

# Public Document Pack



**North  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

**Meeting:** EAP Education, Skills and Employment

**Date:** Thursday 30th June, 2022

**Time:** 5.00 pm

**Venue:** Remote meeting, via Zoom


**The meeting will be available for the public to view live at the Democratic Services North Northants YouTube channel:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcH\\_JAaHaMtqHDeMQEVXi2g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcH_JAaHaMtqHDeMQEVXi2g)

## **To members of the EAP Education, Skills and Employment**

Councillor Scott Edwards (Chair), Councillor Wendy Brackenbury, Councillor Leanne Buckingham, Councillor Philip Irwin, Councillor Ian Jelley, Councillor Dorothy Maxwell and Councillor Lee Wilkes

Members of the Panel are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed on the agenda.

| <b>Agenda</b>                                                                                 |                                                                                                    |                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Item</b>                                                                                   | <b>Subject</b>                                                                                     | <b>Presenting Officer</b>                           | <b>Page no.</b> |
| 01                                                                                            | Apologies for absence                                                                              |                                                     |                 |
| 02                                                                                            | Minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2022                                                          |                                                     | 3 - 6           |
| 03                                                                                            | Declarations of Interest                                                                           |                                                     |                 |
| 04                                                                                            | Update on the Amalgamation of Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School, Rushden | Jo Hutchinson,<br>Senior School Improvement Manager | 7 - 20          |
| 05                                                                                            | Family Hubs and Start for Life Update                                                              | Kirsty Reed,<br>Family Hubs Coordinator             |                 |
| 06                                                                                            | Forward Plan of Executive Items                                                                    | Ben Smith,<br>Democratic Services                   | 21 - 28         |
| 07                                                                                            | Forward List of Items for Education, Skills and Employment EAP                                     | Ben Smith,<br>Democratic Services                   | 29 - 34         |
| 08                                                                                            | Close of Meeting                                                                                   |                                                     |                 |
| Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer<br>North Northamptonshire Council                             |                                                                                                    |                                                     |                 |
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## **Members' Declarations of Interest**

Members are reminded of their duty to ensure they abide by the approved Member Code of Conduct whilst undertaking their role as a Councillor. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, you must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** your own financial interest (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or **relates to** a financial interest of a relative, friend or close associate, you must disclose the interest and not vote on the matter unless granted a dispensation. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

Members are reminded that they should continue to adhere to the Council's approved rules and protocols during the conduct of meetings. These are contained in the Council's approved Constitution.

If Members have any queries as to whether a Declaration of Interest should be made please contact the Monitoring Officer at – [monitoringofficer@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:monitoringofficer@northnorthants.gov.uk)

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## Minutes of a meeting of the EAP Education, Skills and Employment

At 5.00 pm on Wednesday 4th May, 2022 in the  
Held as Remote meeting, via Zoom

### Present:-

#### Members

Councillor Scott Edwards (Chair)  
Councillor Jean Addison (substitute for Councillor Philip Irwin)  
Councillor Leanne Buckingham  
Councillor Philip Irwin  
Councillor Lee Wilkes  
Councillor Ian Jelley

#### Officers

|                |                                                  |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Tony Challinor | Assistant Director, Commissioning & Partnerships |
| Jenny Daniels  | Democracy Officer (minutes)                      |
| Neil Goddard   | Head of SEND                                     |
| Jo Hutchinson  | Head of School Effectiveness                     |
| Louise Tyers   | Democratic Services Officer                      |

### 79 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Wendy Brackenbury and Leanne Buckingham.

### 80 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022

**RESOLVED that:** The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 81 Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited those members who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

Councillor Jean Addison declared an interest as a governor of Pen Green Nursery.

### 82 Update on SEND Progress

At the Chairman's invitation the Assistant Director for Education presented a report which provided details of the current state of SEND across the local area and highlighted where there was further work to be done. It also provided details of how they were working with the Northamptonshire Parent Carer Forum, the SEND Accountability Board, the local area SEND vision and strategy, SEND data development, quality assurance, workforce development and progress with Education Health and Care Assessments.

In answer to queries on the report the following was confirmed:

- The membership of the Northamptonshire Parent Carer Forum could be forwarded to members following the meeting.
- The data dashboard would look at different types of needs and which of these could be declining. For example they were identifying fewer children of primary age with ADHD in North Northants.
- They had recently completed recruiting staff. They had a number of requests for assessments. Many schools were declining children meaning the Education Health and Care Assessments (EHCP) had not been completed.
- Support was never withheld for a child and decisions were not based on finance. They did however, have problems in securing an adequate number of spaces.
- Schools did not always have the appropriately trained staff to take particular children and there was a need to ensure there were sufficiently trained staff to meet future needs.
- There was never 1 single reason as to why children were not placed. They looked for solutions across the entire system so there could be a combination with all partners working together to meet a child's needs.
- They were working with partners in the healthcare system to meet speech and language needs as there appeared to be a significant demand in that area.
- They had adequately covered vacancies in Educational Psychologists with Associates so they were now over-staffed in that area.

It was agreed that further progress would be noted in 6-7 months' time.

**RESOLVED that:** The Executive Advisory Panel for Education, Skills and Employment noted the update on SEND Progress and would receive a further update in November 2022.

