

North Northamptonshire Council – Decisions taken by the Executive on Thursday 16 February 2023

Issued: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The following decisions in this notice were made by the Executive on Thursday 16 February 2023.

Any decisions identified below as a **KEY DECISION** will come into force and may be implemented on 24<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 5	Performance Indicator Report 2022/23 (Period 9 - December 2022)	<b>RESOLVED</b>  That the Executive:  a) Noted the performance of the Council as measured by the available indicators at Period 9 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 9, 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	Security Services Contract	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Confirmed the preferred procurement route of procuring a single Building Security Services provider through a dedicated competitive tendering exercise to deliver all services across North Northamptonshire</li> <li>b) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Highways, Travel, and Assets in consultation with the Assistant Director for Assets &amp; Environment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) finalise the scope of services, and the preferred service standards to be specified</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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		<p>ii) ensure scalability and willingness for the contractor to invest are included as key requirements</p> <p>iii) commence the procurement process and award the contract.</p> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommendation provides a cost-effective solution, which can be deployed to suit the changes in service need and delivery throughout the contract period</li> <li>• The proposed option will provide a reliable security service and provision to monitor contractor performance, providing quality services for North Northamptonshire residents.</li> <li>• The proposed framework route will allow flexibility to add and remove the buildings covered by the contract as the Council's estate is reviewed and evolves over the coming years.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered - A number of alternative options were considered by both operational managers and procurement colleagues, including building an in-house team, using an established Security Services framework agreement or incorporating Security Services within a wider Facilities Management (FM) contract. The preferred option was deemed to offer the best value for money to the Council in terms of access to providers, risk and overall value for money.</p>

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Item 7	Concessionary Travel Reimbursement in 2023/24	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p><b>KEY DECISION</b></p> <p>That the Executive agreed to reimburse bus operators for concessionary travel at 90% of pre-Covid levels until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (this is subject to the passage of appropriate secondary legislation through Parliament)</p> <p>Reason for Recommendation – To support bus operators in North Northamptonshire following the decline in passenger numbers caused by the Covid pandemic with the intention of securing current bus provision.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered – The Council could provide a lower level of concessionary reimbursement than proposed; however, this would be likely to lead to a reduction in the level of bus service for North Northamptonshire communities. The Council could provide a 100% reimbursement based on pre-Covid levels. This would reverse the recent reduction to 90% and is considered to set an unrealistic expectation that patronage levels (and related funding) will reach 100% of pre-Covid levels in the foreseeable future. It is, therefore, not recommended. Except for the small number of subsidised services provided under contract to the Council, the level of service provided is a matter for the commercial bus operators and not a decision which the Council can make or directly influence.</p>

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Item 8	Public Health & NHSE Integrated Sexual Health and HIV Services	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Adults Health and Wellbeing in consultation with the Director of Public Health and the Executive Director of Finance and Performance to extend a Section 75 agreement (or equivalent public sector agreement) for up to two years with partners, NHS England, to jointly commission the Integrated Sexual health and HIV service from April 2023 – March 2025.</li> <li>b) Agreed to extend the current Northamptonshire Integrated Sexual Health and HIV contract with Northamptonshire NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT)</li> </ul> <p>Reason for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective and likely to match future services with the changing profile of North Northamptonshire's population</li> <li>• Accords with legislation or the policy of the Council</li> <li>• Enables development of the previous decisions of Northamptonshire County Council in September 2018</li> <li>• An extension of the NISHH contract with NHFT will provide time to undertake a needs assessment and benchmarking of the service and introduce new KPI's and targets required to meet the new and emerging needs of the population, identified through this process</li> </ul>

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		<p>Alternative Options Considered – The options available to North and West Northamptonshire are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Extend the current contract with NHFT. This will provide time to undertake a needs assessment and a benchmarking exercise to better understand the emerging needs of the local population. The KPI's and targets would be updated through a contract variation to ensure the service is fit for purpose and delivering value for money while meeting local need. This will also give time to understand how services have changed and how the learning can be further used to inform future re-commissioning of the new sexual health service in 2025 in line with the wider transformation and strategic aims. Give time for the current Provider to reset and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>b) Do not extend the contract, and reprocure the service – the risk is that this would not be completed in time, and risk service disruption. The transformation and strategic ambitions are still being refined and the risk is that the intentions may not be fully embedded in the new service design for 2023.</li> </ul>

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Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Item 9	Housing Development – Former Grange Methodist Church site, Kettering	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved the amendment of the budget to £2,173,000 for the Former Grange Methodist Church, Stamford Rd, Kettering - Housing Development</li> <li>b) Noted that the construction works will then be procured via an open procedure tender process</li> <li>c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up in consultation with the Executive Director of Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing to take any decisions necessary to complete the project including decisions to conclude procurement and award contracts</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enable the delivery of the housing development.</li> <li>• To bring back into use a redundant brownfield site in a residential area, which is currently subject to vandalism and attracts anti-social behaviour.</li> <li>• The Avondale Grange ward within which the proposed development is located has been designated as a “left behind” area and in need of additional investment under the Government’s levelling up agenda.</li> <li>• To increase the supply of affordable rented housing available in North Northamptonshire, which meets the corporate objective of enabling safe and thriving places.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do nothing – this would not deliver any of the objectives set by the Council and would not deliver additional affordable housing.</li> <li>• Cease the development and sell the site- not recommended 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.</li> <li>• Further pause the development and redesign the scheme to achieve lower per unit costs/increase rental income- not recommended</li> </ul>



