September 2022 following the reconvening of the meeting original opened and adjourned on 15th September 2022.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 5th October 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 4 - July 2022)	RESOLVED That the Executive: a) Noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available
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		<p align="center">indicators at Period 4, 2022/23 as set out in the appendices to this report.</p> <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 4, 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>KEY DECISION</p> <p>It is recommended that the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agreed to harmonise the garden waste collection service across North Northamptonshire; b) Recover some of the costs of providing the service only from those who use it by charging a subscription fee for a service operating 12 months of the year (option C as set out in the report). c) Agreed that, from 1st April 2023, for North Northamptonshire, the annual subscription charge will be set at £40/bin/year (for the first

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		<p>bin) and £16.50 for the ad hoc sack collection service. Additional bins will be charged on a full cost recovery basis.</p> <p>d) Agreed to change the current subscription charge of £55/bin/year in East Northamptonshire to £40/bin/year (for the first bin) for all residents in East Northamptonshire from 1st December 2022. Additional bins will be charged on a full cost recovery basis.</p> <p>e) Agreed to apply a rebate of £20/bin/year for all existing garden waste customers in East Northamptonshire who renew their subscription (and only on their next renewal) after 1st December 2022, for a period of 12 months only,</p> <p>f) Agreed to provide subsidised home composting bins, as set out in the report, to promote home composting as an environmentally sustainable alternative to kerbside collections of garden waste.</p> <p>g) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Economy to take any further decisions and / or actions required to conclude this process and implement any approved service updates. This will include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. finalising the Terms and Conditions of the service; ii. approving the updates to the Council's Waste and Recycling Policy in relation to any changes to the garden waste service.

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		<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommended option will harmonise the garden waste service across all North Northamptonshire which will ensure parity across North Northamptonshire • Option C makes a contribution to the overall financial stability of the Council and to its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). It reduces the need to use budgets allocated for other services to fund a garden waste service. • The recommended course of action will reduce the Council’s carbon footprint by reducing the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles used for service delivery, assuming participation is at 40%. • Current staffing issues, which have been experienced by many local authorities across the country, have reduced the reliability of the garden waste service for some residents, particularly in the Wellingborough area. Reducing the number of crews required to deliver the service reduces the number of staff members required and thus reduces the risk of disruption caused by staff vacancies and absences. • A subscription service provides residents who need to dispose of garden waste with the choice of whether they wish to use, and pay towards, an opt-in service or whether they wish to use another legitimate disposal route, such as

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		<p>home composting or visiting the Council’s Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The tax contribution from those who do not need the service, such as those without a garden, would be reduced considerably by covering most of the operating costs through the subscription charge. This is considered a more equitable method to fund this optional service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option to use the compostable sacks service provides residents with the choice to have their garden waste collected on an ad hoc basis for a lower price. This seeks to provide an alternative for those with smaller gardens or who are not in a position to subscribe for the 12-month, fortnightly service. • Home composting is an environmentally sustainable alternative to kerbside collection of garden waste, which the Council wishes to encourage and promote. The subsidised offer for home composting bins seeks to encourage this environmental practice. • The rebate of £20/bin/year for existing garden waste customers in East Northamptonshire who renew after 1st December 2022 acknowledges the disparity that has existed since Vesting Day in the way in which the garden waste service is funded. It also seeks to retain their custom during the period of transition to the new service. • The charge for the first bin has been set below the cost recovery threshold in an effort to make it more affordable for residents, particularly in light of the current cost of living pressures. For additional bins, it is not considered

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		<p align="center">appropriate that the cost of providing these bins is met from general taxation and therefore they will be charged on a full cost recovery basis.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – to fully inform the decision on the future of the garden waste service in North Northamptonshire, an analysis of service delivery options has been conducted by an officer working group to identify impacts and benefits for each of the alternative options.</p> <p>The option to retain the service under the current legacy arrangements was considered, which would continue the situation with different areas receiving different services. The Council had received significant feedback from residents living in the area of East Northamptonshire, who were only able to access the subscription service, whilst other residents in North Northamptonshire had access to a service which did not require a subscription payment. Residents expressed their expectation that parity for chargeable services was one early benefit to them of the recent formation of the new Council. Delaying the harmonisation of the service across North Northamptonshire would not resolve the concerns raised by residents in the area of East Northamptonshire and has therefore been dismissed.</p> <p>Providing a universal service funded by general taxation has been considered and forms part of the analysis later in this report. It has been rejected on the basis that it does not support the Council’s MTFP and requires all taxpayers to contribute towards its operating costs, even if they do not require or use the service. Delaying the implementation of a subscription-based service beyond the recommended date would delay the financial contributions to the MTFP, which are required as a contribution towards balancing the Council’s budget in 2023/24 and beyond.</p> <p>It would be possible to continue charging residents in East Northamptonshire</p>

