

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the
Cabinet held on Tuesday 14 November 2023**

1. Date of publication of this summary: 14/11/2023
2. Deadline for requests for call-in (detailing reasons for doing so): 21/11/2023
3. Earliest date for implementation of decisions: 22/11/2023
4. Urgent decisions taken and not subject to the call-in procedure: N/A

Agenda Item and Recommendations	Decision
<p>Agenda Item 2 Minutes</p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 10 October 2023.</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting on 10 October 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 5 Report of the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Integrated Care across Northamptonshire (iCAN) Scrutiny Review</p>	<p>RESOLVED: that Cabinet noted the recommendations, thanked the task and finish group and resolved to consider a report setting out a response to the recommendations at a future meeting.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED: The recommendations resulting from the scrutiny review are intended to contribute to the development of effective services supporting independent living for frail older people in West Northamptonshire. This reflects the Overview and Scrutiny function's role for the development and review of policy.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: The recommendations will be the subject of consideration and a further report to a future meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 6 Commissioning of the National NHS Health Check Programme for West</p>	<p>RESOLVED: that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) Adopted and agreed the recommended model of care for redesigning our</p>

Northamptonshire.

service, improving access to NHS Health Checks for early detection of CVD diseases and preventing premature mortality due to CVD and its complications.

- b) Agreed to initiate the commissioning process of the recommended service delivery model for the NHS Health Check programme in West Northamptonshire for its implementation for five-years (2+2+1).

REASONS RESOLVED:

- The existing NHS Health Check programme does not meet national expectations. The CVD prevalence across West Northamptonshire has risen and continues to rise, and CVD related mortality in the area is higher than the national average.
- The recommended model of service delivery will:
 - provide capacity to deliver a tailored service aimed at improving CVD related health outcomes.
 - focus on targeting inequalities in accessing the NHS Health Check service, supporting improvements to the quality of life in groups experiencing inequalities and inequity.
 - improve service delivery by aligning community providers with General Practices and increasing resident's opportunities of receiving Health Checks and thereby uptake.
 - better aligned service delivery with the prevention strategy, helping to reduce delays in treatment and increase referrals to community behavioural interventions that will reduce the risks of developing CVD diseases. This will result in a reduced demand on primary healthcare systems and have a reduction in the number of CVD complications, and CVD related admissions to the hospitals.
 - offer providers an enhanced

payment package, which supports process improvements and performance outcomes.

- provide an improved training package for providers that enhances the quality of Health Check delivery and incorporates Basic Life Support, Mental Health First Aid and Making Every Contact Count (MECC). Community providers will also be offered condensed IPC (Infection Prevention and Control) training.
- enable enhanced collaboration in primary care between General Practices, community providers and independent providers.
- provide a model that is financially and clinically effective at achieving health benefits of the NHS Health Check screening programme.
- provide a service that aligns to: o statutory requirement under the Local Authorities Regulation Act 13.
- NHS Ambition Core 20PLUS5 to support in reducing healthcare inequalities by increasing hypertension case finding.
- the 'All our Health' framework, ensuring the NHS Health Check programme reaches high-risk and vulnerable communities.
- the objectives of the West Northamptonshire Local Area Partnerships (LAP) who aim to make a difference of those who live in the area through tailored and targeted support.
- to the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy ambitions three (opportunities to be fit, well and independent) and nine (access to health and social care).
- the Integrated Care Network's Live your Best Life Strategy ambitions three (opportunities to be fit, well and independent) and nine (access to health and social care).

- the three levels of the recommended preventative approach (primary, secondary, and tertiary).

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The recommended model is detailed in section 5.4.3 of the report, as one of the most cost and clinically effective model of care in achieving health benefits of the NHS Health Check screening programme.

There is an option of adopting either of the other two proposed models. However, the analysis did not find them to be feasible, considering the current CVD health needs of the West Northamptonshire population and the system requirement of service provision.

The equality impact assessment identified that the recommended option meets the need of all layers of demography and is equitable to all by applying a proportionate universalism approach to improve the health of the entire population, whilst signposting most disadvantaged faster.

One of the tests of implementing this model of NHS Health Check, is to manage two separate commissioning models that include payment by activity and block contract to best fit the need of our population

**Agenda Item 7
West Northamptonshire Housing
Allocation Scheme**

- RESOLVED:** that Cabinet:
- Approved the final West Northants Housing Allocation Scheme for West Northamptonshire contained in Appendix A to this report
 - Approved delegated authority to Portfolio Holder for any minor amendments to the Scheme prior to operational commencement on the 1 April 2024

REASONS RESOLVED:

