



Council

A meeting of the Council will be held at One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton, NN1 1ED on Thursday 15 July 2021 at 6.00 pm

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 11 - 18) To confirm the Minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 20 th May 2021.
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.	Written Questions To receive any written questions and answers which have been submitted with advance notice in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 20. Questions of which prior notice have been given may be asked of the Chair, Leader, Portfolio Holder or the Chair of a Committee.
7.	Announcements by the Leader of the Council

	To receive communications from the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.
8.	Cabinet Member Reports and Record of Decisions Taken by the Cabinet (Pages 19 - 62)
Items of Business	
9.	Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2020/2021 (Pages 63 - 100)
10.	Appointments to Outside Bodies (Pages 101 - 118)
11.	Appointment of Political Assistants (Pages 119 - 126)
12.	Changes to Polling Places (Pages 127 - 130)
13.	Changes to Political Balance and Committee Places (Pages 131 - 134)
14.	Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (ICAN) (Pages 135 - 166)
15.	MHCLG's Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme Funding (Pages 167 - 176)
16.	<p>Motions</p> <p><u>Motion 1</u></p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Jonathan Nunn Seconded by Cllr. Mike Hallam</p> <p>"This Council notes that both Daventry District Council and Northampton Borough Council, along with over 2/3 of local Councils across the country have now declared a climate emergency. This Council re-affirms its commitment to tackling the climate emergency and agrees to hold a wide-ranging climate conference to listen to views of residents, businesses and community groups to contribute to plans already in place to achieve a carbon neutral West Northamptonshire by 2030".</p> <p><u>Motion 2</u></p> <p>Proposed by Cllr. Hallam Seconded by Cllr. Morgan</p>

Council agrees that planting trees has a significant benefit to health, well-being, the environment and to helping tackle climate change. This Council agrees to fully embrace “The Queen’s Green Canopy Scheme” launched to mark Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Council agrees to develop an action plan to work with Schools, Colleges and Community Groups alongside the Woodland Trust to co-ordinate a campaign across West Northamptonshire to apply for the free saplings available as part of the Scheme and to encourage tree planting between Oct 2021 to the end of 2022.

Motion 3

Proposed by Cllr. Davenport

Seconded by Cllr. Sharps

As a Public Authority we have a duty to ensure our residents’ safety, and this includes on our roads. Hundreds of students and vulnerable residents have had no choice but to cross the very busy, unsafe junction of the Billing Road and Rushmere Road in Northampton. The junction does not have any safe pedestrian crossing points. This Council assures residents that this Council will explore ways of making the Rushmere Road and Billing Road traffic light junction a safe place for our children, adults and vulnerable residents to cross.

Motion 4

Proposed by Cllr. Beardsworth

Seconded by Cllr. Gareth Eales

“The Structural Change Order that led to the creation of West Northamptonshire Council dictated that the Shadow Authority and the council elected this May should operate under the Leader and Cabinet Model.

We believe that it is now time for the Councillors and local people to determine themselves on ways of working and democratic oversight that will better serve the interests of the different communities we represent. We should also consider the potential devolution of services to localities.

To this aim we call for the council to enable the Democracy & Standards Committee to set up a cross party working group, based on the scrutiny model with officer support, to evaluate the potential replacement of the Leader and Cabinet system by a new Committee System of governance. There should also be a full and open piece of public consultation.

This process should be thorough and well thought out. Therefore, the target commencement of any new governance model to come into operation would be May 2023.

The first step will be the Democracy & Standards Committee working group establish a term of reference based on the above at its first meeting, which should be no later than September 2021.”

Motion 5

Proposed by Cllr. Gareth Eales
Seconded by: Cllr. Adam Brown

“This council recognises:

The importance of motions passed within the previous four authorities in the West Northants catchment area.

That it is crucial to ensure any democratic decisions are retained and flow through into the present day thinking of WNC.

That adopting an exercise to preserve the above will not only efficiently capture all approved motions into one report, it also will reaffirm the importance of local democratic decision making.

This council resolves:

- To instruct the Democracy & Standards Committee to collate any motions passed in the last six years within the previous authorities.
- That once collated, these motions will be forwarded to the relevant Scrutiny Committee to pass comment on.
- That once this process is completed, a report containing all legacy matters will be brought to the earliest possible full council, with the target of December 2021's meeting. The report will lay out all motions which should be voted on individually for acceptance or any minor modifications. Such changes must not seek to alter the fundamental principles previously passed.

Motion 6

To be moved by: Cllr. Emma Roberts
To be seconded by: Cllr. Danielle Stone

Over 1 million people working in the public sector are paid less than the real Living Wage. As a result, more workers than ever are struggling to keep their heads above water on wages that don't meet the basic costs and pressures of everyday life;

That low pay is a leading cause of poverty, with most people living in poverty now being in working households;

That foodbank providers within the West Northants footprint have seen usage increase three fold as a result of the pandemic and ensuring a real living wage is available to as many as possible is essential to any Covid 19 Recovery Plan;

Research in 2018 found that the extra wages paid by local authorities accredited as Living Wage Employers are inevitably invested back into the local economy;

As a Council who has committed to producing an anti-poverty strategy taking steps to seek living wage accreditation would cement that commitment;

Through accreditation, this local authority would be making a commitment to tackle in-work poverty in our communities. Accreditation also means the authority can use the Living Wage Employer Mark to publicly demonstrate this commitment to the real Living Wage;

This will support a commitment to all staff and their quality of life. Raises the profile of the Living Wage campaign locally. Sets it stall out as a model employer and demonstrates visible leadership on tackling poverty pay, inspiring others to do the same;

Beyond being the right thing to do and an investment in both workers and the community, paying the real Living Wage has distinct benefits for local authorities as employers;

This Council resolves:

- To commit to becoming a Living Wage Employer and seeking Living Wage Foundation Accreditation
- To ensure all directly employed staff are paid at least the real Living Wage
- To enquire with the Living Wage Foundation to begin the process and receive guidance
- To nominate an individual to be lead officer on the real Living Wage to liaise with the Living Wage Foundation and document progress
- To initiate an internal working group to plan and manage the Living Wage on an ongoing basis.
- To identify all relevant contracts that need the Living Wage embedded, with target dates for implementation
- To build Living Wage into all terms and conditions, pre-qualification questionnaires and future supplier communications
- To plan how this will be managed and reported annually to the Living Wage Foundation
- To report on the plan with dates for implementation at the Council's AGM

Motion 7

To be moved by Cllr Jonathan Harris

To be seconded by Cllr Rosie Humphreys

In June 2021 West Northamptonshire Council ran a training event on the subject of equality. The aim of this training was to explain to councillors that the new council must offer equality of access to all our residents. In a report in 2019, The Office of National Statistics, highlighted the fact that more than 5 million people have never used the internet in the UK, with the vast majority of this offline minority being older people, and 79% of the total aged 65 or over.

Often, our residents are directed to 'online form filling' or asked to deal with issues that they may have using the council's website. Based on the data shown above, there is a high probability that we are alienating too many residents in our local wards. There are a number of instances where little or no thought has been given to those without internet access. A recent example is the green bin/garden waste renewal service in the Daventry area. This provided residents with a slip detailing the website to go to in order to renew their services, and no other apparent method of renewing. We are discriminating against many residents, simply by ignoring the fact that they do not either have access to or use the internet.

To rectify this, this council resolves to:

- review all of its service access points to ensure that individuals without internet access are not being discriminated against.

- ensure that there are always alternate means of access, in addition to online access, to services and/or renewal information, and these are readily available and communicated to our residents.
- retrain all of its workforce on equality matters, to ensure that all groups are always considered regarding communications and access to services.

Motion 8

To be moved by Cllr Emma Roberts

To be seconded by Cllr Wendy Randall

We understand that interim appointments to senior officer roles via recruitment agencies are occasionally made by the council. These must be fully transparent. Recent information reported shows this transparency was not as would be expected. It would appear that these appointments should be captured by the pay policy and pay policy statement approved by Full Council earlier this year. It is clear that the policy and the Localism Act 2011 and relevant sections should apply to such appointment and remuneration information.

The pay policy provides a definition for Chief and Deputy Chief Officers and it is clear therefore that the remuneration package of those officers and all other statutory and non-statutory officers was expected to be detailed within that policy and any subsequent policy.

The Pay policy statement confirms: "Where an appointment proposes a remuneration package greater than £100,000, approval will be sought from Full Council". No such referral to full Council currently occurs prior to senior interim agency appointments.

Section 39(4) of the Localism Act 2011 allows "A relevant authority may by resolution amend its pay policy statement (including after the beginning of the financial year to which it relates)".

There cannot be any doubt that a fundamental reason for having such a pay policy is to inform and provide openness and accountability. If our policy provides any doubt around what is expected, whether a position is temporary or not and of what needs to be brought before Full Council, then that policy cannot be fit. Ambiguity cannot be allowed.

This Council resolves to:

1. Amend the pay policy statement for approval at the next full Council to ensure interim agency appointments are covered.
2. Amend the pay policy statement for approval at the next full Council to ensure complete clarity that any appointment that proposes a remuneration package that could reach £100,000 must have approval of full Council
3. Review all positions to ensure no other ambiguity remains.

17. 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.

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
7 July 2021

Council Members:

Councillor Ann Addison (Chair)

Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Rufia Ashraf

Councillor Jamal Alwahabi

Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz)

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 Jo Gilford

Councillor Terry Gilford

Councillor Matt Golby

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 Marc Lister

Councillor Malcolm Longley

Councillor Greg Lunn

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 David Smith

Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms

Councillor Danielle Stone

Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex

Councillor Mike Warren

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 John Shephard

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.

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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:

Tel:

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

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

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Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Road, Northampton, NN5 5BG on Thursday 20 May 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present Councillor Ann Addison (Chair)
 Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Jamal Alwahabi
 Councillor Rufia Ashraf
 Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz)
 Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb
 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 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 Louisa Fowler
 Councillor Rupert Frost
 Councillor Jo Gilford
 Councillor Terry Gilford
 Councillor Matt Golby
 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 Marc 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 John Shephard
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Zoe Smith
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms
Councillor Laura Stevenson
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz
Councillor Mike Warren

Apologies for
Absence: Councillor Fiona Baker
Councillor Pinder Chauhan
Councillor Penelope Flavell
Councillor Winston Strachan

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chauhan, Strachan, Baker, Flavell and Stevenson.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Election of Chair of West Northamptonshire Council**

Councillor Larratt expressed his thanks to Chris Millar for his contribution as Chair of West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority. He proposed that Councillor Ann Addison be elected Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council.

Councillor Lane seconded the proposition.

Upon a vote, the proposition was Carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ann Addison be elected Chairman of West Northamptonshire Council for the year 2021-22.

4. **Election of Vice-Chair of West Northamptonshire Council**

Councillor Rumens proposed that Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage be elected as Vice-Chair of West Northamptonshire Council.

Councillor Kilbride seconded the proposition.

Upon a vote, the proposition was Carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Gonzalez De Savage be elected Vice-Chair of West Northamptonshire Council for the year 2021-22.

5. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the sad passing of Alderman Gina Ogden in March 2021. She was a member of Northamptonshire County Council from 1967 to 2013 and at the time of her retirement, was the longest serving councillor in the county and one of

the longest serving in the country. Alderman Ogden is survived by her husband Michael, four children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

6. Appointment of Leader of the Council

Councillor Brown proposed that Councillor Jonathan Nunn be appointed Leader of the Council.

Councillor King seconded the proposition.

Upon a vote, the proposition was Carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Jonathan Nunn be appointed Leader of the Council.

7. Leader's Announcements

The Leader congratulated Councillor Addison on her election as Chairman and thanked Councillor McCord for his commitment over the last 12 months as the Leader of West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority. He stated that the new council's success relied on respectful and supportive collaboration between elected members and also wider partners in the public and private sectors. The administration would hold in high regard scrutiny and committees and the Leader thanked members already giving their time and talent to committee work. He noted the creation of Assistant Cabinet Member roles which, whilst not an official part of the council's governance structure and receiving no additional allowance, the positions were given as a result of specialist knowledge in exchange for a firm commitment to support the portfolio area with their time and experience. The Leader confirmed that a motion would be brought to the next full Council meeting to declare, at the earliest opportunity, a climate emergency in line with the predecessor councils.

8. Political Group Leadership, Committee Proportionality and Appointment of Members to Committees and other bodies

The Chairman advised Council that an up-to-date list of committee appointments had been placed on desks.

The Leader of the Council presented a report which sought to advise of the names of the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the political groups and to confirm appointments to committee places and additional appointments contained within the report.

Councillor Brown seconded the report.

Councillor G Eales congratulated the Leader on his appointment and expressed his disappointment that there were no opposition members on the Children's Trust and hoped that further discussions would take place in respect of this. He further expressed concern over the Leader managing 2 portfolios, stating that regeneration should be a focus. Accommodation should be a priority so that sums of money did not continually need to be spent hiring venues for council meetings.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that the council must not forget past mistakes to ensure that they would not be made again in the future. She noted the hard work of officers during the pandemic and their work in setting up the new authority and expressed her gratitude in respect of this. She hoped that all members could work together for the benefit of their communities.

Councillor Meredith congratulated the Leader on his appointment and also expressed disappointment that there were no opposition members on the Children's Trust; he believed that backbench councillors should have been given the opportunity to be on the Trust. Councillor Meredith also stated his concern that there were no councillors on the Corporate Parenting Board.

Councillor Nunn commented that constitutional matters prevented opposition members from sitting on the Children's Board but asked members to judge him on what he had done recently to try to make it happen and hoped that all councillors were comfortable with what the Children's Trust was doing presently. Regular meetings with opposition members in respect of the Children's Trust had been agreed. The Leader advised of more work around the Cabinet but gave his assurance that Economic Regeneration and Development would not be a "poor relation".

In response to a question around opposition membership on the South Northamptonshire Local Area Planning Committee, the Monitoring Officer advised that this seat would rotate annually between the Liberal Democrat Group and Independent councillors, with the Liberal Democrats taking the seat for 2021-22.

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

RESOLVED:

Council:

- i) Received the names of the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the political groups as set out at Appendix A of the report.
- ii) Agreed 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 at paragraph 3.11.1 of the report.
- iii) Agreed to appoint Members to the various Committees as set out at Appendix A of the report.
- iv) Agreed to appoint Members to the various joint Committees as set out at Appendix A of the report.
- v) Agreed that the appointments to the Local Area Planning Committees are not politically balanced as they fall within the political balance exemption for area committees; but should reflect the political makeup of the relevant area.

vi) Agreed that, the appointment to outside bodies is delegated to the Chief Executive, West Northamptonshire Council.

vii) Confirmed the appointment of Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and members.

viii) Noted the members of the Executive set out at Appendix A of the report.

9. **Calendar of Meetings**

Councillor Patel presented a report which sought Council's approval of the calendar of meetings for the year 2021-2022

Councillor Chowdhury seconded the report.

Councillor Shephard commented that, despite the reference to 6pm in the report and in the calendar, there was no reference to timings within the Constitution and hoped that there would be no impediment for daytime meetings if it was required.

Councillor McCord advised that similar wording was included within the Constitution; alternative committee start times would be at the Chair's discretion.

Councillor J Gilford noted that the Council was striving to be open and transparent; daytime meetings would be a barrier towards this since most members of the public would struggle to attend them.

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

RESOLVED:

That the calendar of meetings for 2021/22 is approved.

10. **West Northamptonshire Council Constitution**

Councillor Brown presented a report which sought amendments to the constitution to enable decisions to be made which would be necessary for the delivery of services; and to identify the need for a further Constitutional review by the Democracy and Standards Committee to consider wider improvements to the Constitution.

Councillor Brown noted 2 alterations following publication of the report: the removal of paragraph 2.1.4 and to alter paragraph 2.1.5 to read "a further review of the Constitution and Member-Officer Protocol be carried out by the Democracy and Standards Committee and referred to a future meeting of the Council."

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

Councillor Beardsworth stated her agreement with regular constitutional reviews.

Councillor Chantler voiced his support with the proposed amendment and expressed disappointment with the Member Enquiry service; he had been waiting a week for a response to an enquiry.

Councillor McCord supported the recommendations and welcomed a future review of the Constitution; however, he took issue with the vagueness of some parts, specifically around the definition of a Key Decision and “timely” in relation to member enquiries.

Councillor Roberts noted that she had made 5 enquiries to the Member Enquiry service so far and had received prompt responses to all.

Councillor Brown commented that Councillor Beardsworth was a valued member of the Constitution Task & Finish group and encouraged all members of the Democracy and Standards Committee to raise any issues regarding the Constitution that they felt needed reviewing. Members’ experiences so far were useful in respect of the Member Enquiry service and highlighted the need for a review and noted, in relation to Councillor McCord’s comment, that the Democracy & Standards Committee would set the SLAs that members deemed appropriate.

Upon a vote, the recommendations as altered were agreed.

RESOLVED:

Council agreed that:

- 1.2.1 The changes to the Constitution already made by the Monitoring Officer under her delegated power be noted;
- 2.1.2 The proposed changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed;
- 2.1.3 Delegated power be granted to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to give effect to the agreements for joint arrangements with LGSS (Cambridgeshire, Bedford, Milton Keynes) Northampton Partnership Homes and North Northamptonshire Council.
- 2.1.4 A further review of the Constitution and Member Officer Protocol be carried out by the Democracy and Standards Committee and referred to a future meeting of Council.

11. **Ashton Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Breese presented a report which sought Council’s consideration of the outcome of the Referendum on the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan and to formally ‘make’ the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Clarke seconded the report.

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

RESOLVED:

Council:

- a) Noted the Referendum result of the 06 May 2021, where 95.7% of those who voted, were in favour of the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan, which was above the required 50%;
- b) "Made' the Ashton Neighbourhood Plan, so that it has effect as part of the statutory Development Plan for the area;
- c) Approved the issuing and publication of a Decision Statement.
- d) Authorised the Assistant Director of Growth, Climate and Regeneration, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, to finalise the necessary documents to support adoption including the Decision Statement (draft at Appendix C of the report) and to make such minor editorial corrections to the Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix A of the report) as deemed necessary ahead of publication.

12. **Urgent Business**

None.

The meeting closed at 7.08 pm

Chairman: _____

Date: _____



Report of Councillor Jonathan Nunn Leader of the Council

Thursday 15th July 2021

Since our last meeting and AGM I have worked with the Cabinet, Members, the Chief Executive and Officers across all areas of the Council. Many of these activities and issues are referred to in more detail in Cabinet colleagues' reports.

Council & Cabinet Meetings

This Full Council meeting is open to attendance by the public, and is also being streamed, and that will continue to be the case with all Full Council and Cabinet meetings in the future. The continued relaxation of distancing guidelines and therefore the reduction in space required between members at those meetings should make them better in the future for public and members to engage in. Thank you for bearing with us at this meeting, at which we have ensured full compliance to current guidelines.

Cabinet

The Council's Cabinet is in place, and I'm grateful to them for the energy with which they have quickly got to grips with their areas of portfolio responsibility and established effective working relationships with their corresponding officers.

The first West Northants Council Corporate plan was published on 1st June, just seventeen working days after the election, and approved by Cabinet on 8th June. It sets out our strategy, our priorities and our values, as we embark on the task of serving the residents, communities and business of West Northants to the best of our abilities. I am grateful to the Chief Executive and Senior Officer team for the work that they put in to finalise this document so quickly, demonstrating the ambition and urgency with which we are approaching this task.

To assist, we have put in place a weekly Executive programme Board meeting which all Directors and Cabinet members attend, to ensure that priorities are driven forward. This Board will also contribute significantly to good governance, ensuring that Cabinet members are fully aware of emerging initiatives and fully briefed on all formal decisions that they will be asked to take in due course.

Training

As I know all other members have, I have attended as much of the member training as possible, and I know that also like me, members have found it to be tremendously helpful. The Member's Welcome event on Saturday 12th June was particularly helpful in allowing us all to hear an overview of the council's directorates, and a snapshot of current issues. My thanks to all those who were involved in creating and delivering the member training programme and events. A reminder to members that you can view videos of the training and other support material in the 'WNC – Member Development' Teams folder.

Civic & Events

Preserving the Civic traditions across West Northants is tremendously important, and so to support this, and to plan how our new council will deliver Civic events, we have formed a Civic Group, comprising the Chairman of the Council, along with members from each legacy council area with local civic knowledge, having been a previous council Chair or Mayor. This group also includes those Officers who support Civic and Lieutenancy activities.

I was pleased to recently attend the Armed Forces Day flag raising, marking an important date in the civic calendar, and also to attend the Oak Apple Day service, which is the traditional, annual ceremony that remembers the generosity of King Charles II, who donated over 1,000 tons of timber to reconstruct All Saints' Church and halved the town's taxes for seven years following the Great Fire of Northampton in 1675.

I was also, delighted that we marked Windrush day, honouring the British Caribbean community, and the half a million people who travelled to the UK after the Second World War.

It was a pleasure to join with members of the Bangladeshi community, representing a community of around 10,000 people in West Northants, for a 'Freedom 50' event, which marked fifty years since the independence of Bangladesh.

Other Activity

Amongst many meetings, I have met with the Local Government Association, and the County Councils Network, and Leaders from across the Arc. I have also ensured that WNC continues to play a full and active role in SEMLEP.

I have joined with the Chief Executive to have discussions with the Leader and Chief Executive of North Northants Council, mostly regarding those service areas that are run on a shared basis.

I have met and had discussions with the Independent Chair of the VCSE Assembly regarding food poverty and our plans to work with all sectors to produce an Anti-Poverty Strategy, as well as meetings with the Director and Portfolio Holder to shape our approach to this work. Cllr. Golby makes further reference to our work on this important initiative in his report.

On 18th June it was a real pleasure to be asked to help mark Men's Health and healthy Eating week, by attending and asking some of the questions in the WNC & NNC 'Virtual Pub Quiz'.

On 24th June I participated in the Health & Wellbeing Board, and I have recently had meetings with the Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District.

I have met recently with two of our MPs, and on 28th June I chaired a meeting of the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone Board, where significant progress is being made in moving some of the remaining, undeveloped sites towards a position of being more market-ready, and able to contribute to our local economy.

Following the long journey to refurbish and extend the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery, includes long delays due to covid, it is of delight to me that the doors are now being opened to the public from 10th July, creating a wonderful visitor, educational and cultural attraction.

Finally, I was very glad to be involved in the WNC & NNC covid thank you video, in which we thanked so many for their efforts during the pandemic, and was particularly pleased to be able

to thank the 14,000 volunteers that came forwards across our county. This has been the most difficult time, but one during which so many across West Northants, and our county as a whole, have responded extraordinarily and selflessly.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

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Thursday 15th July, 2021

Acquisition of Avenue Campus

On 18 June WNC completed the purchase of the University of Northampton's Avenue Campus in St Georges Avenue, Northampton. The site has been purchased through the council's Housing Revenue Account as it is being acquired to increase the supply of affordable housing. WNC will be working closely with its housing arms length management organisation, Northampton Partnership Homes, to develop up to 170 new affordable homes on the site.

Restoration of Services

From 21 June, all of our council run libraries returned to their pre-covid opening hours. This increased capacity for customers to access those library services that we are able to deliver under current restrictions. Following Central Government announcements on 5th July, the Library Service Team are now working hard to finalise plans to re-open the service even further once restrictions are lifted further. The Communities Team are also working closely with our leisure operator partners to reopen our council-owned leisure centres as much as possible within a covid safe manner to support residents to improve both their physical and mental wellbeing.

Accommodation for people who are at risk of rough sleeping or have previously slept rough

In August 2020 Northampton Borough Council secured funding from Central Government through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP). These monies have enabled the council's housing team, working in partnership with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), to purchase and refurbish fifteen 1-bedroom properties for rough sleepers. As at the end of June 2021, fifteen 1-bedroom flats across Northampton had been acquired and refurbished and customers had moved into all of the properties. These homes are being managed by NPH and the residents are being supported by a dedicated Tenancy Sustainment Officer. Taking into account the success of NSAP and a requirement for additional properties for rough sleepers, the Council has made a further funding application through the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme. A bid has been produced in collaboration between the council and Ministry for Homes, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), Homes England and NPH, and submitted on 1 July (deadline for submission), subject to approval from Cabinet. The application is requesting capital funding towards the acquisition and refurbishment of a further ten 1-bedroom properties. In addition, MHCLG revenue funding is also being requested to fund a full-time tenancy sustainment officer to support the residents of the properties.

Beat the Street

Beat the Street is a community-wide programme which improves the health and wellbeing of entire towns and cities by getting people of all ages moving. Participants can pick up a Beat the Street card which contains radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology and tap them against sensors called 'Beat Boxes' located on lamp posts across the area. Players receive points for each box they tap and can even create or join teams which can receive prizes for tapping the most boxes; this motivates entire schools, community groups and businesses into

becoming more active. West Northamptonshire Council has been selected to receive Sport England funding to deliver Beat the Street in the Northampton area during 2021/22.

Northampton Museums

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery in Guildhall Road will reopen on 10th July having undergone an extensive £6.7m redevelopment programme. The museum has more than doubled in size, with the addition of a nine-metre-high glazed atrium extension, linking the original building to brand new galleries and activity space. The spectacular atrium includes a café and spacious outdoor terrace, which sits above the new Shoe Gallery, showcasing Northampton's internationally important shoe collection and the town's shoemaking heritage.

Three opening temporary exhibitions will feature alongside the permanent galleries at the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. 'We Are Northampton' explores the town's heritage and character, through stories of notable residents, buildings, events, activities and clubs, while 'Challenging Perspectives' is an exhibition looking back at the life and work of notable and prolific artist Christopher Fiddes, who lives in the county. Finally, the 'Inspiration' exhibition examines the way artists look at the world around them and how this sparks their creative imagination.

The town's second museum in the grounds of historic Abington Park has been open since Saturday 22 May, with approved Covid-safe measures, including one-way systems, hand sanitising stations and social distancing.

Archives and Heritage Service

This Service is provided on a countywide basis for both West and North Northants. It looks after unique and irreplaceable resources that can reveal the history of our communities and the stories of those living and working in them over the past eight hundred years and more.

The Service has been doing an excellent job keeping its public service running during the pandemic, despite the fact that it is currently very short staffed. Researchers who are doing graduate and postgraduate studies, local history, family history and educational projects have been able to have their enquiries answered and research undertaken on their behalf throughout the lockdown period. On 1 June the service was pleased to be able to open its doors to the public once again, having been closed since December 2020.

Various precautions have been put in place to ensure that all staff and researchers are safe and that the archives themselves are not a potential means of the disease being spread inadvertently (as documents have to be quarantined after use). The re-opening has been very much welcomed by user groups including the Northamptonshire Family History Society and Heritage Forum, and individuals who have used the service have noted how safe they feel and how glad they are to be back. Those returning include the Service's volunteers who undertake indexing and other work to assist making archives more accessible. Over the years the volunteers have become friends and a support network for each other, so it has been positive for them to resume their roles.

Councillor Adam Brown

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member Housing, Culture & Leisure

15th July, 2021

School improvement and effectiveness

The Secretary of State set out his vision May 2021 of how to support and manage school improvement. The vision is for all schools to be part of strong Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which will support schools with a history of underperformance. These are school who have been judged by Ofsted as Requires Improvement, or worse, for 3 consecutive inspections. There is no fix trajectory or legislation to support this currently however we have started to discuss this with MAT 's

We have developed a school effectiveness strategy, which we plan to come into effect in September, we are keen to develop collaborative practices and form closer working partnerships with our schools and settings. As such we will be looking at a number of ways to engage with the sector, building on some of the practices established as part of our Covid response.

Included in this strategy is the establishment of an education partnership board, comprising members from a range of settings, the primary function of which is to address issues of finance, accountability, access, people and strategy.

In addition, we will be seeking to develop Leadership forums, sector led groups that meet frequently to enable senior leaders to discuss issues of concern within localities and/or types of setting and identify key actions to address these. By working with Local Authority officers from different departments, we envisage a model of collaboration driven by the needs of the sector. We have begun to engage with Head Teachers and Chief Executives from Multi academy Trusts to begin this work.

Virtual School extended duties

The extended duties of the virtual school are different to the way the Virtual School Head (VSH) promotes the education of Looked After Children (LAC) and is similar to the way they are expected to promote education for Previously looked after children (PLAC).

Some additional grant funding is being provided to VSH's to carry out this duty, (this is confirmed for this financial year only at this stage).

Current guidance is non statutory guidance and will be replaced by March 2022.

The VSH will become the strategic leader who champions the education of children with a Social Worker (SW) by:

- Making visible the disadvantages that children with a SW can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and LA's to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children

- Promoting practice that supports children’s engagement in education, recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm
- Levelling up children’s outcomes and narrowing the attainment gap so every child can reach their potential. This will include helping to make sure that children with a SW benefit from support to recover the impact of COVID-19
- Enhancing partnerships between education settings and the local authority so agencies can work together
- Identifying the needs of the children and addressing barriers to poor educational outcomes to ensure pupils make educational progress
- Offering advice and support to key professionals to help children make progress, including through increasing their confidence in using evidence-based interventions.

Northamptonshire’s Children’s Trust

The governance arrangements between the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT) and the Councils have now been in place for 8 months since 1 November 2021. The contract governance arrangements are working effectively with good discussions and high levels of challenge taking place between the Councils and Trust at the monthly Operational Commissioning Group. This meeting receives detailed reports from NCT on finance, performance and quality assurance as well as updates on any key issues relating to the overall contract. NCT also provide updates to the monthly Operational in relation to Ofsted inspections.

The Strategic Group that provides senior oversight of the contract with NCT meets quarterly and formally considers any issues of escalation from the Operational Commissioning Group. Membership of this group includes the Lead Members for children's services for North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. To date, there have been no issues that have required escalation.

To date, NCTs overall performance against their contractual requirements continues to have a positive trend.

Areas that are working well include:

- Service capacity is more manageable following additional capacity that has been brought into the service
- Social work vacancies have remained stable with marginal increases in the numbers of agency workers
- Strong engagement and communication with staff and good responses to the latest staff survey
- Improvements in social work activity linked to assessments closing with No Further Action; strong short term placement stability in the face of challenges with regards to placement sufficiency; consistently strong assessment timeliness; strong adoption performance.

Areas that remain challenges:

- Increases in demand and complexity in the DAAT, safeguarding and court teams
- Responses to complaints
- Contacts with No Further Action remain high as well as re-referral rate
- Recruitment of both agency and permanent staff remains a challenge

- Improving the quality and consistency of social work practice continues to be an area of ongoing focus.
- The overall financial out turn position for NCT was an interim underspend of £1.058m; this has been allocated against the savings programme as a mitigating action.

The Trust is reporting a forecast overspend of £0.679m as at period 2 against the overall budget of £123.348m. Mitigations are in place to achieve a balanced year end position. Key actions to address the forecast overspend include a review of all placements and a closer tracking of the staffing budget with a vacancy factor applied across non front-line social care staff and 17% reduction in agency staff spend.

NCT are preparing for the impending Ofsted monitoring visit which will focus on children with child protection plans and children with children in needs plans. There will be two coordinated visits to West Northants and North Northants which will be on site on 28-29 July. The requests for child level data is expected on the 14 July and we are expecting that the data request will be for disaggregated data for the two new councils.

SEND

The sufficiency of placements for children and young people with SEND continues to be a challenge with a forecast overspend of £2.3m. This is due to the increasing number of children needing SEND provision. This is a national issue and there is a government SEND review underway. The SEND service provision and partnership working comes under a regulatory inspection framework. It is anticipated that the next SEND inspection will be early 2022 against a new inspection framework. A SEND Board has been set up to bring all partners together to assess performance and service delivery against the inspection framework to build a self-evaluation and action plan in preparation for the inspection.

Councillor Fiona Baker
Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

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Thursday 15th July, 2021

I am delighted to have taken on this challenging role with my first Induction meeting with officers being held on 24th June.

OVERVIEW OF TOWNS INVESTMENT PLAN/ NORTHAMPTON FORWARD BOARD

The “Towns Investment plan” was submitted by the Northampton Forward Board with the key aim of rejuvenating the town, creating a thriving centre and strengthening its position within the Oxford, Cambridge Arc. This has been prepared in the context of a global pandemic and Northampton is considered one of the hardest hit parts of Northamptonshire county.

With a proud history of manufacturing and craft focussed on leather and shoe making, Northampton was the largest area shortlisted for the Towns fund.

