



Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 6.00 pm

Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
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 (Pages 5 - 8) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 February 2022.
4.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
5.	Urgent Business The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
6.	Social Values Act 2013 A representative from the University of Northampton to provide details of the Social Value Framework. 6:05pm to 6:25pm
7.	Treasury Management The Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group regarding Treasury Management,

	<p>with a focus on efficiencies looking forward.</p> <p>6:25pm to 6:40pm</p>
8.	<p>Modernising Systems</p> <p>The Committee to consider setting up a Scrutiny Inquiry day so that it can undertake a comprehensive scrutiny inquiry on systems in place at the Council and consider their effectiveness and value for money. The potential Scrutiny Inquiry day will potentially look at systems in relation to HR, IT, Legal Services, Customer Services and Payroll.</p> <p>6:40pm to 6:50pm</p>
9.	<p>Review of Committee Work Plan (Pages 9 - 14)</p> <p>To review and note the Committee Work Plan.</p> <p>6:50pm to 7:00pm</p>

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
7 March 2022

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members:

Councillor Danielle Stone (Chair)	Councillor Andrew Grant (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sally Beardsworth	Councillor Michael Brown
Councillor Paul Clark	Councillor Maggie Clubley
Councillor Rupert Frost	Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere
Councillor Mark Hughes	Councillor David James
Councillor Koulla Jolley	Councillor Ian McCord
Councillor Colin Morgan	Councillor Ken Pritchard
Councillor Azizur Rahman	Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms
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.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Tracy Tiff, 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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Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at The Guildhall, St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Monday 7 February 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Present	Councillor Danielle Stone (Chair) Councillor Sally Beardsworth Councillor Michael Brown Councillor Paul Clark Councillor Rupert Frost Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere Councillor Mark Hughes Councillor David James Councillor Colin Morgan Councillor Ken Pritchard Councillor Azizur Rahman Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz
Substitute Members:	Councillor Wendy Randall (For Councillor Koulla Jolley)
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor Andrew Grant (Vice Chair) Councillor Maggie Clubley Councillor Koulla Jolley Councillor Ian McCord
Officers	Martin Henry, Executive Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer) Tracy Tiff, Deputy Democratic Services Manager Richard Woods, Democratic Services Officer

42. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

43. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 January 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 40: Budget Scrutiny

Amend the third paragraph to read as follows: "At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Jonathan Harris addressed the Committee and thanked the Executive

Director – Finance and the wider finance team for all of the hard work and for the support that they had provided in sharing information and answering questions relating to the budget. Councillor Harris asked a number of detailed questions regarding the draft budget which were duly answered by officers".

44. **Chair's Announcements**

The Chair made the following announcements:

1. The Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group held on 27 January 2022 had been a big success, and on behalf of the Committee the Chair thanked all Officers who were involved in the setting up and running of the meeting.
2. Several Members of the Committee had recently attended a Treasury Management training session hosted by Officers, recordings of this training were available for any Members who were unable to attend.
3. That a Treasury Management Task and Finish Group would be established at the meeting of the Committee in March, with final details to be circulated in due course.
4. That consideration of the draft Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report would be deferred until approximately June or July of 2022 for the Committee's consideration and approval.

45. **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

46. **Report from the Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group**

The Committee considered a report from the Deputy Democratic Services Manager which set out a number of recommendations from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny to Cabinet on the Draft Budget 2022/2023 arising from the recent Budget Scrutiny process.

At the invitation of the Chair, Jane Wood, of Climate Action West Northants (CA-WN) addressed the Committee and set out CA-WN's response to the recognition of climate change mitigation and adaptation in West Northamptonshire Council's corporate plan objectives, specifically the commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and proposed spending on Green and Clean, and asked a number of questions of the budget regarding how these commitments would be achieved.

In response to the public address, the Committee agreed to propose a further recommendation to Cabinet that a dedicated Officer be employed on a fixed term contract for a period of five years, to work across the service areas on Carbon Neutrality, understand the Council's own carbon emissions, monitor and look to

reduce these emissions, and report the information publicly. It was proposed to fund this post from the Risk Reserves.

Members of the Committee thoroughly examined each of the recommendations to Cabinet, including the additional recommendation arising from the public address and, following some minor amendments, agreed the set of recommendations to Cabinet.

Resolved

- (1) That the recommendations of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (annexe to the minutes as set out in the minute book) on the Draft Budget 2022/2023 be forwarded to the Executive Director – Finance and recommended to Cabinet for consideration.

47. Review of Committee Work Plan

The Committee considered its Work Programme.