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		<p>£55/bin/year until 1st April 2023 and offer no rebate. This option has been discounted as it further exacerbates the disparity in the current garden waste services operating across North Northamptonshire and would likely lead to existing customers delaying their renewal until 1st April 2023, which could have further operational and financial implications for the Council. The disparity between those residents located in East Northamptonshire and other North Northamptonshire residents exists due to local government reform. The Council notes that East Northamptonshire residents have paid for a service that other residents have not and therefore to address this unfairness, the rebate of £20 seeks to reduce this disparity. The £20 has been determined by the new subscription rate of £40 less the current rate of £55 plus a small financial sum to acknowledge the disparity.</p> <p>The subscription charge could be set at various levels to reflect the Council’s approach to funding the service. A higher subscription rate would reduce the financial burden on the Council and require individual residents to pay more for the service if they choose to subscribe. The recommended level of subscription charge reflects the Council’s objective to recover most of the operating costs from those who use the service whilst being mindful of the current economic conditions putting pressure on households.</p> <p>Delivering the service via a third-party commercial operator has been considered, but rejected, as it does not align with the Council’s current delivery model, whereby waste services are delivered by in-house teams in three of the four operational areas.</p> <p>It would be possible to reduce garden waste collections to a monthly service. This option has been discounted for operational reasons and because it would be unpopular with residents given recycling and general waste are both collected once a fortnight. A garden waste bin left for 4 weeks becomes compacted, begins to rot (and</p>

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		<p>smell) and produces liquid. This leads to bins that are very heavy and often overweight, which either become unsafe to manoeuvre (for residents and employees), or they break when lifted on the vehicle. The consultation indicated that 10% of properties expect to need two bins under a fortnightly collection service. This is expected to rise significantly with a 4-weekly service. Not all properties will have space for an additional garden waste bin and there is an additional capital cost in providing additional bins to those that request them.</p>
Item 7	Hackney Carriage Fares Tariff	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve an increase in fares in the Corby zone based upon the harmonised fare tariff detailed as option two in Appendix F to the report b) Approve an increase in fares in the East zone based upon the harmonised fare tariff detailed as option two in Appendix F to the report c) Approve an increase in fares in the Kettering zone based upon the harmonised fare tariff detailed as option two in Appendix F to the report d) Approve an increase in fares in the Wellingborough zone based upon the harmonised fare tariff detailed as option two in Appendix F to the report e) Refuse the automatic increases proposed every second and fourth year by the Wellingborough Hackney Carriage Association (WHCA)

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		<p>Reason for Recommendation: The trade have made representation that an increase in fares is required to ensure that the increased costs of running the service are covered. Alignment of fares is considered to be important, so that all residents within North Northamptonshire will be subject to the same maximum fare, regardless of where they reside or work.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The alternative options which were also considered by the Licensing and Appeals Committee are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Corby Zone; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To recommend the approval of the Corby Hackney Owners Association (CHOA) proposed increase in fare tariff ii) To recommend a different increase in fares iii) Refuse any increase b) East Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To recommend a different increase in fares ii) Refuse any increase c) Kettering Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To recommend the approval of the Central Taxis/Trade Proposal/Kettering Hackney proprietors proposed increase ii) To recommend the approval of the Kings Kabs proposed increase iii) To recommend the approval of the Burton Cabs/ Easy Cab/Kettering Hackney proprietors proposed increase iv) To recommend a different increase in fares

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		<p>v) Refuse any increase</p> <p>d) Wellingborough Zone</p> <p>i) To recommend the approval of the WHCA proposed increase</p> <p>ii) To recommend a different increase in fares</p> <p>iii) Refuse any increase</p>
Item 8	Cannock Road Housing Development- Budget Amendment and Procurement Strategy	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive recommended that Full Council</p> <p>a) Approves that the budget for the Cannock Road project be increased to £1,490,000</p> <p>That the Executive</p> <p>b) Approved the proposal to procure the project via a competitive open tender</p> <p>c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing to take any decisions necessary to complete the project without the need to return to Executive.</p>

