



Cabinet

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held at the The Forum, Towcester, NN12 6AF on Tuesday 14 June 2022 at 6.00 pm

Agenda

Public Session	
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 (Pages 5 - 10) To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 3 rd May 2022
4.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
5.	Urgent Business The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
6.	Annual Report & Quarter 4 Performance Report 2021-22 (Pages 11 - 100)
7.	Northamptonshire's Integrated Care System (Pages 101 - 122)
8.	Household Support Fund: Scheme 2 Recommendations (Pages 123 - 130)

9.	Commissioning residential and nursing care services for older people (Pages 131 - 142)
10.	UK Levelling Up Fund Round Two (Pages 143 - 194)
11.	Proposal to establish a 'School Minor Works' budget for 22/23 (Pages 195 - 200)
12.	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 (Pages 201 - 220)
13.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply Funding (Pages 221 - 230)
14.	Decision taken by the Leader under urgency procedures (Pages 231 - 236)
15.	Sponne Arcade Short Stay Car Park (Pages 237 - 248)

Private Session

16.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>The following report(s) contain exempt information as defined in the following paragraph(s) of Part 1, Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p> <p>Members are reminded that whilst the following item(s) have been marked as exempt, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not to consider each of them in private or in public. In making the decision, members should balance the interests of individuals or the Council itself in having access to the information. In considering their discretion members should also be mindful of the advice of Council Officers.</p> <p>Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to resolve as follows:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph(s) 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”</p>
-----	--

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
6 June 2022

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Jonathan Nunn (Chair)

Councillor Adam Brown (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Fiona Baker

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Councillor Matt Golby

Councillor Mike Hallam

Councillor Phil Larratt

Councillor Daniel Lister

Councillor Malcolm Longley

Councillor David Smith

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.

Mobile Phones

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 Sofia Neal-Gonzalez, 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



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at The Forum, Towcester, NN12 6AF on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Present Councillor Jonathan Nunn (Chair)
Councillor Adam Brown (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Fiona Baker
Councillor Lizzy Bowen
Councillor Rebecca Breese
Councillor Matt Golby
Councillor Mike Hallam
Councillor Phil Larratt
Councillor Malcolm Longley
Councillor David Smith

Substitute N/A
Members:

Also
Present: Councillor Karen Cooper
Councillor Jonathan Harris
Councillor Suresh Patel
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Danielle Stone

Apologies
for
Absence: Councillor Malcolm Longley

Officers Gillian Baldock - Political Assistant to the Conservative Group
Paul Hanson – Democratic Services Manager
Nick Henstock - Head of Highways and Transport
Chris Kiernan - Assistant Director, Education
Sofia Neal-Gonzalez – Democracy Officer (minutes)
Jed Scoles - Political Assistant to the Labour Group
Chris Wales - Chief Information Officer

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Malcolm Longley

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Cabinet meeting on the 12th of April 2022 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

4. **Chair's Announcements**

None

5. **Urgent Business**

None

6. **Highways Contract Procurement Update**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Phill Larratt presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Members were advised that the procurement process had been a competitive one and that two separate contracts would be awarded. The final decision would be taken in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance, Councillor Malcolm Longley, and there was a plan in place arrange an all-member briefing on the subject. It was advised that the team was evaluating the tenders of the final 3 bidders with a decision due in early June and the new contract starting in September of 2022.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the delegation of the decision would be given to those who would have direct involvement in the bidding process.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was questioned whether this item should also be presented at the Scrutiny Committee.
- What inflation rate had been built into the contract? The previous one had built in 3%.
- It was queried whether the council was confident in their capacity monitor the contractor.
- Would the council be leading in the promotion of the net zero emission promise for this project, or would that be the contractor? It was important to make demands on of the contractor on environmental standards.
- It was noted that the Central Government had reduced local authority funding for highways projects, how constrained would the council be by this?
- Would the contract include provision for the bringing of roads up to standard, such as the filing of potholes or resurfacing, the investment in this had been stopped in the past.
- What penalties if any would be in place?
- Public maintenance schedules seemed to be different to the information that the public sees.

Nick Henstock, Head of Highways and Transport, made the following comments.

- The contract did include movement for inflation, this would be reviewed on an annual basis.
- Environmental standards had been part of the bidding process.
- Contractors were aware of the importance of communication and the consistency of service to the council.
- It would be possible for contracts to be extended, this would be based on the relationship created between the council and the contractor.

Councillor Phil Larratt made the following comments.

- The restoration of standards was important, and it was hoped that some would be able to be included in the work due to be carried out.
- Scrutiny could be provided with a briefing, but it was important to follow due process.
- It was important to have a strong contract management team in place.
- It was advised that the council had its own net zero emissions ambitions in place but was open to the contractors being innovative about this.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- a) Noted the continued progress to procure new arrangements for highways and transport services and the readiness to make an award post Final Tender submission and evaluation in May 2022.
- b) Agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director Place, Economy and Environment and Executive Director Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Services, and the Portfolio Holder for Finance to award the contract.

7. **Modern Income Management Solution**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Mike Hallam presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that there hadn't been an explanation of the possible risks involved, such as the capacity of the finance teams.
- It was queried how capacity within the service would be increased as the council had been unable to fill some vacancies.
- Why had the council chosen to continue to look at shared services after LGSS?

Councillor Mike Hallam made the following comments in response.

- The service was more of a shared procurement than a shared service.
- It was important for the service to be able to integrate with the systems from the previous authorities.
- The number of vacancies would be kept under review.
- Members were advised that payment options were not being removed, but new ways of paying were being added

RESOLVED: That Cabinet.

- a) Noted the completion of the procurement of the Income Management Solution; and
- b) Delegated authority to Executive Director Corporate in consultation with Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services to award the contract to the identified best fit supplier

8. **Hunsbury Park SEND unit**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Fiona Baker presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Members were advised that this project was part of an ambitious programme and was a statutory requirement. Action was required as there were not enough places for children and sending them to out of county schools was expensive and detrimental to the child.

The recommendations were presented to Cabinet who were advised that the item would return to Cabinet in July after the consultation has occurred.

Councillors made the following comments.

- The numbers of places needed might increase, how confident is the council in being able to provide for these going forward and where would any additional facilities be located?
- It was noted that the report stated that £12 million had been provided, would this be enough?
- Provision was also needed in mainstream school.

The Assistant Director for Education made the following comments.

- Confidence was high, there had been agreements with schools and capital was in place for those places.
- The consultation for the new 250 place special school would begin the next day.
- It was noted that the £12 million from the DfE was a larger amount that had been provided to the council in the past.

Councillor Fiona Baker made the following comments.

- It was for the benefit of the child that they be educated near their own homes.
- There would continue to be conversations with all the schools in order to work on what they could provide.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet.

- a) Approved the publication of the statutory notice of its intent to establish a new, 50 place, SEND unit catering to pupils with a primary need of ASC, at Hunsbury Park Primary School.
- b) Noted that following the publication of the statutory notice a four-week period of consultation on this matter will commence.
- c) Noted that a further, final decision will be required in July as to whether or not to establish the proposed SEND unit at Hunsbury Park Primary School.

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

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

14th JUNE 2022

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR STRATEGY: COUNCILLOR
JONATHAN NUNN**

Report Title	Annual Report and Quarter 4 Performance Report – 2021-22
Report Authors	Richard Corless and Claire Hughes Business Intelligence, Policy & Performance richard.corless@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	27 th May 2022
West S151	Martin Henry	27 th May 2022
Other Director/SME	Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and All Directors via ELT and EPB.	27 th May 2022
Communications	Becky Hutson	27 th May 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – WNC Annual Report and Quarter 4 Performance Report – 2021-22

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The attached report provides to Cabinet, a review of the Directorates' work and achievements for its first year of operation 2021-22 and an update on West Northamptonshire Council's performance against its Corporate Plan for 2021-22. It covers both the metrics that have been presented to Cabinet throughout the year, as well as further detail around the council's 1st year successes.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Report provides an overview of WNC's stated vision, corporate objectives and values, and a comprehensive review of each Directorate's work and achievements in its first year of existence. It also highlights future priorities and provides a view on the perceived future operational and financial challenges for 2022-23.
- 2.2. It includes an overview of performance for West Northamptonshire Council for the period of January to March 2022 (quarter 4) as well as the full year 2021-22. The performance indicators included in the report have been subject to review, challenge and approval by both the Cabinet and the Executive Leadership Team, with our aim being to create a meaningful dashboard of measures that provide members and officers with good insight into the council's performance.
- 2.3. There have been many changes to teams, services and systems as part of creating the new council and therefore some indicators will need to be developed in order to provide a complete unitary view and move away from the old district and borough boundaries. This is also exacerbated where we have different delivery vehicles or contracts for services, for example revenues and benefits, where services have been brought together from 3 previous delivery models and past contract.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note the content of the appendix covering the annual review of WNCs 1st year (2021-22)

4. Reason for recommendations:

- This report is for information purposes and discussion only, there are no direct decisions to be made following the report
- The council is required as part of Local Government Act 1972 to report performance of the council to members

5. Report Background

- 5.1 It is important that the council is clear and transparent on its priorities and objectives, its work to deliver these and its performance and that there are clear action plans where our performance falls below target or that of other benchmark authorities.
- 5.2 The council monitors performance across all services areas and against hundreds of national and contract metrics to ensure that services are performing well and identified priorities are

monitored and delivered against. These are monitored within services and reported in line with national cycles or as required to Overview and Scrutiny, and other committees.

- 5.3 This report provides an overall high-level summary of the key metrics that underpin our stated corporate priorities and sets out proposed metrics that we will be developing and monitoring for this quarterly report in addition to the wider overall performance framework we have in place.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 This is a report for information and discussion and therefore there are no choices to be made.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There are no direct financial implications from the report. However, services need to consider the implications of under or over-performance and identify what resources may need to be re-allocated to address these.

- 7.1.2 Financial indicators included within the performance report can be found in greater detail within the finance reports that are presented to Cabinet.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report or recommendations.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Communication and Consultation

- 7.4.1 The performance metrics included in this report have been chosen based upon the priorities identified within the Corporate Plan and in consultation with Cabinet and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT). The Corporate Plan priorities and wider service objectives underpins the council's communications and consultation activities to keep the public, staff and stakeholders informed and engaged on what the council is doing and how it is performing.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.5.1 Relevant performance data will be provided to Overview and Scrutiny Committees as required to support their agreed work plans.

7.6 Climate Impact

- 7.6.1 There are no direct implications on climate/environmental impact from this report, it does however provide an update on the delivery of the corporate plan which includes commitments to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, now revised to reflect our membership of UK100, and so to reach net zero by 2045. The quarterly report will provide updates on the council's progress to this aim as appropriate.
- 7.6.2 Within this report, the work and achievements outlined in the Directorates' reports highlight the effort and commitment WNC is making in delivering against its Sustainability and action to address climate change commitments.

7.7 Community Impact

- 7.7.1 Managing our performance is key to ensuring we are making a positive impact on our communities, celebrating our successes and addressing our challenges.
- 7.7.2 This report provides a high level of public transparency to all our customers and stakeholders, on the progress and achievements we have made in our first year of existence and to the work being undertaken by the council to deliver effective services and our corporate plan.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 The West Northamptonshire Council Corporate Plan 2021-25 provides the basis for the data and project updates that are provided within the quarterly performance reports.



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Annual Report

2021/22

**Delivering services that
make a difference**



Contents

Foreword	4
Achieving our vision	5
Our drive to thrive	6
Our priorities for West Northants	7
Progress against our priorities	7
Council spending 2021/22	9
Council spending 2022/23	9
A look back at our first year	10
Finance	
Overview	13
Our performance and achievements	14
Service team highlights	16
Our priorities 2022/23	17
Looking ahead	18
Financial and operational challenges	19
2021/22 quarterly performance reporting	20
Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	21
Overview	21
Our performance and achievements	22
Service team highlights	23
Our priorities 2022/23	43
Financial and operational challenges	46
2021/22 quarterly performance reporting	48
Children's Services	51
Overview	51
Our performance and achievements	52
Service team highlights	53
Our priorities 2022/23	54
Looking ahead	55
Financial and operational challenges	56
2021/22 quarterly performance reporting	58

Chief Executive's Office	59
Overview	59
Our performance and achievements	60
Service team highlights	62
Our priorities 2022/23	63
Financial and operational challenges	64
Corporate Services	65
Overview	65
Our performance and achievements	65
Our priorities 2022/23	70
Financial and operational challenges	71
2021/22 quarterly performance reporting	71
Place, Economy & the Environment	72
Overview	72
Our performance and achievements	73
Service area highlights	73
Our priorities 2022/23	76
Financial and operational challenges	78
2021/22 quarterly performance reporting	79
Additional Information	83



Welcome to our

Annual Report

The first year of any new council will bring both challenges and opportunities. But coming from the pandemic and bringing together four sets of staff, culture, buildings and systems has been complex as it's taken time to stabilise.

It is now just over a year since West Northamptonshire Council was created, replacing the former county, district, and borough councils on 1st April last year. From day one we've been working hard to establish West Northamptonshire Council so we can develop and deliver better, local services for the whole of West Northamptonshire.

This report is a chance to reflect on the past year and update members on the activities we have been managing and what we have achieved. As we enter the second year of our journey, we have achieved many things, but we still have much to do on this internally as we bring more things together, as we adapt to big legislation challenges and national challenges, and to progress our ambitions. We have made a good start and staff advise that they feel positive about our next steps. The report provides the context to our starting point and where we go next.

During our first year we've worked hard to shape a fresh vision for our area, to make West Northants a great place to live, work, visit and thrive for everyone – our residents, the voluntary sector, our communities and for social enterprise, businesses, and partner organisations.

We've made good progress towards our ambitions and a lot has been achieved. At the same time our communities have shown great spirit and resilience in the face of the pandemic, with its social and economic costs on our everyday lives.

Despite such significant challenges, we have delivered our first year within budget, and achieved a balanced budget for the year ahead, with improvements to services, and we have embarked on several bold new strategies.

Our sincere thanks to every member of our staff for their hard work throughout this first year, and to elected members for their work in cabinet or committees.



Cllr Jonathan Nunn

Leader of West Northamptonshire Council



Anna Earnshaw

Chief Executive of West Northamptonshire Council

Achieving our vision

**Five
ingredients
that will
help us
achieve
our vision**

1. Communities in control.

Everyone with a stake in West Northants has a part to play in our success, including civic leaders, business, the voluntary sector, community and social enterprises, parish and town councils and – most importantly of all – local people themselves.

2. People are at the heart of everything we do.

All our activity must put people and families at the centre. Our work must be designed and delivered in partnership with our diverse communities and integrated across organisations.

3. An integrated approach to “place-shaping”.

We will take an integrated approach to investing in all places in West Northants, so that they are attractive environments in which to live, work, visit and invest.

4. Leadership and accountability.

Each elected Council portfolio holder and each Executive Director has a specific area of responsibility aligned to our strategy, and working with public, private and community, voluntary and social enterprise partners, they will develop a work programme to support the delivery of this strategy.

5. Taking control of our future.

By setting out our vision, following these key principles for how we will achieve it, and setting a clear, robust and publicly transparent implementation plan, we can realise our ultimate goal of making West Northants a great place to grow up, get on and grow old.

Our drive to thrive

Everything we want to achieve for West Northants depends on having the right people in place and doing the right things. We need to retain, recruit, and develop talented and committed staff to provide the best services for our residents and businesses.

By making the most of people's skills and experience, we can take full advantage of the opportunities created by the new council. Everyone needs to be performing at their best to make the most of the opportunity we have with our new Council.

To support this, West Northants Council has developed a set of values in consultation with our staff, members, and stakeholders. These values underpin how we work and what partners and customers can expect from us. We want to do our very best for our residents, service users and businesses and for our staff – we want everyone to THRIVE.

Similarly, where services are provided through partners or external organisations, we will work with them to make sure these values are carried through in delivering services on our behalf. Our organisational culture will continue to develop as we carry on improving our services and ways of working as the new West Northants Council.

THRIVE

Our Core Values

TRUST

We are honest, fair, transparent and accountable. We can be trusted to do what we say we will.



HIGH PERFORMANCE

We get the basics right and what we do, we do well. We manage our business efficiently.



RESPECT

We respect each other and our customers in a diverse, professional and supportive environment.



INNOVATE

We encourage curiosity, we are creative and seize opportunities to grow individually as an organisation and as an area.



VALUE

We value each others skills, experience and ideas and we celebrate our similarities, differences and environment.



EMPOWER

We believe in people, will listen, learn and trust them to make decisions. We help people to realise their ambitions.



Our priorities for West Northants

We want our Council to reflect the times we live in. We believe our future is bright and are taking this opportunity to create a fresh start for us, our area, our residents and our businesses.

The impact of COVID-19 is still being felt and we have new pressures facing us. We therefore are focussed on playing our part to create a sustainable recovery, and harnessing the strengths of our diverse West Northants people, businesses and places, to create an inclusive and productive area where everyone and every place can thrive.

We will use partnerships and collaboration within in our communities and with both public and private partners. We aim to use all infrastructure funding that connects people and places across our region, and we will bring to life the plans we have for the regeneration of

our towns and for building more affordable housing.

We aim to make a real difference to the lives of real people and will consider our whole area and whole population in our strategy and work to address climate change, education, health and well-being, work, economic development, and our rural and urban gems, simultaneously.

By doing this, everyone across West Northamptonshire can have the opportunity to reach their potential, whether they're growing up, getting on or growing old.

Progress against our priorities

We have included in this report, the latest quarterly progress updates on the delivery of our priorities as part of delivering our West Northamptonshire Council Corporate Plan. These are included within the section reports on the Directorate(s) that primarily contribute to the delivery of each priority.

Each summary update contains two main elements - a summary 'dashboard' of information and metrics, accompanied by a short narrative. All indicators are available in a detailed scorecard view at the end of the Annual Report.

Our 6 priorities

Green and Clean

Environment & Wellbeing

1

- Carbon neutral by 2030
- Climate summit in first few months
- Increased wildlife species & more trees
- Increased electric charging & energy efficiency
- Vibrant towns & villages
- High quality parks
- Accessible green space for all

Improved Life Chances

Health, Social Care & Families

2

- Healthy, safe and protected Children
- Increased aspirations in young people
- Investment in new schools & provision
- Adults supported to live independently
- Care provided for those that need it
- Reduced hospital stays and delays
- Joined up and local services with health
- Safe and secure accommodation for all

Connected Communities

Transport & Connectivity

3

- Improved road, rail and bus networks
- Completion of major roads projects
- Improved road quality
- Increased use of electric vehicles & charging points
- Enhanced broadband and mobile connectivity

Thriving Villages & Towns

Place shaping & Homes

4

- Regeneration of our core town centres
- Safer communities with less anti social behaviour
- Flourishing and supported small business
- Sustainable planning for growth
- Increased affordable housing & Council homes
- Raised standards of privately rented homes

Economic Development

Growth & Prosperity

5

- Published west strategic infrastructure plan
- Framework for long term economic growth
- Increased inward investment
- Building on our rich heritage
- Increased visitors to our attractions
- Infrastructure benefits and investment through our role in regional forums and plans

Robust Resource Management

Transparency & financial probity

6

- Council tax rises capped at £99 a year
- Stable finances and rainy day reserves
- Robust scrutiny of spending
- Open and transparent decision making
- Financial prudence underpinning long term decisions and plans
- Optimised debt management

Council spending 2021/22

▶ **Adults, Communities & Wellbeing 33.3%**

(looking after the elderly and vulnerable, supporting people's health and wellbeing)

▶ **Chief Executive Services 0.5%**

(Setting strategy and priorities, informing and engaging on what we do)

▶ **Children's Services 22.6%**

(caring for our young people)

▶ **Corporate Services 6.4%**

(Organisational support such as HR, technology and governance)

▶ **Finance Services 3.2%**

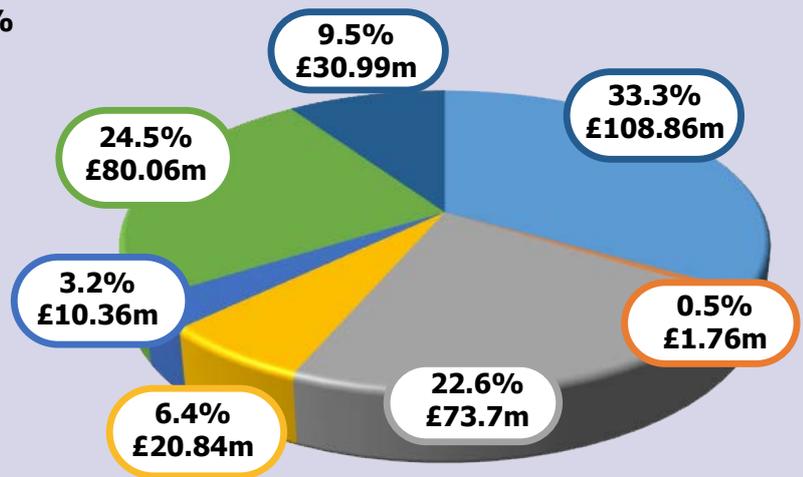
(Managing your money and resources, administering benefits to those in need)

▶ **Place and Economy 24.5%**

(From bin collections and highways to planning and economic development)

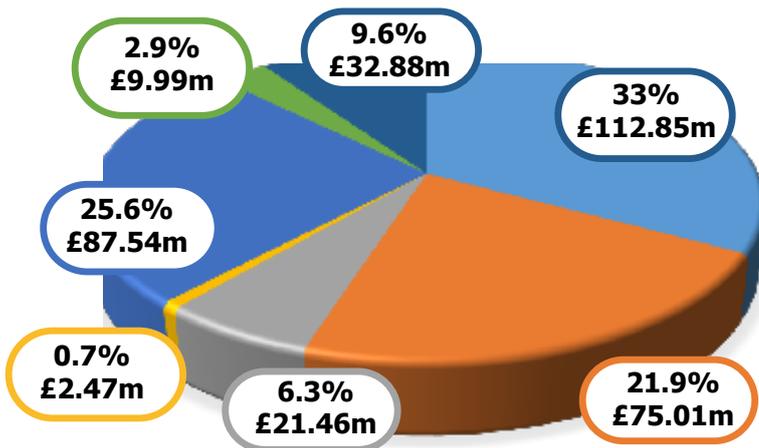
▶ **Central resources & financing 9.5%**

(Other budgets such as external audit fees, costs of servicing inherited borrowing, pension fund deficits and contingencies)



In 2021/22 West Northamptonshire Council received approximately £326.6m to deliver the day-to-day running of services. The money from the Council Tax made up around two-thirds of this total income, with the remainder coming from sources including government grants and part of the national business rates.

Council spending 2022/23



In 2022/23 West Northamptonshire Council will receive approximately £342.2m to deliver the day-to-day running of services. The money from your Council Tax makes up around two-thirds of this total income, with the remainder coming from sources including government grants and part of the national business rates.

▶ **Adults, Communities & Wellbeing 33%**

(looking after the elderly and vulnerable, supporting people's health and wellbeing)

▶ **Children's Services 21.9%**

(caring for our young people)

▶ **Corporate Services 6.3%**

(Organisational support such as HR, technology and governance)

▶ **Chief Executive Services 0.7%**

(Setting strategy and priorities, informing and engaging on what we do)

▶ **Place and Economy 25.6%**

(From bin collections and highways to planning and economic development)

▶ **Finance Services 2.9%**

(Managing your money and resources, administering benefits to those in need)

▶ **Central resources & financing 9.6%**

(Other budgets such as external audit fees, costs of servicing inherited borrowing, pension fund deficits and contingencies)

A look back at our first year

Green and Clean Environment & Wellbeing

1

- Shaping our new sustainability goals - to net zero the Council's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045
- Retaining Green Flag awards for our high-quality parks
- Developing Towcester Watermeadows and encouraging community tree planting
- £6.2m grant for community flood protection scheme for Collingtree area
- Installing new electric charge points across West Northants
- Crackdowns and prosecutions on environmental offenders, from fly-tipping and food safety to Trading Standards
- New litter charter and community litter-picking initiatives



- Grants for landowners to tackle fly tipping
- Successfully applying for DEFRA Air Quality funding
- Currently consulting on two public protection orders in the Daventry and South areas
- Developing and now implementing our fly tipping charter with investment in cameras across West Northants.
- Refurbishing and reopening Farthinghoe Recycling Centre.

Improved Life Chances Health, Social Care & Families

2



- Supporting and guiding residents and businesses through the covid pandemic
- Continuing the improvement journey in children's services as recognised by Ofsted
- Progressing plans to join up health and social care services
- Helping the most vulnerable including free school meals, funds to help households with food and energy bills, resettling Afghan families and beginning to co-ordinate the Government's Ukraine response locally.
- We distributed over £1.5m to residents suffering hardship over the winter period.
- Developing our Anti-Poverty Strategy with partner organisations and charities
- Continuing to build high quality council homes
- Council Tax reduction scheme and improving financial support for care leavers
- Allocating school places and proposals for a new secondary school Proposal for Moulton
- Staging a range of events to celebrate our communities, equality and diversity – including the Male Role Model & Inspirational Women awards
- Awareness and commemoration days and events –Pride, Armed Forces Day, International Day of Disabilities and Black History Month
- Developing the Armed Forces Covenant and establishing new armed forces hubs
- New customer experience strategy to improve how residents access our services
- Our One Stop Shop has remained open throughout the pandemic, ensuring frontline support was available for our vulnerable customers
- Providing accommodation and support for rough sleepers.

A look back at our first year

Connected Communities

Transport & Connectivity

3

- Embarking on a major roads improvement programme
- Starting on site constructing the North-west Relief Toad.
- Making plans and funding bids to improve bus services
- Developing a strong partnership with rail operators and England's Economic Heartland helping to develop a future West Northants rail strategy
- Extending Northampton's public e-scooter scheme
- Shaping and progressing our future highways maintenance service and transport infrastructure
- Development of an Active Travel Strategy looking across West Northants to ensure we have a pipeline a projects such as improved cycling links at Brackley and to our country parks as well as seeking improved ways to work and safe routes to schools.



- Appointment of a new HS2 warden to ensure the construction of the HS2 link is controlled.

Thriving Villages & Towns

Place shaping & Homes

4



- Localising planning arrangements and simplified, more effective planning enforcement
- Investing in a host of initiatives to make communities safer
- Distributing grant funding for community and voluntary groups
- Re-opening the refurbished and extended Northampton Museum and Art Gallery
- Showcasing our heritage with open days and supporting the Go Northamptonshire destination campaign
- Redevelopment of Avenue campus into 170 new homes
- Working with parishes on Neighbourhood development plans and conservation area appraisals
- Designated conservation areas for Spratton and Hellidon with neighbourhood plans agreed
- for Ashton, Clipston, Hackleton and Overstone with a Village Design Statement agreed for Deanshanger.
- Reopening the Museum representing the history of West Northants.

A look back at our first year

Economic Development

5

Growth & Prosperity

- Submitting a bid for city status for Northampton
- Securing £37m funding for regenerating Northampton town centre and Market Square
- Delivering Daventry's new cinema complex
- Redeveloping Brackley Library and delivering our award- winning 'For the Love of Books' reading challenge to over a thousand residents Consulting on shaping our Strategic Plan
- Supporting businesses and start-ups with funding, advice and support
- We provided financial support to thousands of local businesses across West Northants to help them through the pandemic, distributing grants totalling nearly £6m from government support schemes.



Robust Resource Management

6

Transparency & financial probity

- Capping Council Tax rises at £99 per year
- On target to deliver our first year on budget, and setting a balanced budget for the year ahead and making robust plans to tackle financial challenges
- Working to join up local services across the whole West Northants area, to make them better and more cost-effective
- Ensuring business continuity from the legacy councils; all staff and suppliers paid, no disruptions
- Holding our first ever unitary elections
- Staging hybrid Council meetings to improve access and convenience for our residents
- Reviewing our Constitution and improving the decision-making process
- Delivering the Annual canvass and 2021 Census
- Responding to major incidents including Health and Care and our major IT emergency
- Preparing for major incidents with robust procedures in place in the event of floods, storms and business continuity.
- The teams have answered an average of 27,000 calls a month, with an additional 9,000 enquiries per month being handled via email.





Finance

Overview

The first year for West Northamptonshire has been challenging but we have achieved a great deal, it has been incredibly rewarding and exciting.

Within the Finance Directorate we have attracted people who want to work here and make a difference; and who share the ethos and culture that we are working hard to demonstrate in line with our THRIVE values.

The financial position has settled down throughout the year and we are looking to stabilise that further in 2022-23 having had a very collaborative, robust and constructive budget setting process.

We are proud of what we have achieved, and if we continue in this manner with really excellent people working really hard to stabilise, improve and make services more efficient, we will continually improve the service offering to all residents, businesses, organisations and other stakeholders.

Our performance and achievements

The main areas of work, challenges and achievements within the Finance directorate are set out below:

Finance

- We delivered the first budget ever for West Northamptonshire Council for the financial year 2021-22.
- Although the budgets have taken some 'settling down' it appears that the financial out-turn position will be in line with the original budget set.
- We have implemented an interim staffing structure for the finance team for day one. Listened to staff comments as part of informal consultation and amended and accommodated requests where we could.
- A week before vesting day, ten sets of predecessor accounts were outstanding. Now there are only two sets awaiting final auditor approval (NBC 2020-21 and NCC 2020-21).
- Where they became apparent, we highlighted and 'cleaned up' erroneous budgets that were inherited.
- We carried out a robust budget setting process for 2022-23, including members and officer 'star chamber' sessions and 'budget robustness' sessions to test and check the robustness of the budget for 2022-23.
- We reviewed and re-organised all the reserves that were inherited by the authority.
- We got to grips with significant capital programmes that came across from predecessor authorities and brought them into one programme.
- We set up the member and officer Capital Assets Board which oversees and manages the GF capital programme referred to above.
- We supported the organisation on major projects to help to drive forward progress in other areas.

- We carried out a number of member training sessions that were well received.
- We developed and promoted internal staff into more senior roles when they became vacant, demonstrating a desire to nurture and develop our own people.

Revenues and Benefits

- We implemented a single in-house service to replace the multiple arrangements that were in place on vesting day whilst delivering a £200,000 annual saving in service costs as a result.
- In doing so, we wound up the lead authority (ex-LGSS) arrangements that were in place, closed down a TECKAL company and moved across staff that were already delivering the service in house.
- We have started to improve the level of performance and backlog of claims that were inherited from predecessor councils. The 'true' extent of the backlogs and performance inherited not being known until the services came under our direct control on 8 November.
- We are beginning to streamline systems and processes so we are more efficient and can provide a better level of service to the public.
- We successfully administered numerous multi-million pound grant schemes to businesses across West Northamptonshire.
- We successfully delivered the annual Council Tax and Business rates billing exercise which is a mammoth task.
- We gained support for an improved and more straight forward Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Internal Audit

- We made an early decision to cease the inefficient and overly complicated lead authority arrangements for Internal Audit bringing the service in house and dedicated to this Council.
- We appointed a new Chief Internal Auditor.

Procurement

- We brought together and quickly reorganised four separate teams into one team to give stability to staff as soon as possible.
- We strengthened contract management arrangements.
- We set up and drove forward good governance under the procurement board.
- We drove forward the adoption of an approach to Social Value.
- Our Head of Procurement – Gus De Silva - received national recognition at the UK GO Procurement Awards where he picked up the procurement “Individual Achievement of the Year” award.
- We are carried our first supplier events in May 2022.

Pensions

- We achieved a smooth and seamless change of administering authority to West Northamptonshire for a £3bn fund.
- We re-structured the service to provide greater stability and improve the service delivered.
- We increased cyber resilience through a new cyber strategy, data and asset mapping, supplier questionnaires and cyber training.
- We developed and agreed an Enhanced Responsible Investment Policy, alongside a Climate Action Plan and decarbonisation pathways.
- We provided member training which was well received on Socially Responsible Investments.
- We improved Customer Service Excellence (CSE) Standard accreditation illustrating improved customer journeys.



Service Team Highlights

The first year of the new council has been quite a journey but it feels as an organisation and as the finance directorate that we have made great strides and not made any major errors or encountered any significant problems that we have not been able to navigate around or deal with head on over the year.

Within the year-end discussions that have been held there have been many positive comments about the emerging culture of the organisation as one that is open, honest, supportive and not afraid to deal with difficult issues.

Service transformation has taken place in almost all areas of the Finance Directorate ranging from implementation of interim structures to wholesale change in two areas.

All service transformation has taken place to stabilise and improve services with financial savings also being delivered.

Major transformation has taken place within the Revenues and Benefits Service and the Internal Audit Service, as we have moved away from lead authority and Teckal company arrangements, to deliver a single target operating model.

Finance: Our Priorities 2022/23

The key priorities that we will deliver in 2022-23 are set out below:

1

Moving from an interim structure within the finance team to a permanent structure to give more certainty and stability to staff and learn from the experiences of the first year.

2

Preparing for the implementation of a new income management system to replace the existing systems. This is a major project.

3

Streamlining systems and processes generally across the directorate but particularly within the Revenue and Benefits service.

4

Automating processes wherever possible. There are basic manual processes being delivered that should be automated.

5

Streamlining of contracts wherever possible.

6

Reduction in outstanding levels of historic debt.

7

Improvement in performance levels across the directorate.

8

Consideration of an improved asset management system.

9

Developing Housing Revenue and Housing Capital reporting.

Finance: Looking Ahead

Within the next three years we will aim to:

1

Gain greater stability and certainty in the budgets set across the authority.

2

Obtain greater funding certainty from the Government in respect of issues such as the fair funding review and business rates re-baselining.

3

Achieve continual improved performance in all services.

4

Fully harmonise systems and processes so that they are operating with greater efficiency, which also delivers a better service to the residents and businesses in the area.

5

Achieve the timely production of West Northants Councils accounts and unqualified opinions on them.

6

Develop, nurture and grow our internal talent to aid with succession planning. A desire to keep our 'rising stars'.

7

Continue to establish West Northants as a place where people want to work because of the culture we are promoting, and because of the reputation we are building, so that we are an employer of choice.

8

Continue the transformation of services, not for the sake of transformation, but to make them more efficient and to improve the service delivery offer.

Financial and operational challenges 2022-23

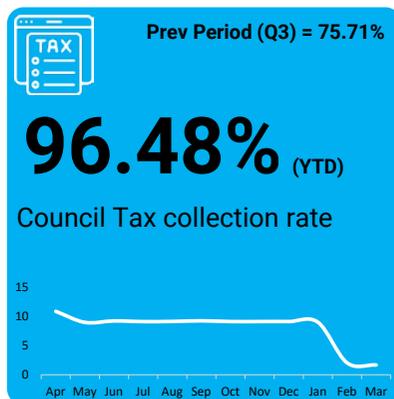
Within the Finance Directorate there are no specific concerns we are currently aware of in relation to the 2022-23 budget.

From a Corporate point of view there are concerns about:

- The current level of inflation being encountered across a range of supplies (utilities, building materials, cost of living increases etc.) outstripping the assumptions built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- Ongoing costs associated with dealing with the pandemic and the financial aftermath of the pandemic (for example car parking levels not returning to pre-pandemic levels) for which there is no specific government funding being received, and therefore may have to be contained within existing resources.
- Increase in the demand for services having a financial impact greater than that assumed in the budget.

Finance: 2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting

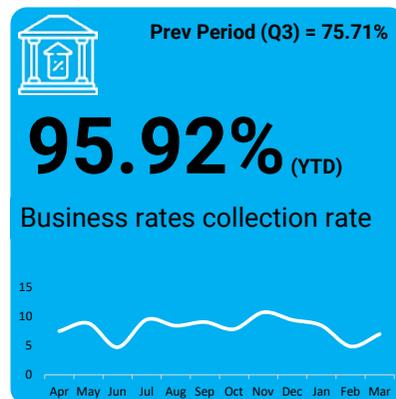
Priority 6 - Robust Resource Management - Finance



The Council Tax collection rates have, over the previous two years, been impacted by the covid pandemic particularly as a result of the hold that was placed on recovery action.

The end of year collection rate for 2021-2022 is 96.48% against a target of 98% (a monetary variance of £4.2m).

Despite the challenges during 21-22 this is an improvement on the end of year figure for 2020-2021 which was 96.17% against a target of 98%. Full recovery action is now taking place and will continue in 22-23.

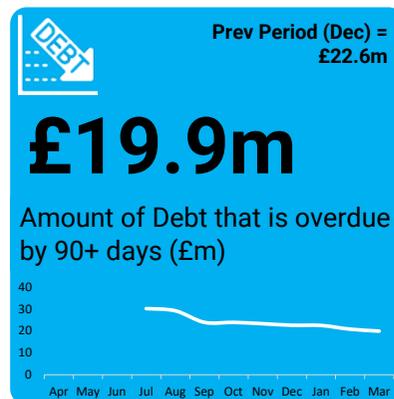


As well as the challenges presented by the covid pandemic the Revenues and Benefits team restructure took place in November 2021.

At the point of the restructure the collection rates were 55.64% against a target of 65.44% - a shortfall of £16.1m.

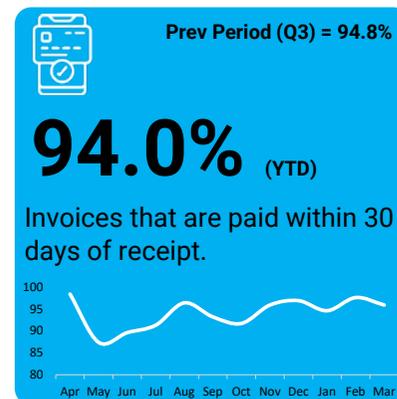
The end of year collection rate for 2021-2022 is 95.92% against a target of 98% which is a variance of 2.08% (£3.2m in monetary terms).

This is a considerable improvement from November 2021 and is an improvement on the end of year position for 2020-21 which was 95.62%.



There has been a reduction in the aged debt (90+ days) in each month since the last report, resulting in an overall reduction of £2.7m from £22.6m to £19.9m.

This continues the positive trajectory in the management of the councils aged debt, which has reduced by over £10m since the start of the year.



6,351 of the 6,618 invoices paid during Q4 were processed within 30 days resulting in an outturn of 96% for the quarter. It should be noted that the volume of invoices paid during Q4 was the highest quarterly total processed during 21/22.

Across 2021/22 a total of 24,679 of invoices were paid, with 23,205 paid within 30 days. This resulted in an annual outturn of 94%. Although annual performance narrowly missed its target (this indicator has a 95% monthly performance target) performance has generally improved during the second half of the year, with performance for four of the last five months exceeding target.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

Overview

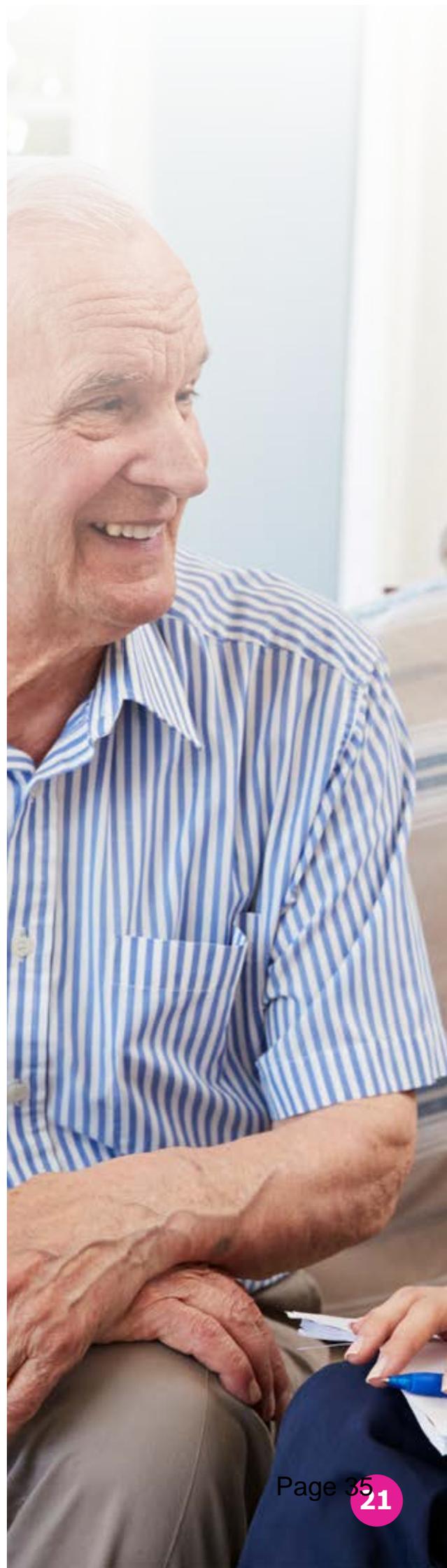
As with many of our teams in West Northants this year has also been about settling into our new organisation and making new links and reaching out to our partners.

We have developed new pathways to support discharges to home from hospital, and direct referrals from our hospital colleagues. We have weekly meetings to provide a more responsive service to those people in our local hospitals and who need major adaptations.

This has enabled us to not only meet the immediate needs of people to ensure they are discharged safely, but to also address their long-term needs which in turn reduces the risk of returning to hospital or requiring increased care support. We are proud of our progress as a service this year and hope to continue making improvements and being innovative with our wide skillset.

We are continuing to identify more ways to attract suitable candidates to work within the local authority, which will allow us to increase occupancy within the services. The local authority has employed a recruitment team to focus on filling vacancies.

The future looks bright for the people of West Northants. With the development of our new Integrated Care System, coupled with the new digital age, we are enabling more people to be supported at home with more advanced assistive technologies that support local people to live their best Life.



Our Performance and Achievements

Across the year we have focused on delivering the best outcomes for local people. Three significant areas of work highlighted here, involved staff from different teams coming together to demonstrate the values and behaviours which we as new Council, aspire to deliver in everything we do.

Omicron Major Incident

During the major incident in January 2022 across West Northamptonshire, we put measures in place and re-deployed staff so that we were able to keep people safe. Intense support was provided to the independent sector enabling us to intervene prior to provider failure, helping us to maintain uninterrupted service delivery to our most vulnerable residents. Significant support was provided across the hospital settings to create capacity for ongoing clinical treatment in the acute settings.

Social Care Remembrance Day

West Northamptonshire Council worked with regional partners (skills for care) and the independent sector to host an event on March 17th, 2022, that recognised the efforts of social care and to remember those front-line carers who lost their lives during the pandemic. The event was held at Abington Park and was a fitting tribute to allow residents across Northamptonshire to pay their respects. The event was attended by over 200 children and adults and will become an annual event for the Council.

Afghan Resettlement

We supported with the arrival and provision of wrap-around care for 379 Afghans. Of this, we have so far supported 138 to move on, with the majority moving to permanent accommodation.

Comprehensive wrap-around care has been provided to the guests working with partners to include:

- Public Health – support with weekly COVID testing and outbreaks, vaccinations, and blood screening.
- CCG – working with the GPs to support local registrations.
- NGH – Midwives visiting the hotels regularly.
- NHFT – weekly mental health sessions during the first few months, and 0-19 team and sexual health team visiting weekly.
- Dentists – initial visit to the hotels to complete check of all guests – referrals made to local practices for urgent work.
- Education – arranged tutors in the hotels initially – leading to school placements – all children are in school.
- Adult Learning – ESOL classes – weekly in the hotel and cultural awareness sessions weekly also.
- DWP – visiting the hotel weekly during the first few months and when we receive new arrivals to ensure all have access to full benefit entitlement.