- To accord with legislation and which requires a harmonised Housing Allocations Scheme to be published by 1 April 2024.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligning three existing housing allocation schemes into one Scheme, which will create equality of opportunity to access social rented housing across West Northamptonshire. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: It is a legal requirement under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) that Local Authorities have a Housing Allocation Scheme.</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council is required to have a harmonised housing allocation scheme by 1 April 2024 as set in the Local Government (Structural Changes) Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulation 2008, (regulation 12) (as amended coronavirus amendment regulation).</p> <p>It is recommended that the final draft West Northants Housing Allocation Scheme is approved and adopted for publication.</p> <p>The Council may be at risk of legal challenge if we do not have an adopted Housing Allocation Scheme within the timescales set out.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8 Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2022-23</p>	<p>RESOLVED: that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Noted the content of the Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report that gives an overview of the Corporate Parenting Board and its oversight, challenges and activities. Noted that The NCT Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-25 sets out four key priorities including updates on each area's progress. Recommended that the report was taken to the Councils' Full Council meetings for consideration. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote and monitor the Trust's corporate parenting strategy. To encourage all members and employees to recognise their role as corporate parents.

	<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: NCT produce an Annual Report and an Annual Review which gives an overview of the whole service including Corporate Parenting. The Annual Report will give further overview of any issues.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 9 Resources and Waste Strategy for West Northamptonshire</p>	<p>RESOLVED: that Cabinet approved the Resources and Waste Strategy.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is essential for the Council to have a 'vision for waste services' which will ensure that as existing arrangements for West Northamptonshire's waste and street cleansing expire, the new arrangements are consistent with the vision. The Strategy will provide a set of principles to guide decisions regarding replacement arrangements which will help facilitate sustainable and efficient waste services. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: The Council could have decided not to develop a Resources and Waste Strategy at this time, especially given the continued uncertainty about national requirements for waste services. However, without the Strategy, the Council may not have been able to take consistent decisions about replacement arrangements as current contracts expire.</p> <p>The Council may have decided to take a different approach to developing the Resources and Waste Strategy, and attempted to include solutions for all waste related issues within the document. For example, whether the waste fleet of vehicles should switch to an alternate fuel, or whether 3 weekly collections should be implemented across West Northamptonshire. However, taking this approach would have taken much longer to develop the Strategy, which is required as soon as possible to inform decisions about replacement arrangements.</p> <p>The approach that has been taken, to develop a vision for waste services and a set of 10 principles allows the Council to</p>

	<p>make service decisions about, which will help implement the vision in a gradual way as existing arrangements end. As noted earlier, where significant changes are proposed, these will be the subject of a separate Cabinet paper.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10 Estate and Construction & Maintenance Climate Strategies</p>	<p>RESOLVED: that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approved the Estate Climate Strategy, as set out at Appendix A. b) Approved the Construction & Maintenance Climate Strategy, as set out at Appendix B. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enable the Council to deliver on its policy of achieving net zero carbon by 2030, in respect of the operation of its estate and construction and maintenance activities. • To provide clear direction for the Council's staff and supply chain. • To maximise benefits, including financial benefits, and minimise costs. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>The Council could choose to adopt the strategies, or one of them, or neither of them. It could also pursue different approaches to various aspects; for example, it could focus on technological solutions for carbon removal.</p> <p>Each strategy has been designed to maximise the benefits, including financial benefits, and minimise costs. They are therefore suggested to be pragmatic ways of meeting the Council's policy goals.</p> <p>Other options, such as the Council investing in technological solutions for carbon removal from the atmosphere, appear unlikely to be viable at scale by 2030, and in any event to be costly and offer little in the way of collateral benefits.</p> <p>Alternatively, the Council could focus on buying 'carbon credits' from suitable sources. However, whilst these do exist the supply is finite and, as with technological solutions, represents a pure cost rather than an opportunity for</p>

collateral benefits.

It is therefore recommended that the two strategies are adopted.

**Agenda Item 11
Council Tax Care Leavers Discount**

RESOLVED: that Cabinet:

- a) Noted the contents of this report.
- b) Recommended to Council the implementation of the proposed Care Leavers discount for 2024/25 and the policy shown at Appendix A of this report.

REASONS RESOLVED:

- West Northamptonshire Council recognises the vulnerability of people leaving care and its role as the corporate parent. The recommended approach ensures that all eligible care leavers receive the support they are entitled to.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The proposal is to award a local discount directly to the Council Tax account of Care Leavers aged 18-21 after any other discounts and exemptions have been applied and proportionate to the number of residents liable for Council Tax in the property. For example, a Care leaver sharing with 3 other people would receive a 25% discount. The discount will apply until the Care Leaver turns 21. From this date no discount will apply but the Care Leaver can apply for Council Tax Reduction so preventing that 'cliff edge' at 21.

Under the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme West Northamptonshire Council's Care Leavers can receive help with up to 100% of their Council Tax liability. However, the scheme is means tested based on the income of the household and the current scheme also relies on care leavers making an application and providing all the required verification to support the claim, this doesn't always happen, and Care Leavers do not get the support they are therefore potentially entitled to.

