



Council

A meeting of the Council will be held at the The Great Hall, The Guildhall, Northampton on Thursday 18 May 2023 at 5.00 pm
Councillors are hereby summoned to attend

Agenda

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| 1. | Election of Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council |
| 2. | Appointment of Vice-Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council |
| 3. | Apologies for Absence |
| 4. | Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. |
| 5. | Chairman's Announcements To receive communications from the Chairman of the Council. |
| 6. | Minutes of Council (Pages 5 - 16) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 March 2023. |
| 7. | Updates to the Constitution: Changes to Planning Committees (Pages 17 - 26) |
| 8. | Committee Proportionality and Appointment of Members to Committees and other bodies (Pages 27 - 42) |
| 9. | Calendar of Meetings 2023-24 (Pages 43 - 48) |

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| 10. | Honorary Alderman Scheme (Pages 49 - 58) |
| 11. | <p>Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman)</p> <p>The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.</p> |
| 12. | <p>Exclusion of Press and Public</p> <p>Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to resolve as follows:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph(s) XXXXX would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”</p> |

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
10 May 2023

Council Members:

Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage Councillor John Shephard (Vice-Chair)
(Chair)

Councillor Ann Addison

Councillor Rufia Ashraf

Councillor Jamal Alwahabi

Councillor Azizur Rahman

Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb

Councillor Fiona Baker

Councillor Dermot Bambridge

Councillor Harry Barrett

Councillor William Barter

Councillor Sally Beardsworth

Councillor Phil Bignell

Councillor Lizzy Bowen

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Councillor Adam Brown

Councillor Michael Brown

Councillor Muna Cali

Councillor Alan Chantler

Councillor Pinder Chauhan

Councillor Nazim Choudary

Councillor Imran Ahmed Chowdhury BEM

Councillor Paul Clark

Councillor Stephen Clarke

Councillor Maggie Clubley
Councillor Raymond Connolly
Councillor Daniel Cribbin
Councillor Janice Duffy
Councillor Gareth Eales
Councillor Alison Eastwood
Councillor Louisa Fowler
Councillor Jo Gilford
Councillor Matt Golby
Councillor Mike Hallam
Councillor Lauryn Harrington-Carter
Councillor Cheryl Hawes
Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Councillor Nigel Hinch
Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift
Councillor Koulla Jolley
Councillor Andrew Kilbride
Councillor Jamie Lane
Councillor Daniel Lister
Councillor Greg Lunn
Councillor Peter Matten
Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Charles Morton
Councillor Kevin Parker
Councillor Ken Pritchard
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Jake Roberts
Councillor Cathrine Russell
Councillor Brian Sargeant
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex
Councillor Mike Warren
Councillor Fiona Cole
Councillor Karen Cooper
Councillor Julie Davenport
Councillor Paul Dyball
Councillor Terrie Eales
Councillor Penelope Flavell
Councillor Rupert Frost
Councillor Terry Gilford
Councillor Andrew Grant
Councillor Enam Haque
Councillor Jonathan Harris
Councillor Rosie Herring
Councillor James Hill
Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere
Councillor Rosie Humphreys
Councillor David James
Councillor Paul Joyce
Councillor Anna King
Councillor Phil Larratt
Councillor Malcolm Longley
Councillor Charles Manners
Councillor Ian McCord
Councillor Colin Morgan
Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Councillor Suresh Patel
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Emma Roberts
Councillor Sam Rumens
Councillor Lisa Samiotis
Councillor Sue Sharps
Councillor Zoe Smith
Councillor Laura Stevenson
Councillor Winston Strachan
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

If a continuous fire alarm sounds you must evacuate the building via the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the assembly area as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Democratic Services via the following:

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED



Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Great Hall, The Guildhall, St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 5.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Chairman)

Councillor John Shephard (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Rufia Ashraf

Councillor Jamal Alwahabi

Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb

Councillor Fiona Baker

Councillor Dermot Bambridge

Councillor Harry Barrett

Councillor William Barter

Councillor Sally Beardsworth

Councillor Phil Bignell

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Councillor Adam Brown

Councillor Michael Brown

Councillor Alan Chantler

Councillor Pinder Chauhan

Councillor Nazim Choudary

Councillor Imran Ahmed Chowdhury BEM

Councillor Paul Clark

Councillor Stephen Clarke

Councillor Fiona Cole

Councillor Raymond Connolly

Councillor Karen Cooper

Councillor Daniel Cribbin

Councillor Julie Davenport

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Councillor Jonathan Harris

Councillor Cheryl Hawes

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Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Councillor Nigel Hinch
Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere
Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Rosie Humphreys
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift
Councillor David James
Councillor Koulla Jolley
Councillor Andrew Kilbride
Councillor Anna King
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Councillor Phil Larratt
Councillor Daniel Lister
Councillor Greg Lunn
Councillor Charles Manners
Councillor Peter Matten
Councillor Ian McCord
Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Colin Morgan
Councillor Charles Morton
Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Councillor Kevin Parker
Councillor Suresh Patel
Councillor Ken Pritchard
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Emma Roberts
Councillor Sam Rumens
Councillor Lisa Samiotis
Councillor Brian Sargeant
Councillor Sue Sharps
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Zoe Smith
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Winston Strachan
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz
Councillor Mike Warren

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Ann Addison
Councillor Azizur Rahman
Councillor Lizzy Bowen
Councillor Muna Cali
Councillor Maggie Clubley
Councillor Janice Duffy
Councillor Alison Eastwood
Councillor Penelope Flavell
Councillor James Hill
Councillor Paul Joyce

Councillor Malcolm Longley
Councillor Jake Roberts
Councillor Cathrine Russell
Councillor Laura Stevenson
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex

Officers:

Anna Earnshaw (Chief Executive)
Cath Whitehead (Director of Legal & Democratic and Monitoring Officer)
Paul Hanson (Head of Democratic and Elections)
Tracy Tiff (Deputy Democratic Services Manager)
Ed Bostock (Democratic Services Officer)

99. **Declarations of Interest**

None advised.

100. **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the budget meeting of Council held on 22nd February 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

101. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman highlighted the tragic incident that occurred on the afternoon of 22nd March in which a young man lost his life. He implored anyone with any information to contact Northamptonshire Police and on behalf of the Council, passed on his condolences to the young man's family and friends. He led Council in a minute's silence and invited local Ward Councillors to make statements.

Councillor Barrett stated that it had been a devastating 24 hours for the local community and passed on his condolences to the young man's friends and family. He stated that the school was doing everything in its power to ensure the safety of students as it looked to get students back in school. He stated that violence must never win and that everybody must stand together to ensure that repeated incidents did not happen. He implored people not to speculate, particularly on social media.

Cllr Rumens stated that residents of Kingsthorpe had been "shaken to the core" and asked that people let the police get on with their investigation, then people could figure out their response as a community. He passed on his condolences to the young man's loved ones.

Councillor Beardsworth stated that more work needed to take place with young people to prevent these tragic incidents and to help them realise that knife crime does not pay. She passed on her condolences to the young man's family and friends.

The Chairman advised that the month of Ramadan was now underway and encouraged Members observing it to step out of the meeting at sunset to break their fasts, if they wished.

102. **Public Participation**

(1) There were no requests to submit petitions.

(2) The Chairman advised of 2 requests to address Council.

Jean Lineker addressed Council in respect of Item 7 - report of the Cabinet Member for Community Safety. She commented that the Citizens Advice office in Northampton had shorter opening hours than the offices in Kettering and Corby and was concerned that West Northants residents were not getting the service they deserved. She questioned whether Citizens Advice received more funding in North Northamptonshire compared to West Northamptonshire.

Donna Bodaly addressed Council in respect of Item 7 – report of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment and Rural Affairs. She stated that regarding 5G towers, no public consultation had taken place before they had been erected, and no information had been publicised around potential health risks and lamented the removal of trees in order to erect the towers. She also commented that Council meetings in general were not publicised sufficiently.

Kim Fuller addressed Council in respect of Item 7 – report of the Cabinet Member for Housing. She advised that she had been in contact with her housing officer for many months, as recently as December 2022, regarding damp and mould in her property, and to date the issues had not been resolved. She stated that the problem was so bad that she was living out of bags and boxes and was unable to keep food in cupboards. She had been in touch with Andrew Lewer MP and received no response, and further advised that no work had been carried out on her property under the Decent Homes scheme.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Fuller for raising her issues and advised that he would ask NPH to conduct a review into the matters raised and to be tackled as a matter of urgency.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their contributions.

103. **Opposition Priority Business**

Councillor Roberts proposed and Councillor Holland-Delamere seconded:

“This Council notes: that the Socio-Economic Duty (Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010) (6) requires public bodies to adopt transparent and effective measures to address the inequalities that result from differences in occupation, education, place of residence or social class. While the Duty has been enacted in Scotland and Wales. The United Nations has criticised the UK government for failing to activate the Duty since 2010.