The Salvation Army and British Red Cross together with several community and voluntary organisations supported with immediate needs such as clothing and essential items etc.



Service Team Highlights

Adult Services

- The Adult Services teams have settled into their community bases with only 2 now remaining at Angel Square, and we are continuing to pursue options to enable them to also move. Whilst it's taken longer than anticipated, Community Hub 2 will move to their newly renovated hub at the Drayton Centre in April. This will provide the opportunity for Adult Social Care, Housing and police colleagues to be located in the same building that is at the heart of the community. Links and relationships are being made with organisations in the community and further work is planned over the next year to improve on these and enhance the community work that has started.
- The social care Hospital team moved from NGH and are now based in the community completing assessments after people have been discharged. This has been a momentous change and one that the team has taken in its stride. The Care home Review team has worked closely with Safeguarding and Quality colleagues to support independent providers, and delays for people whose assets have reached the threshold has reduced dramatically.
- Since re-structuring in October 2020, the teams have continued to form their new identities as part of West Northants Council and are embedding the 3 conversations model as their new way of working. This is despite the challenges they are facing with increased demands and vacancies due to the difficulties in recruiting to the sector. The new structures have identified where pathways are not working as streamlined as planned, and a review of the TOM is going to take place with the teams to identify how improvements can be made and to ensure the teams are structured proportionately to match the demand in each area. Acknowledging that there also needs to be a focus over the next year on improving scheduled review activity and progression work with individuals.
- This year Adult Services have received a total of 9,169 requests for support and advice. On average the Adult Services social work and assessment teams have 5,900 people allocated to them at any one time, with 2,195 having active involvement from an allocated worker.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

- Since April 2021, the Adult Services teams have completed:
 - 6,861 Conversation 1s
 - 3,583 Conversations 2s
 - 1,904 Conversation 3s
 - 3,778 Reviews
- There have been countless examples of where staff have supported people to achieve improved outcomes and an improved quality of life.
- Since becoming WNC, all Adult Services' policies, guidance and procedures have been reviewed and organised more clearly on the intranet, including a new induction pack for staff.
- The system Learning Disability three year strategy has been written, and there are a number of workstreams now in place to support the priorities and aims contained within, which link to the community and neighbourhood work.
- The Adult Services staff have supported in a number of cases where there has been quality or safeguarding concerns regarding independent providers. Whilst this is not positive in itself, it is positive that the concerns were identified, and work was completed to ensure the people who were supported were safe. It also evidenced the commitment of our staff who worked extremely hard, including volunteering out of hours.
- This year links have been made with several organisations due to being part of the Kings College University Communities of Practice "Opening the 'too difficult box': strengthening Adult Safeguarding responses to homelessness and self-neglect". This was in part because of a Safeguarding Adult Review, and as the government wanted to identify a consistent plan as to how all Local Authority's work with regard to Multiple Exclusion Homelessness (MEH) and Safeguarding.
- This led on to groups being set up, consisting of Adult Social Care, Housing, Voluntary organisations, and Probation looking at how we can all work together to ensure we provide some consistency for MEH and safeguarding. The aim is to remove thinking by professionals and others

such as "they are too difficult to engage with" or "they have said no and can make an unwise decision". These groups identified that Adult Risk Management (ARM) was not always being considered and tools not being utilised. As a result, ARM Training has been created and presented on a large scale to numerous organisations and internal staff. This has also developed further connections and relationships with NGH, NHFT, Carers Trust, Age UK, Voice, Probation, Housing, Hope, Trinity Haarp and this will continue. This has led to other partners recognising their responsibility and duty to take the lead with ARM and ensure safeguarding is everyone responsibility.

- Learning and development for MEH and Safeguarding is now being produced for all organisations to access, and this is again being created collaboratively with various partners. This is to be launched at a Homeless and Safeguarding Event on April 11th at the Guildhall. There will also be various organisations present talking about what they do and how they support Homeless People.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Service

Assisted Technology Team (AT)/ Call Care

This team provides equipment and technology responses enabling people to remain safe and independent within their own homes.

Throughout the pandemic and following it, the team increased the number of referrals from the previous year. They exceeded their targets and installed over 1000 pieces of equipment across Northamptonshire, providing support to over 4000 people on a regular basis.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

This team provides equipment and technology responses enabling people to remain safe and independent within their own homes.

Throughout the pandemic and following it, the team increased the number of referrals from the previous year. They exceeded their targets and installed over 1000 pieces of equipment across Northamptonshire, providing support to over 4000 people on a regular basis.

In partnership with Health, we will be providing telehealth to customers in the community through a proactive approach, providing customers/patients with equipment and access to clinical advice to manage their conditions at home, and increasing their levels of independence.

We have transferred 750 of our targeted 1500 Lifeline customers to Call Care. Call Care is a West Northants internal control room, TSA accredited, with an enormous amount of knowledge across the team. The work is expected to be completed in May 22.

The central call hub will support this and will be provided by the council through the Call Care team and they will be supported by clinical staff from NHFT.

Call Care

Call Care is a West Northants internal control room, TSA accredited, with an enormous amount of knowledge across the team Call Care that provides a response service to customers who use life-lines in the community. During the last year they have responded to 68,000 calls. Over the last 6 months they have been working hard to transfer NCC lifeline customers over to their service so. The transfer of around 1500 customer is nearly complete.

The services annual survey conducted in March/April 2022 shows a high level of customer satisfaction:-

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

Call Care Annual Survey for Private Lifelines

Service quality	Speed of response	Staff helpful?	Good value?
96%	93%	93%	96%

The team also provide the majority of the councils out of hours call support and the activity over the last year has been:-

Call Care out of hours service April 2021 - January 2022 (10 months data)

Approx yearly calls of which were:	17,220
Repairs	3,656
Homeless	600
EDT	10,313
Remaining calls can vary from Highways, car parks, stray dogs, EH to parks and more	

We have transferred 750 of our targeted 1,500 Lifeline customers to Call Care. Call Care is a West Northants internal control room, TSA accredited, with an enormous amount of knowledge across the team. The work is expected to be completed in May 2022.

Visual Impairment Service

We have supported over 256 people across the county with all aspects of life that a visual impairment can have an impact on. The business support team have been busy streamlining and uploading over 5,427 paper Certificates of Vision Impairment (CVI) to Eclipse, our WNC internal electronic information system.

This previously formed the Visual Impairment Register. This piece of work has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the Visual Impairment Team.

Combined with the completion of a prompt and timely registration process, we can offer the person coming to terms with a newly registered vision impairment a much slicker and efficient service.

Therapy Teams

The Therapy Teams have worked hard on reducing the waiting times for people living in West Northants. The team has developed an internal referral hub to serve our Social Care Hubs with a responsive service, allocating cases to the team on a weekly basis.

When West Northants Council came into existence in April 2021, the waiting list was 26 weeks for external referrals for traditional occupational therapy. By the end of March 2022, the waiting list will be around 4-6 weeks, with 94% of people being seen within a 6-week period.

The Specialist Moving and Handling Team have also worked hard on reducing the waiting time and becoming more responsive. On 1st April 2021 people were waiting around 18 weeks for an assessment, today this stands at 2 weeks for the assessment, with many people receiving an almost immediate response to moving and handling issues, which can be quite serious and cause immense pressure on families and carers.

All these efforts are massive achievements by the Therapy Teams, an achievement to celebrate. Based on last month's figures we have seen outcomes such as, 700 people receiving equipment to meet their immediate needs, 330 people receiving minor adaptations to improve their safety and independence at home, and 520 people having been recommended major adaptations to meet long-term needs.



Internal Provider Services

Our five long term care homes have managed to continue to provide support to some of our most vulnerable residents throughout last year. This has involved an evolving requirement to manage infection and control measure and keep people safe whilst really struggling to recruit staff.

These services continue to support demand for long term support for people living in West Northants. The total occupancy rate across our Care Homes is 77%. This is a noted reduction in occupancy due to the pandemic however we continue to receive referrals which we anticipate will increase over next 6 months.

The Specialist Support Younger Adults service offers 941.5 support hours per week. The West team are supporting customers at Eleanor Lodge and have increased occupancy over the last year. The service was rated GOOD by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in March 2022.

Shared Lives

57 people received long term support through our Shared lives scheme with a further 49 people having received short-term respite. The service is rated outstanding with the CQC and currently has three new carers going through the recruitment process, which will further increase our offer locally.

Day Services

The total number of customers being supported by our Day services is 102 across four locations. The number of customers being supported has remained consistent over the last year, despite the services having to diversify to comply with infection control requirements. The number of places has increased slightly within the last year totalling 323 per week. We have also concluded the disaggregation of our LIVE service which will offer more choice and control for West Northants Adults with a learning disability.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Team has successfully implemented a revised operating model and ways of working from April 2021. The changes have supported a more streamlined front door process, that has in turn supported a more robust triage process, and the ability to make much more informed and timely decisions. Any concerns received by the team are now triaged within 24 hours and a decision is made on the next steps in the Safeguarding process.

The Safeguarding Team has been embedding the new ways of working, changes to Eclipse and maintaining business as usual throughout the pandemic without compromising our response to safeguarding.

Building good communication links with key partners has resulted in some excellent partnership working. This has resulted in improvements in the identification of risks and mitigations to address, ensuring learning outcomes are embedded and sustained.

Assurance

The Assurance Team have been key to ensuring the administrative processes support our timely responses to safeguarding, requests from Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests and service specific functions such as Protection of Property.

Commissioning and Performance Service

Covid 19 Vaccinations

Throughout the year, West Northamptonshire Council played a significant role in the roll-out of the vaccination programme across Northamptonshire. The Council provided noteworthy support to get care home residents and staff vaccinated as quickly as possible, and by June 2021, 98% of all care home residents had been fully vaccinated. By September 2021, 96% of all care homes staff had received a vaccination. The authority continued to support the programme including Winter and Spring boosters for care home residents.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund

In December 2022, West Northamptonshire Council announced their Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund. This was an offer of up to £600 to all frontline care staff who were delivering CQC Regulated Activity up to 31st March 2022, or to new recruits coming into the care sector. The scheme was concluded successfully and generated 376 new recruits into the care sector, at a time when the sector was under tremendous pressure to meet demand.



Government Covid Grants

During 2021/22, there were several grants issued to support the care sector across Northamptonshire totalling £12.5m. The Council administered all these grants to enable the care sector to have additional funding to be able to pay for Infection Control measures to help to keep people safe.

Quality Monitoring

During the pandemic, professional visits into care settings were suspended and this meant that our staff who monitored care quality were unable to undertake their duties. When visiting restrictions were lifted, there was a significant backlog of care providers who needed a full monitoring visit. The Quality Team has worked exceptionally hard to catch up on backlogs this year and identified some significant concerns with care delivery along the way. These concerns have all been managed effectively, and people have been kept safe.

We have provided intense support to those care providers who have been struggling to maintain adequate performance and this has been very well received across our market. We have finished the year with 98% of all working age adult providers being monitored, and 48% of all older people's providers being monitored, with plans in place to hit 100% in the next year.

Disaggregation

Disaggregation has been particularly complex for the Commissioning and Performance services due to the contractual and transactional nature of their work. The staff have battled through this to set up robust new relationships with partner organisation to ensure effective contract management, as well as to navigate new arrangements relating to legacy financial matters. At the same time, completely new teams were formed to undertake roles specific to West Northamptonshire; these team have developed well over the year and are effective and delivering to good levels.

Direct Payments Monitoring

The Direct Payments Team went above and beyond this year to clear significant legacy backlogs in returns monitoring. This generated £1.5m against a savings target of £750k, so doubling Council revenue. Page 43

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

Specialist Builds

Northamptonshire Partnership Homes (NPH) have worked with the Council to create two purpose-built projects and one refurbishment project for adults with social care needs:

- **Oak Tree Rise** - developed in partnership with Northampton Partnership homes to provide specialist accommodation for people who have complex support requirements due to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The facility was launched April 2021 and has eight purpose-built bungalows that can meet high level needs. The scheme has largely been a success and has meant that we have been able to secure permanent homes for people who have struggled to settle into accommodation-based support services in the past. There are currently six residents residing at Oak Tree Rise.
- **Moray Lodge** - developed in partnership with Northampton Partnership Homes and opened in October 2021. The scheme was designed to support people who have Mental Health concerns (ten flats) as well as people who have an acquired brain injury or a physical disability (ten flats). The scheme was designed as a step-down facility to prevent people from having to access their support via a traditional care home package. The scheme has been successful, and the current occupancy is nineteen residents, with one vacant property.

Housing and Communities Service

The West Northants Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board has been established and a Needs Assessment completed to identify gaps in support; especially for those who are in specialist domestic abuse accommodation, having left an abusive relationship. We have produced a Domestic Abuse Strategy to meet our statutory duties in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

We have achieved the following:

- Through our 16 days partnership group we delivered our 16 Days of activism annual campaign which included a 'Reclaim the Night' march and a candle-lit vigil at All Saints. We also ran a number of pop-up drop in events with Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV) organisations, in-person and virtual discussion events and a social media campaign was developed and delivered through WNC social media channels to raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence and to educate and promote the local and national support services.
- Successfully delivered our Hate Crime Week of Action, including engagement stands in high footfall areas in Northampton and Daventry, ward visits from Northampton Partnership Homes and the Northampton Partnership Homes Daphne bus. Information was sent to schools to support them to take part in a hate crime activity. Third Party Reporting line for victims of Hate Crime was commissioned to Stop Hate UK.
- The Partnership tackled disability hate crime which was a main topic during the Disabled People's Forum virtual event for International Day of People with Disabilities on 4 December. Speakers from Police Hate Crime and Voice came together to educate viewers around hate crime and hate incidents and encourage them to file reports if they experienced any.
- A virtual 'I'm Still Me' LGBTQ conference was delivered with over sixty school staff signing up to take part in the event.
- A virtual International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBiT) event was delivered via West Northants Council social media channels.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

- We delivered and supported community engagement events, bringing our communities together, including Holocaust Memorial Day, International Women's Day, Srebrenica, International Youth Day, International Men's Day, and World Aids Day.
- We continue target hardening properties of vulnerable residents that have been victims of anti-social behaviour, hate crime or domestic abuse.
- We have promoted and supported Police with ten knife amnesty events.
- The Council was successful in the Safer Streets bid for Home Office funding, bringing £513k into Northampton town centre specifically to improve the safety of Women and Girls.
- The funding has supported twenty specific projects, including:
 - £291,488 on Environmental improvements for Closed Circuit Tele Video (CCTV) coverage of the Racecourse, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) in the car park, improved lighting, fencing, trimming of shrubbery and crown lifting.
 - £112,000 on Capable Guardianship including University of Northampton student safety schemes, Park Safety Ranger to cover the two parks and Park Watch schemes.
 - £109,722 on Education & Awareness for producing security packs for students and the community, bystander programmes delivered by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, various community engagement events, drama production and campaign materials targeted at students.
- Through the funding secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund, Free2Talk continued to deliver youth services in four of our priority neighbourhood areas, increasing the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. Delivering interventions and mentoring to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.
- We supported Northants Police with bike marking events at the University and Northampton General Hospital and Op Push in Northampton town centre, where officers stopped cyclists on Abington Street, to give words of advice and educate.



Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

- A Public Spaces Protection Order was approved enabling us to install gates at Jeyes Jetty and Dunster Street. These have blocked off the alleyways, disabling anti-social behaviour and criminal activity that was taking place.
- Two new CCTV cameras were installed at anti-social behaviour (ASB) hotspots in Towcester. These are now linked back to the control room.
- We achieved Purple Flag re-accreditation scheme for Northampton Town Centre.
- We have jointly funded with the Office of the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner, Knife arch and additional policing resources deploying them during the night-time economy during December 2021.

We continue to work at a neighbourhood level, responding as a partnership to neighbourhood issues and critical incidents, focused on knife crime and gangs, youth violence and anti-social behaviour. In our priority areas we have developed action plans, established partnerships with schools and there is an identified focus on contextual safeguarding. Some of the activity delivered through these groups include:

- 15 partnership engagement events, working with Northampton Partnership Homes and Northamptonshire Police held.
- 18 bike marking events held, these have involved the distribution of bicycle crime prevention packs to residents and the marking of several 100's of bikes.
- Specific engagement work in Blackthorn/Maidencastle/Goldings/Rectory Farm to encourage reporting which has resulted in an increase of almost 42% in anonymous reporting to Crimestoppers.
- Contextual safeguarding work with primary schools. A 'reporting leaflet' developed for the area is now being used in other neighbourhood priority areas.
- A youth project has been set up in Thorplands and following consultation with the community, basketball is being delivered by sports coaches and supported by youth workers. Partnership working is proving successful and being used as a model of good practice to run in other areas.

- In Daventry, Operation Unite is addressing persistent anti-social behaviour from a large group of young people, which included disruption of and damage to retail premises. Criminal charges have been brought against some individuals and work is ongoing to issue (ABCs) and Community Protection Notices (CPNs) to others. In addition to enforcement measures, partners are looking at a range of diversionary activities. We have begun working with Designated Safeguarding Leads in Daventry's schools to identify individuals in need of early intervention.
- The Rural Action Group has continued to meet virtually. Although lockdown has curtailed planned activities, the new Beat buses have been well received and we are currently looking at a revised Action plan for rural crime.
- The annual 'Comfort and Joy' campaign provided gifts and treats to everybody in Refuge and many others besides, through the generosity of members of the public and officers alike.
- Our anti-social behaviour officers, working with the Police have issued more than one hundred and fifty warning letters, Community Protection Notices, Criminal Behaviour Orders, and injunctions to tackle offenders and support victims of cuckooing, anti-social behaviour, youth violence and theft.
- The production of an Anti-Poverty Strategy and supported the establishment of a Poverty Truth Commission in West Northamptonshire.

Private Sector Housing and Home Adaptations

Private Sector Housing

- We continued to undertake visits to support tenants experiencing poor housing conditions, acting where necessary to secure improvements to their housing conditions.
- We intervened with tenants who were facing illegal eviction or harassment from their landlord, taking action to prevent the illegal eviction, and seeking to secure security of tenure for private rented sector tenants' conditions.
- We took formal action through the Magistrates Court against those landlords who operate outside of the legal framework.
- We took formal action through the issue of financial penalty notices against those landlords who have operated outside of the legal framework.
- We licensed and monitored standards in over 1200 houses in multiple occupation across West Northamptonshire.
- We implemented a new policy to ensure consistency of approach to private sector housing across West Northamptonshire.

Home Adaptations

- We have provided over £2m of investment in owner occupied and private rented properties to support disabled residents to continue to live safely in their homes. This has included the provision of stair lifts, level access bathrooms, hoists, and extensions providing ground floor bedroom and bathroom facilities.
- We determined 100% of home adaptation grant applications within the statutory six-month timeframe.
- We implemented a new policy to ensure consistency, and to bring a range of new discretionary housing assistance grants which has provided additional support and ensured consistency for residents across West Northamptonshire.

Sport and Leisure

- The team have reviewed all leisure contracts across our three leisure operators to ensure they are fit for purpose and meet WNC expectations. Work has been completed to extend Moulton Leisure Centre contract to come in line with Daventry LC and Sports Park (March 2026) all under the portfolio of SLM Everyone Active. The council owned leisure centres are seeing a positive recovery from Covid with swimming lessons in particular reaching above pre-Covid levels by the end of March 2022.
- We have spent time establishing relationships with key National Governing Bodies of Sport to ensure West Northants benefits from high profile NGB programmes and major sporting opportunities. NGB's include the FA, Football Foundation, Lawn Tennis Association, British Cycling. Working with local professional sports clubs including
- Northampton Saints and Northants Cricket Club to support sporting priorities and strategy development. Building on this the Sport & Active Lives Service has set up a Football Facilities Working Group to deliver on the councils' commitment to improve grass roots football through playing pitch improvements and facility development.
- We have also submitted successful bids and supporting key partners to be a host for international tournaments for women's rugby and men's hockey world cups in 2025 and 2026 respectively. We are currently awaiting confirmation from these sport's national governing bodies to confirm the UK as host country.
- In addition, we have supported leisure facility development by providing expertise to projects including Weston Favell Wellbeing Hub and Northampton Bike Park.

Town and Parish Councils

- Over the last couple of months, we have been completing a review of the different ways we interact with town and parish councils across West Northamptonshire with a view to creating a forward plan to keep parishes informed and

strengthen the way our authorities work together to provide local services.

- Discussions with clerks are under way to understand what works well and what could be improved in the interactions between West Northants and parish councils across our three broad locality areas of Daventry, Northampton, and South Northants. The results will be used to help us shape how we work with parish councils in the future, including our approach to parish forums. The aim is to identify and replicate areas of best practice that are aiding how we collaborate to provide local services and address any inconsistencies or challenges that are slowing preventing collaborative working.
- A set of recommendations will be presented to the Executive Leadership Team in due course, which will outline how we can sustain and improve our working relationship with parish councils as we look to build a comprehensive engagement framework to help colleagues make best use of partnership working.

Library Services

- The Library Service achieved a full post-lockdown recovery of services as soon as possible with visits and income increasing month on month from August 2021.
- A new partnership brokered with Barclays bank means customers now have access to banking services at Weston Favell, Daventry, and Towcester where physical banks have closed. This is bringing in an additional £25k income for the service in space hire.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing



- A successful new partnership with DWP has seen the “Youth Hub” launch at Central Library providing access to one-to-one support, workshops, mental health support and job fairs for young people 18 – 26 years old seeking employment. Services can be accessed 9 – 5 Monday to Friday at the library and so far. A Kickstarter event on February 10th saw 62 young people attend 145 mini-interviews with 20 different local employers.
- Completion of £270k S106 funded project enabled us to completely refurbish Brackley library and convert former storage space into a new hireable community hall facility. The refurbished library was officially re-opened in September.
- Partnership working with Adult Learning has led to the funding of refurbishment and installation of smart screens for teaching at Weston Favell Library, Brackley Library and East Hunsbury Library to create learner friendly spaces for our customers.
- Further progress was made on the library transformation programme with Abington Library and Wootton Library successfully transferring to become community managed. Following the withdrawal of offers to community manage the two remaining libraries at St James and Kingsthorpe, work is well underway to find alternative arrangements for these libraries.
- The Business and IP Centre Northamptonshire has had another successful year including the administration of 19 grants to small businesses in Northamptonshire, the fitting out and launch of 2 new local BIPC local service points at Brixworth library and Towcester Library via DCMS funding and the launch of a new website.

Homelessness and Housing Solutions

- The teams have formed a positive collaboration to meet the needs of our customers as we work to align as one service, this includes:
- Co-produced (with NCT & NNC) Care Leavers Protocol in final consultation.
- Co-produced Care leavers Transitions Accommodation Panel set up and due to commence 21st April 2022.
- Co-produced (with NCT & NNC) 16/17-year-old protocol in final consultation.
- A new Homeless Prevention Network (HPN) has been developed with the first meeting having taken place on 28th January to bring together all voluntary and statutory partners in the Daventry area. These meetings will now run consecutively every six weeks, with our HPN in the South Northants area.
- 'Duty to Refer' training has been delivered to diverse partners via National Safeguarding Adults Week, and continue to Northampton Carers, and Library Managers across the West to encourage engagement from all our partners so that we can intervene at the earliest opportunity to prevent homelessness.
- Discretionary Winter Provision was provided to keep rough sleepers safe and provided wrap around support throughout the winter period from December 21 to 31st March 22. Our Street Services Team successfully delivered Housing-led solutions and rapid rehousing pathways to meet the needs of 40 rough sleepers, to help prevent them from returning to the streets. This included the provision of an on-site Adult Social worker which significantly helped rough sleepers with complex issues including mental health and institutional care.
- Our Rough Sleeper Initiative 22/25 bid was submitted with a self-assessment to identify gaps and attract funding to fill those gaps. Alignment was achieved of the SWEP protocol across all three areas including smooth operating procedures for triggering the protocol.
- We have supported Operation Uncanny, an innovative measure set up by the Police to tackle prostitution in residential areas. WNC Street Services Team, Northampton Homeless Treatment Team and NAASH provided partnership advice and support for this operation.
- We have had Key involvement in the Northampton's Women at Risk MDT initiative which was developed by DWP to provide a holistic approach to helping women at risk of involvement in sex work or county lines criminal behaviour through exploitation in Northampton, whose needs could not be met without a multi-agency approach.
- We have brought together the 3 former district and borough areas to produce a combined annual rough sleeper count which was previously administered using different methodology.
- We are drafting a submission of the Ending Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan which outlines our plan to contribute to preventing single homelessness and ending rough sleeping with a target to reduce our annual rough sleeping snapshot figure to 9.
- 628 households had their homelessness prevented.
- 572 households had their homelessness relieved.

Northampton Partnership Homes

A significant amount of the Councils Housing duties, responsibilities and stock are led and managed through its 'Almo' Northampton Partnership homes. The Directorate has invested significant capacity in building a relationship with NPH that enables both the Council and NPH to deliver its aspiration around Housing for local people. Achievements to date include;

- 61 new properties in 2021-22 (includes 29 supported housing)
 - Housing Management Team won the Chartered Institute of Housing's 'Housing Heroes Awards'
 - Achieved Housemarks ASB accreditation with the highest attainment level
 - Accredited as an outstanding housing support provider for the 3rd year running by EROSH
 - In 2021-22 51 survivors of Domestic were supported to ensure they were able to live free from further harm.
 - Supported tenants to access £246,000 benefit payments
 - 341 tenants engaged in support with 99% still successfully sustaining their tenancy.
 - Offered 658 new tenants in 21-22.
 - Developed a pre-tenancy programme to support vulnerable applicants as they transition to manage their own tenancy.
 - Reviewed the model offered to tenants in older persons housing.
 - New customer charter and service standards launched.
 - Developed our resident involvement offer and expanded volunteers to support the work of the CIC.
 - Employed 24 apprentices
 - Introduced a new Fire Risk Assessment tool with was shortlisted for a national housing industry award.
 - Launched the CIC community paint shop and handy man service.
- Led on Community events such as litter picking with WNC, Litter wombles and Veolia.
 - NPH continue to be a successful inward investor on behalf of WNC to increase house building opportunities and have secured £23.8m to date:
 - £1.8m NHS funding secured to deliver two supported housing schemes
 - £9m funding from BEIS for decarbonisation works
 - £1.4m Homes England funding for supported housing
 - £6.2m Homes England funding for general needs housing
 - £1.4m Homes England funding for Next Steps Accommodation for rough sleepers (NSAP)
 - £550k Homes England funding for Rough Sleepers Accommodation project (RSAP)
 - £450k One Public Estate (Cabinet Office) Brownfield Release funding.

Public Health

Health Inequalities

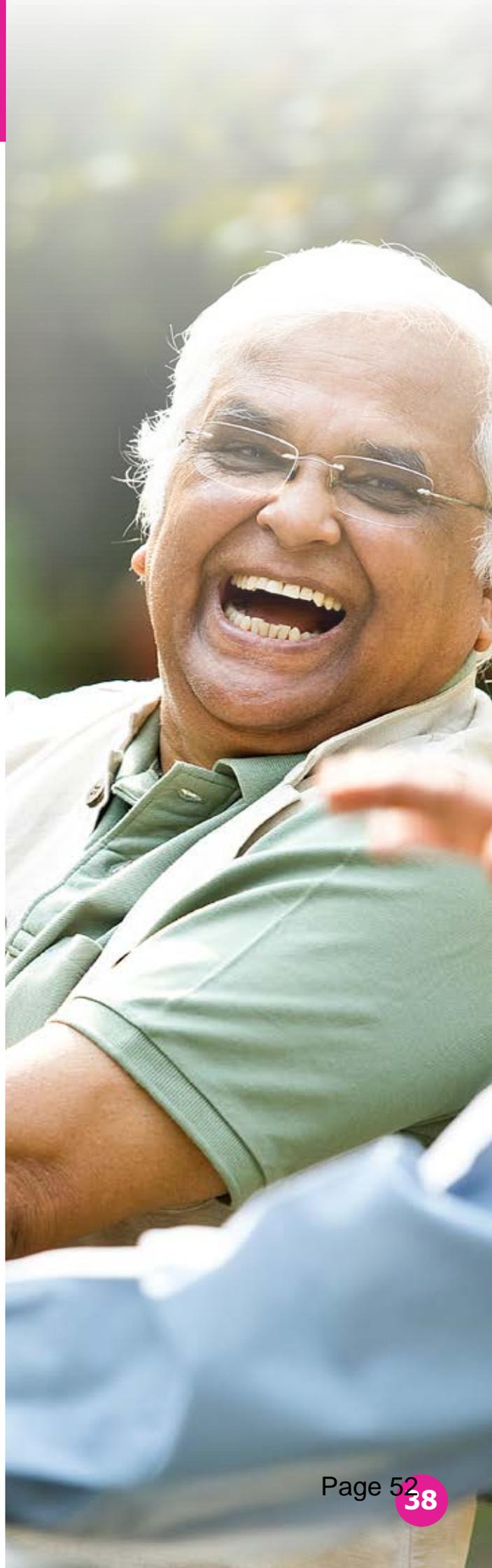
Addressing health inequalities is at the heart of public health work and as such the Directors of Public Health have been asked to lead on the development of the Integrated Care System's Health Inequalities Plan which sets out how we are going to work together as a system to understand and address inequalities. The plan will include principles that all organisations need to sign up to alongside specific priorities for action and will be published in July 2022, but regularly updated to reflect the place and neighbourhood priorities as they form. To support organisations to implement the principles Public Health have produced a health inequalities toolkit which can be accessed at [Health inequalities - Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership](#).

Well Northamptonshire Programme

In 2022 the Well Northamptonshire Programme was launched, which works with communities who are most at risk of health inequalities. Three Community Development Workers are working in and around Northampton and with inclusion health groups to understand what impacts their health and wellbeing and to work with them to address their needs. Empowering communities is central to this programme, which is why a participatory budgeting model is being used. The Community Development Workers will be able to put in place interventions to address local need, designed in partnership with communities, this will be launched later this year.

Health Protection

The team have continued to work hard to support the required response to the Covid Pandemic. This has been achieved alongside many other colleagues and partners across the system in Northamptonshire. Plans are underway to move into more of a recovery phase in line with changing government guidance. A great deal has been learned as part of the response and the recovery plan will embed this into ongoing strengthening of Health Protection, targeting of our most vulnerable groups and building on wider community engagement.



Holiday and Activities Food Programme

Holiday and Activities Food Programme

The Holiday and Activities food program also known as HAF is primarily for children and young people eligible for free school meals. Funding was allocated totalling £2 million to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities. Public health managed the delivery of the HAF programmes for the 3 school terms, Easter, Summer, and Winter 2021. They were free to attend and included 1 free meal during the day and access to enriched activities, encouraging physical activity, healthier eating, and reduced isolation. The summer evaluation reported outputs were:

- 18,000 child sessions attended,
- 3,000 individual young people attended,
- 50+ providers over a 6-week period.

Outcomes were:

- Eating more healthily over the holidays
- Increased levels of Physical Activity
- Reduced isolation

The program has been extended for a further 3 years and the Easter program is currently running across West and North Northamptonshire, delivered by Nsport.

Healthy Start Vitamins

In late 2021 Public health established a new online postal service to increase accessibility to the Healthy Start Vitamins for eligible pregnant women and children under 5. This service is managed by Strong Start and it has the potential to increase the uptake of the vitamins and Healthy start vouchers, which many are currently missing out on. There are plans for a national campaign which will be tailored locally to raise awareness amongst the residents and community sector.

Healthy Schools Service

The Healthy Schools service was established in August 2020, to support schools to improve the health and wellbeing of their children. In October 2020 they quickly reprioritised their work due to the pandemic and adapted their service to deliver the DfE 'Welcome to Education Return and Recovery (WER)'. The team have delivered this program over the last 18 months and have seen an increase in demand for support for teachers, children, and parents, and have been able to adapt the material from DfE to create two webinars that meet the local need. These webinars are available online for all schools to access as required. The service has delivered training to over 2,000 staff from 220 schools across the county.

Pause for a Fresh Start

Pause for a Fresh Start project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS), that started in September 2020. Pause is a specialist intense preventative intervention programme that works directly with women who have had multiple children taken into care. The service has supported their first cohort of 23 women, these are women with complex and chaotic lifestyles that have previously had their children removed by social services. The successful outcomes and impact of this program to date has seen women:

- registering with GPs to look after their health,
- they have worked with practitioners in the team to rebuild their confidence and trust in services
- regained work /volunteering opportunities

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

- secure rental tenancy, as housing /accommodation has been a key issue for many of the women,
- reconnecting with the children who have been removed through the letter box contact initiative.

The service is now in the process of recruiting their second cohort of women.

Health Improvement

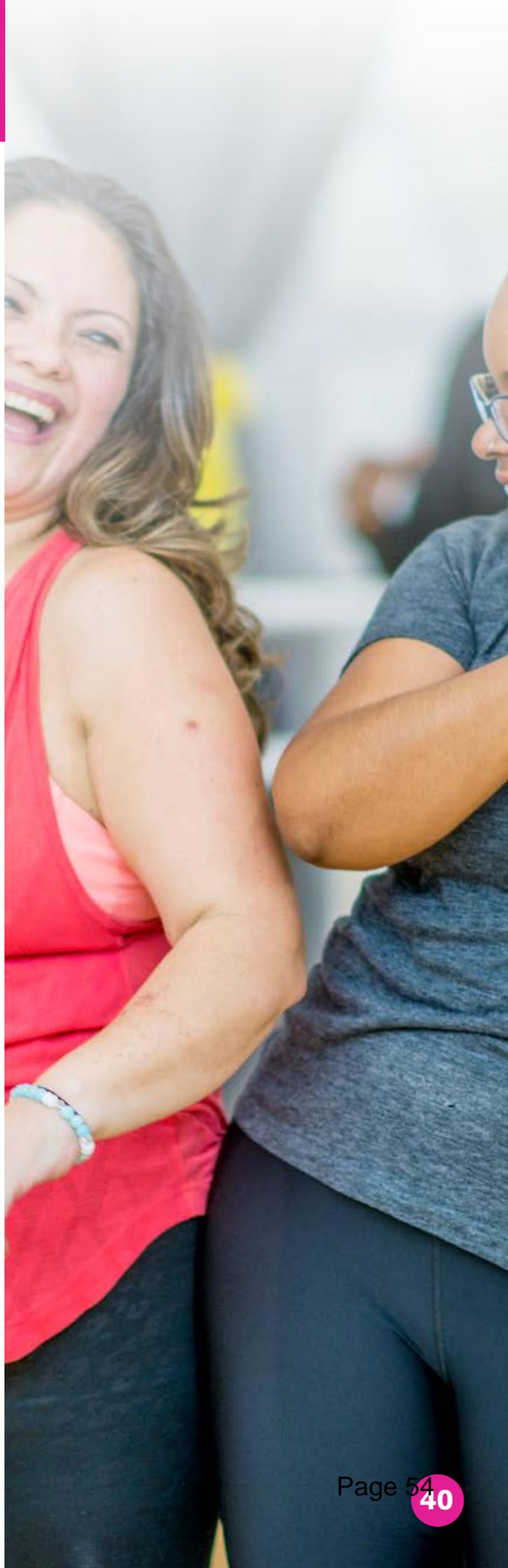
Workplaces

The importance of workplace wellbeing has grown over the years as employers have come to realise it can impact individual employees, their families, their communities, and the business themselves. The workplace wellbeing team have been working as part of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team to develop West Northants Council's workplace wellbeing strategy as well as supporting staff and their teams through training and interventions.

Alongside this we also provide support to external businesses and have recently launched the 'Road to Wellbeing programme' which is a partnership between Public Health and Northamptonshire Sport. A simple online self-assessment helps businesses to identify opportunities to improve wellbeing and is followed by a one-to-one session with the team to co-create a plan for the organisation. The services are tailored to the needs of the businesses and could include support to develop appropriate policies and procedures, Health MOTs, NHS Health Checks, Healthy Lifestyle Programmes, and free Stop Smoking Services.

Healthy weight and physical activity

This year has seen the further development of a whole systems framework to map and plan for action in partnership to promote healthy weight across the life-course, drawing on the systems strengths. The system mapping of activities, groups, communities that are already existing highlight areas that could bring a positive contribution to this work while at the same time identifying key gaps and issues. The year has seen extensive networking across the system including NHS partners; Primary Care; Local Authority Planning; Transport; Education; Nsport; the Voluntary and Community Sector and the University of Northampton.



Adults, Communities and Wellbeing

Development of weight management services and pathways

April saw the new tier 2 adult weight management contract go live with three providers for tier 2 services, which are: Slimming World and Northampton Town Football Club, as well as a digital offer from Solutions for Health – all self-referrals. Public Health are working in partnership with the CCG on a clear weight management pathway from universal to tier 4 service.

In-year extra funding was also received to increase the reach of adult tier 2 services and target specific groups not currently engaging with services. Public Health used this fund as a grant opportunity to identify and build capacity in local community groups and providers and to particularly work with targeted groups. This increased our providers by 9. One key outcome of the work is the need for community groups and providers to have a grounding in nutrition to be confident to deliver this work and so we developed a training the trainer programme and this trained up participants from a further 8 organisations in the West Northants area.

Development of community food model

To ensure a tier one offer on the healthy weight pathway an opportunity was developed for a provider to apply to run a grant to coordinate, nurture and support targeted community cooking and growing projects. The applications are currently underway and a 'go-live' date for the work is planned for May 2022.

Northamptonshire Physical Activity Network

As a key aspect of the whole systems approach and to bring together various strands of development. The Northamptonshire Physical Activity Network was launched and combines partners across the council; CCG; University of Northampton; voluntary sector and business links. The aim is to consolidate the different actions and draw things together; to identify opportunities where we can work together and utilise capacity and skills. The group is currently looking at a refresh of the Northamptonshire physical activity framework, active travel and development of active maps and green social prescribing.

Active Quarter

The University is leading on the 10-year programme to develop the 'Active Quarter', an area from the University up to Brackmills that utilises the assets to engage people across communities and business to get active. An asset-based approach. Public Health are part of the steering group and ensuring that the actions are set against the health needs in the area.

A Physical Activity activator post has been co-funded to develop the staff aspect of the University being an active campus. This is a 2-year project, and the learning can be shared across the council footprint on ways to engage staff in being active.

West Northants Sustainable Food Place (WNSFP)

In West Northants a group of key organisations representing a wide range of interests in good, sustainable food have come together to inspire and co-ordinate work and produce a sustainable food strategy for the West. Several subgroups have been set up and Public Health are chairing the Food and Health Partnership Group which has held its first meeting.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The impact of the pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of residents has been particularly significant therefore work is underway to complete a new mental wellbeing needs assessment and partners are preparing to make a commitment to sign up to the Mental Wellbeing Prevention Concordat. This means working together to promote mental wellbeing and particularly working to target our communities who are most vulnerable to poor wellbeing because of their circumstances.

Wellbeing Services

Supporting Independence

Supporting Independence Programme (SIP), continues to support residents of Northamptonshire with Mild Frailty who may be showing signs of reduced independence, by maintaining independence in their own homes and community as long as possible. As a direct result of the pandemic, clinics changed through the year to offer telephone support, however normal services have now resumed, offering face to face appointments for their customers. These consist of up to 12 weeks of personalised support in areas of health and wellbeing. SIP's offer has increased over the last year to provide customers with an opportunity to "Walk & Talk" with their advisor. This need was identified because of lockdown with the aim of customers becoming more active, reducing the risk of falls, reducing levels of anxiety, and increasing socialisation."

Northamptonshire Stop Smoking Service

The Northamptonshire Stop Smoking Service has had a very busy year and has achieved the following:

- The Service achieved our annual target of 3000 quit dates set. This year the Stop Smoking service achieved it highest performing year since 2017.
- We received 6932 referrals for the same period.
- Since transitioning to mainly telephone support we have been able to reach more clients who would have struggled with face-to-face clinics.
- We have been working closely with specific groups which include Routine and Manual, Drug and Addictions and Maternity.

Falls Prevention

During the last year falls prevention has continued to be a focus of public health activity. Promotion of evidence based, strength and balance has taken place via Northamptonshire Sport, who we commission to provide a network of local sessions – called “Get Up and Go” – across the county.

Group sessions have been relaunched following the end of Covid-19 restrictions, and currently there are 19 sessions happening every week with approximately 200 people taking part. Our plan is to extend these sessions considerably over the next year.

In addition, we launched a new Falls Management Service in April 2021. This service compliments the preventative work undertaken by the Supporting Independence Programme and provides specialist assessment and management expertise to people at risk of having an injurious fall. Following on from the launch of this new service we are aware of a significant increase in referrals in comparison to previous requests for support and advice (50%+), and so we are looking at the most effective way of developing this service in the future.

Our priorities for 2022/23

As we move into 2022- 23 the directorate will be re-shaped to include responsibilities that support the Children’s Trust and Children’s Education, so becoming a People directorate. This will mean that the Housing and Communities elements of the directorate will transfer to the Place directorate, whilst operational connectivity will be maintained through shared governance.

2022-23 will see some of the most significant changes to our sector and will require us to strengthen our local partnerships and relationships with local people more than ever if we are to continue to deliver compliant, sustainable, and effective support to local people. In that context, the key priorities for the directorate are set out below.

In parallel, we will also maintain a focus on doing the basics well. This means sound financial management and decision making, with timely and appropriate responses expected in everything we do.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing: Our Priorities 2022/23

The key priorities that we will deliver in 2022-23 are set out below:

1

Reablement West – We will continue to support the capacity and effectiveness of our service to enable more people to go home following discharge from hospital. This will also enable us to provide increased support to people in their own homes to prevent admission to either hospital or care home settings. To do this we must align our teams with health partners to ensure we deliver the best possible outcomes for local people.

2

Specialist Care Centres – We will maximise use of our Specialist Care Centres to provide further capacity to support hospital discharges and step up from our communities. Again, these services must be aligned with health partners to ensure we make best use of local resources.

3

We will take forward our **Directorate Digital and Technology strategy** to ensure that we have the right systems in place to enable us to meet our statutory duties and enable efficient management of data.

4

We will continue to prepare for the implementation of **Liberty Protection Safeguards**.

5

We will drive forward our contribution to the creation of our **local integrated Care System**. This will mean we develop our Integrated care Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board to enable the development of local Neighbourhood partnerships, which will allow us to be better co-ordinate our support to local people through integrated service delivery.

6

Social Care Reform - Quality and Assurance – We will work locally and regionally to ensure we are compliant with the forthcoming regulation of Adult Social Care.

7

Care Home delivery – we will evaluate the local care home market to develop proposals which would look to increase the Councils Care home offer.

8

Strength's Based Working – We will further progress Strength's based working in not just our social work teams but also our housing teams.

9

Learning Disability and Autism Strategy – We will implement our local strategy to improve the lives of people with learning disability and autism.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing: Our Priorities 2022/23

10

Mental Health Collaborative
– We will continue to support the collaborative to better join up services for adults with mental health needs.

