

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the
Cabinet held on Tuesday 9 November 2021**

1. Date of publication of this summary: 9th November 2021
2. Deadline for requests for call-in (detailing reasons for doing so): 16th November 2021
3. Earliest date for implementation of decisions: 17th November 2021
4. Urgent decisions taken and not subject to the call-in procedure: 17th November 2021

| Agenda Item and Recommendations | Decision |
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| <p>Agenda Item 6 Constitution Review</p> | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Acknowledged the work of the Democracy & Standards Committee; b) Endorsed the proposed amendments to the Constitution and makes such further proposals as it thinks fit; c) Recommended the revised Constitution to Full Council for approval. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A review of the Constitution by the Democracy & Standards Committee were agreed by Full Council on 20 May 2021 and Cabinet on 8 June 2021. b) Conducting a review of the Constitution would help ensure that it is legally compliant, complete, reflects the character and culture of the authority and supports decision making. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>The alternative choices were to not conclude a Constitution review at all, or to conclude the review at a later date or in accordance with a different timetable. These options were not recommended as a need for a review had been identified and it is important to ensure the Constitution was fit for the new Council's purposes and compliant with all current legal requirements as soon as possible.</p> |

**Agenda Item 7
Cottesbrooke Conservation Area**

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:
a) Endorsed that public consultation be undertaken on the draft Cottesbrooke Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan SPD (appendix A)
b) Endorsed that public consultation be undertaken on Article 4(1) Directions controlling development with regards to:

- Alteration of windows
- Alteration of doors
- Alterations to roofing
- Alterations to porches
- Alterations to walls, gates and fences
- Painting of exterior walls
- Alterations to chimneys.

REASONS RESOLVED:
To accord with the council's Consultation and Engagement Framework, the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which requires local authorities to hold a public meeting to publicise draft proposals within an appraisal, for the relevant stakeholders of the affected area.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:
The alternative option would have been not to agree to the public consultation on the draft Cottesbrooke Conservation Area Appraisal and Management as an SPD.

**Agenda Item 8
Harmonisation of the Garden Waste
Collection Service Across West
Northamptonshire**

RESOLVED: That Cabinet
a) Agreed that a charge was made for kerbside garden waste collection for all residents of West Northamptonshire who opt into this service of £42 per bin per year, from 1 April 2022;
b) Approved the decision to run the customer service and administration of the garden waste collection service in-house for all residents of West Northamptonshire, thus removing its administration from West Northamptonshire Norse, in the Daventry area.
c) Approved the establishment of a subsidised home composting scheme, to be launched at the same time as the

charge 2022/23, to offer residents an alternative.

REASONS RESOLVED:

a) The introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste would bring the south of West Northamptonshire into harmony with the rest of the council area. The scheme would be run council-wide with the level of charge, terms and conditions and service standards the same across west Northamptonshire.

b) Charging for the collection of garden waste would ensure that only those who wish to use the service pay for it and in that way, supports the Polluter Pays Principle. Therefore, those who home compost, or who don't have gardens or who take their garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre would not pay for the collection service.

c) The Council would be permitted to levy a 'reasonable' charge for the garden waste service (under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012). The proposed charge would generate income essential to part fund the waste collection services provided to the residents of West

Northamptonshire. This includes approximately £800,000 in additional net income to the council in 2022/23 for the south area, where the charge would be newly introduced. It would also maintain the approximate £2.2 million of annual income from the areas of the council where there was an existing charge.

d) The £42 charge recommended for 2022/23 would be the same as was charged in the Daventry and Northampton areas in 2021/22 and so would represent no increase for those residents and is identified as average across the region.

e) The proposal to bring the customer service and administration of the garden waste collection service would enable the Council to have a direct interface with residents who wish to opt-in to this service, ensuring they receive the best possible customer service.

f) The subsidised home composting scheme would provide an alternative

option for residents who do not want to pay the collection fee. It also promotes home composting, which in waste management terms is a preferred option.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

a) In reviewing the council's garden waste service, several alternative options were considered for harmonising it across the whole of West Northamptonshire.

Appendix A of the report showed a table of the

considered options, along with the positive and negative considerations of each option and the financial impact of each.

b) Officers had considered whether it would be appropriate and possible to offer discounts, for example in the following circumstances:

- A resident pays by direct debit; or
- A household has more than one bin (multi-bin discount); or
- If a household would like to pay for more than one year in advance; or
- For residents in receipt of certain benefits.

The council would seek to establish a single auto payment system across West Northants which might enable future opportunities for any discounts to be administered as well as providing evidence of where any discounts were needed or justified based on usage.

Therefore, it was agreed to introduce the scheme using existing payment systems in April 2022.