That authorities in Newcastle, Southwark, Stroud and North of Tyne have signed up and Councils including in Sheffield, Preston, Glasgow, Wigan, York, Bristol & Manchester are taking action due to cutbacks and financial struggles affecting their residents. In the midst of the cost-of-living crisis it is essential now more than ever

that this Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy is directly linked with any decisions this Council makes. The socio-economic duty is a central element that localities seeking to address poverty should adopt.

The work done to create an Anti-Poverty Strategy for West Northamptonshire Council and the work done so far drawing upon good practice examples from other towns and cities and the consultation with diverse local community groups, unions, and our partners in the voluntary and community sector. The work of the Anti-Poverty Oversight Group is acknowledged. A key factor for all concerned in the creation of the strategy was that this Council would "sense check" all decisions made against this strategy. This is not at present being consistently applied.

Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 asks public bodies to consider how their decisions and policies could increase or decrease inequality that results from socio-economic disadvantage. Voluntarily adopting the duty will complement the anti-poverty strategy, inclusive economy, and equalities approaches as well as strengthening our sustainability commitments.

This Council resolves to:

Formally adopt the Socio-Economic Duty

‘Poverty-check’ decisions and policies for socio-economic impact, and how this interacts with other types of inequalities (protected characteristics e.g., race, disability, sex) including within EIAs (Equality Impact Assessments) and include anti-poverty impact assessments in all WNC reports.”

Council debated the motion and made the following comments:

- Much was already ongoing to tackle socioeconomic inequality and the Anti-Poverty Working Group should be proud of the work it had undertaken so far. It had worked on over 100 actions, including monitoring of the Hardship Fund, Warm Welcoming Spaces, and was looking to see how people’s needs could be met during the summer.
- Adopting the Socio-Economic Duty would further help to understand the issues people in West Northamptonshire faced.
- The Council could and should do more to put the ambitions of the Anti-Poverty Strategy to use. The UK was one of the most socioeconomically unequal countries in the developed world, and any measure to reduce and equalise that should be welcomed.
- Reports were missing properly published equalities impact assessments; different demographics were impacted differently, and comprehensive equality impact assessments would show patterns of inequality.
- This was a missed opportunity - the administration could have made an amendment to the motion so that it was accepted by the Chamber.
- It was suggested that the administration did not want to hold itself to account.
- Over-regulation of every activity risked having ineffective policies.
- Progress made was not across the board and some decisions were working against communities’ ability to thrive. All parts of the organisation needed to be working effectively, not in silos.

- Any policy could not be at its best if it did not consider inequality. There was concern that equality/community impact assessments and socioeconomic reviews would not appear in council reports.

Upon requisition of a vote, the motion fell.

104. **Cabinet Reports and Records of Decisions Taken by the Cabinet**

Cabinet Members each highlighted the salient points of their reports. Members made comments and asked questions and the following points were raised:

- The Council had responded to requests from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities regarding data around damp and mould condensation. Next steps were to review the data and look at the information to understand issues. The Council was working with NPH officers to give timely and robust responses to enquiries. A root and branch review of NPH practices had been undertaken and the data was currently being reviewed.
- Following the police investigation, the Leader would arrange a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement and Regulatory Services and ward councillors to see what actions could be put in place regarding knife crime.
- Regarding housing for homeless, every effort was made by the Council to house families locally.
- Regarding the Pensions Fund recommendation that re-divestment of fossil fuel is not done until 2050, it was suggested that this be reviewed by the Working Group.
- It was acknowledged that there were issues with the planning call-in process – this would be brought to the attention of officers.
- Regarding local contingency hotels for refugees, it was noted that there was no funding forthcoming from the Home Office – further representations would be made to make them aware of the huge burden being put on West Northamptonshire residents.
- Regarding the Ofsted report following its inspection, it was advised that the reasons for cases going to tribunal were numerous – in many cases, there were not enough appropriate school places for young people. In the future it was hoped that many issues would be resolved before they reached tribunal stage.
- Dates for various workshops relating to the West Northamptonshire Local Plan would be released in the very near future.
- The Children's Trust was set up by the Department for Education and was under their statutory guidance. The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education did not believe that bringing the service back in house would improve it and explained that embedded issues that required addressing were among the reasons that turning the service around was taking longer than expected.
- Lots was going in in terms of recruitment; the lowest paid employees were given inflation-busting pay increases, the Council was promoting jobs not expected by councils, e.g., cyber security specialists.
- Regarding Fair Cost of Care, the Council had to be careful with how it shared the information it found.

- The Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Waste visited JCB to see a piece of equipment not available elsewhere – if purchased, it would result in increased efficiency in filling potholes. Work was underway with Kier on a business case to purchase one. He also confirmed that he would be happy to facilitate meetings with Members regarding flooding issues.
- Lighting across West Northamptonshire was provided to an agreed standard, and this was not subject to change. However, the Council was looking to replace bulbs with LED bulbs which would save energy.

RESOLVED:

Council note the Cabinet Member reports and the decision records from 8th November 2022, 6th December 2022, 20th December 2022, 17th January 2023, 13th February 2023, and 7th March 2023.

105. **Northampton Local Plan Part 2**

Councillor Breese presented the report which sought Council's approval to formally adopt the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 and its policies maps as recommended by Planning Policy Committee on 28 February 2023, to agree that on adoption of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) all of the remaining saved policies from the Northampton Northamptonshire Local Plan (1997) and the Northampton Central Area Action Plan (2013) would be formally replaced, and to authorise the Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning Portfolio Holder for Planning, Built Environment and Rural Affairs, to make minor editorial and presentational changes to the plan as deemed necessary ahead of publication.

Councillor Chantler seconded the proposal.

Members discussed the report and made the following comments:

- The report was welcome and necessary, but far from perfect. The loss of minimum space standards was regrettable, and a more detailed account on how active travel would be promoted was needed.
- When putting together the West Northamptonshire Local Plan, the Council should look into making improvements to HMO policies and revisit the idea for transit sites for travellers.
- Evidence should be provided to ensure that adult services and fast-food establishments were prevented from being constructed near schools.
- The Council should be thinking now about how it may provide evidence to the Inspector when working on the West Northamptonshire Local Plan
- It was regrettable that the Inspector did not agree that national minimum space standards should be included in the Local Plan.
- The protections for Fraser Road as green space would be of benefit to local residents but it meant the end of a scheme that would deliver 125 social housing units.

- The Inspector had effectively landlocked Northampton and given the limited supply of brownfield land, the Council would likely need to look at densification of social housing and building upwards.
- Thanks were given to staff in the Planning Policy department for their work on the Local Plan over a number of years.

Upon requisition of a vote, the recommendations contained within the report were agreed.

RESOLVED:

Council:

1. Adopted the Northampton Local Plan Part 2 and its policies maps as recommended by Planning Policy Committee on 28 February 2023, to form part of the Council's policy Framework.
2. Agreed that on adoption of the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) the Central Area Action Plan (2013) and all the remaining saved policies within the Northampton Local Plan (1997) were formally replaced.
3. Authorised the Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning Portfolio Holder for Planning, Built Environment and Rural Affairs, authority to make minor editorial and presentational changes to the plan as deemed necessary ahead of publication.

106. **Statement of Gambling Policy**

Councillor Warren presented the report which sought Council's agreement to publish a new three-year West Northamptonshire Council Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles Policy, following statutory public consultation and recommendation by the Alcohol and Gambling Licensing Committee. An alteration to the recommendation was proposed, which read:

"It is recommended that work is progressed to understand the impacts of gambling informed by the LAP profile data and the wider determinants of health.

It is recommended that the anti-poverty oversight group has consideration of the impact of gambling in its work and where appropriate consider lobbying government on this issue in line with the objectives of the Anti-Poverty Strategy."

Councillor D Smith seconded the proposal.

Members discussed the report and made the following comments:

- Gambling could be a huge blight on people's lives. Casinos did not improve the quality of life for residents.
- Gambling was becoming normalised for young people due to its prevalence in town centres.
- Gambling was an addiction that ruins lives and should be treated as such – more work needed to be done to look at the effects it has on people.

- What was presented within the report had a lot of measures, but none were mandatory – these changes should be made at a national level.
- The Council had a legal duty to implement a policy of this nature, and it was noted that further legislation would be required for the Council to consider any application for a casino.
- The alteration to the recommendation did not go far enough in terms of equality impacts.

The Democratic Services Manager clarified that 3 votes would be taken in respect of the item; to publish the draft policy; to agree to refuse to pass a “no casino” resolution; to agree the additional resolution as an alteration.

Upon requisition of a vote, the recommendations contained in the report, including the additional recommendation, were agreed.