11

Social Care Reform – We will ensure we deliver the legislative requirements of Usual Cost of Care, Market Sustainability and Care Cap.

12

Commissioning strategy - We will deliver care services that are good quality and sustainable for both the Council and local providers.

13

Disaggregation of Public Health and interim structure
– The split of Public Health will be completed, and a new West Northants structure implemented.

14

Health Inequalities Strategy
– We will develop and implement our local strategy to ensure we prioritise intervention to address local inequality.

15

Housing Strategy – We will complete our Housing strategy, using it to enable the development of increased accommodation for local people.

16

Anti-Poverty Strategy – We will deliver against the priorities of the strategy.

17

Embarking on a Housing Solutions Transformation Programme to ensure we provide the best housing and support outcomes for local people.

18

Implementing a **Sport and Leisure Strategy** encouraging as many people as possible to live active lifestyles and making best use of the area's green space and initiatives.

Financial and Operational Challenges 2022-23

As we move into 2022- 23 the directorate will be re-shaped to include responsibilities that support the Children's Trust and Children's Education, so becoming a People directorate. This will mean that the Housing and Communities elements of the directorate will transfer to the Place directorate, whilst operational connectivity will be maintained through shared governance.

2022-23 will see some of the most significant changes to our sector and will require us to strengthen our local partnerships and relationships with local people more than ever if we are to continue to deliver compliant, sustainable, and effective support to local people. In that context, the key priorities for the directorate are set out below.

In parallel, we will also maintain a focus on doing the basics well. This means sound financial management and decision making, with timely and appropriate responses expected in everything we do.

Removal of National Discharge Funding

During the pandemic, the Government has been providing additional funding to Health and Social Care systems to maximise acute discharges and to allow people to return home safely, where possible. It was announced in February 2022 that the National Discharge funding would not continue past April 2022. This has meant that West Northamptonshire Council is without funding for required discharge pathway services, which has meant there is a financial risk.

However, it has been agreed that 2021/22 Winter Pressure Funding can be rolled over to help System Partners to continue to meet demand using existing commissioned services, and to allow sufficient time to be able to develop new pathway models which are financially sustainable. This includes maximising in-house care service provision. The service will continue to frequently review the revenue position to understand concerns at the earliest point to allow for remedial action.

Impact of Social Care Reform and Care Market Pressures

The Government has mandated that all Local Authorities who have responsibility for Social Care must undertake a 'Fair Cost of Care' exercise in 2022/23, in recognition that Local Authority fee rates are often below the actual cost of delivering care. This is likely to mean that the West Northamptonshire Council will need to increase the contractual care delivery fees across most service types.

It is important that this work is completed as the impacts of Social Care Reform would otherwise cause sustainability concerns across the independent care market. Without remedial action, this would likely cause a significant financial pressure.

The Council has been provided with a Fair Cost of Care & Market Sustainability Grant of Circa £990k to help to mitigate the pressures of this exercise. However, further analysis is required to confirm whether this amount is sufficient, based upon the outcome of the cost analysis. There will also likely be a requirement to undertake significant market shaping for West Northants Council to control the cost of care, so that most placements are accepted within the Council's contractual rates.

The cost of care has significantly increased due to inflation and the increase to the National Living Wage. West Northamptonshire Council has offered most contracted providers a fee increase of 6.26% to help to mitigate these increases. All providers can undertake an open book exercise should they feel that they are not financially sustainable.

Staffing Pressures and Resourcing

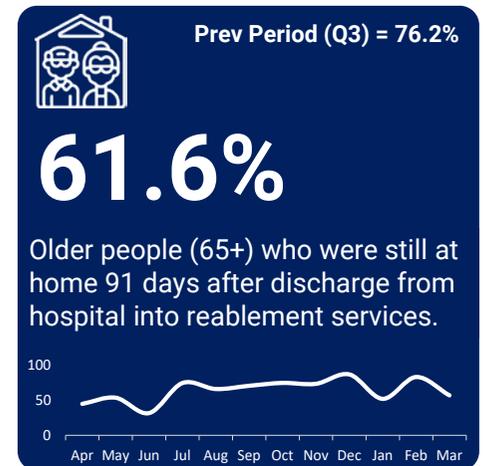
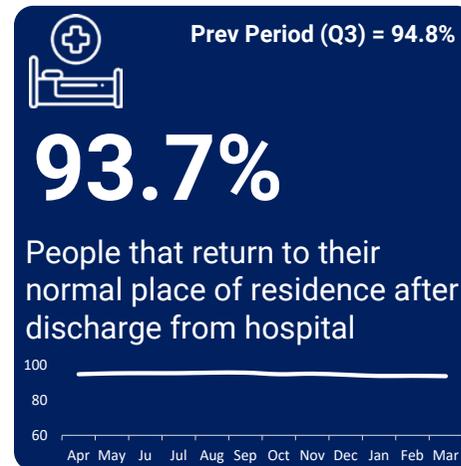
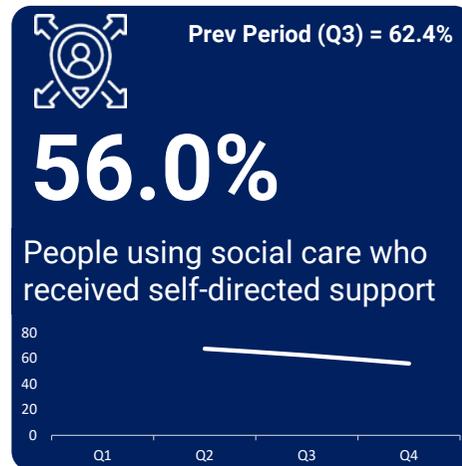
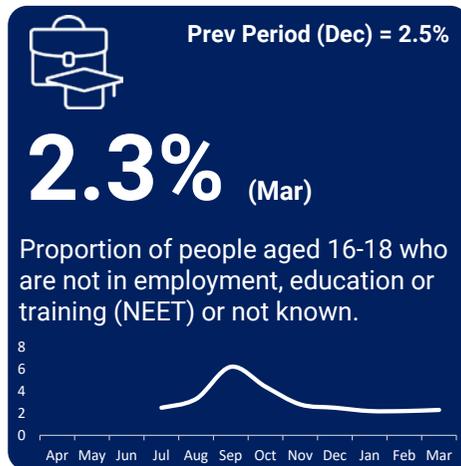
Due to the nature of the current recruitment market, the services have found it difficult to recruit to a number of positions, predominantly front-line care staff and Social Workers. This often means that statutory posts must be filled with the use of high-cost agency staffing above budgeted staffing resources.

West Northamptonshire Council has agreed an additional pay increase for front line care staff which has allowed recruitment to improve however, agency usage in provider services remains high. A review of the Social Work progression strategy is being undertaken so that recruitment can be undertaken without the usage of agency staff and consultants.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing: 2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting

Priority 2 – Improved Life Chances

Health Social Care and Families - Adult Social Care



This is a new indicator included in this quarters report, but has been collected for a number of years. Whilst there is data going back prior to April 2021, that data is not split to the unitary council area in a way that enables comparison's to previous years.

The latest position at the end of March shows that 2.3% are either NEET or not known, this is a reduction from December (2.5%). Each year Q2 shows a large increase due to a brand new cohort and initial reporting having to be collected from schools in Sept.

A statutory reported measures in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF), it measures of those in receipt of social care that have a direct payment or a personal budget which results in the outcome of people managing their own support as much as they wish, so that they are in control of what, how and when support is delivered to match their needs. Following the implementation of the new social care system we are in the processes of updating our collection and reporting tools in order to accurately reflect our actual performance in this area. Once implemented we would expect our actual performance to be exceeding 90% in this area as self-directed support is the default option for our community teams when placing outside of residential.

This indicator is a new measure for the local authority this year and looks to measure the proportion of people that return home after a discharge from hospital.

Date for this indicator at local authority level is available from the NHS Digital Secondary Uses Service (SUS) database. The SUS database is a repository for healthcare data in England which supports the NHS in the delivery of healthcare services.

Performance of this indicator has remained relatively static across quarter (Jan: 93.8%, Feb: 93.9%, Mar: 93.7%) and is a small decrease from the Q2 position of 94.8% to a final quarter outturn of 93.7%.

This indicator is one of the measures from the Better Care Fund (BCF) in the current year and measures those people (aged 65+) who were still at home 91 days after left hospital and had some form of reablement service.

Performance in this area has decreased in the final quarter of the year, following usual annual pattern of a dip in the final quarter of the year due to seasonal impacts of the winter months.

The national comparison for this indicator looks at the discharges in the 3 months between October and December only, so whilst not directly comparable due to the time of year the national average last year was 79.1% and the WNC outturn for that period was 76.2%.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing: 2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting

Housing and Homelessness



The council has a duty to support people and families from becoming homeless.

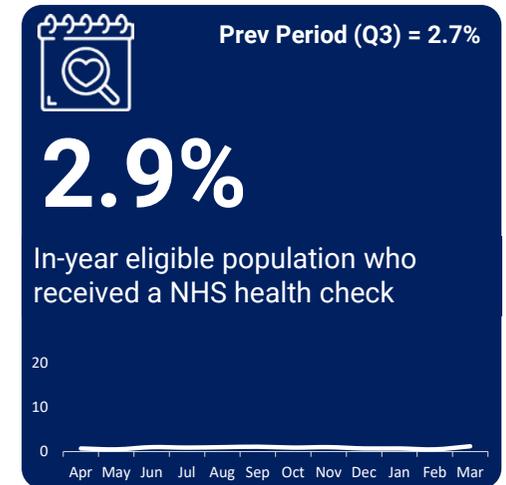
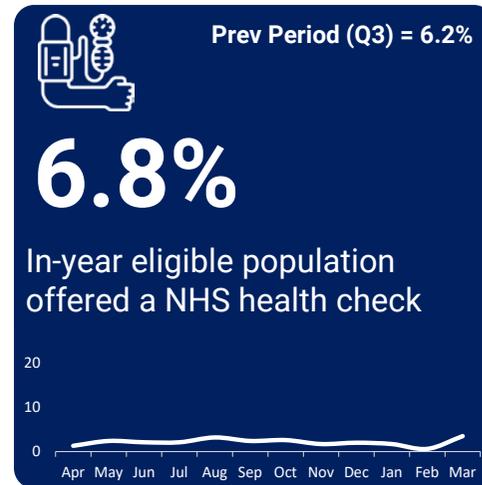
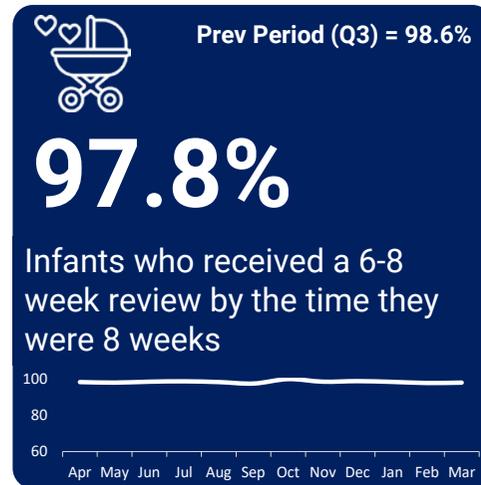
During the Prevention Duty we must take reasonable steps to prevent any eligible applicant from becoming homeless, regardless of priority need status, intentionality and whether they have a local connection. This can involve assisting you to stay in your current accommodation or helping you to find a new place to live. Under this part of our duty we have prevented 103 households from becoming homeless in Q4, with the total this year of 628 preventions.

If we have not been able to prevent you from becoming homeless under the Prevention Duty, you will be owed the Relief Duty. During the Relief Duty we must take reasonable steps to help you to secure suitable accommodation. The Relief Duty lasts for up to 56 days and is available to all households who are homeless and eligible, regardless of whether they have a priority need. Under this part of our duties we have had 106 cases where homelessness was successfully relieved in Q4, with the total number in the year to date at 572

Combined under the two duties we have supported 1,200 households across the authority area from becoming homeless across the reporting year.

Adults, Communities and Wellbeing: 2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting

Public Health



The health visiting service leads on the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP), which was set up to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0 to 5 years. This is achieved through health and development reviews, health promotion, parenting support, and screening and immunisation programmes.

The health visiting service consists of specialist community public health nurses and teams who provide expert information, assessments and interventions for babies, children and families, including first time mothers and fathers with complex needs. The indicators included here are for both new birth assessments and the check at 6-8 weeks.

There is good performance in both of the measures reported here, with the new birth visits completed within 14 days reporting at 96.9% for quarter 4, a small decrease from the 97.5% reported in quarter 3. Similarly an increase in the 8 week reviews completed, reduced from 98.6% in quarter 3 to 97.8% in the latest period.

Both of these indicators perform well in comparison to national averages of 88% for 14 day visits and 80.2% for the 8 week visits.

The NHS Health Check is a health check-up for adults in England aged 40-74. It's designed to spot early signs of stroke risk, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia. Each year we are required to invite 20% of total eligible population to a health check, for the purposes of targeting this has been split equally per quarter, however here are seasonal changes in performance due to availability of appointments.

This service, like many others has had a direct impact from the covid-19 pandemic. Appointments with GPs and other healthcare practitioners remain limited as focus on the rollout of covid-19 vaccinations and now moving into the season flu vaccinations. This is very obviously impacting on the health checks being offered and completed across the year.

The year to date has seen 26.1% of eligible population offered a health check with 10.8% having received a health check.

Looking at the latest published information we can see that in the second quarter (latest available) of the current year 1.7% across East Midlands and 2.0% across England have been invited and 0.8% of who have received a check.

Children's Services

Overview

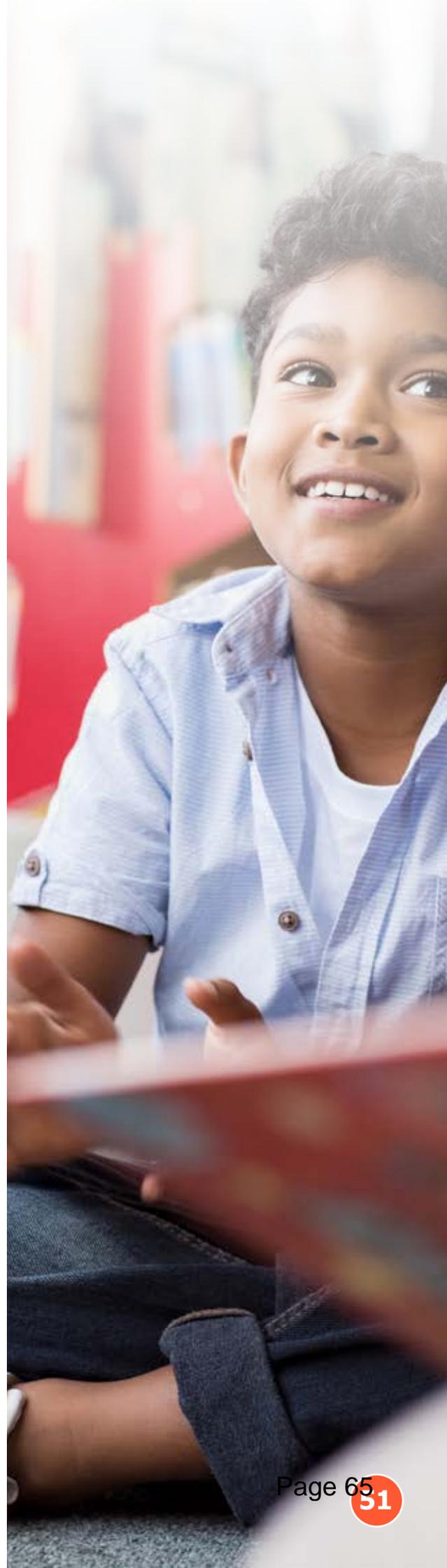
The education service, while newly formed, has confident and forward-looking managers and staff. A recruitment process has been recently completed for a substantive Assistant Director (AD).

The Service Managers are experienced officers, who have embraced reporting directly to the Assistant Director rather than a head of service, and the new Service Manager, Place Planning and Admissions, a successful and experienced officer, joins the team in May. We have been successful in recruiting and retaining staff across the whole service.

The only area of concern is our ability to recruit sufficient Education Psychologists (EP), given the chronic national EP shortage. But to mitigate this, the Principal Education Psychologist (PEP) has reached agreement with a major provider, to outsource EP advice for Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) assessments. This will provide more timely advice and free EP time supporting schools and pupils directly.

Members and service users should feel confident about our plans and management because our education service has highly capable managers and staff. There will shortly be a new Assistant Director, Education in post and there are appropriate service plans in place, which are clear in terms of process and intended outcomes.

In respect of children services: it has been agreed that the council's statutory Director of Children Services (DCS) should be a 'dual' role, alongside adult services. This arrangement should work well, as we have a good, well-performing Trust and sound commissioning arrangements which are currently hosted by North Northamptonshire Council (NNC). Further information on this can be found in the Northamptonshire Children's Trust section of this report.



Our Performance and Achievements

- We have put in place an education strategy for the area, based on the key role of the LA in education as set out in the 2010 white paper.
- We have managed the funding of schools for 2022/23, including the agreement of schools' forum to funding specialist services (achieving a £1.5m saving in the High Needs Budget (HNB) and £630,000 saving for the GF).
- We have finalised a high needs block recovery plan, including a proposal for a significant capital programme for the 500 additional places required.
- We have resolved the Maintained Nursery Schools (MNS) funding dispute, achieving agreement about the 2022/23 budget allocation and a three-year plan to ensure the fair distribution of the MNS subsidy.
- We have managed the process for disaggregating three services, which are currently managed by NNC, and the recruitment of a new service head for place planning and admissions.
- We have restructured the education service, flattening the structure through the removal of the head of service layer, with service managers accountable to the AD, Education for school effectiveness, special educational needs, educational psychology, and inclusion.
- We have commissioned key education services for vpupil admissions and place planning, safeguarding and specialist impairment services from North Northamptonshire council. The outcome of year 7 (secondary) admissions for September 2022 is given in table 1. National Offer Day.
- We have commissioned the Northamptonshire Children Trust, with the assistance of a specialist commissioner, to provide most children social care functions.

Table 1. National Offer Day - 1 March 2022

Applications for Year 7 places in secondary schools – September 2022

	WNC	NNC	
	2022	2021	2020
Total number of applications	4786	8931	8854
Online secondary applications %	98.7 (4722)	98.8 (8820)	98 (8703)
1st preference %	79.4 (3798)	80.7 (7203)	79 (6999)
2nd preference %	12.8 (612)	11.7 (1049)	13.1 (1160)
3rd preference %	3.6 (175)	3.3 (294)	3.9 (344)
One of the three preferences %	95.8 (4585)	95.7 (8546)	96 (8503)
Alternative school offer %	4.2 (201)	4.3 (385)	4 (351)

Service Team Highlights

- We made good use of the Covid-19 grant and maintained positive relations with schools, which in turn assisted inclusion and enabled other officers to signpost support for vulnerable pupils.
- Faced with a shortage of specialist places, we took immediate action to commission 500 new places through new resourced units, special school expansions and a new free special school.
- We successfully implemented the new SEN assessment staffing structure and recruited staff to 11 new posts.
- We have drafted a revised and agreed 'high needs block recovery plan' to achieve a net zero balance in the block by the end of the 2025/26 financial year.
- We have reviewed all service structures in the education services and put in place and recruited to posts where necessary.



Children's Services: Our Priorities 2022/23

The key priorities that we will deliver in 2022-23 are set out below:

1

Additional resourced places in mainstream school and expanded special schools will create 250 extra high-needs places in the state-funded sector, starting in the 2023/24 school year.

2

A new free special school will be commissioned, to provide 250 high- need places for pupils on the autistic spectrum, plus a small number of additional places for pupil with severe learning difficulties

3

Ensuring the smooth transfer and immediate efficient operation for the 2023 pupil admissions round of school admissions staff from NNC on 1 September.

4

Increasing to at least the national average by July of education, health, and care plan (EHCP) assessments on time.

5

Planning and implementing the planned transfer of the safeguarding and specialist impairment services provided this is agreed by the joint (NNC / WNC) member board.

6

The implementation of new arrangements for the provision of psychological advice for EHCP assessments and SEND tribunal support.

7

The continued successful commissioning of NCT.

8

The submission of a bid for WNC to form a multi academy trust.

9

Preparing for the inspection of Special Educational Need Disabilities (SEND) services by Ofsted.

Children's Services: Looking Ahead

Our aims and outcomes for our Directorate over the Mid Term Financial Plan (MTFP) – next 3 years are:

1

The full and successful implementation of the SEND strategy, 2022/25, which is currently subject to co-construction with parents and partners.

2

Sufficient places for all children in West Northants, including specialist places in the stage sector for all whose parents express a preference for such a place.

3

The tracking of all pupils without a school place or on part-time timetables, including, ensuring a place within six weeks for all pupils without a school place, and a plan for a return to a full-time timetable for all educated part-time for any period.

4

Putting in place a local authority multi-academy trust (MAT) for all schools currently maintained by the council and academy schools that seek to transfer from another trust (as proposed in the 2022 schools' white paper).

5

The continued successful commissioning of the Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

Financial and Operational Challenges 2022/23

- The failure to successfully implement the transfer of the admissions function promptly, resulting in failures in the 2023 planned admissions round and term-time admissions.
- Poor or failed implementation of the SEN capital programme, leading to delays in implementation, costs overruns, lack of appropriate pupil placements and poorer pupil outcomes.
- Continued poor performance of the SEN section in finalising assessments on time, resulting in parental dissatisfaction, and the risk of a poor outcome in any Ofsted inspection of SEND.

Mitigating actions being taken:

- The transfer of all transformation work, which include the transfer of all services currently commissioned from NNC, will be prioritised by the Assistant Director, Education, and the relevant Service Managers those being for school effectiveness, pupil place planning and admissions and inclusion.
- The SEN capital programme is a key task under the performance management scheme for the AD, Education and the Service Managers for SEN and pupil place planning and admissions respectively.
- The SEN section is now fully staffed, and the preparation of draft and final EHCPs on time, including all advice, is a priority for the service manager for SEN and the principal educational psychologist (PEP).

Working with Northamptonshire Children's Trust

The Northamptonshire Children's Trust's (NCT), Senior leadership team are working hard to ensure its workforce feel supported as Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted. We aim to maintain a positive trajectory of the ongoing improvement work, ensuring readiness for the full inspection due to take place later in the year.

Our Work and Achievements

Practice

- During week commencing 14th March 2022 we undertook positive activities to promote excellence in practice, with opportunities for learning and development for all practitioners linked to World Social Work day on 15th March.
- We finalised our Participation & Engagement Strategy 2022- 25 which will ensure the voice of children is central to all we do.
- Lincolnshire Partners in Practice completed a front door review as an external scrutiny of our services. This was in addition to a review of placements and commissioning completed by People Too, where strengths were identified in services alongside development areas. The recommendations are being implemented to ensure further improvements are made.
- We have put in place a contract for two new emergency children's homes and a new planning application is also in process, to address the challenge of sufficiency of placements.
- We have commenced research with the University of Northampton that will be completed over the coming year, looking at the impact of using Signs of Safety (SofS) a practice model adopted by NCT, with children, young people, and their families within NCT.

Inspections

- NCT's Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA) had its first inspection 31 January- 4 February 2022. The report has been published, with the overall experiences and progress of children judged to be Good.

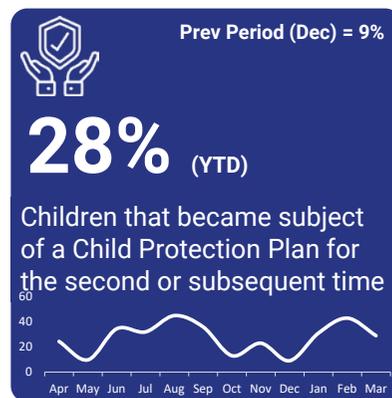
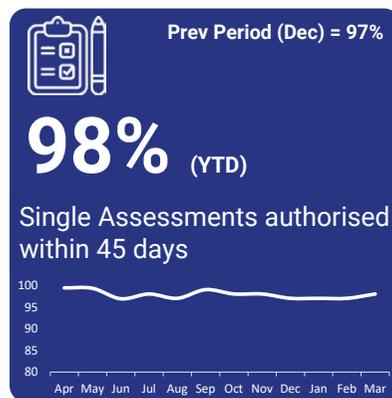
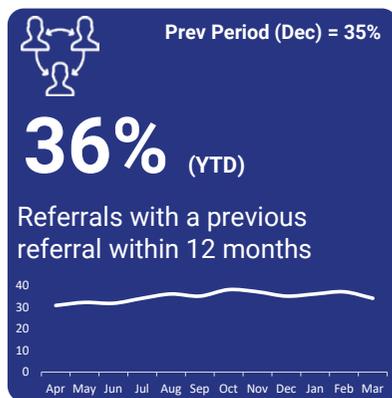
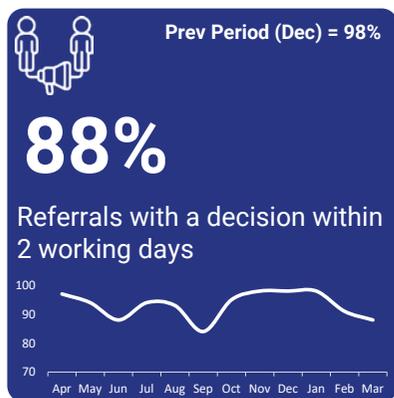
- The Inspection of Thornton House Children's home report was published in January 2022. The inspection took place on 14 - 15 December 2021 and concluded with a judgement of 'Requires Improvement' to be good in all areas. A further interim inspection in March 2022 by Ofsted judged that the home has improved effectiveness.
- The first Inspection of Phoenix Children's home was conducted with a positive outcome, the report is yet to be published.
- We have been preparing for a full Inspected Looked After Children Services (ILACS) inspection with a focus on improving the quality and consistency of practice. Self- evaluation has been completed and will be used in regional peer challenge events. A 'Requires Improvement' to be 'Good' would be positive outcome on consideration of inadequate position prior to constitution of the Children's Trust.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) inspection of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) is overdue and preparation for this is ongoing.

Leadership

- We achieved our 100% Supporting Families Payment by Results target. This is significant achievement, Northamptonshire in the previous years has not performed well both regionally and country wide ranking 3rd from the bottom in the reporting tables.
- We have completed a 9-month Leadership Development Programme for all leaders in NCT which is aimed to impact practice and culture, focusing on empowering staff.
- We have focused on recruitment and retention and achieving stability within the workforce, in particular social worker teams. In February 2022, we operated with 17.0% agency staff which is a reduction from 21.7% in November 2020.
- We have been working to improve relationships and creative efforts to attract and retain staff. This has seen the partnership between NCT and Opus being shortlisted in the Annual PPMA Excellence in People Management 2022 Awards. Winners will be announced on the 28 April 2022.

Children's Services: 2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting

Priority 2 – Improved Life Chances - Health Social Care and Families - Adult Social Care



The performance has decreased since the end of quarter 3, 98% to 88%. The service continues to work diligently on ensuring timely decision making is maintained.

The service continues to work hard on ensuring timely decision making is maintained. Cases that are rag rated RED are prioritised and decisions made within 1 day. There is ongoing improvement work in the MASH to continually increase quality and enhance performance.

Recent peer review has identified improvements and strengths. Areas for development are currently being actioned. Consideration of changes to MASH operations (MADRA) in light of PIP review findings.

Audit and review for learning is ongoing. It is anticipated that the strengthened model in MASH will continue support appropriate reduction going forward.

Steps have been taken to strengthen the Early Help partnerships with Partnership Support Team (Early Help MASH) being placed in the MASH pods and a leaner step down process. The high number of cases stepping down continue to present challenges in regards to capacity in Family Support/Early help partnership.

Recommendations from the PIP peer review are being implemented.

Assessment timescales remain consistently good and well above the minimum performance threshold of 85%.

All managers monitor this very closely via daily reports. A narrative is provided for cases that go beyond 45 days and this remains a very small minority. In addition to timeliness, we work on increasing the quality of assessments and more effective use of SoS in our interventions. PIP peer review has identified improvements in the quality of assessments.

This indicator has been variable across the year and on occasions too high.

In quarter 4 a total of 66 of 189 (34%) plans started in this period had been on a plan before. The full year has seen 28% of plans started in the year having been on a plan previously.

A review of cases in March will be completed, and initial indication is that the pandemic may have contributed to increased stresses and pressure for families, consequently escalating their needs.

Positive work is being undertaken to identify families for children in a timely way enabling placement with adopters as soon as possible after the placement order is granted. There are factors which influence this KPI including the needs and individual characteristics of children and delays within care proceedings. The latter continues to be monitored and work with judiciary is ongoing

Excluding exceptions, performance is 100% for the 2nd quarter this year. In addition performance of this indicator can fluctuate hugely from quarter to quarter as it relates to a relatively small number of children – quarter 4 relates to a cohort of 4 children placed for adoption.

Chief Executive's Office

Overview

The Chief Executive's Office includes:

- Communications and Engagement
- Business Intelligence, Policy and Performance
- Executive Support
- Lord Lieutenancy

We are exceptionally proud of everything that has been achieved in our first year as a new council and all the effort that colleagues, and councillors have put in to achieve a positive start for our communities. We are excited about the opportunities ahead as we continue to work together to develop our organisational leadership, culture, and values to ensure we can make West Northants a great place to live, work, visit and thrive.



Our Performance and Achievements

Key achievements in our first year include:

- Developing and launching our first Corporate Plan to set out the council's strategic vision over the next four years for making West Northants a great place to live, work, visit and thrive. The Corporate Plan sets out six key priorities that will guide policy, service planning and budget setting going forward:
 - Green and Clean
 - Improved Life Chances
 - Connected Communities
 - Thriving Villages and Towns
 - Economic Development
 - Robust Resource Management.
- Launching our thrive values: Trust, High Performing, Respect, Innovative, Value, Empower. We have actively promoted the values throughout our first year through using an appreciative inquiry model to celebrate examples of our values in action every week, culminating in our first annual Thrive Awards at the Northampton Museum hosted by the Council Leader and Chief Executive.
- Ensuring our first elections were delivered successfully and hosting a welcome event for our 93 councillors.
- Delivering high quality internal communications including all colleague briefings, Anna's blog and vlog, coffee and chats with directors, keeping our colleagues informed and to support the development of our new organisational culture.
- Developing our weekly Members briefing with feedback from our councillors, to ensure they receive proactive communications and are supported to keep residents informed.
- Launching our parish council briefing to keep our local councils up to date with information and to support effective engagement with communities.
- Submitting a city status bid celebrating Northampton's heritage, culture, pride, and ambition with the unanimous support of full council on 2 December 2021. This followed a public engagement campaign that attracted overwhelming support from communities, the media, and partner organisations. The campaign, which also featured videos of local figures, venues and landmarks promoting what Northampton has to offer, reached thousands of people.
 - The council even made its own cheeky bid directly to the Prime Minister, when Cllr John Shephard and his wife Judy took advantage of a lunch event with the PM to present him with a 'Northampton -Back the Bid' beanie hat.
 - Achieving city status would put Northampton on an international standing, attracting investment, creating new jobs, and bringing economic and cultural benefits to communities right throughout West Northamptonshire and the wider county. The bid is a celebration of the people of Northampton, what they have achieved, and everything that is still to come.
 - "The overwhelming support we have received shows we have the hearts of the county backing our bid, and we feel confident our submission will demonstrate that Northampton is an exemplary case for city status." Cllr Jonathan Nunn, Leader
 - "As someone born and bred in Northampton with long family history here, I couldn't be prouder to support our bid for city status." Cllr Gareth Eales, Leader of the Labour Group.



- Establishing our West Northants social media channels including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tik Tok, helping us to reach a wider audience and engage effectively with residents and business where they are, without requiring them to come to us.
- Launching our new West Northants Website successfully with over 1.5million page views across the site in our first year and over 65% visitors viewing on a mobile device. We have been working with residents and councillors to develop and improve our new site.
- Joining the Local Government Association's National Graduate Development Programme and welcoming our first National Management Trainees into the council and empowering them to work on key initiatives such as our city status bid and sustainability strategy, helping to grow our future leaders.
- Successfully completing our statutory returns to government for all services.
- Actively promoting equalities through celebrating key events in the year including Pride, International Women's Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Black History Month, Disability Awareness Events. Launching our staff networks for women, LGBTQ+, carers, disabilities, armed forces community, early careers, ethnic diversity, mental health, and wellbeing. Establishing our member equalities champions.
- Reorganising our Executive support service to ensure that our Leader, Cabinet, Chief Executive, Leadership Team and Lord Lieutenant receive a consistent high-quality level of support and creating new apprenticeship opportunities for young people who are care experienced, helping them to develop thriving careers.
- Supporting the Lord Lieutenancy with 10 Royal Visits across Northamptonshire, helping to raise the profile of the many outstanding examples of public service in our county.
- Planning our county-wide celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee including promoting the Queen's Green Canopy Initiative, leading to the planting of 100s of new trees in West Northants.

Service Team Highlights

- The launch of Sustainable West Northants – an ambitious new approach towards protecting and improving the local environment, economy, and society for future generations. The initiative, which is being spearheaded by West Northamptonshire Council and partners across the area, aims to ensure everyone is working towards the same objectives and targets for developing sustainability, which are being mapped against global goals set by the United Nations.
 - We have developed three key Sustainability Pledges – our primary commitments alongside the beginnings of a bold new strategy for steering forward resources and actions – with more pledges expected to be developed in the future.
 - Net Zero the Council's own emissions by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045.
 - Take a community leadership role for Sustainability in West Northants.
 - Ensure all Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
 - We have been admitted to the UK100, the network of most ambitious authorities for progressing the climate and sustainability agenda.
- Launching our new Performance Framework and Corporate Dashboard, providing transparency and openness in how we are performing against our corporate plan and developing our baseline performance data for our new organisation.
- Working in partnership with the Local Government Association to review and redesign our communications and engagement service, ensuring that we are delivering a high-quality service. Establishing a member task and finish group to develop our approach to resident and parish communications.



Chief Executive's Office: Our Priorities 2022/23

The key priorities that we will deliver in 2022-23 are set out below:

1

Together with our councillor working group, taking forward our Sustainability West Northants Initiative to raise awareness across our communities and make progress against the delivery of our pledges.

2

Launching our resident newsletters and continuing to grow and promote our communications channels to reach out to a wider audience.

3

Developing a strong Corporate and Place Narrative for West Northants, helping to raise our profile nationally and internationally.

4

Redesigning our Business Intelligence, Policy and Performance service to support effective decision making and improved outcomes. This is the final area of the directorate to be reorganised and will be completed in 22/23 ensuring all colleagues have clarity on permanent structures and roles.

5

Promoting the outcome of our city status bid, helping to raise the profile of West Northants and the many outstanding features of our place.

6

Delivering our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations including our Military and Community Parade and our Community Big Lunch at Delapre Abbey for up to 5000 people.

7

Continuing to provide effective leadership for the development of our new organisational culture, ensuring all colleagues can thrive, taking pride in their work and feeling a part of our new council.

8

Additional investment in our communications service will enable us to continue to enhance and develop the service to reach wider audiences.

9

One off investment has been agreed to enable the redesign of our business intelligence service to enable us to establish the service design and costs for future years.

Financial and Operational Challenges 2022-23

- Financial pressure around Tier 1-3 unfunded savings to be addressed through budget setting.
- Additional investment in our communications service will enable us to continue to enhance and develop the service to reach wider audiences.
- One off investment has been agreed to enable the redesign of our business intelligence service to enable us to establish the service design and costs for future years.

Corporate Services

Overview

Year 1 has been a year of stabilisation, building strong foundations and looking to integrate our corporate services. It has been a hugely challenging year, due to the demand from both internal customers and from communities.

The first half of 2021 - 22 was reactive, dealing with stabilisation issues. Q3 and Q4 have been more proactive, with actions to create Corporate Services that meet the Council's priorities over the next three years. There is now significant confidence that plans are in place to take services from the 'coping with challenges' phase to services which are high performing.

Our Performance and Achievements

Human Resources

- We negotiated and paid a locally agreed pay rise for all WNC staff, above that awarded to those elsewhere on national pay arrangements, and agreed to setting the minimum wage in WNC at £10 an hour from April 2022.
- We have established great foundations and made progress to becoming an Employer of Choice, setting a positive and productive culture with our THRIVE values, the creation of the People Strategy and undertaking our first all-employee survey.
- We created and ran our new THRIVE awards for employees and our VIP End of Year conversations.
- We created a Ways of Working programme to support agile working and living through and with Covid.
- We introduced our first tranche of employee benefits – IKOM workplace benefits, Tusker Car Lease, Cycle to Work and purchasing of additional annual leave, Introduction and launch of Pennies from Heaven charity scheme.



Corporate Services

- We took our first steps towards building a specialist recruitment function to better support our services and managers in the current recruitment market. Our headline achievements include:
 - Increasing visibility of WNC as an employer e.g. Company Reviews on: Glassdoor being 4.4/5 which is great and 88% saying they would recommend working with us to a friend. Indeed being 4/5 with 4.5 for job security and advancement.
 - We created a Facebook Careers page and have developed a more focussed use of LinkedIn to publicise us as an employer.
- We attended two local careers fair events and have more planned for 2022 - 23 to increase our visibility in the local market including school leavers and graduates.
- We launched a dedicated recruitment campaign for the Adults Directorate and supported them with open days. The service has fed back that they have noticed an upturn in candidates for a variety of their roles.
- We delivered the first new payrolls across two new clients (WNC and NNC) accurately and on time for the first payday. The Election payroll was delivered successfully across North, West and MKC and every payroll has remained above 99% accuracy, despite having difficulty to recruit for most of this year. We have delivered a payroll service to Schools and Academies across Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes.
- We have produced forty-three HR policies and procedures, ten new Health and Safety policies both of which were consulted upon with the Trade Unions and have been published.
- We have continued to effectively manage staff relations including difficult appeals and grievances, numerous interview panels, a Transformation review, TUPE transfers and supporting people in the restructuring of 400 roles.

- We launched the Employee Assistance Programme which 7.2% of the WNC workforce have accessed, including 195 calls, and counselling (16 face to face, 42 via telephone and 16 online sessions) and managed 81 Referrals to Occupational Health.
- We have rolled out mandatory training and designed and rolled out our first management "Managing and Leading Performance Excellence (MALPE)" which is designed for experienced managers looking to refresh skills and learn new ones. We have also commenced a pilot mentoring scheme.

Customer Services

- We have supported local people, particularly the vulnerable through Covid and their access to support and advice and key services with the One Stop Shop (OSS) remaining open throughout the pandemic with increasing footfall.
- The Customer Services hubs have answered an average of 27,000 calls a month, with an additional 9,000 enquiries per month being handled via email.
- Our Customer Experience Strategy was signed off by Cabinet and launched. This puts the customer at the centre of everything we do and how we behave, providing a new standard of customer experience in local government.
- A team of advisors from across all our Hubs, including Complaints, have and continue to meet regularly and focus on a particular customer journey via our website. These ideas, suggestions and alternative routes are then communicated to the Web Team, whom we have built a good rapport with, and content changes are completed on the back on this.

- The wider Customer Services team have been involved with user testing and gathering feedback on proposed changes (School Admissions, Trading standards, Licensing, Highway's harmonisation), User testing on 'Apply', 'Pay', 'Renew', 'Report' buttons being added to the top of the website, replacing trending items. Continuous review of services that sit under the listed buttons and supplying suggestions for more.
- We ran our Clever Together first ever Big Conversation receiving 6000 contributions, 5188 votes, 286 ideas, 310 comments looking at the future of West Northants and Council. Contributions and responses were uplifting in tone, and expressing a clear interest in our eco agenda, low carbon and the environment.
- We supported the return of existing and new Partners into the OSS to ensure early support is available to prevent debt, homelessness, and increased vulnerabilities. Partners currently based in the hub includes Supporting Independence, Community Law Service, Migrant Help, Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service, Northampton Partnership Homes, Goodwill Solutions - Building Better Opportunities and Northamptonshire Police.
- The service also works with the Hope Centre who supply us monthly food packages that are available within the Guildhall, One Stop Shop. These are given out to customers in need to ensure that they have immediate support.

Digital, Technology and Innovation

- The service has supported all employees with their day-to-day ICT needs and supported agile working through Covid and now, living with Covid.
- The division has been reconstituted as 'Digital, Technology & Innovation', with a new senior management team appointed to oversee its six new unitary services: Digital, IT Operations, Strategy & Architecture, Business & Projects, Cyber Security & Risk, Enterprise Applications.
- Aggregation: The merging of numerous separate authority systems into one: unified PSN access; internet services; technology procurement (over 2,000 invoices, 500 contracts); single GIS database; single BACS bureau; unification of all authorities onto ERP Gold.

Corporate Services

- We have successfully managed disaggregation projects performing technology splits with NNC for CapitaONE Education, Customer Contact Centre, Abacus and Caspar systems.
- We successfully launched the following new systems:
 - Mailbot which has replied to 20,000 customer emails
 - Garden Waste system deflecting 8,000 calls per week from contact centre
 - Xpress elections system
 - CivicaCX for trading standards
 - Mileage and expenses systems
 - Office 365 apps for whole organisation (including Teams in Citrix).
- We effectively dealt with an unexpected power loss at One Angel Square due to electrical fire, and the Log4j cyber incident.
- We launched a full project governance apparatus, ensuring all business projects requiring technology are subject to full technical and resource planning and governance.
- We have developed WNC's telephony strategy for the next five years.
- Improved capability and clarity by restructuring services. Six clear services with clear mandate have been formed, to provide more specialised and targeted support to customers in DTI.
- Improved governance and created new functions. The creation of a Technical Design Authority, an IT Portfolio Board and associated governance creates the apparatus to check and challenge incoming business projects to ensure that the technology investment improves service rather than hinders it, and that solutions represent value for money.
- Reviewed contracts and service delivery models across the directorate. A full review of DTI contracts is underway and has already delivered £370k per annum savings, with more expected.
- Used support and skills from Transformation internal staff and external service matter experts where appropriate for projects such as the Ways of Working programme, Pay and Grading.
- The early automation projects that we undertook such as Mailbot and Garden Waste are now successfully reducing staff burden, and opening opportunities for WNC to become more efficient.

- We started and continue using, a simple model across the directorate to explore the main themes of increasing productivity in a consistent way and in doing so exploring all avenues.

Legal and Democratic

- We successfully ensured our Council was safe and legal from Day 1 of its existence and continued to support the council with the aggregation and disaggregation of services, multi-partnership arrangements and contracts and legal advice.
- Through Covid restrictions, we ensured that the weddings and civil ceremonies backlog was cleared, and the registering of births and deaths continued. We conducted increased weddings and other ceremonies to address Covid backlog. We prepared for GRO Stock and Audit with positive outcome.
- Centralised the registration of marriages and Designated Offices to comply with legislative change. Worked with the Medical Examiner's Office for rollout of the community Medical Examiner service.
- We made an Order for a single Coronial area for Northamptonshire. We established the Leys and provided Covid safe Jury Hearings with digital facilities and cleared coroner hearing backlog. We moved Coroner hearings to Guildhall and implemented a joint public health/coroners bereavement referral process.
- We delivered the Council's first elections, creating a single electoral register for West Northants. We conducted the first annual canvas and publication of the updated register and conducted several parish by-elections and neighbourhood planning referenda.
- We created and updated a new Constitution and created a governance framework for West Northants Council. We held the first annual meeting of the new Council in a Covid-safe environment and successfully onboarded 93 councillors.

