

10. **Apologies**

Councillor Malcolm Longley and Councillor Rebecca Breese

11. **Declarations of Interest**

None

12. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Cabinet meeting on the 3rd of May 2022 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

13. **Chair's Announcements**

None

14. **Urgent Business**

None

15. **Annual Report & Quarter 4 Performance Report 2021-22**

At the Chair's invitation Councillors made the following comments on the report, which had been previously circulated.

- Officers were thanked for all their hard work.
- It was important to deliver services quickly and to listen to residents when they voice a query.
- How WNC engaged with the needs of residents was queried.
- It was agreed that having good leadership and accountability was important.
- It was felt that the report did not really identify the challenges faced by WNC.
- Could there be a clear definition of affordable housing?
- It was noted that litter and fly-tipping had not been mentioned in the report.
- The clean and green initiative should also include safe as there had been an increase in the number of serious crimes that had been reported.
- It was queried why the budget for adults was significantly larger than the one for Children, could zero based budgeting be used for these services?
- It was noted that some of the buses within the county were not environmentally clean.
- It was queried why Brexit had not been included in the report as it was something that also impacted communities.
- There should be more focus on connecting communities.
- The Billing Road project had been put aside, what would now happen to the fund set aside for this?
- Could there be more comparative figures presented in future reports?
- It was felt that the Children's Trust was not scrutinised enough.

The Chair advised that it was important to be careful with regards zero based budgets and that it was imperative to question what had been spent in the past. It was agreed that it was important to establish partnerships between the council and communities. Members were advised that there had been 10 sets of accounts from the previous councils and that there were now 2. The Finance department had promoted staff within the department into senior roles. Social value and sustainability were now part of procurement and there were and would be various local supplier events. It was noted that there had been a catch up of the number of invoices paid within 30 days, this was now at 94%.

Cabinet members then highlighted the salient points of the report that related to their portfolios

RESOLVED: Cabinet note the content of the appendix covering the annual review of WNCs 1st year (2021-22)

16. **Northamptonshire's Integrated Care System**

At the Chair's invitation Councillors made the following comments on the report which had been previously circulated.

- It was noted that there was a shortage of GPs, and the hospitals were in crisis.
- To have the Local Authority as a key partner would be the only way to ensure that the service stays public.
- It was felt that local area boards were crucial and important decision-making organisations.
- Membership of the Health and Wellbeing board needed to be looked at as there was a high level of work to undertake.
- It was important that each ward be given the same amount of support and all facilities should receive the same attention.

Councillor Matt Golby then presented the report and made the following comments.

- The ICS would become a statutory requirement as of the 1st of July 2022.
- The report was a snapshot of where the council currently was.
- All communities needed to be listened to and having a wide variety of colleagues on board would be a good thing.
- Further updates would come to Cabinet, The Scrutiny Committee and Full Council.

The Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing advised that there would be a review every 6 months and agreed that it was important for the Health and Wellbeing board to have the correct membership.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet.

- a) Noted that the nomination process for West Northamptonshire Council's representative on the Integrated Care Board (ICB) is subject to strict legal requirements and that the nomination would be made by the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services.**

- b) **Noted the West Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference for the Integrated Care System from the 1st of July 2022 which would be put forward for approval at full council on the 30th of June 2022**
- c) **Noted the proposed governance structure for the Integrated Care Partnership (West Place) which were put forward for approval at the Integrated Care Partnership Shadow Board on the 31st of May 2022 and the West Health and Wellbeing Board on the 7th of June 2022**
- d) **Cabinet noted the chairing arrangements for the Integrated Care Partnership Board.**
- e) **Approved the proposed Local Area Partnerships (LAP's) for the West Place as part of the ICP following consultation with stakeholders**
- f) **Approved the proposal for one elected member per unitary ward to sit on each of the nine Local Area Partnerships.**
- g) **Further updates would be presented to Cabinet, Full Council and People Scrutiny as the ICS develops to ensure the Council has appropriate oversight.**

17. **Household Support Fund: Scheme 2 Recommendations**

At the Chair's invitation Councillors made the following comments on the report, which had been previously circulated.

Councillor Rosie Herring the Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following comments on behalf of the committee.

- It was noted that the report had been expected at the Scrutiny Committee but understood that due to timings this had not been possible.
- It was queried what measures had been put in place for non-English speaking claimants and who would decide where the excess funds would be sent to.
- Could vouchers be used for Nursery fees?