### 83 Schools White Paper - Briefing

At the Chairman's invitation the Head of School Effectiveness introduced a briefing paper on the Schools Government White Paper which set the government's view of education until 2030. It was noted that it would be underpinned by more legislation and it was highly likely that the Department for Education would consult on a range of issues. It did refer to the affects of COVID over the last 2 years and it referred to levying up to SEND papers. There were several chapters highlighting Excellent Teaching and having an excellent teacher for every child, attendance and behaviour, how to reach every SEND child and a having a stronger and fairer system. It also covered what all this would mean for local authorities who had a crucial role to play from ensuring all children had a school place to improving outcomes.

In answer to a query on the briefing it was confirmed that because the local authority wished to work closely with schools in its area they could identify issues in the schools and share best practice so that all children could make good progress.

Members of the Advisory Panel also noted the following:

- Class sizes presented an issue. In small schools teachers had more time to devote to each child but they perhaps lacked support because they were small. Larger schools had bigger classes but also could employ Teaching Assistants in the classroom to assist teachers.
- Schools need to be encouraged to stop selecting children.
- It was felt that unless the paper was backed up by finance and investment in schools it would not succeed.

**RESOLVED that:** The Executive Advisory Panel for Education Skills and Employment noted the briefing on the Schools White Paper.

## 84 Family Hubs - Briefing

At the Chairman's invitation the Assistant Director, Commissioning and Partnerships provided a briefing on Family Hubs highlighting the following:

- This was a successor to the Sure Start Programme.
- On 2 April North Northamptonshire was 1 of 75 councils pre-selected as eligible for a Family Hubs programme. This would include a share of £302 million to create new family hubs.
- Family hubs should be tailored for the local area.
- The national vision was set out by the Government. Parents and carers should be central to it so there was a need to develop getting their voices heard. Different agencies worked with parents and the the challenge was in gaining consistency in how they worked with parents.
- The next spending review would have additional money for this if they could demonstrate what they had been doing and how it helped people.
- The Transformation Bid included a steering group and other child minders and service providers may wish to be involved in this.
- There was a need to understand what the issues were and how to address them.
- A key part of the work was to gain member approval to develop a model for North Northants.
- There was a need to identify where hubs would be in North Northants.

In answer to queries on the briefing the following was confirmed:

- It was still to be decided but he would expect all nurseries both private and state should be involved.
- It would be a family hub but they could be encouraging specialist services where they were lacking. Funding would be used to promote improved ways of working.
- To be able to demonstrate success in Transformation 1 and 2 funding there was the need to ensure the ways of address issues involved all partners. There was money available for recruitment and it would pay for someone to get out to settings and gain an understanding of what families required of a family hub. They would ensure all the hubs were aligned. A community led response to addressing needs was required.
- There was a need to ensure the authority learned and took heed from the issues created by the COVID Pandemic. Some services could be accessed virtually and the local offer for SEND had been a virtual one.
- There would be volunteering opportunities.
- Whatever communities stated was the best way to address issues in their area would be offered. So for example if they stated offering more food banks would be the best way to address an issue then they would look to provide more food banks.
- There was a need to demonstrate success of the project so that it could continue. It was about leveraging existing services and aligning them up.

**RESOLVED that:** The Executive Advisory Panel for Education, Skills and Employment noted the Family Hubs Briefing.

**85 Forward Plan of Executive Items**

Consideration was given to the Forward List of Items for the Panel.

**86 Forward List of Items for Education, Skills and Employment EAP**

**RESOLVED that:** The following be added to the forward list of items for presentation at future meetings by officers:

- a) A further update on SEND progress in November 2022;
- b) A further update on Family Hubs for the next meeting; and
- c) A report on children not in education in North Northamptonshire.

**87 Close of Meeting**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.20pm.

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Chair

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Date

## EAP – Education, Skills and Employment 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

|                      |                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report Title</b>  | <b>Update on the proposed amalgamation of Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School in Rushden</b> |
| <b>Report Author</b> | Jo Hutchinson Head of School Effectiveness                                                                           |
| <b>Lead Member</b>   | Cllr Scott Edwards – Executive Member for Children, Families, Education & Skills                                     |

|                                                                                                                  |                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Are there public sector equality duty implications?</b>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?</b>                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972</b> |                                                                     |

### 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1. To inform the Executive Advisory Panel of the outcomes of the initial consultation process it approved on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 and seek its views on whether to proceed with amalgamation for Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School as requested by the respective governing bodies.

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1. To ensure the best outcomes for children at Alfred Street Junior School and Tennyson Road Infant school (“the Schools”) which are located in Rushden and also to address financial and operational challenges, the Council was approached by the Governing Bodies of the Schools to consider an amalgamation. Following a detailed assessment of the concerns, officers supported this request and provided a report for consideration by Executive on 22 February 2022 outlining the background to the request and why it was supported.
- 2.2. Executive resolved to commence an initial consultation process for the amalgamation of the Schools.

- 2.3. This report provides a summary of the initial consultation outcomes undertaken between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 as requested by Executive. The comments and concerns raised through this process have been taken into account in developing the recommendations set out in this report.
- 2.4 Having regard to the consultation outcomes, it is proposed that the Executive progresses to the next step in the amalgamation process by issuing a Statutory Notice of intention to amalgamate the Schools.