- We set up an integrated information governance and data protection office and cleared the backlog of Subject Access Requests, reduced data breaches, published transparency data and data protection policies, and installed an electronic system for information requests and created a new records management function for the council.

Transformation

- We delivered an initial Year 1 Transformation Programme, starting with a successful Vesting Day on 1st April 2021 and supporting the aggregation and disaggregation of services.
- We delivered numerous projects including the aggregation of the Revenue and Benefits Team contributing to a £200k efficiency, the successful review of the Exec Support Team, Communications Team as well as Internal Audit.
- Within wider programmes, we delivered several key products. For example, in developing and consulting staff of worker profiles in Future Ways of Working and planning for large scale change needed in directorates.
- We supported the directorates in their response to the critical Covid Emergency incident in January 2022, providing expertise in planning and coordination.
- We created refreshed medium-term Grand Design Transformation Programme.
- We created and maintained a network of change champions across the organisation to provide a forum for engagement.
- We supported the development of Inter Authority Agreements and transitioned this into business as usual.
- We undertook a review of service and developed a directorate-centred model, refocused the programme on the big-ticket projects and programmes and supported its efficiency delivery through streamlining the governance framework.

Corporate Services: Our Priorities 2022/23

The key priorities that we will deliver in 2022-23 are set out below:

1

To be focused on delivering better outcomes for local people by:

Delivering against key strategies (Customer Experience, People, Transformation Grand Design, and emerging DTI Strategy) and their detailed action plans.

2

To continue to drive continuous service improvements within the directorate (Productivity, People, Contracts), looking at end-to-end customer journeys (internally and externally) and supporting all customers/clients with their support service requirements.

Examples include the:

- Restructure of HR, productivity squad creation for automation, new recruitment solutions project, helpdesk implementation and hub transition onto a single Customer Experience Management (CXM) platform resulting in three out of the four hubs using the one platform from May 2022, increasing performance deliver across our service and the delivery of a new Contact solution (telephony system) across Customer Services Implementation of key Transformation programmes and projects e.g. pay and grading programme, implementation of new ways of working and systems improvements.

4

Council size Submission to the boundary review Summer 2022, and the ward boundaries review thereafter.

5

Extend our partnership collaboration and continue with good relationship management, embracing connectivity to prevent the impact of increased vulnerabilities and debt management and debt advice function, delivered in conjunction by Customer Services Improved self-serve technology within One Stop Shops and across our outreach surgeries.

6

Build the basics of a robust and successful transformation programme for WNC and create a forward looking and outward facing.

7

Support the directorates with their Mid Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals in the future years and encourage a sense of continuous improvement in the teams supported by a sound methodological approach and tools.

8

Support the further integration of the PMOs across the directorate exploring an enterprise model to coordinate and maximise the change resource across the service.

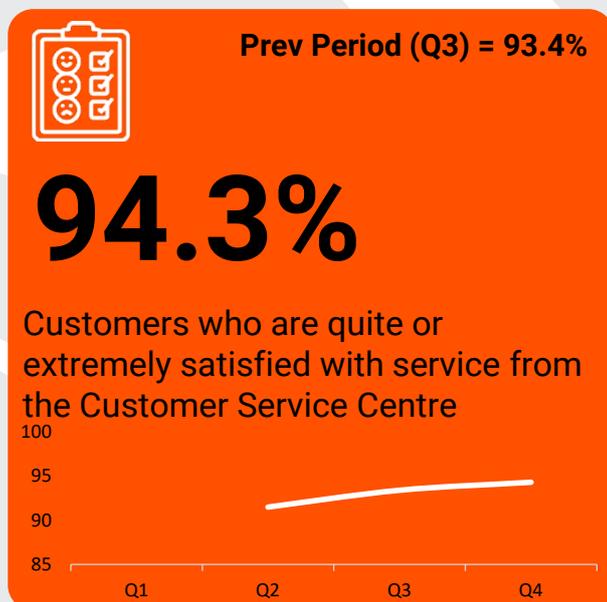
Financial and Operational Challenges 2022-23

- Our Pay and Grading project, complexity and size of project and legal risks.
- The impact of external inflation, energy costs, on the more vulnerable in West Northants and those fleeing Ukraine and from other vulnerable international countries.
- Consideration for future models of working for services (e.g., legal services model).
- Future productivity of business Systems (DTI) and ability to flex and improve and become more agile, under the constraints of a shared model.
- Additional workload created by transformation and pay and grading activities. Additional funding has been secured to support both these activities.
- The buoyancy of job market and filling of difficult-to-fill posts and continuing with targeted interventions.



2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting Against Corporate Priorities

Priority 3 – Connected Communities - Customer Service



This is a new indicator being reported from Sept 2021 within the Customer Service Centre that seeks to gather feedback from customers on their satisfaction with the service received.

The final quarter of the year has resulted in a small increase in the satisfaction level in the Customer Service Centre – up 0.9% to 94.3% when compared to the previous quarter.

In total 1,261 customers took part (Q3 was 934) in the survey and of those asked 94.3% of those were either quite or extremely satisfied.

Place, Economy and the Environment

Overview

Overall, we are making incredible progress in identifying and prioritising what will make the difference for our communities going forward and we have made significant steps in creating the infrastructure to deliver on these opportunities.

We have taken some bold and ambitious decisions rather than just accept what has always happened; and in some areas are being seen as developing best practice. Not everything has unfortunately gone as well or as quickly as first hoped, however when this has occurred, action has been taken and plans developed to get back on track as soon as possible, with increased outcomes as a result.

There is still lots to do and many challenges, but the momentum created both internally with staff and externally in working with partners, sets us in good stead for a positive and prosperous future.

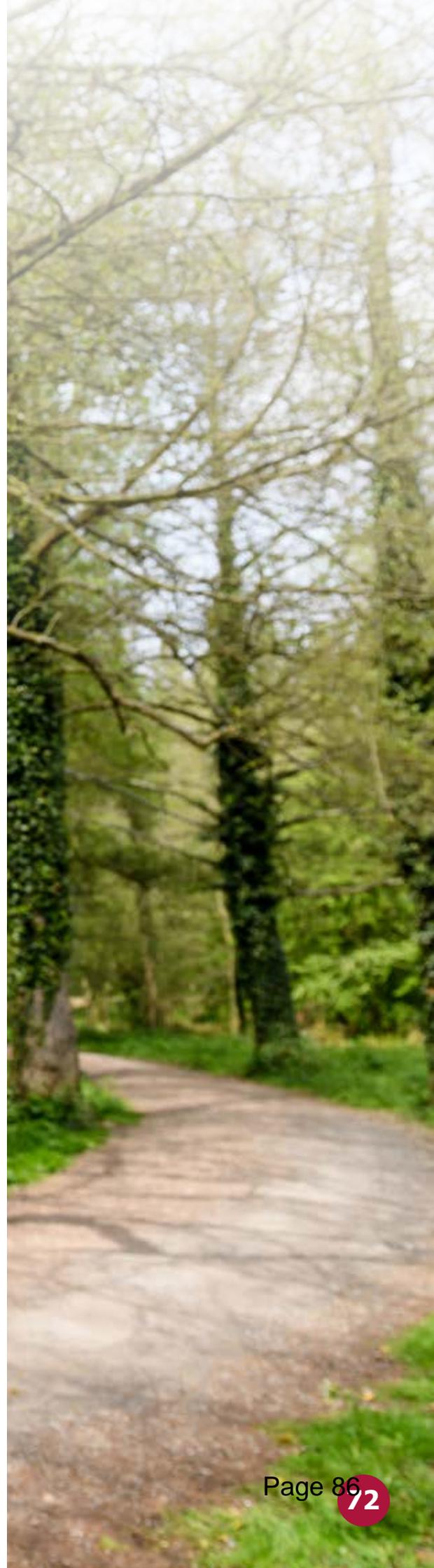
2021 – 22 will be a year that no one will forget, and this is particularly true in West Northants where not only did we do a tremendous job in managing the pandemic, supporting residents and businesses; but we went through a Local Government Review bringing 4 councils together in what can only be described as a challenging financial backdrop.

In Place, we have seen some real progress regarding the aggregation and disaggregation of service, whilst at the same time moving forward some of the real legacy issues that have been challenging for some years and delivering against the many priorities the new council has set.

It has been a difficult transition for some staff, many of whom had worked in their previous authority for many years and had seen the change as losing what they held dear. It is important that we recognise this in moving forward and that we build on the many great things that have been achieved. West Northants Council brings together the strength of all the Councils and provides a single voice for our area, a clear strategy, and a more efficient and effective way forward.

To this end we produced our first economic prospectus, setting out the ambition and potential that we have as a new authority and what this might mean for stakeholders, businesses and for Government. This prospectus has been welcomed by many of our partners who have helped to shape it and are now backing us in our conversations with government.

This sets the foundation for future years for strong partnerships, developing a pipeline of opportunities, and ensuring we punch above our weight going forward in terms of delivering against our priorities and accessing the funding to achieve our goals.



Our Performance and Achievements

The first year was all about stabilising and getting our budgets in place and provided the milestone to really start to move the services forward with the full knowledge of the constraints, and as it turned out, the opportunities and investment that this would provide.

We are now moving forward, getting the structures in place whilst at the same time looking to implement the new ways of working that will create a more effective and efficient way of working. We are looking at best practice, reviewing processes, harmonising systems, seeing an increase in productivity.

In reviewing the Blueprint, we have identified new opportunities in how we deliver our services and meeting the priorities of our residents and businesses in joined up way. We have introduced a new focus on our neighbourhoods, understanding place and the needs of the people who live there. The new Communities and Opportunities directorate will, as part of Place, ensure that we have clear intelligence of the issues relevant to an area, and a partnership response to the priorities and actions to be delivered.

There are so many benefits to hybrid working to the business as well, as staff and each service will have their own needs and requirements. Getting back into the office has many opportunities for effective working, however, we will ensure we balance this with the opportunities working from home has demonstrated through these past 2 years. But to get back into the office will assist the collaboration and networking we all enjoyed pre-pandemic, and we all benefit from hearing the experiences and issues from colleagues, in particular for the apprentices and those setting out on their career, it is essential. There is still lots to do but in terms of stabilising the directorate and preparing for the next phase we are well on our way.

As a management team we have had a series of sessions that are bringing the corporate values to life, ensuring they are authentic to the services and for our people. This work is starting to flow through and set the culture and identity of West Northants as a place to do business, that has a can-do attitude, does what it says and adopts a solution-focused, outcome-driven approach. This will create a working

environment that people will be proud to belong to with the benefits of a council approach of shared aims and objectives, that comes with a unitary authority. There is still lots to do but we are on the road and we have set the direction.

Service Area Highlights

Throughout all of this change, we have kept things moving and have a fantastic record of achievement which bodes well for future years and is down to the hard work and determination of everyone involved. This includes new policy development, supporting businesses and residents, bringing in much needed grants and finance ensuring we continue to deliver safe and valued statutory services, and working across both west and north councils, in preparation for transformation. Some of the highlights include:

- We have continued with the great work to deal with the Covid pandemic, providing advice and support to workplaces and schools across the area.
- We have achieved excellent progress with food hygiene visits, ensuring businesses could get back to work.
- We have progressed the development of a unified taxi and private hire policy and an updated Gambling Policy.
- We have received a DEFRA Air Quality Grant.
- We launched a consultation on a Public Spaces Protection Order to address dog fouling and dog control issues in the rural parts of the area.
- We produced Litter and Fly-Tipping Charters.

Place, Economy & the Environment

- We have continued with the great work to deal with the Covid pandemic, providing advice and support to workplaces and schools across the area.
- We have achieved excellent progress with food hygiene visits, ensuring businesses could get back to work.
- We have progressed the development of a unified taxi and private hire policy and an updated Gambling Policy.
- We have received a DEFRA Air Quality Grant.
- We launched a consultation on a Public Spaces Protection Order to address dog fouling and dog control issues in the rural parts of the area.
- We produced Litter and Fly-Tipping Charters.

- We successfully disposed of land at Buckton Fields for £13m, progressed with resolving long-standing land issues at Sixfields and the agreement of a site for a new secondary school.
- We delivered new and enlarged schools and improvement works.
- We successfully acquired the Avenue Campus, Northampton for affordable housing development.
- We completed the cinema and other aspects of Mulberry Place, Daventry.
- We have worked on developing the Estate Climate Strategy and a new parks strategy.
- We have secured an agreement to, and are now implementing the process, of bringing all WNC's country parks together under West Northamptonshire Council management.
- We have started work on the Northwest Relief Road and completion of the improvement of the Cliftonville Corridor.
- We have made progress towards an integrated travel strategy with the development of the Bus Service Improvement Plan; with work starting on a new active travel strategy; as well as partnership development with our rail operators understanding future opportunities.
- In terms of planning, we have published the Strategic Plan for West Northants and carried out a comprehensive consultation on which will identify the development in the right places ensuring a sustainable future going forward.



Place, Economy & the Environment

- We have adopted a new enforcement policy and concluded the examination which will lead to the adoption of the Northampton local plan, as well as continued to reduce backlogs and improved the service regarding planning applications.
- We have designated Conservation areas for Spratton and Hellidon, made Neighbourhood Plans for Ashton, Clipston, Hackleton and Overstone and adopted a Village Design Statement for Deanshanger.
- The council has been successful in allocating significant finance to businesses including the Welcome Back Fund, Employment Support Grant, and Business recovery support.
- The opening of the new museum has been followed by it being selected as one of 12 partners across the UK in the National Portrait Gallery's Skills & Knowledge Exchange Programme; and winning Heritage Organisation of the Year at Northamptonshire Heritage Forum awards and accreditation from the Arts Council.
- In Northampton Town Centre we are progressing in the delivery of the towns deal with business plans now agreed or developed which will see 10 major projects come forward including the new marketplace, street works on Abington Street and the re-development of the old Marks and Spencer's and BHS stores.
- Investing in our culture will ensure the town attracts people into its centre with new developments at Guildhall Road underway and the Vulcan Works now complete, creating new space and improvements to this sector to grow and flourish.
- Sitting alongside the new developments is the Cultural Compact, a partnership bringing together the Cultural sector to develop a vision, strategy, and action plan to benefit future town and neighbourhood regeneration and cohesion; as well as helping to change the perception of Northampton as a place to live, work and spend time.
- We are now very close to signing a new highways contract which will change the way our highways are maintained and will be more responsive to the demands of West Northants
- Last but certainly not least, the things that matter most to our residents is the state of the roads, cleanliness of our streets and whether our bins are collected on time. This has been a challenging time through the pandemic and generally we have done a great job in keeping these services delivering to a high standard. When things have been difficult, when we struggled to have enough staff at work, we kept residents informed, worked quickly to find solutions, and mitigate the problems.

Communities and Opportunities

Significant changes in how services will be delivered in our communities will become a reality through this ambitious and challenging plan. By adopting a neighbourhood approach, we will have clarity of priorities that exist within specific areas with a joined-up approach to fulfilling the potential of each neighbourhood.

This will not only provide synergy between council services but also with our health and blue light services, providing a true multi agency approach on a consistent basis.

This year will see the development of a coherent evidence base and the priorities, action plans for each area to be developed and the alignment of services in respect of delivering long term sustainable change.

This is a long-term commitment and will see a gradual shift in the positioning of our communities. Changes will see housing and leisure come across to Place assisting in the overall establishment of a single view on place and how people use the physical environment linking with the Regeneration and Economic Development services the new Communities and Opportunities directorate will raise the opportunities and accessibility to support in living their best life.

This will be complemented by a single board governance that ensures that the join up between people and place directorate work together in supporting people and their communities going forward.

2022-23 will see the completion of our aggregation and disaggregation, with all services having a clear service improvement plan, ensuing that data, processes and priorities are clearly stated and owned by the staff and stakeholders as we adopt and develop best practice.

With our project pipeline development, we will be working with partners and stakeholders and will prioritise a long list of projects that will form the basis of future funding requests and opportunities across all sectors.

Place, Economy and the Environment: Our Priorities 2022/23

Looking ahead we are very quickly moving from stabilising the directorate to setting our long-term objectives and opportunities. We will be focusing on getting the strategies in place that will focus on the needs and opportunities of our residents, help support and grow our businesses and that set a clear direction regarding where we want to develop as a successful and sustainable place. Building on the 'one council' approach we will be looking at developing a framework that will identify the strategies we need to develop and ensure that we do this together and that they align. The strategies and projects to be developed and implemented will include the following:

1

Skills strategy – bringing together partners from business, higher and further education, schools, economic development in the region. The strategy will align the skills and career development required by our businesses; to the courses delivered by our colleges and university, to ensuring a better awareness and ambition for our residents. The strategy will focus on enabling all our residents to maximise their potential whether that be in accessing the higher-level jobs, upskills to move on their career development or getting on to the jobs ladder in the first place.

2

Regeneration strategy - focused on the opportunities of each of our towns and main villages, the regeneration strategy will look at the opportunities of each community in developing a pipeline of developments particularly focused on our town centres and job creation.

3

Economic strategy – ensuring we support our existing businesses and attract inward investment into West Northants. Developing a partnership with our businesses in ensuring we target investment and capacity in growing and retaining these companies. We have one of the largest start-up rates in the country. We will work to ensure more of them reach maturity and continue to grow longer term. The strategy will also develop a clarity in attracting new businesses, building on our strengths and locational advantage aligned with government agenda.

4

Cultural strategy – building on the work of the cultural compact the strategy will enable all communities to realise the potential of cultural activities in regenerating their areas, building capacity, and developing people as well as promoting West Northants as a great place to live.

5

Waste strategy – will provide a long-term approach to how we deal with our waste with the potential of developing commercial opportunities of recycling more locally.

6

Assets management strategy – providing the clarity of what we own and how these assets can assist in delivering the corporate plan and regenerating our communities.

7

A range of transport strategies that will ensure we have a credible, single understanding of the potential of all opportunities including active travel, the future of public services including bus, rail and new innovations including electric scooters, walking and cycling, and future road investment.

8

Continuation of the Spatial Strategy and developing **Local plans**, following consultation, a revised strategic plan will be developed taking on board the views and concerns of local residents, ensuring we have the right development in the right place maximising the opportunities for our residents in creating a sustainable future.

9

Sustainable West Northants – having adopted a new approach to looking at sustainability, we will deliver a clear action plan of how the council will work in partnership with communities, businesses and stakeholders. We will ensure we all play our part in delivering our ambitious strategy that includes environmental, economic, and social sustainability and value.

Financial and Operational Challenges 2022-23

There are significant risks and opportunities regarding the financial performance and operation of the Place directorate going forward.

In bringing our teams together there will be more efficiencies and commercial opportunities that will be realised, whilst some teams will require investment to ensure we meet our statutory obligations. The development of these teams will also offer greater capacity to deliver much more.

In terms of better use of our assets, bringing four councils into one and adopting a neighbourhood approach to delivery, will bring our frontline closer to our communities whilst providing better strategic co-ordination and management across West Northants. This will enable significant savings, but also opportunities in bringing more services to our town centres.

The development of clear and deliverable strategies alongside a prioritised pipeline of projects will provide a better context in which to attract investment from both government and from inward investment.

The current economic situation will continue to challenge the directorate in delivering on its priorities. We have increased costs in construction, recycling, energy costs and fuel which we will continue to monitor and work hard to mitigate.

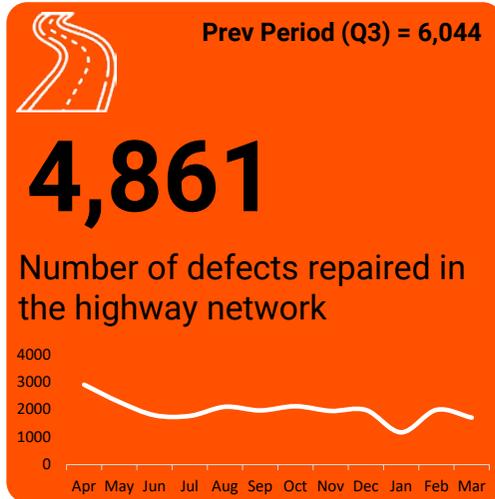
The jobs market in recruiting highly skilled and experienced people is presenting challenges in particular areas. We are however in the longer term looking to develop our own interns of apprenticeships and upskilling existing staff, as well as using innovative ways to recruit and attract new people in the short term. The increasing stability and reputation of the new council is also assisting in the recruitment process.

We continue to assess the opportunities of procuring new contracts based on the needs of the new council, which in many circumstances will provide economies of scale and therefore savings. Obviously, disaggregation of the former county council has the opposite impact, which aligned with the challenges of the economy, now is leading to increasing costs.



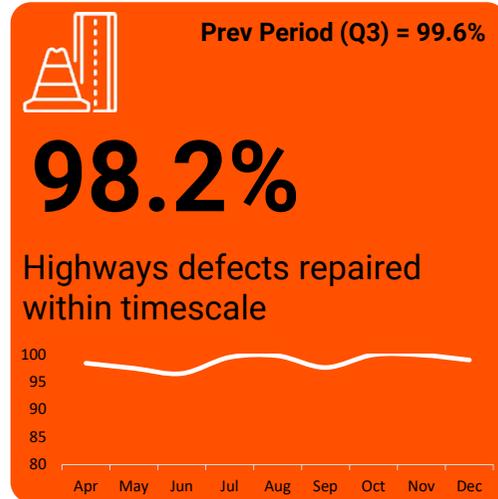
Place, Economy and the Environment: 2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting

Priority 3 – Connected Communities - Transport and Connectivity



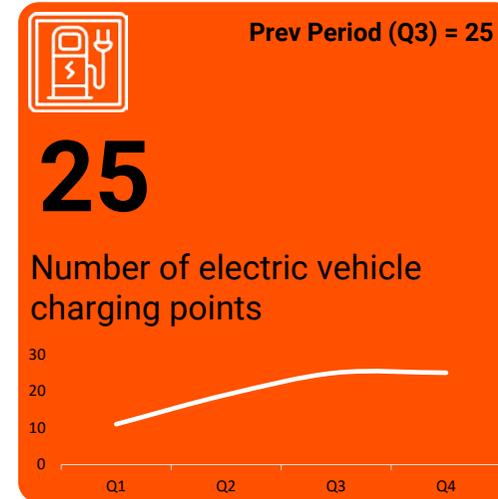
Repairs to the highways network are always needed, nationally there is a backlog of outstanding repairs with increasing traffic volume and changeable weather conditions, of which both contribute to the deterioration of the road network.

The number of repairs undertaken has seasonal fluctuations due to different programmes of work that highways undertake. The total number of repairs undertaken in quarter 4 was 4,861, a reduction from the 6,044 repairs undertaken in the 3rd quarter of the year. The full year has seen 23,694 repairs undertaken in West Northants and at the end of March there were 1,069 reported repairs outstanding on the highway network.



Highways defects are split into 4 separate categories, depending on their severity, each of these categories has a different timescale for repair from the most severe (P1) repairs that are required to be completed within 24hours to the least severe (P4) which have a 28 week repair timeframe. The vast majority of repairs that are completed fall within the P3 (28 days) or P4 (28 Week) categories.

Of those reported repairs that have been completed this quarter 98.2% of those have been repaired within the required timescale, whilst this is a decrease from the position of 99.6% in the past two quarters it remains a high performing metric. The full year has seen 98.8% of repairs completed in timescale.



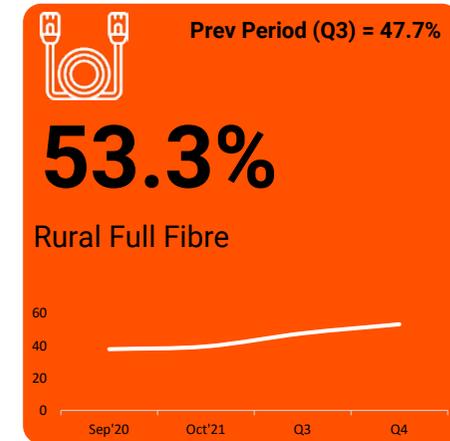
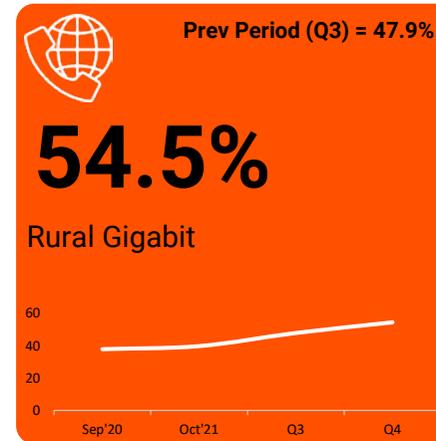
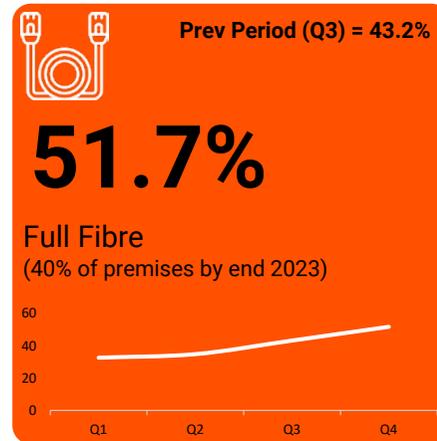
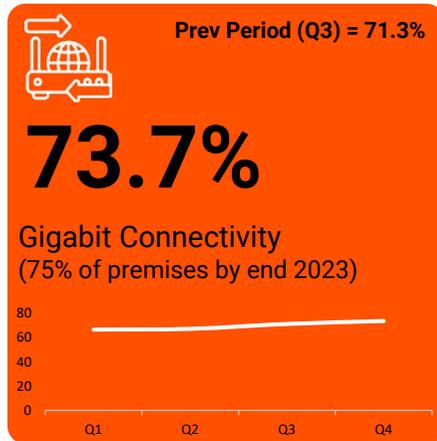
WNC has 25 electric vehicle charge points in place on our premises or property that are available for electric vehicles, this is the same position as reported in the previous quarter.

Additionally the total charging point access for West Northamptonshire as at April 2022 shows that there are 107 public charging devices of which 39 rapid charging devices. This is an increase since January of 14 charging points.

The West Northamptonshire area has 26.3 charging points per 100,000 population which is lower than the East Midlands (33.4) and England (45.2) averages.

Place, Economy and the Environment: 2021-22 Quarterly Performance Reporting

Growth & Regeneration



Broadband coverage in West Northamptonshire is performing strongly. At the end of Q4, full fibre broadband was available to almost 52% of WNC premises (the optimum broadband technology); this is an increase from 43.2% at the end of Q3 and compares to just 32.5% on average for England. The Urban / Rural coverage figures reveal the positive position in the rural areas for Full Fibre and particularly when compared to England. Gigaclear's rural focus has contributed to this performance. Urban gigabit coverage is also strong in comparison. There is a competitive Full Fibre market in the area with commercial investments by Openreach, Gigaclear and CityFibre in particular. It is worth reflecting that just three years ago less than 7% of Northamptonshire premises were served by full fibre.

Over 73% of premises in West Northamptonshire now have access to gigabit capable broadband (this includes Virgin Media's cable); this compares to 68% for England. 99% of premises have access to superfast broadband (≥ 30 Mbps). End of 2023 countywide coverage targets for Full Fibre (40%) and Gigabit capable broadband (75%) have now both been achieved.

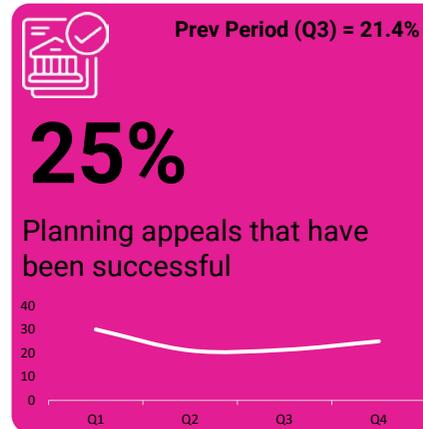
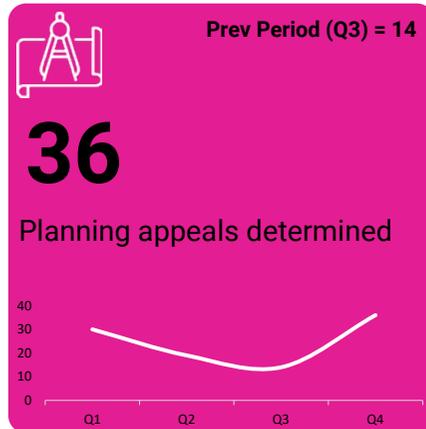
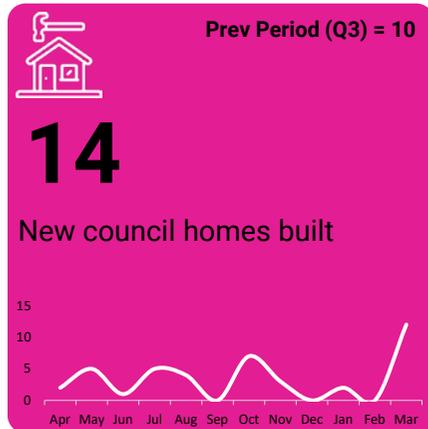
The trajectory is good but there is more to be done, including to tackle those who suffer from the poorest speeds. A boost in commercial telecoms investment in the next few years, along with Project Gigabit, should support continued progress to deliver against local targets. These are for at least 80% of premises to have full fibre connectivity and at least 90% served by gigabit capable broadband by the end of 2028.

Updates on Project Gigabit are available here: <https://www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net/how-we-are-delivering/Pages/building-digital-uk-project-gigabit.aspx>

Place, Economy and the Environment: 2021-22

Quarterly Performance Reporting

Growth & Regeneration



The West Northamptonshire Council corporate plan commits to build 500 council homes over the next 5 years. Currently in West Northamptonshire only Northamptonshire Partnership Homes (NPH) are the only builder of council homes that is contributing to this indicator.

The most recent quarter has seen 14 council homes completed an increase from the 10 completed in the previous quarter and taking the year to date completions to 41 homes.

In addition to council homes we have also seen 355 affordable homes completed in the quarter and a year to date figure of 660 affordable homes completed.

These indicators show the number of appeals that have been heard in the current quarter along with the percentage of those appeals that have been successful.

Planning appeals are a useful indicator to support the robustness of the planning process and decision making of the authority, a high proportion of planning decisions that are overturned at appeal could point to a less robust decision making process. The Government measures performance in this area over a rolling 24 month cycle to more accurately judge the robustness of local planning process, this allows for those months/quarters which result in a spikes in applications, decisions and appeals.

The most recent quarter has had 36 such appeals and of these and 25% (9) have been successful in their appeals. This is an increase in the rate of appeals being successful when comparing to the previous quarters outturn of 21.4%.

The full year to date position for these indicators is 99 planning appeals with 25.3% (25) of appeals being successful to end of March 2022.

Supporting the Local Visitor Economy

The Economy Team have been pro-actively doing all that they can to support the visitor economy restart the local economy following the impact of the pandemic. The team have been effectively managing and administering the Welcome Back Fund to deliver highly impactful initiatives such as:

- The successful Small Business Saturday December campaign ,
- An ongoing "Think Local" campaign, including a largescale marketing project which received over 3,000,000 views
- Local events such as the Northampton Museum Fashion Show and Paw Patrol Trail
- Professional cleaning of local high streets

Building on these activities, the Economy Team have procured a new digital app, "Explore West Northants", which will help local businesses to grow, nurture the local economy and further drive footfall into our towns. This new app will be a lifeline to our West Northants community, promoting local events, walking/cycle routes, all of our businesses/ attractions and much more.

On top of the increased footfall, spend and reputation enhancement through the Welcome Back Fund, the Economy Team has been further supporting the Visitor Economy by celebrating English Tourism Week, 18-27 March.

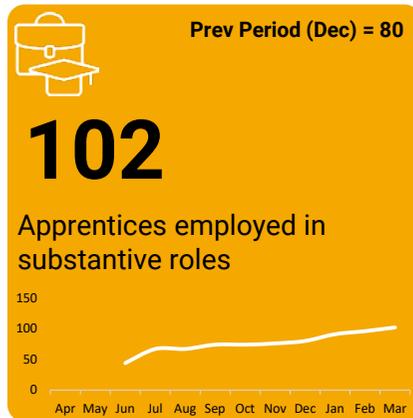
Working closely with colleagues in the Communications Team, a comprehensive marketing campaign showcased the many attractions and reasons to visit this area across all of our marketing platforms. This included setting up a profile on the highly popular app Tiktok, to target a wider audience using video content and boost visitors to West Northamptonshire.

Building on the Small Business Saturday campaign a "Love Your High Street" campaign has also been delivered promoting the benefits of supporting local, independent businesses and investing in the community. The long-term "Think Local" campaign will continue to be promoted across all platforms all year-round.

Place, Economy and the Environment: 2021-22

Quarterly Performance Reporting

Priority 5 - Economic Development - Growth and Prosperity - Growth and Regeneration



The rate of people aged 16-64 who are in employment in West Northamptonshire remained at 75.7% in the latest quarterly information (to Dec 2021).

Nationally, 75.1% of 18-64 year old are in employment, putting West Northamptonshire 0.6% above the national average. The change nationally since the last quarter was a 0.5% increase in employment.

Regionally the latest figure decreased by 0.1% to 74.1% to the end of December 2021.

The government introduced a number of changes to encourage employers to offer more apprenticeship opportunities to both their current employees and to new staff joining their organisations.

The council currently supports a variety of different apprenticeship schemes in order to offer opportunity and development to new and existing members of staff.

At the end of March West Northamptonshire Council had 102 apprentices employed in substantive roles, this is up from 80 at the end of December.

Supporting West Northamptonshire Businesses

The Economy Team continue to support local businesses to recover from the pandemic and develop growth plans. This has included supporting employers to access the Additional Restrictions Grant administered by our Revenues & Benefits Team, and triaging employers that could also utilise the two funds administered by the University of Northampton on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council.

As the gateway for businesses to access funding and business support, we continue to nurture the local economy and enable employers to grow their workforce and re-invest in the local economy. The Economy Team act as the face of West Northamptonshire Council to the business community, doing all that they can to show we are dedicated to supporting businesses, attracting investment and growing the local economy.

The team continues to support employers by being active publicly, as well as working with partners to promote WNC as a key delivery partner of business support. This includes supporting recruitment, identifying commercial premises, accessing funding/training, exploring corporate social responsibilities and any challenges our businesses need to overcome, or opportunities they wish to explore.

WNC Employment Support Activities

To promote the free support available through our West Northamptonshire Employment Support Service, the Economy Team have arranged for information to be made available in all 16 libraries in West Northamptonshire. This has increased engagement for our employment support services and has enabled the broadening of our reach in the area, to ensure we are helping as many people as possible.

The Economy team send a monthly e-newsletter which includes information on the latest local vacancies, along with information about employment support available from our Employment Support Partners. Plus, the Economy Team are regularly meeting West Northants businesses to discuss the support available from the team to support the business with their recruit and enable connections with the local labour market and provide for sustainable, local employment.

Additional Information

Appendix – Performance Against Corporate Plan Detailed Score Card

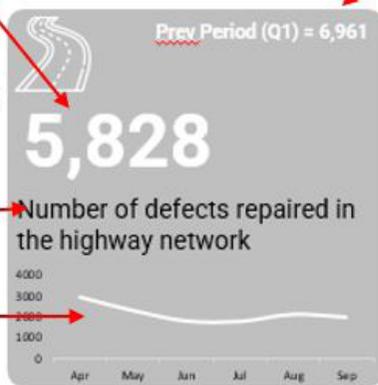
Report Layout and Guidance on Performance Reporting

The current performance.

This will be the period for the current report, unless otherwise stated next to it. The current period can always be found in the bottom left corner of each page.

The previous period's performance

The last period, will be stated if that is a quarter or a specific month.



Indicator Name

Number of defects repaired in the highway network

Indicator details

This section includes the indicator name, the priority it is relevant to in the corporate plan, the lead directorate plus if it is better for the performance to be higher or lower.

Trend Chart

This will show the recent trend, either by month (if available) or by quarter.

As this is the first year of West Northamptonshire Council there is no data prior to 1st April that is presented.

Performance Data

This section includes the target and current performance data broken down to month where available, quarterly and year to date (YTD).

In addition benchmarking information is included on the right hand side covering regional, national and statistical neighbour groups. There are and will continue to be a number of indicators that have no published data in order to benchmark against.

Corp Ref:	Metrics (Number / Rates / Financial)	Priority	Directorate	Better to be?	Target	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2	YTD	Regional	National
1.2	Percentage of household waste sent for recycling or composting	1. Green & Clean	Place & Economy	Higher		50.85%	52.32%	56.42%	53.33%					53.33%		
1.3	Percentage of waste from HWRCs diverted from landfill								71.50%							
1.4a	Net trees planted this year												-140	-91	n/a	n/a
1.5	Council vehicles that are electric or hybrid	1. Green & Clean	Place & Economy	Higher									22			
1.6	Council owned parks and green spaces that have Green Flag accreditation	1. Green & Clean	Place & Economy	Higher	10 in 5 years				5				5	5		

Temporary image as an example only

Additional Information

Appendix – Performance Against Corporate Plan Detailed Score Card

Corp Ref:	Metric Title	Priority	Better to be?	Target	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4	YTD	Stat Neighbour	Regional	National	
1.2	Percentage of household waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting	1 Green & Clean	Higher					50.00%				50.90%			45.90%							-	43.4%	41.2%	
1.3	Percentage of waste from HMRCs diverted from landfill	1 Green & Clean	Higher		73.00%	68.50%	72.60%	71.50%	72.40%	70.80%	72.40%	71.80%	69.40%	70.20%	64.60%	60.40%									
1.4a	Trees planted this year	1 Green & Clean	Higher					49				2			487					263	601	-	-	-	
1.4b	Trees Removed this year	1 Green & Clean	Higher					0				142			9					77	228	-	-	-	
1.5	Council vehicles that are electric or hybrid	1 Green & Clean	Higher									22			22					22	22	-	-	-	
1.6	Council owned parks and green spaces that have Green Flag accreditation	1 Green & Clean	Higher	10 in 5 years				5				5			5					5	5	-	-	-	
2.1a	Percentage of all referrals with a decision within 2 working days	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	65%	57%	54%	66%		94%	93%	84%		95%	96%	96%		96%	97%	86%			-	-	-	
2.1b	Percentage of referrals with a previous referral within 12 months	2 Improved Life Chances	Lower	29%	37%	32%	32%		34%	36%	35%		36%	37%	37%		36%	37%	34%		36%	23%	26%	23%	
2.1c	Percentage of Single Assessments authorised within 45 days	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	65%	99%	99%	97%		98%	97%	99%		98%	98%	97%		97%	97%	98%		98%	-	-	-	
2.1d	Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent year	2 Improved Life Chances	Lower	20%	24%	10%	35%		32%	45%	36%		13%	23%	15%		37%	43%	29%		28%	22%	24%	22%	
2.1e	Percentage of children in care who were placed for adoption within 12 months of an agency decision that is not in employment, education or training (NEET) or Non	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	72%				64%				54%			100%					100%	67%	-	-	74%	
2.3	Proportion of young people (aged 16-18) who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) or Non	2 Improved Life Chances	Lower		-	-	-		2.5%	3.3%	6.2%		4.4%	2.8%	2.5%		2.2%	2.2%	2.3%						
2.4	Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	91.9%							67.6%	67.6%	66.8%	65.1%	62.4%	62.4%	-	-	56.0%	56.0%	56.0%	-	94.0%	92.2%	
2.5	Proportion of people that return to their normal place of residence after discharge	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher		94.8%	95.3%	95.4%	95.1%	95.4%	95.7%	95.7%	95.6%	94.8%	95.1%	94.5%	94.8%	93.8%	93.9%	93.7%	93.7%			-	-	
2.7	Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 31 days after discharge from hospital in	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	73.2%	44.7%	53.5%	31.6%	43.5%	74.4%	65.5%	70.5%	70.2%	74.6%	73.3%	66.7%	76.2%	51.5%	63.0%	56.8%	61.6%			-	62.3%	79.1%
2.8a	Number of homeless preventions	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	265	51	35	33	123	35	24	32	91	25	48	94	67	33	32	32	103	404	-	-	-	
2.8b	Number of cases where homelessness was successfully relieved	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	312	45	40	39	124	31	41	43	115	40	35	36	111	36	33	35	106	456	-	-	-	
2.10a	Percentage of in-year eligible population offered an NHS Health Check	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	100.0%	1.3%	2.4%	2.1%	5.7%	2.1%	3.2%	2.4%	7.4%	2.6%	1.7%	2.0%	6.2%	1.7%	0.6%	3.5%	6.8%	26.1%	-	1.7%	2.0%	
2.10b	Percentage of in-year eligible population who received an NHS Health Check	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	60.0%	0.7%	0.5%	1.0%	2.2%	0.3%	1.0%	1.1%	3.0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.7%	2.7%	0.7%	0.5%	1.2%	2.5%	10.6%	-	0.6%	0.6%	
2.11	Percentage Smoking quit rate at 4 weeks	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	60.0%	67.5%	63.3%	63.7%	64.7%	55.0%	57.6%	60.5%	60.1%	61.3%	64.8%	61.5%	62.9%	66.3%	57.7%	58.7%	61.4%			-	-	51.0%
2.12	Breastfeeding rate at 6-8 weeks	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher	55.0%	52.0%	53.9%	53.5%	52.1%	55.5%	55.7%	53.1%	53.6%	57.5%	53.9%	54.6%	55.3%	50.9%	53.9%	52.9%	52.9%			-	n/a	47.6%
2.13	Number of school aged children who receive weight management advice and support 1:1	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher		62	138	291	491	223	179	273	675	70	87	136	293	178	112	272	562	2,021	-	-	-	
2.14	Percentage of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery	2 Improved Life Chances	Lower	11.0%				11.9%				11.0%			11.2%					10.7%		-	11.4%	9.6%	
2.15a	Infants due a new bath visit that received a new bath visit within 14 days of birth	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher		97.5%	97.9%	98.0%	97.8%	96.4%	97.2%	96.6%	96.8%	96.3%	98.3%	97.7%	97.5%	98.2%	97.2%	96.9%	96.9%	97.3%	97.3%	-	91.8%	88.0%
2.15b	Infants who received a 6-8 week review by the time they were 8 weeks	2 Improved Life Chances	Higher		98.1%	97.8%	98.3%	98.1%	98.5%	98.1%	97.3%	98.0%	99.7%	98.3%	98.6%	98.6%	98.2%	97.6%	97.8%	97.8%	94.8%	94.8%	-	85.8%	80.2%

Additional Information

Appendix – Performance Against Corporate Plan Detailed Score Card

Corp Ref:	Metric Title	Priority	Better to be?	Target	Apr	May	Jun	Q1	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q2	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q3	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q4	YTD	Stat Neighbour	Regional	National
3.1	Number of defects repaired in the highway network	3. Connected Communities	Higher		2,900	2,271	1,790	6,961	1,766	2,097	1,965	5,828	2,117	1,947	1,960	6,044	1,171	1,987	1,703	4,861	23,694	-	-	-
3.2	Percentage of defects repaired within timescale (P1-P4)	3. Connected Communities	Higher		99.4%	97.43%	96.54%	97.63%	99.43%	99.76%	99.39%	99.56%	99.95%	99.90%	98.99%	99.62%	98.12%	99.14%	96.95%	98.2%	98.0%	-	-	-
3.3a	Broadband gigabit connectivity	3. Connected Communities	Higher	75% by end 2023				66.7%				67.3%			71.2%				73.7%	73.7%	73.7%	-	-	68.2%
3.3b	Broadband Full Fibre	3. Connected Communities	Higher	40% by end 2023				32.6%				34.8%			43.2%				51.7%	51.7%	51.7%	-	-	32.5%
3.4a	Rural Broadband Coverage - Gigabit Connectivity	3. Connected Communities	Higher									39.8%			47.9%				54.5%	54.5%	54.5%	-	-	35.9%
3.4b	Rural Broadband Coverage - Full Fibre	3. Connected Communities	Higher									39.6%			47.7%				53.3%	53.3%	53.3%	-	-	29.8%
3.5	Number of charging points	3. Connected Communities	Higher					11				19			25				25	25	25	-	-	-
3.6	Percentage of customers who are quite satisfied and extremely satisfied with the service received from the	3. Connected Communities	Higher									91.5%			93.4%				94.3%	91.5%	91.5%	-	-	-
3.7	Percentage of contacts received within Customer Services for the first time (unavoidable contacts)	3. Connected Communities	Higher									87.0%			78.5%				87.0%	87.0%	87.0%	-	-	-
4.1	Number of new council homes built	4. Thriving Villages & Towns	Higher		2	5	1	8	5	4	0	9	7	3	0	10	2	0	12	14	41	-	-	-
4.5	Number of affordable homes completed	4. Thriving Villages & Towns	Higher					60				64			81				355	660	660	-	-	-
4.4a	Total number of planning appeals received	4. Thriving Villages & Towns	No Tolerance					30				19			14				36	99	99	-	-	-
4.4b	Proportion of planning appeals that are successful	4. Thriving Villages & Towns	Lower					30.0%				21.1%			21.4%				25.0%	25.3%	25.3%	-	-	-
5.1	Percentage of people (aged 16-64) who are in employment	5. Economic Development	Higher	No Target			74.1%				74.1%				75.7%				75.7%	75.7%	75.7%	-	74.1%	75.1%
5.5	Number of apprentices employed in substantive roles	5. Economic Development	Higher	No Target			44		67	67	74		74	76	80		91	96	102	102	102	-	-	-
6.1	Net Revenue budget delivery - Projected surplus/deficit (£m)	6. Robust Resource Management	Lower					0.00				0.00			0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
6.2	Council Tax collection rate	6. Robust Resource Management	Higher	85.21%	10.85%	19.61%	29.02%		38.1%	47.23%	56.46%		65.96%	74.66%	83.76%		92.75%	94.80%	96.46%	96.46%	96.46%	-	-	-
6.3	Business Rates collection rate	6. Robust Resource Management	Higher	83.39%	7.46%	16.28%	20.99%		30.43%	38.82%	47.84%		55.64%	66.32%	75.71%		84.12%	88.97%	95.82%	95.82%	95.82%	-	-	-
6.4	Amount of debt owed to the council that is overdue by at least 90 days (£m)	6. Robust Resource Management	Lower						30.2	29.2	23.9		23.9	23.3	22.6		22.5	20.8	19.9	19.9	19.9	-	-	-
6.5	Percentage of invoices that are paid within 30 days of receipt	6. Robust Resource Management	Higher	95.0%	98.4%	87.4%	89.6%	91.2%	91.3%	96.4%	93.2%	93.5%	91.7%	95.9%	96.9%	94.8%	94.6%	97.6%	95.9%	96.0%	94.0%	-	-	-
6.7a	Number of Employee's - Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	6. Robust Resource Management	No Tolerance	No Target	2,410.30	2,396.49	2,388.49		2,369.32	2,353.17	2,338.15		2,337.80	2,340.53	2,328.64		2,339.20	2,356.18	2,356.13	2,356.13	2,356.13	-	-	-
6.7b	Number of Employee's - Headcount	6. Robust Resource Management	No Tolerance	No Target	2,705	2,689	2,680		2,656	2,636	2,620		2,617	2,618	2,606		2,613	2,631	2,633	2,633	2,633	-	-	-
6.7c	Average number of days lost due to sickness	6. Robust Resource Management	Lower		0.63	1.36	2.24		3.21	4.16	5.16		6.32	7.47	8.66		9.76	10.99	12.08	12.08	12.08	-	-	-
6.7d	Projected sickness	6. Robust Resource Management	Lower		11.2	8.3	8.7		9.5	10.3	11.1		12.0	12.4	11.8		12.0	12.0	12.1	12.1	12.1	-	-	tbc
6.7e	Rolling Annual Staff Turnover	6. Robust Resource Management	No Tolerance		16.0%	14.0%	14.1%		15.1%	16.7%	17.0%		16.9%	17.2%	16.7%		16.2%	15.6%	15.7%	15.7%	15.7%	-	-	tbc

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

Tuesday 14th June 2022

Cllr Matt Golby – Portfolio holder Adult Social Care

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

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	23 rd May 2022
West S151	Martin Henry	20 th May 2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby	20 th May 2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	23 rd May 2022

List of Appendices

1. **Appendix A – Northamptonshire’s Integrated Care Structure**
2. **Appendix B – Proposed Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference**
3. **Appendix C – Proposed West Integrated Care Partnership Structure**
4. **Appendix D – Proposed West Northants Local Area Partnership structure**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1.1 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.
- 1.1.2 Cabinet to approve the nomination process for West Northamptonshire Council's representative on the Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- 1.1.3 Cabinet to note the West Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference for the Integrated Care System (ICS) from the 1st July 2022 which will be put forward for approval at full council on the 30th June 2022
- 1.1.4 Cabinet to note the chairing arrangements for the Integrated Care Partnership Board.
- 1.1.5 Cabinet to note the proposed governance structure for the Integrated Care Partnership (West Place) which were approved at the West Health and Wellbeing Board on the 7th June 2022
- 1.1.6 Cabinet to approve the proposed Local Area Partnerships (LAP's) for the West Place as part of the ICP following consultation with stakeholders
- 1.1.7 Cabinet to approve the proposal for one elected member per unitary ward to sit on Local Area Partnerships.