It achieved £25m from this bid which will unlock £170m in match funding and private sector investment.

Full details of the Master Plan and projects within the Towns fund award can be found in the recent cabinet report for July.

NORTHAMPTON MUSEUMS

Northampton Museum & Art Gallery in Guildhall Road reopens on 10th July having undergone an extensive £6.7m redevelopment programme. The museum has more than doubled in size, with the addition of a nine-metre-high glazed atrium extension, linking the original building to brand new galleries and activity space. The spectacular atrium includes a café and spacious outdoor terrace, which sits above the new Shoe Gallery, showcasing Northampton’s internationally important shoe collection and the town’s shoemaking heritage.

The museum recently won ‘Best Project on a Limited Budget’ for our sneak peek film and was shortlisted in 7 of the 8 categories we entered. The museum also won the “ Northamptonshire Heritage Organisation of the Year” award

VULCAN WORKS

Practical Completion is near and is due to be open later this month (July) This high spec building of historical significance has been designed to accommodate 59 small start up business units.

24 GUILDHALL ROAD (Contemporary Art Gallery)

Works are due to start on site shortly. This will involve relocating NN contemporary Arts into the cultural quarter.

RENE MACINTOSH museum, gallery and restaurant

I recently met with the MD and they have ambitious plans to extend the building with a glass atrium, part funded by the council’s successful Towns Fund bid. They are also just about to

purchase the heavily forested land in front of the site and develop a woodland experience for education purposes.

Investigations have begun to identify a more suitable location for the LEATHER MUSEUM currently located in the Grosvenor Centre. I have visited the site and met with the team in my previous portfolio and Stuart Timmiss has subsequently been out to further discussions. The museum is currently sited up 4 flights of stairs with inadequate access for maximum footfall. The curator has ambitious plans to extend the number of workshops, events and craft making activities to make it a viable proposition.

MARKET SQUARE

The much awaited Market Square project is building momentum, with Gillespie architects appointed, and surveys due to start shortly. Full details of the plan are being presented at Cabinet with approval for draw down of funds. This project is funded completely by the Future High Streets Fund to a value of £8.1m

OTHER PROJECTS IN THE PLAN ARE:

41-45 Abingdon Street (former M&S building) for mixed use

35-38 Abingdon St (former BHS site) to be redeveloped, but also reinstating the previous north-south pedestrian link to help enable future Greyfriars site development

Four Waterside (across the road from the train station), for which a masterplan has been prepared for a hotel, grade A office space, and some residential accommodation to be developed

Emporium Way creating a new pedestrian way between the Market Square and future Greyfriars

Marefair Heritage Gateway, and St Peter's and the Old Black Lion, which will enable a visitor centre that will make St Peter's fine Norman Church more accessible, and celebrate this historic part of the town

FUNDING

The Welcome Back Fund action plan has been submitted to Government, and we await its response.

The Community Renewal Fund bid was submitted to Government, and we expect to hear back by the end of July.

The skills and social enterprise development fund bid has been submitting with the aim of providing more support to small start ups and social enterprises. The time frame has yet to be confirmed..

CHESTER HOUSE ESTATES

I have been lead on this project for 2 years now. I recently met with senior directors and Helen Powell, Deputy Leader for North Northamptonshire. Sited near Wellingborough this £15.5m project is of huge archaeological and historical significance with 10,000 years of history and is now finally nearing completion. Originally acquired in 2002 it has been beset by challenges not

least the Contractor ceased trading in January 2019, leaving the site in a critically unfinished state.

Phase 1 of the site; the Archive and Storage Centre was opened in April. It is the 4th largest archive centre in the UK and will site most, if not all of Northamptonshire's historical archives. There are 20,000 boxes to catalogue and the Curator Ben Donnelly Symes has a team of volunteers to assist in this mammoth task. The 1st Archaeological Digs of the season are in progress with our Leicester University/ volunteer alliance in full swing.

Phase 2 will be open in the Summer with a weddings, food and retail offering, whilst Phase 3, which is the rest of site due for completion including the Interpretation Centre, Bridges over the River Nene will be open for October half term.

Councillor Lizzy Bowen

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth

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Thursday 15th July, 2021

Planning

In terms of the planning for West Northants we are undertaking a process of review and stabilisation in advance of future restructures and the development of new ways of working which reflect best practice and assists in the economic growth in our area.

As with all areas we are bringing 4 authorities together all with differing procedures, policies and resource levels which will take time to settle and resolve. Unfortunately we have inherited a number of issues that we are currently working through that I am aware is challenging for users and stakeholders as well as staff engaged in the process .

I am however working with senior management team in establishing a direction of travel and I can report some improvements already in regard to the timescales in dealing with applications. I look forward to future reports which will provide clarity and progress in respect of the planning process, the work of the committees and the role of members in ensuring that we get the right development that serves our communities.

Development Control:

The number of planning applications received by the planning departments working across the district has increased by more than 30% on this time last year. This represents an unprecedented workload for the department and has unfortunately resulted in delays in both validation of applications, and to some extent, deciding applications. This is a most undesirable situation as failing to meet deadlines can have long term implications for the department in terms of intervention by MHCLG.

The planning department has made some immediate improvements reducing the initial delay from 5 weeks to 2 weeks and we continue to look for further ways in which we can support professional staff in reducing this important target still further.

Whilst we do have some aspects of the service coming together there is still much work to do in agreeing the best working methods that reflect both best practice alongside the existing resources available. With difficulty in filling vacancies in the service and the extra work involved in bringing the teams together we are presently no longer redacting and publishing all comments received about planning applications on our website. This reflects the practices adopted by Daventry District however I know it is not popular and I also know that officers do not feel it reflects the standards they wish to achieve going forward. I have, therefore, requested that it is revisited in three months time when I believe the service will be more stable.

Area Planning Committees

These are up and running and as with any new process there will be the need to refine and monitor the success of the committees ensuring that they provide a consistent approach to decision making, reflecting both the expectations of our communities and partners whilst also providing confidence to developers that we are fair and transparent in reaching our conclusions. I will over the coming months work alongside the Chairs and members of the 4 committees to

ensure we build continuous improvement into the review and any changes will be communicated to Council.

I am also looking at the issues around member call in as this has also been raised, again working with senior officers I will report any changes resulting from this review over as soon as possible ensuring there is clear guidance in terms of procedure and rules going forward.

Enforcement

A priority for many members, there can be intense frustration if we have planning policies, issue planning permissions and then they are not carried in accordance with those permissions. At present SNC, DDC and NB have different enforcement policies and differing levels of officer capacity to respond. Therefore policies are being harmonised and these will provide clarity in terms of enforcement priority and timescales that members can expect action which we will monitor. This will also allow officer resource to be prioritised across the council. It is anticipated a member workshop on enforcement will be held in the autumn

Planning Policy

The Part 1 Local Plan review (also known to longer serving councillors as the Joint Core Strategy, reaches its first milestone in September with a public consultation about options for further growth.

The Policy team continues to prepare for Northampton Local Plan Part 2 Examination in Public, with Hearings due to be scheduled shortly, most likely in the late summer- early autumn, but the date is at the discretion of the inspectors.

Land Supply

The published land supply figures which will be used by Planning Inspectors in planning appeals when applicants are using land supply figures as a justification for allowing a development are:

Daventry:	6.3
Northampton Borough:	5.6
Northampton DRA:	4.8
South Northants:	6.3

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs

Thursday 15th July, 2021

As Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I am pleased to offer the following updates:

COVID-19

There have been significant announcements regarding the lifting of restrictions which we are all party to through national news. Getting back to normal is of course what we all want but the underlying message is to remain cautious. Members receive updates on Covid and our local situation through the Member's weekly briefing, which contains links to key announcements and data sets.

A Councillor's COVID-19 update session was held jointly with North Northamptonshire Council members back in June which I chaired. This was an excellent chance to hear first-hand from the Director of Public Health, and other key senior people who have led the local Covid response including the excellent vaccination programme in Northamptonshire. I would recommend members attend the next session if you can which is at 09.00 on 19th July. Diary appointments have been sent and a link to the meeting will follow.

Our first COVID-19 Oversight and Engagement Board since the election was held on July 8th. Again, this is held jointly with North Northants and I will chair the meetings. Cllr Helen Harrison from North Northants who will be vice-chair. Basically, the Department of Health and Social Care back in May 2020 instructed all upper tier authorities and their Public Health teams to establish specific COVID-19 Health Protection Boards that will have a remit to oversee the delivery of COVID-19 Local Outbreak Prevention and Control Plans. The board also aims to drive public-facing engagement and communication to ensure consideration and appropriate engagement on local residents' interests and concerns relating to the pandemic. The board has cross party membership.

I have also hosted the Northamptonshire COVID-19 press conference back in June. This was an opportunity for all press and media to hear presentations from representatives of the key organisations dealing with the Covid response in Northamptonshire. The next press conference is planned for Friday 16th July.

Overall, I remain very impressed with the way in which all organisations and the public of West Northamptonshire have responded throughout the Covid pandemic. Despite the challenges we have all faced there are many positives we need to take advantage of as we recover.

Oak Tree Rise

Oak Tree rise is a complex of eight bungalows that have been specifically designed and built for people with learning disabilities and/or Autism. Located in Billing, Northampton, the homes are central to the local community and have been developed as part of Northamptonshire's Transforming care Programme.

Built by Northampton Partnership Homes, on behalf of the Council, the eight bungalows have access to 24 hour support to enable people with complex needs to live in their own homes with their own tenancies. Completed in May 2021, people have now started to move in and are

settling into their new homes. This is a perfect example of what we can do as an authority to meet the needs of residents and I am encouraging we look at similar schemes.

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board

West Northants are hosting the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board. The board has met twice since 1st April 2021 and is refreshing its priorities and approach to ensure that we safeguard some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The board is chaired by Stuart Lackenby, Deputy Chief Executive. An independent scrutineer has been appointed to support with board activities and providing assurance to the board that safeguarding priorities are be delivered across the county. Key to the success of the board is how all of the partners hold one another to account.

Integrated Care Systems

Over the past 3 months the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership have been working to define and establish potential local arrangements for the Northamptonshire ICS in readiness for the 1st April 2022 national legal deadline. A report to Cabinet on the 13th July 2021 set out the work to date in establishing the ICS which will operate at a County wide level from an overall Northamptonshire system perspective but with local strategy and service delivery built around the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board. How services come together at a Unitary Council and Neighbourhood level will be the focus of further work over the next 6 months.

Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire

iCAN is one of four system priorities for the ICS and a report to cabinet on the 13th July 2021 set out the recommended approach to mobilise a system partner to enable the programme to be taken forward and for associated efficiencies to be delivered.

This programme is planned to deliver significant efficiencies to the local system alongside an improved experience and outcomes for local people. Personally, I see iCAN as a really exciting opportunity to make a huge difference to how we support residents in our communities, and I look forward to reporting on its progress at future meeting.

Anti-Poverty Strategy

Work has commenced on the development of West Northants Anti-Poverty strategy, with support from the Voluntary sector Assembly and Poverty Truth Network. The strategy will be designed to support people experiencing poverty now, prevent people from falling into poverty and engage Government for the opportunities to increase support to local people. An all member workshop is being planned to start to formalise the approach.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The first West Northants Health and Wellbeing Board met on the 24th June 2021 which I chaired. Whilst considering a number of annual reports, the conversation began around its future role within the Integrated Care System and how health and social care services can be coordinated and integrated at a Council and Neighbourhood level. I am very keen that our Health and Wellbeing Board is as effective as possible and becomes the point of accountability for holding the system, which is undergoing significant change, to the outcomes we all require for the residents of West Northamptonshire.

Councillor Matt Golby

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Thursday 15th July, 2021

Human Resources

In the first three months we have successfully transitioned all staff from the four key sovereign councils into West Northants, with HR Business Partners actively supporting the new directorates and all their staffing issues. We have written and consulted with Trade Unions on upwards of 37 different policies and procedures and contracts of employment, signed the TUC Dying to Work Charter and commenced the briefings for changes for EU Citizens which commenced on the 1st July. In terms of pay and reward we have completed and implemented phase 1 on terms and conditions and started the work on phase two relating to a new pay structure. In recent days we have also agreed with Trade Unions, on a three day “closedown” over Christmas, from Wednesday 29th December through to Friday 31st December 2021. To provide consistency with former SNC and NBC colleagues, 1 day of additional paid leave will be given to former NCC and Daventry DC employees and employees on the new WNC terms and conditions.

As lead authority for payroll, we successfully processed both West and North Northants payrolls and updated all staffing information, reflecting the large-scale changes to line manager updates, position changes and hierarchy restructures. This was done alongside continuing to provide the payroll for Cambridgeshire and Milton Keynes too. All payrolls remained above 99.5% accuracy during this period.

The health and safety and wellbeing service have been working with the new directorates and particularly involved in the Covid work, relating to teams coming safely back into the offices. They have updated a lot of guidance on the new staff intranet as well as launching a number of wellbeing support offers, including the eye care voucher scheme and a number of campaigns around mental health wellbeing. There are a number of mental first aiders deployed across the services that support employees and are trained to spot, engage and support someone who is suffering from poor mental health, including a mental health crisis. Their role also involves reducing stigma, education and encouraging behaviours for positive mental health.

Our learning and development service, hosted by the North continue to provide a wide range of services and support to the council, underpinned by a business partner model that works with all directorates. A new Middle Management and Leadership programme has been developed and bespoke support is being provided to new teams. Apprenticeships continue with over 400 people on apprenticeship programmes and all directorates are now considering future opportunities for the use of apprentices, looking at new staff and existing. The new digital i-learn platform is operational with over 1700 sign ups to date and all mandatory e-learning training available.

OPUS Report

At July Cabinet a report was presented that ensured that the new council could continue the arrangement with OPUS, who supports the council to bring in temporary staff. The county council used OPUS since 2016 and in 2017 it became a shareholder in this local authority led

organisation (alongside Cambridge County Council and Milton Keynes Council). Previously to 2016, the county council used Guidant or went to a range of providers. OPUS provides support directly but also negotiates on behalf of the council to bring in other agencies. This model has provided better value for money over the years.

The Cabinet report ensured these arrangements would continue, and now include West and North Northants Councils as well as the Children's Trust as shareholders and continued users of OPUS. Opus is an ethical employer and pays its staff at least the living wage and has no staff on zero hours contracts. All workers engaged via Opus on behalf of WNC are paid in line with our organisational policy which is not determined by Opus and again none of these workers are on zero hours contracts.

Customer Services

Since Vesting Day, Customer Services have continued to provide a range of customer services and have started the improvement journey to bring four different councils, with four different offers, four different sets of technology and working practices together. The team is actively working with the other directorates to support the following:

- Standardise call openings and email templates across the teams
- Create a centralised complaints and compliments team
- Review and improve the customer experience when calling our central number, by simplifying the IVR (Interactive Voice Response) based on customer journeys
- Operate customer-facing hubs for walk-ins, facilitating safe face-to-face interactions at the One Stop Shop at the Guildhall in Northampton, The Forum at Towcester and the Lodge Road offices in Daventry
- Cross-skill the advisors so they can handle as many enquiries as possible without the need to transfer to another colleague (general enquiries, bus pass applications etc.)

Currently, the management team are working on developing:

- The Service Plan for the year 2021-22, which focuses on how we will align our processes and ways of working across the 4 hubs
- The Customer Strategy draft, to be co-developed with directorates, prior to wider engagement which demonstrates how Customer Services will support delivery of the Council vision
- The culture, values and behaviours in the Customer Services department, in coproduction with the whole team which embodies the THRIVE ethos

Volume of contacts:

- April: 27,038 calls and 9,017 emails – highest demand in Housing, General Enquiries and Waste
- May: 25,887 calls and 6,533 emails – highest demand in Housing, General Enquiries and Children's Services

In addition, there were 113.3k page views in April and 96.4k page views in May on our website, most of which related to searches against Council Tax, Contact Us, News and Election Results (May).

Volume of complaints, compliments and Member Enquiries:

- Logged 451 during April and May (highest volumes are in the Place directorate and Northamptonshire Children's Trust)
- Closed 426 during April and May (some of them inherited from the sovereign councils)

Technology and Digital Services

Technology and digital services are a key enabling area and the current team provides support to both West and North Northants as well as to the Children's Trust. In terms of ERP Gold, where HR and finance data are held, this service is also provided to Cambridge and Milton Keynes too. We also provide services to Northampton Partnership Homes and Northampton Leisure Trust and supply small services to several other authorities.

As well as ensuring that the basics are in place across the services (such as the roll out of Office 365, the roll out of computers and changes needed to bring services back into the office during Covid) the team is doing a thorough analysis of its services, its teams and capability and capacity (after bringing the new teams together). In the last three months, the service has continued to manage and bed in the over 800 systems in use at the council, including splitting of key systems and data between the two new authorities and the Children's Trust, and the management of compliant access arrangements where data must still be shared.

The service is now beginning work on the development of an improvement road map, prioritisation of programmes and projects and work to align and bolster key areas of capability, supported by the development of a technology and digital strategy. This will ensure we continue to harness technology to drive increasingly efficient, effective and customer-focused services.

A key priority is ensuring the council continues to develop its approach to cyber security. As part of these measures, a member cyber security development session will be arranged for all members in September. Securing cyber security staff, systems and training are top of the new directorate's priorities, followed by building a service equipped to help the council transform both internal services and those it offers to the wider public: from websites and online tools, to support around public technology in Northamptonshire (e.g. broadband rollout and 5G).

Legal and Democratic Services

As a new council, significant work went into developing the new constitution for the council which went to the first Cabinet and Council meetings. This will be refined during the next few months to adapt to the changing nature of the council.

Prior to Vesting Day, considerable effort also went into ensuring the council was safe and legal from Day 1, which meant a lot of work for legal services, including the drafting of legal agreements to split the county council and to onboard the new district and borough councils. There was also the need to support the lead and hosted services between the West and North new councils with IIAs (Inter Authority Agreements) being in place.

The Council's property, assets, liabilities, proceedings, memberships, orders, decisions, policies continue to be adapted and require ongoing legal advice to help us remain safe and legal as we move forward and meanwhile the usual prosecutions, applications, leases, sales are still going on.

West Northants Council successfully held its first election, using Silverstone at the key site for counting, with great input from each of the four council's elections teams and support from a wide range of employees. A significant work goes into the organisation of an election, let alone

a Covid safe one, from the checking of nominations, issuing and verifying postal votes; the staffing and equipping of 276 polling stations not to mention the verification on 6th May and the various count events over the weekend and into Monday. Since then we have had a by-election in Talavera and work is being undertaken on neighbourhood referenda. The next project is already underway as we have been bringing together the electoral registers of the three District areas into a single register. Many of the staff involved in the election were straight into the delivery of the Annual Meeting and the extensive member induction programme. which many of you will have taken part in.

Less visible but no less vital is the work undertaken by our staff handling the myriad of information and personal data requests to the Council and the Children's Trust and bringing together all the paper, digital and archived records of the predecessor councils. In relation to data protection, the council has responded to more than 400 FOI and EIR requests in the first three months and more than 650 requests, taking into consideration the police enquiries (Schedule 2's) and SARs (Subject Access Requests).

The Registration and Coroner's Services have been significantly impacted by Covid with a backlog of weddings, other ceremonial events and Coroner's hearings. The national flux of requirements has presented ongoing challenges and strong feelings from those looking forward to their special day.

Moving forwards, all the key services will be aligned as part of the transformation plans for the council.

Future Reports

All of Corporate Services are currently developing their Service Plans and underpinning strategies which will be shared in the autumn and aligned to the Corporate Plan, which was approved last month at Cabinet in June.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the team' for their hard work over the transitioning period and a warm welcome following my appointment as the Cabinet Member.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services

Thursday 15th July 2021

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

Over the past couple of months, I have visited various sites across West Northamptonshire to look at highways issues and familiarise myself with HS2 works in the south of the district. I have also been sent details of the poor state of roads and footpaths in certain areas. I'm afraid there is a lot of work required to bring our roads and footpaths up to an acceptable standard. We cannot underestimate the task. I'll be working with officers to devise a strategy to achieve this standard, but I'm afraid that it will take a long time to deliver.

HS2

The first phase of the Chipping Warden Relief Road successfully opened on the 19 June 2021, removing HS2 construction traffic and through traffic from the village of Chipping Warden. Other junction improvements needed to support the delivery of the project at the A361/ Welsh Road and Sulgrave Road / B4525 have also been completed by HS2 in recent months. Regular pre-app meetings continue to be held with HS2 Ltd and their contractors on planning, landscape, ecology, noise and highways matters related to the construction period and the permanent arrangements, in advance of formal consents being submitted to the Council. The Council continues to facilitate meetings of the HS2 Liaison Group, a forum for local residents and other key stakeholders to receive updates from HS2 Ltd and raise issues directly. The Council continues to positively engage with HS2 Ltd to minimise as far as possible the impacts of the project on local residents as construction starts to accelerate.

North West Relief Road

Following the June 8th Cabinet meeting a funding bid, supported by Chris Heaton-Harris MP, has been produced and submitted to the Levelling Up Fund for £20 million. An announcement on whether our application has been successful or not is expected between September and November 2021. Meanwhile our Highways and Property teams are continuing to negotiate the acquisition of land by agreement whilst also preparing for a possible Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Order. The Public Inquiry will be held on a date which is yet to be advised. The contractor's costs are being assessed and discussions are commencing with them to understand the possible financial implications of a deferred start whilst we await the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund bid. The construction sector is particularly volatile at the current time, but we will be working with the contractor to identify any programme efficiencies which may be possible based on a start on site early in 2022.

Farthinghoe By Pass

An update paper regarding the Farthinghoe bypass will be brought to September Cabinet. The paper will provide the results of the latest consultation and the work proposed to progress this scheme. Positive discussions have been held with Dame Andrea Leadsom, with a view to developing an application for the Levelling Up Fund.

New Highways Contract

The procurement of a new contract for highways is progressing well. The portfolio holder for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste and the Portfolio Holder for Finance have been fully briefed on this project and will help steer the procurement to ensure a good outcome for the residents of West Northamptonshire.

Concrete Roads

Whilst the majority of our roads in the UK are asphalt-based, around 5.5% are made of concrete. These roads were built in the 50s and 60s and have stood the test of time well by supporting use and rising vehicle numbers over the decades. However, some are starting to show their age and we have received a few reports of roads that do not look good and residents are concerned the road is falling into disrepair.

When we receive a report of a defect, we inspect it and generally, concrete roads are structurally sound. Over the years a number of our concrete roads have also been overlaid with a veneer of asphalt and this means the road will become patchy when the overlay breaks up. Concrete roads may be a bit of legacy but they are actually not a bad thing to have. Potholes are actually less likely to occur on these stretches of road.

Active Travel

We have made an application to the Department for Transport for funding to help develop a new Active Travel strategy for West Northamptonshire. This strategy can be used to identify improvements to our active travel schemes, which in turn will reduce congestion and contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets.

We continue to work with Voi, who manage the electric scooters in Northampton with a view to resolving the issues that have been the subject of much press attention such as pavement riding, poor parking, etc. Voi plan to trial new technology starting within the next month, and their 'enforcement policy is under regular review to penalise e-scooter users who do not follow the hire guidance.

The proliferation of non-Voi scooters, that remain illegal, is a matter of concern. Unlike Voi scooters their speed is not governed; many don't have lights and they carry no insurance. This is a matter that I'll be taking up with the police in due course.

Bus Lane Review

I have asked officers to revert the St James / Westbridge Bus Lane to its previous operating hours and that the controversial camera opposite the BP garage only be operational during the hours the bus lane is in force. Officers are currently reviewing matters with regard to my request and there will be a paper to inform a formal decision in due course.

Transport – Buses & Rail

On 8th June Cabinet committed to develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan by October 2021 and to form an Enhanced Partnership with local bus operators under the Bus Services Act 2017 by April 2022. These are key steps in delivering the Government's National Bus Strategy - Bus Back Better - within West Northamptonshire and allowing us to access the associated funding. Works is now beginning on these initiatives.

While the Council has no direct responsibility for rail services, we are following with interests the proposals in the Williams-Shapps Plan for the formation of Great British

Railways, and will use the opportunities we have through the various partnerships with which we are involved to seek positive benefits for West Northamptonshire's rail services.

Highways Maintenance

A schedule of highways maintenance in West Northamptonshire is published regularly and is available for all elected members. The maintenance team are using new technology to help improve the speed and quality of repairs, including the Thermal Road Repair Unit and the Roadmaster unit which have been bought using capital investment from the Council. A highways 'open event' introduction day is being planned for elected members (on 25th August 2021) and we would encourage everyone to come and find out more about the work that the team does on a daily basis. More details will be available shortly.

For information:

- Our current policy categorises safety defects on the highway according to their severity and have differing response times. Intervention levels vary significantly depending on the risks involved and whether they are carriageway, footway, kerb, drainage, etc. Safety defects are individually assessed using risk based assessments. For potholes, our intervention levels start at a maximum horizontal dimension greater than 250mm and a depth of 50mm for carriageways and maximum horizontal dimension greater than 75mm and a depth of 20mm for footways.
- In West Northants, the team manage 2500 km highway, over 2000 km footways, over 80,000 gullies, nearly 900 highways structures such as bridges, culverts, pedestrian subways, and over 100,000 highways trees!

Finally, we have made an application to the Department for Transport for funding for full renewal of traffic signals at two junctions. The renewals will reduce outages and improve performance. We hope to hear if we have been successful when DfT have assessed all the applications.

Highways Verges

In general, the mowing season commences at the beginning of April and continues through to the end of September. Specific programmes for works are highly dependent on the growing season, and the team try to achieve the best results possible with the resources and budget available, with the priority being the safety of all road users.

We are working on improved coordination with highways colleagues (including Highways England) to enable litter picking on verges at the same time as verges as mown.

We are also investigating options to plant wildflowers in our verges.

WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Waste Collections

Waste collections in the three geographical areas of West Northamptonshire continued seamlessly through the transition to the new authority. The majority of services have remained fully operational during the latest period of the pandemic. Disruption to collection services caused by operatives having to self-isolate due to Covid have subsided and both they and cleansing services continue to perform to a high standard.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

In response to high demand for the Household Waste Recycling Centre Service, the 5 West Northamptonshire Sites opened for an additional day each week to help alleviate

queues. This was a temporary measure paid for with Covid funding. Since national lock down restrictions have eased, demand for the service has reduced and the sites reverted back to 5 day a week opening from 1 July.

Litter Charter

Officers in the waste management and enforcement teams have been working together to produce a Litter Charter for West Northamptonshire. The Charter has been developed to ensure that West Northamptonshire has a co-ordinated approach to tackling litter across the whole council area.

The objectives of the charter are to:

- improve the local environment.
- remove littering efficiently and quickly to provide a good visual image of the area.
- work with communities and partners to support them in their activities.
- educate the public into the detrimental effect of littering.
- enforce where necessary.

This Charter provides a detailed plan of action which is regularly carried out to tackle litter in West Northamptonshire. It is accompanied by “A Guide to Undertaking a Community Litter Pick”, which will provide community groups all the information they need when undertaking a litter pick to ensure that all volunteers remain safe. It also outlines how the council can help them in their work. The charter and guide are currently in draft form and will be ready for dissemination in the summer.

The team have also had positive discussions with local womble groups to help facilitate their work in the local area.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental approach, including climate

Firstly, I would like to thank Councillor Mike Hallam and Councillor Colin Morgan for all the work that they have done regarding climate issues.

After writing, on 13/07/21, Cabinet will be considering a report recommending adoption of the Environmental Framework proposed by the Task & Finish Group which worked during the shadow year to help prepare the new Council for a positive approach on these issues. The Framework seeks to provide ways in which the Council can both consider environmental issues in all its decisions and take positive steps as an organisation to improve its environmental impacts. This includes, but is not limited to, climate impacts, with a climate emergency declaration and a carbon neutrality target of 2030 (which is consistent with the recently adopted WNC Corporate Plan).

The report also recommends the endorsement of a set of Environmental Principles for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, as endorsed by the Arc Leadership Group, and support for the development of an Arc Environmental Strategy. These Principles are designed to secure protection, restoration and enhancement of the environment as a whole across the Arc. This includes an aim of Arc-wide carbon neutrality by 2040.

The Council has two roles in relation to climate. It has responsibilities as a major organisation and service provider, reflected in the target for internal carbon neutrality target of 2030. This will require a series of linked strategies covering:

- Assets (buildings).
- Energy, including renewable energy production.
- Fleet.
- Procurement of goods, works and services.

The Council's second set of responsibilities relate to its leadership of West Northamptonshire as a whole and include its activities as planning and highway authority, as well as a wider role in galvanising action across public, private and third sectors. Plans are being drawn up for a 'climate summit' and other actions to this end.

Parks and Open Spaces

Currently, the parks still have a very high footfall, as people are spending more time at home due to the pandemic travel restrictions. This has increased the amount of maintenance required on the parks, such as extra litter picking, play equipment maintenance and graffiti removal. The Park Rangers continue with their regular patrols and offer assistance and advice as required.

Grass mowing has been a challenge this season, due to an unseasonably wet and warm May and June which has led to increased growth later in the season than is usually experienced. In response the number of cuts has been increased and now that the warmer, slightly dryer weather is here, conditions and appearance of the grass will improve.

The Council's investment in Watermeadow Country Park, Towcester, is progressing well. Work has started on the new footpaths and play area near to the town centre entrance off Northampton Road.

Discussions about integrating the Council's country parks are at an early stage.

Flood management

The Council has an important role as lead local flood authority, now coupled with the former district function of land drainage authority. The service responds to large number of formal consultations and investigates flooding incidents. Strategically it works to identify and secure measures to reduce the risk of flooding to homes and businesses.

Currently the Council is playing a leading role in the Northamptonshire Innovative Flood Resilience Project, working with the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and other partners. This project seeks to identify means of reducing people's vulnerability to flooding, with interventions ranging from water storage to helping householders prepare for flooding.

Car parks

The Council's car parks remain at low levels of use compared to the pre-Covid situation. Despite this, they remain important to the life of West Northamptonshire's town centres and parks.

The loss of income against the budgeted figure of nearly £5m pa will need to be addressed. In part the Government's Covid-19 fees and charges scheme and grant will assist with this.

The installation of four pairs of charging points for the use of taxis has been completed in town centre car parks in Northampton. The installation was funded by a grant from the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles together with section 106 contributions. It is planned to hold press launch in late July or early August.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways & Waste Services

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Thursday 15th July 2021

This being my first report as a WNC councillor it is at this point in the electoral cycle of the new council that I am going to use it as the opportunity to outline the basic principals that the finance team will be pursuing. In future I will be reporting on three major topics and adding as a fourth addition any significant item that I believe the members should be aware of that may affect the finances of the council. The three major topics will be the Profit and Loss or Budget account, the Treasury report and the Capital account.

The Profit and Loss or Budget account.

At this stage, the finance team are nearing completion of the settling in of the four different budgets and teams and tidying up any differences in methodology that are discovered. In addition, they are close to finalising the first quarter's results. From these results, which will be presented at the next cabinet meeting, the first estimation of the year end position relative to the budget will be reported on. At this stage in the formulation of the first quarter's outcome there has not been anything discovered that has revealed any significant concerns.

However, this is still very early days and there are two major risks for this year's budget that are immediately worthy of enhanced attention. The first and most obvious is the adherence to the budget of the departments and in particular the 'on demand' areas. In the case of childrens' care this is a department where WNC has responsibility for finance but limited control. The second area of risk is the possibility of rising interest rates and the impact on the payments based on the borrowings that have been inherited – although there is an inevitable effect on the budget position as a treasury issue they will be reported on below.

The Treasury account.

This report used to be issued on a quarterly basis, but it is intended to now include it monthly due to its significance as it will be a major player in the coming cycle. The main features will be based on two key measures being, the reserve account level and the borrowings level.

The first requirement will be an adherence to the reserves account level which is currently stands at well over a desired figure of £100m. It is an intention that this figure is maintained at or around that figure. Any surplus that may occur in the profit and loss account need not be added to the reserve account but used for an alternative purpose including a reduction in borrowings whilst any deficit will need to be addressed via the profit and loss account.

Regarding the current borrowings level, this is considered too high at present due to the risks associated with increased inflation leading to rising interest rates. The priority for a reduction in borrowings will be based on any of those borrowings with a variable interest rate and in particular the LOBO loans which currently stand at circa £50m. when complete disaggregation has been achieved.

