



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Council

A meeting of the Council will be held in the The Great Hall at The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 28 September 2023 at 5.00 pm

Councillors are hereby summoned to attend

Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence
2.	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.
3.	Minutes of Council (Pages 9 - 26) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 June and 20 July 2023.
4.	Chairman's Announcements To receive communications from the Chairman of the Council.
5.	Public Participation (1) Receipt of Petitions (if any) from Local Government Electors for the District (2) Questions (if any) from the Public
6.	Opposition Priority Business Proposed by: Cllr Bob Purser Seconded by: Cllr Wendy Randall

“West Northamptonshire Council has the duty as corporate parent to support the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT) in improving the lives of our children in care. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our confidence in and commitment to the senior management and the selfless work of its staff.

Not for the first time, this Council is faced with another overspend by the Trust, currently estimated at £14 million. The vast majority of this overspend (£11.29m) is due to the exploitation of the Trust by profiteering private placement and fostering providers and poor systems within WNC.

This council notes the 2022 report of the Competition and Marketing Authority (CMA) into the Children’s Care market, which found a “fundamental failure” in the way private placement providers and Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) are making higher profits and charging higher prices whilst vulnerable children are put in inadequate placements which fail to meet their needs. The report highlighted competition should be between private placement providers and not local authorities purchasing services.

The Department for Education charged us in 2020 to wholeheartedly support NCT. We believe this duty also includes protecting both the Trust and this Council from profit-centric providers who are taking advantage of the most vulnerable young people in our area. We cannot continue to empty our precious reserves shoring up what has been declared a ‘broken’ market.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Cabinet and Leader of the Council to:

- Offer financial advice support to NCT to ensure their budget is no longer overspent due to the private sector
- Work alongside NCT to produce a report on the current cost of placements to the trust in comparison to a base-budget model
- Assess and install robust financial processes within the Council to ensure both NCT and WNC are not further abused by private placement providers and IFAs
- Invites the trust to conduct a review into the remuneration of in-house foster carers.
- Request the Chief Executive to urgently provide a costed report to Cabinet on the feasibility of WNC developing a prevention and support service for families with young children
- Instruct the Cabinet Members for Housing and Children to liaise with the CEO of NCT to develop options to support those leaving care with independent accommodation
- Appeal our Members of Parliament to meet with the Secretaries of State for Education and Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the need to implement the recommendations of the CMA’s report.”

7.	Cabinet Reports and Record of Decisions Taken by Council (Pages 27 - 124)
Items of Business	
8.	Annual Reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Pages 125 - 158)
9.	Annual Reports from Democracy and Standards Committee (Pages 159 - 170)

10.	Community Governance Review – Terms of Reference (Pages 171 - 188)
11.	Updates to the Constitution (Pages 189 - 194)
12.	Chief Officer Fixed Term Appointment and Remuneration (Pages 195 - 200)
13.	Changes to Committee Places (Pages 201 - 204)
14.	<p>Motions</p> <p><u>Motion 1</u></p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Paul Joyce Seconded by: Cllr Danielle Stone</p> <p>“Poor air quality is among the greatest health threats in West Northamptonshire. The British Heart Foundation attributed 1 in 20 deaths in Northampton to air pollution in 2017 and predicted air pollution would cause 1,700 deaths in Northamptonshire before 2030.</p> <p>In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) updated its guidelines on safe pollution levels. This included a maximum annual average of 5 µg/m³ for PM_{2.5}, the most dangerous pollutant which causes heart and lung disease and cancers. Recent measurements from IQ Air shows levels in areas of Northampton are worryingly twice this amount.</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council have made several commitments to deliver clean air, including signing up to the UK100 Net Zero Pledge in 2022, committing to be ‘Clean and Green’ in the corporate plan, and inheriting Northampton Borough Council’s Northampton Low Emission Strategy (NLES) until 2025. Yet this council still has no overarching policy towards tackling air quality.</p> <p>Recognized change in pollution levels has been achieved by reducing idling through introducing smart traffic lights and School Streets initiatives. A trial of school streets in London effectively reduced levels of lethal nitrogen dioxide outside schools by 23%, whilst the introduction of smart traffic lights at roadworks in Kent successfully reduced car idling and journey times by up to 41%.</p> <p>This council recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor air quality is a major problem that is affecting the health of residents in West Northamptonshire and pollutant levels are dangerously above recognised safe level’s <p>This council resolves to request the Cabinet to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a cohesive clean air policy, pulling together the efforts of LAPs, parish councils and community groups, for their meeting in January 2024 • Commit this council to meet WHO guidelines on safe air pollution levels by 2028

- Outline its plans for the £292,378 given to WNC to improve air quality for their meeting in December 2023
- Consider and explore a trial of the School Streets Initiative for West Northants, looking at available sites, appropriate locations and inviting members and local residents to suggest locations to plan and initiate a trial.
- Conduct research into trialling smart traffic light systems for future roadworks in West Northants and any funding available to trial a sensor or AI-based traffic system”

Motion 2

Proposed by: Cllr Jonathan Harris

Seconded by: Cllr Rosie Humphreys

“In July 2021, West Northamptonshire Council passed a motion recognising the climate emergency. In December 2021, a resolution was passed to sign up to the UK100 net zero pledge, reaffirming the council’s commitment to deliver a net zero position on its carbon emissions by 2030 and 2045 for the wider West Northants area.

Since that time the scale of the challenge has become greater, and the need for action more urgent. Climate change is driving extreme weather such as heatwaves that cost lives. Wildlife is under extreme pressure, and species loss is accelerating.