2 Executive Summary

2.1 Integrated Care System

The Health and Care Act 2022 (the Act) sets out plans for the future of health and care, including the statutory creation of Integrated Care Systems. The Act also sets out Government plans to improve collaborative working, empower local leaders, address health inequalities, and focus on population health management. The Act has now received Royal Assent and the new requirements arrangements will come into force on 1st July 2022. For West Northamptonshire, the Integrated Care System will exist at county (Northamptonshire) level. Reforms will mean changes to governance and decision making through the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership both at county and place (West Northants) level; to locality leadership and day-to-day officer roles and to mechanisms to support enhanced provider collaboration. This report updates cabinet on the preparatory work across Northamptonshire, and specifically on the detailed proposals emerging in West Northants. It sets out the decisions that will need to be taken by Cabinet, Full Council and the Health and Wellbeing Board, to ensure arrangements are fully reflected in the Council's Constitution.

3 Recommendations

3.1.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note 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 will be made by the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services.
- b) Note the West Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference for the Integrated Care System from the 1st July 2022 which will be put forward for approval at full council on the 30th June 2022
- c) Note 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 May 2022 and the West Health and Wellbeing Board on the 7th June 2022
- d) Cabinet to note the chairing arrangements for the Integrated Care Partnership Board.
- e) Approve the proposed Local Area Partnerships (LAP's) for the West Place as part of the ICP following consultation with stakeholders
- f) Approve the proposal for one elected member per unitary ward to sit on each of the nine Local Area Partnerships.
- g) Further updates will be presented to Cabinet, Full Council and People Scrutiny as the ICS develops to ensure the Council has appropriate oversight.

4 Reason for Recommendations:

- As set out in the Act the local authority needs to have a representative on the Integrated Care Board and a process for the nomination.
- The Act sets out new statutory responsibilities for the Health and Wellbeing Board and as the board is a statutory function of the local authority these changes need to be approved by full council as per West Northamptonshire's Council Constitution.
- West Northamptonshire Council has a significant role in the development and delivery of the Integrated Care Partnership and this paper sets out the areas where the council has shaped key proposals in line with the legislation and guidance.

5 Report Background

5.1 Integrated Care Systems

- 5.1.1 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 ICS's that cover every part of England. The final 13 STPs were designated as ICSs from April 2021, including Northamptonshire.
- 5.1.2 The introduction of the Integrated Care System in Northamptonshire offers us an opportunity to work more closely with local areas and people to tackle wider determinants of health and health inequalities. This will be done by working collaboratively in local area partnerships with all stakeholders that will focus on key priorities in local areas. This will reflect the Living your Best Life ambitions that we have for people living in West Northamptonshire and is underpinned by a number of key priorities in the West Northamptonshire Corporate Plan.
- 5.1.3 In November 2020 NHS England and NHS Improvement published *Integrating care: Next steps to building strong and effective integrated care systems across England*.

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

- 5.1.4 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.
- 5.1.5 Integrated care systems (ICSs) are new partnerships between the organisations that meet health and care needs across an area, to coordinate services and to plan in a way that improves population health and reduces inequalities between different groups
- 5.1.6 Further National guidance published has established that the ICS development should be rooted in underlying principles of subsidiarity and collaboration. It described 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.

5.1.7 The structure of the Northamptonshire Integrated Care System is illustrated in **Appendix A**

5.2 Integrated Care Board

5.2.1 The Northamptonshire ICB Board will bring together leaders from across the system and is accountable for overall performance and use of resources. The (small) size of the Northamptonshire system means that we have an opportunity to build a Board which includes the most comprehensive range of NHS and Local Authority partners working across the County.

- The ICB Board will include Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives, as well as NHS leaders and non-executives (as required by legislation set out in the Act).
- The ICB will be responsible for the following:
 - Developing a plan to meet the health and health care needs of the population
 - Allocate resources
 - Establish joint working arrangements with partners and embed collaboration
 - Establish governance arrangements to support collective accountability for whole system delivery and performance
 - Arrange for the provision of health services in line with allocated resources
 - Lead system implementation of People priorities
 - Lead system wide action on data and digital
 - Use joined up data and digital capabilities
 - Ensure the NHS plays full part in achieving wider goals of social and economic development and environmental sustainability
 - Drive joint work on estates, procurement, supply chain and commercial strategies
 - Deliver functions delegated by NHSE/I
 - undertake strategic commissioning activities relating to countywide collaboratives, and to link to East Midlands specialist services planning.

5.3 West Northamptonshire's Nomination Process for representation on the ICB

In accordance with the guidance the following process will be undertaken for the West Northamptonshire Council nominated representative for the ICB

The Designate Chief Executive of the ICB will write to Monitoring officer requesting the nomination for the ICB board in accordance with the role description. The monitoring officer will

conduct the process in accordance with the requirements of NHSE and the ICB and the council constitution.

5.4 Health and Wellbeing Board

Health and wellbeing boards were established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to act as a forum in which key leaders from the local health and care system could work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population

- 5.4.1 Health and wellbeing boards are a formal committee of the local authority charged with promoting greater integration and partnership between bodies from the NHS, public health, and local government. They have a statutory duty, with clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), to produce a joint strategic needs assessment and a joint health and wellbeing strategy for their local population.
- 5.4.2 The boards currently have very limited formal powers. They are constituted as a partnership forum rather than an executive decision-making body.
- 5.4.3 Under the Act the Health and Wellbeing Board has some additional responsibilities and duties which are as follows: -
- To review the Integrated Care Board (ICB) 5 Year Plan to ensure it takes proper account of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
 - To review the ICB Joint Capital Resource Plan
 - To consult with the ICB for the ICN Annual Report on performance of any steps taken by the ICB to implement the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 5.4.4 The ICB and ICP will also have to work closely with local Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) as they have the experience as 'place-based' planners, and the ICB will be required to have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWS) produced by HWBs.
- 5.4.5 Changes to the Terms of Reference for the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board have been made in accordance with the Act (appendix B). These will be put forward to full council for approval on the 30th of June 2022.

5.5 Integrated Care Partnerships

- 5.5.1 Integrated Care Partnerships' (ICP) central role is in the planning and improvement of health and care. They support placed based partnerships and coalitions with community partners which are well situated to act on the wider determinants of health in local areas. ICP's should bring the statutory and non-statutory interests of places together.
- 5.5.2 Integrated Care Partnerships are responsible for: -

- Developing an integrated care strategy to address the broad health and social care needs of the population within the ICP area, including determinants of health such as employment,

environment, and housing issues. ICB's and local authorities will be required by law to have regard to the ICP's strategy when making decisions, commissioning services and delivery

- Highlighting where coordination is needed on health and care issues and challenge partners to deliver the action required. These include as examples: -
 - Helping people live more independent, healthier lives for longer
 - Taking a holistic view of people's interactions with services across the system and the different pathways in it
 - addressing inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes, experiences, and access to services
 - improving the wider social determinants that drive these inequalities, including employment, housing, education environment, and reducing offending
 - improving the life chances and health outcomes of babies, children, and young people
 - improving people's overall wellbeing and preventing ill health.

5.53.1 The Integrated Care Partnership will be made up from the membership of the two Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Boards (North and West) and the ICB Board. The Board will meet twice per year, to: -

- consider progress against Northamptonshire's 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 ICB, our Places and our Collaboratives.

5.53.2 After consultation with key system leads it has been agreed that there will be a tripartite chairing arrangement. The chairs of the Integrated Care Partnership will be: -

- The Chair of the ICB
- The Chair of the West Health and Wellbeing Board
- Executive member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing for North Northamptonshire Council

5.5.4 **Appendix C** outlines the West Place Governance proposal. This shows the governance that sits below the Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership including the locality Health and Wellbeing Forums which reflect the two localities within the West Place; these are Northampton and Daventry/South Northants. The locality boards will oversee the Local Area Partnerships (5 for Northampton and 4 Daventry/South Northants) and will be responsible for ensuring that the Local Area Partnership Plan delivers against key priorities determined by local insight data. The terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Locality Forums and Local Area Partnership (LAP) including membership is currently being developed as part of wide stakeholder consultation and engagement.

5.5.5 Considerable work has been undertaken over the last 6 months to develop the structure of the Integrated Care Partnership and West Place. This has been done following engagement with members of the Council and its partners. As a system we are also undertaking the

Development Programme funded by NHSE which is supporting with the development of the ICP and West Place.

- 5.5.6 We have also developed with support, a plan for the development of the Integrated Care Strategy. This work will ensure that the board owns and develops a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for West Northants that will underpin the Integrated Care Strategy, focused on its inequalities, health challenges and solutions and that drives local service design. This is a key requirement of the ICP and will influence the ICB's 5-year commissioning plan
- 5.5.7 Cabinet is therefore asked to support the direction of travel identified in the report.
- 5.5.8 Further updates will be presented to cabinet, full council and People Scrutiny as the ICS develops to ensure the Council has appropriate oversight.

6 Issues and Choices

- 6.1.1 The ICS and its requirements are requirements under the legislation laid out in the Act and therefore health and social care bodies are required to have in place the specified governance arrangements for 1st July 2022.
- 6.1.2 The structure of the West place has been developed in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders and we have taken these views into consideration as part of the final proposal.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.2 There are currently no identified financial implications.
- 7.1.3 Staffing resources to facilitate the development of West Place is being managed through existing resources

7.2 Risk

- 7.2.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report

7.3 Legal

- 7.3.1 To give effect to the requirements of the Act a number of changes will need to be made to the Council's existing governance arrangements, some of these are a necessary consequence of statute and can be made immediately under the Monitoring Officers powers to amend the Constitution to give effect to changes in the law. Any changes to the Constitution will be reported to the next meeting of Council after the change is made.

7.3.2 There are detailed requirements in relation to the nominations to the ICB. The legal requirements include that the local authority appointment is subject to the chair's approval and the person nominated must comply with the criteria of the fit and proper person; fulfil the requirements in the role specification and the eligibility criteria set out in the constitution. There is a model Constitution provided nationally. To ensure that the nomination process the authority follows is compliant with those requirements, the request for nomination will be directed to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services who will ensure that before the Council makes a nomination it is compliant with those requirements.

7.4 Communications and Consultation

7.4.1 Consultation in accordance with the developing ICB communication framework will continue as the ICS and its structures develop. To date we have consulted with all key stakeholders. These include: -

- Elected members
- GPs
- Health Partners
- VCSE
- Police
- Northamptonshire Children's Trusts
- Health and Wellbeing forums

7.4.2 The continued consultation has been key in ensuring that the ICP:

- Tackles wider determinants of health including Population Health Management and Health Inequalities
- Creates empowered and enabled communities with a focus on engagement and co-production with local people.

7.4.2 Communications will play a key role in informing and engaging the public around the creation of the new ICS and explaining the objectives, priorities to our local communities and how these will translate into future improved outcomes to meet their health and care needs. WNC is working closely with its partners on developing the communications framework for these future activities.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.51 People Scrutiny committee have received updates on the ICS including a specific task and finish group focussed on the iCAN collaborative.

7.6 Climate Impact

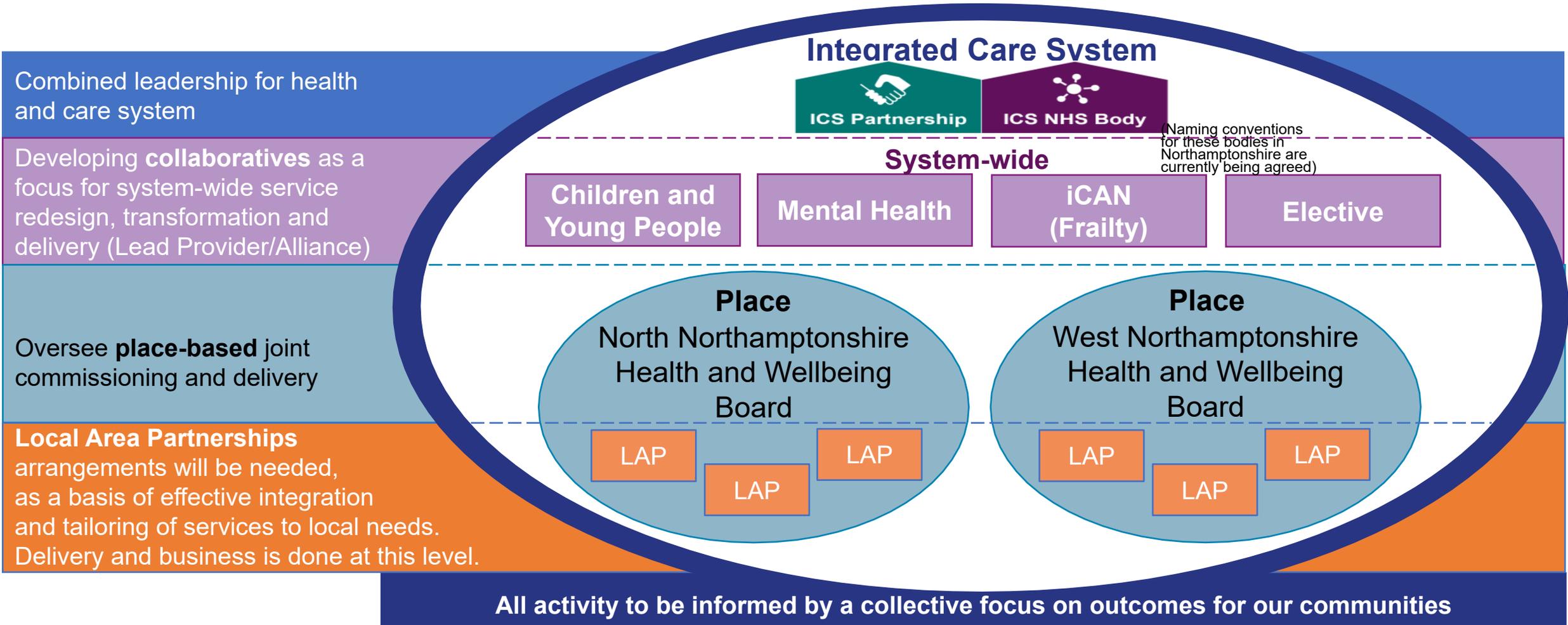
7.61 These proposals do not have any direct impact on the climate and sustainability.

7.7 Community Impact

7.71 The ICS will create positive impacts on communities, wellbeing and on our ability to collectively support better outcomes for residents. Key priorities at a local level underpinned by insight data and led by Local Area Partnerships will drive the delivery of services that meet the wider determinants of health supporting people to live their best life in West Northamptonshire.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None



Within Northants, 'Places' will be aligned to the two unitary councils.

This page is intentionally left blank

West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Terms of Reference

1. Accountability

1.1 The West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory committee of West Northamptonshire Council which:

- a) Is established in accordance with section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- b) Is treated as a Committee of the Council under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- c) Will be subject to any amendment or replacement of regulation or guidance applicable to any legislation relevant to the functions, powers and duties of Health and Wellbeing Boards.

2. Role

2.1 The Board is a forum that enables key leaders from across West Northamptonshire and the county 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.

2.2 The Board aims 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).
- By reviewing its terms of reference every six months to ensure appropriate and timely alignment and/or integration with the emergent governance structure of the Integrated Care System (ICS) for Northamptonshire. Reviews will take into account the national direction of travel for ICS legislation, as outlined in *Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all (DHSC, February 2021)*, and any subsequent relevant publications and/or legislative change.
- 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.

3. Key responsibilities/duties

3.1 The statutory duties of the Board are:

- The preparation of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) which assesses the current and future health and social care needs of the local population.
- The preparation of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), ensuring its outcomes are contained within the Integrated Care Strategy.
- 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 endorse and oversee the successful implementation of Better Care Fund (BCF), Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) arrangements locally.
- To provide the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) with oversight of the development of the place based partnerships
- To oversee the development and implementation of West Northamptonshire Place to support the delivery of the health and wellbeing strategy.
To review the Integrated Care Board (ICB) 5 Year Plan to ensure it takes proper account of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- To review the ICB Joint Capital Resource Plan
- To consult with the ICB for the ICN Annual Report on performance of any steps taken by the ICB to implement the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 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.
- To undertake any additional responsibilities as delegated by the West Northamptonshire Council.

4. Authority

4.1 The Board may seek any information it requires from any employee of a Constituent Member organisation via a Member and all Constituent Members and Members are directed to co-operate with any reasonable request made by the Board.

4.2 The Board may obtain independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary. The costs, if any, of obtaining such third party advice shall be shared among the constituent organisations as agreed between them.

4.3 The Board shall receive written and oral evidence from senior staff, and other partners, as appropriate.

4.4 The Board shall seek to ensure there is an acceptable balance between the value of the information it receives and the time and other costs it takes to acquire and process it.

5. Appointments

5.1 The Chair of the Board will be nominated by the Leader of West Northamptonshire Council. The Chair can be an independent co-opted member. Vice Chairs will be appointed by the Board.

5.2 The Chair and Vice Chairs term of office shall last for a maximum of two years, where they will be re-appointed or replaced as approved by Full Council.

6. Membership

6.1 The following are statutory members of the Board as stipulated in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 section 194:

- At least one elected member of the local authority nominated by the Leader of the local authority.
- The director of adult social services for the local authority.
- The director of children's services for the local authority.
- The director of public health for the local authority.
- A representative of the Local Healthwatch organisation for the local authority.
- A representative from the Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board

6.2 The Board may appoint additional persons to become members of the Board as it thinks appropriate.

6.3 West Northamptonshire Council must consult the Board before appointing a non statutory member to the Board.

6.4 Members of the Board shall each name a deputy who will have the authority to make decisions in the event that they are unable to attend a meeting.

6.5 In the absence of the Chair then one of the Vice-Chairs shall preside. If all are absent the Board shall appoint, from amongst its members, an Acting Chair for the meeting in question.

6.6 Individuals may be listed under membership of the Board as Special Advisors by invitation for specific issues and expertise.

7. Code of Conduct

7.1 All members of the Board are covered by the West Northamptonshire Council's code of conduct and must adhere to that code of conduct when acting in the capacity of a Board member.

7.2 Where any Board member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Non-Statutory Disclosable Interest, which will require them to leave the meeting for the duration of discussion on that item, they must make this known at the commencement of the meeting. They may remain and address the board on the relevant matter but must leave the room prior to any debate, voting or decision-making process.

8. Quorum

8.1 A quorum for any meeting shall be one-quarter of the members of the Board including at least one Elected Member, one officer and one representative from the Integrated Care Board. No business requiring a transaction shall take place where the meeting is not quorate, if this arises during a meeting the Chair must either suspend business until the meeting is again quorate or declare the meeting to be at an end.

9. Voting Arrangements

9.1 Unless the Council decides otherwise, all full members of the Health and Wellbeing Board have voting rights; only full board members (or nominated deputies in their absence) shall sit at the board room table, or join virtually so that the right to vote is obvious.

9.2 Decisions shall be made on the basis of a show of hands of a majority of voting members present. The Chair will have a second or casting vote.

10. Meeting Frequency

10.1 The Board shall meet on a quarterly basis. The date, hour and place of meetings shall be fixed by the Board.

10.2 The Chair may convene an extraordinary meeting at short notice to consider matters of urgency, under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The notice must state the business to be transacted and no other business is to be transacted at the meeting.

10.3 The Chair will be required to consider convening a special meeting of the Board if he/she is in receipt of a written requisition to do so signed by no less than three of the Constituent Members of the Board. Such requisition shall specify the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted as such

meeting. The meeting, if convened by the Chair, must be held within seven days of the Chair's receipt of the requisition.

10.4 The Chair of the Board, or majority of those present at a Board meeting can take the decision meetings of the Board may be adjourned at any time to be reconvened at any other day, hour and place, as the Board decides.

11. Sub Groups

11.1 The Board can establish sub groups based on the Board's priority areas which will be reviewed on an annual basis. The Sub Groups will be informal officer groups, ensuring that the views of patients and service users are included. The Sub Groups should provide an overview of work undertaken and any issues arising for discussion at alternate Health and Wellbeing Board meetings to be considered by members.

12. Visitors and Speakers

12.1 As the Board is a public meeting observers may attend and will be seated in a viewing area or observe via YouTube if the meetings are held virtually.

12.2 Presenters who are not full Board Members may attend the meeting and should sit in the viewing area, they will be invited to address the floor by the Chair when their agenda item arrives.

12.3 Members of the public who wish to address the Board on matters listed on the Agenda for a specific meeting may do so for a period of not exceeding 3-minutes at the commencement of that meeting, only with the agreement of the Chairman, and provided they have given 48 hours' notice of the matter to be raised to the Chairman and Secretariat in writing.

13. Meeting Administration

13.1 The Board Secretariat shall give at least five clear working days' notice in writing to each member for every ordinary meeting of the Board, to include any agenda of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

13.2 Papers for each Board meeting will be sent out five clear working days in advance. Late papers will be sent out or tabled only in exceptional circumstances, and not without the prior consent of the Chairman.

13.3 The Board shall hold meetings, or parts of meetings, in private session when deemed appropriate in view of the nature of business to be discussed. The Board must first pass a resolution for the exclusion of press and public. The following must be stated at this time:

"In respect of the following items the Chairman moves that the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them: The Committee is requested to resolve: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them".

Appendix A: Board Membership

Membership of West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing board is agreed as follows:
Certain post holders have a statutory requirement to be members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Statutory Board members

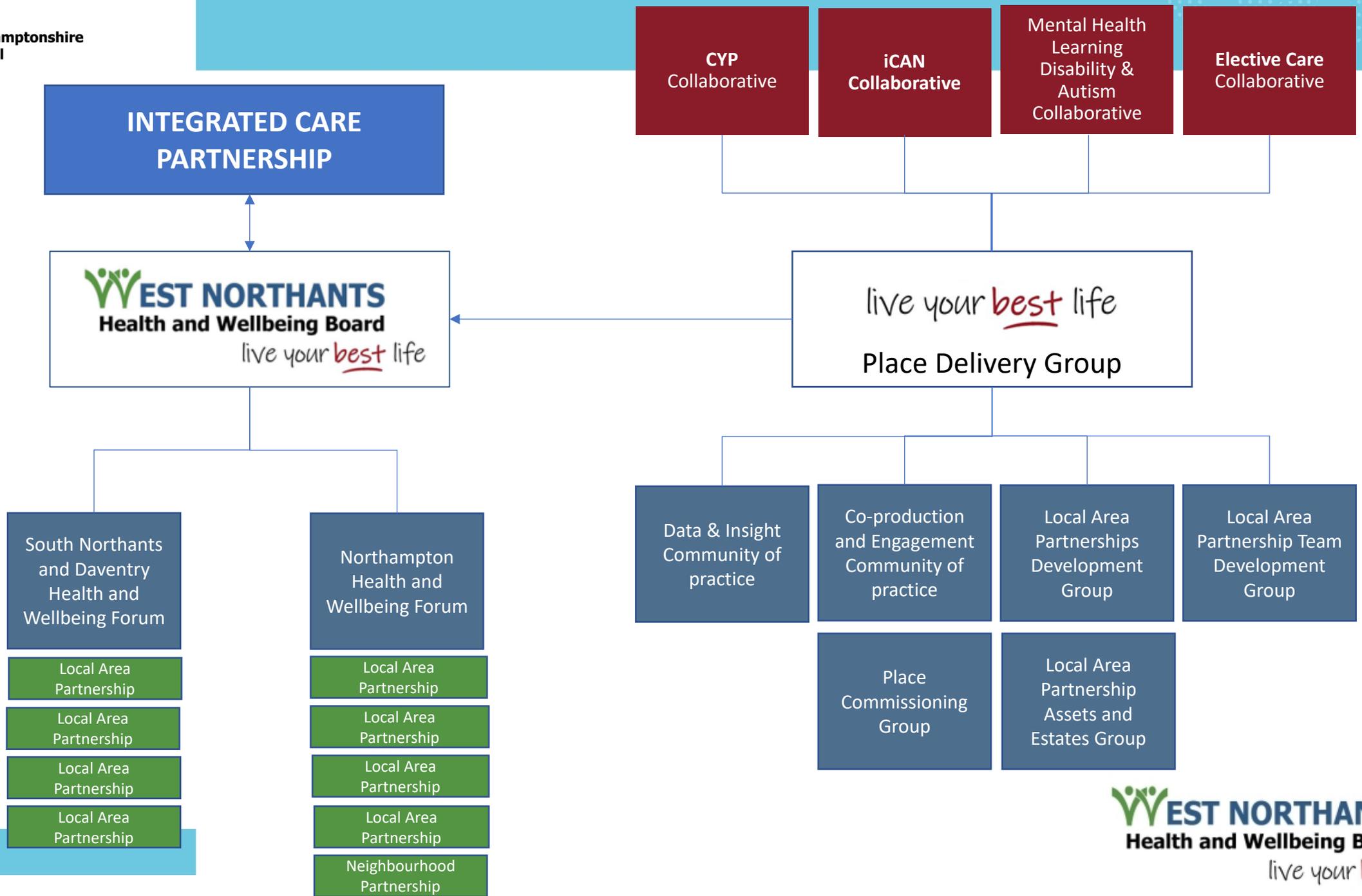
- One elected member as nominated by the Leader of West Northamptonshire Council - portfolio holder for Adults, Health and Wellbeing.
- The Director of Adult Social Services for West Northamptonshire Council
- The Director of Children's Services for West Northamptonshire Council
- The Director of Public Health for West Northamptonshire Council
- A representative of the Local Healthwatch organisation for Northamptonshire
- A representative from the Integrated Care Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board may co-opt additional members to the board as it thinks appropriate.

Non-Statutory Board members

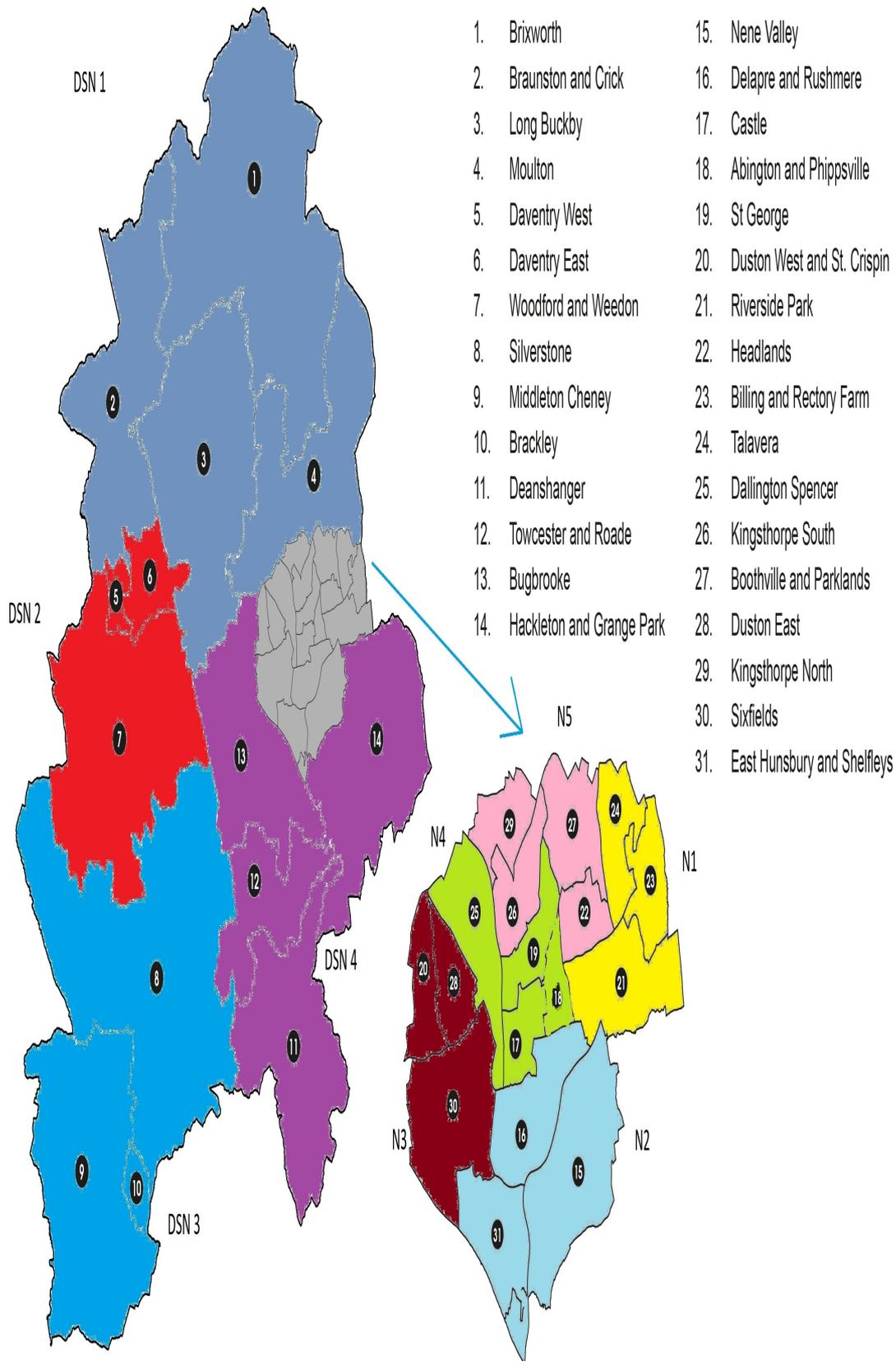
- West Northamptonshire Council - Leader
- West Northamptonshire Council – Portfolio Holder for Childrens, Families, Education and Skills
- West Northamptonshire Council – The Chief Executive
- Northamptonshire Police – Chief Superintendent
- Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust – One representative
- Northampton General Hospital and Kettering General Hospital Group - One representative
- Northamptonshire Local Medical Committee – One representative
- NHS England - One representative
- Voluntary and Community Sector – One representative
- University of Northampton – One representative
- Integrated Care Board - Chair
- Integrated Care Board – Chief Executive
- Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service – One representative
- East Midlands Ambulance Service – One representative
- Northamptonshire Children's Trust – Chief Executive
- Primary Care Networks – One Representative
- West Northamptonshire Council – Opposition elected member
- BAME Representative
- Northampton GP Locality – Chair
- Daventry and South Northamptonshire GP Locality – Chair
- Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum – Chair
- Daventry and South Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Forum - Chair

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank

West Northamptonshire Unitary | Electoral Wards



This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

**Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health
Integration: Councillor Matt Golby**

Report Title	Household Support Fund: Scheme 2 Recommendations
Report Author	Sue Brooks, Project Manager PH Recovery and Wellbeing Programme, susan.brook@northnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Catherine Whitehead	10/06/22
Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer)	Martin Henry	27/05/22
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby	25/05/22
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	26/05/22

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Household Support Fund (2) has been provided with a budget of £2,599,628.53 from Department for Work and Pensions. This fund will be distributed, via various packages, to families and individuals in specific financial hardship over the course of the summer period. The report sets out our proposed local strategy for distribution and outlines how

along with the local Voluntary Sector we will identify those that meet the criteria recommended in this document and attract appropriate referrals for those most in need.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Household Support Fund (2), announced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the 31st March 2022, is the second version of the Fund, the first (HSF1) operated between 1st December 2021 and 31st March 2022 across West Northamptonshire.
- 2.2 The DWP has given local authorities a wide discretion on how these funds should be used, which is to support those most in need. *“The expectation is that it should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food and energy bills because of the recent cost of living increases. The fund can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and other essential household costs.”*
- 2.3 The latest fund can be delivered to households between 1 April 2022 and 30 September 2022. Previously, there was a stipulation that a minimum of 50% of the fund must be used to support families with children. However, in HSF (2) we have been advised to split the fund; one third to families with children, one third pensioners and the final third to households demonstrating severe financial hardship.
- 2.4 West Northamptonshire Council has been allocated a sum of £2,599, 628.53. Payment for the grant will be made in arrears, following the submission of spending returns to the DWP by 22 July 2022 (for the period to 30 June 2022) and 21 October 2022 (for the full length of the scheme).
- 2.5 The report provides a background to the fund and the recommendations section provides the key focus of the type of support outlined. This support ranges from holiday school meal vouchers for the summer holidays; pensioners who are already receiving a Pension Credit and those who are severely disabled; to a food and fuel concept operated through the voluntary sector that identifies the individuals and families in severe financial hardship. Management and oversight will be provided by the Public Health Recovery and Wellbeing Programme Team.

3 Recommendations

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

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 Reasons for Recommendations:

- To underpin the West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy and ensure residents most in need receive support
- To ensure that the distribution of funds meets the wider communities' financial needs, where other grants and funding are not available
- To ensure the level of duplication of grants for the same purpose is be minimised
- To ensure that the maximum assistance is provided to residents in greatest need and that the allocation of funding is fully utilised to meet the needs of residents.

5. Report Background

5.1 Building on the Success of the 2021/22 Scheme

This report follows on from a very successful Household Support Fund scheme operating from December 2021 until March 2022 (referenced as HSF1). During the operationalisation of HSF 1 we were able to build a highly efficient on-line application portal which enabled residents to self-service their application rather than utilising the voluntary sector set up. Not only did this provide an effective option but it also removed a level of pressure from our partner, the Citizens Advice Bureau. In total we were able to distribute close to 100k food and fuel vouchers across Northamptonshire and issue all funds provided for, as well as achieving over 82% of the funding going to families with children.

5.2 The proposed criteria for the 2022 Scheme and links to the priorities in the Anti-Poverty

The Anti-Poverty Strategy has been recently approved by Cabinet and the additional fund presents an opportunity to start to progress on some of the actions and priorities. The vision and strategic priorities are set out below: -

5.3 Anti-Poverty Vision and Strategic Priorities

'Our Vision is for a fairer and more inclusive West Northamptonshire, where everyone is able to live their best life, prosperous and fulfilling, free from poverty and inequality'

5.4 Level of Need in 2019

- 13% (10,231) of children were living in poverty.
- 10.8% (9,398) Older people were living in poverty
- 9.6% (37,318) People were living in income deprivation

5.5 Strategic Priorities

- Support People who are struggling in Poverty Now
- Prevent People from falling into Poverty in the first place
- Continue to influence the Government and other national organisations to get a better deal for the communities in West Northamptonshire already.

5.6 June 2022 – September 2022 suggested focus

The report recommends that the beneficiary targets (detailed in section 6) are reached to acknowledge the increased hardship that families and individuals may experience over the period June 2022 to September 2022. The recommendations also reflect the national governments desire to maintain the school child holiday meal system for the summer holidays and to incorporate pensioners specifically in the scope of recipients

6. Proposed Scope and Diversity of Funds Distribution:

	WNC	Notes
DWP Grant Allocation	£2,599,628	As published by DWP on 31.3.22
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	£2,599,628	
Summer School Holiday Food Vouchers	£ 842,400	10,530 @ £20 school holiday food vouchers for children on Free School Meals for 4 weeks (see note 7.3)
Pension Credit Recipients	£650,000	£100 payment for each recipient (6,500)
Pension Credit Top Up for those with severe disabilities	£140,000	£50 payment top up for each eligible recipient (2,800)
Payments to Pensioners who are not on Pension Credit but suffering severe financial hardship and identified through the appropriate voluntary agency's	£60,000	A maximum of £100 food voucher to each eligible household to offset the recent increases in food and fuel
Payments to households suffering severe financial hardship and identified through the voluntary sector	£837,793	Maximum of £100 voucher to over 8,000 households in severe financial hardship via an energy or food voucher
Grant Administration	£ 69,435	Estimated at 2.7%.
TOTAL FUNDS TO DISTRIBUTE	£2,599,628	

7. Issues and Choices

7.1 The WNC fund distribution is in adherence to the guidelines set nationally by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and maintains a clear mandate that:

- 33.3% of funds must be received by families with children
- 33.3% of funds must be received by pensioners
- 33.3% of funds must be received by households demonstrating severe financial hardship

- 7.2 Options were considered in relation to each category of funding and the way to establish the most effective and efficient way of providing the payment to the recipient. This related to a 'push' approach for an existing registered cohort of households (i.e., Free School Holiday database, Pension Credit database) and a 'pull' approach for applicants who applied into the fund and where eligibility was assured (i.e., voluntary sector applications)
- 7.3 An option to increase the Free School Holiday Food payments from 4 weeks to 6 weeks has been discussed and approved in principle. However, the Council awaits formal confirmation from DWP Policy Group that we can re-use the expired vouchers from previous schemes and the relevant funds available, for HSF2. If permission is provided a separate communication will be issued and the changes to the planned payments will be operationalised.
- 7.4 Discussions are currently underway with Northamptonshire Community Foundation, an independent grant-making charity, and other partners, fund holders and donors to ensure projects make a sustainable impact on local needs and help to make the most out of charitable giving and targeted funding.
- 7.5 The Foundation deliver a variety of funding locally and in 2020 awarded £2.6 million and £1.2 million in 2021. The funds they distribute focus on improving the lives of most disadvantage communities and dealing with child poverty, unemployment, homelessness and domestic violence and social isolation. Working with the foundation gives the opportunity to lever in other funds to the target communities.
- 7.6 Work is also underway to work with the Foundation and enhance the offer to these communities with additional mental health and wellbeing support and information, including the training of volunteers and support in promoting pathways. The foundation has rigorous processes in place to report back on outcomes achieved and provide evaluation of the programme

8 Implications (including financial implications)

8.1 Resources and Financial

- 8.1.1 The Household Support Fund is incremental to the base budget for 2022/2023. Resources are recommended to be hired and/or retained from the existing HSF team on temporary contracts to manage the fund and to provide clear distribution controls on behalf of the Executive. The oversight and leadership will be provided by Project Managers from the Public Health Recovery and Wellbeing Programme at notional cost. The staffing costs will be extracted from the fund as allowed for in the fund terms. All fund monies are expected to be distributed into the community by the end of the 3rd quarter.
- 8.1.3 The Northamptonshire Community Foundation receive a fee for the administration of funds which will be distributed to vulnerable households. The fee cap is currently being negotiated however if the programme can also be extended to include additional health and wellbeing support this could be funded from alternative funding to ensure the

maximum distribution of the household support fund to the community and additional health and wellbeing outcomes are achieved withing the wider programme.