### **3 Recommendations**

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- 3.1 The Executive Advisory Panel is asked to note and provide any comments on the proposals to be submitted to the Executive, requesting:
- i) Approval of the publication of a Statutory Notice proposing the amalgamation of Tennyson Road Infant School and Alfred Street Junior School in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006;
  - ii) It receives a further report following the formal consultation to enable a decision to be made on the amalgamation of the Schools.
- 3.2 Reasons for Proposals:
- 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

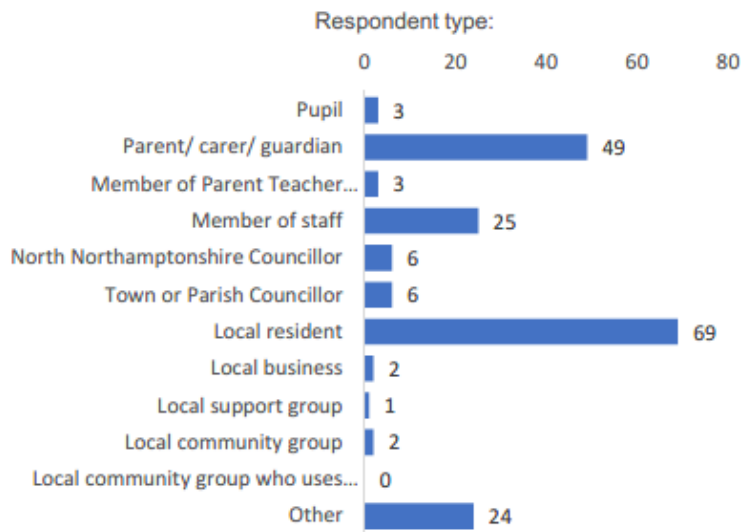
### **4 Consultation response**

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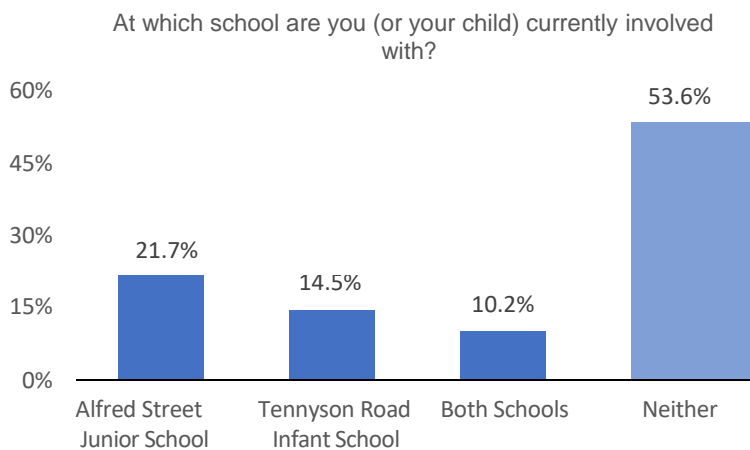
- 4.1 The initial consultation was undertaken through an online questionnaire and widely publicised through the schools and the communities they support. This received 167 responses and ran between 1 March and 29 April 2022.
- 4.2 The questions posed in the consultation centred around:
- i) The principle of amalgamating the schools;
  - ii) Where the new school should be situated;
  - iii) Whether the school should be LA maintained or have academy status;
- As well as being asked to choose options, respondents were also able to provide free text comments on the proposals.



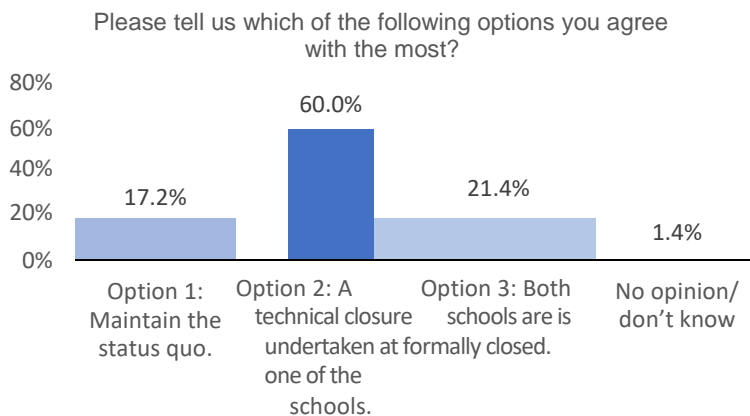
4.3 The respondents to the consultation were made up as follows:



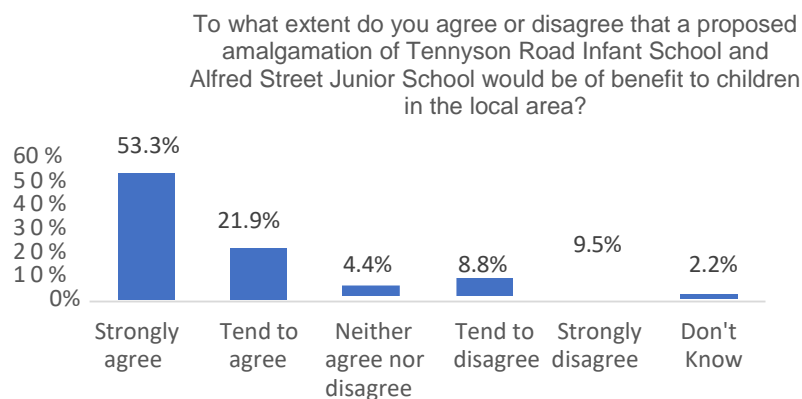
4.4 All respondents provided an answer as to whether they had a prior connection with any or none of the schools. The largest group of respondents to this question were from neither school.