In addition to the borrowings analysis the maturity profile will also be reported with suitable comments on it's significance.

The Capital account.

The current Capital programme is clearly set out in the 2021/2022 budget and will be monitored closely via the capital approvals board which will hold its first meeting of the financial year later in the week. The key to the success of this board will be based on a sound assessment of the costs of a project, (ie. no surprises) its source of finance and its benefits to WNC either in financial terms or sound social requirements. In every case any impact on the borrowings position of WNC will need to be understood and agreed upon at that board bearing in mind the comments in the Treasury report.

ASSETS ISSUES

Property Strategy & Estates

The new team is supporting services across WNC as they continue their transformation journey, assisting with formation of locality hubs for adult social care colleagues, taking a leading role in preparing for the relocation of Trading Standards from Wootton Hall Park and also supporting services returning staff to offices as the pandemic conditions changed.

The team is transforming its delivery model and establishing a systematic approach to disposals, acquisitions and asset valuations. It is reviewing its wider operating model to unify the teams from the predecessor authorities with the aim of delivering a robust and consistent service covering all of WNC's assets. Excluding housing, these number about 900, ranging from important heritage buildings and corporate offices to commercial property and open spaces.

In terms of 'business as usual', the team continues actively progress lettings within the Council's significant investment estate and review any vacant properties or sites to minimise the revenue costs of holding vacant estate. The team has a substantial report going to July Cabinet to address legacy property matters carried forward from the predecessor councils and current issues. Highlights of current work include:

Avenue Campus acquisition, Northampton: The team played a central role in establishing the terms and conditions under which the acquisition of the former University of Northampton campus could be acquired.

Mulberry Place, Daventry: Legal documentation of the leases for the restaurants in the new cinema-led complex in Daventry is being prepared. The Council is making a £250k capital contribution.

Homelessness temporary accommodation (Daventry): The former DDC had a budget of £3.888m for acquisition of 18 residential properties to be used as temporary accommodation. 12 were acquired by DDC for £1.825m in 2020/21. The remaining 6 are currently in the process of completing, with a projected underspend of around £1.0m. Works are currently in progress to ensure that the properties are to the appropriate standards for use.

Future Ways of Working: The team is supporting this corporate project on how the Council best works in a post-Covid world.

Facilities management

The new team is continuing to support the safe operation of the new Council. This is a particular challenge during the Covid-19 pandemic, when management and cleaning of spaces have been paramount.

Covid-19: Working with colleagues in Customer Services to ensure Face to Face services could be re-introduced in Daventry and Towcester. Revamping a redundant roof terrace at Lodge Road into a breakout area for staff. Continuing to support the Mass Vaccination Facility at Mouton Park.

Vulcan Works and St Johns: Working to receive and safely manage the properties from the construction contractor.

Member accommodation: Reviewing the portfolio to ensure suitable facilities are available for members across WNC, including venues for full Council, group rooms and member lounges.

Forum Café, Towcester: Progressing with the reopening of the café for September, drawing on resources across the team to achieve this.

Fleet Management: Taking over fleet management service for WNC following the decision of Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service, and developing systems to handle this.

Property management and maintenance

The new team is working on establishing systems and data for effective management of the Council's properties, ensuring they are fit for purpose and minimising lifetime costs. This exercise will take time to complete, but at present suggests legacy budgets are not sufficient to hold property in a decent condition. The new Council inherited a significant maintenance backlog.

The Northampton Schools PFI is one of the largest educational PFI projects in the country, with annual spend of around £28m, with a second schools PFI worth £4m per year. Work continues with contractors to ensure that the schools are safe and fit for purpose and provide welcoming and interesting places for pupils to learn in. Officers continue to challenge the manage contractors to ensure that the contract provides best value for money to schools and the public purse.

Highlights of current work include:

Green Lane, Northampton: Work to address the drainage system to reduce the risk of flooding.

Construction

The new team is working on a wide range of projects to former NCC and district and borough properties. Highlights among the construction projects include:

Mulberry Place, Daventry: This new cinema-led complex in is approaching completion. The scheme remains within the £12.75m budget, with opening expected this autumn. Issues with installation of a ceiling support system in the screens has resulted in delay, but the main contractor accepts that this is its responsibility, and it is putting it right. It has also accepted it will meet the costs this has imposed on the cinema operator, Arc. Arc will resume its fitout once the remediation is complete.

New Primary School, Towcester: Work on this new primary school, using off-site construction, is approaching completion. The project remains on budget and should open in September as planned.

Moulton Leisure Centre: The new leisure centre has opened, with only snagging items remaining. The project is within the budget of £7.05m (reduced from the original £8.5m due to projected underspends) including the building purchase price of £3.75m. This is funded from a mixture of S106 and CIL monies. Around £100k of revenue costs on plant repairs have also been incurred. Despite Covid, the indications are that the quality of the new Centre is being well-received by potential users.

Braunston – Daventry Cycle Track: Phase 1 (Middlemore, Daventry to Braunston Tunnel Portal on the Grand Union Canal) is well underway, with work expected to complete in October as planned. The project is within the £0.75m budget, funded from CIL. The Canal & River Trust (CRT) has appointed a project manager to look at solutions for phase 2 (Braunston Tunnel Portal to Dark Lane, Braunston).

Northampton Guildhall: Major scheme of roofing and allied repairs. This will be followed by a scheme to replace the boilers.

Northampton Leisure Centres: Major scheme of replacement plant and equipment. This project is being re-assessed to ensure it delivers the best mix of benefit to cost over time, and controls the Council's risk exposure.

Councillor Malcolm Longley
Cabinet Member for Finance

Thursday 15th July, 2021

Electric Vehicle Charging

The installation of four pairs of charging points for the use of taxis has been completed in town centre car parks in Northampton. The installation was funded by a grant from the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles together with section 106 contributions. It is planned to hold press launch in late July or early Aug

COVID19

The Environmental Health and Licensing team and are continuing to provide advice and support to businesses on the requirements of the frequently changing COVID19 legislation/ In situations of sustained non-compliance when advice is ignored, officers also undertake enforcement action, serving notices and issuing fixed penalty notices. As we move into the new situation post 19 July, the team will continue to support and advise businesses in the return to the new normal. The team continue their active involvement in outbreak investigation and infection control advice in workplaces and schools working closely with a wide range of partners. The partnership work that has taken place during the pandemics is one of the great positives of the situation. New working relationships have been forged, partners have gained a better understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities and this is proving very beneficial in the development of joined up services in West Northamptonshire.

Trading Standards

Colleagues in Trading Standards continue with their work with the aim of ensuring a safe and fair-trading environment in West Northants. In recent weeks the team have promoted Scams Awareness fortnight and Rogue Trader week. During Rogue Trader week the team were involved in a multi-agency check which involved engagement with 19 traders. Work continues to investigate cases of doorstep crime. Following a break due to COVID19, the team have recommenced visits to investigate cases of illicit tobacco sales. The new authorised officer and apprentice who joined the team last year continue their training and have now been able to go out on visits and put some of their training into action.

Silverstone Grand Prix

The Environmental Health and Licensing team have been working to support the delivery of the event. They have provided advice to campsites on the steps that are required to comply with legal requirements, dealing with the complexities of differing requirements applying inside and outside the boundary of the circuit. Working in partnership with colleagues from Buckinghamshire, the team have carried out the normal food hygiene and licensing checks in relation to the food provision. Members of the team have also been involved in the Emergency Planning support of the event over a very busy weekend.

Food safety

Whilst much of the team's time has been diverted to work around COVID19 they have continued to carry out inspections of high-risk food premises and dealt with complaints, investigated accidents and infectious disease cases. They are now returning to dealing with more of the "day job" prioritising the inspection of newly registered food businesses and continuing to ensure that businesses returning to operation are provided with advice and support. Members of the team recently carried out the delivery of first face to face food hygiene training.

Air quality

The air quality annual status reports for 2020 have been submitted to DEFRA. These reports relate to the sovereign Council area as they cover the past year. Once these reports have been ratified, they will be published on the Council's website. The reports give an insight into the impact of the pandemic on traffic pollution. Work continues to monitor air quality across the area and to work together with partners to develop plans to tackle areas of poor air quality.

Building control

The team are providing joined up service across the Northampton and South areas, with the service in the Daventry area continuing to be provided by the partnership with Rugby and Warwick. The team are very busy dealing with significant numbers of large and small developments.

Fly tipping and Environmental crime

The team are working closely sharing resources to deal with environmental crime across the whole area. Partnerships are being developed with a range of agencies including the Canal and Rivers Trust, recognising that tackling the complex issues of fly tipping requires joined up working to be effective.

We are conscious that there are several fly tipping hotspots across the area and will be working to develop a clear strategy to address this through a combination of education and enforcement. Investigations are currently ongoing into options for use of CCTV to monitor.

Recent prosecutions have provided opportunities to carry out communications to stress that fly tipping is unacceptable. In addition to prosecutions, extensive use is made of fixed penalty notices, for example in the Northampton area 45 fixed penalty notices have been issued between 1 April and 30 June.

Plans for PSPO

Work is being progressed to consult on an updated Public Spaces Protection Order. This will look to ensure the continuity of powers to deal with dog fouling and the requirement to keep dogs on leads in sensitive locations in addition to a range of other anti-social behaviour.

Town & Parish Council Forum Meetings

This month the Housing and Communities Team, myself and Councillor Anna King are meeting with parish and town councils across West Northants. We met with Daventry Town Council and parish councils in the Daventry locality on 2nd July and town and parish councils in the South Northants locality on 7th July. We will be arranging a meeting with Northampton Town Council and parish councils in the Northampton locality later this month. In the meetings we are updating town and parish councils on:

- The first 3 months of WNC
- How to contact the new council
- Work underway to develop a Community Funding Policy for WNC
- Local issues specific to the locality e.g. planning; community assets

We are also asking town and parish councils how they would like us to work with them in the future.

Community Safety Partnership

On 16 June we had our first meeting of the new West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board. This replaces the two previous community safety partnerships that covered the Northampton and Daventry & South Northants areas. The meeting had good representation from a wide range of partner agencies including:

- Office of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire
- Northants Police
- Fire Service
- Health

Our new CSP will develop and evolve over the next 12 months with WNC and key partners working together closely over this period. Key priorities for the new CSP include:

- Domestic abuse & sexual violence
- Neighbourhood crime
- Anti-social behaviour and hate crime
- Community one – the new approach to community policing

A major piece of work that WNC and partners will start working on over the coming months is the development of a West Northants CSP that we hope to be finalised in early 2022.

Councillor David Smith

Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, and Regulatory Services

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**West Northamptonshire Council Cabinet
Record of Decisions taken on 20th June 2021**

Item	Subject	Decision	Responsible Officer
04	Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2021	RESOLVED: That the Cabinet approved the minutes of the meeting of the Shadow Executive held on 20 April 2021.	Sofia Neal-Gonzalez
05	West Northamptonshire Council Corporate Plan 2021-2025	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the Corporate Plan subject to further review, consultation and stakeholder engagement on the detailed implementation of the priorities within the services, and 2. Delegated to the Chief Executive final approval in Consultation with the Leader <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recommendation was made in order that West Northants Council sets a clear foundation for its future planning and direction aligned to its stated vision of making West Northants “a great place to live, work, visit and thrive”. It is important that the priorities to achieve the Council’s vision provide a clear reference point to link all decision making back to and provide a clear direction to inform all service planning. 2. It is common and best practice for Councils to publish such plans as a means to communicate their priorities, for stakeholders to be clear on what the future holds and for everyone to understand what future success would look like and how it will be measured. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None. The plan is required as the first formal statement of the intent and commitment of the new Council and to set out where its focus will be as it moves towards longer term planning, service design and transformation.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	Anna Earnshaw
06	Transformation Task and Finish Group update	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorsed the agreed Transformation Priority Plan timeline to disaggregate the hosted services between North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. 2. Endorsed the principles of transformation as laid out in section 4.5 (a) to (l), inclusive <p>REASONS: The recommendations were both agreed outputs of the Joint North Northamptonshire Council and West</p>	Jane Carr

		<p>Northamptonshire Council Members Transformation Task and Finish Group</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p> <p>DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
07	<p>School Minor Works budget to address condition issues in West Northamptonshire Maintained Schools Estate – 2021/2022</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the 2021/22 ‘School Minor Works’ budget to rectify condition issues in WNC maintained schools, ensuring the Council continues to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate; 2. Noted that WNC’s allocation of ‘School Condition Allocation’ funding for 2021/22 has been confirmed by the DfE at £1,629,546 and agree that this grant funding will be utilised as WNC’s ‘School Minor Works’ budget for 2021/22; 3. Noted that any works undertaken under the ‘Schools Minor Works’ budget will be delivered as part of a rolling programme of conditions surveys at maintained schools in the Local Authority <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WNC will continue to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate; 2. The recommended course of action is the most effective and prevents delays in procuring essential works; 3. Consistency with previous decisions. This is the third year of the ‘School Minor Works’ programme. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>This paper relates to the fulfilment of WNC’s statutory obligation of maintaining its maintained schools estate. If WNC take no action the schools estate will deteriorate and remedial works will represent a greater financial liability when requiring to be addressed in the future. The grant would also need to be returned to central Government.</p> <p>Failure to address works categorised as ‘urgent’ or ‘required immediately’ would increase the risk of serious health and safety incident(s) occurring, with schools potentially having to close as a result of condition issues and pupils being unable to access</p>	Cathi Hadley

		<p>education. This is not considered to be a viable option.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
08	Residential and nursing care services for older people – interim commissioning intentions	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the commissioning activity to date along with ongoing intentions to commission and procure residential and nursing care services for the future. 2. Approved for delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing to undertake a procurement exercise to secure and implement an interim Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) framework to commence the 1 September 2021 for a period of 12-months. 3. Approved the proposed fee rate inflationary uplift of 2.65% for 2021-22 to support market delivery cost pressures. <p>REASONS: The recommendations underpinned strategic commissioning intentions to design and procure a new outcome-based delivery model for older peoples residential and nursing care for the long-term purchasing of effective, sustainable and affordable provision supply that enables West Northamptonshire Council to fulfil its statutory duties to meet care needs and shape the local care market</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: The option to proceed with procurement tender only when the cost of care and fee structure work had been completed was considered and rejected. The current Care Home Services Framework and DPS contracts would expire as per the existing terms and from 1 September 2021 the Council would seek to secure supply of residential and nursing care services on a spot-purchased basis until long-term commissioning arrangements are secured. A further report would be presented to Cabinet in due course to seek approval for future arrangements. While spot purchasing can be used to secure services, this approach can increase susceptibility to variable pricing and is not the most effective way of managing cost and supply.</p> <p>CONFLICTS OF INTERESTED DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	Stuart Lackenby

09	National Bus Strategy	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the challenges faced by the bus industry due to COVID-19 and the funding that is being provided by the Government and Council to ensure that bus services continue to operate, as set out in Section 5 of this report; 2. Noted the publication of Bus Back Better, the National Bus Strategy for England, as summarised in Section 6 of this report; 3. Committed to the formation of an Enhanced Partnership under the Bus Service Act 2017, for the reasons set out in Section 7 of this report; and 4. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways & Waste Services to prepare an Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan to be brought back to Cabinet for approval. <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve bus services for West Northamptonshire communities and minimise the risk of any communities losing their bus service; 2. To facilitate climate and environmental benefits through increasing bus use and the operation of more low emission buses; 3. To contribute to the implementation of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (the Local Transport Plan); 4. To enable the Council to access the funding being made available by Government to support the National Bus Strategy. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>As an alternative option to the formation of an Enhanced Partnership, it is open to the Council to consider Franchising, although Government has made clear in the National Bus Strategy that due to the lengthy process involved in developing and approving a Franchise model, Local Transport Authorities should develop an Enhanced Partnership in the meantime.</p> <p>Under the Bus Services Act, an Enhanced Partnership must contribute to the implementation of an authority's local transport policies, which for West Northamptonshire are currently the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (Local</p>	Stuart Timmiss
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		<p>Transport Plan) previously prepared by the County Council.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
10	Acquisition of the University of Northampton's Avenue Campus	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet Delegated to the Executive Director for Place, Economy and the Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Housing, the completion of the acquisition of the University of Northampton's Avenue Campus in St George's Avenue, Northampton Avenue Campus excluding the Newton Building to enable development to be taken forward as described in this report.</p> <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enable the council to fulfil its statutory housing functions. 2. Increase the supply of affordable housing to meet local housing needs <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>The Decision was made not to purchase the Newton Building The original assumption in the NBC Cabinet report was that the Newton Building was required for Office Accommodation and provision for the acquisition was included in the HRA Capital Programme. WNC officers are clear that if there was a requirement for the Newton Building to be used for office accommodation then there is not the ability to charge the acquisition to the HRA. It would have to be a general fund purchase. There is no budget in the general fund capital programme to support the acquisition of the Newton Building and therefore if there was the desire to purchase the Newton Building then an additional capital budget would need to be approved by full council before being able to proceed. However, this point is largely academic as there is a more fundamental issue in that officers do not believe there is currently any need for further office accommodation to be held by the Council as it has sufficient office accommodation with its existing estate to accommodate all office accommodation needs. Therefore, it would not be good use of public funds to acquire further office accommodation when there is currently no requirement for it and this approach cannot be supported. As a result, the</p>	Stuart Timmiss

		<p>advice is that the acquisition of Newton Building by the Council should not proceed.</p> <p>The affordability of the purchase and development of the University Campus (excluding the Newton Building): In the previous business case it was assumed that a certain level of Homes England funding would be received. The expectation is that we will still receive a level of funding but to be prudent we have recalculated the business case and estimated the impact on the HRA in 2021-22 to see if the development is still viable under different scenarios of Homes England funding. Appendix D provides full detail of the funding models that include best and worst case scenarios.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
11	Report of Amendments to the Constitution	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The changes to the Constitution already made by the Monitoring Officer under her delegated power be noted 2. The proposed changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, aside from the changes under Part 8, paragraph 7. 3. Delegated power be granted to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to give effect to the agreements for joint arrangements with LGSS (Cambridgeshire, Bedford, Milton Keynes) Northampton Partnership Homes and North Northamptonshire Council. 4. A further review of the Constitution and Member Officer Protocol be carried out by the Democracy and Standards Committee and referred to a future meeting of Council <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council must have a Constitution and that document must be kept up to date. 2. Executive delegations and amendments require approval by the Executive as all Executive functions sit solely with the Executive. 3. The proposed changes will support decision making and enable the Council to carry out its functions. 	Catherine Whitehead

		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: Failure to make the recommended changes could result in a Constitution that is not up to date or fit for purpose.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
12	Appointments to Partnership Organisations	<p>RESOLVED: Cabinet noted that the Leader will inform Democratic Services of the Appointments to Partnership Organisations.</p> <p>REASONS: Appointments to Partnership Organisations are required in order to ensure correct democratic representation on a number of bodies to which members may be appointed.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: There are none.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	Catherine Whitehead
13	Northampton North West Relief Road – progress update, funding approvals and approval of procurement of utility works	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted continued progress to deliver the Northampton North West Relief Road; 2. Supported the capital investment required to complete this scheme as set out in Section 6.1 of this report and required to proceed to construction including forward funding against future S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy payments; 3. Agreed to progress a bid to the Levelling Up Fund for £20 million; 4. Noted SEMLEP’s proposed conditions on the continued financial support from the Local Growth Fund as set out in Section 5.2. <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The scheme is identified within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy as being required to support anticipated additional growth, much of which is already consented requiring the additional highway capacity the scheme provides to mitigate their impacts. 2. The Levelling Up Fund provides an opportunity to gain the additional financial support the project requires and the project is a very good fit to the aims and requirements of this funding opportunity. 3. The £7.93 million Local Growth Deal funding administered by SEMLEP provides an essential contribution to the project funding. 	Stuart Timmiss

		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>The road is required in order to improve the highway network and help to address traffic problems in parts of northern Northampton and surrounding villages. By providing additional capacity the road will help to enable development including the major Sustainable Urban Extensions at Buckton Fields, Dallington Grange and Northampton West.</p> <p>During previous consultation, 64% of those responding to the consultation supported the need for the North West Relief Road. A number of respondents commented on potential flooding, noise and visual impacts and the severance of rights of way or thought that the road should be built as a dual carriageway from the outset. There was also significant concern expressed about possible traffic impacts due to the road opening before the Northampton Northern Orbital Road and it was suggested that the two roads should be built at the same time. However, there were very few suggestions that an alternative route would be more advantageous.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
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Date Issued: 9 June 2021

Expiry of call-in period: 5pm, 16 June 2021



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Full Council

15th July 2021

Report Title	Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2020/2021
Report Author	Cheryl Bird, Health and Wellbeing Board Business Manager, Cheryl.bird@northnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO	Martin Henry	30th June 2021
West S151	Catherine Whitehead	30th June 2021
Other Director/SME	Professor Nick Petford Vice Chancellor, University of Northampton	29th June 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2020/2021

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide an account of the work overseen by the Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing during 2020/2021.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2020/2021 provides a summary of the work overseen by the Board during April 2020/March 2021.

- 2.2 This report includes information on how the Board has met its statutory duties, such as approval of the Northamptonshire Better Care Fund 2020/2021, publication of the Director of Public Health Annual Report, overseeing work on the refreshed Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, as well as additions to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment made throughout the year.
- 2.3 The report also highlights the initiatives undertaken and supported by Board's sub groups and local Health and Wellbeing Forums.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council note the report.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board (NHWBB) was a statutory committee of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) established in April 2013, following legislation in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 4.2 The Board was a forum that enabled key leaders from across Northamptonshire to secure better health and wellbeing outcomes for the local population, better quality of care for all patients and care users, better value for the taxpayer and reduce health inequalities by shaping the future of services through a more integrated approach to commissioning health and wellbeing related services.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The report provides information on Board membership, governance, how the Board undertook oversight of its statutory duties during April 2020 – March 2021, and a review of business from its meetings.
- 5.2 The report also includes work overseen by the Board's three sub committees:
- Mental Health Crisis Concordat
 - Prevention Concordat
 - Healthy Workplaces
- 5.3 The Health and Wellbeing Forums have provided an overview of their initiatives completed during 2020/2021.
- 5.4 The last section of the report discussed the next steps in 2021/2022 for Health and Wellbeing Boards following creation of the new unitary councils and implementation of a statutory Integrated Care system for Northamptonshire in April 2022.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

- 6.1 **Resources and Financial**

6.1.1 There are no resource of financial implications arising from the proposals.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board members were consulted on the draft Annual Report 2020/2021, before publication.

6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

6.5.1 This report has not been presented to Overview and Scrutiny.

6.6 Climate Impact

6.6.1 There is no climate/environmental impact arising from the report.

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 There is no known distinct community impact that may arise regarding the Council area from this report.

7. Background Papers

7.1 Health and Social Care Act 2012.

7.2 Better Care Fund: Policy statement 2020- 2021

7.3 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019-2020

7.4 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Supporting Northamptonshire to Flourish

7.5 Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all.

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**Northamptonshire
Health & Wellbeing Board**

Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Annual Report 2020/21



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1. Introduction

I would like to welcome you to the last Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report covering the period from April 2020 to March 2021. Each of the new unitary authorities will have their own Health and Wellbeing Board.

This report summarises the work overseen by the Board during the year in meeting its statutory duties, such as approval of the Northamptonshire Better Care Fund 2020/2021, publication of the Directors of Public Health Annual Report, overseeing work on the refreshed Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, as well as additions to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment made throughout the year. The report also highlights the initiatives undertaken and supported by Board's sub groups and local Health and Wellbeing Forums.



Professor Nick Petford
Chairman of the Board

Board members and I recognised the past twelve months have been challenging both locally and nationally due to the impact of Covid-19. All partners represented on the Board have been involved in the organisation and delivery of Northamptonshire's response to the pandemic. Whilst the full impact of Covid on the health and wellbeing of residents living, working and accessing services in Northamptonshire remains unclear, the pandemic has provided a springboard for accelerating integration and delivery in health and social care services across the county.

During the next 12 months there will be considerable change in the county, following formation of the new North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils in April 2021, as well as the creation of a statutory Integrated Care System for Northamptonshire from April 2022. The challenge for us all is to embrace the opportunity for change and to continue with the progress already made in the integrated delivery of health, care and wellbeing services across organisational boundaries.

I would like to thank all Board members from the last seven years for their work and commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Northamptonshire's residents and I look forward to working with the new Health and Wellbeing Boards during 2021.

Professor Nick Petford DSc DL
Chairman of the Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Vice Chancellor & CEO, University of Northampton

2. Background

The Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board (NHWBB) was a statutory committee of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) established in April 2013, following legislation in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The Board was a forum that enabled key leaders from across Northamptonshire to secure better health and wellbeing outcomes for the local population, better quality of care for all patients and care users, better value for the taxpayer and reduce health inequalities by shaping the future of services through a more integrated approach to commissioning health and wellbeing related services.

The Board aimed to achieve this by:

- Providing a strategic lead for the local health and care system, and improving the commissioning of services across the NHS, local government and its partners.
- Initiating and encouraging the integrated delivery of health, social care and other services with health and wellbeing related responsibilities (such as housing, leisure, planning community activity).
- Holding the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership (NHCP) to account through monitoring and assurance.
- Providing a key forum to increase democratic legitimacy in health, along with public and joint accountability of NHS, public health, social care for adults and children, and other commissioned services that the Board agrees are directly linked to health and wellbeing.

Health and Wellbeing Boards have a number of statutory duties which include:

- The preparation of [Joint Strategic Needs Assessments](#) (JSNAs).
- To encourage the integration of health and social care services, in particular providing appropriate advice, assistance or support for the purposes of integration of services under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
- To encourage close working between commissioners of health-related services (such as housing and many other local government services) and commissioners of health and social care services.
- Overseeing the publication of the [Directors of Public Health Annual Report](#).
- To oversee the successful implementation of Better Care Fund (BCF), Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) arrangements locally.
- To advise the Care Quality Commission, NHS England, Trust Development Authority or NHS Improvement (as appropriate), where the Board has concerns about standards of service delivery or financial probity.
- Publication of a [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment](#).

3. Membership of the Board

In order to encourage the integrated delivery of health, social care and wellbeing services, membership of the Board was widened from beyond statutory requirements to include representation from stakeholder organisations across the county. With Board membership including representatives from:

- NCC elected members
- NHS Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Director of Adult Social Care
- Director of Children's Services
- Director of Public Health
- Northamptonshire Police
- Office of Police Fire Crime Commissioner
- Northamptonshire District and Boroughs

- Healthwatch Northamptonshire
- University of Northampton
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue
- Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
- NHS England
- Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
- Northampton and Kettering Hospital Trusts
- Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership
- Northamptonshire Childrens Trust
- Northamptonshire Local Medical Committee

The NHWBB agreed that delegated authority was granted to NHS Northamptonshire CCG to represent NHS Peterborough and Cambridge CCG for all business relating to the Board.

The Chair of the NHWBB was Professor Nick Petford, Vice Chancellor, University of Northampton and Vice Chair was Cllr Ian Morris, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care, NCC. A list of Board members can be found [here](#).

4. Governance

As a Section 102 Committee of NCC, the NHWBB was subject to the same rules as other statutory committees of the council and subject to NCC’s Overview and Scrutiny function.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place the Board hosted its meetings quarterly, virtually via Zoom and were live streamed to the Northamptonshire Democracy YouTube channel. Videos from the previous meetings can be viewed here [Northamptonshire Democracy YouTube Channel](#). All agendas, reports and decisions are available to view on NCC’s [Committee Management Information System](#).



The Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Executive Group, consisted of the Chair, Vice Chair, Director of Public Health and Health and Wellbeing Board Business Manager, who had responsibility for setting the Board’s agenda. The Executive Group met prior to each Board meeting to decide which issues,

discussions and strategies, along with statutory requirements that should be presented to the Board for consideration.

5. Statutory Responsibilities of the Board

5.1 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The NHWBB took the lead in promoting the county's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). This is a systematic programme of work that focuses on priority areas and uses data to understand current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of Northamptonshire residents. This in turn informs and guides the planning and commissioning of health, wellbeing and social care services. The JSNA products are varied, from 2019 the Northamptonshire JSNA consists of three types of presentations, an insight pack, a JSNA briefing document and an in-depth needs assessment however there are other documents that also support the JSNA project that are published alongside these three types of JSNA product.

There is a continuous refresh cycle of the JSNA products with the following published between April 2020 and March 2021:

- [Care Leavers Insight Pack](#) published April 2020
- 16 PCN Profiles published June 2020
- [Carers Insight Pack](#) published September 2020
- [Northamptonshire Demography Insight Pack](#) updated September 2020
- [Tobacco Plan on a Page](#) published September 2020
- [Social Wellbeing Needs Assessment](#) published November 2020
- [Carers Briefing](#) published December 2020

Future areas of work for 2021/2022 include Substance Misuse, Vulnerable People and Impact of Covid-19 on Vulnerable Groups and Healthy Weight. All documents relating to Northamptonshire JSNA can be found [here](#).

5.2 Northamptonshire Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is an ongoing national initiative to drive transformation by providing mechanisms for integrated approaches to health and social care services, to enable people to manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in communities for as long as possible.

Last year there were four national conditions set by the government in the BCF Policy Framework:

- The Plan, including minimum mandated funding from the CCG must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), and by the constituent local authorities (LAs) and CCGs.
- A demonstration of how the area will maintain the level of spending on social care services from the CCG minimum contribution in line with the uplift to the CCG's minimum contribution.
- That a specific proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include seven day services and adult social care.
- A clear plan on managing transfers of care, including implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care (HICM).

The Policy Framework set out the four national metrics which is a condition of access to the funding:

- Reducing non-elective admissions to hospital;
- Reducing admissions to residential care and care homes;
- Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services;

- Reducing delayed transfers of care.

The NHWBB had a statutory duty to approve the local BCF plan before submission, in order to obtain approval, the Board had to be assured that all health and social care partners were in agreement with schemes set out in the BCF plan. The Board provided scrutiny and performance monitoring against the BCF Plan by receiving regular updates on the four key performance metrics.

The Northamptonshire BCF plan consisted of a pooled budget between NCC and NHS Northamptonshire CCG, and also includes the additional funding streams:

- Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) paid directly to NCC to reduce pressure on the NHS by supporting people awaiting discharge from hospital;
- Winter Pressure Funding paid directly to NCC and used to help health and social services to combat winter pressures and alleviate pressure on hospitals;
- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) paid directly to NCC and distributed to District and Borough Councils to enable people who are disabled to remain in or return to their own homes rather than being looked after in a care home or hospital.

Due to the Covid-19 there was no national requirement to formalise a local BCF plan for 2020/2021, to ensure efforts continued to focus on response to the pandemic. It was therefore agreed in the absence of any national guidance and given the strategic direction, plans and successes in 2019-2020, to maintain all the schemes that operated in the previous year's plan with no changes. But to also include new schemes funded by local government investment to start to create greater focus on admission or re-admission avoidance ahead of the planned creation of the integrated community services partnerships and provider alliances being launched.

The [Northamptonshire BCF Plan for 2020/2021](#) was approved by the NHWBB on the 24th September 2020 and will be delivered through the Integrated Care System (ICS) and [Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire \(iCAN\) Programme](#). The BCF will continue to be used as a mechanism for personalised and integrated approach to health and social care, enabling people to remain independent and at home or enable people to return home and remain independent once discharged from hospital.

5.2.1 Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (iCAN) programme

Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (iCAN) is a major new programme of transformation work, designed to deliver a refreshed focus and way to improve the quality of care and achieve the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for frail, mainly older people across Northamptonshire. It is also intended to support them to maintain their independence and resilience for as long as possible.