Councillors made the following comments.

- How would the council find the people that need the help, such as pensioners who at times slip through the cracks.
- It was noted that disabled people and their needs had not been mentioned in the report.
- Had the Government agreed to extend the school meals programme over the summer holiday?
- Could the vouchers provided be given out weekly instead of all at once?
- Correct administration of the scheme would be important to ensure access for everyone that needs it.
- There would need to be a needs assessment carried out for access to the funds, it was important for residents to be aware of this.
- It was noted that the first tranche of payments had taken a while to be distributed.

Councillor Matt Golby then presented the report to Cabinet and made the following comments.

- Lots of learning had been done since the first tranche of payments.
- It was advised that the grant criteria did allow for some movement.

- The second round of payments would be focused on children, pensioners and those experiencing hardship.
- It was important for the scrutiny committee to see the report.
- It was advised there would be a communications package put out for residents to so that they would be aware of the fund.

The Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing noted that it was important to actively engage with various organisations, this would help the council become aware of those in need of the funds.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet.

- a) Noted that the Council had wide discretion in the allocation of the Household Support Fund (2).**
- b) Approved the allocation of funds set out in the chart in paragraph 6 of the report.**
- c) Approved the control and oversight approach set out at paragraph 8.1.1 of the report; and**
- d) Noted that depending on take up of the proposed scheme it might have to be adjusted to ensure the full allocation is not under or over allocated. Any adjustment will be managed within the terms of existing DWP guidelines.**

18. Commissioning residential and nursing care services for older people

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments on the report, which had been previously circulated.

- It was noted that this was a difficult area to recruit in, this lack of staff had an adverse effect on discharging care home residents from hospital.
- Could the council bring some of the care homes back in house?
- It was advised that working on an ethical care charter was important.
- More scrutiny was required on this due to the amount of legislative change that had occurred.

Councillor Matt Golby then presented the report and made the following comments.

- The report would come back to cabinet again later in the year.
- The Cabinet would need to look at the Ethical Care Charter to decide as to whether to join.
- It was important to do the best thing for the residents.

The Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing added that it was important to deal with the current recruitment crisis. It was confirmed that WNC ran 8 residential care homes in the region.

RESOLVED: Cabinet.

- a) Noted legislative and policy requirements introduced by Government in relation to the Social Care Charging Reforms and Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund.**
- b) Delegated to the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing the decision (subject to the Contract Procedure Rules) to**

extend the current Care Home Service DPS framework for a period of 8-months.

- c) Noted that a formal engagement and consultation exercise would be conducted with the provider market on the findings of the care home cost review.**
- d) Noted that a further report would come to Cabinet in September 2022, which will set out the proposed commissioning intentions for securing future residential and nursing care service supply.**

19. UK Levelling Up Fund Round Two

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments on the report which had been previously circulated.

- It was noted that none of the projects listed had been mentioned on the left behind list.
- Concern was raised about the St James Mill Road project; this work had been taken on by WNC.
- It was queried why a timetable had not been shared so that residents could raise queries.
- Regeneration of the Weston Favell Hub was one of the projects mentioned, would this be a complete regeneration? It was important to ensure that the hub was accessible for all residents.
- It was noted that councillors were not listed as stakeholders.
- Levelling up should be about equality and increasing the wellbeing of residents.
- There had been no mention of Trilogy which works in conjunction with the Weston Favell medical centre.

Councillor Daniel Lister then presented the report and the recommendations to members. It was advised that any projects not taken forward at this time would continue to be monitored, and that WNC would always engage with key partners.

The Executive Director for Place & Economy advised that the report would also go to full council, and that the government had issued specific criteria which had been difficult to meet.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet.

- a) Noted the activity made to date, timescales, and next steps for the Levelling Up Fund applications.**
- b) Delegated Authority to the Executive Director of Place, Economy and Environment in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth and approved the final two bids being made to the LUF round two, subject to any Council funding contribution also being in place before submission.**
- c) Recommended to Council Subject that, subject to the business case, and the capital and revenue implications stemming from it, being**

endorsed by the Chief Finance Officer and the relevant portfolio holders, that it approves the additional £21m.

20. Proposal to establish a 'School Minor Works' budget for 22/23

At the Chair's invitation a councillor asked whether WNC was aware of the scale of need of the schools.

Councillor Fiona Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Members were advised that this was an ongoing project.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet.