8.2 Legal

8.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and the proposals are in accordance with the requirements of the fund. No negative impacts have been identified.

8.3 Risk

Identified Risks:

8.3.1 Excess requests, for use of funds, from the assumptions provided and therefore the grant will be exhausted. The mitigation would include tracking and monitoring the utilisation of funds and escalate where run rate projections identify the materialisation of the risk. Thereafter the possibility of the utilisation of other funding that is available, as appropriate.

8.3.2 Duplicate requests may be received. The mitigation will be in the form of a control record, held at the centre, of all beneficiaries receiving the drawdowns from the fund.

8.3.3 The volume of applications exceeds the capacity of the voluntary sector to turn around the vouchers in a reasonable timescale. The mitigation will be capacity modelling prior to 'go-live' and continuous monitoring during the delivery period.

8.3.4 There are no other significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

8.4 Consultation

8.4.1 Consultation with internal HSF stakeholders has occurred and a formal lessons learnt document has been produced post the closure of HSF (1). Consultation with the Citizens Advice Bureau has also been addressed to provide input to the wider use of the Voluntary Sector. As a result, changes to the application process and the back-office procedures have been updated to be more efficient and user friendly.

8.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

There is a requirement to ensure the fund is used within the timescales outlined above. These timescales did not allow for prior consultation with Overview and Scrutiny.

8.6 Climate Impact

There are no immediate climate impacts arising from the allocation of funds.

8.7 Community Impact

8.7.1 The community impact will be extremely positive. Care will be taken when referrals are assessed to ensure that if the Household Support Fund is not appropriate that other funds/packages are identified and handed over i.e., persons on universal credit but not eligible for the severe hardship payment. Communication across the community regarding the fund, the purpose of the fund and where advice can be sought will be critical to the success of accessing the support.

8.7.2 WNC Corporate Plan – ‘Living Your Best Life’

The WNC Corporate Plan is clear on the role that the system must play in understanding the wider determinates of Health and Wellbeing as well tackling Health Inequalities. A key driver within the Corporate Plan is a category entitled ‘Improving Life Chances’ which includes references to:

- Adopt and progress early years’ prevention and intervention offers to help children get the best start in life
- Keep people safe and well in their own homes as long as possible, avoiding lengthy hospital stays
- Grow our community hubs providing public services at the heart of communities
- Support residents to have healthier lifestyles and reduce inequalities
- Develop an anti-poverty strategy

8.7.3 All these elements were utilised in determining the scope of the HSF2 beneficiaries across the three categories that were advised by DWP to fund. Although it is recognised that the HSF scheme is unlikely to release families from long term sustainable food and fuel poverty it is the belief that with the short-term actions and the long-term strategy working towards a common goal that the community benefit will be accelerated.

8.8 Communications

8.8.1 The communications plan is being developed and will focus on a range of key messages aimed at raising awareness and encouraging take-up, including Frequently Asked Questions, PR, social media and website content, updates and clear signposting to other grants and support.

8.8.2 A particular focus will be taken to include local community health and wellbeing partners including GPs, Social prescribers and the community and voluntary sector.

9 Background Papers

9.1 Household Support Fund Paper and Guidelines [HSF DWP Guidelines 31.3.22](#)

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

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

Report Title	Commissioning residential and nursing care services for older people
Report Authors	Robert Mackenzie-Wilson – CQO Service Manager, Older People Robert.mackenzie-wilson@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	25th May 2022
West S151	Martin Henry	23rd May 2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby	20th May 2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	17th May 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A - older peoples residential and nursing care home market profile

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet of ongoing activity to commission and procure long-term contractual arrangements for the sustainable supply of residential and nursing care services for older people aged 65 and over in response to social care reforms and additional requirements being placed on local authorities to develop the local care market as set out by the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund (The Fund).

- 1.2. To seek Cabinet approval for the Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing to have delegated authority to extend current contractual arrangements for up to 8-months to maintain current service supply whilst responding to legislative reforms and additional requirements. This will allow time to undertake a market-wide engagement and consultation on the findings of the recently completed cost review for residential and nursing care and develop the Council's draft Market Sustainability Plan. A further report will be presented to Cabinet in September 2022 on the outcome of the provider consultation and intentions to commission and procure a new contractual framework.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 West Northamptonshire Council currently operates an interim Care Home Services Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Framework to purchase residential and nursing care services to meet the needs of older people aged 65 and over. The DPS is due to expire on 31 August 2022 and the Council has undertaken substantial work throughout the pandemic to shape a new model of care within a revised outcome-based delivery specification to recommission provision supply for the long-term future.
- 2.2 In September 2021 Government set out plans to introduce a lifetime cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their care along with a more generous means-test for local authority financial assessment and greater support for people that fund their own care. This has led to publication of the adult social care White Paper in December 2021 signalling reforms to social care charging along with further policy requirements to shape care markets and commission services within existing statutory responsibilities outlined in the Care Act 2014.
- 2.3 Government has created the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund to drive immediate change in the way local authorities shape a stable and sustainable care home market for older people aged 65+ along with the home care market for all adults aged 18+. Full guidance covering the Fund was issued in March 2022 and will require local authorities to review and report on local care costs and publish a draft market sustainability plan by 14 October 2022 to prepare for introduction of the social care reforms in 2023.
- 2.4 Existing activity has already produced a detailed review of local market costs, directly informed by provider information, with the purpose of commissioning new arrangements based on affordable and sustainable fee rates. However, to meet requirements for the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund additional work is required now to engage with care home providers on the findings of the cost review and seek further input and information so that the Council can develop a market sustainability plan in tandem with commissioning and procurement steps.
- 2.5 It is not practical for the Council to progress service commissioning without first completing work to meet requirements for the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund. Setting fee rates within a market sustainability plan is vital to meet the social care reforms including the ability to measure how people will reach the care cost cap and how to manage potential demand to arrange care services for people that self-fund their care. A market-wide engagement and consultation will offer opportunity for all providers of regulated care home services to further inform an understanding of local care costs, which will underpin the development of sustainability plans and directly inform commissioning and procurement strategy so that the Council can secure a new supplier framework to access sufficient provision to meet need and demand.

3. Recommendations

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

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendations seek to:
- To enable West Northamptonshire Council's to meet the latest changes to the statutory requirements originally set out in the Care Act 2014.
 - To support the development of a sustainable care market as required by the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund.
 - To maintain purchasing arrangements for the supply of residential and nursing care services for older people.
 - To meet the needs and demands of residents in relation to care and support including people who self-fund their care.

5. Report Background

Statutory duties

- 5.1 Section 5 of the Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on local authorities to facilitate a diverse, sustainable and high-quality market for the whole local population, including those who pay for their own care, and to promote efficient and effective operation of the adult social care market.
- 5.2 Section 4.6 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance states:

Market shaping means the local authority collaborating closely with other relevant partners, including people with care and support needs, carers and families, to encourage and facilitate the whole market in its area for care, support and related services. This includes services arranged and paid for by the state through the authority itself, those services paid by the state through direct payments, and those services arranged and paid for by individuals from whatever sources (sometimes called 'self-funders'), and services paid for by a combination of these sources. Market shaping activity should stimulate a diverse range of appropriate high-quality services (both in terms of the types of services and the types of provider organisation) and ensure the market, as a whole, remains vibrant and sustainable.

The core activities of market shaping are to engage with stakeholders to develop understanding of supply and demand and articulate likely trends that reflect people's evolving needs and aspirations, and based on evidence, to signal to the market the types of

services needed now and, in the future, to meet them, encourage innovation, investment and continuous improvement. It also includes working to ensure that those who purchase their own services are empowered to be effective consumers, for example by helping people who want to take direct payments make informed decisions about employing personal assistants. A local authority's own commissioning practices are likely to have a significant influence on the market to achieve the desired outcomes, but other interventions may be needed, for example, incentivising innovation by user-led or third sector providers, possibly through grant funding.

Legislative reform

5.3 During late 2021 and early 2022 Government published a series of policy documents and guidance that signalled wide-ranging changes to the way health and social care is funded alongside reform to social care charging and associated requirements for local areas to prepare for the change. This includes:

- [Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care](#), 7 September 2021 – outlines new funding plans for health and social care and a commitment to introduce a lifetime cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their care.
- [People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper](#), 1 December 2021 – sets out a 10-year vision for adult social care alongside greater detail on the care cost cap to enable greater fairness, choice and quality of care.
- [Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund: purpose and conditions](#), 16 December 2021 – introduces a funding vehicle for local authorities to prepare for implementation of the care cost cap based on stable and sustainable market costs and market shaping.
- [Adult social care charging reform: further details](#), 8 March 2022 – sets out the workings of the new charging reform framework and confirms key policy details for implementing the future care cost cap.
- [Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund 2022 to 2023: guidance](#), 24 March 2022 – provides guidance and conditions for local authorities to access and administer the Fund in preparation for meeting the social care charging reforms.

5.4 At the centre of intentions to reform social care charging is the policy commitment, originally consulted on in 2015 and due for implementation in 2016, to limit the amount anyone pays towards meeting their care needs during their lifetime. The wide-ranging legislative change seeks to deliver on this commitment by introducing a cap on care costs by October 2023 to any person who has eligible needs. The cap will be initially setting it at £86,000 with the intention that a person who has eligible needs will not pay more than this amount towards their care.

5.5 The care cost cap will be combined with additional measures to offer people greater choice and control over their care along with improved quality and accessibility. Other measures include making the financial means test more beneficial for those people with lower capital assets and enabling more people who fund their own care (self-funders) in care homes to ask their local authority to arrange care on their behalf to secure better value.

5.6 Ensuring a sustainable care market is fundamental to achieving the social care reforms. The Government recognises that greater support is needed for local authorities to meet responsibilities for facilitating the efficient and effective operation of local care markets including the ability to address structural issues within the market to improve stable supply and delivery.

There are two key elements related to the social care reforms driving the need for long-term sustainability:

- Allowing people who fund their own care (in a care home) to ask their local authority to arrange care on their behalf to secure better value will affect the current fee rate differential charged to some self-funders and therefore will require sustainable rates particularly for parts of the market that are overly reliant on self-funded placements.
- Long-term uncertainty about care funding has led to different fees paid by local authorities when purchasing care, including lower fees in some areas, which has resulted in under-investment in care markets, including accommodation standards, and poorer quality care for people.

5.7 The Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund has been created by Government as the principal funding mechanism to support local authorities in preparing for reforms and changes to the care market. This covers the care home market for older people aged 65 and over and the home care market for adults aged 18 and over; the latter likely to also cover extra care housing as a hybrid home care service. The Fund, underpinned by the Health and Care Levy, will provide £1.4bn for England local authorities over the next 3 years with an initial £162m in 2022-23 and a further £600m in both 2023 and 2024. The West Northamptonshire Council's allocation from the Fund in 2022-23 is £0.982m.

5.8 Allocation of the Fund in 2022-23 is largely aimed at enabling local authorities to develop the local care market ready for the social care charging reforms, including paying providers a fair cost of care, and sets out requirements for undertaking a market-wide cost of care exercise underpinned by provider engagement on operational costs and information about self-funders. There are also requirements to strengthen local market management and oversight functions and bring forward increases fee rates, where identified and appropriate, to ensure local investment in care services.

5.9 To meet the requirements of the Fund, including the ability to receive further allocation in 2023 and 2024, local authorities are required to deliver the following returns by 14 October 2022:

- A cost of care exercise covering both 65+ older peoples residential and nursing care along with adult 18+ home care services to determine sustainable fee rates
- A draft market sustainability plan, utilising findings from the cost of care exercise, to identify and respond to delivery risks
- A report on how allocated funding for 2023 and 2024 will be spent in line with the purpose of the Fund

Local commissioning and market profile

5.10 The Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing previously reported to Cabinet in June 2021 on the commissioning intentions for older peoples residential and nursing care services. Procurement of a Phase 1 DPS framework for 12-months from 1 September 2021 was completed as an interim measure securing bed supply from 51 care home across Northamptonshire while further service development work is undertaken to procure a Phase 2 framework ready for 1 September 2022.

- 5.11 Commissioning activity to develop a new care home service delivery model has progressed during the COVID-19 pandemic, although at a slower pace due to moving resource to focus on operational and market oversight in respond to delivery challenges. The priority remains on creating a service model and delivery requirements that enable older people to live well for longer in a care home setting within better outcomes along with ensuring service providers have access to effective primary and enhanced healthcare support to better manage long-term complex needs such as frailty and dementia. Service design has also sought to strengthen practice and performance in relation to infection prevention and control, falls management, oral health, use of assistive technology and end of life care.
- 5.12 A key component needed to commission new arrangements is an affordable and sustainable fee rate model. In April 2022 a full review of care home market costs was completed following a market-wide survey of providers. This covers a wide range of elements including placement needs and occupancy, accommodation facilities and standards, staffing levels and pay, operating costs and return on capital. For residential care homes, the survey sample provides excellent coverage accounting for 71% of standard-rated placements in West Northamptonshire. While slightly lower, the survey also provided good coverage for nursing care home accounting for 57% of standard-rated placements in the area.
- 5.13 In March 2022 the Council confirmed its decision to award a 6.26% inflationary uplift to contracted fee rates for the financial year 2022-23. The uplift aims to support providers that supply residential and nursing care services at contracted fee rates with ongoing cost pressures principally related to statutory National Living Wage increases along with an element to reflect non-staffing delivery costs. This raised the per bed, per week rate for standard residential care to £511, residential dementia to £617, standard nursing to £565 and nursing dementia to £620.
- 5.14 Across West Northamptonshire as of January 2022 there was a total supply of 2,570 residential and nursing care beds for older people aged 65 and over across 61 Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered care homes. 33 services are registered with CQC solely for residential care with a further 28 registered with nursing care; a status that enables nursing care providers to accept placements for both residential and nursing care needs. Of total supply, 6 care homes are owned and operated by the Council under Olympus Care Services providing 262 residential care beds.
- 5.15 Bed supply has remained broadly stable in the local market with a slight net reduction of 48 (1.8%) from the 2,618 beds registered in 2014. However, there has been a higher degree of turnover since 2014 reflected by 20.2% of beds leaving the market (13.6% for England) and being replaced by 17.5% of beds in newly built services (11.3% for England). This change largely reflects the closure of independent nursing care homes that have been replaced by new purpose-built services by group or corporate providers. The older peoples care home bed composition in West Northamptonshire is majority independent providers at 54% market share with small groups (2-4 services) at 6%, medium groups (5-24 services) at 22% and large corporates (25+ services) at 18%.
- 5.16 Quality assurance and performance monitoring continues to take place using national and local data to proactively identify and respond to emerging delivery challenges and sustainability pressures, which could give rise to reduced quality of care and in some circumstances provider failure. During the COVID-19 pandemic commissioning implemented additional quality improvement support, guidance and advice to care homes identified as falling below standards through assurance activities so that they can quickly plan and realise change to re-establish effective and stable care delivery. The initiative has been very positive with 20 care homes supported to make sustained improvement to care practice and standards.

5.17 Further information covering care home service supply and quality is included in Appendix A - older peoples residential and nursing care home market profile.

6. Issues and Choices

Social care reforms and market sustainability Fair Cost of Care

6.1 In April 2022, the Government introduced the first requirement as part of social care reform relating to the Minimum Income Guarantee, which is the minimum amount of income a person must be left with before they can be asked to contribute towards the cost of care. This amount has remained static for 7 years, and the Council introduced a 3% uplift to the Minimum Income Guarantee in April 2022.

6.2 One of the key changes to the charging legislation will be the change to the self-funder (or full cost) means test amount. Currently, a person who has more than £23,250 in capital will be liable to pay the full cost of their care. In October 2023, this threshold will increase to £100,000 meaning that anyone who has capital below that amount, and has eligible needs, will be able to apply for Council support towards the cost of their care. This is likely to mean that a large cohort of self-funding service users will ask the Council for support with their care costs and therefore, the Council must ensure that they have adequate contracted provision in place at sustainable fee rates to be able to suitably meet their needs.

6.3 The headline change relates to the proposed £86,000 cap on care costs. The amount of fees paid that will count towards the metering will be capped by the outcome of the Fair Cost of Care exercise. Any amount paid above the Council's Fair Cost of Care rate will not count towards the care cap. While it is very unlikely that a person will reach the care cap within 2 years of its introduction, the Council's commissioned approach needs to factor in additional available market capacity to support the increase in people requesting support once they have reached the cap.

6.4 There are several important elements that the Council will need to consider and prepare for when implementing the care cap, which include:

- Further design and development of the existing care management IT solution including options for an integrated finance function to create individual care accounts and meter care costs
- Development of sufficient assessment and enablement resources by 1 April 2023 to ensure timely Care Act Assessment and care accounts for self-funders that will be able to approach the Council for early assessment
- Additional budget provision within the Medium-Term Financial Plan to respond to greater demand for Council funded care particularly for people that reach the care cap threshold
- Clear information and guidance so that people planning their care understand the complex and potentially confusing methodology for counting costs toward the care cap
- Sustainable fee rates for purchasing care that enable the Council to consistently measure the proportion of care costs that will count toward the care cap

6.5 There is also a requirement within the legislative changes that will mean that any person with eligible needs, whether self-funding or not, will be able to obtain support from the Council in requesting arrangement of a care home placement at the local authority contracted rates, which are typically below the rates that people funding their own care would be charged directly by

private care providers. The Council must ensure that sufficient service provision is available to meet the additional demand for packages of care and this would therefore need to be considered within the draft market sustainability plan for October 2014, which will determine the commissioning approach.

- 6.6 Lastly, restrictions around first party top ups will be removed from October 2023. A first party top up is where a person chooses more expensive care than the Council is willing to fund and will use available assets to top up. This means that a person will be able use capital to top up their care contributions and as a result, assets would deplete faster and eligibility for Council assistance would happen sooner than under current legislation.
- 6.7 The above legislative changes will mean that there will be a profound impact on the local care home market as there is likely to be a significant reduction in the pool of self-funders available. This must be considered when calculating the fair cost of care rate and when completing the market sustainability plan.
- 6.8 Evidence from the detailed care home cost review is already informing service development priorities and commissioning strategy, and the intention is to undertake market engagement and consultation to seek views on the findings and seek further input. While this will create a strong foundation to commission new services, the Council must firstly undertake this engagement to meet the requirements of the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund by October 2022. Because this additional activity must be added to the commissioning timeline it is not practical for the Council to procure new contractual arrangements by September 2022 and therefore the proposal to extend current arrangements will allow more time to meet Government requirements and local commissioning priorities.

Options

- 6.9 **Option 1 (recommended)** – Extend the current contract to enable alignment of commissioning strategy and activity with requirements of the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund including market-wide engagement and consultation on how to develop the care market in response to the social care reforms.
- 6.10 **Option 2 (Not recommended)** – Proceed with commissioning and procurement activity to put new contract arrangements in place by September 2022 and respond separately to the social care reforms including assessment of care costs and sustainability planning through existing provider engagement activities.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 Additional expenditure related to the contract extension is within agreed budget parameters for 2022-23, which has factored in both inflation and acuity growth for all existing funded residential and nursing care services.
- 7.1.2 Following completion of further financial analysis to inform planning for social care reforms and return submissions to comply with the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund, the approach will be to present a full analysis to Cabinet in September 2022 of the financial implications related to the legislative reforms.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide care and support for people who meet the eligibility criteria and develop a diverse and sustainable care market as set out in the Care Act 2014 along with supporting legislative framework. The legislation anticipates that needs for care and support can be met in a variety of ways, including the provision of residential and nursing care.

7.2.2 It is anticipated that the proposed contract extension will enable the Council to maintain provision supply and access to meet needs along with compliance against Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund requirements.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 Should approval of the recommendations not be given the Council would risk being unable to meet requirements to prepare for social care reforms including non-compliance with funding requirements to evidence local costs and develop sustainability plans.

7.3.2 Risk(s) associated with the proposal:

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Non-contracted providers within the market raise concern/challenge about the decision to extend the current DPS Framework.	The interim framework can be opened to new applications and managed effectively to ensure non-contracted providers have opportunity to apply and join the DPS framework.	Green

7.3.3 Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Expiry of the Framework and DPS on 31 August 2022 results in no access to contracted service supply and therefore solely spot purchasing services at potentially higher fee rates because of market price dynamics and demands.	Plan for spot-purchasing arrangements using preferred provider agreements on an individual basis to secure supply under an assumption that vacancies across the market create price stability through negotiation.	Red
Failure to undertake a market-wide engagement and consultation is likely to be non-compliant with Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund conditions, which could result in not being able to secure Fund payments in 2023	Utilise existing provider engagement forums to share evidence from the cost of care review and stimulate discussion and feedback alongside providing information on market sustainability and commissioning	Red

and 2024. This could also give rise to potential legal challenge from local providers and association groups.	activities through regular provider communication channels.	
---	---	--

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 The Council intendeds to formally engage and consult with the provider market on the findings of the care home market and cost of care review to further inform the evidence for setting sustainable fee rates for the long-term future. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in September 2022.

7.5 The Council are exploring options for undertaking an effective engagement and consultation with the provider market using a format and system that ensures meaning and accessible involvement along with opportunity for providers to raise clarification and share further information that can inform the development of both a market sustainability plan and commissioning approach for residential and nursing care for older people aged 65 and over.

7.6 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.6.1 There are no comments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to this report and its recommendations.

7.7 Climate Impact

7.7.1 There are no climate/environmental implications.

7.8 Community Impact

7.8.1 There are no community or community safety implications.

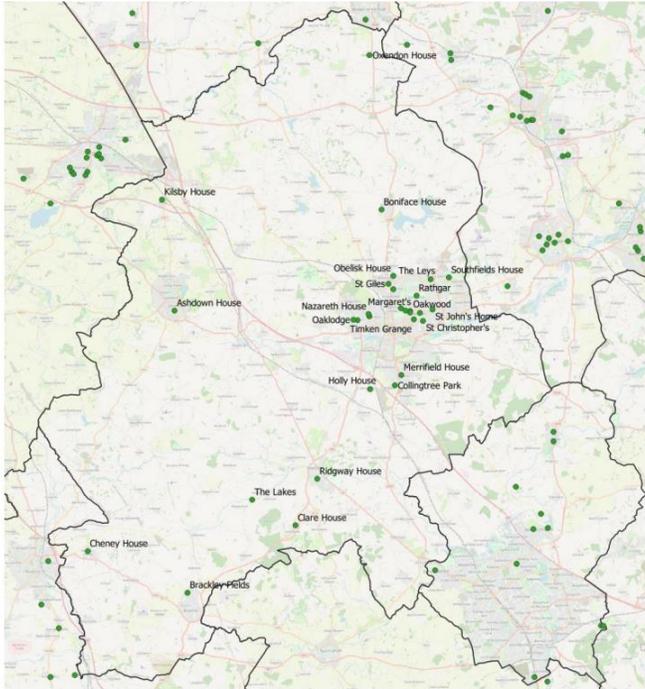
7.9 Communications

7.9.1 The Council will communicate the various stages of the consultation to ensure relevant stakeholders are kept informed and updated on shaping the commissioning process. This will also form part of a wider communications approach to raise public awareness of how the council is preparing for the future social care reform.

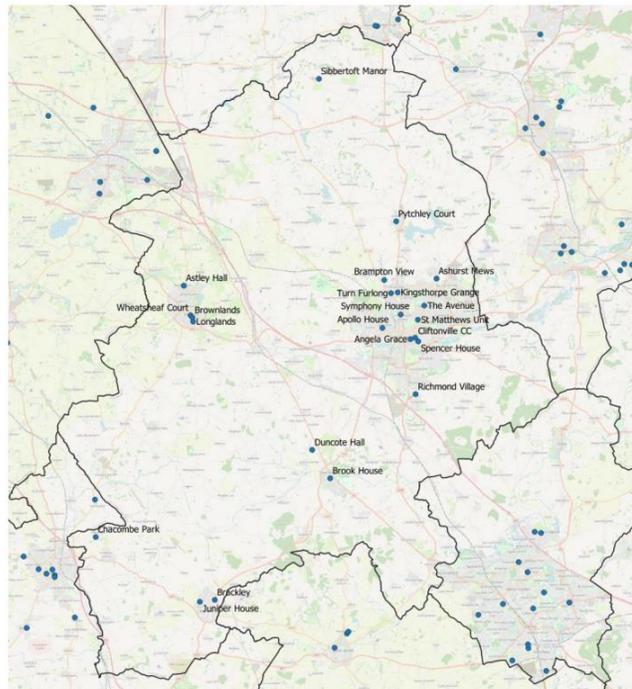
8. Background Papers

8.1 [West Northamptonshire Council Cabinet report, Residential and nursing care services for older people – interim commissioning intentions](#), 8 June 2021

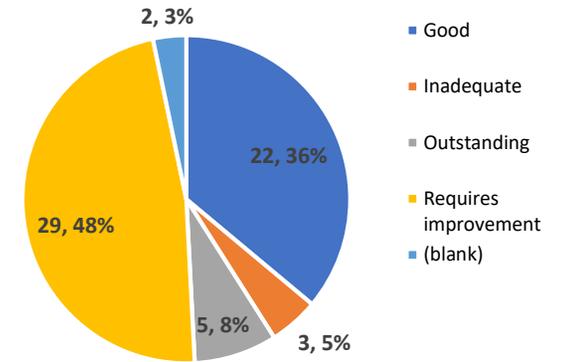
APPENDIX A – Older peoples residential and nursing care home market profile



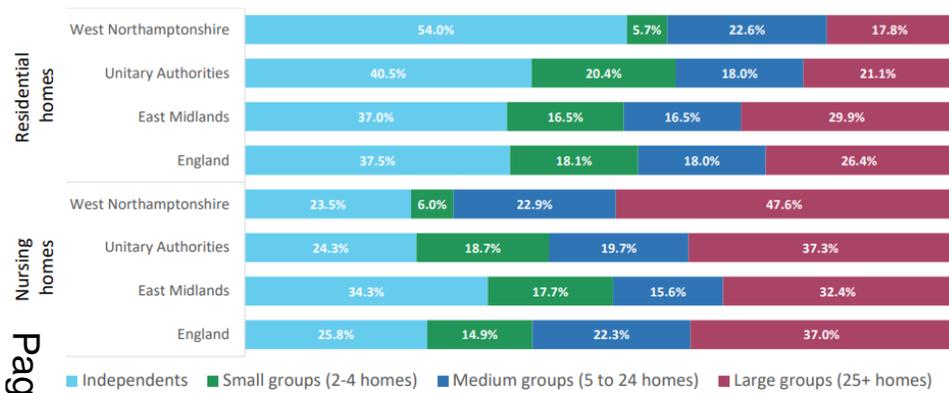
Residential care home services by location, January 2022



Nursing care home services by location, January 2022



Older peoples residential and nursing care services by CQC rating, April 2022



Older peoples care homes by group profile and percentage of beds, January 2022

Group size	Residential homes	Nursing homes
Independents	684	306
Small groups (2-4 homes)	72	78
Medium groups (5 to 24 homes)	286	299
Large groups (25+ homes)	225	620
Total	1,267	1,303

Beds in older peoples care homes by group profile, January 2022

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

14th June 2022

Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth: Councillor Daniel Lister

Report Title	UK Levelling Up Fund Round Two
Report Author	<p>Kevin Langley Head of Major Projects and Regeneration Kevin.Langley@westnorthants.gov.uk</p> <p>Deven Efde Regeneration Programmes Manager Deven.Efde@westnorthants.gov.uk</p>

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	30 th May 2022
West S151	Martin Henry	31 st May 2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Timmiss	30 th May 2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Craig Forsyth	18 th May 2022

List of Appendices

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To approve two submissions for the UK Levelling Up Fund Round Two application ahead of the deadline of the 6 July 2022 as detailed in this report.
- 1.2. To update Cabinet on the activity made to date, timescales and next steps for the UK Levelling Up Fund application.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) is designed to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. The £4.8 billion fund will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets.
- 2.2 Each bid submitted by Local Authorities can be a bid for an individual project or a package bid consisting of up to three projects. Bids for an individual project or package bids can be up to £20m of funding or £50m for transport projects. The deadline for submissions into round two of the Levelling Up Fund is 12 noon on 6 July.
- 2.3 This report sets out the activity to date in preparation for a bid into the LUF. The council has engaged with key stakeholders who have the capacity to deliver large capital projects, to identify projects that may be eligible for Levelling Up funding. To assist in the assessment of these projects, the council has appointed consultants, Avison Young, to assess each project on its eligibility for the LUF as part of a two-stage assessment framework.
- 2.4 A long list of 39 projects was developed and these were assessed by Avison Young (UK) Ltd. Sift one looked at assessing the projects against the gateway criteria of the fund such as whether the project is within the scope of the investment themes, the funding requested is within the LUF limits, whether the project spending profile is within the required window, and whether the request from LUF is capital only.
- 2.5 Following sift one, eight projects were recommended to proceed to a more detailed assessment. Two of these projects were discounted from the long list as they are being taken forward through other funding routes. This assessment rated the projects against a number of factors including the strategic case, economic case and deliverability to ensure its suitability for a bid into the LUF.
- 2.6 There are six projects being taken forwards for a bid into the Levelling Up Fund. Work is now focused around forming a submission to Government and the articulation of the HM Treasury required business case model for the application form.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - a) Note the activity made to date, timescales and next steps for the Levelling Up Fund applications.

- b) Delegate 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 to approve the final two bids being made to the LUF round two, subject to any Council funding contribution also being in place before submission.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendation is being made to enable West Northamptonshire Council to make 2 submissions of up to £20m (up to £40m in total) of Government funding to improve infrastructure across the area for the communities that the council serves.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The LUF is designed to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. The £4.8 billion fund will support town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets.
- 5.2 The first round of the LUF was announced at the 2020 Spending Review and round two of the fund was announced on the 23 March 2022, following the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022.
- 5.3 WNC submitted a bid for £20m to round one of the LUF in 2021 for the North West Relief Road (NWRR.) The bid was considered a strong submission with a benefit to cost ratio in excess of five putting the project in the high value for money category. However, the submission was unsuccessful and the council has not yet received any formal feedback from Government on the reasoning for this.
- 5.4 Government has made £4.8 billion available for the period until March 2025 for when the fund will operate. No details have yet been made available with regards to a third round.
- 5.5 The second round of the fund will focus on the same three investment themes as the first round:
- Transport: Such as public transport improvements, active travel and road improvements.
 - Regeneration and town centre: Building on the Towns Fund framework to upgrade infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites and bring accessible community spaces into town centres, improving the public realm including high streets and regenerating key leisure and retail sites.
 - Culture: Regenerating or repurposing existing cultural, creative, heritage and sporting assets, creating new cultural assets and associated green spaces that support the visitor economy.
- 5.6 The fund guidance allows bids of up to £20 million per area with the exception that large transport bids can be made up to £50m (must be at least 90 per cent transport focused) and Government will fund two large cultural and heritage investments that can be made up to £50m (must be at least 90 per cent culture focused). These projects must be flagship projects that focus on highly visible interventions that boost local pride in place. Bids can either be for one project up to £20m or a “package bid” of up to three projects up to £20m.

5.7 Government have put an emphasis on engagement with local stakeholders and MP's. MP's will need to provide priority support to one bid via a pro forma of priority support. The council can make up to five bids – one for each MP area as well as a transport bid as the local transport authority. All bids must be submitted by noon on Wednesday 6 July.

Government Assessment Process

5.8 Government has measured all places by an index of priority places that considers the need for regeneration, need for economic recovery and growth and the need for improved transport connectivity. West Northamptonshire Council has remained as a priority two area (with priority one being the highest level of need and priority three being the lowest.)

5.9 Projects need to demonstrate that they can start spending the funding in the 2022-23 financial year and Government expect all funding provided from the fund to be spend by 31 March 2025.

5.10 There is an emphasis on engagement with local stakeholders and MPs. MPs can also provide support to one bid via a proforma of priority support.

5.11 The assessment process of bids will focus on the following criteria:

- Characteristics of Place – West Northamptonshire is categorised as a priority two area.
- Deliverability - all bids will be assessed for evidence of robust management and delivery plans
- Strategic Fit - applications should set out how the bid supports the economic, community and cultural priorities of their local area as well as how proposals complement other funds such as the Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund.
- Economic Case - bids should demonstrate how they represent public value to society

5.12 To identify potential projects that may meet the criteria of this funding, the council has engaged with key partners including health, police & fire, further and higher education, the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), town council's and internal departments such as housing, adults, highways and communities. Given the requirements set by Government on the stage that projects need to be developed to and the timescales, the council engaged with partners that have the capacity to deliver large scale capital projects within the deliverable timeframe.

5.13 The full list of identified projects considered for the LUF can be seen in appendix A of this report.

5.14 To support the council in its Levelling Up submission, it has appointed consultants Avison Young, who are responsible for assessing each project within the identified project longlist, using a two-stage assessment framework. This assessment will conclude with a shortlisting of projects which are eligible for Levelling Up funding and the submission of a formal application from West Northamptonshire Council.

Sift One Assessment

5.15 Sift one looked at assessing the long list of projects against the gateway criteria of the LUF. All projects had to meet these criteria to be considered for further assessment. The criteria are:

- Whether the project theme is within the scope of LUF
- Whether the project is within the funding limits
- Whether the project spending profile will be spent by 31st March 2025

5.16 Following the conclusion of the sift one assessment, the following projects were shortlisted to be considered as part of the sift two assessment.

- **Moulton Health and Wellbeing Centre**
The creation of a new primary care health and wellbeing centre (formerly Moulton Surgery.) The expanded centre will be approximately three times larger than the existing facility and accommodate future needs of the community.
- **Moulton College – Development of Animal Welfare Centre and Associated Facilities**
This project is the construction of a specialist rural animal welfare building to replace existing facilities which are currently unable to provide adequate and inclusive learning environments for student learning. This will enable the college to offer clear progression pathways through a range of qualifications from apprenticeships and further to higher education, through from Level 1 and Level 6 and into work.
- **Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub.**
This project is the development of a new health and wellbeing hub at Weston Favell with new leisure facilities, library, child and adult and health services to replace outdated and not fit for purpose facilities.
- **Maggie’s Northampton Centre – Cancer Support Clinic**
The construction of a new centre at Northampton General Hospital dedicated to providing support to those diagnosed with cancer, their family, friends and carers.
- **Delapre Abbey – Stable Blocks and Wellbeing Hub**
Repurposing of the 19th century stable blocks at Delapre Abbey to create a wellbeing hub. It will link the natural environment, heritage and culture of Delapre Abbey to improve the wellbeing of the community.
- **Northampton University Multi Sports Facility**
This project will deliver a multifunctional sports facility with a sports hall, accompanying laboratories, swimming pool, gymnasium and social facility which would serve a variety of purposes supporting the academic, student union, wider community and the activity quarter initiative in Northampton.

5.17 The sift one assessment report can be seen in appendix A of this report.

- 5.18 The sift two assessment provided a more robust assessment of the projects against the detailed framework set by Government. This included:
- Strategic Case – ensuring there is a developed outline or full business case for the scheme, alignment to wider strategic ambition, development of scheme designs, stakeholder engagement and MP support.
 - Economic Case – identifying scheme outputs and project costs, market analysis and demand assessments.
 - Deliverability – review of development appraisal, match funding, risks and dependencies.
- 5.19 The stage two assessment resulted in six projects being considered for a bid to the LUF.
- 5.20 Projects which have not made the shortlist for the LUF the projects will be recorded by the council on the pipeline projects register. This will allow it to retain the project level information and knowledge for when future funding opportunities are announced. The council will continue to work with partners who submitted projects to ensure the projects are further developed for when future funding opportunities arise.

Next Steps

- 5.21 The initial assessment of the projects has been completed and the projects to form a submission to Government have been identified, the current activity is further project development and the articulation of the five-case model for the application form.
- 5.22 Building the Case for Intervention, this includes:
- Review of local, regional and national policy to align interventions against policies
 - Quantitative socio-economic analysis of West Northamptonshire to demonstrate how the projects will address existing or anticipated future problems
 - Examination of existing community engagement collateral to understand how proposals respond to local sentiment
- 5.23 Value for Money Assessment
- This involves identifying the value for money presented by the bid as a whole, as well as the individual projects
 - Economic appraisal model for all projects identifying project outputs, costs and benefits
 - Quantifying the costs and benefits and value for money and also wider social benefits
- 5.22 Financial Case and Viability Assessment
- This involves setting out the information over costs, viability, and funding
- 5.23 Deliverability and Risk Assessment
- This involves setting out the information on the delivery approach for each project, risk allocation, commercial structure and procurement as well as ensuring risks are properly recorded and accounted for

- 5.24 Once the application form has been populated with all the relevant information to ensure it is the strongest case for funding then the council will ensure its different teams have the opportunity to review and input before submission on the 6 July.
- 5.24 It is important to note that as further work is being undertaken on the above projects to get the required level of information to the appropriate level for a submission, projects might not be in a fundable position for this year's submission given the tight timescales. The council is working hard with partners to ensure all information is available and up to date for a submission this year.

Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub

- 5.25 A requirement of the LUF is that for all projects proposed the whole funding package has to be identified. Any gaps in the funding must be clearly identified and evidence provided of any wider public or private sector co-funding commitments (such as letters, contractual agreements.) To provide Government with confidence, where there is a gap in the funding package there needs to be an unambiguous commitment from the council that this will be met.
- 5.26 The Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub project is the only project out of the six proposed for a submission which has an incomplete funding package.
- 5.27 The project is being led by WNC and the estimated cost of the hub is to be £41m. If successful in being awarded £20m from the Levelling Up Fund this would leave a funding gap of £21m. The remaining funding would be subject to Full Council consideration on 30 June, prior to the submission being made on 6 July.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 To approve the submission of bids into the LUF to enable WNC the opportunity to be awarded £40m, which is the maximum WNC will be able to be awarded for the two bids set out in this report, from Government.
- 6.2 To not approve the submission of bids into the LUF. This will mean that the council will miss out on the opportunity to receive funding from round two of the LUF. There is no guarantee that there will be a third round of LUF and this would mean that WNC would receive no grant funding.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 West Northamptonshire Council will be the accountable body for the LUF grant. Of the six projects identified in this report, five of these have no impact on the council's finances. The council will effectively be passporting the grant from Government to these organisations to enable project delivery. The funds will be governed by a grant funding agreement between WNC and the partners and will be paid on the completion of milestones laid out in the agreement
- 7.1.2 The council's responsibility is the administration and monitoring of the grant funding. Passporting of funds is dependent on the achievement of milestones. All funding agreements

will ensure that any expenditure in excess of funding is met solely by the partner. There is no financial risk to the council in relation to these five projects.

7.1.3 Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub currently has a funding gap of £21m if it was successful in being awarded £20m from the LUF. The funding gap will be the subject of a Full council report on the 30 June 2022. This will be subject to the necessary due diligence of the business case and the agreement of council funding. This will go through the formal approval processes as outlined in the capital strategy and Constitution. If the Levelling Up bid is not successful, then the requirement for gap funding will be withdrawn and the project put on hold.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 Future reports will set out the governance arrangements for the delivery of any successful Levelling Up projects. Any governance arrangements must align to Government guidance and the specific funding terms and conditions for which the council will be the accountable body. Specific legal advice will be provided for any successful Levelling Up proposals which will include but will not be limited to subsidy control, procurement, taxation and land implications.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 If the council did not approve the recommendations of this report, this may result in the following financial, reputational and political risks:

- Financial risks: failure to submit a LUF bid will result in West Northamptonshire not benefitting from up to £40million of funding that could be used to deliver strategic projects and invest in infrastructure to better serve our communities.
- Reputational risks: failure to submit a LUF bid will result in reputational damage to the council due to perceived inactivity and failure to capitalise on funding that would benefit the public. This weakens the council's position to leverage funding from Government in the future. It would also be a reputational hit with the key partners that the council has engaged with on the projects identified to take forward.
- Political risks: as a new authority, the council is under increased scrutiny from Government and the public to deliver outcomes for the communities it serves. Failure to submit a LUF bid will result in increased scrutiny due to perceived inactivity of the council to capitalise on funding that would benefit the public.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 As noted in point 5.12, the council has engaged with key stakeholders and partners to identify potential projects that may form a part of its LUF bid. These partners include health (The CCG, Northampton General Hospital), Northamptonshire Police and Fire, Moulton College, Northampton College, University of Northampton, SEMLEP, Northampton Town Council, Daventry Town Council, Brackley Town Council, Towcester Town Council as well as the council's internal departments such as housing, adults, highways and communities. Each individual project

considered has undertaken varying degrees of public consultation, dependant on the progression and refinement of each scheme

7.4.2 All six shortlisted projects have been informed by consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that the designs are appropriate. Any project that forms part of a successful Levelling Up funding bid will be subject to additional public consultation as part of its development phase.

7.5 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

7.5.1 Overview and Scrutiny will be considering this report on the 28 June 2022.

7.6 **Climate Impact**

7.6.1 Climate impact considerations are not applicable to this report at this stage. However, if funding is successfully leveraged, any proposed projects will be subject to environmental impact assessments.

7.7 **Community Impact**

7.7.1 If the council is successful with its LUF bids, any resulting project will be subject to engagement and consultations with local stakeholders and the public through all stages, including statutory consultations to take place during the planning stages

7.7.2 The council will undertake programme-wide level impact assessments, relevant project-level impact assessment and equality and impact assessments when required

7.8 **Communications**

7.8.1 The Communications and Engagement Team will be fully involved in any future consultation activity around individual projects, should the bids be approved.

7.8.2 If the bids are successful, these projects will be built into the council's regeneration strategy which will inform comprehensive communications planning in collaboration with the communications team.

7.8.3 This document has been checked for accessibility.

8. **Background Papers**

8.1 Levelling Up Funding Round Two Prospectus:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus>

This page is intentionally left blank

West Northamptonshire Council

Levelling Up Fund Project Shortlisting

13 May 2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Avison Young have been commissioned by West Northamptonshire Council to support with project prioritisation and selection from an existing long list for prospective applications to the Levelling Up Fund (LUF).
- 1.2 Project long listing to shortlisting has been determined by assessing projects on the basis of strategic alignment, economic contribution, potential value for money (based on existing evidence and benchmark data), and deliverability. These criteria have been captured in an Assessment Framework which all projects have been evaluated against.