There are three core aims to the iCAN Programme:

- Ensuring we choose well: that no one is in hospital without a need to be there
- Ensuring people can stay well
- Ensuring people can live well: by staying at home if that is right for them

As the programme affects the entire health and care sector, it will be delivered in collaboration with a wide range of partners across the county, including health and social care providers, commissioners, primary care, the voluntary sector and other statutory organisations. Professionals across Northamptonshire have worked together to shape the pillars of work for the iCAN programme:

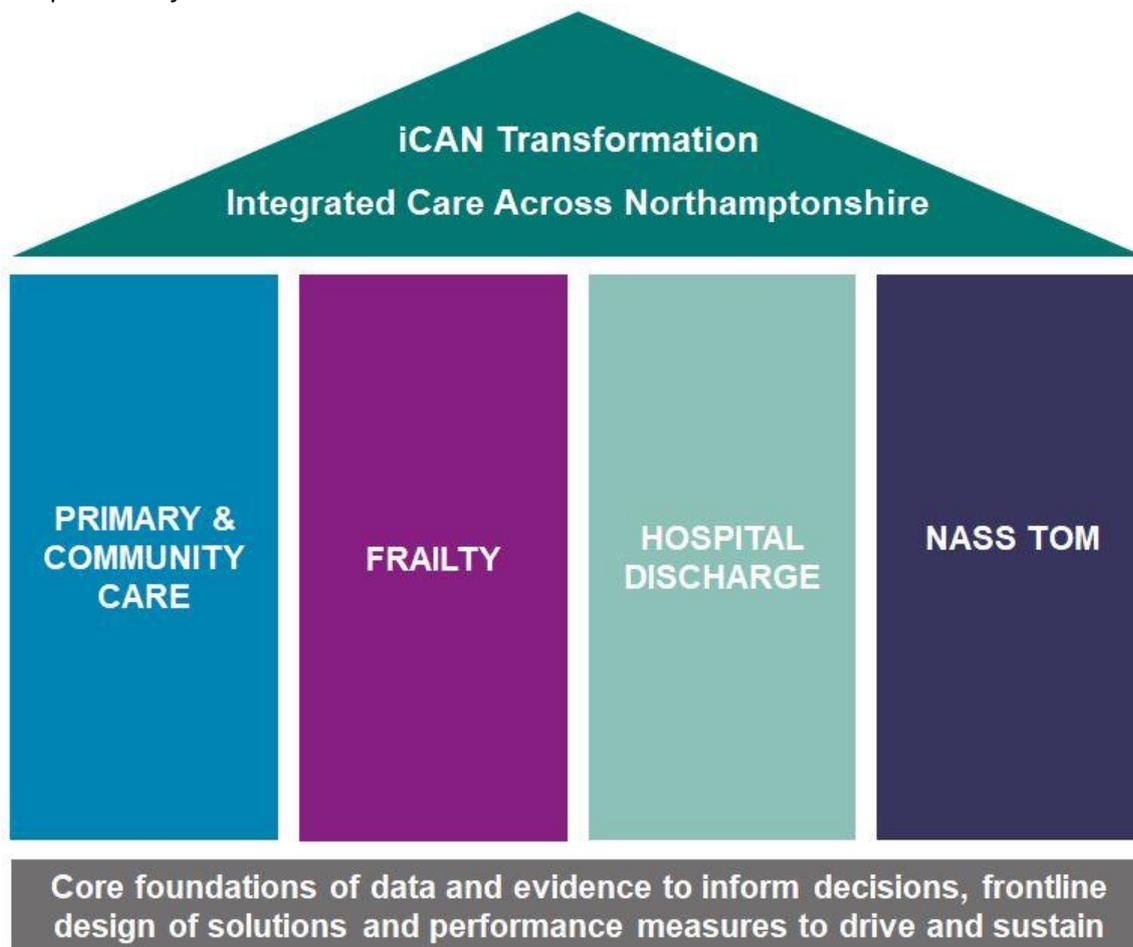
Community Resilience - Ensuring frail people in the community receive the right care and support at the right time so they can live as independently as possible - *stopping people escalating into crisis and maintain wellness and independence*

Frailty Escalation and Front Door - Ensuring the right capacity and structure in the community to ensure frail patients are only admitted to hospital if they need an intervention that can only be provided in an acute setting - *ensuring only those that need to, have to go to hospital*

Flow and Grip – ensuring all patients in acute settings, receive the right care at the right time with access to the right services so they can live as independently as possible - *reducing the number of patients without 'Reason to Reside'*

Each Pillar is made up a number of Bricks, which are mainly clinically-led projects designed to deliver the aims and objectives of the Pillar and the wider iCAN Programme. The whole programme is underpinned by a number of Foundation Bricks whose function is to support all aspects of the programme to avoid the duplication and work and ensure the best outcomes. These Foundation Bricks cover areas such as admissions avoidance, end of life care, digital technology, strategic estates and finance.

Local Authorities in the county have previously let a contract to transform adult social care services and this is associated with the iCAN Programme as a further pillar. This work is known as **Northamptonshire Adult Social Services Targeted Operating Model (NASS TOM)** – Ensuring we transform social care to develop a community place-based service, focusing on supporting people to maintain independence - *Improving independence for individuals*



5.2.2 Disabled Facilities Grant Funding

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) are provided in order to enable people with a disability to remain in, or return to, and live independently in their own homes, thereby avoiding admission into residential care or hospital. There is a significant body of evidence that demonstrates that investment in DFGs delivers significant savings across social care and the wider health system. The adaptations funded by DFGs range from level-access showers, stairlifts and ramping to major property extensions and are granted in consultation with the Northamptonshire Adult Social Services Occupational Therapist Service.



Daventry Care and Repair

The total national funding for DFG in 2020/21 remained the same amount as the previous year (£505 million) therefore the allocation and breakdown for Northamptonshire stayed unchanged.

During 2020/2021 the DFG service has been heavily impacted by Covid-19, but managed to mitigate the effects and continue to deliver DFGs. The main issues have been:

- During the first lockdown the construction industry initially almost came to a complete halt until the Government clarified how the industry could continue to work with Covid-19 secure practices in place.
- Supply issues for contractors, with many suppliers unable to open during the first lockdown.
- Householders' reticence to have work done / people coming into their homes, as the client base is essentially people more vulnerable to Covid-19 and part of the shielded population.
- Vulnerable council employees who were unable to go into clients' homes
- Covid-19 outbreaks for contractors, causing delaying in works and tenders.

High demand for the service continues and different ways of delivering DFG in 2021/2022 are being explored, with pilot schemes in both Daventry and South Northants areas which have meant direct and close working with an assigned Community Occupational Therapist. Both schemes have become business as usual, alongside a new Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy in West Northamptonshire Council and a new Private Sector Housing Policy for North Northamptonshire, giving a range of additional discretionary grant options alongside the basic Disabled Facilities Grant.

In order to provide proper oversight of the DFG allocation and spend for the county, the NHWBB received an annual end of year report for scrutiny. The DFG end of year report for 2020/2021 will be presented to the new county Health and Wellbeing Boards at their inaugural meetings.

5.3 Director of Public Health Annual Report

The core purpose of the Director of Public Health (DPH) is to be an independent advocate for the health of the population and to provide system leadership for its improvement and protection. DPH's across the country are required to produce an annual report and the Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory duty to publish this report. The DPH Annual Report provides an opportunity to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of the wellbeing of the county.
- Identify key issues and challenges relating to the wellbeing of the local population.
- Provide added value over and above intelligence and information routinely available.
- Reflect on work already undertaken and the continued impact.
- Be used for advocacy as well as a statement of needs, current priorities and action and continuing progress.
- Identify recommendations for future courses of action to improve health and wellbeing locally.



Publication of the [DPH Annual Report 2019/2020](#) was approved at the virtual Health and Wellbeing meeting on the 13th May 2020. The report looks at the root causes of the inequalities in health that were identified in previous year's report, specifically focusing on the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age as these factors provide the foundations for people to live healthy or unhealthy lives.

The report focused on how decisions in strategy, policy and service design can have a significant impact on health, wellbeing and inequalities within our communities and how the emergence of the Unitary Councils, and a new Integrated Care System (ICS), will provide an opportunity to work together to shape environments that help communities in Northamptonshire to thrive.

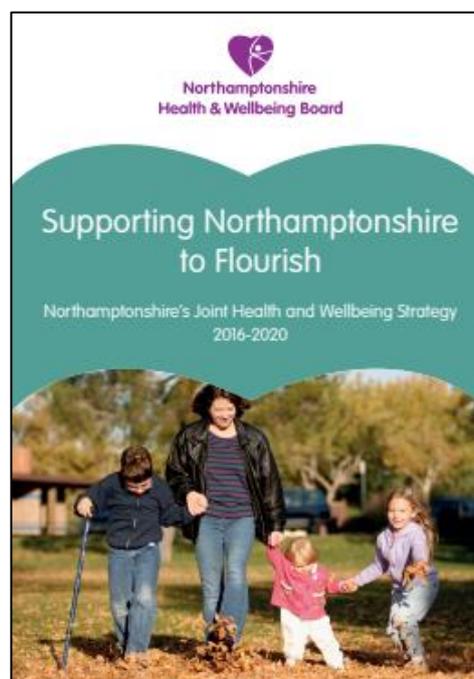
The DPH Annual Report for 2020/2021 is currently being finalised and will be presented to the new Health and Wellbeing Boards requesting approval for publication.

5.4 Northamptonshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The NHWBB had a statutory responsibility to take the lead on producing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) for Northamptonshire. A refreshed JHWS (2016 - 2020), "[Supporting Northamptonshire to Flourish](#)", was formally approved and signed off by partners in April 2016. The strategy was based on local and national evidence, local organisational health and wellbeing strategies, JSNA and health and wellbeing trends within the county. At the time of publication four priorities emerged:

- Giving every child the best start.
- Taking responsibility and making informed choices.
- Promoting independence and quality of life for older adults.
- Creating an environment for all people to flourish.

The JHWS is now due a refresh, work will commence during 2021 on the shape and geography of the new strategy once the new HWBBS are operational. The NHWBB agreed at its meeting on the 25th March 2021 as the priorities identified in the current strategy are still relevant, to continue to work to the currently strategy until the JHWS refresh is completed.



5.5 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory responsibility to publish and keep an up to date a statement of needs for pharmaceutical services within its local area called the [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment \(PNA\)](#). The PNA sets out the needs for pharmaceutical services provided in the community by analysing health needs and current provision with the aim to ensure residents can access medicines, other products and services to help improve their wellbeing and live healthy lives. The PNA is used by NHS England when considering whether to grant an application for pharmaceutical services within a local area. They may also be used to inform commissioners such as clinical commissioning groups or public health teams regarding the current provision for pharmaceutical services and where these could help to meet local health priorities.

The first PNA for Northamptonshire was published in 2015 and a subsequent refresh was published in March 2018, which itself is in the process of being refreshed. In 2020, Primary Care Commissioning (PCC) Community Interest Company were commissioned to produce a PNA for each unitary authority supported by a Project Advisory Group (PAG).

The PAG was established in June 2020 where a timeline for the project was agreed and decisions made to enable PCC to begin creating the draft documents. An Online questionnaire was developed to capture information not otherwise available from pharmacies, dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) and dispensing doctors. A questionnaire was also developed for patients and the public on how and why they access services provided by pharmacies, DACs and dispensing services at GP practices. Views were also sought on the issues people may have faced during the COVID19 lockdowns in accessing services and what service provision has been made by contractors as a result of the pandemic that they anticipate continuing.

In early 2021 a 60 day consultation was undertaken on the draft PNA's and the final version of each PNA will be brought to the respective new HWBB for endorsement prior to publication in June 2021.

5.6 Encourage Integration of Health and Social Care Services

A key statutory responsibility of NHWBB was to encourage the integration for the provision of health and social care services within the county. During 2020/2021 the Board has played a positive role in supporting partners in developing and delivering plans for local health and social care integration as well as encouraging investment in prevention. A key component of this has been through the collaborative working relationship with [Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership](#) (NHCP) and its work in developing an ICS for the county and work overseen by the Board's sub groups.

This Board undertakes a scrutiny role on development of the ICS, receiving regular updates through Board meetings on progress of work completed in creation of the ICS.

5.6.1. Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership (NHCP)

NHCP consists of key health and care organisations within the county. While we all remain as separate organisations with our own responsibilities for the services we provide, we are committed to working together through joined-up effort and shared resources to create a positive lifetime of health, wellbeing and care in our communities. NHCP's four priority programmes are the main areas of focus for transforming health and social care services in Northamptonshire. These are not the only areas where we are working together differently, but they are the areas where as a partnership we can feel we can make the most difference.

- Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (iCAN)
- Mental Health
- Children and Young People
- Elective Care

5.6.2 Integrated Care System (ICS)

In Northamptonshire, we have been working together for some time through the NHCP to collectively tackle our local health and care challenges and share good practice.

In April 2021, Northamptonshire was designated by the NHS as an Integrated Care System (ICS). We are one of 42 ICS areas to be created across England, and now government legislative proposals for a Health and Care Bill, white paper have been published, [Integration and innovation: Working together to improve health and social care for all](#), which aims to give all of these Integrated Care Systems statutory status, most likely from

April 2022. This will formally set out the powers and responsibilities of ICSs to support their populations to live healthy lives and get the care and support they need, when they need it.

The White Paper recommends that each ICS should have two new statutory requirements:

- An NHS ICS body to oversee NHS functions across the whole system
- A statutory health and care partnership, made up of a wider group of organisations to support integration and develop overarching plans across health, social care and public health

In addition to the ICS NHS Body, and ICS health and care partnership, subject to legislation, place-based partnerships can also be a subcommittee of the ICS or a separate joint committee e.g. HWBB, allowing for a scheme of delegation of decision-making functions. Flexibility to develop these structures and processes that work for systems will be left to local discretion. There is considerable overlap in the functions of the ICS health and care partnership, place based partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards. Many ICSs have begun to discuss how arrangements could be streamlined and integrated.

Here in Northamptonshire, in response to the white paper, a transition programme has been established to oversee and ensure a successful transition to a statutory ICS by April 2022, subject to legislation. This will include formalising some of the existing joint working arrangements we have successfully developed through NHCP, involving our acute trusts, our community and mental health trust, our CCG, primary care, our unitary councils, the voluntary and community sector, and other partners. This will enable us to simplify the way we work together and improve our ability to make decisions together in the same place.

6. Review of selected business from Health and Wellbeing Board meetings

A wide range of issues and strategies are discussed at the Board's quarterly meetings as well as the following standing agenda items:

- NCC and Childrens Services Update.
- BCF, iBCF, and iCAN programme updates.
- Future Northants (Local Government Reform) Update.
- Northamptonshire Health Care and Partnership update.
- Local Covid-19 response

Listed below is the key business dealt with at Board meetings between April 2020 and March 2021.

13th May 2020

- The Directors of Public Health Annual Report Board 2019/2020 was presented to the Board, requesting approval for publication of the report. The Board endorsed the report.

9th July 2020

- The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Annual Report for 2019/2020 was presented to the Board, highlighting the total DFG spend for Northamptonshire. The Board noted the update.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2019/2020 was presented to the Board and summarised the work overseen by the Board during April 2019 and March 2020. The Board endorsed the report.
- An update on the Social Prescribing Programme was presented to the Board including details on mobilisation of the larger social prescribing programme across the county. The Board noted the update.

24th September 2020

- The BCF Plan for 2020/2021 was presented to the Board. The Board approved the plan for submission to NHS England.

- The Joint Strategic Needs Carers Assessment was presented to the Board, which included information on the number of carers in the county, the type and amount of care provided. The board endorsed the Carers JSNA and approved the recommendations contained within the needs assessment.
- An Update was provided on the current development and production of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2021-2024. The Board noted the update and agreed to delegate sign off the pre consultation draft of the PNA to the PAG.
- The Healthwatch Northamptonshire Annual Report 2019-2020 was presented to the Board, highlighting work undertaken by Healthwatch Northamptonshire between April 2019 and March 2020. The Board endorsed the report.
- A presentation was received on the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) Annual Report 2019- 2020, detailing the work completed by the NSAB in meeting its statutory obligations. The Board noted the achievements and progress made by NSAB.
- A report was presented from the Mental Health Crisis Concordat sub group raising concerns about of the lack of provision for Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) in the county and the risk this posed to service users. The Board noted the update and supported a system wide approach in developing a more sustainable AMHP provision in the county.
- The Board received a report asking to give consideration on how local health and wellbeing forums could fit into the new unitary and Integrated Care System footprint post April 2021. The Board agreed the local Forums added value to the county footprint and work would take place in how they could be factored into the new county footprint infrastructure.

14th January 2021

- The Board received a report on the Integrated Care System (ICS) Development Plan. The report provided an update on Northamptonshire ICS development plan submission and ICS designation supporting letter as well as National engagement on how Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) could be embedded in legislation or guidance. The Board noted the updated and agreed to support Northamptonshire's ICS development.
- A presentation was made to the Board on the proposed re-development work at Kettering General Hospital. The Board welcomed the update.

25th March 2021

- The Board received a presentation on the Northamptonshire Childrens Trust Business Plan, detailing the vision and aims of the Trust moving forwards. The Board endorsed the Plan.
- An update was presented to the Board on the national ICS policy direction and Northamptonshire ICS development, particularly noting the Governments White paper: Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all. This update included Northamptonshire ICS development plan and transition programme in response to white paper and NHCP Board membership proposals in response to the white paper. The Board welcomed the opportunity to support further work for the transition to a shadow and then full ICS board and the NHCP functional alignment with the evolving local Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- The Board were provided with an overview of the Wellcome Foundation PhD Programme for a nationally funded programme through the Wellcome Trust for PhD studentships for health professionals. The Board endorsed the proposal for University of Northampton to submit a bid to host and provide these PhD studentships.
- The Board were provided with an update on the progress made in addressing the lack of AMHP provision within the county and requested the new HWBBs continue to oversee the progress in addressing the lack of AMHP provision.
- An overview was provided to the Board on the Northamptonshire Partnership Early Help Strategy and Action Plan 2020-23 – the NCT perspective. This detailed a comprehensive early help and prevention offer for children, young people and their families. The Board agreed that the Northamptonshire Partnership Early Help strategy/Action Plan is the right approach for Northamptonshire and will deliver the right support for children young people and families.

7. Health and Wellbeing Board Sub Groups

During 2020/2021 the NHWBB has commissioned several sub groups to operate under its auspices to work on specific tasks.

7.1. Healthier Workplaces

The Healthier Workplaces Task & Finish Group comprised of key strategic partners from across the county, to work collaboratively on shaping and driving forward a workplace health programme for the county. The group was chaired by Crishni Waring, Chair, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust and would meet quarterly during the year.

After a short hiatus during the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Healthy Workplaces sub group continued to meet virtually, with the main focus being on 'how to support people in the workplace during the Covid-19 pandemic and thinking ahead to the broader potential health and wellbeing implications: lessons learned and support required'.

It was recognised the pandemic had brought about new works of working, the group considered and shared best practice on how to provide mental health support to staff working who were remotely, and how to best alleviate anxiety around safety concerns of returning to the workplace. As well as those who worked on the front line of the county's pandemic response, with staff suffering with fatigue and stress of dealing with large numbers of the population who needed not only health and social care support, but also community support for the shielded and most vulnerable cohorts. The support highlighted included mental health first aiders, mental wellbeing champions and mental health training managers.

At a meeting in October 2020 the group started to consider how to support working carers within organisations. A recent survey in conjunction with Northamptonshire Healthwatch and Northamptonshire Carers for the JSNA Carer Needs Assessment highlighted there were a large number who did not identify themselves as carers when undertaking unpaid caring duties and as such were not registered as carers with support agencies or employers. Contained within the set of the [Northamptonshire Workplace Standards](#) is a section around caring responsibilities to:

- Ensure employers raise awareness about working carers in organisations.
- Ensuring information is provided about caring responsibilities,
- To have carer friendly policies and carer friendly accreditation.
- Establishing working carers networks.

The group agreed to start promoting more carer staff networks within their organisations and review the carers section within the Workplace standards.

In January the Board agreed to a proposal from Crishni Waring for a review to be undertaken of the work completed by the Healthy Workplaces sub group and the People Board, Health and Wellbeing workstream, whether they could be more aligned with a shared forum taking responsibility for the Workplace Standards. The review found both were covering similar topics and at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on the 25th March it was agreed for the Healthy Workplaces sub group to be stood down in its current form with the People Board health and wellbeing workstream taking responsibility for appropriate elements from the Healthy Workplaces sub group that do not already fall within its remit.

7.2. Mental Health Crisis Concordat Sub Group

The Mental Health Crisis Concordat (MHCC) subgroup comprises of key partners from across the county who are committed to improving crisis services for the public. By working in partnership the MHCC focuses on providing the best quality care within a crisis, improved access to support prior to a crisis, reduce the impact of a crisis, and have support services in place to aid recovery from a crisis. The MHCC is chaired by Adam Smith, Assistant Director of Crisis Pathway, Criminal Justice, Perinatal and Learning Disabilities Services from NHFT.

Listed below are updates on initiatives overseen by the MHCC.

7.2.1 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS):

During the pandemic the CAMHS and Crisis Service have continued to offer virtual appointments, with face to face outpatient's appointments for looked after children, eating disorders and risk assessments. The Crisis Cafes have also provided additional support with a children's helpline.

7.2.2 Operation Alloy

NHFT continue to work in partnership with Northants Police to provide bespoke support to those who come into contact with the police and are in a mental health crisis.

The street triage (Operation Alloy) initiative has continued throughout the pandemic. Following a review of the street triage, NHFT and Northants Police have extended the hours of the deployable street triage car into the early hours of the morning. The Office of Police Fire Crime Commissioner and NHFT have also agreed a business case for additional nurses and officers to have two deployable resources in the evenings and NHFT and commissioners are currently working with EMAS to look at a EMAS triage model.

Northants Police have a dedicated cohort of 30 officers with a special interest in mental health, who have completed mental health training to support the triage car. Since the start of the pandemic there has been a significant increase in mental health related calls to the Police.

NHFT continue to provide a mental health practitioner in the police force control room 7 days a week, to provide a day time tactical response, advising on mental health incidents and attend incidents with an officer where appropriate. This service ensures that those who have contact with the police during a crisis or as part of their offending have their mental health needs assessed and prioritised to ensure they receive the appropriate level of support.

7.2.3 Support for Carers

Part of the MHCC's action plan for 2020 was continuing to engage with carers and service users who have experience of using services across all partners at the point of crisis. In previous years a number of reference groups had been hosted by a carer representative, supported by a range of concordat partners, focusing on different areas of crisis management. During the pandemic these have paused, but work is underway to begin to host these virtually. A Berrywood Carers Support Group has been extremely successful and continued to meet throughout the year, it is hoped this approach will be replicated in other mental health wards in Berrywood and St Mary's hospitals. Evidence has shown that the Covid-19 restrictions resulting from the pandemic have placed a huge strain on carers, partly due to support services being paused or moving online, with many carers experiencing exhaustion and increased levels of anxiety.

7.2.4 Integrated Response Hub



On the 16th March 2020, the Mental Health Northampton Collaborative (MHNC) and NHFT launched the Integrated Mental Health Response Hub, offering a 24/7 mental health helpline for all mental health issues in the county. The aim of Hub is to reduce the gaps in services, draw together community service providers and provide a combined approach that prevents service users repeating their story and being moved from service to service. It is jointly staff by the 3rd sector and NHFT, using a model that is set around a needs based approach to the support and management of issues for those struggling with their mental health in the county. The phone line is able to take self-referral, professional referrals and support partners in the police and EMAS. There is the ability to provide a range of responses from simple phone based validation and listening through to community assessment and support of partners at incidents.

The Hub deals with approximately 6000 enquiries a month, which is higher than initially expected, with 75% of people accessing the Hub being managed by the Mental Health Navigators and not having to be referred onto secondary mental health services. Evidence has shown that use of the Hub by EMAS and Police Officers, has provided more appropriate pathways for unwell individuals and reduced the need for conveyances to A&E for mental health related issues.

7.2.5 Approved Mental Health Professionals

Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) work on behalf of local authorities to carry out a variety of functions under the Mental Health Act 1983. One key responsibility is to co-ordinate requests for Mental Health Act assessments and if necessary, make applications for the detention of individuals, ensuring the Mental Health Act and its Code of Practice are followed. As well as the Mental Health Act assessment requests, AMHPs also complete assessments for those service users who have been detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

AMHP recruitment is national as well as a local challenge, in terms of recruiting and retaining mental health practitioner workforce, which is trying to be addressed at a regional and national level. Following concerns raised at the MHCC, analysis was completed on the AMHP capacity within the county, which confirmed the shortage of AMHPs as well as a disparity between day and out of hours' provision. This has resulted in delays for those awaiting an assessment which impacts on partners and the ability to deliver high quality healthcare, resulting in unwell patients presenting a greater risk to themselves and others.

Whilst it is the responsibility of the local authority to coordinate and provide an AMHP function, organisations with mental health professionals can provide staff to train as AMHPs. The qualifying criteria for AMHP is a social worker with two years' experience or a registered mental health nurse or psychologist with a minimum of 2 years post qualifying experience. Currently AMHP training is a two year part time course delivered through Birmingham University.

Following results from the AMHP analysis, Adult Social Care are working in conjunction with NHFT to address the lack of AMHP provision. NHFT have released some of their mental health practitioners in order to undertake AMHP training and discussions are also underway with the University of Northampton about the possibility of having a locally based AMHP training programme. Work is also taking place to consider the possibility of the AMHP service re-locating within the Integrated Response Hub, where Mental Health

Navigators would be the first point of contact, and best placed to explore more appropriate opportunities to resolve a crisis. Since the start of the pandemic the AMHP team are seeing more complex cases presenting for the first time.

7.2.6 Crisis Cafes

[Crisis Cafés](#) are supported by NHFT and provided by Mind across six venues, open seven days a week. Anyone can walk into a café to access support when approaching crisis. Support is given to help deescalate the situation and to avoid people having to visit a hospital. The Cafes can also support organisations such as the Police and EMAS who can direct or support service users in attending these locations to assist in the management of crisis. Establishment of the cafes was the first move towards enabling people to self-refer themselves to mental health provision across the county, and provided building blocks of future self-referral pathways in the community. During the pandemic NHFT have worked with MIND to extend the Crisis Café provision to run from midday to 23.00, to deal with the increased levels of poor mental health being experienced by local residents.

NHFT and the Mental Health Northants Collaborative (MHNC) have agreed a 5-year contract for the continuation of these cafes and as part of the system response to the pandemic.

7.2.7 Complex Case Review Panel

Over the past twelve months there has been ongoing development for a new Complex Case Review Panel for the county. This has played on the strengths of the concordat partnerships to bring all members together to build a new system of challenging individual systems to flex in order to meet the needs of those service users who frequently engage with a range of services or where services have reached an impasse on how best to support an individual. The Panel would consist of all organisations involved in the care of an individual and will be able to openly discuss concerns and work together to find effective solutions to support those who have some of the most challenging mental health and crisis needs, including development of a care plan.

7.3. Prevention Concordat Sub Group

The Northamptonshire Mental Health Prevention Concordat Subgroup works to improve the mental health of people in the County, by working towards a fairer and more equitable society. Bringing together key stakeholders to focus on cross-sector activity which delivers a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across stakeholder agencies.

Below is some of the work overseen by the sub group during 2020/2021:

7.3.1. Suicide Prevention Steering Group

The multi-agency Suicide Prevention Wave 3 Transformation Programme bid was accepted and work has since commenced to implement many workstreams supported by the funding. This has included initiatives to support an accelerated campaign activity, expanding the STORM training programme to inpatient and secondary care teams, and developing a suite of additional resources that can be used by individuals who do not typically engage with services.

The Suicide Prevention Steering Group has continued to meet since last year via virtual platform. Membership of the group has extended and now includes colleagues from the Regional Highways Authority which provides further expertise and resources to support prevention. Considerable planning took place, which supported the launch of the local Suicide Real Time Surveillance System which commenced at the start of 2021. Work is continuing to review the progress of the system and address some of the issues that have arisen since it became operational. The resulting analysis of the information received was presented to the

Suicide Prevention Steering Group which met in February 2021. The Steering Group has agreed to start exploring the implementation of a Self-Harm Real Time Surveillance System, which will be informed from the learning gained from the Suicide System. Work has also commenced on rewriting the county Suicide Prevention Strategy which will define our objectives and actions up to 2024.

7.3.2. Time to Change

The Northamptonshire Time to Change (TtC) Hub operated up to September 2020, which was the conclusion of the year-long project locally as part of the national campaign. Due to the national Covid-19 restrictions more than 11 events that were scheduled across the county and a training programme for staff in Northamptonshire schools were cancelled between April and August 2020, which unfortunately coincided with the second half of the Hub's operational year.



Despite the challenges this presented to the programme, the TtC work continued, by adopting a different approach. During Mental Health Awareness Week 2020, TtC engagement was switched to being online, with a mental health quiz and other resources provided via the various social media channels. Engagement with the TtC Champions continued during the lock down period. As face to face meetings could not take place, they were organised virtually, and the frequency increased from monthly to weekly. As well as providing a forum for Champions to discuss the TtC programme, this also gave an opportunity for the Champions to check-in with each other and to receive emotional support during a difficult period for everyone.

An Impact Evaluation was produced by the Hub Coordinators, following the conclusion of the Hub in October 2020. The evaluation findings showed that during the Hub year, 133 Champions were recruited, 12 employers signed up to the TtC Employers pledge and 479 conversations took place at the events that happened up to March 2020. Some of these measures exceeded the targets set despite the issues caused by the pandemic. TtC as a national initiative has now come to an end, however it remains imperative that there continues to be local investment in reducing the stigma associated with mental health, particularly in view of the longer term effects of Covid-19. Northamptonshire Public Health have therefore initiated discussions with MHNC about continuing their partnership working and resuming TtC as a county-wide initiative in the coming year.

7.3.3. Northampton's Biopsychosocial Pathway for Depression

Depression is: **Common & Critical however Coverage** of treatment is low at around 25% of eligible population especially for [older people](#). Our simple **Community** approach can improve patient choice within a **Biopsychosocial** pathway that improves outcomes for patients and is easily replicated. The promotion of the '[10 Keys to Happier Living](#)' for the frontline workforce (who have been adversely affected by COVID) addresses stigma. The ambition of the pathway is to address both secondary and tertiary prevention for people with depressive disorder.

Following the Covid [Syndemic](#) and current and predicted increase of depressive disorder the Northampton biopsychosocial pathway for depressive disorder is an important opportunity for Northamptonshire. **It's replicable and scalable at a time when increasingly people need support with their mental health.**

Depression Pathway					
	Self Care and Prevention	Primary Care	Enhanced Primary Care	Urgent and Crisis Response	Emergency/ Acute
Diagnosis	None	Depression	Depression with LTC/ Other	Needs help now	Needs more help/ specialist
Future Vision (in no specific order)	Social Prescribing GREAT DREAM Happy Café NHS Health Checks Trilogy Public Health Promotion Materials Action for Happiness Hub Suicide Mitigation Recovery College	Prescribing/ Formulary IAPT - GP / Self-referral/ Care Navigator/ Triage Control My Wellbeing Plan GREAT DREAM Social Prescribing Breathing Space P1VOTAL	GPEA - MDT review • Group Therapy • Change to Care Plan • Social Prescribing • Electronic Option Collaborative Care Approach (Community Hubs) GREAT DREAM	Crisis Café (Increased access) Crisis Resolution Home Team Triage Car (CPN/ Police) Acute Hospital Liaison UCAT Front Line Staff Training GREAT DREAM Hospital at Home	Admission to Berrywood NHFT Specialist Options Treatment Resistant Depression (TRD) Front Line Staff Training GREAT DREAM PCART (PCLW)

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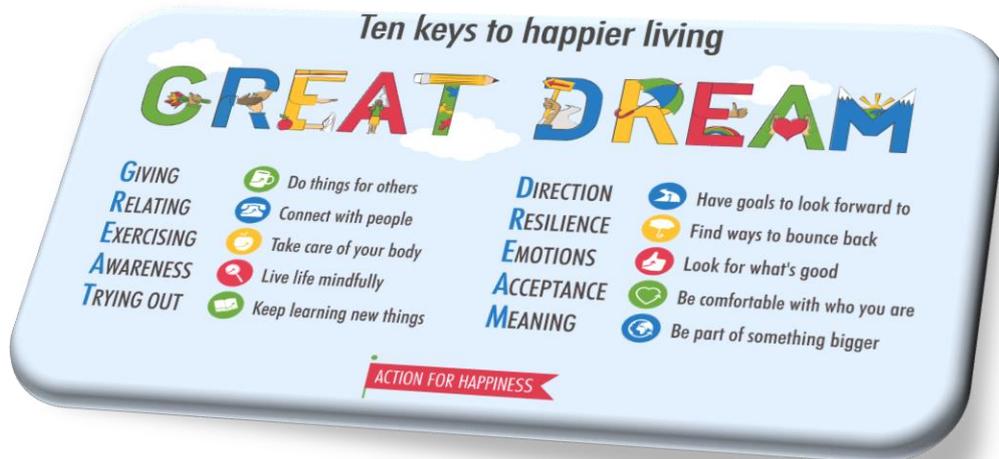
*Total Patient Population 64015 (Sept. '18)

The pathway addresses previous commissioning silos and supports a locality approach appropriate for new ICS commissioning landscape. Patient stories alongside development of an emerging centre of excellence for treatment resistant depression provided new drivers for pathway development. New additional Primary Care Network (PCN) pharmacists and social prescriber link workers wrapping around the IAPT service supported development of a biopsychosocial pathway with opportunities of in reach into the Acute Trust, we are testing replicability in a further PCN currently.

