

## WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

### SHADOW EXECUTIVE MEETING

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Director of Transformation's Programme Update</b>
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#### **1. Purpose**

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- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to appraise the members of the progress being made to create West Northamptonshire Council.

#### **2. Recommendations**

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It is recommended that the shadow executive:

- a) Notes the high level programme delivery status
- b) Notes the update on change readiness.
- c) Notes the communication and engagement update
- d) Notes and approves the finance monitoring report.

#### **3. Issues and Choices**

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##### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 The approach to setting up West Northamptonshire Council is at a point where the blueprint for the council has been adopted and the consultation phase is underway with staff and through the trade unions. The Engine Room at One Angel Square, previously used to support engagement with staff and members across the county, is now dedicated to supporting West, as North have also brought their own Engine Room into use.
- 3.1.2 A reporting methodology has been established to track progress in more detail against the 'critical path' timeline at a unitary wide level and also at a service specific level in order to track service readiness and to be able to report at a West only level as well as a programme wide level where interdependencies and dependencies are paramount.

- 3.1.3 The finance monitoring report for November is submitted for approval and the attached report sets out the details for consideration by the Executive.
- 3.1.4 There is also an update on communications and engagement and change management and the current position in relation to Change Champions recruitment and alignment to key service areas and the next steps as we move into the implementation phase of the programme.

## **3.2 Issues and Choices**

- 3.2.1 The blueprint for West Northamptonshire Council will continue to be refined and improved over the coming months and will inform the post vesting day activities and priorities. Future changes to the Blueprint will now be covered by formal change control mechanisms and will be reported to the executive as appropriate.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 The delivery costs and benefits are set out in detail in the Finance Monitoring Report attached. There is no requirement to provide additional funds and this situation will be carefully monitored on a monthly basis.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 The full extent of the impact of the pandemic is still emerging and currently we are seeing a potential further outbreak. The programme has been reorganised to mitigate this as much as possible but it will be necessary to monitor the situation carefully to ensure the resources needed from the sovereign councils are available throughout the current implementation phase of the programme.

### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 No implications in this report

### **4.4 Equality and Health**

- 4.4.1 No implications in this report

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