

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 9 February 2023

Issued: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 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 6	Maintained Nursery Supplementary Funding - Report from Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee	<b>RESOLVED</b>  That the Executive:  i) Noted the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group as instructed by the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
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		<p>ii) Discussed and provided feedback on the “Maintained Nursery Funding Review” report attached at <b>Appendix A</b> to the report.</p> <p>iii) Noted the recommendations and comments in the report.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <p>i) The Scrutiny Task and Finish Group undertook a comprehensive review of the Executives decision in relation to this matter and have presented recommendations for consideration. It is a matter of good governance that Executive receive the report and provide feedback on the review.</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>
<b>Item 7</b>	General Fund Budget 2023-24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive endorsed the contents of the report and recommended the budget proposals on to Council for approval. This included:</p> <p>a) the 2023-24 revenue budget for approval and adoption as set out in this</p>

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		<p>report, which sets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A budget requirement of £691.458m including Dedicated Schools Grant of £354.963m resulting in a net revenue budget requirement of £336.495m as set out in <b>Appendix A</b> of the report.</li> <li>ii. A total Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes of £189.419m as contained in paragraph 5.27.</li> <li>iii. An average Band D Council Tax of £1,657.51 for North Northamptonshire Council, representing a 2.99% increase in the ‘core’ Council Tax and a further 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept, noting that a separate Council Tax Resolution Report will be presented to Full Council.</li> <li>iv. The detailed proposals of savings, pressures and income generation for 2023-24 as set out within the report and <b>Appendix B</b> of the report.</li> <li>v. The provisional dedicated schools grant budget of £354.963m for 2023-24, as detailed in <b>Appendix C</b> of the report, and summarised in paragraphs 5.47 – 5.58.</li> <li>vi. The draft planned use of, contribution to, and movement in, reserves as identified in paragraph 5.60 and section 9 subject to the final call on reserves after any changes are required to account for final charges etc.</li> <li>vii. The corporate budget requirements as set out in paragraph 8.1, including a contingency sum of £3.651m as set out in paragraph 8.2.</li> </ul>

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		<p>viii. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2023-24 as set out in <b>Appendix H</b> of the report, including the Authorised Borrowing Limit of £798m, and to note a further update to the Strategy will be provided once the disaggregation of Northamptonshire County Council’s Balance Sheet has been finalised, subject to the External Audit of the former County Council’s accounts.</p> <p>ix. That Council delegate authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to agree any necessary variations to the budget prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.</p> <p>x. That Council delegate authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to agree the use of the following reserves which will provide the flexibility to manage the overall budget during 2023-24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Care Reserve</li> <li>• Transformation Reserve</li> <li>• Public Health Reserve</li> <li>• Waste Management Reserve</li> <li>• General Risk Reserve</li> </ul> <p>b) the forecast financial position for 2024-25 and 2025-26, noting that this will be reviewed as further information becomes available and updated as part of the budget process for 2024-25 onwards.</p>

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		<p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Noted that the financial position has been based on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 together with any further announcements as at the date of the publication of this report;</li> <li>b) Noted that the Final Local Government Finance Settlement is yet to be published and, therefore, some figures may be subject to change;</li> <li>c) Considered the consultation feedback as summarised in the report and attached at <b>Appendix E</b> of the report;</li> <li>d) Considered the outcome from the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, as detailed at <b>Appendix G</b> and any subsequent representations to this Committee;</li> <li>e) Noted the Equality Impact Screening Assessment as at <b>Appendix F</b> as having been taken into consideration;</li> <li>f) Considered the Section 25 Report of the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) as set out in Section 15, including her review of the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the reserves;</li> <li>g) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Children, Education and Skills and the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Children’s Services and the</li> </ul>

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		<p>Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to approve North Northamptonshire’s Schools Funding Formula and to finalise the funding allocation for schools, in line with North Northamptonshire’s Schools Funding Formula and following confirmation of the funding allocation mechanism for Maintained Nurseries;</p> <p>h) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to draft the recommended budget resolution for Council in accordance with the necessary legal requirements and to take into account the decisions of the Executive and any final changes and other technical adjustments that may be required;</p> <p>i) Noted that the transfer of £3.879m from reserves relates to a timing issue in respect of Business Rates Reliefs. This is a timing issue which recognises that these reliefs were awarded and accounted for in the General Fund in 2022-23 but the reduced yield in Business Rates is not reflected in the Collection Fund until 2023-24;</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution and legislative requirements in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire Council from 2023-24.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered – The Budgets have been subject to a formal budget consultation and comments from the consultation have been considered as part of this</p>

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		process.
Item 8	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Draft Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Proposals	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive recommended to Full Council the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The draft 2023/24 Housing Revenue Account Budgets consisting of the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account as set out in <b>Appendix A</b> of the report.</li> <li>b. An increase in dwelling rents for 2023/24 of 7% which adheres to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) amended Policy statement on rents for social housing for both the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account.</li> <li>c. The draft Housing Revenue Account Medium Term Financial Plan consisting of the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account, for 2024/25 to 2027/28 as set out in <b>Appendix B</b> of the report.</li> </ul> <p>That the Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Noted the forecast reserves for the Corby Neighbourhood Account and the Kettering Neighbourhood Account up to 2027/28 as set out in <b>Appendix C</b> of the report.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendations: To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – The HRA Budgets have been subject to a formal budget consultation and comments from the consultation have been considered as part of this process.</p>
Item 9	Capital Programme 2023-26	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive approved for recommendation to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The General Fund Capital Programme 2023-26 and HRA Capital Programme 2023-26.</li> <li>b) That Council delegate authority to the Executive Member for Finance and Transformation in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Performance (Section 151 Officer) to agree any necessary variations to the capital budget prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.</li> </ul> <p>That the Executive noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Development Pool 2023-26 and that schemes within the pool will be</li> </ul>



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		<p align="center">subject to further approval prior to inclusion in the programme.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendations: To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution and legislative requirements in setting the budget for North Northamptonshire Council for 2023-24.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered - This is the start of the formal budget consultation for the Capital Programme and any comments from the consultation will be considered as part of this process.</p>
<b>Item 10</b>	Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan - Proposed Adoption	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the Executive agreed to make the Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan, so that it becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation – The plan was approved through a public referendum, identifying a majority in favour verdict of making the Plan, in addition the Council is satisfied that the making of the Plan would not breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations. Therefore, the Council is procedurally required to “make” the Barnwell Neighbourhood Plan part of the statutory development plan for the Barnwell 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 Council 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>