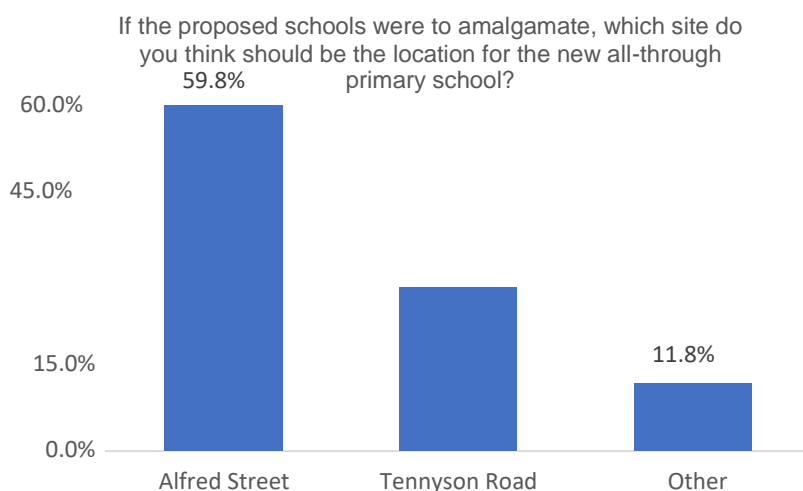
4.5 145 people responded to this question as to which option they favoured:



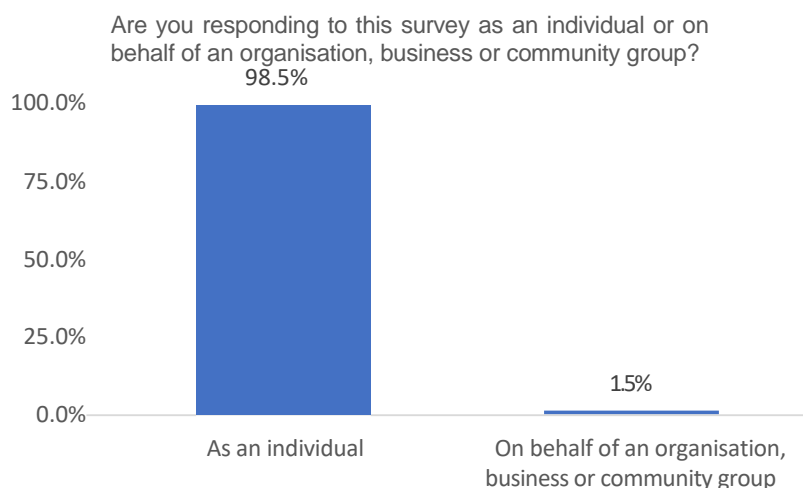
4.6 There were 137 responses to this question on the benefits of amalgamation of the Schools:



4.7 127 respondents indicated a view on the site for the new school:



4.8 The respondents (135) almost exclusively responded to the consultation as individuals:



## 5 Common Themes Emerging from the Consultation Responses

5.1 The purpose of this section of the report is to give further clarification to the data above by providing free text information aligned to common themes emerging from respondents during the consultation.

| Theme                                  | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Question Ref |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Historical Site                        | Several respondents commented on the historical importance of the Alfred Street Site, with references which linked to the theme of the school site being a central part of the town's heritage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 4.4<br>4.6   |
| Travel, Parking and Safety             | <p>Respondents commented on the suitability of the Alfred Street site for the primary school due to the current positive capacity for available parking facilities near to this school site.</p> <p>Conversely, respondents also commented that using the Alfred Street site for the primary school may cause a greater number of parents/carers to resort to travel by car or having to walk longer distances.</p> <p>Tennyson Road was considered by some to be the site which would provide the greatest opportunity for most children to walk to school, stating that this would mean the children do not have such dangerous roads to cross.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about pupil safety if Alfred Street became the site for the primary school especially as this would impact on the youngest pupils.</p> <p>In relation to Alfred Street being the chosen site for the primary school, it was noted that the environmental impact should be considered because a greater number of cars would be coming into the town. It was suggested that this would encourage more driving when the focus should be on encouraging people to walk with benefits to their health and to the environment.</p> <p>In addition to this, other comments reflected the suitability of the Tennyson Road site for the primary school as it provided capacity for staff parking, accessibility for deliveries and capacity for parent/carer parking at the nearby sports centre.</p> |              |
| Academy versus Local Authority Schools | There were comments from respondents to support both arrangements. Some stated that remaining as maintained schools was their preferred option. Others felt that benefits would be gained by becoming an academy in response to option 3 in graph 4.4.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 4.4          |
| Location                               | <p>Respondents who selected 'Other' included references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a survey of pupils might help to determine the site</li> <li>• a feasibility study will determine this</li> <li>• the site should be away from built up areas</li> <li>• neither site is suitable for a new school without investment in improving the learning environment</li> <li>• other schools in the area being considered</li> <li>• if a new school is being considered, it should be local</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 4.6          |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  | <p>Respondents who selected Alfred Street included references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the site is big enough and can be expanded to accommodate the merge</li><li>• more parents/carers using this school would increase the footfall in the town</li><li>• it is historically important to the town and has long standing traditions</li><li>• seems like the most central option for children based at Tennyson Road</li></ul> <p>Respondents who selected Tennyson Road included references to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• safer location than Alfred Street and walks to school would be safer</li><li>• better capacity to expand</li><li>• far greater number of families live in close proximity to Tennyson Road than to Alfred Street</li><li>• greater parking space available</li></ul> |  |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Benefit to Children | <p>Of the strongly agree/tend to agree responses, of which there were 61, comments included benefits as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one strong school rather than two struggling ones</li> <li>• children would be educated on one site</li> <li>• having one school takes away financial burden currently being experienced</li> <li>• having one school would have oversight of the whole education of a child and outcomes would improve</li> <li>• there will be consistency of a single curriculum and will reduce differences in 'grades'</li> <li>• more time and money being able to be put into the education, care and maintenance of the merged school</li> <li>• local SEN children without places may be able to benefit from using one of the sites if it is extended to take more SEN pupils</li> <li>• the release of more money to support a better education</li> <li>• children will benefit from not having a 'big change' of schools at 7 years old</li> <li>• many parents/siblings travel between sites, this would make it easier for them if all on one site</li> <li>• a primary school would also bring further capacity to drive improvement and promote progress through to Key Stage 2 (KS2)</li> </ul> <p>Of the strongly disagree/tend to disagree responses, of which there were 12, comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town is expanding, and future capacity is needed for school places</li> <li>• More children together with no guarantees that things would improve</li> <li>• Children at Tennyson Road look forward to the transfer days when they visit Alfred Street. This is an important time for them to show that they are getting older and growing up.</li> <li>• Keeping smaller classes would be of benefit to children</li> <li>• Low numbers at both schools</li> <li>• Generally, children will be happy in any school adapting easily to new surroundings</li> <li>• Children benefit from a clear distinction between infant and junior schools</li> <li>• Attendance could drop at the school which children have to travel the longest distance to get to</li> <li>• Increased traffic at the chosen site is not a benefit</li> <li>• If children are having to move to a school outside their immediate locality and do not have the option of travel by car, they may end up having to walk longer distances</li> </ul> | 4.5 |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