The pathway evolved through a test and learn approach listening to patient and carers feedback and keeping them at the centre, bringing stakeholders together as partners whilst engaging with a community asset approach.



The pathway uses the GREAT DREAM framework of the '10 Keys to Happier Living'. This builds on the 5 Ways to wellbeing (same as GREAT) however includes recent research in positive psychology and includes Direction, Resilience, Emotions, Acceptance and Meaning. The Action for Happiness website has a wide range of public facing resources e.g. Utube channel of international speakers and online courses including an online 10 day coaching course to support developing a social movement.



Outcomes:

Bio

- Optimizing the anti-depressant pathway aligned to NICE guidelines means more people get the right medication with fewer side-effects and more likely to complete course of treatment.
- Place of medication within the whole - improved awareness of self-management and access to psychosocial resources for whole team including pharmacists.

Psycho

- Increasing awareness of self-referral reducing delay in people accessing mental health services.
- Use of digital technology:
 - Direct promotion of Feeling Good App and use by frontline staff
 - GPA website resources including brief videos.

Social

- Increasing patient choice through "[My Well-being Action Plan](#)", this hyperlinks local and national resources to the '10 keys to Happier Living' as a prescription that can be handed out to patients by primary care clinicians as a community accessible offer.
- Embedding the '10 Keys' into the induction, supervision, training and outcome measures of Social Prescribing Link Workers, this has also helped GPs understand what social prescribers can offer.
- Supporting Delapre Abbey develop as a Green Happy Café promoting exercise and contact with nature

Spiritual

- The inclusion of Meaning within the '10 Keys' has enabled this menu to be shared with faith communities including the whole of Peterborough Diocese Church of England and develop "Wellbeing Sunday" as an annual event.

Pathway implementation is supported by WORTH an emerging training hub in partnership with University of Northampton.

8. Health and Wellbeing Forums

There are seven locality based 'Health and Wellbeing Fora' within the county. These Fora have representatives from a wide range of partners within the localities and are a powerful voice in their local community and ideally placed to deliver public engagement on health, care and wellbeing. The Chair of the NHWBB hosted quarterly Forum Chairs Group meetings, acting as an information conduit between the

NHWBB and Fora, providing the opportunity for the Fora to update the Board on developments within the localities and any issues they would like the Chair to highlight to the Board on their behalf.

Below are updates on the work each individual Forum has completed during 2020/2021.

8.1. Corby

During 2020/21 the Corby Forum continued to meet virtually, receiving updates on the local Covid-19 response as well as continuing to monitor progress of Corby based initiatives.

In March 2021, Hugh Fenton, Vice Chair of the Forum sadly died, which has been a huge loss for the Forum. Hugh had been a member of the Forum for a number of years and was passionate about supporting the community and local charities.

Listed below is an update on the Corby initiatives:

Cancer Rehab

The Corby Health and Fitness team received funding for cancer rehab training in 2019 so that they would be able to launch an exercise based, cancer rehab programme based at Corby East Midlands International Pool and Lodge Park Sports Centre. Seven staff completed this qualification in January 2020. Working with Northamptonshire Sport, the healthcare pathway was agreed in the summer of 2020. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the programme was unable to launch. It is now expected that the programme will be launch during the summer/autumn of 2021.

KHL Community in Sheds

The [KHL Community in Sheds](#) committee have continued to meet virtually, every two weeks during the lockdown period to discuss construction and design, procurement, funding and marketing matters to ensure that the project was ready to proceed when restrictions ceased. Some difficulty has been experienced with sourcing construction supplies and workshop tools following Brexit changes to the EU, however orders have been placed in a timely manner to ensure these will not impact on the expected opening dates. To help alleviate pressure on the contingency budget additional funding of £2500 has been successfully received from the Local Connections Fund.

The committee for the project has been successful in gaining £9945 in funding from the National Lottery Community Fund which will help fund the solar panels, some tools and provide training for volunteers.

Committee members have been spreading the word and created a social media presence (with now 318 friends on Facebook) as well as completing zoom updates for interested parties. A bigger shed might be needed!

Groundworks for the workshop are due to start week commencing 26 April 2021 with an expected opening date now scheduled for late July 2021.

Children and Young People's Mental Health project - CORBY YOUNG MINDS MATTER delivered by Youth Works

Corby Young Minds Matter offered emotional wellbeing support to children, young people, and families in Corby throughout the lockdown year...but not as originally planned.

Delivering Through Lockdown

Following the lockdown announcement in March 2020, support workers and counsellors moved to offering support over the phone, via Zoom and through a face to face crisis service. What we and other agencies across the area noticed initially was the massive drop in young people referring into our services. We worked with school nurses, CAMHS and others to ensure that young people were aware we were still here and increased the reach of our social media to attempt to keep in touch and make sure that people knew we were still there for them in those unique and challenging times.

Going Online

Our Corby Young Minds Matter Facebook and Instagram pages increased their activity and we offered live chat sessions on Tuesday evenings. We had 1063 engagements over the year, but very few young people who went beyond that to engage in real time. Again, this was a trend across other services. Our Crisis Café continued to offer a face-to-face service but was very quiet. The first lockdown saw most people disappearing into their homes and not really engaging much beyond that.

The 'New Normal'

Following the lifting of restrictions, we did start to see an increase in young people and parents/carers engaging with us. By Christmas, we were overwhelmed with referrals into our service showing a 50% increase on the same time the previous year. Our Drop Ins were busy and we noticed that presenting issues were more complex and the number of safeguarding issues we were dealing with also. Over the year we saw 138 young people and 43 families for emotional wellbeing support through our drop ins.

Mental Health First Aid Training

Although very much later than we had planned, we did manage to train up a member of staff to deliver the MHFA training. Three courses were delivered, all of which went down very well with the people who attended. Here's what participants thought....

"I found the course to be a real eye opener. It shocked me how much everyone could relate to at least one part of each chapter of the course. Really enjoyable two days".

"I loved this course, I've enjoyed learning many new strategies and looking more in context at specific strands which affect mental health. Both instructors have been fantastic, very engaging and clearly knowledgeable."

What Else....

Because of the nature of the services we decided not to Furlough any staff, but because of the reduction in young people referring in, we had a few spare staff hours. We decided to engage with young people and find out how they were coping with lockdown. This helped advertise our services and resulted in a significant piece of research which got us exposure on national TV! Very interesting results.

What Next

The Corby Young Minds Project funding helped us to engage with Corby young people and their families in different ways over a very challenging year. We continue to deliver our services from the MIND building on Tuesdays – numbers of young people using our services are higher than ever in the aftermath of lockdown. We hope to continue to deliver and grow our provision in the future. We have managed to gain funding to deliver our Crisis Café drop ins in Corby and will be offering our Happy Families programme over the coming months.

Youth Works - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support During The Covid 19 Lockdown

We are working hard to continue to operate during the current lockdown. We have had to alter the way we run our services to ensure the safety of all those involved. We are still taking referrals for counselling and offering a variety of support services for young people, parents and carers. We are still here for you.

On Line:
You can make a referral for counselling for a young person (ages 10-18) online via our website: www.youthworksnorthamptonshire.org.uk. During the lockdown, counselling sessions and assessments will be conducted on line or over the phone.

We also have an emotional support live chat available on our Facebook and Instagram pages between 6-7pm Monday and Tuesday evenings.

By Phone:
Young people, parents and carers can call for support, advice and practice ideas to manage your mental health and wellbeing.
You can call 01536 512339 between 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. We will either speak to you directly or arrange a time to call you back.
In addition, you can call between 6-7pm Monday and Tuesday on the same number. We will have counsellors and advisors available to give advice on support.

Face to Face:
The only face to face service we are still running is the Crisis Café Drop-in which is open on Thursdays 4-8pm. This service is for young people aged 10-18 who are approaching crisis point. Please call first where possible on 01536 512339.

www.youthworksnorthamptonshire.org.uk
Facebook: Youth Works
Instagram: youth_works_northamptonshire
Twitter: @youthworks

YOUTH WORKS
COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES

LEAP

The Coby LEAP project is a free energy and money saving service specifically created to help local households that need extra support and have currently competed the following:

- 46 virtual or Covid-19 safe home visits (August 20 -March 21)
- Two zoom events for frontline workers during fuel poverty week in November 20
- 2 adverts in a Corby magazine that went to every homes in the borough in August & November 20
- 220 direct mail outs to the worst energy homes in the target areas February 21
- 3 social media blitz and press release in August 2020, November 2020, February 2021
- 1,000 flyers relaunch after COVID19 restrictions in August 2020

LEAP - The Energy and Money Saving Service

FREE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

We are offering local residents a completely **FREE OF CHARGE** service called **LEAP** (Local Energy Advice Partnership). **LEAP** can help you to save money and keep your home warm and cosy.

HOW IT WORKS:
If you are eligible, we will book you an appointment with one of our friendly, qualified advisers. LEAP can:
Help check if you are on the cheapest energy tariffs - could save you over £280 a year.
Install FREE, simple energy saving measures which can save the average household £30 on their energy bills a year.
Give you day-to-day energy efficiency hints and tips and ensure your heating system is set up to keep you warm and save money.
Arrange a FREE telephone advice service to help with benefits, debt and other money problems.
Refer you for further energy efficiency improvements, such as loft insulation or a new boiler.

Call us now on 0800 060 7567*
 (*freephone) to book your appointment, or apply online:
www.applyforleap.org.uk

 LEAP LOCAL ENERGY ADVICE PARTNERSHIP

Are you eligible for LEAP?

VULNERABILITY CRITERIA Anyone in one of the following situations:

- Victim of domestic violence
- Recent bereavement
- Moving in and out of homelessness
- Recent immigrant or asylum seeker
- Physical or sensory disability
- Have ECO/Flax Declaration from your council.

HEALTH CRITERIA Anyone with one of the following:

- Cardiovascular condition (incl. coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, transient ischaemic attack)
- Respiratory condition (incl. COPD, asthma)
- Neurological or neurobiological condition (incl. dementia, Parkinson's disease, MS, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, ME)
- Musculoskeletal conditions (incl. arthritis, limited mobility, recently attended hospital due to a fall)
- Blood conditions (incl. Sickle cell disease, thalassaemia)
- Cancer
- Moderate to severe mental illness (incl. schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression where receiving regular treatment)
- Severe learning disabilities
- Autoimmune or immunodeficiency diseases (e.g. lupus, diabetes, HIV)
- Terminally ill
- Other illness exacerbated by cold (confirmed by GP)
- In possession of a valid NHS Medical Exemption Certificate.

INCOME CRITERIA Anyone receiving one of the following:

- Employment and Support Allowance
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Carer's Allowance
- Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction
- Child Benefit
- A Disability Benefit (incl. Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP)
- MoD administered benefits
- Annual income not more than that shown in the LEAP income matrix below:

Household	Number of children or young persons under 18 in the household				
	0	1	2	3	4
One Adult	£14,250	£19,140	£23,760	£28,380	£33,000
Two Adults	£21,780	£26,400	£31,020	£35,640	£40,260

Pop up Greenpatch Corby

This project runs every Monday from 10.30am – 1.30pm in the garden of the Mind building in Corby. There is currently an average of 8-10 members attending each week plus two staff (we are currently limited to 15 due to restrictions). The project was paused during the last year due to Covid-19 restrictions and resumed at the end of October 2020 with Covid-safe measures and appropriate risk assessments in place. Due to the nature of the group being held outdoors, we have been able to uphold social distancing rules and have strict guidelines in place for hygiene and the sharing of tools etc. We really hope to welcome more members as restrictions ease and have several additional referrals who are planning to join the project once they feel safe and happy to. Members of the group have been referred to the project by Mind or local social prescribing link workers, or have self-referred and attended after hearing about the group through word of mouth or flyers/posters that have been shared.

This project is for anyone who feels they would benefit from being a part of a team working to create a beautiful, inclusive and usable community space in their local area and we hope to help them develop a relationship between their health & wellbeing and an interaction with nature and the



GREEN MINDS

Helping you clear your head space

Come along to one of our free sessions and take an hour out to be **YOURSELF**. Meet new people and build positive relationships through a range of therapeutic activities such as gardening, arts and crafts and supportive conversation.

We are an inclusive community space that encourages good health and wellbeing based in Corby. For any enquiries please contact:
 Polly Shackleton
 07936 941056
polly.shackleton@groundwork.org.uk



outdoors. Being part of a social group with a purpose can help to tackle issues with loneliness, confidence and help promote independence through learning new skills, with an emphasis on growing your own food, healthy eating and regular gentle exercise and activity. The current members of the group have joined for a variety of reasons and are all benefitting hugely from the regular support of staff, as well as from their peers, whilst learning new skills and investing time into their own health & wellbeing.



Green Minds Garden

We are working as a team to create a vibrant community garden that can be enjoyed by the 'Green Minds' group itself, the staff and clients of Mind and, in the future, the wider community. The garden is large and open plan with several distinct zones and established trees, including a calm, contemplative seating area, a wildlife area and rock garden and the current development of a community raised bed vegetable garden. With support from staff, members of the group are growing a variety of flowers and vegetables from seed in our new greenhouse and learning all about the processes involved. This month we are also working on creating a vibrant, heart-shaped herb and flower bed surrounding the seating area and building accessible raised beds to form the vegetable garden.

Whilst working in the garden, the group engages in supportive conversation and peer support and the feedback from many members of the group is that it has become an important part of their week, particularly at a time when many other support systems are currently difficult to access and many are currently struggling with unemployment and loneliness.

B Active Project

The B-Active programme was launched 10th February 2020. It ran for 5 weeks until the COVID19 Lockdown happened in March 2020.

Where your family can B-ACTIVE on your doorstep

- Corby Bowling Club** 01536 601950: With a bar, cafe, club, bowling, fitness and equipment, play area, sports benches and open space. Just bring your own equipment and some imagination for a fun family day out.
- Walden Woodland Park**: Open to the family at your request, with a small free accessible car park, a choice area with grassland walks, fitness trail, duck track, half pipe, skate board area, junior football pitch, basketball court and children's play area.
- East Carlton Park** 01536 770977: Open all year round with the parking and bar/cafeteria facilities available for the whole family. With a cafe, children's play area with equipment for children with disabilities, picnic area, BBQ area, table tennis and a purpose built, sports equipment can be borrowed from the cafe or you can bring your own.
- Woodhead Neighbourhood Centre** 01536 442378: There are a number of activities available, with a fitness, badminton court, table tennis, short indoor tennis or bowls. There is also a multi-use games area and a children's play area.
- Corby International Pool** 01536 404043: Offering a wide range of facilities from swimming to health & fitness in the pool, studio and gym which you can access as a family.
- Lodge Park Sports Centre** 01536 400332: Offering the best opportunities to take part in a full range of leisure activities from football to table tennis, with many fantastic facilities to hire including a full-size sports hall, training hall, fitness studio, gym and an air-seated football pitch.
- Prison Hill Golf Course** 01536 200756: Open to the whole family, with a practice putting green and hitting enclosure to learn and improve before a fun round for the whole family, with an indoor clubhouse for all ages and ability. Having enjoyed a round with the family, the course also boasts a bar and restaurant for a bite to eat or a drink.
- West Glabe Pavilion** 01536 204517: A purpose facility geared for the whole family with a children's play area, table tennis and small 18-hole track. The pavilion has a community room, along with 6-a-side multi-use games area with changing facilities.

What you CAN DO TOGETHER on your doorstep?

- Drop Family Walk**: Take a walk to a family apartment with games like eye spy, scavenger hunt, obstacle courses, quiz, buzz or other on the move games.
- Neighbourhood Walk**: Hazel and Thoroughgate walks are highly accessible from many routes such as Walden Hills, Cottingham Road, Willowbrook Road and Jubilee Avenue. Why not make a trip to the beach or boating lake a fun and natural experience with all of your family?
- Neighbourhood Party**: Take your family back in time and host your own Community Family street party on your doorstep, with family, friends and neighbours. Complete food, drink and socialising with egg and spoon races, sack race and other street sports.
- Table Tennis**: West Glabe and East Carlton Park have outdoor table tennis facilities. Anyone can turn up and play. You can bring your own table tennis equipment or borrow some from the other club.
- Multi-Sport**: As a family or with friends, have you thought about trying a ball or court and running - your own family fun activity or multi-sport sessions - sports equipment may be available to borrow at the venue.
- Swimming**: Go for a family swim together. With a wide range of activities at Corby East Midlands International Pool, there is plenty for everyone. You could even go for a swim, whilst one of the family enjoys a fun diving session. Check out the swimming pool timetable for more information. There are crèche facilities where a baby and swimmer is available, allowing you time to eat, whilst your child plays. Once you have finished your swim your crèche can be brought down to you so you can all enjoy a family swim together.
- Family Fitness**: With lots of public parks situated all over Corby, why not take up some equipment, imagination and some lunch to go and set up a park with your family and friends. Park walk/obstacle and other team drama for the most active weekend.
- Interval Training**: Give up a family walk by challenging children and adults to incorporate different moves, such as running, skipping and hopping. You could also make use of the trees that line the walking path and the swimming pool to use the outdoor fitness equipment at West Glabe, Kingswood, Exlar and Villanova.

Why is it good to B-ACTIVE with your family?

- Family time is meaningful bonding time
- Establish lifelong habits and memories
- It's fun - there are no rules to the way you can exercise as a family
- Give your family time to play together, train together and overcome challenges together
- Improves the whole family's health and well-being
- Meet new families, creating friendships that can last a lifetime.

By getting your children to connect physical activity with thoughts of togetherness, community and fun, you can guide them towards furthering those beliefs with age.

Children seeing their parents, grandparents and other role models active, can inspire them to do the same and if it's an enjoyable experience, they're far more likely to continue as they are older, when they are adults and with their own children.

Families that play together, have fun together and create lifelong memories together.

See organised activity programme in your area: www.corby.gov.uk/B-Active

During the Covid-19 Pandemic from 23rd March 2020 the B-Active project had to change its approach. As sessions could not be held, B-Active adapted and to reach the community, concentrated on using Social Media. Tom Cleary the B-Active Family Project Activator helped created over 80 videos, posts, competitions and information with the aim of supporting families to stay active during the Co-Vid 19 Lockdown. The Council Sport and Play Team also supported the B-Active programme by helping to create these videos and posts. These videos explained imaginative ways in which a family could still stay active and have fun together. Some of the highlighted projects are as follows:

Community Resilience – Happy Feet - Thank You!

Tom Cleary has been supporting the Community Resilience Team throughout the pandemic by calling vulnerable people and picking up and delivering food parcels and medication. As part of a Thank You to all the volunteers and workers in this team, B-Active and the Sport and Play team filmed staff's and volunteer's feet dancing to the Pharrell Williams – Happy song. This was shared by all Council departments and also the International Pool created their own version of the video to thank their customers. This reached over **6800 people** on the B-Active and Sport and Play Facebook site alone.

S and L Rugby Club and Corby Athletics Club

The B-Active project linked with local sports clubs and volunteers and asked each club to film an activity video for families to take part in. S and L Rugby Club and Corby Athletics Club produced video's led by their volunteer coaches. The project aims to link with them for further work after lockdown.

B-Active Bonanza Competition

An interactive competition was held on Facebook where winners could win lots of outdoor and indoor games and prizes if they sent in photos of them and their family being active during lockdown. Although there were only **23 families** who entered, the prizes were won by a family who were amazed and sent in photos of them using the equipment. The posts had a reach of over **12,200 people** and generated **2317** likes, shares and engagements with families, however the challenge to get entries proved more difficult than we thought. Since Lockdown on March 23rd 2020 the Sport and Play B-Active Facebook page has generated: **304 more followers/families**. The B-active Activator was then placed on furlough from June 2020 until May 2021.

The B-active project will continue and relaunch in May 2021. The delivery plan has had to be reduced from the original plan but will focus on outdoor activities during the summer months for families and support local sport club sessions which is now a priority for getting the Corby community back to sessions and staying active. Sessions will run until end of October 2021.

8.2. Daventry

With the arrival of the Covid-19 in the spring of 2020, the Health and Wellbeing Forum meetings were cancelled. However, the relationships formed within the forum proved to be hugely beneficial as our community response to the virus was being established. The forum meetings were reinstated at the end of 2020, and two Zoom catch-up meetings were held.

The pandemic also brought an end to most of our project work funded by Public Health. The only significant part of the Healthy Young Daventry project that maintained activity was the breastfeeding peer support project. The plan to train 15 new mothers as peer supporters (training provided by NHFT's Infant Feeding lead) had to be changed after the first class, with a move to online learning. With everyone cooperating this was managed well and the course trained 13 brand new, enthusiastic peer supporters.

Alongside all the activity with peer supporters and mothers, the project also progressed a Healthy Young Daventry sticker for business premises in Daventry to display, alerting mothers that these premises were providing a suitable environment for breastfeeding.

The success of the first year of the project has been recognised by the NHS Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group, who managed to find some funding to secure another year and a half for the project to run, alongside establishing a similar scheme in Corby, to try to boost breastfeeding rates there.



Healthy Young Daventry Sticker

Our Peer Support Coordinator now sits on the county Breastfeeding Strategy Steering Group, and a Steering Group has been established to direct and support the Peer Support project as it progresses and will be looking to try to secure a more sustainable funding approach for peer support across the county.

8.3. East Northants

Even though it has been an incredibly challenging year due to the current pandemic there are still plenty of positive actions that took place to support the residents of East Northamptonshire through the work of the East Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum.

The two Public Health funded projects which relate to the Forum's priority of **promoting young people's mental health** made a positive start in supporting young people across the district. The Healthwatch Northamptonshire project called Young Healthwatch centres around engaging young people in tackling the health and wellbeing conditions relevant to them and empowering them to manage their own health and wellbeing. This was planned to take place through a health, wellbeing and physical activity survey for secondary school students but unfortunately this had to be put on hold due to lockdown procedures just as the survey was ready to go out to schools. It was decided that this survey would be carried out later in 2021 once young people are completely back in school and have full access to services in their local areas again.

The second project titled SHAPE (**Self-Harm Awareness & Prevention Enterprise**), the exciting new collaboration between Rushden Mind, Service Six and CHAT, whose joint enterprise brings together expertise in working with mental health and young people, made an excellent start within schools across the district before lockdown procedures halted the progress of the service. Some of the 1-2-1 sessions with young people were able to resume during lockdown through virtual activity sessions. The project is now looking to resume and to evolve some of the group works sessions into the schools PSHE lessons around the subject.

Further positive action has been made in the Forum's priority of tackling **overweight and obesity in adults and children** and even though the pandemic closed leisure services, there has been an increase of walking, running and cycling activities seen across the district.

The Forum's priority of **promoting independence and healthy / active ageing among older people** had to see the OTAGO sessions across the district, these are known as 'Stronger Seniors' sessions run by SERVE move into an online class format during the pandemic. SERVE also created some online exercise classes to support carers too, which have been very popular and successful.

Lastly, the Forum's **family focus support** priority has seen a specific sub-group created to focus on supporting parents with under 5's to engage in services, but unfortunately the group had to put its plans on hold due to the pandemic. With the exit out of lockdown now in progress, the group has reformed to begin to create a plan of action to support their priority.

- **Understanding of community tensions and community cohesion issues as social distancing continues.** *Work closely with our harder to reach groups to understand the impact and effect on all our communities.*
- **To continue to provide support to the most vulnerable and shielded people in our community in partnership with our volunteer groups -** *Explore database for community and voluntary sector (directory of services), links with social prescribing and adult social care, ensure all individuals are receiving appropriate support.*

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that Northampton Town has strong communities. The number of volunteers that have stepped forward to support those that are most vulnerable in our communities has been overwhelming. In Northampton we had 6,000 volunteers (126 groups) who signed up specifically to support the Covid-19 efforts. General Practice Alliance are developing a volunteer passport to support enabling an increase in volunteering in partnership with Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire.

Northampton's community resilience hub has supported more than 1,500 residents. The support initially provided included; delivery of emergency food parcels, food shopping and collection, help getting online and prescription collection. However, more recently, the requests for help include support for those that are social isolated and or lonely and for those suffering with their mental health and financial hardship.

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire have developed a training programme for community and volunteer groups based around recovery and in response to the state of the sector report, this involved bite size training online/virtually, with the events well attended. ACRE have been supporting a number of groups as well as encouragement of the newly established groups to convert to good neighbour schemes.



Lockdown has had a significant effect on social and economic well-being. Small charities and food banks in Northamptonshire have applied for funds from the “Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies” funded through DEFRA. All of the £300,000 allocated to West Northants has been awarded through rounds of grants, coordinated by Northampton Hope Centre, supported by the local authority.

There has been a Successful Thriving Communities fund application, to support the development of a Green social prescribing hub. This will develop a program of opportunities in partnership with the community. Learning will be shared with other parks across the town. Part of this ambition is to develop an active map of Northampton promoting people to be more physically active.

There is lots of place based working developing, opportunities for partners to strengthen partnerships and maximise impact at a neighbourhood level. Working with local communities at a place based approach, to understand all their needs, identify their situation and what support is needed. There is a proposal for the West is to have three Community Development workers, two Community Development workers. Community profiles have been developed, with four areas identified with the right Governance, appetite to engage, population development and near health centres.

- Blackthorn / Goldings
- Kings Heath / Ryehill
- Spring Borough /Town Centre
- St David's

The Community Safety & Engagement Team have developed a weekly newsletter that is disseminated to an extensive community engagement list including resident's associations, park management committees, community forums, community leaders, community and voluntary groups, parish councils, elected members and others.

Organisations delivering projects as a result of the Public Health funding have managed to adapt their working to deliver outcomes, despite Covid-19:

- **Spring Charity** - The Spring Charity delivered the Spring Charity Venture Project virtually and without a break during the lockdowns that covered December 2020 – March 2021: after Easter they opened to limited numbers for Stay & Play groups on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. During the lockdowns, continued to provide storytelling, songs and early learning skills development activities on-line on Tuesday mornings. The creativity workshops continued on-line with directions and materials being distributed at one-to-one, 30 minute outdoor appointments on Thursday mornings. This allowed the monitoring of adult mental health and well-being and provided support, with referral to other agencies such as Homestart where possible. Solihull Parenting groups running online. Measuring good outcomes. Freedom programme up and running, started in April.
- **Befriending project** – up and running by Age UK, making use of walking outdoors, starting to see an increase over the last few months as community members receive the vaccination and feel more confident to be around others.



- **Well-Being Hub** – delivery taking place virtually due to not being able to access the space, good attendance at the courses online and receiving positive feedback.
- **Happy Cafes** - Umbrella Fair Organisation and Heathers launched monthly online meet-ups in November 2020 and have been holding sessions each month following the Action for Happiness calendar themes. United African Association began in March and have run two successful sessions. Between the three organisations, 85 people have taken part, an average of 6 attendees at each session. 261 people have signed up to be part of the groups, enabling them to receive information about when the sessions are running and follow up emails regarding what was covered in each session. Local facilitator learning groups ran every four weeks to share learning, best practice, discuss ways to promote the sessions and boost attendance. The sessions that have run have been extremely successful. Feedback gathered via Survey monkey shows the following:
 - 78.26% of respondents said that they enjoyed the session very much.
 - 91.3% said they are either quite likely or very likely to put into practice what they learnt.
 - 73.92% said their wellbeing had improved 'quite a bit' or 'a lot' since the start of the session. (100% gave a positive response to this question).

Anecdotal evidence has also been gathered and shows that the sessions are impactful not just for participants, but for facilitators. There have been a number of return attendees which has helped to develop a sense of community and peer learning, as well as working with social Prescribing Link Workers and IAPT and are cross-promoting services. We will also be starting to support Northamptonshire Rape Crisis to roll out closed sessions for their clients.

Future plans of the forum include; working with Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire to support the Truth Poverty Commission and the volunteer passport. Develop an active map for Northampton promoting increased physical activity and consider ways to utilise the community hubs for access to IT for literacy and training courses. Continuing focus on reducing obesity, smoking in pregnancy and self-harm in children. Consideration as to how to develop a partnership board for Northampton recognising the particular needs and pockets of deprivation in the town in partnership with statutory providers, community organisations and citizens.

A personalisation program is bringing together:

- Focus groups of social prescriber link worker feedback alongside voluntary sector colleagues will inform the next steps
- The development of the volunteer passport in partnership with VIN
- In partnership with Northamptonshire Carers and Improved Access to Psychological therapy a programme to support Group Consultations for Long Term Conditions
- Working in partnership with SERVE and VIN (Home@lone), a locality coordinator will be in place from 1st of April

Action for Happiness Hub now has a virtual home at Delapre Abbey and Action for Happiness champions training should be available in the Summer

Chair of Northampton Forum is on the national advisory group for the prevention concordat and Northampton has been chosen as one of the exemplar sites within the concordat.

8.6. South Northants

The Forum has been unable to meet during the pandemic due to the majority of the Healthy Communities Team seconded to the Community Hub to assist with the county's Covid-19 response. Work has continued during the pandemic with partners who have played a vital part in delivering support to our most vulnerable residents, for example food and medication deliveries, calls for residents facing loneliness and isolation.

During the pandemic the two Public Health funded projects continued:

- The Community Cooking Project has provided online cooking tutorials, easy to cook recipes, and offered meals in a bag with recipes cards to families in need via various agencies. This project has received two amounts of DEFRA funding to be able to continue with and expand their virtual programme.
- The Renew 169 Wellbeing Café has continued to offer services virtually during the pandemic and has been able to secure some additional funding through a South Northants Council Community Grant to keep the project sustainable for the next two years.



The South Northamptonshire Healthy Communities Team have been offering support on physical activity and mental health through social media as well as conducting an online wellbeing survey for South Northamptonshire Council staff. A number of the Healthy Communities Team have been trained as Mental

Health First Aiders and have become part of a network supporting staff through the challenges of working through the past year.

8.7. Wellingborough

Since the appointment of a Community Health and Wellbeing Officer the Forum has undergone a period of refresh, with the Forum opened up to new members to try and engage at a more localised community level. The Forum has revised its Terms of Reference to enable the Forum to more operationally focused with a view to drive collaboration between partners. A new action plan is being developed for the next 12 months focusing on supporting community groups to be part of the Covid-19 recovery around mental health and promoting the role of using outdoor space in improving health and wellbeing. The revised Forum held three virtual meetings during the pandemic.

The Public Health funded Happy Heads and befriending 'Home@lone' projects continued through the various phases of Covid-19 restrictions, whilst the Park Run initiative had to cease. Happy Heads is a project which supports wellbeing in children aged between 5-11 years within their local schools and communities, to help build emotional resilience and develop a healthy mind. Home @lone aims to support isolated people by providing them with a trained volunteer supporter who will contact them regularly and provide companionship.

One Wellingborough is a partnership between the Victoria Centre and Glamis Hall to provide additional support and capacity to the most vulnerable within our communities. One Wellingborough have created a cohesive programme to support local vulnerable groups, such as food deliveries and medicine supplies. The voluntary sector has been key to the COVID19 response in Wellingborough.

9. Next Steps

It is a statutory requirement for all upper tier Councils to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board for their area. Following vesting day for the new unitary Councils on the 1st April 2021, the North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Boards have been created, with their inaugural meetings taking place in June. Each Board will follow the lead from the previous countywide Board in consisting of Board members from a wide range of strategic partners involved in the health, care and wellbeing of the population within their respective unitary boundaries. At the Boards inaugural meeting, each Board will begin to set its future direction of work as well as starting to undertake their statutory functions.

As previously mentioned in this report there will be a statutory requirement for ICS Health and Care Partnership and Place Based partnerships to be established in the county. These partnerships will also bring together health, social care, public health and other partners to develop a plan to address the wider health and care needs of the County. This plan will inform decision making by ICS NHS bodies and local authorities.