Assessment Framework

- 1.3 The Assessment Framework is set out overleaf. It comprises two “sifts” to identify shortlisted projects from the long list.
 - **Sift 1** – Identifies what are essentially the gateway criteria of the fund. If the project does not satisfy all of these criteria, it should not progress to Sift 2 for potential inclusion in the LUF bid.
 - **Sift 2** – Identifies important criteria for the LUF bid and a system to RAG rate projects according to the information provided.
- 1.4 Thirty-nine projects have been identified by West Northamptonshire for potential inclusion in the LUF submission. The results of the sifting exercise are set out in this report.

FIGURE 1 SIFT 1

ALL INVESTMENTS

Sift 1

Projects will progress to Sift 2 if all of the criteria are satisfied

Criteria		
Criteria 1	Project theme within scope of LUF	<p>Transport investment: Public transport, active travel, bridge repairs, bus priority, local road improvements and major structural maintenance. Interventions that reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, cut congestion, support economic growth, and improve the safety, security and overall experience.</p> <p>Regeneration & town centre investment: Upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure; acquire and regenerate brownfield sites to deliver residential or commercial space; invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction; and bring public services and safe, accessible community spaces into town and city centres.</p> <p>Cultural investment: Maintaining, regenerating, repurposing existing cultural, creative, heritage and sporting assets, or creating new assets including theatres, museums, galleries, production facilities, libraries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces), sports and athletics facilities, heritage buildings and sites, and assets that support the visitor economy.</p>
Criteria 2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Up to £20m for regeneration and town centre investment and cultural investment* Up to £50m for transport investments
Criteria 3	Project spending profile within required window	Spending begins in 22/23 FY and finishes spending by 31 March 2025
Criteria 4	Capital only ask	The LUF will only provide capital funding. Revenue funding must be met by other funding sources
<p>Yes to all? Project proceeds to Sift 2</p>		
<p>No to any? Project is excluded from shortlist</p>		

* The Round 2 Prospectus highlights that DLUHC will fund up to two large bids for up to £50 million under the Fund's culture and heritage investment theme. These bids must be for flagship projects and be in line with the Fund's focus on highly visible interventions that boost local pride in place. These must be for at least 90% culture.

FIGURE 2 SIFT 2

INVESTMENTS UP TO £20 MILLION		Sift 2 Projects will be RAG rated according to the information provided			
Criteria	Green	Amber	Red	Potential for Single or Joint Bid	
Strategic Case	Business Case already developed for scheme	Yes (FBC prepared)	High level business case prepared (e.g. SOC, OBC)	None	
	Scheme definition	Scheme is clearly defined	Limited scheme description provided	No scheme description provided	
	Alignment to wider strategic ambition	Alignment to national, regional and local priorities is clear	Strategic alignment to national, regional and local priorities is limited	No alignment to national, regional and local priorities	
	Market failure/rationale for intervention	Market failure is identified/ a market failure argument can be made	Scope for market failure argument exists	Little scope for clear market failure argument	
	Scheme designs prepared	RIBA 2 and above	Not prepared but could be completed within the LUF bid timescales	Designs would not be forthcoming in the LUF bid timescales	
	Stakeholder engagement	Stakeholder engagement has been undertaken and is evidenced	Stakeholder engagement identified in limited detail or scheduled	No stakeholder engagement has been undertaken nor is planned	
Economic Case	MP Support	Written confirmation or strong prospect of being secured in LUF bid timescales	Degree of MP support unknown	Expectation that MPs will not support the bid	
	Scheme outputs identified	Quantified outputs provided	Outputs qualitatively discussed	No outputs identified	
	For transport schemes, impact modelling	Underpinning assessment by Transport Consultants	Not prepared but could be within the LUF bid timescales	Details would not be forthcoming in the LUF bid timescales	
	Project costs provided	Yes and are up to one year old. Provided by independent cost consultant	Yes but are outdated	No	
Deliverability	With LUF, project is fully funded	Yes	Funding gap exists but clear approach to address	Funding mix is unclear/not provided	
	Market analysis/demand assessment	Clear analysis of demand and market conditions provided by project lead or external consultant	Not prepared but plan to address/commission within the LUF bid timescales	Not prepared and no capacity to commission before bid deadline	
	Development Appraisal (for land and property investment)	Yes	Not prepared but plan to address/commission within the LUF bid timescales	Not prepared and no capacity to commission before bid deadline	
	Match funding	Match funding has been committed/project can form part of a bid with match funding	Match funding identified but not secured	No match funding and no prospect of being part of a bid with match	
	Risk	Scheme risks are clearly identified and risk management strategy is in place	Scheme risks have not been clearly identified but the project lead has an established approach	No risks have been identified and the approach to risk management and mitigation not clear	
	Third party dependencies	No third party dependencies	Yes but clear strategy for managing risk	Yes and no progress made to date	
	Planning consent	Full consent expected by bid deadline	Outline consent expected by bid deadline or clear timetable for delivery	No progress has been made on planning and no discussions with the LPA	

2. Sift 1

Summary Results

- 2.1 Each of the projects identified by West Northamptonshire Council has been assessed against the Levelling Up Fund criteria:
- [Project theme within scope of LUF](#) – transport, regeneration and town centre, cultural.
 - [Funding ask within LUF limits](#) – below £20m for a standard bid.
 - [Project spending profile within required window](#) – some LUF spending in 2022/23 and all LUF spent by March 2025.
 - [Capital only ask](#) – the Levelling Up Fund is capital only.
- 2.2 Based on the analysis, the following projects are recommended to proceed to Sift 2:
- Moulton Health and Wellbeing Centre
 - Moulton College – Animal Welfare Centre and Associated Facilities
 - Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub
 - Maggie’s Northampton Centre
 - Northampton Growth Management Scheme (NGMS)¹
 - Market Walk Shopping Centre²
 - Delapre Abbey Stables Project
 - Northampton University Multifunctional Sports Facility
- 2.3 A summary table of results is displayed overleaf and project specific assessment is detailed in this section.

¹ NGMS scheme is well developed, and business case is being developed with Homes England as part of their funding pot. Expectation that a business case for this project will be submitted to Homes England.

² Market Walk Shopping Centre is being developed through the Towns Fund.

No.	Project	Project theme within scope of LUF?	Funding ask within LUF limits?	Project spending profile within required window?	Capital only ask?
1.	Moulton Health and Wellbeing Centre				
2.	Moulton College – Animal Welfare Centre and Associated Facilities				
3.	Drayton Walk – Kingsthorpe Estate				
4.	Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub				
5.	Maggie’s Northampton Centre				
6.	West Local Policing area HQ				
7.	Main Town Centre Police Station Refurbishment				
8.	Joint Operational Training facility				
9.	WH Emergency Services Control Room co-location				
10.	Towcester - Rationalisation of existing nearby fire and police stations				
11.	Daventry - Rationalisation of existing nearby fire and police stations				
12.	Greyfriars				
13.	Greyfriars Coach and Bus Interchange				
14.	Market Walk ³				
15.	St James Mill Link Road				
16.	NGMS ⁴				
17.	Farthinghoe Bypass				
18.	Northern Orbital				
19.	Delapre Abbey				
20.	Northampton University Multifunctional Sports Facility				
21.	Ecton Brook Affordable Housing Scheme				
22.	Northampton Digital Arena proposal				

23.	Daventry - Market Square redevelopment				
24.	Daventry - High Street public realm improvements				
25.	Daventry - Cinema public realm improvements				
26.	Daventry - Brook Street / Tavern Lane / Sheaf Street Intersection				
27.	Daventry - Bowen Square				
28.	Daventry - Parking improvements and bus station relocation				
29.	Daventry -pedestrianisation of New Street				
30.	Daventry - Redevelopment of West Court Car Park				
31.	Daventry - Enhancements to New Street Recreation Ground				
32.	Daventry - Enhancements to Sheaf Street				
33.	Daventry - Sheaf Street Space				
34.	Daventry - Foundry Walk Archway				
35.	Daventry - North West Arc Development				
36.	Daventry - Eastern Way				
37.	Daventry - Country Park Entrance Link				
38.	A43 Dualling - Northampton to Kettering improvements ⁵				
39.	Brackmills Rail Corridor				

³ A scheme has been proposed for Market Walk by a third party, this proposal is currently looking at being progressed as part of the Towns Fund.

⁴ NGMS scheme is well developed, and business case is being developed with Homes England as part of their funding pot. Expectation that a business case for this project will be submitted to Homes England.

⁵ The A43 Dualling is subject of a bid to be Major Roads Network Fund so has not been progressed under the LUF.

Moulton Health & Wellbeing Centre

2.4 **Project description** - Creation of a new primary care health and wellbeing centre (formerly Moulton Surgery). Expanded centre will be approximately three times larger than the existing facility and accommodate future needs of the community.

2.5 **Information received:** Architect drawings and NHS England Outline Business Case.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Creation of a new primary care health and wellbeing centre falls within the cultural theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	£1.2m funding required.
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	LUF investment can be spent in FY 2022/23 and by 2025
4	Capital only	Yes	Preferred Option suggests capitalising any revenue requirements.

2.6 Project aligns well with the LUF requirements but discounted on the basis that there is no clarity of LUF spending in 2022/23.

Moulton College - Development of Animal Welfare Centre and associated facilities

2.7 **Project description** - This project is the construction of a specialist rural animal welfare building to replace existing facilities which are currently unable to provide adequate and inclusive learning environments for theoretical and practical skills development. This will enable the college to offer clear progression pathways through a range of qualifications from apprenticeships & FE to HE, through from Level 1 to Level 6 and into work.

2.8 **Information received:** Further Education Capital Transformation Fund Business Case Stage 2, Stage 2 cost plan, detailed design report with briefing and development, site selection, accommodation schedules, architectural outline specification, additional detail around deliverability in workbook.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Project permissible within investment themes but link is weaker.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	£7.7m funding required.
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	There would be spending in tax years 2022/23 – 2024/25. Confident of achieving spend to March 2025.
4	Capital only	Yes	All the funding is capital in nature

2.9 Information provided suggests project fulfils critical LUF criteria.

Drayton Walk - Kingsthorpe Estate (Affordable Housing Scheme)

2.10 **Description** - Redevelopment of Drayton Walk Estate to provide residents with improved housing facilities. Facilities will be affordable, comfortable, energy efficient, well maintained, situated within an enhanced public realm. Site includes 477 dwellings (317 sheltered housing units).

2.11 **Information received:** Stakeholder brochure, confidential masterplan diagram, community profile, police report and walkabout report.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Advice from DLUHC to focus investment on the 3 LUF themes – not housing.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	Early stage of development but within the £20m envelope.
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	LUF monies could be spent before March 2025.
4	Capital only	Yes	LUF ask is capital only.

2.12 Project discounted due to weak alignment with the LUF investment themes. Out of town residential schemes are not identified as a theme in the guidance.

Weston Favell Health & Wellbeing Hub

2.13 **Description** - Development of a health & wellbeing hub with the following facilities: Leisure centre, Library, Child & Adult services, Football pitches and associated car parking. It will also include the development of 50 - 100 dwellings.

2.14 **Information received:** Hawkins Brown feasibility study inc. site analysis, health and wellbeing hub context, design development, housing options and appendix, financial model.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Creation of infrastructure to support health and wellbeing within Cultural theme and new housing delivered fits Regeneration theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	LUF spend can be profiled early
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	LUF spend can be profiled early
4	Capital only	Yes	There will be significant operating expenditure. Need to confirm if part of LUF ask.

2.15 Information provided suggests project fulfils critical LUF criteria.

Maggie's Northampton Centre

- 2.16 **Description** - Construction of a new centre at Northampton General Hospital dedicated to providing support to those diagnosed with cancer, their family, friends and carers. This development will take place next to the existing cancer centre at Northampton General Hospital.
- 2.17 **Information received:** Proposal summary including evidence of need, outcome and impact, NHS alignment, building, construction timing and finance, added value, presentation with site diagrams and impact report with testimonials.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Improvements to health and wellbeing linked to cultural theme
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	£2m funding required
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	Once funding is secured, building work can start in Summer 2022
4	Capital only	Yes	LUF ask is capital only. Revenue match funding will be met by Maggie's

- 2.18 Information provided suggests project fulfils critical LUF criteria.

West Local Policing area HQ

- 2.19 **Description:** Limited description provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.
- 2.20 **Information received:** Limited information provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Unclear from information provided how this links to investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	N/A	No specific financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
3	Project spending profile within required window	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
4	Capital only	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development

- 2.21 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Main Town Centre Police Station – Refurbishment

2.22 **Description:** Refurbishment of main town centre police station at Northampton. To relocate public enquiry desk from Weston Favell Police Station. (C square & Robert Street buildings).

2.23 **Information received:** Limited information provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Unclear from information provided how this links to investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	N/A	No specific financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
3	Project spending profile within required window	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
4	Capital only	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development

2.24 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Joint Operational Training facility

2.25 **Description:** Limited description provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

2.26 **Information received:** Limited information provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Unclear from information provided how this links to investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	N/A	No specific financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
3	Project spending profile within required window	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
4	Capital only	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development

2.27 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

WH Emergency Services Control Room co-location

2.28 **Description:** Limited description provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

2.29 **Information received:** Limited information provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Unclear from information provided how this links to investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	N/A	No specific financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
3	Project spending profile within required window	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
4	Capital only	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development

2.30 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Towcester - Rationalisation of existing nearby fire and police stations

2.31 **Description:** Limited description provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

2.32 **Information received:** Limited information provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Unclear from information provided how this links to investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	N/A	No specific financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
3	Project spending profile within required window	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
4	Capital only	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development

2.33 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Rationalisation of existing nearby fire and police stations

2.34 **Description:** Limited description provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

2.35 **Information received:** Limited information provided by Northamptonshire Police, projects are at conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Unclear from information provided how this links to investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	N/A	No specific financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
3	Project spending profile within required window	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development
4	Capital only	N/A	No financial ask developed as project at early stage of development

2.36 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Greyfriars

2.37 **Description:** Revitalisation of the Greyfriars site.

2.38 **Information received:** Report by Montague Evans considering potential uses inc. site overview, property market review, constraints and analysis, delivery proposals and a separate report outlining proposals for a bus and coach facility on the site.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Falls within the Regeneration and Town Centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	LUF funding ask expected to be within the £20m ask
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	LUF unlikely to be spent in required timescales
4	Capital only	Yes	Ask would be capital only.

2.39 Scheme aligns closely with the ambitions of the Levelling Up Fund and is underpinned by extensive documentation. However, supporting documents suggests preferred way forward yet to be determined/proposals are at too early a stage of development to be included in the July 2022 bid.

Coach and Bus Interchange

2.40 **Description:** Revitalisation of the Greyfriars site for use as a coach and bus interchange.

2.41 **Information received:** Document outlining proposals for a bus and coach facility on the site.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Falls within the Regeneration and Town Centre investment theme/ or Transport theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	LUF funding ask expected to be within the £20m ask
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	LUF unlikely to be spent in required timescales
4	Capital only	Yes	Ask would be capital only.

2.42 Scheme aligns closely with the ambitions of the Levelling Up Fund but is at too early a stage of development to be included in the July 2022 bid.

Market Walk

2.43 **Description** - Investment in the permanently closed Market Walk shopping centre.

2.44 **Information received** High level site diagrams only.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Falls within the Regeneration and Town Centre investment theme/ or Transport theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	Ask would be within the LUF envelope.
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	Business Case is being progressed through the Towns Fund.
4	Capital only	Yes	Ask is capital only.

2.45 The project is currently being developed through the Towns Fund as a third party has proposed a scheme for the site.

St James Mill Link Road

- 2.46 **Description** - The St James Mill Road project will provide a new link road connecting St James Mill Road through to Towcester Road at the B&Q roundabout. This infrastructure will support the continued attraction and expansion of businesses and the associated increase in traffic flow around the Enterprise Zone.
- 2.47 **Information provided** includes WSP Transport Assessment including development modelling, network changes, scheme overview etc., Northampton Borough Council Outline Business Case with business strategy and 5 cases.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Falls within the Transport investment theme
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	From available project information, total scheme cost is £4.2m
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	Current financial profile to be clarified
4	Capital only	Yes	Financial ask is capital only

- 2.48 Project has significant underpinning evidence base and feasibility testing but current financial details are not developed enough to be included in a LUF bid.

NGMS (Northampton Growth Management System)

- 2.49 **Description:** Junction improvements are required on the A45 in the Northampton area to facilitate growth. The need for these improvements has been identified by Highways England and is referred to in the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS).
- 2.50 **Information received:** Assessment form for Homes England covering 5 cases, site diagrams and an MoU.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Fits within transport scheme
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	Cost is £9.3m
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	Spend profiled over a 3 year window, would need to be updated.
4	Capital only	Yes	Capital only ask.

- 2.51 This project is a fundable proposition that is likely to be taken forward by Homes England given the close engagement on the scheme to date.

Farthinghoe Bypass

2.52 **Description:** The scheme focuses on the development of a new offline bypass which would require the provision of two new junctions to connect the bypass to the existing road network, approximately 1km west and 1km east of Farthinghoe. The current road will remain in place for local access.

2.53 **Information received:** WSP Economic Appraisal

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Aligns with Transport Investment
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	The total project cost is between £18-22m and the wider funding package has not been agreed.
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	Unlikely that LUF could be spent in the required timescales.
4	Capital only	Yes	LUF would be capital only

2.54 Project aligns with the ambition of the LUF but is at too early a stage of development to be included in the July 2022 submission.

Northern Orbital

2.55 **Description:** The Northampton Northern Orbital Route will continue the northern ring road for Northampton from the end of the Northampton North West Relief Road at the A5199 Welford Road through to the A43 Kettering Road, with a spur to Moulton Park.

2.56 **Information received:** Council report to cabinet, consultation documents, technical appraisal report.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Project will fit within LUF themes
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	The scheme is at a very early stage of development. Though there is a clear need for the scheme, no funding has been committed to deliver it and a preferred route has not been decided upon.
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	Scheme is at early stage of delivery and spend unlikely to happen in time
4	Capital only	Yes	Project expected to be capital only

2.58 Project aligns with the ambition of the LUF but is at too early a stage of development to be included in the July 2022 submission.

Delapré Abbey

2.59 **Description:** Repurposing of the 19th century stable blocks on the Delapré Abbey site to create a wellbeing hub for Northampton and the surrounding areas. It will link the natural environment, heritage and culture of Delapré Abbey to improve the wellbeing of the community.

2.60 **Information received:** Viability appraisal, options appraisal, business case including appendices, Quantity Surveyor costing report.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Project falls within theme of Culture.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	Seeking £1m
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	Yes
4	Capital only	Yes	Revenue requirements will be met by other funding sources

2.61 Information provided suggests project fulfils critical LUF criteria.

Northampton University Multifunctional Sports Facility

2.62 **Description:** Project would deliver a multifunctional sports facility with sports hall, accompanying laboratories, swimming pool, gymnasium, and social facility which would serve a variety of purposes supporting the academic, Student Union, wider community and Activity Quarter initiative (to establish the Waterside Campus as a hub of activity) in Northampton.

2.63 **Information received:** Outline business case and consideration of options, scheme diagrams, comparator examples

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Project falls within theme of Culture.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	Cost estimates are outdated but suggest between £10-15m
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	Grant funding can be spent by March 2025 and enabling works can commence in 2022/23
4	Capital only	Yes	

2.64 Information provided suggests project fulfils critical LUF criteria.

Ecton Brook Affordable Housing Scheme

2.65 **Description:** Limited description provided by NPH. Project is at a conceptual stage. The Council will work with partners over the next year to develop projects and align them with future funding opportunities.

2.66 **Information received:** Feasibility Appraisal Board report.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	No	Housing is not a key theme within the LUF.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	LUF ask could be within the envelope.
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No financial forecast for spend by 2025.
4	Capital only	Yes	Ask would be capital only.

2.67 Project discounted due to weak alignment with the LUF investment themes. Out of town residential schemes are not identified as a theme in the guidance.

Northampton Digital Arena proposal

2.68 **Description:** No project description has been provided.

2.69 **Information received:** Outline business case and consideration of options, scheme diagrams, comparator examples

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Cultural theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	Limited information available at this time.
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	Limited information available at this time.
4	Capital only	No	Ask would be capital only.

2.70 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Market Square redevelopment

2.71 **Description:** Redevelopment of existing Market Square public realm to promote pedestrian access, improved market facilities & events, remove road network, bike infrastructure and associated interpretation.

2.72 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.73 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - High Street public realm improvements

2.74 **Description:** Public realm improvements providing enhanced environment of existing shopping & market facilities, improved street furniture, pedestrian prioritisation, improved lighting, secure & covered active travel equipment, car parking away from high street and high-quality planting.

2.75 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.76 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Cinema public realm improvements

2.77 **Description:** Public realm improvements promoting better access from high street to the new cinema. It will continue include new lighting strategy, introduce new planting, cladding & greening to large bank elevations, improve surface treatment for carriageway and continue perimeter block with active frontage

2.78 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.79 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Brook Street / Tavern Lane / Sheaf Street Intersection

2.80 **Description:** Creation of a new gateway to the high street by creating a Piazza at the intersection of Sheaf Street, Tavern Lane and Brook Street, providing a safe and enhanced pedestrian environment.

2.81 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.82 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Bowen Square

2.83 **Description:** Creation of a new gateway to the high street by creating a Piazza at the intersection of Sheaf Street, Tavern Lane and Brook Street, providing a safe and enhanced pedestrian environment.

2.84 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.85 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Parking improvements and bus station relocation

2.86 **Description:** Intervention to reduce car parking in Bowen square by exploring options to relocate bus station to either a) create a linear on street formation on new street, or b) create a drop off and pick up loop within the Tesco car park.

2.87 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with transport/town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.88 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Pedestrianisation of New Street

2.89 **Description:** To change the character and hierarchy of New Street from a car dominant space to a pedestrian and cycle friendly environment by making New Street one-way, reducing road widths and adding new cycle paths.

2.90 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with transport/town centre investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.91 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Redevelopment of West Court Car Park

2.92 **Description:** Reduce car usage and visibility by providing a continuous frontage along New Street to Market Square. Proposal to engage with site owners to understand whether there is potential to develop the site, prepare a development brief for mixed-use 3-storey development on site and adapt the former Retro Bar for community uses.

2.93 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.94 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Enhancements to New Street Recreation Ground

2.95 **Description:** Reduce car usage and visibility by providing a continuous frontage along New Street to Market Square. Proposal to engage with site owners to understand whether there is potential to develop the site, prepare a development brief for mixed-use 3-storey development on site and adapt the former Retro Bar for community uses.

2.96 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.97 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Enhancements to Sheaf Street

2.98 **Description:** Enhancements to Sheaf Street, including new lighting, consolidation of existing street furniture, new seating, new planting, paving improvements.

2.99 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.100 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Sheaf Street Space

2.101 **Description:** Creation of an inviting and attractive event space to enable small scale performances, music's events, other events and interactive outdoor uses by removing the pagoda (allowing for a key view), introduce a combination stage and platform seating area, introduce opportunities for local art installations and introduce low-level lighting

2.102 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre/culture investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	No	No information available

2.103 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Foundry Walk Archway

2.104 **Description:** To improve this key pedestrian route in the town centre by making it more attractive and functional, by removing the foundry walk roof structure and opening up area to natural light and by incorporating new interesting lighting and art installations.

2.105 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre/culture investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.106 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Northwest Arc Development

2.107 **Description:** Development at Northwest Arc to provide new arts / community facility, create a safe route for school students and the community, create a large pedestrian / cycle crossing point to enhance link up to North Street, change road geometry to reduce vehicle speeds, create a new gateway, possible location for tennis courts.

2.108 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre investment/culture themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.109 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Eastern Way

2.110 **Description:** Creation of a green boulevard. Proposals include the creation of new artwork on roundabout to act as a gateway, altering the road layout to reduce vehicle speeds and look to create a landscaped central reservation to signal to drivers that they are entering town centre, creating a large pedestrian / cycle crossing point and potential to facilitate new secondary school.

2.111 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre/transport investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.112 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

Daventry - Country Park Entrance Link

2.113 **Description:** To design crossing points and a route that supports safe walking and cycling routes and includes green infrastructure interventions. Remove vehicular traffic over a significant section, whilst allowing coach drop offs for schools to the leisure centre. Create a high quality landscaped public realm space with pedestrian and cycle priority to provide a safe linking route to and from the car parks, Eastern Way and the Country Park.

2.114 **Information received:** Project summary provided in Daventry Vision 2035.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Limited information available but description suggests alignment with town centre/transport investment themes.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	No	No information available
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

2.115 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund.

A43 Dualling - Northampton to Kettering improvements

2.116 **Description:** To deliver improvements and upgrade the A43 Corridor between the junction with the A45 and A14. It will build upon the completed Phases 1a, 1b and 2 to deliver on-line dualling of the existing single carriageway and the enlargement of the existing Holcot Lane roundabout junction.

2.117 **Information received:** Project summary provided in project long list prepared by West Northamptonshire Council.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Project aligns with the transport investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	Project is above the £20m value for a normal application. It could be considered as a large transport bid between £20-50m.
3	Project spending profile within required window	Yes	LUF funding can be spent by 2025.
4	Capital only	Yes	Project would be capital only.

The project is subject of a bid to the Major Roads Network Fund so has not been progressed under the LUF.

Brackmills Rail Corridor

2.118 **Description:** The proposed scheme consists of approximately 4 km of foot/cycleway to be built on the site of the dismantled Bedford to Northampton railway line, connecting Northampton in the west to the village of Great Houghton in the east.

2.119 **Information received:** Project summary provided in project long list prepared by West Northamptonshire Council.

Criteria		Yes/No	Notes
1	Project theme within scope of LUF	Yes	Project aligns with the transport investment theme.
2	Funding ask within LUF limits	Yes	Ask could be within the LUF limit.
3	Project spending profile within required window	No	No information available
4	Capital only	Yes	Project ask of the LUF is capital only

2.120 Lack of available project information means it is difficult to establish alignment with Levelling Up Fund, particularly around the financial ask.

2.121 For projects which have not made the shortlist for the Levelling Up Fund, the projects will be recorded by the Council on the pipeline projects register. This will allow the Council to retain the project level information and knowledge for when future funding opportunities are announced. The Council will continue to work with the partners who submitted projects to ensure the projects are further developed for when future funding pots arise.

3. Sift 2

3.1 The following projects will be assessed as part of Sift 2.

- Moulton Health and Wellbeing Centre
- Moulton College – Animal Welfare Centre and Associated Facilities
- Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub
- Maggie's Northampton Centre
- Delapré Abbey
- Northampton University Multifunctional Sports Facility

Moulton Health and Wellbeing Centre

3.2 **Project Description** - Creation of a new primary care health and wellbeing centre (formerly Moulton Surgery). Expanded centre will be approximately three times larger than the existing facility and accommodate future needs of the community. New centre will be created on a site which has planning permission for deliver 85 residential units and a primary care facility.

3.3 **Project Cost** – c£5,000,000

3.4 **LUF Ask** - £2,000,000

3.5 **Summary of Assessment** –

- The scheme is well defined with clear parameters to achieving a detailed planning approval. We recognise that the ongoing preparation for a planning submission means that designs may still be subject to change, however the supporting documentation provide clearly demonstrates a clear rationale for development that has been assessed against the local and national policies.
- From the perspective of scoring the economic benefits of the scheme, the outputs link to increasing capacity in primary care and improving health and wellbeing. These are not typical for a local regeneration scheme and are less closely aligned to the DLUHC appraisal guidance. Delivery of the new centre will support the development of c 85 residential units by making the site acceptable in planning terms. There is the potential to claim housing units in the economic appraisal which will support the economic benefits, however a fair amount of work will be required to present the scheme in a way which is DLUHC compliant.
- In terms of market assessment and analysis of risk, the scheme scores well, this is apparent through the need to increase capacity of the current premises and how the preferred development partner has outlined risks associated with the project. However, the scheme suffers in terms of deliverability due to the outdated costs, lack of development appraisal and the need to clarify match funding and LUF ask. We have asked for further clarification on these key components for deliverability of the scheme as delivering updated results could improve the overall scoring of the scheme.

Section	Criteria	Rating	Notes
Strategic Case	Business Case already developed for scheme		Strategic business case has been developed for the scheme which sets out the proposed case for intervention.
	Scheme definition		The scheme is well defined with short- and medium-term growth ambitions.
	Alignment to wider strategic ambition		The narrative of the scheme refers to national policy, but the business case would benefit from considering the alignment to local priorities and from a LUF perspective. This will need developing through the application timescales.
	Market failure/rationale for intervention		There is a clear rationale for development within the business case with an understanding to the current market conditions.
	Scheme designs prepared		We have been provided with a detailed design pack with site plans, elevations, landscaping and block plans. Our understanding is a planning application with detailed plans is currently being prepared for submission in June 22.
	Stakeholder engagement		Engagement has taken place with the Local Planning Authority but wider engagement and testing not identified.
	MP Support		We have not had sight of any letter of support from members but recognise the site is in advanced conversations with planning and therefore we are assured MP support can be gained within the LUF timescales.
Economic Case	Scheme outputs identified		<p>Scheme outputs closely aligned to increasing capacity in primary care to accommodate housing growth. Expectation of 15,000 additional patients and healthcare space improvement and creation identified in the intervention framework – likely around 930 sqm GIA. New centre will be created on a site which has planning permission for deliver 85 residential units as well as the primary care facility – potential to claim housing units in economic appraisal.</p> <p>Considerable work needs to be done to assess the benefits in a way which is compliant with the LUF guidance.</p>
Deliverability	Project costs		Project costs have been provided for the project, but these date back to 2016 so will need to be updated. Current costs estimated to be around £5-6m
	With LUF, project is fully funded		With LUF, the project is expected to be fully funded.
	Market analysis/demand assessment		Market analysis has identified growth in Northampton North and surrounding area which will need to be accommodated. Current premises is at maximum capacity and so new premises will provide additional services and extra capacity. In the next decade there could be an increase of up to 15,000 patients.
	Development Appraisal (for land and property investments)		No development appraisal has been provided but could be prepared before bid deadline.

	Match funding		Project will be match funded from S106 and partner contributions. Combined total of match funding expected to be at least £1.5m
	Risk		GPI (the preferred development partner) has highlighted risks associated with the project and underlines risk management best practice to manage the risks.
	Third party dependencies		GPI – preferred development partner – Monitoring surveyor will be appointed. Planning application not being granted
	Planning consent		Our understanding is that a planning application is currently being prepared and is due to be submitted in June 22. The project lead has not confirmed this.
Potential for single/joint bid			Likely to have potential to form joint bid.

Moulton College – Animal Welfare Centre and Associated Facilities

- 3.6 **Project description** - This project is the construction of a specialist rural animal welfare building to replace existing facilities which are currently unable to provide adequate and inclusive learning environments for theoretical and practical skills development. This will enable the college to offer clear progression pathways through a range of qualifications from apprenticeships & FE to HE, through from Level 1 to Level 6 and into work.
- 3.7 **Project Cost** – £8,000,000
- 3.8 **LUF Ask** - £8,000,000
- 3.9 **Summary of Assessment** –
- A strategic case has been developed for this scheme however lacks detail regarding where the market failure exists and furthermore how the scheme will address this failure. The scheme has scored well where explicit information has been provided. We recognise the scheme will develop if taken through to a LUF submission and has the potential to score higher if consideration is given to the steps the Council will take to review and assess market failure.
 - The scheme seeks to expand the number of learners across a range of NVQ levels. This uplift in attainment levels can be quantified, though further investigation will be required to understand the additionality of the proposal.
 - In terms of deliverability, the scheme clearly sets out a market assessment through outlining the ultimate need to increase the capacity of the existing campus. Furthermore, the project if fully funded with LUF. On the other hand, the scheme is limited in achieving a higher score due to the outdated costing plan, lack of detailed risk analysis/strategy with no prospect of any match funding being committed as part of a bid. These will need to be investigated and clarified further in order for the scheme to achieve a higher deliverability score.

Section	Criteria	Rating	Notes
Strategic Case	Business Case already developed for scheme		Strategic business case has been developed to support the Further Education Capital Transformation Fund (Stage 2) submission in September 2021.
	Scheme definition		Scheme is well defined with clear medium- and long-term objectives.
	Alignment to wider strategic ambition		Clear alignment to wider national and local strategic objectives.
	Market failure/rationale for intervention		Case for intervention is defined through the analysis of the local objectives yet there is a lack of detail around market failure, specifically a 'do nothing' approach.
	Scheme designs prepared		Planning application has been prepared and therefore detailed designs, CGI images and construction drawings have been provided.
	Stakeholder engagement		Engagement undertaken as part of the planning process, but wider testing not identified.
	MP Support		The scheme has been subject to scrutiny with members in advance of the planning submission coupled with a clear project and governance board. We therefore have assurance that a letter of support will be made available within the LUF bid timescales.
Economic Case	Scheme outputs identified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New skills floorspace delivered (2,298 sqm). - 1,000 additional learners created across a number of NVQ levels for Animal Science and Construction. - More widely about offering clear progression pathways through a range of qualifications from apprenticeships & FE to HE, through from Level 1 to Level 6 and into work. - Economic appraisal could rely on economic benefit of additional qualifications attained – but learning outputs not central to investment themes of the LUF.
Deliverability	Project costs		A cost plan has been provided which outlines relevant costs for the proposed scheme but the applicant notes that these are outdated and will need updating.
	With LUF, project is fully funded		The applicant is seeking the full project cost from the LUF - £8,000,000 has been requested. (This would include irrecoverable VAT and increase in costs due to inflation). No match funding has been provided.
	Market analysis/demand assessment		<p>A market demand assessment has been conducted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current campus is at full capacity and existing buildings could not cope with growth in additional learners. - The developed buildings would cater for the increase in demand from veterinary support, STEM technologies to welfare roles. - Other schemes have received LEP funding due to the importance government places on this area of industry is Defra's inclusion of 'animal health and

			welfare' as one of five priorities within its Farming and Forestry Improvement Service.
	Development Appraisal (for land and property investments)		We have received a total budget cost for the proposed site but is outdated.
	Match funding		No match funding has been identified.
	Risk		A planning risk register has been provided but a wider risk register will need to be prepared.
	Third party dependencies		From the information we have been provided and investigations, no third-party dependencies have been identified.
	Planning consent		Planning application has been prepared for submission in June 2022.
Potential for single/joint bid			Scheme could form part of a package bid

Weston Favell – Health and Wellbeing Hub

3.10 **Project Description** - Development of a health & wellbeing hub with the following facilities: Leisure centre, Library, Child & Adult services, Football pitches and associated car parking. It will also include the development of 50 - 100 dwellings.

3.11 **Project Cost** – £41,010,894

3.12 **LUF Ask** – £17,000,000

3.13 **Summary of Assessment** –

- No business case has been provided for this scheme but the rationale and definition of the scheme has been considered within the planning submission. We have scored the strategic case highly therefore on this basis as we recognise the information that is available sets out a roadmap to producing a business case within the LUF timescales.
- The Economic Case for this proposal will comprise the additional leisure space delivered and will unlock the development of up to 100 dwellings on site. Both of these outputs provide economic benefits that can be monetised – through improvements to health and wellbeing and direct land value uplift.
- Certain aspects of the scheme score well against the deliverability criteria however there are factors that limit the scheme in achieving a high score. The councils pledge, if approved, to commit match funding of £24m is a risk in the scheme due to it being a large contribution in the total funding package, whilst the funding has also not been secured. For a scheme of this nature, we would expect to see clear risk analysis and a risk mitigation strategy in place. We also note that no planning application has been explicitly referenced but a clear programme for the scheme has been provided.

Section	Criteria	Rating	Notes
Strategic Case	Business Case already developed for scheme	Yellow	No business case has been prepared for this development, but it is noted that the rationale for the scheme is identified within the planning submission documents.
	Scheme definition	Green	Scheme is well defined with supporting evidence from national and local policy
	Alignment to wider strategic ambition	Green	Clear alignment to national studies (i.e., Sports England) and local need.
	Market failure/rationale for intervention	Green	The strategic context has been well developed to set out the current market constraints and rationale.
	Scheme designs prepared	Green	High level masterplan designs and constraints and opportunities plan have been designed.
	Stakeholder engagement	Green	In preparation for the Feasibility Study in May 2021, a consultation exercise was undertaken with a number of key stakeholders and their comments captured into the scheme designs.
	MP Support	Green	We have noted key members were party to the stakeholder consultation and have supported the preparation of the planning documents therefore we are confident a letter of MP support can be gained in time for the LUF bid.
Economic Case	Scheme outputs identified	Green	Delivery of the housing units is dependent on the delivery of the wellbeing hub. Estimates of the number current and projected number of users for facilities would be helpful. Housing land value uplift and improvements to health and wellbeing could be scored as part of the economic appraisal. However, on the basis of a £40m public sector ask, at least £80m benefits would need to be demonstrated to justify value for money.
Deliverability	Project costs	Green	Updated project costs have been provided.
	With LUF, project is fully funded	Yellow	The intention is for the project to be fully funded by a combination of Levelling Up Fund investment and West Northamptonshire Council match funding. At the time of writing, the WNC contribution has not been secured.
	Market analysis/demand assessment	Green	A detailed breakdown and market assessment has been conducted in the Health and Wellbeing Hub – Feasibility Study.
	Development Appraisal (for land and property investments)	Green	Development appraisal has been provided.
	Match funding	Yellow	WNC will be asked to fund the remaining gap in the funding package. Based on a LUF ask of £17m, this would be approximately £24m. WNC would need to make an unambiguous and binding commitment to provide the match funding and be responsible for cost overruns.
	Risk	Yellow	In the OBC there has been an initial risk allocation for the project. We would expect to see further analysis of the risks

			of the project in greater detail e.g. a risk register for the project. We acknowledge that the project has an established approach. The council's match funding is a significant amount and there is a risk that the council will not provide the unambiguous commitment required. Without this, there would be substantial gap in the funding package.
	Third party dependencies		Four existing residential houses on site, three homes owned by WNC but one other is privately owned.
	Planning consent		Clear programme has been provided setting out the timescales from inception through to the preparation of an OBC. Submission of a planning application has not been explicitly referenced.
Potential for single/joint bid			Potential for joint bid is limited given the capital funding ask.

Maggie's Northampton Centre

3.14 **Project description** - Construction of a new centre at Northampton General Hospital dedicated to providing support to those diagnosed with cancer, their family, friends and carers. This development will take place next to the existing cancer centre at Northampton General Hospital.

3.15 **Project Cost** - £4,308,696

3.16 **LUF Ask** - £2,000,000

3.17 Summary of Assessment

- Our assessment of the strategic case recognises the scheme is in the initial stages of scoping and as such lacks detail around the context, background and rationale for intervention. We have therefore scored the scheme moderately, but with a clear programme that sets out when further information and assessment will be available, the scheme has the opportunity to score highly.
- We can prepare a LUF application involving this project but the links through the investment themes are weaker. From an economic case perspective, the links to the DLUHC funded programme are harder to demonstrate. The health and wellbeing theme sitting under culture investment is more about the regenerative aspects of providing leisure facilities and active travel, rather than addressing clinical health need.
- As well as the delivery of healthcare floorspace, the scheme will secure an increase in visits for people diagnosed with cancer and their friends and family. This is not a typical benefit stream to measure from an economic development perspective and is less closely aligned to the DLUHC guidance. The scheme will generate new jobs and volunteering opportunities which can be scored; however, the additionality of these outputs will need to be investigated further.
- The scheme broadly scores well in terms of deliverability. Match funding has been secured alongside planning consent and a high-level development appraisal has been provided alongside analysis of the market demand/conditions.
- However, we do not know when the costs estimates were prepared and there is a risk these are outdated. This risk is captured in the scheme score. An update of costs would provide clarity and certainty which would elevate the scoring in terms of deliverability for this scheme. A risk register has been provided which outlines the risks and the risk management strategy.

Section	Criteria	Rating	Notes
Strategic Case	Business Case already developed for scheme	Yellow	High level strategic OBC/ proposal has been prepared but lacks detail on the rationale for intervention.
	Scheme definition	Green	The council has provided a supplementary note that defines the scheme and funding ask.
	Alignment to wider strategic ambition	Yellow	Reference is made to national and local strategies but limited detail identifying how the scheme contributes to these strategies. This will need to be developed with the project lead during the bid timescales.
	Market failure/rationale for intervention	Yellow	Scope for market failure exists but further detail is required.
	Scheme designs prepared	Green	Initial design sketches have been prepared to support the proposals.
	Stakeholder engagement	Green	Engagement has been undertaken with NHS trusts and support groups who have endorsed the project.
	MP Support	Green	We believe the strategic nature of this project coupled with the existing proposal and costs provides some comfort that MP support can be sought.
Economic Case	Scheme outputs identified	Green	<p>Delivery of healthcare space, anticipate 15,000 visits annually. Creation of 10 jobs and volunteering opportunities, positive impact on physical and mental health of residents.</p> <p>Economic case can quantify new jobs delivery and volunteering opportunities. Additional work will be needed to quantify the social value aspects of the proposal.</p>
Deliverability	Project costs	Green	A Stage 3 project cost plan (dated December 2021) has been prepared and Maggie's is in the process of developing a Stage 4 cost plan within the bid timescales.
	With LUF, project is fully funded	Green	The project seeks funding of £2,000,000 for the capital element of the building. Maggie's will provide ongoing revenue costs of delivering programme into perpetuity (£500k pa).
	Market analysis/demand assessment	Green	Analysis by Northampton General Hospital has identified that local support to people with cancer is limited and the need for further support was demonstrated by the Northampton Cancer Experience survey which showed a gap in needed care for people in the area. Maggie's Northampton expects the centre to welcome 15,000 visitors annually.
	Development Appraisal (for land and property investments)	Green	A high-level appraisal has been completed.
	Match funding	Green	Maggie's Fundraising team have raised £2.3m in match funding.

	Risk		We have reviewed the Delivery Phase Risk Register which will be monitored by an alliance between NHS Trust and Maggie's Property Team. Key risks are outlined and a management strategy is in place.
	Third party dependencies		No third-party dependencies have been determined from the information provided
	Planning consent		Planning consent was granted in 2019. (N/2019/0861)
Potential for single/joint bid			Project likely to form a package bid.

Delapré Abbey

3.18 **Description** - Repurposing of the 19th century stable blocks on the Delapré Abbey site to create a wellbeing hub for Northampton and the surrounding areas. It will link the natural environment, heritage and culture of Delapré Abbey to improve the wellbeing of the community.