## 6 Summary of Outcomes

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- 6.1 The initial consultation responses demonstrate that both schools are valued and have a long association with the local community, as well as a history of connectivity between both schools. Where respondents indicated a preferred school and gave comment, this was led by their own affiliation to the school, whether that be a current connection i.e. a parent/carer or guardian or by way of a previous connection i.e. an ex pupil. 60% of respondents indicated that they supported the formal closure of one school and expansion of age range of the remaining school over the closure of both to allow the creation of a brand new school.
- 6.2 Overall respondents wanted to see an improvement of education opportunities for children, whether that be in relation to whole school performance or with regard to the improvement of assets and facilities. They wanted to see the strengthening of learning for children.
- 6.3 The consultation indicated that some respondents did not fully understand what “amalgamation” means. Several thought that it would be two independent schools on one site. Others expressed their concerns about both schools moving out of local authority control and becoming assigned to academy status. Some respondents said that both schools needed a new start, with some suggesting that a new school on a new site was required which would offer children and professionals a new modern building.
- 6.4 Respondents mentioned allocation of provision for Special Educational Needs (SEN) to be considered as current provision was not adequate. Respondents were also concerned about travel, volume of traffic and general road safety issues at both school locations.
- 6.5 If it is agreed to go forward with the formal processes required to facilitate the amalgamation, further engagement and consultation will be required. Aspects of the ‘initial consultation’ could be tested further in the formal consultation should amalgamation be approved.
- 6.6 Executive will recall from the earlier report submitted to it that a Steering Group has been set up in relation to the potential amalgamation of the Schools. The outcomes of the consultation were shared with the Alfred Street/Tennyson Road Steering Group and they have provided the following feedback for consideration by Executive in the decision-making process:
- Having received and considered the outcomes of the consultation process, the Steering Group recommends that the amalgamation of Alfred Street Junior School and Tennyson Road Infant School is progressed. It is the view of the group that this decision will lead to the development of a stronger, sustainable school that will be best placed to meet the needs of children, parents/carers and the wider community into the future.

- The Group understands that the process of amalgamation may be unsettling for pupils, parents/carers and staff at the school, and so will work with the Council to actively support everyone engaged in or impacted by the process.
- Further key decisions will be required prior to the amalgamation about issues such as the site and Governance of the new school. The Steering Group will support and guide the consultation processes around these issues and ensure communication with all stakeholders remains clear and timely.

## **7 Proposals and Next Steps**

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- 7.1 The outcome of the initial consultation shows majority support for amalgamation of the Schools. The Executive will be invited to determine whether to continue towards the amalgamation of the Schools by publishing a Statutory Notice in accordance with the provisions of section 15 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the DfE statutory guidance. Further details as to the statutory process are included in section 7.6 of this report.
- 7.2 In progressing with the amalgamation, it will be necessary to close one of the schools, expand the age range of the other school to create an all-through primary and transfer the pupils to the roll of the amalgamated school. From a school organisation perspective, it is necessary to decide which school will close. Based on discussions with key stakeholders it is recommended that Tennyson Road Infant School is the school that is closed and the age range of Alfred Street Junior School expanded. This does not prejudge the site, name, staffing or any other aspect of the new school, which can be the subject of a further consultation and decision-making processes and is simply a technical decision that will enable the amalgamation to go ahead. This proposal will need to be published as part of the Statutory Notice.
- 7.3 The decision to proceed with the Publication of Statutory Notice would be share with the respective Governing Bodies and other stakeholders.
- 7.4 An indicative timetable would be shared with the Steering Group in support of both schools.
- 7.5 Officers from the Council would continue to work with both schools to address the ongoing operational and financial issues.