Going forward there will be an overlap in the functions of the ICS Health and Care Partnership, Place Based Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBBs). Work will continue throughout 2021 on how to minimise the duplication of work, with several options being considered for the best approach for HWBBs to align with the new ICS health and partnership structures. The new Boards will work together with NHCP to facilitate streamlining governance whilst enabling each board to retain its distinctive influence to find a mutually beneficial decision making process for health, care and wellbeing services for local residents within the new unitary/ICS footprint.

The proposals will look at operating at a place based level, that can bring a consistent strategic shared purpose, with the HWBBs able to reach into communities referencing the Director of Public Health Annual Report and JSNA to underpin local ambitions.

Later in 2021 work will start on considering what the ICS place based partnership arrangements look like and whether they should be supported by smaller forums/delivery groups. Historically local Health and Wellbeing Fora have provided a valuable link into local communities as part of the prevention and early intervention agenda, using intelligence and network links to deliver targeted projects, and therefore learning from this previous arrangement will feed into the next stage of decision-making.

10. Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this report, namely: Cheryl Bird, Kath Hall, Sam Fitzgerald, Jason Kent, Deborah Mbofana, Julia Partridge, Tim O'Donovan, Adam Smith, Crisni Waring, Lucy Wightman, Nikita Wiseman, Corby Health and Wellbeing Forum, Daventry Health and Wellbeing Forum, East Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum, Kettering Health and Wellbeing Forum, Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum, South Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum, Wellingborough Health and Wellbeing Forum.

11. Contact Us

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

13TH JUNE 2021

COUNCIL

15TH JUNE 2021

COUNCILLOR WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HR AND CORPORATE SERVICES: COUNCILLOR MIKE HALLAM

Report Title	Appointments to Outside Bodies
Report Author	Catherine Whitehead, Monitoring Officer. Catherine.Whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	29 June 2021
West S151	Martin Henry	29 June 2021
Other Director/SME	N/A	N/A

List of Appendices

Appendix A – List of Outside Bodies and Proposed Appointees

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Outside bodies are external organisations which have requested that the Council appoint a representative to them. In most cases the outside bodies to which West Northamptonshire Council is asked to appoint representatives are the same as those appointed to by the predecessor authorities.
- 1.2. Appointments to outside bodies can be an important mechanism for community leadership, partnership and joint working and knowledge and information sharing. In some cases

Members appointed will be council representatives i.e. they will be expected to represent the Council's views and interests at meetings. On other bodies, Members will be nominees where their main responsibility will be to the organisation to which they have been appointed. In either case the bodies to which Members are appointed will be expected to make this clear to the appointees. In all cases, outside bodies have separate governance structures to the Council.

- 1.3. Members should note that, in the case of outside bodies and other organisations with executive functions, Cabinet has already delegated power to the leader to determine these appointments. However, the list attached as Appendix A is attached for completeness.

2. Executive Summary

- 1.4. The report seeks the endorsement of Cabinet (for bodies with executive functions) and Council (for bodies with non-executive functions) for the appointment of Members to the outside bodies listed in Appendix A.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet and Council:
 - a) Note and endorse the appointments to outside bodies set out at Appendix A
 - b) Note that further work is required in relation to a small number of outside bodies and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader(s) of any group to whom a place on an outside body has been allocated, to make such appointments in due course.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Council is responsible for appointing Members to a range of outside bodies. By making such appointments the Council can ensure its interests are represented and/or those bodies receive appropriate support from the nominated Members.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Council has established a schedule of outside bodies to which West Northamptonshire Council is responsible for making appointments. These bodies are generally local in nature but may include some national or regional bodies. In some cases, these are strategic organisations where Members can shape and influence policy affecting West Northamptonshire. In others, the role of the appointed Member is important in promoting the relationship with the Council or providing support to the body concerned. The Appendix identifies the places that the Council can appoint to in each case. The names of Members have been provided by the political groups.
- 5.2 The list of outside bodies has largely been inherited from the predecessor councils. In some cases officers have taken steps to contact bodies where further information is required prior to nominations being made. In such cases, delegated authority is sought that these appointments

may be made in accordance with the recommendation set out at 3.1 b). In some instances these bodies have advised the Council that appointments are no longer required to be made by the Council (e.g. the Sir Thomas White Charity). In these cases the details of the bodies have been removed from the list at Appendix A.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Once the decision is confirmed, the appointments will be communicated to the Members and the outside bodies and partnerships. The schedule of appointments will be kept under review during the year and Democratic Services will deal with any changes that arise.
- 6.2 The Council may choose not to appoint to the outside bodies in Appendix A but would need to consider whether there would be any implications arising for the Council or the body concerned by not making an appointment.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising directly from the proposals. Any costs associated with the appointment of Members to outside bodies will be met from existing resources.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

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 Consultation has been undertaken with the political groups on West Northamptonshire Council. Where necessary, consultation has taken place with the outside bodies concerned.

7.5 Climate Impact

- 7.5.1 No specific impacts have been identified.

7.6 Community Impact

- 7.6.1 No specific impacts have been identified.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None.

West Northamptonshire Council Outside Body Appointments

Previously appointed by NCC or mixed

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)	New representatives	Notes
<p>Becketts and Sargeants Educational Foundation</p> <p>Promoting the education of persons under the age of 25 years who are in need of financial assistance and who are resident in the borough of Northampton and are attending schools or full time course of education</p>	2 x nominative governors, appointed by the local education authority	Cllr Sam Rumens Cllr Jane Birch	Cllr Phil Larratt Cllr Zoe Smith	1 x Conservative/ 1 x Labour
<p>Bliss School Foundation</p> <p>Provides financial help to promote the education, wellbeing and development of the pupils of the Bliss Charity School, Nether Heyford</p>	1 x representative governor	Cllr Adam Brown	Cllr Adam Brown	Bugbrooke ward
<p>Blue Coat Educational Charity</p> <p>Provision of educational grants to church of England schools within the borough of Northampton and to individuals in need of financial</p>	3 x nominated trustees	Cllr Matthew Golby Cllr Mike Hallam Vacant	Cllr Matthew Golby Cllr Mike Hallam Cllr Keith Holland-Delamere	Northampton-focussed.

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)	New representatives	Notes
assistance who reside within the borough of Northampton.				
<p>Clipston School Charity</p> <p>The charity is the effective owner of the grade 2 listed 17th century school with the trustees active in safeguarding it for the future of the village by monitoring any proposals for alterations to the building, and by making observations to the relevant bodies. With only limited funds, the charity makes occasional donations to the school for specific projects.</p>	2 x additional governors	Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift Vacant	Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift Cllr Kevin Parker	Brixworth ward
<p>Clubs for Young People Northamptonshire</p> <p>A charity that works closely with the community to ensure that there are a variety of safe but enjoyable activities for children from the ages of 8 to 19, from roller skating events to national boxing competitions.</p>	1 x representative	Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift	Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift	

Appendix A

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)	New representatives	Notes
Edmund Arnold's Charity Income shall be applied for the benefit of deserving and necessitous persons resident in the parishes of Nether Heyford, Stony Stratford and St Giles Northampton by way of grants to the individual or to organisations for various specified purposes.	1 x representative trustee, appointed by NCC	Cllr Adam Brown	Cllr Karen Cooper	Appointment made by the local authority as successor body to HM Justices of the Peace for the county of Northampton in Quarter Sessions
Environment Agency: Anglian Great Ouse Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	1 x representative, to hold a voting position every third year		Cllr Pinder Chauhan	There is 1 shared voting place between Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Northamptonshire Councils. WNC will appoint the voting member in 2022/23. It can send a member as an observer in 2021/22.
Environment Agency: Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	1 x representative 1 x representative to be shared with North Northamptonshire Council		Cllr Pinder Chauhan Cllr Phil Larratt	WNC and NNC each have 1 voting place and there is a second voting place

Appendix A

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)	New representatives	Notes
				<p>shared between the two authorities.</p> <p>A decision on the sharing arrangement has yet to be taken.</p>
<p>Harpole Charitable Trust</p> <p>To benefit the residents of Harpole Northamptonshire and the surrounding area to relieve the needs of those who are poor or otherwise in need and to advance education especially for children and young people.</p>	<p>1 x representative, appointed by the local education authority</p>	<p>Cllr Pinder Chauhan</p>	<p>Cllr Adam Brown</p>	<p>Bugbrooke ward</p>
<p>Richard Capell's Educational Foundation</p> <p>Small grants for educational activities in Flore village only</p>	<p>1 x trustee</p>	<p>Cllr Steve Osborne</p>	<p>Cllr Dan Lister</p>	<p>Long Buckby ward</p>
<p>Scaldwell School Charity</p> <p>Providing grants to individuals and organisations in Scaldwell Northamptonshire for educational purposes.</p>	<p>1 x trustee</p>	<p>Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift</p>	<p>Cllr Kevin Parker</p>	<p>Brixworth ward</p>

Appendix A

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)	New representatives	Notes
Silverstone Estates Ltd	1 x non-executive director – Leader of the Council	Cllr Matthew Golby	Cllr Jonathan Nunn	Representation was linked to the loan agreed by NCC in 2010
Stoke Bruerne Canal Partnership To co-ordinate the interests of its members as required, working towards achieving the enhancement of the Canal Corridor in Stoke Bruerne.	1 x representative, for information only	Cllr Adil Sadygov	Cllr Louisa Fowler	Towcester and Roade ward
Everdon Activities Centre Residential field studies centre for 5-11 year olds, offering environmental studies activities.	2 x representatives, to reflect major parties	Cllr Amy Howard Vacant	Cllr David James Cllr Lauryn Harrington-Carter	
The Hervey and Elizabeth Ekins Charity To promote education in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England of young persons residing in the area of benefit, that is the borough of Northampton and the parish of Great Doddington.	1 – 2 x nominative trustees	Cllr Stephen Legg (NCC) Cllr Phil Larratt (NBC)	Cllr Andy Kilbride Cllr Stephen Hibbert	The Charity's constitution specifies 1 appointee by NCC as the local education authority and 1 by NBC who resides in, or represents, an area of benefit. Appointees do not need to be

Appendix A

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)	New representatives	Notes
				members of the appointing council. The Charity is content to have 1 or 2 WNC appointees.
<p>Thomas Roe Foundation</p> <p>The charity provides financial assistance for educational purposes to young persons under the age of 25 who reside within the parishes of Brixworth and Scaldwell. It also provides financial assistance to the school in this area.</p>	1 x representative	Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift	Cllr Kevin Parker	Brixworth ward
<p>Welford Educational Trust</p> <p>To promote education (including social and physical training) of persons under the age of 25 years who are resident in the Ancient Parish of Welford and who are in need of financial assistance.</p>	1 x representative	Cllr Cecile Irving-Swift	Cllr Jonathan Harris	Brixworth ward
<p>Northamptonshire Music & Performing Arts Trust</p>	1 x representative	Cllr Dudley Hughes	Cllr Alison Eastwood	

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)	New representatives	Notes
To provide the young people of Northamptonshire with music and performing arts opportunities.				
Northamptonshire Records Office - Technical and Advisory Panel	2 x representatives	Cllr Andre Gonzalez de Savage Cllr Martin Griffiths	Cllr Andre Gonzalez de Savage Cllr Stephen Hibbert	
Northampton Theatres Trust Ltd Board	3 x representatives	Cllr Matthew Golby (NCC) Cllr Brandon Eldred (NBC) Cllr Danielle Stone (NBC)	Cllr Adam Brown Cllr Jamal Alwahabi	Following the reorganisation of local government in Northamptonshire the Trust has requested two members be appointed, representing the administration and opposition.
Northamptonshire Action with Communities in Rural England	3 x representatives	Cllr Catherine Lomax (DDC) Cllr Fabienne Fraser-Allen (DDC) Cllr Malcolm Waters (NCC)	Cllr David James Cllr Peter Matten Cllr Rosie Humfreys	2 x Conservative/1 x Liberal Democrat NACRE has been contacted concerning their expectations about the number of representatives in future.

Previously appointed by DDC

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)		Notes
A5 Joint Member Transport Group To raise awareness of the economic role of the A5 and support a co-ordinated approach to future development.	2 x representatives	Cllr Alan Chantler Cllr Catherine Lomax	Cllr Alan Chantler Cllr Rosie Humfreys	1 x Conservative / 1 x Liberal Democrat
Citizens Advice Daventry & District	1 x representative	Cllr Peter Matten	Cllr Peter Matten	
Daventry Community Association To benefit the residents of Daventry and the neighbourhood with the provision of a community centre for voluntary and other organisations to advance education, and provide for social welfare and recreation leisure time activities.	1 x trustee	Cllr Mark Wesley	Cllr Terry Gifford	Located in Daventry West ward
Daventry Consolidated Charity To relieve either generally or individually persons resident in the Daventry & district area who	2 x trustees	Cllr Deanna Eddon Cllr Catherine Lomax	Cllr Colin Morgan Cllr Rosie Humfreys	1 x Conservative / 1 x Liberal Democrat

Appendix A

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)		Notes
are in condition of need, hardship or distress.				
Daventry [now West Northamptonshire] Norse Joint Venture – Director Provision of environmental services in the Daventry area	1 x director	Cllr Jo Gilford	Cllr Jo Gilford	Previous DDC appointee was the portfolio holder
Daventry [now West Northamptonshire] Norse Liaison Board	5 x representatives	Cllr Wayne Howard Cllr Deanna Eddon Cllr David Smith Cllr Catherine Lomax Cllr Wendy Randall	Cllr Colin Morgan Cllr David Smith Cllr Charles Morton Cllr Wendy Randall Cllr Jonathan Harris	3 x Conservative / 1 x Liberal Democrat / 1 x Labour
Daventry Volunteer Centre	1 x representative	Cllr Alan Hills	Cllr David Smith	
Daventry Estate Company Ltd Private residential landlord owned by DDC. It lets out 32 houses in Middlemore, Daventry.	3 x representatives	Cllr Jo Gilford Cllr Colin Morgan Cllr Richard Micklewright	Cllr Adam Brown Cllr Colin Morgan Cllr Stephen Hibbert	
Futures Housing Group – Insight Committee Organisation providing affordable housing and housing services	1 x representative	Cllr Daniel Cribbin	Cllr Daniel Cribbin	

Previously appointed by SNC

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)		Notes
Citizens Advice Bureau North Oxon & South Northants	1 x representative	Cllr Fiona Baker	Cllr Fiona Baker	
Local Action Group - Aylesbury Vale, Rural Milton Keynes and South Northamptonshire LEADER Programme Support for enhancing farm productivity; rural SMEs and farm diversification; rural tourism; provision of rural services; and increasing forest productivity.	1 x representative	Cllr Stephen Clarke	Cllr Stephen Clarke	
South Northamptonshire Leisure Trust The Trust advises on facilities and grant applications, makes grants to sporting organisations and acts to further sports and leisure in South Northamptonshire.	1 x representative	Cllr Roger Clarke	Cllr Greg Lunn	
South Northants Volunteer Bureau	1 x representative	Cllr Rosie Herring	Cllr Rosie Herring	

Previously appointed by NBC

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)		Notes
Brackmills Industrial Estate Business Improvement District Board	1 x director	Cllr James Hill	Cllr James Hill	
Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee	2 x representatives	Cllr Phil Larratt Cllr Stephen Hibbert	Cllr Anna King Cllr Stephen Hibbert	
Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust	1 x trustee	Cllr Tim Hadland	Cllr Adam Brown	
78 Derngate Trust	1 x trustee	Cllr Brandon Eldred	Cllr Alison Eastwood	
Kingsthorpe Manor and Town Charity Income is applied for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Ecclesiastical Parishes of St. John the Baptist and St. David, Kingsthorpe, Northampton.	2 x trustees	Cllr Phil Larratt Cllr Brian Sargeant	Cllr Cheryl Hawes Cllr Mike O'Connor (Kingsthorpe Parish Council)	
Museum of Leathercraft (National Leather Collection)	3 x representatives	Cllr Penny Flavell Cllr Arthur McCutcheon Cllr Sally Beardsworth	Cllr Penny Flavell Cllr Bob Purser Cllr Sally Beardsworth	1 x Conservative / 1 x Labour / 1 x Liberal Democrat

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)		Notes
<p>Northampton Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>The CSP brings together a range of partners engaged in activities which contribute towards making Northampton a safe place in which to live, work and visit.</p>	2 x representatives	Cllr Anna King Cllr Phil Larratt	Cllr Anna King Cllr André Gonzalez de Savage	
<p>Northampton Hope Centre</p> <p>Hope is a progressive anti-poverty charity that works to improve the lives of anyone affected by poverty and exclusion.</p>	1 x trustee	Cllr Jonathan Nunn	Cllr Jonathan Nunn	
<p>Northampton Leisure Trust Board</p> <p>Organisation operating leisure facilities in the Northampton area.</p>	2 x trustees	Cllr Anna King Cllr Zoe Smith	Cllr Greg Lunn Cllr Harry Barrett	1 x Conservative / 1 x Labour
<p>Northampton Municipal Church Charity</p> <p>The Charity runs an almshouse in Northampton and also makes grants to individuals in need, resident in the Northampton</p>	2 x trustees	Cllr Penny Flavell Cllr Brian Sergeant	Cllr Penny Flavell Cllr Brian Sergeant	

Appendix A

Organisation / Purpose	Appointments	Previous representative(s)		Notes
Borough Council area, and to organisations that support such people.				
Northampton Partnership Homes Board ALMO managing housing services	4 x board members	Cllr Alan Bottwood Cllr Andrew Kilbride Cllr Mary Markham Cllr Zoe Smith	Cllr Nigel Hinch Cllr Andrew Kilbride Cllr Emma Roberts Jane Carr, Director of Transformation	3 x Conservative / 1 x Labour
Northampton Rape and Incest Crisis Centre	2 x representatives	Cllr Danielle Stone Cllr Catherine Russell	Cllr Koulla Jolley Cllr Terrie Eales	2 x Labour
Northampton Town Football Supporters Trust	2 x liaison members	Cllr Phil Larratt Cllr Graham Walker	Cllr Phil Bignell Cllr Adam Brown	
Northampton Twinning Association	2 x representatives	Cllr Terrie Eales Cllr Jamie Lane	Cllr Jake Roberts Cllr Gareth Eales	1 x Conservative / 1 x Labour
Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone Board	2 x board members	Cllr Jonathan Nunn Cllr Tim Hadland	Cllr Jonathan Nunn Cllr Lizzy Bowen	
Northampton Town Centre Business Improvement District Board	1 x director	Cllr Jonathan Nunn	Cllr Jonathan Nunn	

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

15th July 2021

Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council

Report Title	Appointment of Political Assistants
Report Author	Catherine Whitehead, Monitoring Officer. Catherine.Whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO (for West and joint papers)	Catherine Whitehead	30 th June 2021
West S151 (for West and joint papers)	Martin Henry	30 th June 2021
Other Director/SME	Anna Earnshaw	5 th July 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix A – s9 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 relating to political assistants

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of members on the appointment of political assistants for the Leading Groups of the Council in accordance with the opportunity afforded by the provisions in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 set out at Appendix A.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 1989 governs the appointment of Political Assistants to provide assistance to political groups represented on the Council. Under its terms and following the Local Elections on 6th May 2021 two political groups meet the qualifying criteria for the allocation of a Political Assistants. Council is invited to consider the appointment of Political Assistants to the Conservative and Labour Groups on the Council. There is currently no budget allocation for the appointment of political assistants and therefore during the first year budget would come from reserves.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Council:

- a) Agrees to the appointment of political assistants under the terms of the Local Government Act 1989 with effect from this Annual Council until to be reviewed at the next Annual Council meeting and subject to a maximum renewal to the Annual Council following the elections in 2025.
- b) Agrees that in accordance with the qualifying criteria posts are allocated to the Conservative and Labour Groups.
- c) Requests that the Leaders of the Conservative and Labour Groups advise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services of the wishes of their Groups on the filling of those posts.

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 Following the outcome of the election in May 2021 the Labour and Conservative groups meeting the qualifying criteria for having a political assistant.

- The Leaders of the Conservative and Labour Groups have expressed an interest in having support from a political assistant the appointment is described as being made “for the purpose of providing assistance, in the discharge of any of their functions as members of a relevant authority, to members of any political group to which members of the authority belong”;
- any Council may have only three such posts at any given time, but appointments can only be made if posts are allocated to all of the groups who qualify – in West Northamptonshire this is the Conservative and Labour Groups.
- to qualify, a group must have at least one tenth of the total membership of the authority – in West Northamptonshire this is a minimum of ten Members.
- the posts are fixed term and operate on an annual renewal basis with a maximum renewal of four years ie to the Annual meeting following the Local elections (i.e approximately four years) - the next one being 2025.
- the level of remuneration is controlled by law.

5. Report Background

5.1 Under Section 9 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a local authority may appoint assistants for political groups, subject to specific conditions including their remuneration. The key features of this statutory provision (set out in full at Appendix A) are as follows;

5.2 Further provisions within the Act ensure that, where such posts are established no appointments can be made until posts have been established for all qualifying groups.

5.3 Northampton Borough Council was the only predecessor Council that employed political assistants. As a result of the restrictions outlined above any existing contracts ended on 20th May 2021 at the Annual Meeting following the election.

5.4 Any decision to appoint political assistants sits with the new administration of the qualifying groups. The Leaders of both groups have expressed an interest in appointing political assistants.

- 5.5 The budget for these political assistants ie both Conservative and Labour was on the basis of a salary of £31,118 with on costs taking the total budget allocation to just over £80,260. This budget is available to fund the proposed posts. The salaries of political assistants have a set maximum salary level prescribed by law. The maximum salary (£34,986) is determined by the Local Government (Assistants for Political Groups) (Remuneration) (England) Order 2006.
- 5.6 The legislation also requires that the Council's standing orders must provide for the restrictions set out and therefore the Council's Constitution will be amended to ensure that it includes reference to the restrictions in relation to political groups as set out in Appendix A.
- 5.7 The legislation also makes it clear that the Council cannot delegate its functions to Political Assistants and that Political Assistants cannot manage any of the Council's staff. This is to ensure that the role of political assistants is confined to providing assistance to political groups as set out in the legislation and nothing else.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The proposal is to appoint political assistants for the two largest groups on the authority. The legislation is very prescriptive about the appointment. The choices are therefore to decide to appoint the political assistants or not. The appointment of political assistants will result in additional costs not previously budgeted for. However, the two group leaders of the leading groups have both indicated that they wish to appoint political assistants on the basis that this will support the members of their group in carrying out their roles.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are financial implications as set out in the body of the report. The current budget for these posts is £80,260 which is sufficient to fund two posts at £31,118 with on costs. If a third group were to reach 10% of the membership they would be entitled to a political assistant and there is no provision for this however this is not anticipated.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 There are specific legal implications which are set out in the body of the report. Appointments must be in accordance with the regulations and at a level which is on or below the prescribed maximum. The period of employment and a range of other matters in relation to the appointments are prescribed in legislation. The provisions are attached at Appendix A.

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 Consultation has been undertaken with the leading political groups on West Northamptonshire Council.

7.5 **Climate Impact**

7.5.1 No specific impacts have been identified.

7.6 **Community Impact**

7.6.1 No specific impacts have been identified.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

9 Assistants for political groups.

(1) Nothing in section 7(1) above or in any enactment, standing order or rule of law by virtue of which it is unlawful for a relevant authority or any committee or sub-committee of such an authority to have regard to any person's political activities or affiliations in determining whether he should be appointed to any paid office or employment under the authority shall apply to the appointment of a person in pursuance of this section.

(2) An appointment is an appointment in pursuance of this section if—

(a) the appointment is made for the purpose of providing assistance, in the discharge of any of their functions as members of a relevant authority, to the members of any political group to which members of the authority belong;

(b) the terms of the appointment comply with subsection (3) below;

(c) the appointment is to one of not more than three posts which a relevant authority have decided to create for the purposes of this section; and

(d) each of those posts falls, under the standing orders of the authority, to be filled from time to time in accordance with the wishes of a political group to which the post has been allocated under those standing orders.

(3) The terms on which any person is appointed to or holds any appointment in pursuance of this section must be such as secure that the annual rate of remuneration for the post is less than the relevant amount and that the appointment terminates at or before the end of—

(a) in the case of a post under an authority in England and Wales, the day in the appropriate year on which the authority hold the meeting which they are required to hold in pursuance of paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 (annual meeting of principal councils); and

(b) in the case of a post under an authority in Scotland, the first day after the appointment on which a meeting is held in pursuance of the requirement under paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that a meeting is held within twenty-one days from the date of an election.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3) above the annual rate of remuneration for a post under a relevant authority is less than the relevant amount if the annual rate of remuneration in respect of the post—

(a) is less than £13,500 or such higher amount as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument specify; and

(b) where that post is a part time post, would be less than that amount if it were a full time post and carried remuneration at the same rate;

and a statutory instrument containing an order under this subsection shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(4A) An order made under subsection (4)(a) above in relation to England or Wales may, instead of specifying an amount, specify a point on a relevant scale specified by the order.

(4B) A “relevant scale” is a scale consisting of points and of amounts corresponding to those points.

(4C) In relation to any time while an order made by virtue of subsection (4A) above is in force, the amount that at that time corresponds to the point specified by the order is to be treated for the purposes of subsection (4)(a) above as specified by the order.

(5) The standing orders of a relevant authority the members of which are divided into different political groups shall, for the purposes of subsection (2)(d) above—

(a) prohibit the making of an appointment to any post allocated to a political group until the authority have allocated a post to each of the groups which qualify for one;

(b) prohibit the allocation of a post to a political group which does not qualify for one; and

(c) prohibit the allocation of more than one post to any one political group.

(6) Subject to subsection (7) below, where the members of a relevant authority are divided into different political groups, a group shall qualify for a post if—

(a) the membership of that group comprises at least one-tenth of the membership of the authority;

(b) the number of the other groups (if any) which are larger than that group does not exceed two; and

(c) where the number of the other groups which are the same size as or larger than that group exceeds two, the authority have determined that that group should be a group to which a post is allocated;

and it shall be the duty of a relevant authority, before making any allocation for the purposes of this section in a case in which there are groups which would qualify for posts if paragraph (c) above were disregarded, to make such determinations under that paragraph as secure that there are no more nor less than three groups which do qualify for a post.

(7) Where the members of a relevant authority are divided into political groups only one of which has a membership that comprises one-tenth or more of the membership of the authority—

(a) the groups qualifying for a post shall be that group and one other group; and

(b) the other group shall be the one with the next largest membership or, in a case in which there is more than one group with the next largest membership, such one of those groups as may be determined by the authority;

and, in such a case, it shall be the duty of the authority to determine which of the groups with the next largest membership is to qualify for a post before making any allocation for the purposes of this section to the group with the largest membership.

(8) Neither a relevant authority nor any committee or sub-committee of a relevant authority shall exercise any power under—

(a) section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 (delegation); or

(b) section 56 of, or Schedule 10 or 20 to, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (which makes corresponding provision for Scotland); or

(c) Part II of the Local Government Act 2000 (arrangements with respect to executives etc.)

so as to arrange for the discharge of any of the authority's functions by any person who holds a post under the authority to which he was appointed in pursuance of this section.

(8A) Neither an executive, a committee of an executive or a member of an executive, of a relevant authority, shall exercise any power under—

(a) sections 14 to 18 of the Local Government Act 2000 (discharge of functions); or

(b) section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (arrangements for the discharge of functions by local authorities),

so as to arrange for the discharge of any of the authority's functions by any person who holds a post under the authority to which he was appointed in pursuance of this section.

(8B) An area committee of a relevant authority shall not exercise any power under arrangements made under regulations made under section 18 of the Local Government Act 2000 (discharge of functions by area committees) so as to arrange for the discharge of any of the authority's functions by any person who holds a post under the authority to which he was appointed in pursuance of this section.

(9) No person holding any office or employment under a relevant authority shall be required to work under the direction of a person holding a post to which he was appointed in pursuance of this section except for the purpose of providing that person, or the political group to which his post is allocated, with secretarial or clerical services.

(10) Without prejudice to section 8 above, the Secretary of State may, for the purposes of this section and any standing orders relating to appointments in pursuance of this section, by regulations make provision—

(a) as to the circumstances in which the members of a relevant authority are to be treated as divided into different political groups;

(b) as to the persons who are to be treated as members of such a group and as to when a person is to be treated as having ceased to be a member of such a group;

(c) requiring the question whether a person is or is not a member of a political group to be determined in such manner as may be provided for by or under the regulations;

(d) requiring a relevant authority from time to time to review allocations made for the purposes of this section;

(e) specifying the manner in which, and times at which, the wishes of a political group are to be expressed and the consequences of a failure by such a group to express its wishes;

and regulations under this section may contain such incidental provision and such supplemental, consequential and transitional provision in connection with their other provisions as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(11) In this section—

- “appropriate year”, in relation to a post held by any person under a relevant authority, means—where the authority is subject to whole council elections by virtue of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the period of twelve months beginning with the first such election to be held after that person is appointed to that post; and in any other case, the period of twelve months beginning with the third anniversary of that person’s appointment to that post;
- “area committee” has the same meaning as in section 18 of the Local Government Act 2000;
- “membership”, in relation to a relevant authority, means the number of persons who are for the time being members of the authority;
- “relevant authority”— in relation to England and Wales, means the council of any county, county borough district or London borough; and in relation to Scotland, means a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

15th July 2021

Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council

Report Title	Changes to Polling Places
Report Author	Catherine Whitehead, Monitoring Officer. Catherine.Whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	30 th June 2021
West S151	Martin Henry	30 th June 2021
Other Director/SME Electoral Registration Officer	Anna Earnshaw	5 th July 2021

Appendices:

None

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The report seeks Council's approval for a change to polling stations for the by-election in Talavera Ward of Northampton Town Council which will take place on 2 September 2021. It also seeks approval for the Democracy and Standards Committee which has responsibility for the conduct of polling station reviews to make changes to polling districts, polling places and polling stations as required for operational purposes and to recommend a statutory polling station review to Council and finally to grant the Electoral Registration Officer delegated power, when it is not practicable to seek Member Approval, to make changes to polling districts, polling places and polling stations as required for operational purposes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council:
- 2.1.1 Agree the change to the polling place that will be used in the Talavera Ward – Polling District NSTV6 for the by-election on 2nd September 2021.

- 2.1.2 Delegate to the Democracy and Standards Committee the ability to make changes to polling places outside a review.
- 2.1.3 Delegate to the Electoral Registration Officer the ability to make changes where it would not be practicable to seek Committee approval for a change in a polling place in time for an election in consultation with Ward Members and Group Leaders.

3. Issues and Choices

- 3.1 A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a constituency, ward or division into smaller parts. A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer. A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the (Acting) Returning Officer for the election.
- 3.1.1 In the event of polling stations becoming unavailable at short notice, the Electoral Registration Officer needs delegated powers to make changes to polling stations at short notice.
- 3.1.2 Following the casual vacancy in the Talavera ward concerns have been raised with the Returning Officer over the costs to Town Council of the by election following on from the recent election on the 6 May and we are looking at alternative venues to reduce cost. The changes considered are;

Polling District	Current Polling Station	Proposed Polling Station	Saving	Recommended
NSTV6	Rectory Farm Community Centre	Growing Together Blackthorne Community Centre	£450	Yes
NNTV4	Mobile at Nisa Goldings Car Park	NPH community hub	£1377.44	No (due to objection)

- 3.1.3 Polling District NNTV4 currently vote at the Mobile at Nisa Goldings Car Park. There is an NPH community hub which is just around the corner from the current venue which would be free to use and would be a suitable venue for the polling station. However, we have received an objection to this polling station from the Leader of the Labour Group on the Town Council on the basis of accessibility and therefore this change has not been recommended.
- 3.1.4 Polling district NSTV6 is currently allocated to Rectory Farm Community Centre due to it falling in the Northampton South Constituency. As only a

parish election will be taking place on 2 September, we propose it is combined with NNTV5 to vote at the Growing Together Blackthorn Community Centre. This will mean that the polling station is closer to the residents living in NSTV6.