RESOLVED:

Council:

1. Resolved to publish the draft Policy at Appendix A of the report as the West Northamptonshire Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles Policy 2023-2025.
2. Did not pass a “no casinos” resolution for inclusion within the West Northamptonshire Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles Policy 2023-2025.
3. Resolved to progress work to understand the impacts of gambling informed by the LAP profile data and the wider determinants of health.
It was recommended that the anti-poverty oversight group have consideration of the impact of gambling in its work and where appropriate consider lobbying government on this issue in line with the objectives of the Anti-Poverty Strategy.

107. **Updates to the Constitution**

Councillor Patel presented the report which sought Council’s consideration of the recommendations made by the Democracy and Standards Committee in relation to proposed updates to the Constitution and changes to committees.

Councillor Grant seconded the proposal.

Members discussed the report and made the following comments:

- Some were not happy with the way the Constitution was being interpreted.
- Splitting West Northamptonshire into 2, in respect of planning committees, did not make sense. There was also little detail around these proposals.
- There was concern expressed around the contents of the proposed scrutiny committees.
- The lack of consultation was disappointing.
- Task and Finish Groups were important, it was difficult to see how workloads could be managed if their numbers were reduced.

- The item should be deferred – Members should be able to vote on individual points in the report.
- The reduction of planning committees from 3 to 2 was a cost-saving exercise – there was not enough work for 3. It was also noted that 2 peer reviews recommended the changes.
- It was important that Members know the areas that they would be making decisions on.
- The vast majority of Members would have no input if the recommendations were agreed.
- Members questioned how long the planning committee trial would last for, and what would happen if the trial was unsuccessful.
- It was noted that the number of Members would be reduced in the future, and it would be difficult to fill vacancies on 3 planning committees.

Upon requisition of a vote, the recommendations contained within the report were agreed.

RESOLVED:

Council:

- a) Noted and approved the updates to the Constitution as set out in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.8 of the report, to come into effect following the conclusion of the meeting at which they were agreed;
- b) Approved the splitting of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to create two new Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in paragraphs 5.9 to 5.16 of the report and approved the reduction in the number of members appointed to each of the four Scrutiny Committees to 11 per committee.
- c) Noted that the changes set out in recommendation b) would come into effect immediately before the Council's Annual Meeting on 18th May 2023.
- d) Noted and agreed the recommendation of the Democracy and Standards Committee to abolish the existing three Local Area Planning Committees and the establishment of two new Development Control Committees as set out in paragraph 5.20 of the report, subject to the Committee reviewing the arrangements for the two new Development Control Committees at its next meeting and reporting back to the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- e) Noted the retention of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Planning Policy Committee as currently structured.
- f) Approved the recommendation of the Democracy and Standards Committee that Planning Committees be webcast where the facility is available and that, across all Planning Committees, site visits would be held where there were planning reasons for doing so and would be arranged by Democratic Services with Members accompanied by a Planning Officer on site, as set out in paragraph 5.24 of the report.
- g) Agreed that the Planning Protocol be amended to reflect recommendation f).
- h) Delegated to the Monitoring Officer the power to make these amendments and any consequential amendments that may be necessary.

108. **Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Lifecycle Works - Recommendation from Cabinet**

Councillor Parker presented the report which sought Council's approval for capital budget of £1.1m to be fund replacement of failed building fabric items at Northampton PFI schools.

Councillor Nunn seconded the proposal.

Members discussed the report and made the following comments:

- The report demonstrated historic dire straits – this was a lesson for all not to focus on the short-term.
- Members supported the report but asked to know what the initial costs of impact would be and also requested that a school condition report be made available for all Members.
- It was requested that the administration produce a list of schools in need, and it was suggested that a further piece of work was needed to understand the state of West Northamptonshire schools.

Upon requisition of a vote, the recommendations within the report were agreed.

RESOLVED:

Council:

- 1) Agreed the recommendation from Cabinet that it approve a capital budget of £1.100m to undertake essential asset replacement works to the Northampton PFI Schools.
- 2) Noted that Cabinet had authorised the procurement of these works.

109. **Motions**

Motion 1

Councillor Humphreys proposed and Councillor Beardsworth seconded:

“West Northamptonshire Council, like all local authorities, has a statutory duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in need in our area. Children and young people in our unitary authorities are experiencing an epidemic of mental health challenges at present as the recent report of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee has demonstrated.

Looked after children are at much greater risk of poor mental health than their peers. Our children's social care system could be improved by reintroducing therapeutic support that was available in our children's homes until 2016. This support could operate in residential facilities and be available to fostered children. Positive outcomes could include quicker diagnosis of conditions and providing better support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Early intervention is a wise investment and in order for this Council to take its corporate parent role effectively it must give greater focus to the children in its care.

We call on this Council, subject to Cabinet approval, to appoint a Task and Finish Group to identify the therapeutic needs of our children in care and how they may be supported.”

Council debated the motion and made the following comments:

- The prioritising of young people in care should not be to the detriment of those who were not.
- A report by the Local Government Association reported that young people in care were 4 times more likely to suffer with mental health issues than those not in care.
- Young people needed advocates – they had better results when adults stood up for them.

Upon requisition of a vote, the motion was declared carried.

110. **Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman)**

There was no urgent business on this occasion.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

18 May 2023

Report by the Democracy and Standards Committee

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Report Title | Updates to the Constitution - Planning Committees |
| Report Author | Catherine Whitehead, Director of Legal and Democratic Services |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| Monitoring Officer | Catherine Whitehead | 26/04/2023 |
| Chief Finance Officer (S.151) | Martin Henry | 27/04/2023 |
| Communications Lead/Head of Communications | Becky Hutson | 27/04/2023 |

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to enable Council to consider the recommendations made by the Democracy and Standards Committee in relation to proposed updates to the Constitution in relation to the structure and operation of the Council's Planning Committees.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose. The Council must operate in accordance with its Constitution and the rules

set out in it. The Constitution is divided into different parts which set out the basic rules governing the Council's business as well as some of the detailed rules.

- 2.2 At their meetings on 9 March and 20 April 2023, the Democracy and Standards Committee considered recommendations arising from an external review of the Council's planning function, which was undertaken by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). The outcome of the review was also reported to Cabinet at the meeting held on 11 April 2023.
- 2.3 The Democracy and Standards Committee considered the report and have made recommendations to Council on the recommendations that fall within the committee's remit i.e. the structure and operation of planning committees and the associated constitutional arrangements.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council:
- a) Note the decision taken at the previous meeting to abolish the existing three Local Area Planning Committees and the establishment of two new Planning Committees;
 - b) Approve the following recommendations of the Democracy and Standards Committee:
 - i. That the Planning Committee – North be composed of eleven members and be constituted to deal with planning applications falling within the following wards: Braunston & Crick, Brixworth, Moulton, Long Buckby, Daventry West, Daventry East, Woodford & Weedon, Duston West & St Crispin, Duston East, Dallington Spencer, Abington & Phippsville, Kingsthorpe North, Kingsthorpe South, Boothville & Parklands, Headlands, Talavera and Billing & Rectory Farm;
 - ii. That the Planning Committee – South be composed of eleven members and be constituted to deal with planning applications falling within the following wards: Bugbrooke, Towcester & Roade, Hackleton & Grange Park, Silverstone, Deanshanger, Middleton Cheney, Brackley, St George, Sixfields, East Hunsbury & Shelfleys, Delapre & Rushmere, Castle, Riverside Park and Nene Valley.
 - iii. That the Planning Committee – North will meet in Northampton and the Planning Committee – South will meet in Towcester, except where the applications on the agenda are exclusively located within Northampton wards;
 - iv. That meetings of both Planning Committees convene at 6pm, subject to the provisions of the Constitution;
 - v. That named substitutes be permitted but limited to 2 Conservative, 1 from each of the other groups, to be drawn exclusively from the other Planning Committee and/or the Strategic Planning Committee;
 - vi. That the threshold for applications to be determined by the Planning Committees be amended as set out in section 5.5 below;
 - vii. That the threshold for applications to be determined by the Strategic Planning Committee be amended as set out below;
 - viii. That Section 17 of the Planning Protocol (Development Proposals submitted by Councillors and Officers) be amended to clarify that planning proposals submitted by Councillors should be determined by the Planning Committee that does not cover the ward the member represents.