## 7.6 Proposed Process

| Stage | Description                                 | Timescale                                                   | Comments                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Publication of Statutory Notice             | 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2022                                | Dependent on approval to proceed given at NNC Executive Meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2022                                                                                  |
| 2     | Representation (formal consultation period) | 5 <sup>th</sup> September – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 | Period of representation must be for a period of 4 weeks                                                                                                                     |
| 4     | Decision                                    | November Meeting 2022<br>To be confirmed                    | Final decision made at Executive meeting in October (yet to be arranged)<br><br>Decisions must be made within a period of two months of the end of the Representation period |
| 5     | Implementation                              | To be confirmed                                             | Decision on when schools will formally amalgamate to be confirmed with Steering Group                                                                                        |

## 8 Implications (including financial implications)

### 8.1 Resources & Financial

8.1.1 Revenue funding for schools is provided for through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and distributed via the National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools. The proposed amalgamation of the two schools will be reflected in a change to the funding formula that acknowledges the move to a single primary school.

8.1.2 There is no revenue financial implication of this proposal on the general fund of the council. The process will be supported through officer time from within existing resources.



8.1.3 Should the amalgamation go ahead the new school will continue to be maintained by the Local Authority and so there will be no financial impact on the capital funding received or the council's liability to maintain the infrastructure of the school.

## 8.2 Legal and Governance

8.2.1 The procedure followed and considerations set out in this report comply with the Council's duty to exercise its functions with a view to promoting high standards and the fulfilment of each pupil's learning potential in accordance with S13A of the Education Act 1996.

8.2.2 Regard has been had to the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Part 2) as well as the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013/3109, in particular Schedule 2 of those regulations.

## 8.3 Relevant Policies and Plans

8.3.1. Improving outcomes for children and young people and their families is a key element of the Council's Corporate Plan.

## 8.4 Risk

8.4.1 There is a risk to the Statutory Process if timelines are not met and the anticipated improvements will not be made for children and young people as a result.

## 8.5 Consultation

8.5.1 The Council intends to consult the following persons or bodies in relation to this proposal, using the following mechanisms. The DfE guidance booklet, 'Opening and closing maintained schools' prescribes a number of statutory Consultees when any local authority proposes to close a school, statutory consultees are identified in bold text.

| <b>Consultee</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Mechanism</b>                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Governing Body of the school(s);</b>                                                                              | Direct Email/Press release/online questionnaire |
| <b>Pupils at the school;</b>                                                                                         | Via the school(s)                               |
| <b>Teachers and other staff employed by the school(s);</b>                                                           | Direct Email/Press release/online questionnaire |
| <b>Relevant Diocesan authorities;</b>                                                                                | Direct Email/Press release/online questionnaire |
| <b>Any other LA likely to be affected by the proposal;</b>                                                           | Direct Email/Press release/online questionnaire |
| <b>Governing Bodies or Academy Trusts, teachers and other staff at schools that may be affected by the proposal;</b> | Direct Email/Press release/online questionnaire |

|                                                                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Parents of pupils at any other school that may be affected by the proposal; | Press release/Online Questionnaire |
| Any Trade Union that represents members of staff at the school(s);          | Direct Email                       |
| The local MP;                                                               | Direct Email                       |
| NNC Ward Councillors for the area;                                          | Direct Email                       |
| Rushden and Higham Ferrers Town Councils;                                   | Direct Email                       |
| All other interested stakeholders.                                          | Online Questionnaire               |

8.5.2 A full summary of all the feedback received during the formal period of consultation will be presented to the Executive prior to the meeting to be arranged in November 2022 and be given full consideration as part of any future decisions relating to this proposal being made.

8.5.3 The feedback received from all stakeholders as part of the formal period of consultation will be used to inform any future decisions required in relation to this proposal.

8.5.4 To ensure corporate awareness and to enable an organisational overview of the proposed the Consultation and Engagement Team have been contacted regarding this proposed amalgamation.

## 8.6 Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

8.6.1 Any comments from the Executive Advisory Panel meeting scheduled for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June will be provided to the Executive for its consideration.

## 8.7 Equality Implications

8.7.1 An 'Equalities Screening Assessment' has been completed in respect of this proposal and is attached as **Appendix A**.

8.7.2 This report seeks approval to begin the initial phase of consultation required by the statutory process governing school organisational changes of this nature. The equality implications relating to this report are therefore limited. No detrimental impact on any protected characteristic has been identified as arising from this proposal.

## 8.8 Climate Impact

8.8.1 The decision to begin formal consultation on the amalgamation will have no direct climate impact. In the event that changes are made to the schools in future, Executive will be provided with appropriate information to assess climate impact and make an informed decision.

## **8.9 Community Impact**

8.9.1 The decision to begin formal consultation on the amalgamation of these schools itself will have a limited community impact.

8.9.2 A decision not to proceed with the formal consultation will result in children within the community attending schools that do not provide the best possible educational environment because of the financial challenges each school is facing.