- 3.1.5 The total savings to the Town Council in making both changes would have been £1827.44 however as the first change is not recommended, the recommended change at NSTV6 will save £450 for the Town Council. If the proposed change is approved, there will be signage outside the polling place informing voters of the change of venue and if the Town Council request poll cards, a note will be put on the poll cards to advise electors of any new arrangements. Additional signage could have been provided to direct electors to the Goldcrest Community Hub from the current location at the Golding Shopping Centre if that change had been recommended.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 None have been identified

4.2 Resources and Financial

- 4.2.1 The cost of the Talavera election will be covered by the Northampton Town Council so there are no financial implications for West Northamptonshire Council however there will be an impact on the Town Council and therefore the residents in the area.

4.3 Risk

- 4.3.1 The risk of electors not knowing the location of the polling station are mitigated by the proposed steps highlighted within the report.

4.4 Legal

- 4.4.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) (Section 18C (5) and Section 31) allows a local authority to conduct a review of any polling district, polling place or polling station within its area, outside of the timescales for a compulsory review.
- 4.4.2 Where a polling place is not designated as a public building (or land) and the Returning Officer is informed that the location is not available, the Returning Officer has no legal power to insist upon the use the location and must therefore find an alternative location for the polling station.

4.4.3 Whilst the Democracy and Standards Committee is responsible for designating the locations of all polling places within the borough and recommending them to Council when a full review and consultation of polling districts and places is conducted, the terms of reference of the committee do not provide for those instances where a polling place becomes unavailable at short notice and a review and consultation is not practicable before a forthcoming election takes place.

4.5 Climate Impact

4.5.1 None have been identified.

4.5 Community Impact

4.5.1 None have been identified.

5 Background Papers

5.1 None



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

15th July 2021

COUNCILLOR WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HR AND CORPORATE SERVICES: COUNCILLOR MIKE HALLAM

Report Title	Changes to Political Balance and Committee Places
Report Author	Catherine Whitehead, Monitoring Officer. Catherine.Whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	29 June 2021
West S151	Martin Henry	29 June 2021
Other Director/SME	N/A	N/A

List of Appendices

none

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report invites Council to review the changes to the political balance of the Council and approve changes to membership of the Committees.

2. Recommendations

2.1.1 It is recommended that Council:

- a) Reviews the representation of different political groups on the Council;
- b) Determines the allocation of seats on committees to the different political groups as listed in Section 4.4 below;
- c) Appoints members to the committees listed in Section 4.5 below to give effect to the wishes expressed by the political groups to which the seats have been allocated.

3. Reason for Recommendations

- 1.2 The Council is required to review the allocation of committee seats from time-to-time in accordance with the relevant legislation. The Council is responsible for appointing members to committees.

4. Issues and Choices

Report Background

- 4.1 At its annual meeting on 20 May 2021, the Council confirmed the political balance of the Council and the allocation of seats on committees between Political Groups.
- 4.2 Since that meeting, the number of seats held by the Conservative Group has reduced from 66 to 65. The member in question now sits as un-grouped independent member.
- 4.3 This change has necessitated a small recalculation of places on the Council's committees in order to maintain the correct political balance.
- 4.4 The allocation of seats between the committees is now as follows:

Committee	Conservative Group	Labour Group	Liberal Democrat Group	Independent Group	Ungrouped	Total
Licensing Committee A*	10	4	1	0	0	15
Licensing Committee B*	10	4	1	0	0	15
Strategic Planning Committee	10	2	1	0	0	13
Corporate Scrutiny Committee**	11 (was 12)	4	1	0	1	17
People Scrutiny Committee	10	4	0	1	0	15
Place Scrutiny Committee	10	4	0	1	0	15
Senior Appointments Committee	5	1	1	0	0	7
Audit and Governance Committee	6	2	1	0	0	9
Democracy and Standards Committee	7	1	1	0	0	9
Pensions Committee	5	2	0	0	0	7
Total	84	28	7	2	1	122

* same Members for both Licensing Committees

** In order to maintain the overall balance on the Council it is proposed to allocate a seat on the Corporate Scrutiny Committee (as the largest committee established by the Council) to an un-grouped independent councillor, as per section 3.6 below.

4.5 In addition to the change resulting from the revised political balance of the Council, the Conservative and Labour Groups would like to make changes to the membership of the following Committees as detailed below:

Cabinet (for information only)

Councillor Mike Hallam to replace Councillor Lizzy Bowen as Cabinet Member for HR and Corporate Services

Councillor Lizzy Bowen - Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth. This position was previously vacant.

Licensing Committee

Councillor Janice Duffy to replace Councillor Emma Roberts.

Strategic Planning Committee

Councillor Jake Roberts. This position was previously "To be confirmed".

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Ian McCord to replace Councillor Brian Sargeant.

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Paul Dyball to replace Councillor Mike Hallam.

Pensions Committee

Councillor Malcolm Longley to replace Councillor Lizzy Bowen as Chair.

Investments Sub Committee

Councillors Phil Bignell, Malcolm Longley, Charles Morton and Cathrine Russell. Appointments to the Investments Sub Committee were made at the meeting of the Pensions Committee on 15 June 2021.

Local Pensions Board

Councillor Ken Pritchard. The position was previously "To be confirmed."

South Northants Area Planning Committee

Councillor Maggie Clubley to replace Councillor Louisa Fowler. Councillor Ken Pritchard to be Vice Chair.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Policy

5.1.1 None specifically.

5.2 Resources and Financial

5.2.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising.

5.3 Risk

5.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposals in this report.

5.4 Legal

5.4.1 The Council has obligations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocations of seats. This was last completed at the meeting of Annual Council on 20 May 2021, since which time further changes have been made to the representation of political groups, requiring a further review to be undertaken.

5.5 Climate Impact

5.5.1 None specifically.

5.6 Community Impact

5.6.1 None specifically.

6 Background Papers

6.1 None.

Report Author: Catherine Whitehead
Director of Legal and Democratic



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

15 July 2021

Councillor Matt Golby, Portfolio holder for Adults, Communities and Well Being

Report Title	Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (ICAN)
Report Author	Stuart Lackenby – Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS) Stuart.lackenby@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	6 July 2021
West S151	Martin Henry	5 July 2021
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby	6 July 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Cabinet Report “Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (ICAN)” 13 July 2021.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the report considered by Cabinet on Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire that was considered by Cabinet on 13 July 2021. The report made a recommendation to full Council and therefore if Cabinet support the approach the recommendation to Council is being brought to the next available meeting for consideration.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 At the meeting held on 13 July, Cabinet considered a report on Improving Care Across Northamptonshire (ICAN). The report recommends that as long as the efficiencies associated with extended project outweigh the costs then up to £1m should be released from the revenue account from General Fund balances.
- 2.2 All of the detail regarding ICAN and the associated decision are included in the attached Appendix which is the Cabinet report on the matter.
- 2.3 Council are requested to consider the attached report and consider the recommendations included below.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council:
- a) approve one-off revenue funding of up to £1m to be agreed from general fund balances to contribute to the iCAN programme, subject to satisfactory evidence of a likelihood of a positive return on the investment.
 - b) Delegate to the Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with his Portfolio Holder, the Executive Director of Finance (S151 officer), and the Portfolio holder for Finance the power to determine whether there is satisfactory evidence of a likelihood of a return on the investment.
- 3.2 Reasons for Recommendations:
- To respond to national guidance and requirements including the white paper Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all (Feb 21) and the formation of the ICS (integrated care system) since April 2021.
 - To support the realisation of benefits across health and social care to achieve improved outcomes for residents, reduced operating costs and to reduce reliance on acute hospital care
 - To utilise health funding to support the joint objectives outlined
 - To progress the proposed changes before the winter of 2021 in order to secure early benefits and changes in ways of working ahead of anticipated high demand in hospitals and risk of poorer outcomes. This will minimise the risks and uncertainty of both demand and costs that are predicted for winter 2021.
 - To further enable the integration of Adult Social Care and Health.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 At their meeting held on 13 July Cabinet received a report on Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (ICAN). The report included a recommendation to full council to release up to £1m of funding from the general fund. This reports seeks to bring this recommendation to full council for their consideration. The full Cabinet report containing the detail relating to this decision is attached as an Appendix.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Resources and Financial

- 5.1.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.2 Legal

- 5.2.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.3 Risk

- 5.3.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.4 Consultation

- 5.4.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.5 Climate Impact

- 5.5.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.6 Community Impact

- 5.6.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Cabinet report 13 July 2021 “Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire” (Attached as Appendix A)

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

TUESDAY 13TH JULY 2021

**CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, WELLBEING AND HEALTH
INTEGRATION: COUNCILLOR MATT GOLBY**

Report Title	Integrated Care across Northamptonshire (ICAN) procurement
Report Author	Stuart Lackenby – Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS) Stuart.lackenby@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO	Catherine Whitehead	5th July 2021
West S151	Martin Henry	5 th July 2021
Other Director/SME	Gus Da Silva	5 th July 2021

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Appendix A – Shadow executive report on 12.2.21

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an update to Cabinet on progress toward the Northamptonshire Integrated Care System (ICS) and gain cabinet support for its planned implementation as described within this report.
- 1.2 To update cabinet on the iCAN programme (Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire) and seek support for its aims and outcomes for residents
- 1.3 To seek approval from cabinet to complete the procurement and award of contract of the iCAN programme on behalf of the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership.
- 1.4 To request that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance (S151 officer), and Portfolio holders for Finance and Adults, Communities and Well Being to consider, and **Page 139**

determine the need for a one-off revenue contribution from the Council of up to £1m, towards iCAN, where there is a clear and evidenced return on investment.

2. Executive Summary

Integrated Care System

- 2.1 Over the past 3 months the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership have been working to define and establish potential local arrangements for the Northamptonshire ICS in readiness for the 1st April 2022 national legal deadline. This report sets out the work to date in establishing the ICS which will operate at a County wide level from an overall Northamptonshire system perspective but with local strategy and service delivery built around the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board. How services come together at a Unitary Council and Neighbourhood level will be the focus of further work over the next 6 months.

Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire – iCAN

- 2.2 iCAN is one of four system priorities for the ICS and this report sets out the recommended approach to mobilise a system partner to enable the programme to be taken forward and for associated efficiencies to be delivered.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note the progress toward establishing the Integrated Care System and the further work required to describe how the ICS will operate at a Council and neighbourhood level.
- b) Delegate to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health the decision whether to modify the adult social care TOM contract (with Newton Europe).
- c) Recommend to Council the approval of one-off revenue funding of up to £1m to be agreed from general fund balances to contribute to the iCAN programme, subject to satisfactory evidence of a likelihood of a positive return on the investment.
- d) Delegate to the Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing, in consultation with his Portfolio Holder the Executive Director of Finance (S151 officer), and the Portfolio holder for Finance the power to determine whether there is satisfactory evidence of a likelihood of a return on the investment.
- e) Note that the iCAN funding will be included within the Better Care Fund section 75 and that this will be reported to and governed through the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 To respond to national guidance and requirements including the white paper *Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all* (Feb 21) and the formation of the ICS (integrated care system) since April 2021.
- 4.2 To support the realisation of benefits across health and social care to achieve improved outcomes for residents, reduced operating costs and to reduce reliance on acute hospital care.
- 4.3 To utilise health funding to support the joint objectives outlined.
- 4.4 To progress the proposed changes before the winter of 2021 in order to secure early benefits and changes in ways of working ahead of anticipated high demand in hospitals and risk of poorer outcomes. This will minimise the risks and uncertainty of both demand and costs that are predicted for winter 2021.
- 4.5 To further enable the integration of Adult Social Care and Health.

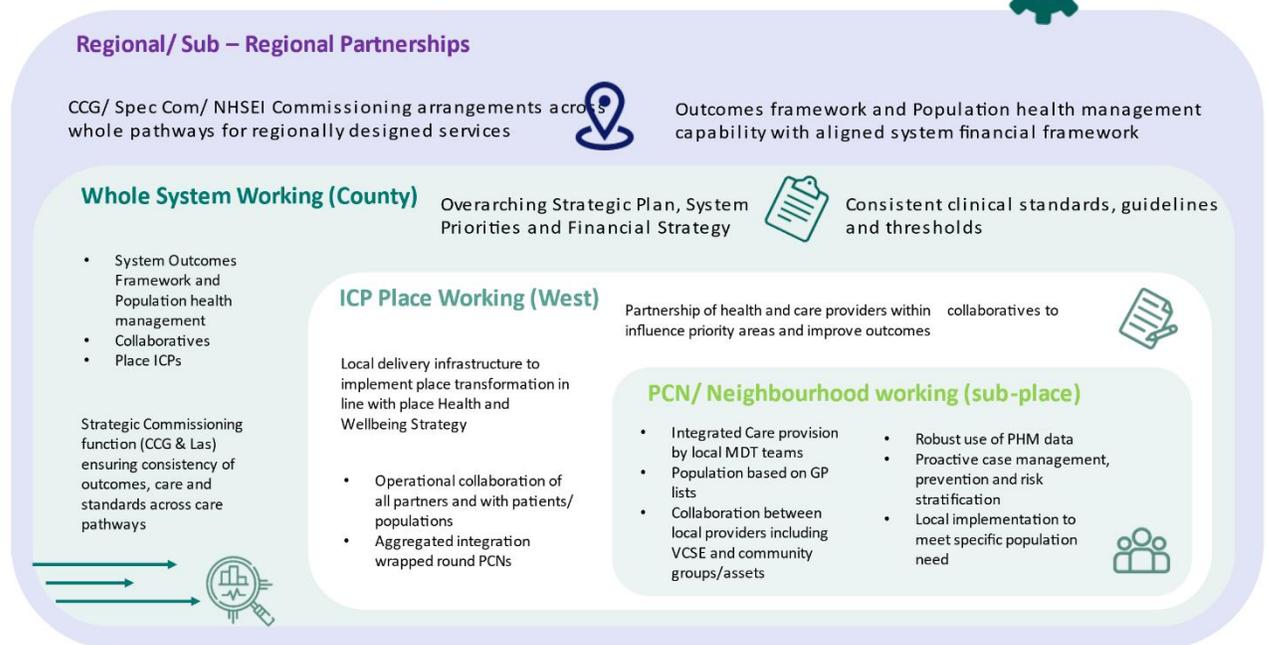
5. Report Background

- Integrated Care System
- 5.1 The NHS began its journey towards becoming an Integrated Care System four years ago, initially with the creation of Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) in 2016, and then the concept of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) from 2018. There are now 29 ICSs serving 35 million people, more than 60% of England's population, with the remaining 13 STPs now designated as ICSs from April 2021.
- 5.2 Integrated care systems have enabled our health and care organisations to join forces and apply their collective strength and resources to addressing the country's biggest health challenges, many exacerbated by Covid-19.
- 5.3 In November 2020 NHS England and NHS Improvement published *Integrating care: Next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England*.
- 5.4 It described the core purpose of an ICS being to:
 - improve outcomes in population health and healthcare
 - tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access
 - enhance productivity and value for money
 - help the NHS support broader social and economic development
- 5.5 The NHS Long Term Plan confirmed that all parts of England would be served by an integrated care system from April 2021, building on the lessons of the earliest systems, achievements of earlier work through sustainability and transformation partnerships and vanguards and the lessons of joined up working in COVID. Further national guidance and requirements on the ICS are included in the white paper *Integration and innovation: working together to improve health*

and social care for all (Feb 21) and the formation of the ICS (integrated care system) since April 2021.

- 5.6 In an integrated care system, NHS organisations, in partnership with local councils and others, take collective responsibility for managing resources, delivering NHS care, and improving the health and care of the population they serve. This will be supported by legislation that mandates this, the dissolution of CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) into statutory ICS bodies and sets out the role of Local Authorities as key partners in future integrated care.
- 5.7 Further National guidance published 16th June established that the ICS development should be rooted in underlying principles of subsidiarity and collaboration. The guidance went on to describe common features that every system is expected to have and develop, as the foundations for integrating care, with local flexibility in how best to design these to achieve consistent national standards and reduce inequalities, as:
- decisions taken closer to, and in consultation with, the communities they affect are likely to lead to better outcomes
 - collaboration between partners, both within a place and at scale, is essential to address health inequalities, sustain joined-up, efficient and effective services and enhance productivity
 - local flexibility, enabled by common digital capabilities and coordinated flows of data, will allow systems to identify the best way to improve the health and wellbeing of their populations.
- 5.8 Over the past 3 months the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership have been working to define and establish potential local arrangements for the Northamptonshire ICS in readiness for the 1st April 2022 legal deadline. This work has also included a focus on how the CCG will be replaced by a new organisation called the Statutory ICS body which will receive health funding from government to be distributed across the local system whilst also being accountable for the money that it spent.
- 5.9 The Northamptonshire ICS is envisaged to operate at four geographical levels of place as described in the Image below; with the key focus being taking decisions, delivering care and providing services as close as possible to communities and those that need it.

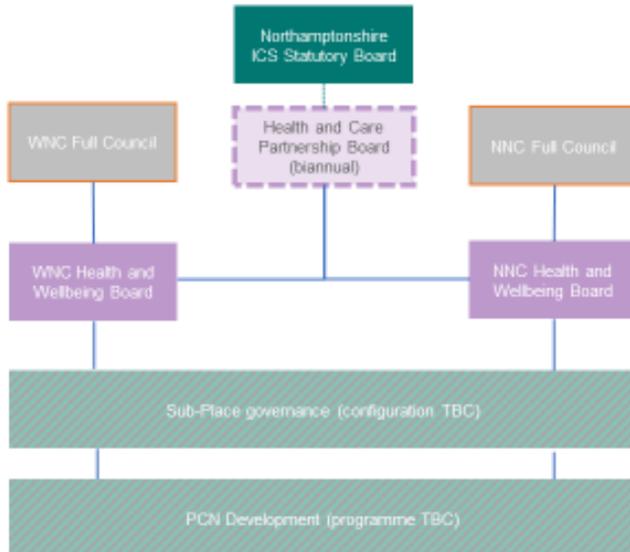
Our ICS proposed operating model



5.10 Across this ICS, four key collaborative priorities have been identified and agreed by partners. Although commissioned at a system level will be structurally delivered through the four geographical levels of the system described above. The identified priorities are;

- iCAN collaborative
- Mental Health collaborative
- Elective Care collaborative
- Children and Young People collaborative

5.11 The four geographical levels and collaboratives would be structured around the following clear governance and oversight structures which collaborate to enable the integration of local services, as depicted and described below.



- ICS Statutory Board - The Northamptonshire ICS Statutory Board will bring together leaders from across the system, and is accountable for overall performance and use of resources. The (small) size of our system means that we have an opportunity to build a Board which includes the most comprehensive possible range of NHS and Local Authority partners working across the County.
 - The statutory body will include Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives, as well as NHS leaders and non-executives (as will be required by legislation).
 - The ICS Strategic Commissioner will provide a management function to support the ICS Statutory Board in strategic commissioning activities relating to countywide collaboratives, and to link to East Midlands specialist services planning.
- Health and Care Partnership Board/Health and Wellbeing Boards - Our Health and Care Partnership Board will be made up from the membership of our two Health and Wellbeing Boards and our ICS statutory Board. The Board will meet twice per year, in order to;
 - (i) consider progress against our Outcomes Framework over the past year, and
 - (ii) agree a systemwide health and care strategy (or an update to the existing strategy, as appropriate) to improve population outcomes. This then forms the key mandate for the ICS statutory board, our Places and our Collaboratives.

5.12 This focussed role, membership and meeting arrangements will ensure that the Health and Care Partnership Board adds value over and above both the ICS Statutory Body and our Health and Wellbeing Boards, and also that it avoids involvement in operational business which duplicates other forums. The ICS Statutory Board Chair will also chair the Health and Care Partnership Board.

- 5.13 Work to date has been orientated around the ICS at a system level with the role of Place and the Health and Wellbeing Board requiring further engagement with members of the Council and its partners. This work will ensure that the board owns and develops a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for West Northants, focused on its inequalities, health challenges and solutions and that this drives local service design.
- 5.14 Cabinet is therefore asked to support the direction of travel identified in the report and further work required to define how the integrated care system will operate at a Unitary Council and neighbourhood level.

- **Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire - iCAN**

- 5.15 Our population is growing older and people are living longer with complex conditions. The number of people living in Northamptonshire is expected to grow from 741,000 in 2018 to 803,000 by 2028 – that’s an increase of more than 8% in 10 years. But for our elderly population there has been a steady increase in the over 65s of around 65% from 122,000 in 2014 to an anticipated 201,000 by 2034 and this its rising and faster than most other areas. We are also seeing a rise in mental health demand and the longer term implications of some of our health inequalities.
- 5.16 Until very recently our health and care organisations were accountable only for the specific care that they provide to the patient or service user. Unfortunately, this has meant that someone who needs care for a variety of conditions could be receiving services from five or six different organisations with very little coordination between them. This is confusing and a wasteful use of resources, and the reality is that this situation leaves no one taking overall responsibility for the coordination of this fragmented care.
- 5.17 But as a set of system partners we have increasingly seen the benefits for staff and patients of working together and this has been proven in COVID where the barriers to doing the right things and getting the best outcomes have been broken down. We have been working together on a joint programme of change and transformation, ICAN (integrated care across Northamptonshire), that will permanently change how we work, where and how we provide care and improve outcomes for people. We have undertaken significant analysis of our challenges and compared ourselves to others and we see a huge opportunity for improvement.
- 5.18 We want to build on this work and the requirement for the creation of our Integrated Care System (ICS) creates opportunities to act together to make change and implement the opportunities we have found. Through the procurement process undertaken we have found a partner to add the skill and capacity required to help us drive this programme at the pace and scale required to make urgent, lasting and positive change. Our aim in the longer term is to empower people to choose well, stay well and live well.

- **The need for Change**

- 5.19 The number of people living in Northamptonshire is expected to grow from 741,000 in 2018 to 803,000 by 2028 – that’s an increase of more than 8% in 10 years.

- 5.20 The Northamptonshire Health and Care system has been challenged over many years and this has been characterised by:
- Too many people being admitted to our hospitals
 - 91 over 65s are admitted each day and this is increasing
 - Patients staying too long and when they no longer need acute care
 - Delays in discharging people
 - Very high occupancy in our hospitals
 - an inability to cope with any surge in demand and pressured winters
 - Too much reliance on bed based solutions in hospital and on discharge
 - Significant financial pressure on our budgets
 - A lack of capacity in our facilities and workforce to meet the demand
 - A knock on impact to social care in care costs and market capacity to meet the demand
- 5.21 We know that we cannot continue as we are. Working under this pressure and with these demands does not produce the best outcomes for people and is inefficient. If don't make changes we will need to build more hospitals, spend more on social carer and we will need significantly more GPs to deal with the demand we expect.
- 5.22 We need to turn our focus to prevention and early intervention and we need to move away from an over reliance on bedded solutions. It is crucial that our health and social care organisations work together with the voluntary and community sectors to help older people to maintain their independence for longer. This means doing things differently, being less risk averse and offering new solutions together that keep people well in their community but also offers alternatives to hospital admissions and more effective step down options that support full recovery when they leave.
- 5.23 We also need to simplify things for our staff and patients. Our services are complex and confusing and people in our community get care from different organisations and have to repeat themselves. They have told us loud and clear they want things to be simpler, consistent and listen to them more. Making our processes and ways of working simpler will also help our community care providers to know what to expect, the care we need to procure and the outcomes we want from them.
- 5.24 iCAN is a joint initiative and builds on the transformation of Adult Social Care that was commenced in 2019. The ICAN programme would see the realisation of benefits across health and social care in terms of improved outcomes for residents, reduced operating costs and less reliance on acute hospital care as the focus shifts to more community based care, prevention and joint working.
- 5.25 We know that Acute hospital beds are extremely costly to maintain (at an estimated £200 a day) and when people stay too long, they have poor outcomes and increasing need for long term social care support. As a system we want to do more to care for more people at home, ensure they don't stay in hospital too long and that they are returned back to independence and their own homes. This is better for them, better for the hospitals and more cost effective too.

- 5.26 Whilst creating significant improvement to the experience people have of health and Social Care locally, the successful implementation of iCAN is also designed to deliver between £13.3m and £18m recurrent savings to the local Health and Social Care System. These savings have been further quantified and validated by the Health Systems Directors of Finance since the previous cabinet report.
- 5.27 The programme is structured around three pillars of intervention which can be generally described as;
- Community Resilience – Supporting people to remain well and independent within their own homes through increasing access to preventative intervention and coordinated access to health and social care services etc.
 - Escalation and Front Door – Supporting people at the point of crisis from a multidisciplinary perspective to remain independent, reducing the need for presentation to A&E etc.
 - Flow and Grip – ensuring that Flow within acute settings is successful in that people do not stay in hospital for any time longer than they need to and responding to peaks of demand as a system rather than individual organisation.
- 5.28 Following cabinet approval on the 12.2.2021 a procurement exercise was taken forward by the Council to appoint a system transformation partner to support the implementation of the iCAN (Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire) programme on behalf of the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership. iCAN is one of the four priority collaboratives for the Northamptonshire ICS.
- 5.29 In response to the level of available resource stated as part of the procurement process, Newton Europe (successful bidder following the full procurement and competitive process) submitted a bid of £4.8m (against an anticipated budget envelope of £5m set out in the procurement) for delivery of two of the three pillars which the ICAN programme scope. Their proposal established that full delivery of the 18-24 month programme, would require £8m of investment based on a 100% contingent fee (where the fee would only be paid if guaranteed savings were achieved and evidenced).
- 5.30 The iCAN programme aims, can only be delivered if all three pillars of intervention are transformed as without both the community, front door and discharge changes we will continue to admit to many people (90 over 65s a day) and deliver poor outcomes. These need to be taken forward in parallel to realise the totality of improvement to people's experience and the identified efficiencies to the system.
- 5.31 This report therefore seeks cabinet permission to enable the Council to commission Newton Europe to the Value of £8m on behalf of the Northamptonshire Health and Care partnership with the one off fees covered through the ICAN contract and procurement (£4.8m) and a modification to the Council's existing Adult Social Care TOM contract with Newton Europe to commission the remaining iCAN pillar (£3.2m) . This modification would extend the Councils TOM contract for a further 18 months and ensure delivery of the community pillar and

support for all our residents through improved joint working across social care, GPs, community health, housing, the voluntary sector and other key community groups.

- 5.32 In taking forward this proposal the Council's legal and procurement team have advised on the approach to be within the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
- 5.33 The modification of this contract when combined with the procurement exercise undertaken in March 2021 enables Newton Europe to be commissioned to the value of £8m for the full delivery of the iCAN. The £8m fee is structured on a 100% contingent basis against the successful delivery of £13.3m - £18m of efficiencies to the Northamptonshire health and care system.
- 5.34 The current TOM contract has a value of £6.8m when considered in the context of the Public Contract regulations 2015 this contract can be modified by up to 50% based on the criteria being met. In taking forward this proposal the Council would justification on this matter is set out below;
- There is a provision within the contract to enable modification in that the contract allows the scope of the Programme to be extended into further areas not specifically covered in the contract in order to achieve its programme objectives (also known as the scope).
 - An additional procurement process cannot be undertaken as Newton Europe are uniquely based both technically to support the approach and have the most cost-effective price.
 - The interoperability between the diagnostic work undertaken by Newton Europe prevents an alternate provider being able to take forward the approach.
 - Introducing a new provider at this point would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for Council and its partners.
 - The increase proposed does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.
 - Added complication are the winter pressures and the risk of further Covid waves require immediate interventions that cannot be achieved with the time frames of a new procurement process and the appointment of an alternate provider.
 - The modifications will not change the nature of the contract only to expand the scope.
 - As an organisation Newton Europe have evidenced experience submitted through the ICAN procurement of their ability to deliver the expectations of the ICAN programme.
- 5.35 The mobilisation of the contract would be predicated on the financial commitment being secured from partners both from a budgetary and governance perspective. The Council will not enter into a Contract for iCAN until the full health financial commitment has been finalised.
- 5.36 Work is underway to identify in detail which organisations will realise the efficiency. In the event that this work identifies that efficiencies would be realised to the Council then subject to an acceptable return on investment level, delegated authority is requested for the Executive Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance to contribute to the iCAN programme. This work includes;

- Provide a profile of targeted savings showing to which activity they may be attributed and when they are expected to arise, linking these to specific projects (or bricks).
- Identify any overlaps in the savings profiles and where savings are arising and can be attributed to specific partner organisations. This will require organisations benefiting from savings to be delivered and organisations contributing savings to the wider system to be determined. This will include WNC.
- Offer options as to how savings benefits might be distributed between the constituent organisations in order to meet the investment required to transform delivery of the service and propose a mechanism for disputes resolution
- In conjunction with the ICAN Programme highlight the priority interventions critical to improving system performance in the short term as a contribution to Winter Preparedness such that unplanned escalations and admissions are minimised and hospital stays reduced. Identification of the key work streams will be accompanied by the development of a full, detailed project plan for managing the impact of Winter pressures to which Newton Europe, in conjunction with system resources, complete all aspects relating to ICAN and TOM.
- With the ICAN Programme PMO enable the development of KPIs for programme pillars and projects which will demonstrate progress towards the savings targets and the levels of performance required to ensure that the programme, pillar and project objectives and timescales are being achieved. Each pillar and project is to benefit from a package of essential information necessary to determine its progress and performance.

5.37 As previously stated, the mobilisation of the contract would be predicated on the financial commitment being secured from partners both from a budgetary and governance perspective. An initial payment of £5.4m has already been identified from health to sit within the Better Care Fund for this purpose, and the additional funds will be confirmed following the final directors of Finance approval of the detailed financial analysis and evidence.

5.38 Again to be clear the Council will not enter into a Contract for iCAN until such a point as financial support has been agreed and received, and the Council will not make any financial contribution itself until and if we are able to evidence that the ICAN programme will result in additional savings over and above our MTFP savings plans in adults.

5.39 Work is underway with partners to identify in detail which organisations will realise the efficiency and the mechanisms by which it is released (for example avoided cost, cashable savings, dampened demand and reduced crisis care). Only in the event that this work identifies efficiencies would be realised to the Council, then subject to an acceptable return on investment, delegated authority is requested for the Council to contribute to the iCAN programme.

5.40 Subject to cabinet agreement the Council will structure the iCAN programme into the Northamptonshire Better Care Fund section 75 agreement to ensure required governance and oversight is in place and approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6. Issues and Choices

- **Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire**

- 6.1 Health partners have requested that the Council support the commissioning of the system partner for iCAN. The rationale for this decision is based upon
- the strong working relationships between the Council and health partners,
 - the Councils proven track record in taking forward a similar approach in its implementation of the Adult Social Care TOM
 - the need to act before winter 2021 to secure the capacity and change and current pressure on health resources to support this themselves
 - the financial advantages of the Council hosting the arrangements
- 6.2 The local system knows what needs to change and the opportunities available. However, unless we have the right capacity, with the right skills and experience to help us design new ways of working, based on evidence, we will be unable to implement the required changes sustainably at pace and scale. The consequential impact for the system of not providing the required capacity will be that at some point the demand for service will become greater than the capacity available.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

- **Resources and Financial**
- Our 2018 CQC local system review found patient experience for people aged 65+ was varied and sometimes unsatisfactory. Compared to our peers we:
 - admit almost 9% more people aged 65+ a day to hospital (8 out of 90 daily admissions)
 - have 12% more stranded patients (113 out of 900 – overall, on average, one in three patients in acute beds and one in two in community beds no longer need to be there)
 - are twice as likely to admit patients from the community and three times as likely from care homes.

Someone who needs care for a variety of conditions could be receiving services from five or six different organisations with very little coordination between them, which is confusing, wastes resources, and leaves no one taking overall responsibility for the individual's care. It also puts them at higher risk of an emergency department attendance or admission when things go wrong.

This is not what people want. It does not achieve the best outcomes for them¹. It is not the quality of care our organisations want for our residents. And with rising demand for health and care services in Northamptonshire and an underlying system deficit of £117m as of June 2021, it is not sustainable.