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		<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable the delivery of the Cannock Road development, which has been paused since May 2021 and ongoing since 2018. • To bring a redundant brownfield site in a residential area, which is currently partly demolished, back into use. • To increase the supply of affordable rented housing available in North Northamptonshire, which meets the corporate objective of enabling safe and thriving places. • To increase the supply of housing suitable for disabled people, which meets the corporate objective of helping people to live healthier, more active and fulfilled lives in North Northamptonshire. <p>Alternative Options Considered-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do nothing- this was discounted because it would not deliver any of the objectives set by the Council and would not deliver additional housing. • Cease the development and sell the site- this was discounted because the site is required by the Council to deliver its existing programme of housing development, increase the supply of affordable housing and housing suitable for people with disabilities and enable spend of Right to Buy Receipts, which would otherwise have to be returned to the Government. • Further pause the development and redesign the scheme to achieve lower per unit costs/increase rental income- this was discounted because it would not allow the provision of additional housing suitable for disabled people and would deny Family A the only feasible option of

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		<p>suitable housing. Family A were allocated this property in 2018 and have been waiting for the development to be delivered since that time. It would also require the project to be restarted as a new planning application would be required and all spend to date would be abortive cost.</p>
<p>Item 9</p>	<p>First Homes Early Delivery Programme</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the officer decision taken under delegated authority to apply the national eligibility criteria, level of discount, income cap and price cap for First Homes being delivered in North Northamptonshire. b) Approved the decision to apply discretionary local connection criteria to First Homes so that they are sold to first-time buyers with a local connection to North Northamptonshire. c) Approved that the above will apply to any future First Homes being delivered under Homes England’s First Homes Early Delivery Programme, and on any other First Homes delivered in North Northamptonshire. This will be the case until the Local Plan is updated to include any alternative First Homes policy for North Northamptonshire. d) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and

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		<p align="center">Economy to enter Deeds of Variation on the basis set out above to enable the delivery of additional First homes, where deemed appropriate.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: The decision to enable the early delivery of First Homes will lead to an increase in the overall supply of affordable homes in North Northamptonshire and improve access to homeownership for local first-time buyers. Early delivery also provides the Council with an opportunity to pilot the legal and sales procedures for First Homes, ahead of their delivery through the planning system, and will help officers to refine this process and make any necessary adjustments or improvements prior to larger numbers of First Homes being delivered via Section 106 agreements.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The alternative option is to refuse requests to vary existing section 106 agreements to provide First Homes. Taking this approach was discounted as it would mean the Homes England grant being diverted to another local authority area and it would mean the loss of additional affordable homes for local people.</p>
Item 10	Family Hubs Model Programme	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>a) Noted the funding allocation under the Family Hubs and Start for Life grant which will be between £3.93m and £4.11m over the three-year period.</p>

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		<p>b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children’s Service, to distribute the full grant amount over the next three years.</p> <p>c) Receive an annual report detailing distribution of the grant and progress on the delivery of the programme.</p> <p>d) Noted that needs analysis work will continue to be undertaken and delegates authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children’s Services the authority to determine the allocation of the prototype locality in accordance with the required timescale.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation: This is being recommended due to the time sensitive nature of the grant deliverables and spend requirements within the criteria of the grant allocation. This means that the Council must make arrangements to spend £996k before the end of the financial year, this money must be spent in accordance with the grant headings shown in the table under para 7.1.</p> <p>To ensure member oversight, it is recommended that an annual review process is put into place with the Executive to provide assurances of the programmes deliverables and spend against the grant allocation. This will further support the implementation of the programme at the pace required.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: That delegated authority is not granted in relation to</p>

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		<p>grant allocation. This is not recommended as it will add delay in developing the programme at the pace required and the Council would lose the opportunity to enhance and co-ordinate services for families. Furthermore, the Council would lose the opportunity to spend the allocated funds within the short timescales which will impact on driving the required activity and reduce investment into the local area. Any unspent grant for the 2022/2023 allocation will have to be returned.</p>
Item 11	Procurement of Fuel for the Council Fleet	<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 sign the necessary contracts to secure the fuel contract to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economy. <p>Reasons for Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendation provides a cost-effective solution for the purchase of essential fuels and ensures the authority is compliant with its obligations under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council’s contract standing orders. • The proposed option will provide a reliable fuel supply, providing reliable