Resolved

- (1) That the Committee Work Programme 2021/2022 be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.54 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____

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Items suggested for inclusion on the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for the Committee's consideration

Topic	Proposed purpose	Proposed by	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Committee's comments
People Strategy	To provide scrutiny input to the 50 key actions contained within the People Strategy Proposed timescale Starting from April/May 2022 to	Assistant Director – Human Resources Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services	Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services Executive Director – Corporate Services and Assistant Director – Human Resources		

	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Comments
Social Values Act 2013	The Committee to receive a briefing on the Social Values Act 2013	15 September 2021 15 March 2022 – Further information to be provided to the Committee, and the representative leading on social value to be invited to address the Committee	To be determined	No but following the briefing the Committee may consider setting up a Task and Finish Group	The Committee to receive a briefing on the Social Values Act 2013 and the procurement of contracts, contract management and social value to enable Members to decide on how it will undertake further scrutiny activity on that topic.
Contract management and procurement	To receive a presentation on contract monitoring and procurement and the links into Social Value	15 September 2021	Executive Director Finance and Head of Procurement	No	Highlighted at the first meeting as an area of interest with particular reference to social value
The Children's Trust Budget	The Committee to receive a briefing on the Children's Trust budget	15 September 2021	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	No but following the briefing the Committee may consider setting up a Task and Finish Group	The Committee to receive briefing on the Children's Trust Budget to enable Members to decide on how it will undertake further scrutiny activity on that

Work Programming Event	The Committee to confirm the date for its Work Programming event	15 September 2021	Executive Director for Finance Cabinet Members to be invited to the work programme event	No	
Schools Budgets	To receive a briefing on the way schools need funding and how this is calculated	15 November 2021	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	Not at the meeting on 15 November 2021, The Committee may consider setting up a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of school's budgets	The meeting on 15 November 2021 will comprise a comprehensive question and answer session (Scrutiny Inquiry) to inform a potential scrutiny review
Draft West Northamptonshire Council budget 2022-2023	To provide scrutiny input into the draft budget	15 November 2021 – briefing on the budget process was provided 12 January 2022; and further additional meetings of the Committee to be scheduled as required.	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	To be confirmed	Budget scrutiny is a key role of this Committee. The Committee could decide on which budgets it would scrutinise in-depth at a later meeting (to be set)
Expenses Policy	To review the Council's expenses policy	12 January 2022 – The Task and Finish Group to present its scope (Terms of reference) for consideration by the Committee	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	Yes	A Task and Finish Group will carry out a short sharp review

Treasury Management	To scrutinise treasury management focussing on efficiencies – forward looking	15 March 2022 – The Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group to undertake this scrutiny activity Prior to the setting up of the Task and Finish Group a briefing will be scheduled on Treasury management that will provide important information to Councillors	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	Yes	A Task and Finish Group will carry out a review
Asset Management	To undertake scrutiny activity of asset management	15 March 2022 - The Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group to undertake this scrutiny activity	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	Yes	A Task and Finish Group will carry out a review
Modernising Systems	The Committee to receive information regarding systems at the Council and to consider their value for money	15 March 2022 - A report to the Committee providing background information, to assist the committee in deciding how it will undertake scrutiny activity	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	To be confirmed	The meeting on 15 March 2022 will comprise a comprehensive question and answer session (Scrutiny Inquiry) to inform a potential scrutiny review.

NB: The Committee resolved at its meeting on 15 November 2021: Given due consideration to the carried motions relevant to the remit of Corporate OSC be noted.

Regular items for inclusion on the Work Programme 2021/2022

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Comments
Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports	The Committee to receive regular budget monitoring reports at its meetings	15 September 2021 15 November 18 January 2022 15 March 2022	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	No	To receive a budget monitoring reports to each meeting which will inform the budget scrutiny role of this Committee.

Performance Monitoring Report	The Committee to consider the Performance Monitoring Report to inform Performance Management Scrutiny	15 September 2021 15 November 18 January 2022 15 March 2022	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	No	
Performance Management Scrutiny	The Committee to undertake Performance Management Scrutiny	15 November 18 January 2022 15 March 2022	Executive Director Finance and relevant Cabinet Members dependent upon the key performance indicator to be reviewed	No	
Transformation Projects	The Committee to review transformation projects: Definition of the Transformation Projects Spend on transformation Savings	15 November 2021 18 January 2022 15 March	Director – Transformation Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	No	
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022	The Committee to consider its Annual Report 2021/2022 for submission to full Council for information	June 2022 meeting	The Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee	No	

Potential cross-cutting themes for the Scrutiny Committees

Topic	Proposed purpose	Committees to be involved in this review	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Comments
Highways Contract	The Committee, together with Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the highways contract	Corporate and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	

Major Contracts and Capital Contracts	The Committee together with Place and People Scrutiny Committees to undertake scrutiny of major contracts of the Council including the Children's Trust	Corporate, People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	
Housing	The Committee, together with Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake scrutiny activity of the housing costs and social value	Corporate and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	

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