<p>Agenda Item 12 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024-2025</p>	<p>RESOLVED: that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) Noted the contents of the report b) Approved the proposed LCTRS for 2024-2025 as outlined in the report c) Recommended to Council a no change LCTRS for 2024-2025</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable a Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be agreed for West Northants Council for the financial year 2024-25 to be in place by 31 January 2024. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>1 As of June 2022, the total number of people in receipt of LCTRS was 19,294, 11,531 of which are of working age. As of September 2023, the total number of people in receipt of LCTRS is 18,584 with 10,8991 being of working age. The estimated cost of the scheme for 2023-2024 is £19.8m.</p> <p>Council Tax collection rate for West Northants for 2022-2023 is 96.97% which is an improvement on 2021-2022 collection rate of 96.48%. It also compares well to the national average collection rate of 96.02% and a national average for unitary councils of 96.20%. We continue to monitor the collection rates each month and as of September 2023 the profiled collection rates are 56.92% against a target of 57.74%.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 13 Public Spaces Protection Order - Emporium Way</p>	<p>RESOLVED: that Cabinet:</p> <p>a) Authorised the Executive Director Place and Economy to make a PSPO to restrict public access to the walkway known as Emporium Way in accordance with the results of the consultation as detailed in Appendix 3 and to carry out any outstanding legal requirements prior to it coming into force.</p> <p>b) Approved that the PSPO is brought into force once the gates and hoardings restricting access to Emporium Way have been installed, which cannot be arranged until the decision whether to</p>

make the Order has been made.

REASONS RESOLVED:

A decision to approve the proposal will support the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership. The recommendation is the preferred option of both partners and majority of members of the public responding to the consultation.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Crime Data provided by Northants Police shows 20 recorded crimes from September 2021 to August 2023, increasing from 4 crimes between Sept. 2021 – Aug 2022 to 16 crimes in the same period the following year.

In addition, during the same two-year period 19 incidents were also recorded. Again, there has been an increase from 6 incidents between Sept 2021 – Aug 2022 to 13 incidents for the same period.

Northants Police Solar Team have reported 3 recent serious sexual offences in the alleyway; one guilty plea for an offence taking place in 2021 and two crimes currently under investigation from 2022 and 2023.

Issues witnessed by CCTV operators on a regular basis include; groups of young people causing criminal damage and Anti-Social behaviour, people buying, selling and using drugs and as a cut through for shoplifters, street drinkers and addicts to go from the town over to Oasis House and the Mounts area. In addition, the area is regularly used as a toilet, attracts vermin has been the location of numerous assaults

**Agenda Item 14
Active Travel Fund 4 - Connecting the
Active Quarter - Access for All,
Northampton**

RESOLVED: that Cabinet:

- a) Noted and accepted the ATF4 funding to deliver the Connecting the Active Quarter – Access for All scheme, Northampton
- b) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place, Economy and the Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment,

Transport, Highways and Waste to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the active travel scheme at Delapre Abbey as outlined in 1.6 above.

REASONS RESOLVED:

- To ensure the ATF4 grant award is spent within the award timescales and for the permitted purposes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

6.1 A key requirement for ATF4 was that the funding be used to construct schemes that were at detailed design stage and 'shovel ready' with a requirement that funding must be committed by March 2024 (either construction by this date or contract in place with construction following as soon as possible).

The Council had previously been successful in securing funding for feasibility design for the Connecting the Active Quarter - Access for All scheme, and so design work was well advanced.

There were no alternative schemes that were considered to be at a sufficient level of design to meet the funding criteria.

The cost estimates for the Connecting the Active Quarter – Access for All scheme closely aligned with the indicative allocation from Active Travel England.

An Equality Screening Assessment has been completed. No negative impacts on protected groups were identified, so there is no requirement to complete a full Equality Impacts Assessment.

**Agenda Item 15
Decision Taken Under Special Urgency Powers: Acquisition of Former Bus Depot, St James, Northampton**

RESOLVED: that Cabinet noted the decisions taken by the Deputy Leader of the Council set out at Appendix A and Appendix B.

REASONS RESOLVED:

Where decisions that would otherwise be taken by the Leader and Cabinet have been taken by the Leader alone, in the

interests of transparency, the decision is reported to the next available meeting of the Council.

The decision taken provided the authority for the Council to:

a) establish a capital budget of £3.3m for the purchase of the Former Bus Depot land and buildings at St James, Northampton

b) approve the acquisition of the Former Bus Depot for the delivery of a regeneration scheme.

Full reasons for the decision taken are set out in the decision records appended to this report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Alternative decision to not proceed with the acquisition would mean that the site would be likely sold to a developer who could land bank the site or could bring forward low-grade uses. Given the challenges of the site, it is also possible that the site could continue to sit vacant adding to the negative perception of the town centre and beyond.