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		<p>services for North Northamptonshire residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed framework route will allow flexibility to secure preferential fuel rates, including access to low carbon fuels should the Council choose to do so. <p>Alternative Options Considered: The only other realistic option would be to procure bulk orders via suppliers or rely on forecourt supplies. Neither of these options provide the cost benefits or greater security of supply presented via the recommended option.</p>
Item 12	Full Asylum Dispersal Model	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Noted the government’s adoption of the Full Asylum Dispersal Strategy and the rationale for it. b. Noted the East Midlands model and approach for delivering the strategy in the region. c. Noted the role of North Northamptonshire Council in delivering the strategy in the Council area; and the approach Council Officers are taking to work with SERCO, the contract holder for Asylum Accommodation and Support Services across the North West, Midlands and East of England regions, on contingency accommodation (hotels) and property acquisitions (leases) in the private rented sector.

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		<p>d. Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, to take any further decisions and/or actions required, including use of the funding, to support the dispersal and settlement, temporary or otherwise, of asylum seekers in North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation: To ensure that the Council fulfils its obligations under the national Full Asylum Dispersal Strategy and works with SERCO and other partners to effectively support asylum seekers to integrate into local communities.</p> <p>Alternative Options considered: There is no alternative as this is a national policy, although the Council has worked closely with the Regional Migration Partnership in developing the model for the region. If the Council did not fully engage with SERCO over the selection of contingency hotels and dispersal properties then there is a risk, as the decisions will stand regardless, of negative impacts on community cohesion, local service provision and successful integration of asylum seekers into local communities.</p>
Item 13	Raunds Library (Community Managed Library programme)	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

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		<p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved entering into a lease for the Raunds Library property with Creating Tomorrow Multi-Academy Trust at 40% reduction on the market rent in line with the community managed libraries that transferred under NCC. b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member Sport, Leisure, Culture, Tourism in conjunction with the Executive Director, Adults, Communities and Wellbeing to take any action necessary to complete the lease arrangements. <p>Reason for Recommendations: The approval of this recommendation will enable the officers to proceed with the transfer of Raunds Library to be community managed, 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 Council could choose not to enter into a lease at 40% reduction on the market rent, but this has been discounted as it would not be in keeping with the approach taken across the rest of the Community Managed libraries programme and could lead to significant reputational damage and the potential for community organisations to pull out of the process.</p>
Item 14	Waste Management 3 Year Plan (2022-2025)	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

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		<p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved the Waste Management 3-Year Plan (2022-2025), to be the waste services plan attached at Appendix A to the report; b) Authorised options appraisals for the kerbside collection services and street-cleaning services in East Northamptonshire; c) Authorised appraisal of infrastructure and best delivery options for provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres; d) Commenced procurement of the Council’s future waste disposal contract; e) Delegated to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with Executive Director for Place & Economy, Executive Director for Finance and the Executive Member for Finance, the authority to take any further decisions and/or actions required in connection with the procurement and award of the waste disposal contract, without the need to return to the Executive. <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommended course of action allows the waste service to undertake projects that will improve the services for the communities of North Northamptonshire in a considered and methodical approach.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking the options appraisals, and any subsequent procurements, is the most cost-effective way of ensuring new contracts for the Council’s disposal and collection services are fit for purpose and achieving best value. • This approach enables the Council to make informed decisions regarding its medium-term financial planning for its Waste Management services. • This approach ensures the Council has legally procured and compliant contractors in place for its waste collections and disposal. <p>Alternative Options Considered: As the Waste Management 3-Year Plan sets out the direction for the waste service, the plan offers transparency to councillors/elected Members and members of the public as to the work the service will carry out in the coming years, identifying opportunities to engage with changes that will enhance our services and delivery. This includes the necessary procurement activities for the disposal and processing of waste and recycling. The alternative option is not having an agreed plan to direct the service development, which is not recommended.</p> <p>The alternative to procuring a waste disposal contract would be for the Council to enter the waste disposal and processing sector either by building its own facility or developing a commercial relationship with another provider to build a facility on a joint venture basis. It is unlikely that these complex arrangements could be put in place by 2025, which is when the Council needs disposal arrangements in place, and it is therefore not recommended. If the Council wishes to pursue this route, it would be recommended that they develop this option in tandem with a view to implementing it at the end of the initial contract period of the new waste disposal</p>