- c) Note the retention of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Planning Policy Committee as currently structured.
- d) Agree that these changes come into effect immediately and will be reviewed by the Democracy and Standards Committee, in consultation with Planning Committee chairs after a period of six months.
- e) Delegate to the Monitoring Officer the power to make these amendments and any consequential amendments that may be necessary.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 Keeping the Constitution under regular review helps ensure that it is legally compliant, complete, reflects the character and culture of the authority and supports effective and efficient decision making.
- 4.2 In this instance the recommendations form part of the Council's response to the review undertaken by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and therefore seeks to ensure that the Council's planning function is effective, reflects national good practice and supports the Council's duty as Local Planning Authority.
- 4.3 The Democracy and Standards Committee considered its recommendations over a number of meetings. Having received data regarding the distribution of planning applications, across West Northamptonshire, the Committee took the view that its recommendations would result in an effective and practical response to the recommendations made by the PAS.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The PAS prepared a report following a review of the Planning Service. This was a broad review looking at the whole service and not just the governance arrangements. The report was presented to Cabinet on 11 April 2023 together with an action plan, as well as to the Democracy and Standards Committee on 20 April 2023. The recommendations made by PAS that impact on the structure and operation of planning committees are:
 - 5.1.1 improve culture and practice of planning committees to reduce the risk to the council including eliminating the use of substitute members on planning committees.
 - 5.1.2 ensure that householder and minor applications only go to committee in exceptional circumstances.
 - 5.1.3 trial a significantly reduced number of committees with a proportionate geographical spread (based on workload).
- 5.2 Following consideration by the Democracy and Standards Committee at its their meetings on 9 March and 20 April 2023, a number of changes to the Constitution are proposed.
- 5.3 The headline recommendation is reflective of the outline decision taken by the Council at its meeting on 23 March 2023; that the existing three local area planning committees be abolished

and replaced with two new committees; Planning Committee – North and Planning Committee - South.

5.4 The remaining recommendations deal with more detailed aspects of the operation of these committees as summarised below:

5.4.1 That a Planning Committee – North be established to deal with planning applications falling within the following wards:

- Braunston & Crick;
- Brixworth;
- Moulton;
- Long Buckby;
- Daventry West;
- Daventry East;
- Woodford & Weedon;
- Duston West & St Crispin;
- Duston East;
- Dallington Spencer;
- Abington & Phippsville;
- Kingsthorpe North;
- Kingsthorpe South;
- Boothville & Parklands;
- Headlands;
- Talavera; and
- Billing & Rectory Farm

5.4.2 That a Planning Committee – South be established to deal with planning applications falling within the following wards:

- Bugbrooke
- Towcester & Roade
- Hackleton & Grange Park
- Silverstone
- Deanshanger
- Middleton Cheney
- Brackley
- St George
- Sixfields
- East Hunsbury & Shelfleys
- Delapre & Rushmere
- Castle
- Riverside Park; and
- Nene Valley.

5.4.3 That both committees be composed of eleven members, appointed according to the requirement of political proportionality as required by the Local Government and Housing

Act 1989. The allocation of seats to political groups that will apply to the committees is dealt with elsewhere on this agenda.

- 5.4.4 That the Planning Committee – North will meet in Northampton and the Planning Committee – South will meet in Towcester, except where the applications on the agenda are located exclusively within Northampton or northern wards.
- 5.4.5 That meetings of both Planning Committees convene at 6pm, subject to the provisions set out in Part 3 of the Constitution, section 3.7 (Committee and Sub-Committee Meeting Procedure Rules).
- 5.4.6 That named substitutes be permitted, to be drawn exclusively from the other Planning Committee or the Strategic Planning Committee. The number of substitutes at each meeting will be limited to 2 Conservatives and 1 each for each of the other groups.
- 5.4.7 That the threshold for applications to be determined by the Planning Committees – North and South be amended as set out in section 5.5.
- 5.4.8 That the threshold for applications to be determined by the Strategic Planning Committee be amended as set out below.
- 5.4.9 That Section 17 of the Planning Protocol (Development Proposals submitted by Councillors and Officers) be amended to clarify that planning proposals submitted by Councillors should be determined by the Planning Committee that does not cover the ward the member represents.

5.5 In terms of the Constitution, the following changes are required.

Section 4.0 (Committees)

4.4 Strategic Planning Committee, 4.4.2 (Role and Functions):

- a) Functions relating to town and country planning and development control as specified in Part A of Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities Functions and Responsibilities (England) Regulations 2000 including in relation to strategic applications meeting the thresholds set out in (i), (ii) and (iii) below
 - i. Large-scale major developments defined (by the Government’s planning application statistical returns) as those of 200 houses (~~or 2 hectares~~) or more
 - ii. Commercial developments of 10,000 square metres (~~or 2 hectares~~) or more
 - iii. Strategically important developments (as identified by the Assistant Director - Planning, following consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee for the area in which the development is proposed **and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning**).
- b) Applications called-in that cross the boundary of ~~two local area committees~~ **Planning Committee – North and Planning Committee - South**.
- c) Any application where the Assistant Director – Planning considers it inappropriate to exercise delegated powers having regard to the public representations received and consultee responses.

- d) There shall be no referral of applications from Strategic Planning Committee to ~~Local Area Planning committee – North or Planning Committee - South.~~

4.4 Planning Committee - North and Planning Committee – South (note – this section replaces the existing section 4.4 in its entirety)

4.5.1 Planning Committee – North. Members 11: Quorum 4. Appointments will be made having regard to the rules on political proportionality.

4.5.2 Planning Committee – North shall determine applications as set out below and which fall within, or mainly within, the following wards:

- Braunston & Crick;
- Brixworth;
- Moulton;
- Long Buckby;
- Daventry West;
- Daventry East;
- Woodford & Weedon;
- Duston West & St Crispin;
- Duston East;
- Dallington Spencer;
- Abington & Phippsville;
- Kingsthorpe North;
- Kingsthorpe South;
- Boothville & Parklands;
- Headlands;
- Talavera; and
- Billing & Rectory Farm

4.5.3 Planning Committee – South. Members 11: Quorum 4. Appointments will be made having regard to the rules on political proportionality.

4.5.4 Planning Committee – South shall determine applications as set out below and which fall within, or mainly within, the following wards:

- Bugbrooke
- Towcester & Roade
- Hackleton & Grange Park
- Silverstone
- Deanshanger
- Middleton Cheney
- Brackley
- St George
- Sixfields
- East Hunsbury & Shelfleys
- Delapre & Rushmere

- Castle
- Riverside Park; and
- Nene Valley.

4.5.5 Planning Committee – North and Planning Committee – South shall consider planning applications not within the remit of the Strategic Planning Committee and not delegated to officers except where the Assistant Director – Planning considers it inappropriate to exercise delegated powers having considered public representations and consultee responses. These include:

- a. Major Developments below the limits set for the Strategic Planning Committee;
- b. Major residential development of 10 or more dwellings
- c. Major commercial development where the floorspace is more than 1000 sq. m
- d. Development on sites over 1 hectare (in cases of an outline application where the number of dwellings or floor space is not specified)
- e. Changes of use more than 1000 sq.m
- f. Gypsy and traveller sites – 10 or more pitches

4.5.6 Minor developments shall only be referred to the North and South Planning Committees in exceptional circumstances (as determined by the Assistant Director – Planning) or where called in by a councillor in accordance with the procedure set out within the Planning Protocol. A minor development is any application that involves:

- a. Residential development of between one and nine dwellings
- b. Development where the floorspace is less than 1,000 sq m
- c. Development on sites less than one hectare
- d. Changes of use less than 1,000 sq m
- e. Gypsy and traveller sites – up to nine pitches

There are other types of applications also classed as minor developments, such as:

- f. Householder applications
- g. Adverts
- h. Listed building consent
- i. Or anything that is not considered to be a major planning application as previously identified.

4.5.6 There shall be no referral up of applications from the Local Area Planning committees to the Strategic Planning Committee

4.5.7 Members shall not participate as members of a Local Area Planning Committee until they have received appropriate training in respect of their functions on the committee.

4.5.8 The Assistant Director - Planning, after consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, shall be responsible for determining whether an application falls within the remit of Strategic Planning Committee or the relevant Local Area Planning Committee.

Section 5.0 (executive) – Planning Policy Committee

Paragraph 5.2.15 to be amended to reflect the reduction in the number of planning committees and corresponding reduction in the number of committee chairs: **Page 23**

Membership shall consist of:

- a) Three Executive Members
- b) Six ~~Seven~~ Non-Executive Members (3 ~~4~~ Conservative, 2 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat) to include the Chairs of the North and South Planning Committees and Strategic Planning Committee.

Section 8.0 (Councillors) – 8.5 (Planning Protocol

General - update references to Local Area Planning Committees to read 'North and South Planning Committees'.

Section 17 (Development Proposals submitted by Councillor and Officers) insert new paragraph between existing paragraph 17.4 and 17.5:

- 17.5 An application submitted by a member in accordance with paragraph 17.1 shall be dealt with by the Planning Committee other than the committee that covers the area the member represents (e.g. if the member represents a ward covered by the Planning Committee – North, the application shall be dealt with by the Planning Committee – South).

5 Issues and Choices

5.4 The issues and choices insofar as they relate to the operation of the Constitution are set out in section 5 above.

6 Implications (including financial implications)

6.4 Resources and Financial

6.4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of the Constitution review process. The saving to the budget for members' allowances resulting from a reduction in the number of planning committees is offset by the addition of a fourth overview and scrutiny committee, as agreed by the Council at its last meeting.