- a) Approved the 2022/23 '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.**
- b) Noted that WNC's allocation of 'School Condition Allocation' funding had been confirmed by the DfE at £1,732,900 and that this grant funding will be utilised as WNC's 'School Minor Works' budget for 2022/23.**
- c) Noted that any works undertaken under the 'Schools Minor Works' budget would be delivered as part of a rolling programme of conditions surveys at maintained schools in the Local Authority.**
- d) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education, to authorise all necessary legal, property and financial agreements to ensure effective delivery of condition schemes.**

21. Proposal to establish a new 250 place, 'all-through' Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) School for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) at Tiffield St John's site, Tiffield, West Northamptonshire

At the Chair's invitation Councillors made the following comments on the report which had been previously circulated.

- Had the parents of the children who would attend this school been spoken to about the chosen site.
- It was queried as to why the council would have to be pay for the new school and not the DfE.
- It was noted that maintained schools had performed better than academy schools.

Councillor Fiona Baker made the following comments.

- It was advised that parents had not been spoken to as the school had not yet been built.
- The school would be a single progressive experience covering primary and secondary phases.
- There had been a cost of £13 million to put children into independent schools due to the lack of special schools' spaces.
- £17.6 million would come from DfE grants.

The Interim Director for Children's Services advised that there had not been a government programme for special schools for last 4 years.

RESOLVED: Cabinet.

- a) **Noted the current deficit of SEND places that was being experienced across West Northamptonshire and the projected demand for places in coming academic years set out in paragraph 5.10-5.12.**
- b) **Agreed to the 'free school presumption' process being progressed to identify an academy trust to operate the new 'all-through' special school.**
- c) **Delegated responsibility to the Interim Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Education to take any necessary decisions to progress the 'free school presumption' process and to confer 'preferred bidder' status upon the academy trust that is selected (subject to DfE approval) to operate the new school.**
- d) **Noted that all matters relating to the capital cost required to deliver the required new school will be subject to further reports to Cabinet once the expenditure required to deliver the new school has been finalised.**

22. UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply Funding

At the Chair's invitation Councillors made the following comments on the report which had been previously circulated.

- There needed to be innovative thinking behind how the mentioned courses would be delivered.
- It was requested that councillors be included for local needs to be addressed.

Councillor Daniel Lister presented the report to members and advised that further information had been sent to councillors that day.

RESOLVED: Cabinet.

- a) **Noted UK Government had advised WNC as the Lead Authority for UKSPF (£5,426,224.00) and Multiply (£1,901,176.15) for a three-year provisional maximum allocation of £7,327,400.15 and the requirement to develop both a UKSPF Investment Plan and a Multiply Investment Plan**
- b) **Endorsed the approach to develop both Investment Plans by sourcing evidence and liaising with internal and external stakeholders**
- c) **Noted that under existing delegated powers, officers would submit a WNC Multiply Investment Plan by 30th June 2022 to the DfE and update Cabinet in July**
- d) **A further report would be submitted to Cabinet in July to address the submission of the UKSPF Investment Plan by the deadline of August 2022.**

23. Decision taken by the Leader under urgency procedures

At the Chair's invitation a councillor queried what the total cost to the council would be.

The Chair noted that money recovered was nowhere near the whole amount, but that due to continued legal fees it was felt that the council had reached the end of this process.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the decisions taken by the Leader of the Council set out at Appendix A.

24. **Sponne Arcade Short Stay Car Park**

At the Chair's invitation a councillor advised that there had been a request for residents permits.

Councillor Daniel Lister presented the report. It was known that there were a lack of short-term car parks and a desire to improve lighting and add CCTV; members were advised that this project was fully funded. Councillor Lister advised that he would investigate the residents parking query.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet.

- a) **Noted the work to date in securing the land, gaining necessary planning approval, and bringing the project to the on-site delivery stage.**
- b) **Authorised the appointment of Jeakins Weir Limited as principal contractor to undertake the construction works as defined by the construction information that has been developed by the Regeneration Team (a summary of the works is in this report). The contractor had already completed pre-construction services to the council including design, feasibility, and pricing to date, and are being procured through the Scape construction Framework.**
- c) **Noted the saving to the revenue budget of approximately £29,500. This saving was made mainly due to the reduction in National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR or known as 'business rates') that will be liable across the site with the demolition of the former Co-op unit.**

25. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____