## **8.8 Crime and Disorder Impact**

8.10.1 This proposal will have no impact on crime and disorder.

## **9 Background Papers**

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9.1 [Report to Executive of 22 February 2022](#) (minute 165 refers)

9.2 Documentation issued by the DfE as follows:

[Opening and closing maintained schools1012.pdf](#)  
([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))

[Making significant changes \('prescribed alterations'\) to maintained schools](#)  
([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))

[Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) ([legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk))

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North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

# **North Northamptonshire Council**

**1 JULY 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2022**

**Published by: Democratic Services**

**Leader of North Northamptonshire Council: Councillor Jason Smithers**

## INTRODUCTION

This is the North Northamptonshire Council's Forward Plan. It is published pursuant to The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. Its purpose is to provide the required 28 days notice of the Council's intention to take 'key decisions' and to hold meetings or parts of meetings in private. It gives advance notice of all the "key decisions" and "exempt decisions" which the Executive or another body or officer so authorised are likely to take over a four month period. The Plan is updated on a rolling monthly basis.

| <b>The Members of the Executive are:</b> |                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Councillor Jason Smithers                | Leader of North Northamptonshire Council                                               |
| Councillor Helen Howell                  | Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council<br>Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism |
| Councillor Helen Harrison                | Adults, Health and Wellbeing                                                           |
| Councillor Scott Edwards                 | Children, Families, Education and Skills                                               |
| Councillor Harriet Pentland              | Climate and Green Environment                                                          |
| Councillor Lloyd Bunday                  | Finance and Transformation                                                             |
| Councillor David Brackenbury             | Growth and Regeneration                                                                |
| Councillor Graham Lawman                 | Highways, Travel and Assets                                                            |
| Councillor Matt Binley                   | Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up                                                  |
| Councillor David Howes                   | Rural Communities and Localism                                                         |

The concept of a "key decision" is intended to capture the most important or significant decisions. "Key decisions" will normally be made at meetings open to the press and public. The press and public will only be excluded from such meetings as and when the Council's Monitoring Officer considers that this is necessary in order to avoid the public disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

The authority has decided that a Key Decision is one which is likely:-

- (a) to result in the authority incurring expenditure of which is, or the making of savings which are, significant; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards in the area of the authority."

The Council has decided that significant expenditure or savings are those amounting to above £500,000.

In determining the meaning of "*significant*" for these purposes North Northamptonshire Council will also have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000.

At times it may be necessary for the North Northamptonshire Council to give consideration to items where the public may be excluded from the meeting. Members of the public are excluded from meetings whenever it is likely that, in the view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that confidential information would be disclosed. This includes exclusion from access to any pertinent documents. Details of the exemption categories can be found in the 'Access to Information Procedure Rules' section in the Council's [Constitution](#). This plan provides advance notice of any items which may be held in private.

Paragraph 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 provides for members of the public to make representations to the Council on why an exempt item should be considered in public, rather than in private. Persons wishing to make such representations and/or obtain further details in respect of any issues referred to in the Plan should contact the undermentioned officer.

The Monitoring Officer may also include in the Forward Plan references to such other decisions, which are to be taken by the Council or any of its Committees or Sub-Committee or officers as they consider appropriate. These will be those decisions that are considered to be significant or sufficiently important and/or sensitive so that it is reasonable for a member of the public to expect it to be recorded and published.

All general questions or queries about the contents of this Forward Plan or about the arrangements for taking key decisions should be raised with David Pope, Democratic Services.

Please email: [democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk)

## July 2022

| Subject of the Decision:               | Decision Maker | Is it a key decision? | Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any | Consultation undertaken | Anticipated Date of Decision: | Report Author                                          | Support documents (if any) |
|----------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capital Programme Update               | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022    | Executive Director of Finance                          |                            |
| Budget Forecast Update                 | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022    | Executive Director of Finance                          |                            |
| Garden Waste: Future Service Provision | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022    | Executive Director – Place & Economy                   |                            |
| Homes for Ukraine Programme            | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022    | Executive Director – Adults, Communities and Wellbeing |                            |
| Cornerstone Project                    | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022    | Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing |                            |



|                                                        |           |     |    |                                               |                            |                                                        |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----|----|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Suicide Prevention Strategy                            | Executive | Yes | No |                                               | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 | Director of Public Health                              |  |
| Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-2025                    | Executive | Yes | No | Yes – Statutory and voluntary sector partners | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 | Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing |  |
| Procurement of Vehicle Lease for Adult Management Team | Executive | Yes | No |                                               | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 | Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing |  |
| Oakley Vale, Phase 8 and 9 Land Sale                   | Executive | Yes | No |                                               | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 | Executive Director – Place & Economy                   |  |
| Housing Income Management Policy                       | Executive | Yes | No |                                               | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 | Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing |  |
| Microsoft 365 Licensing Renewal                        | Executive | Yes | No |                                               | 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 | Director of Transformation                             |  |

## August 2022

| Subject of the Decision:      | Decision Maker | Is it a key decision? | Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any | Consultation undertaken | Anticipated Date of Decision: | Report Author                        | Support documents (if any) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capital Programme Update      | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2022  | Executive Director of Finance        |                            |
| Budget Forecast Update        | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2022  | Executive Director of Finance        |                            |
| Pollinator Strategy           | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2022  | Executive Director – Place & Economy |                            |
| Tree Strategy and Policy      | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2022  | Executive Director – Place & Economy |                            |
| Hackney Carriage Fares Tariff | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2022  | Executive Director – Place & Economy |                            |