6.5 Legal

6.5.1 Every local authority is under a legal duty to prepare and keep up to date its Constitution. In particular, section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000 requires the Constitution to contain:

- a) a copy of the authority's standing orders;
- b) a copy of the authority's code of conduct;
- c) such information as the Secretary of State may direct; and
- d) such other information (if any) as the authority considers appropriate.

6.5.2 Regular review of the Constitution helps to ensure these legal requirements are met. The amendment set out above will assist in ensuring the Council is able to operate in a lawful manner

6.6 Risk

6.6.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report. Reviewing the Constitution helps to reduce any risks that could arise as a result of the Constitution not properly supporting decision making and delivery of Council services.

6.7 Consultation and Communications

6.7.1 Consultation was undertaken with the Democracy and Standards committee prior to recommendations being submitted to Council. The proposed changes to the Planning Committees will be communicated widely to the public to ensure residents and kept informed and updated.

6.8 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

6.8.1 Not applicable to this report.

6.9 Climate Impact

6.9.1 None specific.

6.10 Community Impact

6.10.1 None specific.

7 Background Papers

7.4 Report to Cabinet, 11 April 2023: [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday 11th April 2023, 6.00 pm - West Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

7.5 Report to Democracy and Standards Committee, 19 April 2023: [Agenda for Democracy and Standards Committee on Wednesday 19th April 2023, 6.00 pm - West Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

18 May 2023

Report by the Monitoring Officer

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Report Title | Committee Proportionality and Appointment of Members to Committees and other bodies |
| Report Author | Tracy Tiff, Deputy Democratic Services Manager Tracy.tiff@westnorthants.gov.uk |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| Monitoring Officer | Catherine Whitehead | 21/04/2023 |
| Chief Finance Officer | Martin Henry | 21/04/2023 |
| Communications Lead/Head of Communications | Becky Hutson | |

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Appointment of Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Members to Committees

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report invites Council to constitute and decide on the allocation of places on Committees between the political groups in accordance with the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to confirm the appointment of Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and members. It also invites Council to note the names of the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the political groups and to note the members of the Cabinet.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 It is a requirement of the Constitution that the Council, at its annual meetings:
- Approves the allocation of seats to political groups in accordance with the political balance rules; and

- b) Appoints at least one Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a Standards Committee, an Audit Committee and such other committees as required;
- c) Notes the appointments to the role of Deputy Leader and the Cabinet;
- d) Delegates to the Monitoring Officer the power to appoint Councillors to Committees and sub-Committees in accordance with the wishes of the Group Leaders except where appointments to those bodies is exercisable only by the Cabinet.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Council:

- a) Receives the names of the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the political groups as set out at Appendix A.
- b) Notes the members of the Cabinet set out at Appendix A.
- c) Agrees to constitute and decide on the allocation of places on committees between the political groups in accordance with the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as set out in section 5.
- d) Confirms the appointment of Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and members to the various Committees and Joint Committees as set out at Appendix A.
- e) Delegates to the Monitoring Officer the power to appoint Councillors and substitute Councillors to Committees and sub-Committees in accordance with the wishes of the Group Leaders except where appointments to those bodies is exercisable only by the Cabinet.

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 Adopting the recommendations set out above is a requirement of the Council's constitution and relevant statute.

5. Report Background

5.1 In accordance with the provisions set out within the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is required to allocate seats on committees and sub-committees to political groups to give effect, as far as possible, to the following principles:

- a) not all the seats on the Committee or sub-Committee are allocated to the same political group (if the rules apply to that body);
- b) that the political group having a majority of seats on the Council should have a majority on each Committee and sub-Committee;
- c) that, subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the number of seats on the Council's Committees and sub-Committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total number of such Committee seats as the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the full Council; and
- d) that, subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, seats are allocated on each Committee and sub-Committee in the same ratio as exists on the authority.

- 5.2 The Council is the only body that can allocate the number of seats on committees to political groups, although the individuals who are to sit on committees can be agreed outside the meeting, subject to recommendation f). A list of the Council's committees is set out at Appendix A to this report.
- 5.3 The Council may only depart from the principles set out above by passing a resolution with no member voting against. Council will note that the political balance provisions only apply directly to committees and sub-committees and do not apply to the Cabinet, Cabinet sub-Committees, joint Committees that exercised functions of the Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 5.4 In addition to the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council's constitution provides that the Council will also undertake a number of other functions at its annual meeting, including appointing chairs and vice-chairs to Committees and the other functions listed above.
- 5.5 There are a number of committees and other bodies to which the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 do not apply.
- 5.5.1 The Planning Policy Committee is a sub-committee of Cabinet and as such is not a counting committee for the purposes of political balance, although its membership does reflect the balance of the authority as far as possible. The membership is set out in Appendix A.
- 5.5.2 In accordance with the relevant statutory provisions, appointments to the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board are not distributed according to political balance requirements.
- 5.5.3 The Northamptonshire Police, Fire & Crime Panel (NPF&CP) is a joint Committee between the two Local Authorities (North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) and West Northamptonshire Council (WNC)) in the Northamptonshire Police area and consists of five WNC councillor members, five NNC councillor members and three independent lay co-opted members. The Councillor membership of the Panel when taken together is required, as far as is reasonably practicable, to represent all parts of Northamptonshire; to represent the proportion of councillors from each political party across the county; and to have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the NPF&CP to discharge its functions effectively.
- 5.5.4 Both of the Northamptonshire Councils each appoint three executive members as members of the Shared Services Joint Committee (Between West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire). Membership of this joint Committee is solely executive in nature and therefore Cabinet will appoint its members to the Committee. The same provision applies to the Children's Trust Joint Committee.
- 5.5.5 The Council appoints one member to the PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee.

5.5.6 The Council appoints two members to the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE). Again, this is not a formal Counting committee for the purposes of political balance.

5.6 Excluding the bodies to which political balance requirements do not apply, there are 141 allocated Committee places which must be allocated as follows: 99 Conservative, 30 Labour, 8 Liberal Democrat, 3 Independent group and 1 non-aligned independent councillor.

5.7 The allocation of seats between the Committees is as follows:

| Committee | Conservative | Labour | Liberal Democrats | Independent Group | Independent | Total |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Alcohol & Gambling Licensing Committee* | 11 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Taxi & General Licensing Committee* | 11 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Strategic Planning Committee | 9 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Planning Committee (North) | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Planning Committee (South) | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| ASC & Health Scrutiny Committee | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| Corporate Scrutiny Committee | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| Children's Scrutiny Committee | 8 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Place Scrutiny Committee | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 11 |
| Senior Appointments | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Audit and Governance | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Democracy and Standards | 6 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|---|---|---|-----|
| Pensions Committee | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Total | 99 | 30 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 141 |

* both Committees share the same membership.

6. Issues and Choices

6.1 The Council has elected to adopt a structure of Committees and the recommendations set out in this report are necessary to ensure this structure is able to function effectively and lawfully.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals. The overall budget for members' allowances is unchanged by these proposals.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals. The Council is bound to make appointments to committees in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 Political Groups have previously been consulted on Committee membership.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 None.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 None.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 None.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 None.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None.

Appointments to Committees - Updated for Annual Meeting of Council, 18 May 2023

Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Political Groups

| Political Group | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Conservative | Councillor Jonathan Nunn | Leader |
| | Councillor Adam Brown | Deputy Leader |
| Labour | Councillor Wendy Randall | Leader |
| | Councillor Bob Purser | Deputy Leader |
| Liberal Democrat | Councillor Sally Beardsworth | Leader |
| | Councillor Jonathan Harris | Deputy Leader |
| Independent | Councillor Ian McCord | Leader |
| | Councillor Sue Sharps | Deputy Leader |

Group Business Managers

| Group | Councillor |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Conservative | Councillor Suresh Patel |
| Labour | Councillor Cathrine Russell |
| Liberal Democrat | Councillor Jonathan Harris |

Cabinet

| | Cabinet Member Responsibility |
|----------------------|---|
| Leader | Councillor Jonathan Nunn Cabinet Member for Strategy |
| Deputy Leader | Councillor Adam Brown Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure |
| | Councillor Malcolm Longley – Cabinet Member for Finance |
| | Councillor Phil Larratt – Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste |
| | Councillor David Smith – Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, and Regulatory Services |
| | Councillor Rebecca Breese – Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs |
| | Councillor Matt Golby – Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing, and Health Integration |
| | Councillor Mike Hallam – Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services |
| | Councillor Fiona Baker – Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education |
| | Councillor Dan Lister - Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth |

Assistant Cabinet Members

| Councillor | Assistant Cabinet Member Responsibility |
|------------------------------|---|
| Councillor William Barter | Rail |
| Councillor Rupert Frost | Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth |
| Councillor Kevin Parker | Finance |
| Councillor Tony Bagot-Webb | Highways and HS2 |
| Councillor Jo Gilford | Waste |
| Councillor Pinder Chauhan | Flooding |
| Councillor Alison Eastwood | Arts and Culture |
| Councillor Louisa Fowler | Education |
| Councillor Mark Hughes | Education |
| Councillor Stephen Hibbert | Housing |
| Councillor Daniel Cribbin | Health |
| Councillor Alan Chantler | Planning |
| Councillor Anna King | Communities |
| Councillor Greg Lunn | Sport |
| Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex | IT, Transformation and People |