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		<p>because it would not allow the provision of additional housing suitable for disabled people. 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>
<b>Item 10</b>	Highways and Transport Block Funding 2022-25	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Noted and accepted the revised allocation of Integrated Transport Block funding of £1.364m in 2022/23.</li> <li>ii) Noted and accepted the receipt of the government grants totalling £9.768m per annum in 2023/24 made up of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways Maintenance Block needs element - £3.735m</li> <li>• Highways Maintenance Block incentive element (subject to confirmation) - £0.934m</li> <li>• Potholes Fund - £3.735m</li> <li>• Integrated Transport Block Funding - £1.364m</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii) Approved the distribution of spending of the grants on maintaining and upgrading the highways network as set out in the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Reason for Recommendation – To support delivery of the priorities laid out in the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan by utilisation of the government grant to support and maintain the Council’s Highways infrastructure and transport network.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: Options would include not spending the money and allowing DfT to recoup it. Alternatively, the Council could choose to spend the money on schemes that are not a priority in line with the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan</p>
Item 11	Determination of Admission Arrangements for Local Authority Maintained (Community and Voluntary Controlled) Schools in North Northamptonshire for the 2024 Intakes	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Agreed the Admission Arrangements as detailed in <b>Appendix A</b> of the report</li> <li>ii) Agreed the two Co-ordinated Schemes for the 2024 intakes as detailed in <b>Appendix B</b> and <b>Appendix C</b> of the report</li> </ul> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: It is the duty of admission authorities to determine the admission arrangements for all their schools annually. It is the duty of local authorities to formulate and publish a co-ordinated scheme for the admission of pupils to all schools in the area.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: All the above are statutory requirements therefore there are no alternative options available.</p>

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Item 12	Local Authority Housing Fund (Refugee Resettlement)	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approved that the Council enters into an agreement with the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to acquire 30 homes during 2023-2024 to deliver additional housing for refugees.</li> <li>b) Approved the proposal to repurpose £3.711m capital funding already committed to the Homelessness Prevention programme to enable North Northamptonshire Council to provide the required match funding against the central government grant for this programme.</li> <li>c) Delegated authority to the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling Up in consultation with the Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing to take any decisions and actions necessary to complete the programme.</li> </ul> <p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure the recent humanitarian refugee schemes (Afghan and Ukraine), provide sufficient longer-term accommodation to those they</li> </ul>

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		<p>support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mitigate the increased pressures on the Local Authority's homelessness and social housing resources which arise as sponsorship / family placements / bridging accommodation arrangements end, by increasing the provision of affordable housing to those in the cohort who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in bridging accommodation.</li> <li>• To increase the overall supply of affordable rented housing available in North Northamptonshire, which meets the corporate objective of enabling safe and thriving places.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do nothing – if the Council does not participate in this programme, it will not receive the funding allocation and the challenge of finding onward settled accommodation for refugees will remain. This challenge is already putting pressure on stretched homelessness services. Those refugees who present as homeless are still owed a statutory homelessness duty by the Council and need to be placed in costly nightly paid Temporary Accommodation and then progressed through Keyways on to the housing register.</li> <li>• Commit to delivering a smaller number of homes – whilst this may be easier to achieve, the government grant allocation will reduce proportionately and less homes will be acquired into our temporary accommodation stock. Ultimately fewer additional homes will be available to the Council to use as affordable housing for our residents in the longer term.</li> </ul>

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<b>Item 13</b>	Capital Outturn 2022-23 – Draft Outturn as at Period 9	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Noted the draft capital outturn position as at period 9 for the General Fund (GF) Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme for 2022/23.</li> <li>b. Noted the new schemes that have been approved since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.</li> </ul> <p>Reasons for Recommendations: This is in line with the Council’s constitution and financial regulations in relation to governance.</p> <p>Alternative Options Considered: This report is for noting and alternative options are not proposed.</p>
<b>Item 14</b>	Capital Programme Update 2022/23	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>KEY DECISION</p>

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		<p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Approved the following changes into the capital programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Grange Housing development - virement of £313k from the Housing Development capital programme for 2023/24.</li> <li>b. Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) (Refugee Resettlement) – budget approval for £3.234m in 2023/24, which is to be funded from the DLUHC LAHF grant.</li> <li>c. Integrated Transport Block Funding – budget reduction in line with revised funding allocations from £1.551m to £1.364m for 3 years from 2022-23 to 2024-25.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Reasons for the recommendation are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To support the delivery of housing provisions across North Northamptonshire.</li> <li>• To provide access to temporary accommodation across North Northamptonshire, helping to meet the priorities of humanitarian schemes announced by DLUHC, particularly in relation to the Afghan and Ukraine refugee resettlement programme.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative Options Considered:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As all the schemes in this report are grant funded/S106 funded, the use of the funding is in line with the agreement, so there is no alternative option proposed in this report.</li> <li>• Where schemes are over £500k, individual reports are presented elsewhere on the agenda that set out the wider options that were considered before reaching the proposed schemes identified for grant funding/S106 funding.</li> </ul>
Item 15	Budget Forecast 2022/23 as at Period 9	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>That the Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>b) Noted the assessment of the current deliverability of the 2022/23 savings proposals in <b>Appendix A</b> of the report.</li> </ul> <p>Reason for Recommendations – to note the forecast financial position for 2022/23 as at Period 9 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>

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