

Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 20 December 2022

1. Date of publication of this summary: 20th December 2022
2. Deadline for requests for call-in (detailing reasons for doing so): 27th December 2022
3. Earliest date for implementation of decisions: 28th December 2022
4. Urgent decisions taken and not subject to the call-in procedure: 20th December 2022

Agenda Item and Recommendations	Decision
<p>Agenda Item 6 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – recommendations in respect of the Children’s Trust Budget</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet would write to the Department for Education regarding the Children’s Trust model and state that, whilst West Northamptonshire Council will honour its contract regarding funding its agreed proportion of the Children’s Trust budget, any subsequent difference should be covered by the Department for Education.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED: The recommendation sought to ensure that the rising costs of Children’s Services do not adversely impact on the Council’s ability to balance its budget.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: The options available to Cabinet are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Respond immediately to the recommendation by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Accepting the recommendation from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. ii. Rejecting the recommendation from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. <p>Or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Receive the report of Corporate

	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee and report the response to the recommendation at a future meeting of Cabinet.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 7 Revenue Monitoring - Quarter 2 - Financial Year 2022-23</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the forecast outturn position for 2022-23 and associated risk b) Noted the deliverability assessment of West Northamptonshire Council savings requirement for 2022-23 summarised in section 7 and detailed in Appendix B c) Delegated authority to the Executive Director – Finance in consultation with the portfolio holder to apply any budget virements required to effectively manage the overall budget during the 2023/24 year. d) Cabinet noted and endorsed the three requests made by the Children’s Trust set out in paragraphs 6.4, 6.5 and 6.7 and supported by the Strategic Commissioning Group and recommend to Council that they should be approved and for the approval of further contract sum adjustments to be delegated to the Executive Director – Finance in consultation with the Finance Portfolio holder. e) Noted the position on Capital Dispersations set out in paragraph 6.48.1 <p>REASONS RESOLVED: To update members on the financial position of the Council and ensure that the Authority complies with its financial regulations.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8 Quarter 2 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Monitoring Report 2022-23</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the latest capital monitoring position for the General Fund and HRA.

	<p>b) Noted the new capital schemes and changes to the Capital Programme since the report that was considered by Cabinet in September 2022.</p> <p>c) Approved the budget virement outlined in section 10.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED: In order to continue to ensure sound management of the council's finances.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9 Treasury Management Update Quarter 2, 2022-23</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the report and treasury activity for the second quarter of the 22-23 financial year.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED: To ensure that the Authority complied with its financial regulations and its Treasury management policies.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10 Progress Update Transformation and Local Government Reform</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the efficiencies delivered to date and planned for 2023-24; 2. Noted the content of the detailed reports at Appendices 1,2 and 3 which set out the details of our progress against our plans, commitments, and savings targets. 3. Noted the key elements of our Council operating model in Appendix 1 and the design principles that would underpin our future operation and service to stakeholders. 4. Noted the summary of the West Northants Master Property Plan for our buildings, and 5. Noted the progress on disaggregation of services from North Northants and status of services that are still shared.

	<p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report is for members to note but provided a comprehensive update with progress updates, timelines and the financial benefit of our transformation plans. It responds to several questions raised recently regarding the Council's progress. 2. We will be looking at how we provide ongoing reports and the regularity of them so that members feel informed of progress against the baseline of this report. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 11 2023-24 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved for consultation the 2023-24 Draft Budget, including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. an estimated net revenue budget of £798.3m (£377.1m excluding Dedicated Schools Grant) as set out in Appendix A. ii. an average Band D Council tax of £1,693.73 for West Northamptonshire Council, which represents an average increase of 4.99%. (2.99% increase in 'core' Council Tax and 2% Adult Social Care Precept). iii. proposed Fees and Charges as detailed in Appendix C iv. provisional dedicated schools grant budget of £421.2m as detailed in Appendix D v. the draft Capital Programme additions as set out in Appendix E b) Set the tax base for West Northamptonshire at 142,060.8, Band D equivalents, as set out in paragraph 6.67 c) For the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Noted the provisional allocations and planned usage of the DSG for 2023-24 pending the final DSG settlement, and ii. Following consultation with the Schools Forum, delegated authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services to determine the DSG 2023-24 schools funding formula, high needs funding arrangements and the Early Years Funding Formula in line with Department for Education guidance. <p>REASONS RESOLVED: To ensure that the Council complies with its Constitution and all other relevant requirements in setting the budget for West Northamptonshire Council</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12 Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved for the draft HRA budget 2023-24 2. Approved for consultation the 7% (£6.79) increase in average rents from £97.00 to £103.79 per week in accordance with the government's amended Rent Standard with effect from the 3rd April 2023. 3. Approved for consultation the draft HRA Capital Programme and financing for 2023/24, as detailed in appendix 3 and notes the forecast programme from 2024/25 to 2027/28. 4. Approved for consultation the 10% increase in tenants and leaseholder service charges with effect from the 3rd April 2023 as set out in Appendix 5 5. Approved for consultation the 10% increase in garage rents and commuter surcharges with effect from the 3rd April 2023 as set out in Appendix 5 6. Noted the draft 2023-24 Total Fees proposed for NPH in appendix 4 to

deliver the services in scope.

7. Noted that the Council has made an application in partnership with NPH for Wave 2 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation fund for £1.28m and approve delegated authority to the Executive Director of Finance to enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) if successful in the bid process.
8. Approved for consultation the setting up of a new hardship/ management contingent budget within general management to provide help for tenants facing financial difficulties.

REASONS RESOLVED:

The HRA reflects the statutory requirement under Section 74 of the Housing and Local Government Act 1989 to account separately for local housing services. It is a ringfenced account which records the cost of managing the Council's housing stock. These costs are offset by tenants' rents, tenants/leaseholders' services charges and other contributions. The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced HRA and avoid going into deficit.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None