Executive Committees - Planning Policy Committee

| | Councillors | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Rebecca Breese* | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Matt Golby* | Conservative |
| | Councillor Adam Brown* | Conservative |
| | Councillor Phil Bignell | Conservative |
| | Councillor Stephen Clarke | Conservative |
| | Councillor Jamie Lane | Conservative |
| | Councillor Bob Purser | Labour |
| | Councillor Cathrine Russell | Labour |
| | Councillor Jonathan Harris | Liberal Democrat |

* Decision making member

Substitute Members

Councillor Rosie Humphreys

Alcohol and Gambling Licensing Committee

| | Councillors | Group |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Mike Warren | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Brian Sargeant | Conservative |
| | Councillor Alan Chantler | Conservative |
| | Councillor Maggie Clubley | Conservative |
| | Councillor Michael Brown | Conservative |
| | Councillor Terry Gilford | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cheryl Hawes | Conservative |
| | Councillor Mark Hughes | Conservative |
| | Councillor Jake Roberts | Conservative |
| | Councillor Lizzy Bowen | Conservative |
| | Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms | Conservative |
| | Councillor Winston Strachan | Labour |
| | Councillor Gareth Eales | Labour |
| | Councillor Janice Duffy | Labour |
| | Councillor Sally Beardsworth | Liberal Democrat |

Taxi and General Licensing Committee

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Mike Warren | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Brian Sargeant | Conservative |
| | Councillor Alan Chantler | Conservative |
| | Councillor Maggie Clubley | Conservative |
| | Councillor Michael Brown | Conservative |
| | Councillor Terry Gilford | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cheryl Hawes | Conservative |
| | Councillor Mark Hughes | Conservative |
| | Councillor Jake Roberts | Conservative |
| | Councillor Lizzy Bowen | Conservative |
| | Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms | Conservative |
| | Councillor Winston Strachan | Labour |
| | Councillor Gareth Eales | Labour |
| | Councillor Janice Duffy | Labour |
| | Councillor Sally Beardsworth | Liberal Democrat |

Substitute members

Councillor Penny Flavell

Councillor Janice Duffy

Councillor Rosie Humphreys

Strategic Planning Committee

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Phil Bignell | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Kevin Parker | Conservative |
| | Councillor Rosie Herring | Conservative |
| | Councillor Ann Addison | Conservative |
| | Councillor David James | Conservative |
| | Councillor Charles Manners | Conservative |
| | Councillor Ken Pritchard | Conservative |
| | Councillor Alan Chantler | Conservative |
| | Councillor André Gonzalez de Savage | Conservative |
| | Councillor Wendy Randall | Labour |
| | Councillor Bob Purser | Labour |
| | Councillor Cathrine Russell | Labour |
| | Councillor Rosie Humphreys | Liberal Democrat |

Substitute members

Councillor Cecile Irving Swift
 Councillor Stephen Clarke
 Councillor Jonathan Harris

Planning Committee (North)

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Jamie Lane | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Peter Matten | Conservative |
| | Councillor Penny Flavell | Conservative |
| | Councillor Anna King | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift | Conservative |
| | Councillor Rupert Frost | Conservative |
| | Councillor James Hill | Conservative |
| | Councillor Daniel Cribbin | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cathrine Russell | Labour |
| | Councillor Paul Joyce | Labour |
| | Councillor Sally Beardsworth | Liberal Democrat |

Substitute Members

Councillor Stephen Clarke
 Councillor André Gonzalez de Savage
 Councillor Rosie Humphreys

Planning Committee (South)

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Chair | Councillor Stephen Clark | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Ken Pritchard | Conservative |
| | Councillor Karen Cooper | Conservative |
| | Councillor Maggie Clublely | Conservative |
| | Councillor Ray Connolly | Conservative |
| | Councillor Dermot Bambridge | Conservative |
| | Councillor William Barter | Conservative |
| | Councillor Tony Bagot-Webb | Conservative |
| | Councillor Danielle Stone | Labour |
| | Councillor Enam Haque | Labour |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Councillor Sue Sharps | Independent |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|

Substitute Members

Councillor Kevin Parker
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Ian McCord | Independent |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Sam Rumens | Conservative |
| | Councillor Maggie Clubley | Conservative |
| | Councillor Rupert Frost | Conservative |
| | Councillor David James | Conservative |
| | Councillor Colin Morgan | Conservative |
| | Councillor Ken Pritchard | Conservative |
| | Councillor Charles Morton | Conservative |
| | Councillor Keith Holland Delamere | Labour |
| | Councillor Koula Jolley | Labour |
| | Councillor Jonathan Harris | Liberal Democrat |

Substitute members

Councillor James Hill
Councillor Azizur Rahman
Councillor Brian Sargeant
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Sally Beardsworth

Children's Scrutiny Committee

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Andrew Grant | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Stephen Hibbert | Conservative |
| | Councillor Nick Sturgess-Alex | Conservative |
| | Councillor Mike Warren | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cheryl Hawes | Conservative |
| | Councillor Imran Chowdry BEM | Conservative |
| | Councillor Louisa Fowler | Conservative |
| | Councillor Azizur Rahman | Conservative |
| | Councillor Zoe Smith | Labour |
| | Councillor Harry Barrett | Labour |
| | Councillor Sally Beardsworth | Liberal Democrat |

Substitute Members

Councillor Nigel Hinch
Councillor Brian Sargeant
Councillor Muna Cali
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Jonathan Harris

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Rosie Herring | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Nick Sturgess-Alex | Conservative |
| | Councillor Daniel Cribbin | Conservative |
| | Councillor Phil Bignell | Conservative |
| | Councillor Greg Lunn | Conservative |
| | Councillor Karen Cooper | Conservative |
| | Councillor Ray Connolly | Conservative |
| | Councillor Emma Roberts | Labour |
| | Councillor Rufia Ashraf | Labour |
| | Councillor Janice Duffy | Labour |
| | Councillor Julie Davenport | Independent (non-aligned) |

Substitute Members

Councillor Anna King
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms
Councillor Azizur Rahman
Councillor Brian Sargeant
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Bob Purser

Place Scrutiny Committee

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Chair | Councillor André Gonzalez de Savage | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Dermot Bambridge | Conservative |
| | Councillor James Hill | Conservative |
| | Councillor Tony Bagot-Webb | Conservative |
| | Councillor William Barter | Conservative |
| | Councillor Alison Eastwood | Conservative |
| | Councillor Terry Gilford | Conservative |
| | Councillor Kevin Parker | Conservative |
| | Councillor Paul Joyce | Labour |
| | Councillor Terrie Eales | Labour |
| | Councillor Sue Sharps | Independent |

Substitute Members

Councillor Azizur Rahman
Councillor Nick Sturgess-Alex
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Bob Purser

Senior Appointments Committee

| | Councillors | Group |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Chair | Councillor Jonathan Nunn | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Adam Brown | Conservative |
| | Councillor Bob Purser | Labour |
| | Councillor Wendy Randall | Labour |
| | Councillor Suresh Patel | Conservative |

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Councillor Mike Hallam | Conservative |
| | Relevant Portfolio Holder | Conservative |

Audit and Governance Committee

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Charles Manners | Conservative |
| | Councillor Mark Hughes | Conservative |
| | Councillor Alan Chantler | Conservative |
| | Councillor Sam Rumens | Conservative |
| | Councillor Stephen Clarke | Conservative |
| | Councillor Jamal Alwahabi | Labour |
| | Councillor Keith Holland Delamere | Labour |
| | Councillor Rosie Humphreys | Liberal Democrat |

Substitute Members

Councillor Jake Roberts
Councillor Sally Beardsworth

Democracy and Standards Committee

| | Councillors | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Chair | Councillor Suresh Patel | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Andrew Grant | Conservative |
| | Councillor Nigel Hinch | Conservative |
| | Councillor Daniel Cribbin | Conservative |
| | Councillor Andrew Kilbride | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cathrine Russell | Labour |
| | Councillor Wendy Randall | Labour |
| | Councillor Jonathan Harris | Liberal Democrat |

Substitute Members

Councillor Adam Brown
Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Sally Beardsworth
Councillor Keith Holland Delamere

Pensions Committee

| | Councillors | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Chair | Councillor Malcolm Longley | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Charles Morton | Conservative |
| | Councillor Phil Bignell | Conservative |
| | Councillor Jamie Lane | Conservative |
| | Councillor Peter Matten | Conservative |
| | Councillor Janice Duffy | Labour |
| | Councillor Cathrine Russell | Labour |

