

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 10 November 2022

Issued: 10th November 2022

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 10th November 2022.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 18th November 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 6 - September 2022)	RESOLVED That the Executive: a) Noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available indicators at Period 6 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 6, 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	Hackney Carriage Tariffs	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive;</p> <p align="center">a) Approved an increase in fares in the Corby zone based upon the aligned fare tariff detailed in the public notice within Appendix A</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation: The trade previously made representation that an increase in fares is required to ensure that the increased costs of running the service are covered. Since there were no objections received for the East, Kettering or Wellingborough zone, three aligned Table of Fares have been introduced in these areas. Full alignment of fares across all four zones is considered to be important, so that all residents within North Northamptonshire will be subject to the same maximum</p>

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		<p>fare, regardless of where they reside or work.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The below options were considered for the Corby zone on 27th September 2022 and can be reconsidered;</p> <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
Item 7	North Northamptonshire Council Taxi and Private Hire Policy	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the policy and appendices for adoption by North Northamptonshire Council with an implementation date of 1st April 2023.</p> <p>Reason For Recommendation: Each of the sovereign authorities currently has their own Taxi and Private Hire policies and standards in place, which have very different requirements for licensed vehicles, drivers and operators. One unified policy is required to ensure consistent standards and decision making across the authority.</p> <p>The draft policy has been amended following feedback received from the trade and was discussed and agreed with Members of the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 11th October 2022.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The Executive could further amend the content of the</p>

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		<p>policy before implementation or could refuse to approve the policy. Failure to approve the policy would however result in the council continuing to operate under the four sovereign policies, resulting in the continuation of differing standards for licensed drivers, vehicles and operators and the council would not have one single unified policy which promotes consistent decision making.</p>
<p>Item 8</p>	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved Core UKSPF interventions and allocations set out in Section 4 and Appendix A of the report, and delegated authority to the Executive Member for Growth & Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing, Communities & Levelling Up and the Executive Director of Place & Economy to agree further details of delivery and related initiatives, including any contracts, funding agreements and/or variations to allocations b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Growth & Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Member for Rural Communities & Localism, and Executive Director of Place & Economy to submit the Rural England Prosperity Fund addendum. c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Growth & Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Members for Rural Communities & Localism; and Housing, Communities & Levelling-

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		<p>Up in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Economy to consider and agree the Rural Addendum with priority interventions for submission by 30th November 2022.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable projects to commence delivery and enable Year 1 spend by 31st March 2023 • To facilitate preparation work to commence on Year 2 and Year 3 interventions and related initiatives • To ensure that the Rural addendum, with priority interventions, is submitted before the deadline of 30th November to enable North Northamptonshire to secure its allocated funding <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council did not submit an Investment Plan or does not submit a Rural addendum, meaning that the area is not able to access its allocation resulting in the loss of significant funds and related outcomes and benefits
Item 9	Provision of Building Cleaning Services	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

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		<p>That the Executive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Confirmed the preferred procurement route for a cleaning service contract via an appropriate framework agreement. b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Transport and Assets, in consultation with the Assistant Director of Assets & Environment to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. finalise the scope of services, list of buildings and the preferred service standards to be specified. ii. ensure scalability and willingness of the supplier to invest are included as key requirements. iii. to enter into the necessary contractual arrangements to secure best value for delivering the cleaning service. <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 changes in service need and delivery throughout the contract period. • The proposed option will provide a reliable cleaning service, provision to monitor contractor performance, providing quality services for North Northamptonshire residents. • The proposed framework route will allow flexibility to add and remove the buildings covered by the contract as the Council’s estate is

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		<p align="center">reviewed and evolves over the coming years.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: A number of alternative options were considered by both operational managers and procurement colleagues, including building an in-house team or undertaking the bespoke procurement of a new Cleaning Services contract. The preferred option was deemed to offer the best value for money to the Council in terms of time to deploy the new arrangements, access to established providers, procurement costs, risk and overall value for money.</p>
Item 10	Street Lighting LED Upgrade	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Confirmed approval to proceed with the LED replacement and Central Management System (CMS) upgrade of streetlights within the PFI agreement with Connect Roads/ Balfour Beatty. b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, the Executive Director for Finance and the Executive Director for Place and Economy to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. secure and allocate appropriate funding, through Prudential Borrowing; ii. agree the necessary changes to the PFI funding agreement with Connect Roads/Balfour Beatty to complete the required