The surface temperature of the world’s oceans has hit its highest ever level as climate breakdown from burning fossil fuels causes the oceans to heat.

Following the hottest June on record and a series of extreme weather events, including heatwaves in Europe, North America and Asia, and wildfires in Canada and Greece, data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S*) show that the first three weeks of July have broken several significant records.

This motion therefore offers members the opportunity to renew West Northamptonshire Council’s commitment to taking action to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

Motion

That this Council resolves to redeclare its recognition of the climate emergency, and calls on the executive to:

- a) Fully Integrate consideration of climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature recovery, into all council decision-making; ensuring that all decisions are compatible with the goal of a zero-carbon council by 2030.
- b) Formalise the procedures for this decision-making, with automatic decision referral being made to the Sustainability Manager/and or the Sustainability team for input and contribution to key decisions, in much the same way as finance and legal contribute to sign off of all major decisions.
- c) Commit to taking every opportunity to improve wildlife protection and better management of land for nature, including on council-owned land, therefore ensuring wider biodiversity net gain in line with the forthcoming legislation.
- d) Support and strengthen action with partners, i.e., NPH, towards the goal of a zero-carbon, nature-rich West Northamptonshire by 2045.”

Motion 3

Proposed by: Cllr Emma Roberts
Seconded by: Cllr Zoe Smith

“E-scooters have become an integral part of Northampton’s transport and play a valuable role in this council’s active travel and carbon-reducing schemes by providing cheap, clean and efficient travel for commuters and students.

But the ongoing trial is being repeatedly plagued with riders breaking vital and statutory safety regulations in the town. Residents are repeatedly complaining of underage children using the scooters, of two people on a scooter at one time (so-called double-riding), of scooters parked in dangerous places like verges, and users thinking riding on the pavement is acceptable.

These illegal activities pose a serious risk to the safety of riders, drivers, and pedestrians, especially in the elderly and disabled communities. Since the trial began in 2020, two deaths in Northampton have been linked to e-scooters, whilst a representative of the National Federation of the Blind of the UK said in March that “rider behaviour is not safe for the rider or for any pedestrian” and proposed the trial’s immediate termination.

The extension of the current trial until May 2024, agreed with the provider and North Northamptonshire Council in December, was on the condition that additional safety measures were introduced by the provider. Yet residents have also complained of repeat offenders who, despite being reported to the provider, are still seen later riding on pavements or double-riding. Last month, WNC and the provider announced the expansion of the scheme in Northampton to Moulton and Collingtree, despite ongoing concerns from residents over their safety.

This council acknowledges and welcomes the ‘We share the road’ campaign being run jointly with Northamptonshire Police to raise awareness of the rules of the road for e-scooters, but also recognises that better policing and evaluation of the trial is required. It therefore calls on the Cabinet to:

- Assure the Council it has enacted all of the additional e-scooter trial requirements the Department for Transport introduced in April 2022 to ensure the trials were as safe as possible
- Conduct a full evaluation into the safety measures of e-scooters, including consulting with Northamptonshire Police on better policing of underage and drink-driver users and the widespread problem of poor parking, and their complaints procedure
- Conduct an evaluation into the suitability of Northampton’s infrastructure to accommodate e-scooters and e-bikes and how this could be improved should they become legal
- Forward the results of these evaluations to the Members of Parliament for West Northamptonshire to take to Parliament as it continues to discuss and prepare legislation on e-scooters
- Agree to decline any further expansions or extensions of the trial in West Northamptonshire until the above evaluations have been taken place and the Cabinet, Police and communities are reassured that riders, drivers and pedestrians will be safe.”

15. Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman)

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business

being admitted to the agenda.

16. Exclusion of Press and Public

In respect of the following items the Chairman may move the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them: The Committee is requested to resolve: "That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them"

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
20 September 2023

Council Members:

Councillor John Shephard (Chair)

Councillor Jo Gilford (Vice-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 Fiona Cole

Councillor Raymond Connolly

Councillor Karen Cooper

Councillor Daniel Cribbin

Councillor Julie Davenport

Councillor Janice Duffy

Councillor Paul Dyball

Councillor Gareth Eales

Councillor Terrie Eales

Councillor Alison Eastwood

Councillor Penelope Flavell

Councillor Louisa Fowler	Councillor Rupert Frost
Councillor Terry Gilford	Councillor Matt Golby
Councillor André González De Savage	Councillor Andrew Grant
Councillor Mike Hallam	Councillor Enam Haque
Councillor Lauryn Harrington-Carter	Councillor Jonathan Harris
Councillor Cheryl Hawes	Councillor Rosie Herring
Councillor Stephen Hibbert	Councillor James Hill
Councillor Nigel Hinch	Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere
Councillor Mark Hughes	Councillor Rosie Humphreys
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift	Councillor David James
Councillor Koulla Jolley	Councillor Paul Joyce
Councillor Andrew Kilbride	Councillor Anna King
Councillor Jamie Lane	Councillor Phil Larratt
Councillor Daniel Lister	Councillor Malcolm Longley
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 Jake Roberts	Councillor Sam Rumens
Councillor Cathrine Russell	Councillor Lisa Samiotis
Councillor Brian Sargeant	Councillor Sue Sharps
Councillor David Smith	Councillor Zoe Smith
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms	Councillor Laura Stevenson
Councillor Danielle Stone	Councillor Winston Strachan
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex	Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz
Councillor Mike Warren	

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.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

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Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Street
Northampton
NN1 1DE