## September 2022

| Subject of the Decision: | Decision Maker | Is it a key decision? | Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any | Consultation undertaken | Anticipated Date of Decision:   | Report Author                                          | Support documents (if any) |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capital Programme Update | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 | Executive Director of Finance                          |                            |
| Budget Forecast Update   | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 | Executive Director of Finance                          |                            |
| Priors Hall Golf Course  | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022 | Executive Director - Adults, Communities and Wellbeing |                            |


## October 2022


| Subject of the Decision:      | Decision Maker | Is it a key decision? | Will it contain exempt information? /Reasons for exemption, if any | Consultation undertaken | Anticipated Date of Decision: | Report Author                        | Support documents (if any) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capital Programme Update      | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 | Executive Director of Finance        |                            |
| Budget Forecast Update        | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 | Executive Director of Finance        |                            |
| Towns Fund Multi-use Building | Executive      | Yes                   | No                                                                 |                         | 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 | Executive Director – Place & Economy |                            |


# EAP Education, Skills and Employment

Chair: Councillor Scott Edwards


Committee Officer: Ben Smith

| Decision/Item                                                  | Summary of Report                                | Report Author | Department           |  Exempt Item | 30 June 2022 | 4 Aug 2022 | 30 Aug 2022 | 3 Oct 2022 | 25 Oct 2022 | 22 Nov 2022 | 22 Dec 2022 | 2 Feb 2023 | 2 Mar 2023 | 3 April 2023 | 25 April 2023 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Standing Items</b>                                          |                                                  |               |                      |                                                                                                 |              |            |             |            |             |             |             |            |            |              |               |
| Forward Plan of Executive Items                                | External Forward Plan                            | Ben Smith     | Legal and Governance |                                                                                                 | ✓            | ✓          | ✓           | ✓          | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓          | ✓          | ✓            | ✓             |
| Forward List of Items for Education, Skills and Employment EAP | Internal EAP Forward Plan of Items and Briefings | Ben Smith     | Legal and Governance |                                                                                                 | ✓            | ✓          | ✓           | ✓          | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓          | ✓          | ✓            | ✓             |
| Update on SEND progress                                        | To provide a four monthly progress update        | Helen Redding | Children's Services  |                                                                                                 |              |            |             |            |             | ✓           |             |            |            | ✓            |               |

| Decision/Item                                                               | Summary of Report                                                          | Report Author  | Department          | Exempt Item  | 30 June 2022 | 4 Aug 2022 | 30 Aug 2022 | 3 Oct 2022 | 25 Oct 2022 | 22 Nov 2022 | 22 Dec 2022 | 2 Feb 2023 | 2 Mar 2023 | 3 April 2023 | 25 April 2023 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Individual Items</b>                                                     |                                                                            |                |                     |                                                                                                 |              |            |             |            |             |             |             |            |            |              |               |
| Amalgamation of Alfred Street Junior School and Tennyson Road Infant School | To provide the views of the EAP as part of the formal consultation         | Jo Hutchinson  | Children's Services |                                                                                                 | ✓            |            |             |            |             |             |             |            |            |              |               |
| Update on Family Hubs                                                       | To provide a further update on progress following 4 May meeting of the EAP | Tony Challinor | Children's Services |                                                                                                 | ✓            |            |             |            |             |             |             |            |            |              |               |
| Update on the Educational Psychologist Service                              |                                                                            |                | Children's Services |                                                                                                 |              |            |             | ✓          |             |             |             |            |            |              |               |

| Decision/Item                     | Summary of Report                                                                      | Report Author | Department          |  Exempt Item | 30 June 2022 | 4 Aug 2022 | 30 Aug 2022 | 3 Oct 2022 | 25 Oct 2022 | 22 Nov 2022 | 22 Dec 2022 | 2 Feb 2023 | 2 Mar 2023 | 3 April 2023 | 25 April 2023 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| Update on School Improvement      | To include the results of schools' SATs results and any action taken as result of them |               | Children's Services |                                                                                                 |              |            |             | ✓          |             |             |             |            |            |              |               |
| Youth Justice Plan Update         | To include more statistics surrounding children who were involved with the police and  | ?             | Children's Services |                                                                                                 |              |            |             |            |             | ✓           |             |            |            |              |               |
| Virtual School Head Annual Report | To provide the annual report                                                           | Neil Goddard  | Children's Services |                                                                                                 |              |            |             |            |             | ✓           |             |            |            |              |               |

Items to be scheduled arising from member requests

| Decision/Item                                | Summary of Report                                                                                                                                                                          | Report Author | Department          |  Exempt Item | 30 June 2022 | 4 Aug 2022 | 30 Aug 2022 | 3 Oct 2022 | 25 Oct 2022 | 22 Nov 2022 | 22 Dec 2022 | 2 Feb 2023 | 2 Mar 2023 | 3 April 2023 | 25 April 2023 |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| PROSPECT – Presentation on Young Adults NEET | That a presentation be provided by PROSPECT detailing the work being undertaken by, and in conjunction with, the Council to support young adults not in education, employment or training. | ?             | Children's Services |                                                                                                 | ?            | ?          | ?           | ?          | ?           | ?           | ?           | ?          | ?          | ?            | ?             |
| Special Schools – Future Arrangements        | Briefing Paper                                                                                                                                                                             | Neil Goddard  | Children's Services |                                                                                                 | ?            | ?          | ?           | ?          | ?           | ?           | ?           | ?          | ?          | ?            | ?             |





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