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		<p align="center">works.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations: The recommendations will deliver against the Council’s priorities to provide efficient services that deliver value for money, whilst maintaining a safe public highway and reduce carbon emissions in line with the Council’s commitment to becoming carbon net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An alternative is to continue with the current street lighting lanterns, which would avoid the need to provide capital funding for investment. This option would not deliver the financial, social or environmental objectives of the proposed recommendations • It would be possible to change the lanterns to LEDs, but not install the CMS. This would not deliver the operational and potential financial and environmental benefits of having remote control over the network of streetlights, so this is not recommended. • The Council owns and manages streetlights, inherited from the former district and boroughs, which are not part of the street lighting PFI. In order to convert those assets to LED, they would first need to be transferred into the PFI. It is not proposed to transfer those assets to the PFI through this project as it will require additional inspection and upgrade of those assets in order to meet the strict specification requirements of the PFI. This is a separate consideration, and investment, that the Council may want to explore at another time.
Item 11	Proposed Amalgamation of	RESOLVED

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	<p>Tennyson Rd Infant School and Alfred St Junior School, Rushden</p>	<p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved the amalgamation of Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School in Rushden.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendation:</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 <p>Alternative Options Considered: Having been approached by the governing body of both schools with the proposal to merge, the Council considered the benefits of this option against the maintenance of the two separate schools. The conclusion reached was that the merger provided a much greater opportunity to drive the improvement in outcomes for children at pace, and to deliver efficiency savings that would contribute to the financial stability of the new school. Further details of these considerations are set out in this report.</p>

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Item 12	Procurement and Implementation of Children's Social Care Case Management System	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agreed to proceed with the replacement of the Case Management System for the Children’s Social Care across Northamptonshire, which will be operated by Northants Children’s Trust (NCT), contribution by North Northamptonshire is £1.236m as outlined in section 5.5. b) Delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families, Education and Skills, in liaison with the Executive Director for Children’s Services, to take any further decisions and actions required to implement the Case Management System and award contracts in relation to this. c) Recommended to Council that it delegates authority to the Executive Member of Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance to access and utilise revenue reserves to fund the Case Management System for Children’s Social Care. <p>Reason for Recommendations: To implement a new Case Management System which is fit for purpose and meets the statutory obligations in delivering Children’s Social Care across Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the current system (CareFirst) to continue to be used impacting the transformation and process changes to be reflected on the case management system. • For the Eclipse system to be implemented under the current contract. However, the contract will still expire in Jan 2025 and a re-procurement would need to begin prior to implementation of the system. • To have no case management system would not be a viable option that could be considered. • There are no other case management software applications in use within the Council that that could be utilised by NCT.
Item 13	Integrated Care Northamptonshire - Strategy, Outcomes Framework, North Place Delivery	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Considered the alignment of NNC strategies with the development of the Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy – Live Your Best Life. b) Noted the progress of the Integrated Care Partnership North Place development and implementation and its role in delivering the strategy. <p>Reason for Recommendations: The Executive is asked to consider alignment of existing and future NNC strategies to the emerging Integrated Care strategy.</p>

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		Alternative Options Considered: There are no other options as this is a national request
Item 14	Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report 2021/2022	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the NSAB Annual Report 2021-2022 as approved by the NSAB Strategic Board on 6th October 2022 at Appendix A of the report b) Acknowledged the contribution that North Northamptonshire Council has made in supporting NSAB’s achievements in keeping adults safe from harm. c) Recommended that the NSAB Annual Report be taken to Full Council for consideration and noting at its meeting on 24th November. <p>Reason for Recommendations: The report provides assurance to the Executive of the activities undertaken to help safeguard adults across North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: That the report is not presented for consideration by the Executive as the DASS approved the report as the Chair of NSAB.</p>
Item 15	Annual Report of Northamptonshire Children's Trust	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the content of the Annual Report that was completed in line

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		<p align="center">with the service delivery contract.</p> <p>b) Noted the proposal to further discuss and agree any amendments to the Service Delivery Contract following the Ofsted Inspection of the Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) due to take place in Autumn 2022.</p> <p>c) Recommended that the annual report is taken to Council for consideration.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Review process and subsequent Annual Report provides a procedure through which the Councils can review the Service Delivery Contract and Northamptonshire Children’s Trust performance in delivering its functions • Making changes to the Service Delivery Contract after the expected Ofsted inspection allows any changes to be considered in the context of the outcome of this inspection and any recommendations from Ofsted • Taking the report to Full Council gives all elected members an insight into the work of Northamptonshire Children’s Trust and supports the discharge of their Corporate Parenting duties <p>Alternative Options Considered: No other options considered</p>