¹ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/urgent-emergency-care/reducing-length-of-stay/>

Indeed, if we do not act now, in four years the needs will have increased so much that we will not be able to support our population adequately:



- The development of the ICAN programme was informed by independent diagnostic work to establish opportunities to improve services, deliver better outcomes for local people and achieve efficiency savings. The diagnostic work produced clear evidence of the potential of the programme and the requirement for investment in a system transformation partner to support its realisation.
- Health partners have identified that a one off investment of around £8m with a system transformation partner could realise a benefit range of circa £13.3m and £18m in annual recurrent gross savings. The £8m investment would be structured on a 100% contingent fee basis.
- At this stage the Council has not made a contribution to the cost of iCAN, and unless demonstrable efficiencies from the programme can be evidenced as being delivered to the Council, then the programme will be fully Health funded.
- However, in the event that this work identifies that efficiencies would be realised to the Council then subject to an acceptable return on investment level, delegated authority is requested to agree one off revenue funding to contribute to the iCAN programme up to a value of £1m. Should this investment be required (in order to deliver additional ongoing savings in excess of this amount) then officers will seek to identify the additional amount through existing funding sources in the budget or relevant earmarked reserves. If the additional requirement cannot be met from these funding sources, then it will need to be met by general fund balances.
- **Risk**
- There is a risk of challenge because the Council are not reprocurring but modifying an existing Adults contract with an existing supplier, that we could be challenged by other providers in the market. In the event of challenge, the modification would not go ahead. However, there would be significant pressures on the system including: -

- Pressure on acute, community and social care capacity

- Additional costs to social care due to purchasing additional high cost capacity (care home beds)
- The need to commission external services to assist with managing flow (eg brokerage)

After consulting with the legal and procurement team the risk is mitigated and the Council would be in defensible position in the context of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 in that;

- As part of this process we have sought approval of West Northants cabinet and the CCG as to whether to continue the next stage of this programme.
- Winter pressures and the risk of further waves of COVID 19 do not enable the procurement of an alternative provider.
- It is recognised that in our iCAN procurement call off process that we clearly identified a ceiling of £5m for the project. As a diligent authority it is absolutely realistic the cost of the ICAN programme could have exceeded the original funding allocation given its uniqueness and innovative nature.
- The modifications will not change the nature of the contracts only to expand them.
- The Adults TOM contract always envisaged a significant piece of work with health on the Acute pathways of care and while some success has been had the scale of this part of the programme was delayed and reduced due to COVID. Modifying the Adults TOM contract and as adults is embedded in the ICAN programme delivery helps us to realise the full benefit for our communities and residents both for Winter 21 and ongoing.

- **Legal**

There has been involvement from both legal and procurement officers to ensure that the necessary steps are being taken to minimise the risk of challenge and to ensure that as far as possible the process complies with current procurement, contractual requirements, rules, and the detailed process is set out in the body of the report.

Under Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 there are several options available to the Council is to extend and/ or modify an existing contract as long as the Council can demonstrate the following:

- (i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen.
- (ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract.
- (iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.
- (iv) if the proposed variation has been specifically provided for in the contract.
- (v) where a change of contractor cannot be made for economic or technical reasons.
- (vi) where the modifications are not substantial (regulation 72(1)(e))

As the Council is relying on the above regulations to extend and /or modify the contract and have justifiable reason (as set out on the report) then they should also publish the modification by way of a notice on Find a Tender service (FTS) as required by Regulation 72(3) and (4)).

- **Consultation**

There is no need for WNC to specifically consult on this process as this is embedded within the iCAN programme. Work was done previously in 2019 when shaping the ICAN programme

working with Healthwatch to understand what our residents experience was and how they wanted things to be. Members of the public were consistent in their wants and themes which were:

- Creating person centred care through partnership working – thinking about the person not the process, system or organisation and handing off between them
- Partnerships with patients – engaging patients in choices, their care plans and respecting their decisions and desired outcomes
- Partnerships between services - less hand offs and difficulty in moving between services and more joined up care
- Create empowered and enabled communities – providing community solutions to care needs and helping people stay well at home
- Ensure care is accessible to all – making sure residents can access services and help no matter where they live and that where they live doesn't create inequalities of support and wellbeing
- Support the health and care workforce – residents know that staff do their best and they want to make this easier for them to make the right decisions and have the solutions available to make the job easier and ease demand.

NHCP as part of the ICS development work and the ICAN programme have and will continue to undertake engagement with the people of Northamptonshire about the changes that are being proposed. There are two underpinning enabling work streams within the ICAN programme, communication and co-production both of which are focussed on ensuring that Northamptonshire residents are both engaged and actively participate in the future of services involved.

- **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

Over view and scrutiny will be engaged regarding the ICAN procurement as well as the ICS/ICAN programme on the 20th July with further session to discuss progress arranged within the next 6 months .

- **Climate Impact**

These proposals do not have any climate impact

- **Community Impact**

The procurement of a system partner will enable the integration of health and Social Care across the Northamptonshire ICS footprint. ICAN will however be influenced and orientated in its local delivery by the communities with both North and West Northants Councils. This will create positive impacts on communities, on wellbeing and on our ability to support better outcomes for residents.

8. Background Papers

- **None**

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY
SHADOW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

12.2.2021

Report Title	ICAN SYSTEM PARTNER PROCUREMENT
Report Author	Stuart Lackenby – Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS) Stuart.lackenby@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
Portfolio Holder	Matt Golby, Portfolio holder Adults	2.2.2021
West MO	Catherine Whitehead	1.2.2021
West S151	Martin Henry	3.2.2021
Other Director/SME		

List of Appendices

Appendix 1. ICAN Presentation deck

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to give delegated authority to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet member for Adults to host a procurement on behalf of health and care partners in order to secure a system transformation partner who can support the service improvements in care for our residents and implementation of Integrated Care in Northamptonshire(ICAN) transformation programme.
- 1.2. The appointment of a transformation partner to help implement the ICAN programme would be funded by health partners as part of their three-year Long Term Plan and priorities. ICAN is a joint initiative and builds on the transformation of Adults Social Care already in progress. The ICAN programme would see the realisation of benefits across health and care in terms of improved outcomes for residents, reduced operating costs and less reliance on acute hospital care as we shift our focus to more community based care, prevention and joint working.

2. Executive Summary

- 1.3. The challenges of our health and care system are well documented and include:
- Too many people being admitted to our hospitals
 - 91 over 65s being admitted each day and this is increasing
 - Patients staying too long and when they no longer need acute care
 - Delays in discharging people
 - Very high occupancy in our hospitals
 - an inability to cope with any surge in demand and pressured winters
 - Too much reliance on bed based solutions in hospital and on discharge
 - Significant financial pressure on health and social care budgets
 - A lack of capacity in our facilities and workforce to meet the demand
 - A knock on impact to social care in care costs and market capacity to meet the demand coming from hospitals.
- 1.4. Longer-term these issues are likely to get worse as the County is set to see significant growth in its population, especially over-65s and our GPs and hospitals face workforce and capacity shortages that mean we cannot manage the demand effectively if we don't change.
- 1.5. Nationally there is also a recognition of the need for change and to work as systems in areas to achieve better outcomes and to use shared funding more effectively to improve care and wellbeing. To that end all areas must now form Integrated Care Systems (ICS) as a legal requirement from the 1st April 2021.
- 1.6. In an integrated care system, NHS organisations, in partnership with local councils and others, take collective responsibility for managing resources, delivering NHS care, and improving the health and care of the population they serve. Crucially they must work in a joined up way and within a shared system budget.
- 1.7. Significant activity took place during 2019 and 2020 to develop an integrated transformation plan for Health and Care as part of the work to establish the Northamptonshire Integrated Care System (ICS).
- 1.8. Integrated care systems enable organisations to work more closely together and coordinate services, to make real, practical improvements to people's lives. For staff, improved collaboration can help to make it easier to work with colleagues from other organisations. And systems can better understand data about local people's health, allowing them to provide care that is tailored to individual needs.
- 1.9. A central priority of the local ICS will be how we improve services and outcomes around frail and elderly care and last year we worked with our health partners to shape the ICAN (Integrated Care Across Northampton) programme.
- 1.10. The ICAN programme has been designed to compliment and enhance the Councils Adults Social Care target operating model (TOM) and would continue

to establish consistent new and effective ways of working across Adult Social Care and Health. This will make it simpler for patients and providers to navigate care and access support.

- 1.11. The development of the ICAN programme was informed by independent analysis on our health and care pathways and processes to establish opportunities to improve services, deliver better outcomes for local people and achieve efficiency savings. The diagnostic work produced clear evidence of the potential of the programme and the requirement for investment in a system transformation partner to support its realisation. Our work showed that:
 - 6,600 people could avoid attending the emergency department each year.
 - 36,500 people annually could have less delay in their hospital stay.
 - 250 people are in hospital right now who could be at home.
 - 1 in 5 patients want more independence than we support them to achieve.
- 1.12. Health partners are in the process of ratifying an investment of between £2m and £6m to fund a system transformation partner that could support the system to realise annual savings of between £16m to £21m in what is expected to be an 18-month programme.
- 1.13. Having identified the required investment, Health partners have approached West Northamptonshire Council to host the procurement of a suitably skilled and experienced system transformation partner for the ICAN programme. This would in effect involve Health Partners providing the Council with the required funding to enable the Council to procure the system partner.
- 1.14. There are several benefits to the authority acting as the host including
 - Securing local authority influence and benefit from the ICAN programme
 - The Council is able to reclaim any VAT charged by an external partner
 - making sure that local people receive the best joined up health and social care services.
 - The pace that the Council is able to move at in order to secure the programme ahead of winter 21-22
 - The procurement and market expertise available in the council to oversee the procurement while health colleagues are focused on the COVID vaccination and wider pandemic issues.
 - The ability of the Adults transformation programme to be aligned into the ICAN programme and achieve better joint outcomes.
- 1.15. Subject to health partners providing confirmation of funding, approval of their business case (informed by market engagement) and a mini competition it is expected that the programme would start before summer 2021.
- 1.16. It is proposed that a compliant two stage procurement process is initiated through the Crown Commercial Framework so to seek interest from appropriately skilled and experienced organisations.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Shadow Executive Committee:

- a) Subject to confirmed funding in full from health, approve delegated authority to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet member to procure and appoint a system transformation partner on behalf of the health and care system for the delivery of Integrated Care in Northamptonshire(ICAN)

3.2 Reason for Recommendations:

- The option proposed aligns most closely align with local government reform and transformation outcomes
- The Council is able to reclaim any VAT benefiting the system and maximising the investment in delivery
- The ability of the Council to progress matters before the winter of 2021 in order to secure early benefits.
- The future Council and customers will receive the maximum benefit from the option proposed and the proposal enables the integration of Adult Social Care and Health.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 In 2018 Northamptonshire celebrated the 70th anniversary of the NHS. Within a few weeks of the NHS being founded in 1948, our social care system was also set up to meet the needs of the time. Historically our services were set up in very different ways and based on varying different priorities and approaches and this has created differences in the way people receive support, how we approach it and budgets not always being held where the demand is.
- 4.2 These differences now mean our community is not getting the high quality and continuity of care we would all want to provide. There are too many hand-offs, there are too many delays and we don't always deliver the best outcomes we could. In addition, the cost and inefficiency of these ways of working means that we cannot meet the demand we have within the budgets we have, we do not have the capacity to meet the growing demand and we will not improve outcomes for our residents and patients.
- 4.3 Our population is growing older and people are living longer with complex conditions. The number of people living in Northamptonshire is expected to grow from 741,000 in 2018 to 803,000 by 2028 – that's an increase of more than 8% in 10 years. But for our elderly population there has been a steady increase in the over 65s of around 65% from 122,000 in 2014 to an anticipated 201,000 by 2034 and this is rising and faster than most other areas. We are also seeing a rise in mental health demand and the longer term implications of some of our health inequalities.
- 4.4 Until very recently our health and care organisations were accountable only for the specific care that they provide to the patient or service user. Unfortunately, this has meant that someone who needs care for a variety of conditions could be receiving services from five or six different organisations with very little coordination between them. This is confusing and a wasteful use of resources, and the reality is that this situation leaves no one taking overall responsibility for the coordination of this fragmented care.
- 4.5 But as a set of system partners we have increasingly seen the benefits for staff and patients of working together and this has been proven in COVID where the barriers to doing the right things and getting the best outcomes have been broken down. We have been working together on a joint programme of change and transformation, ICAN (integrated care across Northamptonshire), that will permanently change how we work, where and how we provide care and improve outcomes for people. We have undertaken significant analysis of our challenges and compared ourselves to others and we see a huge opportunity for improvement.
- 4.6 We want to build on this work and the requirement for the creation of our Integrated Care System (ICS) creates opportunities to act together to make change and implement the opportunities we have found. We now need a partner to add the skill and capacity required to help us drive this programme at the pace and scale required to make urgent, lasting and positive change. Our aim in the longer term is to empower people to choose well, stay well and live well.

4.7 **The need for Change**

4.8 The number of people living in Northamptonshire is expected to grow from 741,000 in 2018 to 803,000 by 2028 – that’s an increase of more than 8% in 10 years.

4.9 The Northamptonshire Health and Care system has been challenged over many years and this has been characterised by:

- Too many people being admitted to our hospitals
- 91 over 65s are admitted each day and this is increasing
- Patients staying too long and when they no longer need acute care
- Delays in discharging people
- Very high occupancy in our hospitals
- an inability to cope with any surge in demand and pressured winters
- Too much reliance on bed based solutions in hospital and on discharge
- Significant financial pressure on our budgets
- A lack of capacity in our facilities and workforce to meet the demand
- A knock on impact to social care in care costs and market capacity to meet the demand

4.10 We know that we cannot continue as we are. Working under this pressure and with these demands does not produce the best outcomes for people and is inefficient. If don’t make changes we will need to build more hospitals, spend more on social carer and we will need significantly more GPs to deal with the demand we expect.

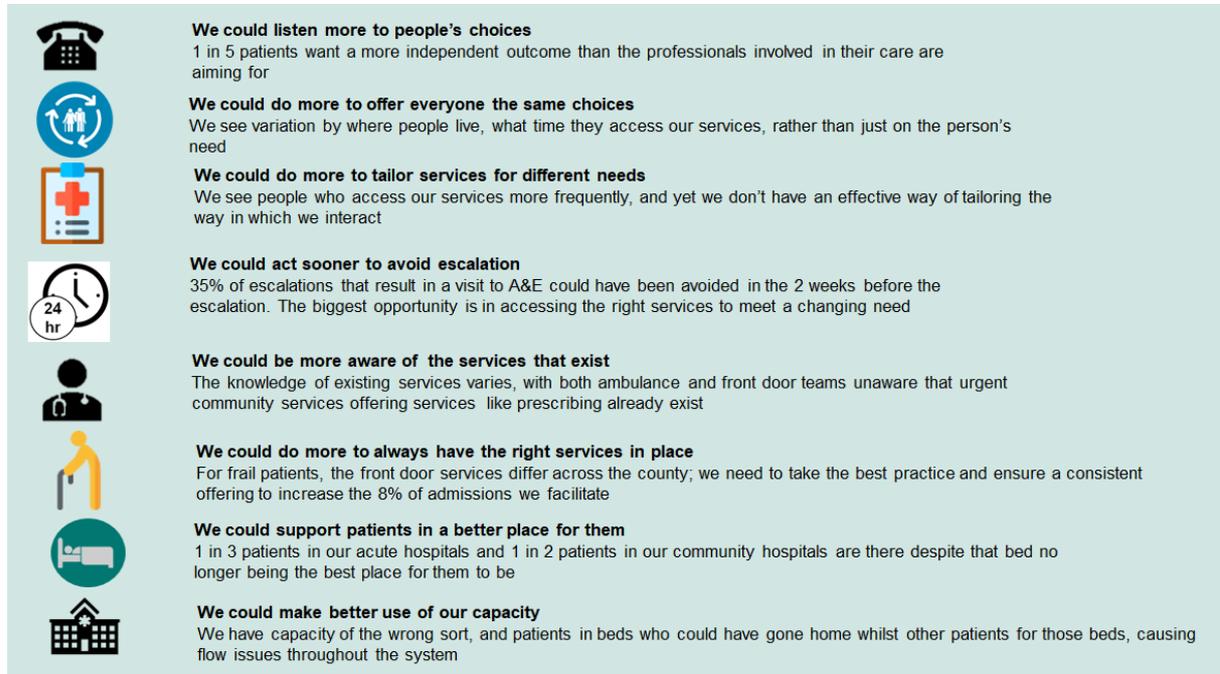
4.11 We need to turn our focus to prevention and early intervention and we need to move away from an over reliance on bedded solutions. It is crucial that our health and social care organisations work together with the voluntary and community sectors to help older people to maintain their independence for longer. This means doing things differently, being less risk averse and offering new solutions together that keep people well in their community but also offers alternatives to hospital admissions and more effective step down options that support full recovery when they leave.

4.12 We also need to simplify things for our staff and patients. Our services are complex and confusing and people in our community get care from different organisations and have to repeat themselves. They have told us loud and clear they want things to be simpler, consistent and listen to them more. Making our processes and ways of working simpler will also help our community care providers to know what to expect, the care we need to procure and the outcomes we want from them.

4.13 We have looked at the level of external capacity and skills we might need to deliver in order to start implementing change before Winter 2021-22 and considered what it might cost to secure the estimated benefits over an anticipated 18-month programme. We have also undertaken significant engagement across our workforce and created a consensus on our issues, our plans and need to changes required

The Vision for Integrated Health and Social Care

- 4.14 In 2020, a diagnostic exercise was undertaken to establish what we need to do to make the improvements in our health and care that the people of Northamptonshire deserve. We know:



The infographic consists of seven rows, each with an icon on the left and text on the right. The icons are: a telephone, a circular arrow with two people, a first aid kit, a clock with '24 hr', a person with a stethoscope, a person with a cane, a hospital bed, and a building.

- We could listen more to people's choices**
1 in 5 patients want a more independent outcome than the professionals involved in their care are aiming for
- We could do more to offer everyone the same choices**
We see variation by where people live, what time they access our services, rather than just on the person's need
- We could do more to tailor services for different needs**
We see people who access our services more frequently, and yet we don't have an effective way of tailoring the way in which we interact
- We could act sooner to avoid escalation**
35% of escalations that result in a visit to A&E could have been avoided in the 2 weeks before the escalation. The biggest opportunity is in accessing the right services to meet a changing need
- We could be more aware of the services that exist**
The knowledge of existing services varies, with both ambulance and front door teams unaware that urgent community services offering services like prescribing already exist
- We could do more to always have the right services in place**
For frail patients, the front door services differ across the county, we need to take the best practice and ensure a consistent offering to increase the 8% of admissions we facilitate
- We could support patients in a better place for them**
1 in 3 patients in our acute hospitals and 1 in 2 patients in our community hospitals are there despite that bed no longer being the best place for them to be
- We could make better use of our capacity**
We have capacity of the wrong sort, and patients in beds who could have gone home whilst other patients for those beds, causing flow issues throughout the system

In practice this means:

- 6,600 people could avoid an escalation to ED each year.
- 36,500 people annually could have less delay in their hospital stay.
- 250 people are in hospital right now who could be at home.
- 1 in 5 patients want more independence than we support them to achieve.

- 4.15 We have identified how we want to change and the Integrated Care in Northamptonshire Programme ('iCAN') is the means to facilitate change. We now need to move the programme from the assessment phase to Design, Adoption and Sustain. This should enable us to achieve our goals for 2025. It would mean that a person in Northamptonshire will be able to say:

iCAN

- ... be sure that the right choices are available to me;
- ... be sure that the right services are there to help me look after my own health;
- ... be sure that the right services are there to detect, diagnose and treat me;
- ... be sure that I get the right treatment;
- ... be sure that the right care and support exists to help me manage;
- ... be sure that the care and support is in the right place for me.

- 4.16 This will allow our population to:



The Opportunity

- 4.17 We have identified a clear set of opportunities that will enable us to provide a health and care system that produces better outcomes for our residents, improves their experience and which is manageable within our financial envelope.
- 4.18 The opportunity should support us moving more of our demand and capacity from hospital sites to community sites so we are closer to the people we serve. This will also free our hospitals to focus on more acute and specialist care.
- 4.19 We want to work in Multi-Disciplinary Teams ('MDTs') which will allow us to do more for the people of Northamptonshire in their communities and closer to home in a joined-up way that suits them and brings the appropriate service to them quickly and effectively.
- 4.20 We will focus on older people to ensure that they are best served to remain at home whenever possible and because this is where our greatest level of demand on the Acutes comes from. We will ensure that our MDTs operate across health and care pathways and are digitally enabled to provide the right care at the right time in the right place. We will work closely with all partners in our STP (NHCP - Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership), notably the Voluntary Sector, but also social care, GPs and community groups to bring all resources to bear for our residents. Based on the evidence we have gathered we are looking to achieve some significant improvements including.
- 5% reductions in over-65 escalations that would have resulted in admission
 - 5% reduction of over-65 attendances that would have resulted in admission
 - 5% reduction in over-65 admissions from A&E
 - 7% reduction of over-65 bed-days through reducing the Length of Stay
 - 5% reduction in the cost of care for over-65s upon discharge
 - 20-30% reduction in the number of people in Residential or Nursing homes by enabling home living first.
- 4.21 Based on the detailed analysis we have done and achieving this level of improvement we believe that there are significant system savings to be made. We estimate that overall net benefits could total £17-20m for NHCP by 2025.

What we need to do

- We are committed to making change and have the support of all system partners in NHCP. We have made progress:
- We have the **data, evidence and insights** to know what action will deliver best results for our population.
- We can build on the **strong clinical engagement** in the system
- We have a **clear NHCP and iCAN vision**
- There is **strong leadership alignment** to drive change
- We can **learn** from other systems
- We need to build the right foundations for success, culture, digital, IG, communications, OD
- We need to be self aware, we don't have a track record of successful delivery as a system

4.22 At this point we have proposed that we should have West Northamptonshire Council, on behalf of the partners in NHCP, lead a procurement using an appropriate framework via a mini-competition open to organisations that specialise in organisational change and are prepared to share the risk of successful implementation.

4.23 This report therefore seeks approval to give delegated authority to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet member to procure and appoint a system transformation partner to support the continued drive and implementation of Integrated Care in Northamptonshire (iCAN) on behalf of the Northamptonshire Health and Social Care System.

4.24 In supporting Health partners to take forward the iCAN programme through the proposed procurement the Council is ensuring its ability to actively influence and benefit from the iCAN programme making sure that local people receive the best joined up health and social care services.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 Health partners have proposed that the Council procure the systems transformation partner rather than take forward this activity themselves. The rationale for this decision is based upon

- the strong working relationships between the Council and health partners,
- the Council's proven track record in taking forward a similar approach in its implementation of the Adult Social Care TOM
- the need to act before winter 2021 to secure the capacity and change and current pressure on health resources to support this themselves
- the financial advantages of the Council hosting the arrangements

- 5.2 The local system knows what needs to change and the opportunities available. However, unless we have the right capacity, with the right skills and experience to help us design new ways of working, based on evidence, we will be unable to implement the required changes sustainably at pace and scale. The consequential impact for the system of not providing the required capacity will be that at some point the demand for service will become greater than the capacity available.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.2 The development of the ICAN programme was informed by independent analysis establish opportunities to improve services, deliver better outcomes for local people and achieve efficiency savings. The work produced clear evidence of the potential of the programme and the requirement for investment in a system transformation partner to support its realisation.

- 6.3 Health partners have identified that investment of around £6m with a system transformation partner would be needed to provide the capacity and expertise to help them realise a benefit range of circa £16m to £21m in annual recurrent gross savings within an 18-month period.

- 6.4 Should the recommendation of this report be approved then Health Partners would provide the Council with the required funding to enable the Council to fund system partner work in line with agreed contract mechanisms. The Council would not have any liability for the realisation of efficiency savings not being achieved.

As such other than facilitative support to procure the activity, there are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

6.5 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from the proposals.

6.6 Risk

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

6.7 Consultation

There has been no need to consult on this process as this solution does not create any detrimental impact on services and patients and social care clients and will instead provide improved processes, experiences and outcomes for these often vulnerable groups.

6.8 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny will be engaged should the recommendations of this report be approved.

6.9 Climate Impact

These proposals do not have any climate impact

6.10 **Community Impact**

The procurement of a system partner will enable the integration of health and Social Care across the Northamptonshire ICS footprint. ICAN will however be influenced and orientated in its local delivery by the communities with both North and West Northants Councils

7. **Background Papers**

ICAN Presentation Deck



iCAN Presentation
Deck v1.0.pdf

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

15 July 2021

Councillor Adam Brown, Portfolio holder for Culture, Leisure and Housing

Report Title	MHCLG's Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme Funding
Report Author	Stuart Lackenby – Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS) Stuart.lackenby@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	6 July 2021
West S151	Martin Henry	6 July 2021
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby	6 July 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Cabinet Report “MHCLG’s Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme funding” 13 July 2021 (Excluding exempt appendix)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the report on the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme that was considered by Cabinet on 13 July 2021. The report made a recommendation to full Council and therefore if Cabinet support the approach the recommendation to Council is being brought to the next available meeting for consideration.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 At the meeting held on 13 July, Cabinet considered a report on the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme. The report recommends that a new capital budget should be added to the HRA Capital Programme for £1.32m funded through a mixture of external funding and borrowing.

- 2.2 More detail on the scheme is included in the attached Appendix which is the Cabinet report on the matter. It should be noted that the exempt appendix has not been added to the report to full council as it has already been circulated to all members and is available to members upon request.
- 2.3 Council are requested to consider the attached report and consider the recommendations included below.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council:
- a) Agree the increase in the HRA Capital programme of £1.32m to purchase and refurbish ten 1-bedroom properties through the HRA, in order to accommodate and support people who have been sleeping rough or are threatened with sleeping rough, funded by MHCLG/Homes England RSAP grant and HRA borrowing.

3.2 Reasons for Recommendation:

To provide rough sleepers with sustainable housing solutions, to reduce rough sleeping and enable people who have slept rough to thrive.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 At their meeting held on 13 July Cabinet received a report on the Rough Sleeper's Accommodation Programme. The report included a recommendation to full council to establish a £1.32m capital budget in the HRA Capital Programme to be funded through external grant funding and borrowing the details of which are set out in the appendix of the Cabinet report which is available to all members.
- 4.2 This reports seeks to bring this recommendation to full council for their consideration. The full Cabinet report containing the detail relating to this decision is attached as an Appendix. The appendix does not include the exempt Appendix attached to the Cabinet report as that was circulated with the Cabinet papers and members will already have access to his information.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Resources and Financial

- 5.1.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.2 Legal

- 5.2.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.3 **Risk**

5.3.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.4 **Consultation**

5.4.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.5 **Climate Impact**

5.5.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

5.6 **Community Impact**

5.6.1 These are contained within the attached Cabinet report.

6. Background Papers

6.1 Cabinet report 13 July 2021 “MHCLG’s Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme funding”.

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

13TH JULY 2021

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND HOUSING:
COUNCILLOR ADAM BROWN**

Report Title	MHCLG's Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme funding
Report Author	Jacqueline Brooks, Housing Services Manager jacqueline.brooks@westnorthants.gov.uk Khyati Vaughan, Housing Strategy Team Leader Khyati.vaughan@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
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	Geoff Wild - Deputy Monitoring Officer	28 June 2021
Finance	Phil Morrison - Strategic Finance Business Partner	23 June 2021
	Martin Henry - Executive Director of Finance	1 July 2021
Assistant Director	Joanne Barrett	21 June 2021
Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	Stuart Lackenby	14 June 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Exempt financial modelling

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To agree recommendation to Council to approve an increase in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme to acquire ten 1-bedroom properties for the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme, funded from Homes England grant and HRA borrowing.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 1 July 2021 (deadline for submission), an application for funding was submitted (subject to Cabinet approval) for the Government's Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP), which covers the West Northamptonshire Council area.
- 2.2 The aim of RSAP is to provide accommodation for rough sleepers, available as long-term assets, and accompanying support services to achieve a sustainable reduction in rough sleeping.
- 2.3 A combination of funding from both the HRA and Homes England is required to purchase ten 1-bedroom properties to help support rough sleepers.
- 2.4 The funding application also includes a proposal for revenue funding for a Tenancy Sustainment Officer (fixed term for 2.5 years) to work with rough sleepers identified as part of the programme to help them into more settled accommodation.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet recommend Council to approve:
- the increase in HRA Capital programme of £1.32m to purchase and refurbish ten 1-bedroom properties through the HRA, in order to accommodate and support people who have been sleeping rough or are threatened with sleeping rough, funded by MHCLG/Homes England RSAP grant and HRA borrowing.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- To provide rough sleepers with sustainable housing solutions, to reduce rough sleeping and enable people who have slept rough to thrive.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) is part of a range of measures to meet the Government's commitment to ending rough sleeping, including the former Rough Sleeper Initiative and the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) funding bids. The RSAP prospectus can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994775/RSAP_2021-24_Prospectus.pdf

- 5.1 The former Northampton Borough Council secured funding for the NSAP programme in August 2020. The bid included the purchase and refurbishment of fifteen 1-bedroom properties for rough sleepers, including those that needed to move out of emergency accommodation to prepare themselves for social or private tenancies.
- 5.2 Since the successful NSAP bid, fifteen 1-bedroom flats across Northampton have been acquired and refurbished. All fifteen properties have been offered to customers, with the last customers moving in at the end of June 2021. These homes are being managed by Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) and the residents are being supported by a dedicated Tenancy Sustainment Officer.
- 5.3 The success of NSAP and a requirement for additional properties has prompted an application for further funding from the RSAP.
- 5.4 A bid was produced in collaboration between the council and MHCLG, Homes England and NPH, and submitted on 1 July (deadline for submission), subject to approval from Cabinet.
- 5.5 The bid proposes capital funding through Homes England grant funding and Council HRA borrowing to acquire and refurbish ten 1-bedroom properties. In addition, MHCLG revenue funding is also being requested to fund a full-time tenancy sustainment officer (fixed term for 2.5 years).
- 5.6 It is envisaged that the properties to be procured through the scheme will be a combination of ex-council homes (i.e. people wishing to sell their properties back to the Council via the Right of First Refusal), as well as exploring opportunities on the open market across the West Northants area. Properties will be close and easily accessible to the relevant support services. Regard will also be had to the ease of maintenance and management, to any social or community implications of the proposed uses, and to any strategic property issues in the area concerned.
- 5.7 As with the NSAP scheme, customers would be given a two year non-secure tenancy agreement, during which time they would be supported by a dedicated Tenancy Sustainment Officer and the relevant support services, in preparation for more settled accommodation, either in the social or private sector.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Following an iterative process, including advice given by MHCLG and Homes England, it is believed that a realistic bid for grant has been submitted for their consideration. It is anticipated WNC will be notified by the 4th August 2021 whether the bid is successful.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.2 A similar approach to financial modelling that was used for the successful NSAP initiative, has been applied to the RSAP scheme.
- 7.3 The main financial issue arising from this report is the affordability of the RSAP scheme on the HRA. It is important that all housing acquisitions are capable of funding themselves through the charging of appropriate rent in order to ensure that the HRA sustainability is maintained, both in terms of debt servicing and maintenance costs.
- 7.4 The business case assumes the Council will receive Homes England funding, without which the scheme would be unviable and unlikely to go ahead, therefore the scheme is dependent upon successful award of this funding. The result of the funding bid is due on the 4th August 2021.
- 7.5 Assuming Homes England funding is secured, the scheme is viable and provides a positive financial impact to the HRA and General Fund. If HE grant is not secured the scheme will not proceed.
- 7.6 The total increase in budget to be approved is £1.32m to acquire ten 1 bed dwellings, funded by HE grant and borrowing. The scheme has been appraised over the thirty-year HRA business plan life and shows a positive contribution to the HRA. The cost of capital therefore is affordable at an increase of approximately £27k per annum. Full details of the financial considerations can be found in exempt **Appendix A**.
- 7.7 **Legal**
- 7.3.1 Whilst there are no immediate legal implications, it is noted at paragraph 5.6 above that part of the proposal includes MHCLG/Homes England grant funding.
- 7.3.1 If the Council's bid proposal is successful the Council will be required as part of the condition for grant funding to execute and abide by the conditions of a Grant Agreement which includes a provision of a Legal Opinion to which the Council will be subject. Advice relating to the same will be provided as and when required to support the proposal.
- 7.8 **Risk**
- 7.8.1 If the bid is unsuccessful, the programme will not progress, and this may have an impact on the number of rough sleepers. This risk has been mitigated by participating in a collaborative and iterative process with MHCLG and Homes England.
- 7.9 **Consultation**
- 7.9.1 There has been extensive consultation with MHCLG, Homes England and Northampton Partnership Homes.
- 7.10 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**
- 7.10.1 The Overview and Scrutiny committee has not considered this report and its recommendation.

7.11 Climate Impact

7.11.1 There are no climate/environmental impacts.

7.12 Community Impact

7.12.1 There are no foreseen community impacts.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None

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