**Agenda Item 9
Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special
Protection Area**

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

a) Adopted the UNVGP SPA SPD for the West Northamptonshire Council area

b) Endorsed the UNVGP SPA SPD – Addendum to the SPA SPD: Mitigation Strategy for consultation.

REASONS RESOLVED:

The above recommendations were proposed so that, as the competent authority, West Northamptonshire Council, could protect Unit 1 of the SPA from adverse impact from recreational pressure resulting from proposed and windfall

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| | <p>housing growth within 3km of Unit 1 the SPA.</p> <p>Protection of the SPA and its qualifying features would not only meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations but also help protect the SPA now and in the future so that protected bird species would remain present, and it could be enjoyed by residents and visitors. Adoption of the SPD</p> <p>and endorsement of the consultation for the mitigation strategy would align with the council's Green and Clean, Environment and Wellbeing priority within its Corporate Plan.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 10 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022-2023</p> | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <p>a) Noted the contents of the report.</p> <p>b) Recommended to Council a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022-2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) to include the proposed changes ii) to amend the LCTRS Regulations for pensioners in line with the uprating announced by DLUHC and iii) to uprate the working age Regulations in line with those announced by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) <p>c) Recommended to Council that delegated authority would be given to the Executive Director Finance to make any changes to the LCTRS up to and including 31 January 2022 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED: To enable a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for West Northamptonshire Council to be approved for the financial year 2022-2023 and for the final scheme to be in place by 31 January 2022.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: Proposal One: For the financial year 2021-2022, members agreed a Council Tax discount for care leavers and a local policy was agreed. Under this policy, care leavers are required</p> |

to apply for LCTRS and can then apply for an exceptional hardship award to help with any Council Tax payment required. This additional support is funded from the exceptional hardship pot. The proposal is to include this additional support for care leavers up to the age of 25 as part of the LCTRS for 2022-2023.

Proposal Two

The current scheme allowed for a 100% disregard of War Widows and War Disablement pensions when calculating entitlement to LCTRS. The proposal was to offer enhanced support to those of working age in receipt of War Widows and War Disablement pensions and who currently must pay a minimum Council Tax contribution of 20%. This proposal would remove the minimum contribution and allowed LCTRS to be calculated on 100% of Council Tax liability therefore enabling these claimants to receive up to 100% support.

**Agenda Item 11
Grant of Long Lease to the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire of Barnes Meadows Nature Reserve, Northampton**

RESOLVED: That Cabinet
a) Authorised a 99-year lease with a peppercorn rent to The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire of Barnes Meadows, Northampton.
b) That this authorisation was subject to the conduct of public notification for disposal of open space as required by Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 and no material and substantive objections being received (and not withdrawn).

REASONS RESOLVED:

a) The WT managing the Barnes Meadow nature reserve would help to ensure it was managed in a fashion which would maximise the benefits for people and the environment.
b) This course of action would also be the most cost-effective and would remove a management and maintenance liability from the Council.
c) There would also be consistency with previous decisions if this land was to be managed by the WT.

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| | <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>a)The Council could have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granted the proposed lease. • Managed the land in house. • Have sought to dispose of the land entirely. • Have sought to put the land to some other use, such as development. <p>b) The Council could offer the land to third parties (potentially including the WT) for freehold disposal. Whilst potentially removing all future liabilities in relation to the land, it would also remove any ability for the Council to use the land differently in the future.</p> |
| <p>Agenda Item 12 Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council under urgency procedures: Northampton Partnership Homes - Westbridge lease and development, Planning Policy Committee and Appointment to West Midlands Rail Ltd</p> | <p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the decisions taken by the Leader of the Council set out at Appendices A, B and C.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <p>a) Where decisions that would otherwise be taken by Cabinet have been taken by the Leader of the Council, it was considered best practice to report those decisions to the next available meeting of the Cabinet.</p> <p>b) In the case of NPH, the decision taken provided NPH with accommodation that enables them to operate effectively and deliver against the management agreement with Council.</p> <p>c) In the case of the Planning Policy Committee, the agreement of the terms of reference for this committee enabled items that would otherwise be taken by Cabinet to be taken by that committee. This improved the efficiency of Cabinet decision making, while improving the accountability of planning policy decision by including members who are not part of the executive as non-voting members of the committee.</p> <p>d) In the case of West Midlands Rail Ltd. The Council was required to appoint a director in its capacity as one of the partner local authorities.</p> <p>e) Full reasons for the recommendations were set out in the decision records appended to this report.</p> |

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The options considered were whether to wait for the next Cabinet meeting or to proceed under the Leader's statutory powers. Cabinet members were consulted and agreed the proposed solution was beneficial to the Council and it was important to meet the timeframe of NPH's board to ensure that a decision in principle could be communicated.