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		contract.
Item 15	Youth Justice Plan 2022-23	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Executive considered and endorsed the Youth Justice Plan and recommended its approval to Full Council</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide the Youth Offending Service with the strategic direction for their service area • To accord with the policy of the Council, the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework and is therefore a matter for Council to approve. <p>Alternative Options Considered: As well as being a requirement of statute, the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework and approval by the Council is therefore required.</p>
Item 16	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report 2021-22	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the content and recommendations of the LGSCO’s annual review letter, and the outcomes of its investigations completed in 2021-22 that

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		<p align="center">relate to the Council.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: To appraise the Executive of the annual review letter and relevant information.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: It would not be considered good practice to not provide the annual Ombudsman report to the Executive and as such there are no alternative options to be considered.</p>
Item 17	Capital Programme Update 2022/23	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Approved the following changes to the capital programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Disabled Facilities Grant – to increase the capital budget available in 2022/23 for associated works and services to £2,561,759 in accordance with the grant award. An indicative sum of £1.9m was already included in the budget assumptions for 2022/23 and, therefore, this represents an increase of £0.662m. b. Kingswood Urban Development - £86,900 increase to the capital budget funded through external contributions. a. Housing Stores Project – virement of £162,820 to this scheme – funded from an existing capital budget underspend within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital budget.

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		<p align="center">b. Cannock Road Housing Development – virement of £454,000 to this scheme – funded from existing capital budget within the HRA capital budget.</p> <p align="center">ii) Recommended to Council to approve the additional virement in support of the Cannock Road housing development as the total virement requested for this scheme, including previous transfers, exceeds £0.5m.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation: 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 expand the capital budget available to support disabled facilities within homes. • To replace and improve the skate park as part of Kingswood Urban Development. • To improve the stores arrangements at Corby and Kettering depots through a new single system designed to hold appropriate stock levels to meet housing repair needs. • To improve and expand the housing provision in North Northamptonshire. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For external funding (DSG and Kingswood Urban Development) - use of the funding is in line with the agreements, there is no alternative option proposed. • By not approving the stores recommendation the Council would not be able to improve productivity in respect of housing repairs.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is not an alternative option for the Cannock Road housing development. This is an approved scheme that is already in progress.
Item 18	Budget Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 4	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Noted the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2022/23 savings proposals in Appendix A. <p>Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2022/23 as at Period 4 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>
Part B – Items considered in private		

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Item 19	Knuston Hall	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved the preparation and launch of a marketing campaign to offer the site for sale on the open market. b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets in consultation with the Assistant Director of Assets & Environment to authorise the completion of the land sale and finalise sale terms. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knuston Hall is a Grade II listed heritage asset, which is currently run as a residential adult learning centre within the Assets & Environment service. It has, until recently, provided conference facilities and short courses. Revenue investment is required in the hall which combined with a limited market demand has meant that the Hall's current use is no longer viable as an asset of the Council. • As a Grade II listed heritage asset, the Hall is protected through planning, associated heritage land and property policy. The Council will, therefore, as the Local Planning Authority continue to regulate development of the site. • The asset requires investment and, without a viable local authority use,

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		<p>it is not considered appropriate to invest public funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council supports Chester House Estate, which is less than three miles away from Knuston Hall, and this could provide an alternative location for conferences supported by the Hall with accommodation located close to the Estate. • There is opportunity to redeploy the staff employed at Knuston Hall to suitable alternative employment within the Council, following a consultation process; a redundancy situation does not therefore arise. • Whilst the council provides an Adult Learning service as part of its core business, the residential service provided at Knuston Hall is separate to this. Running a hotel service is not part of the Council’s core business <p>Alternative options considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To use the site for alternative Council uses, such as a public care home. The Hall does not comply with the regulations for such uses and has, limited development options imposed by the heritage status • The site has limited infill residential development opportunity. It is not suitable for Council housing use. • The site could be continued to be operated as a residential learning centre, under the current business model, however, as detailed in the report and appendices, this would require significant upfront and ongoing investment in the building and the business model, which is not considered an appropriate use of public funds.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options have been considered for alternative Council uses but without expending substantial public funds the Council can only sustain a limited number of heritage assets and without a viable use; it is not in the public interest to commit funding to Knuston Hall.