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Item 16	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Considered the information as set out in the report and endorsed a proposed 2023/24 Local Council Tax Support Scheme which maintains the current 2022/23 scheme, allowing for the changes required to reflect the annual uprating of allowances and premiums and any statutory base legislation changes which are required to be made to the scheme. b) Recommended the proposed LCTS Scheme 2023/24 to Council for approval at its meeting on 24th November 2022. <p>Reasons for Recommendations: to deliver a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 that meets statutory requirements.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: The Council could choose to increase or decrease the minimum contribution payable by the customer. Decreasing the contribution would lead to a budget pressure and increasing the contribution would result in the scheme exceeding the breakeven requirement as detailed in paragraphs 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 of the report.</p>
Item 17	Indicative Budget Timeline and Scrutiny Process 2023- 24 - Update	<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 proposed timeline for the setting of the budget and that this may be subject to change in line with Government announcements or other factors. b) Noted the proposed budget setting and scrutiny arrangements for the Children’s Trust as set out in this report, see particularly paragraphs 5.7 to 5.11 of the report. c) Noted the overall indicative timeline for the budget setting as set out under paragraph 5.12. d) Noted that the process has been to Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for comment and that the approach outlined in this report was approved. <p>Reason for Recommendations: To inform Executive of the indicative budget timeline for 2023/24 and the arrangements for the scrutiny of the budget by the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Alternative Options: There are no alternative options under consideration, due to the need to meet approval deadlines and consultation requirements. The Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the proposals as set out in section 6 of this report regarding the scrutiny arrangements and were agreed to proceed on the basis as outlined. Some dates of the scrutiny committee work group meetings remain</p>

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		subject to finalisation, as outlined in the report, and others may be affected by further Government announcements.
Item 18	Treasury Management Mid-Year Report to September 2022	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the activity undertaken during the first half of the financial year ended 30th September 2022 and the performance achieved as 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 Treasury Management Strategy Statement 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 delegated the formulation and monitoring of the Council's treasury management strategy, policy and activity to the</p>

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		<p>Executive Committee.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: This report is for information and there are no alternative options for consideration.</p>
Item 19	Capital Outturn 2022-23 – Draft Outturn as at Period 6	<p>RESOLVED</p> <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: This report is for noting and alternative options are not proposed</p>
Item 20	Capital Programme Update 2022/23	RESOLVED

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		<p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>i) Approved the following changes to the capital programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Garden Communities (sustainable urban extensions) - increase of £1.428m to the capital programme for 2022/23, which is to be funded from the Homes England Garden Communities Grant. b. Changing Places, increase of £0.497m to the capital programme; £0.186m in 2022/23 and £0.311m in 2023/24, which £0.330m is to be funded from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and £0.167m from capital receipts. c. Discover North Northamptonshire Tourism Hub – increase of £0.245m to the capital programme, which is to be funded from UK Shared Prosperity Fund. d. Street lighting LED upgrade project, increase of £6.170m to the capital programme; £3.033m in 2022/23, £2.157m in 2023/24 and £0.980m in 2024/25, to be funded from borrowing. e. Children’s Residential Home provision – increase of £0.762m to the capital programme to be funded from borrowing. <p>ii) Recommended to Council to approve the following borrowing proposals for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Street lighting LED Upgrade Project - £6.170m. b. Children’s Residential Homes provision - £0.762m

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		<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 support the delivery of sustainable urban extensions of 25,000 homes within North Northamptonshire. • To improve changing facilities within North Northamptonshire. • To promote tourism hubs in targeted area within Rushden Lakes. • To support the delivery of energy efficient street lighting and reduce carbon emissions. • To support the delivery of children's residential places within Northamptonshire. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where grant funded, the use of the funding is in line with the agreement, and there is no alternative option proposed. • Where the schemes are not funded through a specific grant, then the alternative option at this stage would be to not approve them. However, this would have an adverse impact on meeting service needs, reducing carbon and the completion of other improvements across North Northamptonshire.
Item 21	Budget Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 6	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <p>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</p>

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		<p>set out in Section 5 and Section 6 of the report.</p> <p>b) Noted the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2022/23 savings proposals in Appendix A of the report.</p> <p>c) Noted that the Council will provide financial support up to £556k to external leisure providers as set out in section 5.45 to 5.48 of the report.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations: to note the forecast financial position for 2022/23 as at Period 6 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 – Item considered in closed session as exempt		
Item 22	Surplus Asset Disposals	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive granted delegations to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Assets & Environment, to progress the sale and agree the disposal terms of six sites:</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has fiduciary responsibilities to progress surplus vacant sites within a reasonable time, which government policy recommends no later than three years, to ensure value for money is achieved. The recommendation supports this outcome. • Progressing these disposals will further the strategic plans for these sites and support the investment to date. • Bringing sites forward for development contributes to North Northants area housing supply and to regeneration of their respective areas. • The capital receipts will be used to progress strategic capital projects which align to the Council’s Corporate Plan. • There is market demand to bring the sites forward, with market testing confirming private sector interest. The Council will continue to determine development through the planning policy and process. • Progressing these sites will result in the Council reducing the revenue holding costs. <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate relevant services have been made aware of the property’s availability, but none have been deemed suitable for any ongoing requirements. • These sites have incurred substantial public fundings as part of the

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		legacy council strategic objectives. The only realistic return on that funding is to progress per the recommendation above.