Substitute Members

Councillor Lizzy Bowen

Pensions Committee – Investment Sub-Committee

| | Councillors | Group |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Chair | Councillor Malcolm Longley | Conservative |
| Deputy Chair | Councillor Charles Morton | Conservative |
| | Councillor Phil Bignell | Conservative |
| | Councillor Cathrine Russell | Labour |

Local Pension Board

| | Councillors | Group |
|--|--------------------------|--------------|
| | Councillor Ken Pritchard | Conservative |

Joint Committees

| Committee | Councillor (s) |
|---|--|
| Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel | Councillor Andre Gonzalez de Savage Councillor Fiona Baker Councillor Ken Pritchard Councillor David Smith Councillor Winston Strachan Substitute Members Councillor Muna Cali Councillor Gregg Lunn |
| Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board | Councillor Matt Golby (Chair) Councillor Jonathan Nunn Councillor Fiona Baker Councillor Wendy Randall |
| Integrated Care Board | Nominated to the Chief Executive |
| Children's Trust Joint Committee | Councillor Jonathan Nunn Councillor Fiona Baker Councillor Matt Golby |
| PATROL Adjudication Joint | Councillor Stephen Hibbert |
| Shared Services Joint Committee | Councillor Jonathan Nunn Councillor Adam Brown Councillor Mike Hallam Substitute Members Councillor Phil Larratt Councillor Dan Lister Councillor David Smith |
| Rugby & Daventry Crematorium Joint Committee | Councillor David James Councillor Phil Larratt |
| Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Councillor Rosie Herring |

Other Appointments

| Non-Committee Bodies | Councillor (s) |
|-----------------------------|---|
| SACRE | Councillor Anna King Councillor Imran Chowdhury |
| Corporate Parenting Board | Councillor Fiona Baker Councillor Imran Chowdhury Councillor Louisa Fowler Councillor Mark Hughes Councillor Terry Gilford Councillor Wendy Randall Councillor Danielle Stone Councillor Sally Beardsworth |

| External Organisation | Councillor (s) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Local Government Association | Delegated to the Chief Executive |
| East Midlands' Councils | Delegated to the Chief Executive |

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

18 May 2023

Report by the Monitoring Officer

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Report Title | Calendar of Meetings for 2023-2-2024 |
| Report Author | Tracy Tiff, Deputy Democratic Services Manager Tracy.tiff@westnorthants.gov.uk |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| Monitoring Officer | Catherine Whitehead | 21/04/2023 |
| Chief Finance Officer | Martin Henry | 24/04/2023 |
| Communications Lead/Head of Communications | Becky Hutson | 09/05/2023 |

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Calendar of Meetings for 2023-24

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek confirmation of the calendar of Council and Committee meetings for 2023 -2024.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 It is a requirement of the Constitution that the Council agrees the calendar of meetings to enable the business of the Council to be planned appropriately. This report therefore proposes a calendar of meetings for 2023-2024.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council approves the calendar of meetings for 2023-2024, as set out at Appendix A.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 Adopting a calendar of meetings provides a framework for the democratic and decision-making process of the Council.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Council is required within Procedural Rules to agree a schedule of meetings for the formal decision-making bodies of the Council. Therefore, a draft Calendar of Meetings for 2023/2024 has been prepared to enable the effective consideration of Council business and covers the period from May 2023 to May 2024. A copy of the calendar of meetings is attached at Appendix A.
- 5.2 The Chairman of the Council and Committees Chairs have the power to call extraordinary meetings when required to accommodate urgent or unscheduled business. With the approval of the Monitoring Officer, they also have the authority to change a meeting date or time where circumstances require. Future changes to meeting dates will be made on the Council's website and notification will be sent electronically to all relevant Councillors concerned.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 None. The calendar of meetings provides a framework for effective and planned decision making and enables both councillors and the public to be aware of upcoming meeting dates.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 The proposed Calendar of Meetings ensures that the Council complies with various statutory function, including Access to Information Regulations.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation

- 7.4.1 The Executive Leadership Team, the Leader of the Council and Committee Chairs have been consulted on the draft calendar of meetings and any comments made have been incorporated. The Calendar of Council and committee meetings will continue to be promoted across the Council's corporate communications channels to inform and engage the public in the democratic process and business of the Council.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 None.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 None.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 None.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 None.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None.

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| Committee | April | May | June | July | August | Sept | October | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | March | April | May |
|---|-------|-----|------|------|--------|------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| Full Council (5.00pm) | | 18 | 29 | | | 28 | | 30 | | | 22 | 21 | | 16 |
| Cabinet | 11 | 9 | 13 | 11 | | 19 | 10 | 14 | 12 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 16 | 7 |
| Overview & Scrutiny Triangulation meetings | | 22 | | 5 | | 6 | | 13 | | 10 | | 4 | | 20 |
| Place Scrutiny Committee | 18 | | 21 | | | 11 | | | | 15 | | | 15 | |
| Place Scrutiny Pre-meeting (remote) | | 25 | | 18 | | | | 27 | | | | 11 | | |
| Adults & Health Scrutiny Committee | | | 27 | | | 14 | | | | 17 | | | 17 | |
| Adults and Health Scrutiny Pre-meeting (remote) | | 23 | | 24 | | | | | 6 | | | 6 | | |
| Children's & Housing Scrutiny Committee | | | 19 | | | 25 | | | | | 5 | | 3 | |
| Children's & Housing Scrutiny Pre-meeting (remote) | | 25 | | 10 | | | | | | 4 | 29 | | | |
| Corporate Scrutiny Committee | | 15 | | | | 18 | | | | 24 | | | 22 | |
| Corporate Scrutiny Pre-meeting (remote) | 24 | | | 17 | | | | | 11 | | | 25 | | |
| Licensing Committee (as required) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Licensing Sub-Committee (ad hoc) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Planning Committee (2.00pm) | 17 | 22 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 12 | 17 | 21 | 11 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 23 | 21 |
| Planning Policy Committee | 25 | 23 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 20 | 24 | 22 | 13 | 30 | 27 | 14 | 24 | 30 |
| Local Area Planning Committee – Daventry (until May 2023) | 5 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Area Planning Committee – Northampton (5.00pm) To May 2023 | 4 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local Area Planning Committee – South Northants (2:15pm) (until May 2023) | 6 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Planning Committee (North) – | | | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 15 |
| Planning Committee (South) | | | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 9 |
| Audit and Governance Committee | | | 14 | 26 | | 27 | | 21 | | 24 | | 27 | | |
| Democracy and Standards Committee | | | 28 | | | 21 | | 15 | | 25 | | 26 | | 23 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|----|------|--------|------|----|------|
| Standards Hearing Sub-Ctte (ad hoc) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pensions Committee (4.00pm) | | | 28 | 24 | | | 2 | | 14 | | | 27 | | |
| Investment Sub-Committee (2.00pm) | | 31 | | | | 27 | | 22 | | | | 6 | | |
| Local Pension Board (2pm) | 27 | | 29 | | | | | 2 | | 25 | | | 25 | |
| Health and Wellbeing Board (1.00pm) | | 25 | | 27 | | 28 | | 30 | | 25 | | 21 | | 23 |
| West & North Northants Joint Ctte (2.00pm) | | 17 W | 7 N | 12 W | 16 N | 20 W | 25 N | 29 W | | 12 N | 21 W | 27 N | | 15 W |
| Children’s Trust – Joint Committee (2.00pm) | | 3 N | | 5 W | | 6 N | | 8 W | | 10 N | | 6 W | | 2 N |
| Police, Fire & Crime Panel (1.00pm) | 20 | | 15 | | | 7 | | 30 | | | 6 + 20 | | 18 | |
| West Northants Schools Forum (2.00pm) | | 23 | | 4 | | | 18 | | 13 | | 6 | | | 15 |
| Corporate Parenting Board (5.00 pm) | | 24 | | 19 | | 26 | | 29 | | 31 | | 20 | | 22 |

All meetings start at **6.00pm** unless stated otherwise

Bank Holidays for 2023-24:

- 1 May 2023 – Early May Bank Holiday
- 8 May 2023 – Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles III
- 29th May 2023 – Spring Bank Holiday
- 28th August 2023 – Summer Bank Holiday
- 25th December 2023 – Christmas Day
- 26th December 2023 – Boxing Day
- 1 January 2024 – New Year’s Day
- 29th March 2024 – Good Friday
- 1 April 2024 – Easter Monday
- 6th May 2024 – Early May Bank Holiday
- 27th May 2024 – Spring Bank Holiday



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

18 May 2023

Report by the Civic Working Group

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Report Title | WNC Honorary Aldermen |
| Report Author | Catherine Whitehead Director Legal & Democratic and Monitoring Officer Catherine.Whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| West MO | Catherine Whitehead | 24/04/2023 |
| West S151 | Martin Henry | 21/04/2023 |
| Communications Lead/Head of Communications | Becky Hutson | 24/04/2023 |

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Honorary Alderman Scheme

Appendix 2: Civic Working Group Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose that former Councillors who have served for 12 years or more as Councillors in the area of West Northamptonshire be eligible to be considered for conferment of the title of "Honorary Alderman". For the purposes of continuity, this would apply to Councillors who served at the former Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council, South Northamptonshire Council, and the part of Northamptonshire County Council which covered the West Northamptonshire area.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 West Northamptonshire Council plays a significant role in the strategic delivery of public services across the county. Its role and impact mean that it potentially touches the lives of every West Northamptonshire

resident, commuter, and business. The council wishes to create an opportunity for individuals to be recognised for their contribution to public service.

- 2.2 It is therefore proposed that a scheme of Honorary Aldermen be introduced, to recognise individuals demonstrating acts of eminent public service.
- 2.3 An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors who have met the criteria of having a minimum of 12 years' service as a Councillor at one of the authorities referred to in paragraph 1.1, and the suggested scheme is in line with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that:
 - a) The Council agrees to the scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen of West Northamptonshire Council as set out in Appendix A.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendation proposed will enable West Northamptonshire Council to recognise and celebrate the acts of eminent services of past Councillors.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The WNC Civic Working Group have requested that a decision be taken to introduce an Honorary Aldermen Scheme, similar to the schemes which were previously in place at the former Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Under section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the position of Honorary Alderman is open to any person who has, in the opinion of the Council, given eminent service to the Council as a Councillor. The Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 updated the 1972 Act to enable the title to be conferred on women.
- 6.2 It is for each authority to define 'eminent service'. It is proposed that in the case of West Northamptonshire Council the definition should be:

A minimum of 12 years' past service as a Councillor at West Northamptonshire Council, the former Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council, South Northamptonshire Council, or the part of Northamptonshire County Council which covered the West Northamptonshire area.

And meeting at least one of the following conditions:

- **Holding senior political office with distinction**
- **Having an exceptional record of community service and leadership**

- 6.3 Nominations as an Honorary Alderman would be made by a Member of the Council and submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Civic Working Group, chaired by the Chairman of the Council, would submit those names nominated that meet the

necessary criteria and who would be willing to accept the honour, to a specially convened meeting of Council. This meeting would then vote on the nominations and would require a two-thirds majority of those voting to be approved.

- 6.4 The positions of Honorary Alderman and West Northamptonshire Councillor are mutually exclusive. In the event of an Alderman being elected as a West Northamptonshire Councillor, membership as an Honorary Alderman will cease.
- 6.5 The honour is purely ceremonial. Honorary Aldermen may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may decide, but do not have the right to receive allowances or other payments.
- 6.6 It is proposed that Honorary Aldermen receive a badge, which may be worn as outlined in the scheme.
- 6.7 Honorary Aldermen will be subject to the same codes of conduct and standards requirements as a West Northamptonshire Councillor and would face the sanction of loss of title and role should they be found in breach of the codes and standards set out in the Council's Constitution.
- 6.8 Removal of the title of Honorary Alderman will follow the same process as appointment.
- 6.9 With regards to alternative options considered, there is no obligation to create an Honorary Aldermen scheme.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 The financial implications related to the scheme will be funded from existing Civic Budgets held within Executive Support.
- 7.1.2 It is anticipated that the costs of the scheme will be below £5,000.
- 7.1.3 The 1972 Act specifically rules out any payment to Honorary Aldermen, including travel and subsistence allowances.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that:

“a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary aldermen on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but who are not then members of that council”.

- 7.2.2 Section 32 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No2) Regulations 2008 confirm that a person who has been admitted as an Honorary Alderman of a local government area that has been abolished shall be treated as being admitted as an Honorary Alderman of the new reorganised area.

7.3 Risk

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation and communication

7.5 Consultation on the development of the detail of the scheme will take place with political group leaders following the agreement in principle to establish the scheme. Communications activity will be undertaken to promote the Honorary Alderman scheme and its role in encouraging civic pride by recognising individuals demonstrating acts of eminent public service.

7.6 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.6.1 The decision to establish a scheme for the creation of Honorary Aldermen is a matter for the Full Council and is not, therefore, subject to oversight by the Overview and Scrutiny function.

7.7 Climate Impact

7.7.1 There are no climate or environmental impacts arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.8 Community Impact

7.8.1 There is no distinct community impact arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None

Scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen of West Northamptonshire Council

Background

1. In accordance with the provisions of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may confer the title of “Honorary Alderman” on:

“Persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of that Council, but who are not then members of the Council”.

2. In order for Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman, a special meeting of full Council needs to be convened for this purpose and a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting members present at that meeting.
3. For the purposes of this scheme “eminent services” shall mean serving as an elected member for a total of 12 years for West Northamptonshire Council and/or one of the following councils:
 - a. the former Northampton Borough Council,
 - b. the former Daventry District Council,
 - c. the former South Northamptonshire Council, or
 - d. the part of the former Northamptonshire County Council which covered the West Northamptonshire area

and meeting at least one of the following conditions:

- Holding senior political office with distinction;
- Having an exceptional record of community service and leadership.

4. In exceptional circumstances less than 12 years’ service may be considered upon the recommendation of the Leader of the Council.
5. No person who meets the above qualification criteria will automatically become an Honorary Alderman, but they may be nominated and enrolled as an Honorary Alderman in accordance with the provisions of this scheme.

Nomination and Enrolment

6. Nominations for the position of Honorary Alderman should only be made where there are exceptional cases meriting this honour.
7. Any serving West Northamptonshire Councillor can submit a nomination in writing to the Chief Executive Officer with the support of their Group Leader or the Leader of the Council.

8. Once a valid nomination has been received by the Chief Executive Officer, informal discussions will take place involving a panel of members chaired by the Chairman of the Council to establish whether there is sufficient support for the nomination. The panel of members will be the Civic Working Group, with additional attendees invited as required. The individual will also be consulted as to whether they wish to accept the offer if made.

If there is sufficient support for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on the nominated person, a special meeting will be convened immediately prior to the next ordinary meeting of full Council for this purpose.

9. At a specially convened meeting, full Council will formally resolve to confer the honorary title and will celebrate the achievements of the recipient and make any presentation to them. The summons for this meeting will contain the proposal to award the honour including the reason.

Privileges

10. An Honorary Alderman shall be entitled to the following privileges:
 - To enjoy the courtesy title of “Alderman” and to be so addressed.
 - To be named as an Alderman on the Council website.
 - To attend, as an observer, meetings of the Council and to have a seat made available for them.
 - To receive invitations to all civic and social events to which members of the Council are invited.
 - In the event of the Council deciding to give a badge, robe or emblem to Honorary Aldermen, to wear such a badge, robe or emblem on civic occasions.
11. The Council may decide to alter, amend, supplement or withdraw the privileges set out in this scheme.
12. Honorary Aldermen shall not have the right to influence meetings of the Council or a committee of the Council or to receive any allowance or other payment under the Members' Allowance Scheme.

Withdrawal of the title and its privileges

13. The Council shall retain the competence to withdraw the title of Honorary Alderman and its privileges in particular cases.
14. Withdrawal of the title and its privileges shall be by way of a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of voting members present at a specially convened full Council meeting.

The summons for that meeting will contain a proposal to withdraw the title and its privileges including the reason.

15. Honorary positions are non-political roles. In the event of an Alderman subsequently resuming membership of the Council, they may not be addressed as Alderman or benefit from any privileges that Aldermen may be entitled to until they once more cease to be a Councillor.

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Civic Working Group - Terms of Reference:

Remit:

Strategy:

To have oversight and ownership of key decisions relating to Civic matters

Operations:

- Develop and agree the role and remit of the Chairman of WNC
- Agree the designs for the Council Coat of Arms and Letters Patent, along with any other heraldic items
- Overview and direction for applications of use for the Coat of Arms
- Agree inscriptions and designs relating to Chairman's Chains of Office
- Oversight of Chairman's engagements and upcoming events
- Identify Civic schemes for implementation
- Identify opportunities for Civic engagement in West Northamptonshire
- Make decisions on Civic items and their future purpose in line with the Council's Office Optimisation project
- Oversight of donations made to Chairman's chosen charities and identify opportunities for fundraising
- Decision-making panel for recommendations for the WNC Honorary Alderman scheme

Membership

Civic Working Group Core Members

Current Chairman of WNC (Chair)

Leader of WNC

Deputy Leader of WNC

Vice Chairman of WNC

Immediate Former Chairman of WNC

Members as Requested by Current Chairman:

Cllr Phil Larratt, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways, Transport and Waste Services

Cllr David Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, and Regulatory Services

Cllr Jamie Lane

Civic Working Group Officers

Rebecca Peck, Assistant Chief Executive

Roger Coleman, Council Sergeant, and Judges Lodgings Manager

Leanne Wightman, Executive Support Team Manager

Salma Stockwell, PA to Chairman and Cabinet (Notes)

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