3.19 **Project Cost** - £4,874,000

3.20 **LUF Ask** - £1,000,000

3.21 **Summary of Assessment** -

- Our assessment of the scheme is that it scores well against the strategic case criteria. The scheme is well defined and provides a detailed context to the history of the site, challenges and opportunities that is well narrated throughout the documents provided. We have been provided a strategic business plan and we note a masterplan is currently being prepared and therefore has the confidence to be delivered within the LUF timescales.
- The proposal will deliver improvements across the Delapré Abbey site, securing a range of outputs that align with the LUF intervention framework. Key outputs that can be monetised include 136,000 additional visitors p.a., changing floorspace and employment creation.
- We have analysed the scheme in terms of deliverability, and it scores well against the criteria. The scheme provides up to date costs supported by clear market analysis. Further risk analysis has been conducted through a risk register with the scheme currently undergoing a wider preparation of a masterplan and design code. The scheme has some match funding in place. For this scheme to achieve a greater score in terms of deliverability, all match funding would need to be identified and secured.

Section	Criteria	Rating	Notes
Strategic Case	Business Case already developed for scheme		A Strategic Business Plan and outline option appraisal has been provided which sets out the context of the scheme.
	Scheme definition		Scheme is well defined and background to the ask is defined.
	Alignment to wider strategic ambition		Detailed analysis of national, regional and local policies and strategies has been undertaken with clear alignment to the proposed project.
	Market failure/rationale for intervention		An options appraisal report has been provided which sets out a detailed context to the scheme including the socio-economic profiling, literature review, the existing market failure and opportunities for growth.
	Scheme designs prepared		We understand a masterplan is being prepared and initial sketches have been made available. The masterplan is due to be finalised in August 2022 with clear milestones set out to achieve this date.
	Stakeholder engagement		Stakeholder engagement has been undertaken for the preparation of the business plan with further engagement identified to develop the masterplan.
	MP Support		We believe the strategic nature of this project coupled with the existing proposal and costs provides some comfort that MP support can be secured.
Economic Case	Scheme outputs identified		Wide ranging outputs generated across all fund investment themes – cycleways, car parking, restored heritage buildings, provision of healthcare space, quantified commercial space delivered. Key outputs that can be monetised include 136,000 additional visitors p.a., changing floorspace and employment creation.
Deliverability	Project costs		Cost estimates were commissioned and produced by Gleeds Cost Management Ltd in Q4 2021 with further allowances made for inflation uplifts between the base date and estimated mid-point of construction. The total project cost including development and delivery phases is £4,874,000.
	With LUF, project is fully funded		A funding strategy can be provided to evidence the funding breakdown. A range of funding sources are being sought and the Delapré Abbey Trust have funding reserves that can be drawn on to support project delivery.
	Market analysis/demand assessment		A comparator assessment has been undertaken within the Options Appraisal to identify comparable sites which may impact the proposed scheme. Two other comparable facilities were identified.
	Development Appraisal (for land and property investments)		A high-level residual assessment has been conducted which allowed for cost of refurbishment, associated fees and profit on cost before arriving at a value. A total grant request was identified.
	Match funding		A funding strategy can be provided to evidence the funding breakdown. A range of funding sources are being sought

			and the Delapré Abbey Trust have funding reserves that can be drawn on to support project delivery.
	Risk		An assessment of risk was undertaken for the proposal in the form of a risk register. The project was identified a low-medium risk with a mitigation strategy in place.
	Third party dependencies		No third party dependencies were identified.
	Planning consent		The preparation of a masterplan and design code is currently underway. Applicant can provide a delivery plan.
Potential for single/joint bid			Could be part of a joint spatial bid or a wider heritage bid, but commentary at start of this section is worth noting.

Northampton University Multifunctional Sports Facility

3.22 **Description** - Project would deliver a multifunctional sports facility with sports hall, accompanying laboratories, swimming pool, gymnasium, and social facility which would serve a variety of purposes supporting the academic, Student Union, wider community and Activity Quarter initiative (to establish the Waterside Campus as a hub of activity) in Northampton.

Project Cost – c£15 million

3.23 **LUF Ask** - c£11 million

3.24 **Summary of Assessment** –

- The scheme scores well against the strategic case criteria that recognises the clear deliverables of the proposal. Albeit reference is made to the challenges and opportunities, further details on these would be welcomed to clearly highlight why and how market failure exists.
- The Economic Case for this proposal will comprise delivery of leisure floorspace and increasing learner numbers on sport and exercise programmes. The economic appraisal could quantify the economic benefit of additional qualifications attained at the university.
- The deliverability scoring highlights that some aspects of the scheme are unclear at this stage. There is a clear analysis of market demand for the project with analysis of other comparable sports centres. We also note the masterplan is currently being prepared with a clear programme in place, although no planning application has been submitted. To improve the deliverability score of the scheme, we would recommend revisiting the cost plan to provide updated costs which would determine the development appraisal, funding gap and relevant LUF ask. We are aware the university is looking to contribute match funding but unsure if this will be secured, this would enhance the deliverability score of the scheme.

Section	Criteria	Rating	Notes
Strategic Case	Business Case already developed for scheme	Green	Savills have produced an OBC in April 2022. It is understood the OBC is currently in draft format.
	Scheme definition	Green	The scheme is well defined within the context of the OBC.
	Alignment to wider strategic ambition	Yellow	Limited detail has been provided on how the scheme aligns with strategic objectives. This will need to be developed within the bid timescales.
	Market failure/rationale for intervention	Yellow	Albeit the challenges and opportunities have been highlighted, the detail on the strategic context is limited and it is unclear where the market failure exists. This argument will need to be developed over the bid timescales.
	Scheme designs prepared	Green	An illustrative masterplan has been prepared and provided.
	Stakeholder engagement	Green	Reference has been made to stakeholder consultation throughout the OBC and wider consultation is highlighted within the programme.
	MP Support	Green	It is noted that key councillors and members were party to the stakeholder consultation.
Economic Case	Scheme outputs identified	Green	<p>Scheme outputs will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational space increased and improved - Sports centre space created - Hospitality space created - New public Wi-Fi Hotspots - Cycle storage increased - Cycling infrastructure (showers, changing rooms etc) improved - Education, placement and volunteering opportunities supported <p>Expect students on sport and exercise programmes to increase from 1,160 to 1,797 in 2024-25. Economic appraisal could rely on economic benefit of additional qualifications attained.</p>
Deliverability	Project costs	Yellow	No cost plan has been provided as originally the scheme was grouped with the Waterside development (7 years old). Project costs will need to be revisited. The business case indicates that the total cost would be in the region of £10 - £15m.
	With LUF, project is fully funded	Yellow	Funding gap is unknown and unclear on latest costs of project. New costs that could be acquired would highlight the funding gap, therefore the project could be fully funded.
	Market analysis/demand assessment	Green	OBC outlines clear market analysis and demand. We have recently been provided with rough indicational analysis for the future projected student attendance at sport and exercise programmes. Analysis of other sports facilities have been provided.

	Development Appraisal (for land and property investments)		No development appraisal has been provided.
	Match funding		The university will look to contribute approximately £4m. Unclear if this contribution has been secured.
	Risk		No risk register or mitigation strategy has been included within the OBC or information we have received.
	Third party dependencies		From the information we have received and reviewed, there do not appear to be any third-party dependencies.
	Planning consent		A masterplan is currently being prepared with an application to be submitted within the next 12 months.
Potential for single/joint bid			Limited scope for inclusion in a package bid given likely project cost.



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

TUESDAY 14TH JUNE 2022

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION: COUNCILLOR FIONA BAKER

Report Title	School Minor Works budget: To address condition issues in West Northamptonshire Maintained Schools Estate – 2022/23
Report Author	Chris Kiernan – interim Director of Children’s Services/Shazia Umer – Head of School Place Planning & School Admissions

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Paul Hanson on behalf of Catherine Whitehead	30/05/2022
S151	Martin Henry	31/05/2022
Other Director/SME	Chris Kiernan – interim Director of Children’s Services	30/05/2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Gavin Moore	30/05/2022

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To provide Members with all the necessary information to make a fully informed decision on the recommendations below to approve the ‘School’s Minor Works’ budget for 2022/23 which will be funded by the Department for Education (DfE) ‘School Condition Allocation’ grant.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The 'School's Minor Works' scheme commissions condition surveys on property within the authority's school estate, which in turn inform condition works which need to be undertaken to ensure that the local authority fulfils its statutory obligation of keeping pupils 'safe, warm and dry.'
- 2.2 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is responsible for maintaining school buildings and sites at all schools in West Northamptonshire with 'Community', 'Voluntary Controlled' and 'Foundation' status, but does not include those that form part of a PFI contract.
- 2.3 There are 47 schools (all primary schools) that fall within the categories outlined above and for which WNC is responsible for maintenance.
- 2.4 All Local Authorities receive 'School Condition Allocation' (SCA) funding annually from the DfE for the purposes outlined above. WNC's allocation of SCA funding for the 22/23 financial year, for maintained schools, is £1,732,900.
- 2.5 Voluntary aided schools, Multi-academy trusts, non-maintained special schools and specialist post-16 institutions receive their funding allocations directly and are responsible for their own condition surveys.
- 2.6 In addition to the central funding of £1,732,900. for maintained schools, £413, 050 has been allocated to the LA for forwarding to the schools directly. This is known as the Devolved Formula Capital (DCF) and is a school level allocation.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - a. Approve 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. Note that WNC's allocation of 'School Condition Allocation' funding has 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. Note 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;
 - 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.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 Reason for Recommendations:

- WNC will continue to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate;
- The recommended course of action is the most effective and prevents delays in procuring essential works;
- Consistency with previous decisions. This is the third year of the ‘School Minor Works’ programme.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 WNC receive ‘School Condition Allocation’ (SCA) funding from central government, the purpose of which is to address condition issues within maintained schools. The amount of SCA funding each local authority receives is announced annually and is linked to the number of maintained schools within that local authority. This funding reduces as schools convert to academy status;
- 5.2 The DfE specify SCA funding should be spent as follows;
‘Investment should be prioritised on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency and health and safety issues.’
- 5.3 West Northamptonshire Council’s SCA funding for 2022/23 has been confirmed at £1,732,900.
- 5.4 The ‘Schools Minor Works’ budget was first established in 2019/20 under Northamptonshire County Council as a mechanism for streamlining the financial and governance for capital schemes designed to address condition issues in maintained schools. The method used previous to this had been reactive and led to delays in addressing condition issues in schools, some of which required immediate attention;
- 5.5 There have been three previous tranches of School Minor Works schemes, in 2019/20, 20/21 and 21/22, where schools with known condition issues or very old condition surveys were prioritised;
- 5.6 This year’s ‘School Minor Works’ scheme builds on the previous tranches to ensure further maintained schools/nursery schools have an up to date condition survey. The results of these surveys will direct the works to be undertaken. The SCA funding from the DfE will fund these works.
- 5.7 WNC will commission a series of condition surveys for the 22/23 tranche of schools, which incorporates 10 schools located within the WNC area.
- 5.8 This rolling programme of condition surveys and associated remedial works aims to ensure all children and young people being educated in the Local Authority are being taught in a ‘safe, warm and dry’ environment.
- 5.9 Each condition survey provides a comprehensive report on the fabric of the school building and site, and any work required to ensure that each building remains ‘safe, warm and dry’. Surveys classify any remedial work required into one of four categories identified below:
1: Urgent - works required immediately or within one year;
2: Essential – required within 2 years;

- 3: Desirable – required within 5 years;
- 4: Desirable – works not anticipated to be required within 5 years;

- 5.10 As with previous tranches, it is proposed that WNC provide funding for remedial works to address condition issues inclusive of categories 1 and 2, where possible. This will ensure WNC maintains the upkeep of school sites and buildings it holds a responsibility for and mitigates any further deterioration to the fabric of the surveyed schools. However, this will be dependent on the cost of works identified and the available budget. Surveys and works to a maximum of £1,732,900 will be progressed in 2022/23.
- 5.11 It is anticipated that the budget will be sufficient to progress the required condition works at this tranche of schools, whilst leaving a small contingency sum within the wider budget to address any emergency works that are required at maintained schools within the WNC area over the course of the 22/23 financial year.
- 5.12 Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Children’s Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to authorise and approve, all financial, legal and property arrangements necessary to deliver works required to address condition issues in maintained schools;
- 5.13 Cabinet is asked to note that whilst the Capital Projects team will project manage the delivery of the ‘School Minor Works’ schemes, in certain circumstances, WNC may passport limited amounts of funding to schools, to ensure efficient delivery of a required scheme.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 This paper relates to the fulfilment of WNC’s statutory obligation of maintaining its schools’ estate. If WNC take no action the schools estate will continue to deteriorate and remedial works will represent a greater financial liability when requiring to be addressed in the future.
- 6.2 Failure to address works categorised as ‘urgent’ or ‘required immediately’ will 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 education. This is not considered to be a viable option.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 The Schools Minor Works scheme will be funded from the 2022/23 DfE Schools Condition Allocation (SCA) grant of £1,732,900. This funding is provided specifically for the purpose of maintaining the school estate. No schemes over the value of £1,732,900 will be progressed under this budget and this proposal can be considered to be 100% grant funded.

7.1.2 Schemes delivered under ‘School Minor Works’ budget will be managed by colleagues within the Capital Projects team at WNC and sufficient resource within the team has been identified to effectively manage and deliver this proposal.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 WNC has a statutory responsibility to maintain its school estate. Failure to do so could result in serious Health and Safety incidents occurring due to a lack of maintenance and consequentially, possible legal action against WNC, should this proposal not be progressed.

7.3 Risk

a. Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Costs higher than available budget	All works to be procured through WNC procurement frameworks or with three quotes obtained to ensure best value is achieved. Works will have to be prioritised to ensure all can be delivered within available budget and least urgent works will not be progressed if they exceed available budget.	Green
Increasing construction costs and inflation	The current financial environment within which WNC must operate is unavoidable and the value of schemes that can be delivered within the budget envelope will need to be managed accordingly.	Red
Works undertaken impact on day to day school operation	Works to be planned in conjunction with schools and programmed to minimise impact.	Green

b. Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Health & Safety incident(s) resulting from poor condition of schools’ estate	Amber
School buildings continue to deteriorate and children and young people access education in ‘unsafe’ buildings	Red
Schools are required to close as a result of poor condition and children and young people are unable to access education	Red
Cost of addressing remedial issues at a later date will increase	Red

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 No statutory consultation is required for this proposal.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 N/A

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 The climate impact of any work progressed will be considered on an individual scheme basis and via the appropriate planning permissions obtained for each scheme that is progressed under this budget.

7.6.2 Where possible, schemes will address energy efficiency concerns within WNC schools and, where this occurs, a small positive climate impact will be realised.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 This proposal will have a positive community impact via its improvement of WNC's school estate and ensuring that pupils attending the schools involved are able to access an improved educational environment.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 N/A

8. Background Papers

8.1 N/A



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2022

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES and EDUCATION – CLLR FIONA BAKER

Report title Proposal to establish a new 250 place, ‘all-through’ special educational needs and disability (SEND) School for pupils with autistic spectrum condition (ASC), with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and severe learning difficulties (SLD) at Tiffield St John’s site, Tiffield, West Northamptonshire.

Report author Chris Kiernan, interim director of children’s services Chris.Kiernan@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors / checkers / approvers

Monitoring Officer	Catherine Whitehead	06/06/2022
Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer)	Martin Henry	06/06/2022
Other Director/SME	Chris Kiernan	05/06/2022
Communications lead	Becky Hutson	06/06/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Free school presumption ‘school specification’ document

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make members aware of the current and predicted demand for SEND places across West Northants in the coming academic years. The report will outline the impact this will have on the council’s ability to fulfil its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of SEND places and the steps the council intends to take to address this issue.

2. Executive summary

2.1 This report contains:

- details relating to the demand for SEND places and lack of available capacity within specialist settings in West Northamptonshire that is currently being experienced;
- details relating to the impact this situation is having on children and young people in receipt of an education, health and care (EHC) plan that reside in the area and the impact this has on WNC education budgets;
- further details relating to the future demand for SEND places and that the current trend of increasing demand is forecast to continue in future school years;

- WNC's plans to address the issues caused by the increasing demand for SEND places and the specific benefits that could be realised via the provision of a new 'all through' special school that will provide 250 new SEND places;
- details relating to the Department for Education (DfE) 'free school presumption' process that all local authorities are legally obliged to conduct when seeking to establish a new school; and
- reasons as to why the site at Tiffield St John's has been identified as the prospective location for the required new school.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the cabinet:

- a) Notes the current deficit of SEND places that is being experienced across West Northamptonshire and the projected demand for places in coming academic years set out in paragraph 5.10-5.12.
- b) Agrees to the 'free school presumption' process being progressed to identify an academy trust to operate the new 'all-through' special school.
- c) Delegates 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) Notes 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.

4 Reason for recommendations

4.1 The proposal will:

- help to ensure that the council is able to fulfil its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of SEND places within West Northamptonshire in future academic years;
- provide an increased number of SEND places and will help ensure that children with additional needs are able to access education in a provision that is best placed to meet their needs; and
- establish a new 'all-through' special school, which can be considered a benefit all West Northamptonshire's mainstream primary and secondary schools as it will reduce the need for mainstream school settings to provide places to children with additional needs where that provision is not best placed to meet very high-level, low incidence needs;

4.2 The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective and will reduce pressure on the high needs block (HNB) element of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) via a reduction in the number of children being required to be placed in more expensive out of county and independent provisions to meet their individual needs.

5 Report background

Current demand for specialist places in West Northamptonshire

- 5.1 All current specialist provisions located within West Northamptonshire have reached or exceeded their notional capacity figures i.e. the total number of children and young people that should be attending any given provision.
- 5.2 As a result of this, WNC has been forced to utilise out of county and independent specialist provisions to ensure that it has been able to fulfil its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of SEND places. However, demand has dictated that, with very limited exceptions, all capacity within the independent sector that are used by WNC has now been consumed.
- 5.3 The result of this increase in demand and the filling of all available SEND capacity is as follows:
 - a clear and immediate risk that WNC will be unable to fulfil its statutory obligations of providing a sufficiency of SEND places in the area.
 - pupils are being forced to be maintained within an education setting that is not best placed to meet their individual needs (such as a mainstream school setting).
 - pupils are unable to access an education setting in a timely manner and are without a school place.
- 5.4 The biggest individual drivers of the increased demand for places within a specialist setting are primary aged pupils with a primary need of autistic spectrum condition (ASC) and secondary aged students with a primary need of social, emotional and mental health (SEMH).
- 5.5 Action is required to address the wider shortage of specialist places and specifically to provide more specialist places that will cater for the needs and cohorts of pupils detailed above.
- 5.6 The placement of pupils and students with an EHC plan in an out of county or independent provision is more costly than placing a child or young person within a specialist provision in the LA maintained or academy sector. This is placing an increasing pressure on the high needs block (HNB) of the dedicated schools grant (DSG).
- 5.7 The HNB of the DSG is forecast to overspend by £2.5m in the 21/22 financial year (subject to finalising the provisional outturn) and action is urgently required to address this particular issue and reduce spend against the HNB. The most efficient and effective way of doing this is via the provision of additional SEND places in the LA maintained and academy sector within West Northants that reduces the requirement to use places within the independent sector.
- 5.8 The £2.5m overspend identified was thought to be structural. However the amended growth of ESFA grant to 12 per cent from 8 per cent - an additional £2.2m – is close to the structural expenditure level, especially given the savings achieved in expenditure that will recur.
- 5.9 As of January 2022, WNC had been required to place 174 pupils in an independent specialist setting, this number of placements represents an annual cost to the HNB of the DSG of £11,200,000 annually at an average cost of £56,778 per place.

Future demand for specialist places within West Northamptonshire

- 5.10 Pupil projection forecasts relating to the future demand for SEND places within West Northants indicate that the total number of pupils and students in receipt of an EHC Plan will increase by 521 pupils (25%) from 2,126 to 2,647 in the period between January 2020 and 2025.
- 5.11 The number of pupils in receipt of an EHC plan with a primary need of ASC is forecast to increase from 756 to 1055 pupils (299 pupils or 40%) in the same period. Pupils with a primary need of ASC will be the biggest drivers of future demand for specialist places in the period ending January 2025.
- 5.12 The provision of additional specialist places catering to pupils with a primary need of ASC will be essential in terms of WNC's future ability to fulfil its statutory obligations in respect of providing a sufficiency of SEND places within the area and to reducing pressure on the HNB of the DSG.

Future plans to provide additional specialist places

- 5.13 To address the current and future shortage of specialist places within West Northants, WNC has plans to deliver in excess of an additional 500 new SEND places across the area in the coming academic years. This is through the 'SEND sufficiency strategy', which is intended to be delivered in two phases.
- 5.14 The first aims to deliver up to 259 new SEND places by September 2023 and aims to address the current deficit of specialist places. This phase will comprise the establishment of SEND units attached to mainstream schools and extensions to existing special schools located within West Northants. This is in the approved 22/23 capital strategy and the capital funding required will be provided entirely via capital grant allocations provided by the DfE specifically for the purpose of creating new SEND places.
- 5.16 The proposed second phase will – if agreed – comprise the delivery of a new, 250 place, 'all through' special school for West Northamptonshire. The aim is to deliver this new provision by September 2024.
- 5.17 The capital funding required to deliver the required new 'all through' special school will be partially provided via remaining grant funding that is specifically provided for the provision of new SEND places and other DfE grant funding sources, such as 'Basic Need' grant funding. However, there will be a need for the council to identify alternative funding sources, such as capital borrowing to finance the delivery of the new school.
- 5.18 Once the capital funding has been identified, full business cases relating to the request for additional funds will be submitted via WNC's internal financial governance processes prior to a further report being subject to cabinet approval for the required expenditure. For the avoidance of doubt, no capital costs will be incurred prior to this approval being given.

The 'free school presumption' process

- 5.19 Under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 (the 'Free School Presumption') where a local authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an academy. This report identifies the need to establish a new special school with places for pupils on the autistic spectrum continuum (ASC), with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and severe learning difficulties (SLD), to open in September 2024.
- 5.20 Under the 'free school presumption' process any LA must conduct a competition under which academy trusts are invited to submit bids to operate the new school. All bids that are submitted are assessed by

a panel of relevant professionals following which the LA then confers 'preferred bidder' status upon the academy trust that it believes is best placed to operate the new school.

- 5.21 The 'preferred bidder' decision is then communicated to the regional director for schools, whose responsibility it is to appoint the academy trust that will operate the school, on behalf of the secretary of state for education.
- 5.22 The interim director of children services is seeking to publish the 'school specification' attached as appendix 1 to this report from 15 June 2022, to invite proposals from academy trusts to run the school.

6 Issues and choices

- 6.1 Do nothing: this option would result in the failure of WNC fulfilling its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of SEND places in West Northamptonshire in future academic years. It would also result in the requirement to utilise places in increasingly distant and more expensive places within the independent sector, which would place a further strain on the HNB of the DSG and revenue general fund home to school transport budget. If WNC cannot demonstrate that it is able to manage its DSG allocation in a balanced position (or have plans to do so) this would result in intervention by the DfE. This option would have also prevented WNC from addressing issues relating to the timely provision of places in an appropriate setting for pupils in receipt of an EHC plan. This option was discounted for these reasons.
- 6.2 Identify alternative site as the prospective location for the proposed new school: Tiffield is located approximately eight miles from Northampton town (from where the majority of the demand for SEND places arises). However, the site has excellent transport links to the south and west of Northampton town, Towcester, Silverstone and Brackley. There is a clear lack of SEND provision that caters to pupils with a primary need of ASC, SLCN or SLD in the former South Northamptonshire area and the Tiffield St John's site would resolve this issue, reducing journey times to and from school for children and young people who reside in the area and also reducing home to school transport costs for WNC.
- 6.3 Accordingly, the Tiffield site is an appropriate one for the location of the school. It is part of the 'free school presumption' process that any LA seeking to establish new school must identify a proposed location for that school as part of the associated 'school specification'. However, while a location must be identified the location specified is not legally binding and should any bid received as part of the process identify a suitable alternative site for the new school, the process allows for alternative sites to be identified, considered and progressed. As such, although the Tiffield St John's site has been identified, the process allows for other the school to be located elsewhere if appropriate.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and financial

- 7.1.1 As stated in section 5 of this report, further business cases and reports will be submitted via internal financial governance processes and to cabinet once the full capital cost of this proposal has been identified. These business cases / reports will contain full details relating to the capital and revenue costs of the proposal.
- 7.1.2 Future business cases and reports will set out in detail the potential financial benefits that the proposed new school would provide. These fall into two categories of 'cost reductions' that will be realised through phases one and two of the programme. These are **savings**, which will be realised in case

where children placed in independent schools move to new resourced or special school places; and **cost avoidance**, where children who otherwise would have been sent to independent schools are provided for in the state sector.

- 7.1.3 The only costs that will be incurred prior to this are relating to the commissioning of a feasibility study for the new school (<£5,000), which will be funded from the school place planning team revenue budget. There are no resource implications associated with this proposal.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 Under 6A of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 (the 'free school presumption') the Council is required to seek bids to establish an academy where the need for a new school is identified. The process set out in the report conforms with the legislative requirements. Further legal steps and implications are set out in the body of the report.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from a decision to begin the 'free school presumption' process relating the intent to establish a new special school at St John's, Tiffield. A comprehensive exploration of the risks associated with this proposal will be provided to cabinet as part of the future report that will seek approval for the full capital costs that are associated with this proposal.
- 7.3.2 There are significant risks attached to a decision not to proceed with this proposal. These risks would relate to a failure of the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations to provide a sufficiency of SEND places from September 2024 onwards and compromise its ability to allocate specialist school places to pupils in receipt of an EHC plan in a timely manner from the same date. It would also prevent the cost avoidance benefits to the HNB of the DSG identified in section 7.1.2 being realised.

7.4 Consultation

- 7.4.1 As part of the 'free school presumption' process required by section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Council conducted an informal period of consultation on this matter during May 2022. All responses received were broadly supportive of the need for a new special school in West Northamptonshire.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.5.1 The proposal has not been considered specifically by overview and scrutiny. However the need for the new specialist places formed a part of the SEND report to the committee in January 2022.

7.6 Climate impact

- 7.6.1 The proposal to invite academy trusts to bid to become the operator of the planned new school has no climate impact in itself. The climate impact relating to the construction of the new school will be explored more fully in subsequent reports to Cabinet.

7.7 Community Impact

- 7.7.1 The proposal to invite academy trusts to bid to become the operator of the planned new school has no distinct community impact in itself. The proposal to establish a new special school, that will help

provide a sufficiency of SEND places across West Northamptonshire in future years can be considered to represent a huge community benefit, once delivered.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 The communication of the consultation was through a web-based page (see [here](#)), and promoted via the council's multiple channels including social media, media releases and newsletter. Any procurement will be put onto the council's and DfE's websites.

Attachments and background papers

Attachment: the draft procurement document, inviting academy trust to bid to operate the school;

Background paper: 'The Free School Presumption' (November 2019) DfE guidance document – see [here](#).

This page is intentionally left blank

Proposed new designated free special school West Northamptonshire

New school specification

Section A: introduction

1 Under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 (the ‘free school presumption’) where a local authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an academy. West Northamptonshire council (WNC) has identified the need to establish a new special school with places for pupils on the autistic spectrum continuum (ASC), with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and severe learning difficulties (SLD), to open in September 2024.

2 From the vesting day of the council (1 April 2021), it was evident that there were insufficient places for pupils with high levels of special educational needs (SEN) – that is, pupils with an education, health and care plan (EHCP). This has resulted in an urgent need to create new specialist educational provision within resourced units at a mainstream school, and through the creation of a new special school.

3 The consultation that preceded this proposal (attached as annex 1) showed that all our special schools except one (where there were five places at the time of writing) were over capacity. The capacity of our special schools is 940, which is exceeded by 120 (13 per cent). Since all resourced provisions are also at capacity, this has resulted in a significant dependence on independent providers.

4 This has two adverse effects: first, most independent school places are located away from the homes of pupils, who need to travel long distances. Second, the places are much more expensive – on average £57,000 – which equates to an overall annual cost of £11,200,000 to the high needs block. This does not include the annual cost of transport (£3,400,000), which falls to the council’s general fund.

5 The cost to the council, through both the high needs block and the general fund, is unsustainable. The former is forecast to overspend by £5,000,000 by the end of the current financial year. As this deficit is structural and was £2,500,000 at the end of the 2021/22 financial year, it will increase by £2,500,000 each year unless action is taken to reduce expenditure. While increasing specialist places in the state system will not avoid cost to the extent needed to achieve a balanced budget, it will be around 80 per cent of the savings and cost avoidance required.

6 In November 2021, the council’s chief executive asked for a report that demonstrated the need for a new special school. This was drafted and finalised for the executive leadership team’s meeting on 15 December 2021.

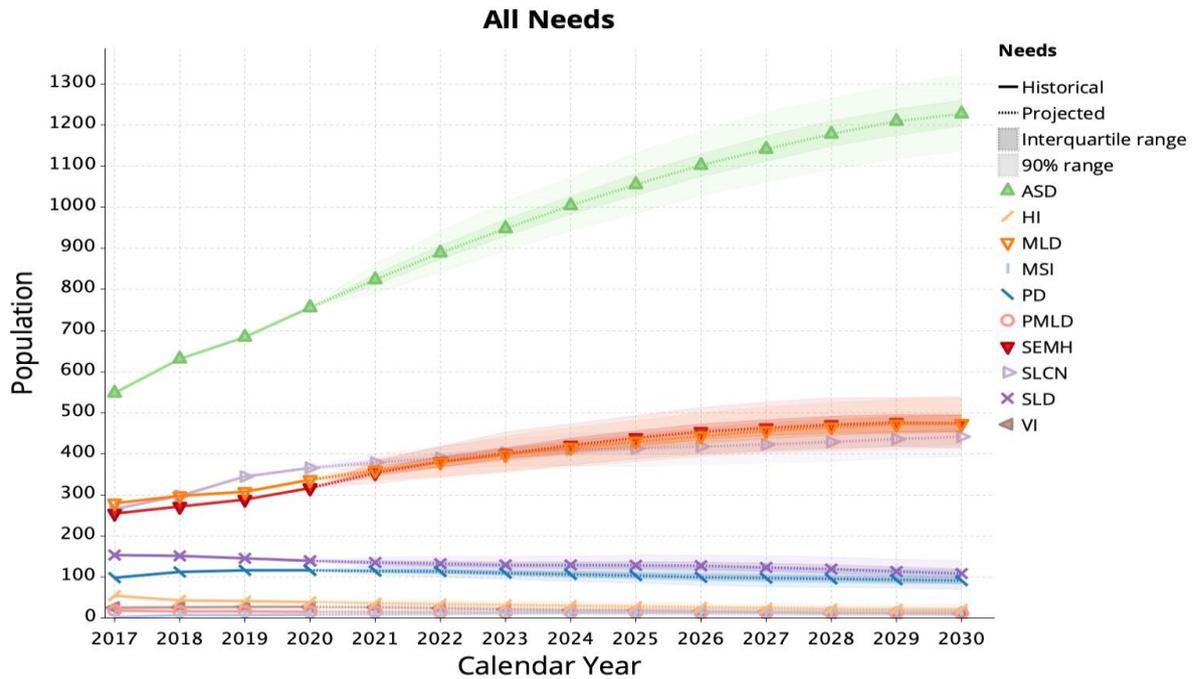
Needs analysis

7 The report is attached to this specification as annex 1. For ease of reference, the key forecasting data are summarised here:

- the total number of pupils who had an education, health and care plan (EHCP) was 2,938 in January 2021 (or 22);
- **ASC** as the primary need is forecast to increase from 756 pupils in 2020 to 1,055 pupils in the period ending 2025, an increase of **299** pupils or **40 per cent**;
- **SLCN** as the primary need is forecast to increase from 337 pupils in 2020 to 430 pupils in the period ending 2025, an increase of **47** pupils or **13 per cent**;
- the ratio of boys to girls is 3:1 for pupils with ASC; 3:1 for SCLN and 2:1 for SLD;
- the total number of pupils requiring a place at an independent provider increased from 105 pupils in January 2020 to 193 pupils in September 2021, an increase of **69** pupils or **66 per cent**;
- the average cost per place commissioned by WNC in an independent provision is **£56,788** - the total cost of all WNC pupils placed in an independent provision represents a cost to the HNB of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) of **£11,200,000** annually; and

- The table below (reproduced from the consultation) shows that the highest projection in terms of both numbers and percentage growth is for children on the autistic spectrum, but that SEMH and SLCN pupils numbers are also projected to increase significantly between 2022 and 2030.

Mastodon projection to 2030 – all SEN types



Application process

The indicative timeline for the project is:

- 15 June 2022: the full free special school specification is published for prospective sponsors;
- 29 July 2022: application window closes;
- 15 August 2022: council ‘preferred bidder’ decision communicated to DfE;
- September 2022: DfE confirmation of the appointment of a sponsor;
- September 2022: planning starts;
- 2023: building work starts
- September 2024: school part-opens.

Assessing proposals

8 WNC and the Department for Education (DfE) will use the model criteria from the [free school presumption guidance](#) when assessing proposals in line with the published school specification.

Scoring

Each section of the application form will be assessed and scored against the following criteria:

- 0 = the evidence and argument contained in the application is ‘inadequate’;
- 1 = the evidence and argument contained in the application is ‘adequate’;
- 2 = the evidence and argument contained in the application is ‘good’;
- 3 = the evidence and argument contained in the application is ‘excellent’.

9 An assessment panel, observed by the DfE, chaired by an independent subject matter expert, supported by senior managers from WNC’s education service, a local special school head teacher and a representative of parents will assess all proposals received. This process will include face to face interviews with short-listed applicants.

Panel Member Name	Role
SME (Subject Matter Expertise)	Panel chair
Chris Kiernan	Interim director of children services
Shazia Umer	Head of place planning and admissions
Anthony Giles	Head of SEN assessment
Katie Morlidge	Head of school effectiveness
TBA	Special school
TBA	Parent representative
TBA	DfE regional office

10 After this process has been completed, the local authority will put forward a recommendation to the Department for Education that provides evidence that the new special free school will raise the overall standard of special educational provision, reduce social disadvantage and add high quality specialist school places to West Northamptonshire’s specialist educational estate.

11 The regional director for the East Midlands, on behalf of the secretary of state for education, will consider the local authority and his department’s recommendations before confirming the proposer that will run the new school. The regional director will inform the local authority and the successful proposer of its decision, and the local authority will inform any unsuccessful proposers.

12 To discuss your application before submission, please contact chris.kiernan@westnorthants.gov.uk

The application process

13 Applicants must ensure that they are on the DfE’s approved sponsor list. Any applicants submitting bids that are not on the approved list must contact the DfE before submitting a bid to West Northamptonshire council. Information about sponsorship is [here](#).

14 Applications must be received by **11pm on Friday 29 July 2022** and must use the free school presumption application form ([xx link to the form needed here](#)) to be considered for evaluation.

15 Please submit your application form as a PDF and return it to alice.o’rourke@westnorthants.gov.uk **marked for the attention of Chris Kiernan.**

Section B: the school

Site location, type of school, pupil capacity and planned opening date

16 The school will be a co-educational special free school catering for pupils, aged between 4 and 18, with ASC, SCLN and for a small number of pupils who have SLD. Pupils will follow several educational pathways, including entry level 1 to level 2 functional skills qualifications and / or GCSEs, and vocational qualifications. The plan is for the school to open to its first intake, initially across years reception to 11, of up to 125 pupils in September 2024. Post-16 provision will be offered in subsequent years.

17 The council has identified land on St. John's Road, Tiffield (near Towcester - see [here](#) – the map - and [here](#) – the satellite image). The land is owned by Tiffield St. John's charitable trust: the trustee has agreed to lease this land to the successful proposer. The proposed buildings will be subject to planning approval. Public consultation will be carried out in line with statutory planning consultation and judicial review periods for land and property developments.

18 The site is located just over eight miles to the south-west of Northampton, just off the A43 – the main road from Northampton to Towcester. Silverstone and Brackley are both nearby with good transport links serving the area.

19 There is an existing special school on the same site - Gateway School and Technology College (see [here](#)). This is a mixed secondary special school that caters for 63 pupils aged 11-16 years with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, all pupils have an education, health and care plan (EHCP). It is maintained by the local authority and had its outstanding judgement confirmed after a short inspection in May 2019. The school is in the process of joining a multi academy trust (the Creating Tomorrow MAT).

Education phases and admission arrangements

20 The school will provide education for pupils from reception through to year 13. There will be between 15 and 20 pupils per cohort, with sixth-form provision for up to 30 pupils (xx check).

21 Admissions to the school will be restricted to children between 4 and 18 years old who have an EHCP. The local authority will consider parents' requests for their child to be placed on roll at the school, and will then consult the governing body, principal or proprietor of the school. LA officers will consider the trust's comments very carefully before deciding whether to name it in the pupil's EHC plan, consistent with the requirements of the SEN code of practice (see [here](#), pp 172-4).

Transport arrangements

22 The Education Act, 1996 contains the law on school transport. The government has also issued statutory guidance called [Home-to-school travel and transport 2014](#). Local authorities must have regard to this when carrying out their duties on home to school travel and transport and sustainable travel.

23 The government has issued non-statutory guidance on [home to school travel for pupils requiring special arrangements 2004](#), which details best practice in providing transport for children with SEN. This sets out some key principles. Moreover, the SEN and disability code of practice, 2015 sets out the considerations for a child with an EHCP.

24 Given the proposed location of the school, it is likely that many of the pupils will be provided with bus transport to school, with a minority of parents using personal transport. A small number of pupils are likely to arrive by taxi. Appropriate arrangements for the arrival and departure of buses and cars at the beginning and end of the school day will form part of the planning process.

Community use and possible shared facilities

25 The new buildings will contain facilities, including a sports hall and various other facilities for which there will be a demand for community use. The trust operating the school will be expected to provide the facilities for local communities at the agreed local rates.

26 The trust will also be expected to share the use of its activities with other settings, where use can be accommodated after considering the academy's own curriculum needs.

The character and ethos of the school

27 The new school's proprietor should take account of West Northamptonshire council's draft SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) strategy. This is a co-produced strategy, involving all statutory partners, parents of children with SEND and children with SEND. The six key priorities are based on our self-assessment, summarised as:

- priority one: working closely in partnership with parents and their children – in too many cases, parents feel and have felt a lack of engagement with service providers;
- priority two: improving integrated working between the key agencies – schools, the education service, social care, the NPCF and the information and advice service;
- priority three: the recognition of additional needs at the earliest possible stage, and swift intervention to meet identified needs – in too many cases, this has not been achieved, leading to progress and attainment at lower levels than could have been the case for some children;
- priority four: ensuring local provision is responsive to needs and improves outcomes, especially but not solely strengthening inclusion in mainstream settings and schools: this is a key and significant challenge, especially in the secondary phase of education, with too many parents of children with SEN unable to access a mainstream place, and increasing demand for specialist places;
- priority five: ensuring sufficiency of good quality specialist state school places: this is a key and central priority as the self-assessment shows that this is an area of significant challenge; and
- priority six: the fair and efficient allocation of resources – the present funding system is unfair and, in some cases, results in insufficient resources. At the same time, the high needs block (HNB) has a structural overspend, which must be eradicated within the planning period.

28 Proposers should also reference the council's vision, which, as a new unitary council, is a great place to live, work, visit and thrive, a place where:

- there is opportunity for all – where children are given the best start in life and vulnerable children are supported and protected: a place where all children grow up qualified and inspired to succeed;
- people are proud to live, with strong sustainable communities, decent homes, a fulfilling job, and stress-free travel through well connected places;
- people are supported to live independent, self-sufficient lives and where everyone has the best life chances;
- services are joined up and if you need a helping hand you will get it;
- there is a thriving and prosperous economy that draws in investment, visitors, and talent;
- we have modern towns but where rural character is cherished; and
- we are at the forefront of action on climate change with clean air, sustainable growth and a flourishing natural environment.

29 The full vision and strategy is [here](#).

Section C: vision

30 This is your opportunity to tell us in your own words about the overarching vision for your school – which should be consistent with the other sections of your application – and how it informs your education plan. You will need to demonstrate in later sections that the vision is both deliverable and affordable within the available funding. Applications should evidence all the relevant criteria in [Annex C](#) of the free school presumption guidance.

31 Please also ensure you include the following:

- clear evidence of how your school will align with West Northamptonshire’s SEND draft strategy – in particular, you should show how your trust would improve the lives of local children with ASD, SCLN and SLD, focusing on opportunities that allow pupils to achieve their full potential, build strong independence skills, live healthy and fulfilling lives, feel supported, and valued, and where their contributions to their local communities are welcomed;
- a strong educational vision and how this informs your education plan, based on high standards of attainment for pupils on roll following different educational pathways at each key stage with reference to learning pathways that offer vocational as well as academic study;
- a pupil-centred development strategy that underpins the educational vision and nurtures the abilities of all the school’s pupils to promote identity, emotional understanding and overall well-being, ensuring that all pupils at the special school are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged within a positive school climate;
- the support you will provide to meet of all pupils’ needs, including looked after and previously looked after children, child carers, children living in poverty, at risk of exclusion, with attendance or issues and Gypsy, Roma and Travellers, asylum seekers, refugees, and new migrants;
- your commitment to excellent outcomes and high quality of teaching and learning that enables all pupils to be successful, self-aware, proud, happy, independent, and able to pursue a variety of careers.

32 If you have more than one school in your Trust, explain the overarching vision for your chain of schools and your planned expansion strategy (how many schools you have in total, phase and timescales).

33 In addition, applicants are encouraged to provide the following detail:

- a brief explanation of autism specialism, particular ethos, distinctive pedagogy, or educational philosophy, including specific differing approaches to managing a coeducational offer;
- how your school will bring innovation to the local wider system and collaborate effectively with existing mainstream and special schools within West Northamptonshire; and
- how you will manage and develop your workforce to create local expertise and a sustainable work-life balance for all staff.

34 If the proposed school is in a different area from your existing academy or academies, please explain how you will ensure that the new school will be well supported, and specifically:

- how your proposed school would achieve the expectation set out in paragraph 1.37 of the [Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, 2015](#) and meet pupils’ identified needs;
- your plans for appropriate engagement with the local community, local schools, parents, and autism-specific voluntary and charitable organisations during the pre-opening period; and
- how you plan to engage with those commissioning places at your proposed school, local partners and providers across Education, Health and Care, local parent carer forums and children.

Section D: education plan

35 Your education plan must explain how your school will achieve its education vision, set out in the previous section. There are four elements:

- 1 the curriculum;
- 2 measuring pupil performance;
- 3 the staffing structure; and
- 4 ensuring inclusivity

36 Applications should evidence all the relevant criteria in [Annex C](#) of the free school presumption guidance. Please ensure you include the following:

- an ambitious, broad and balanced, deliverable curriculum plan, which is consistent with the vision and pupil intake, including a curriculum table and how you would manage to open the school with pupils in differing statutory school age year groups;
- strategies for measuring pupil performance effectively and setting challenging targets, demonstrating a clear understanding of the expected pupil intake and their needs;
- a staffing structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected income levels; with a focus on outstanding teaching (including strategies for effective performance management) and developing pupils' independence from the outset, including a staff build up chart;
- the way in which your trust will ensure that the needs of all pupils are fully provided for and how the school will be fully inclusive, with details of how you plan to support pupils with co-occurring conditions, including mental health and neurodevelopmental conditions, such as mild to moderate learning difficulties and / or specific learning difficulties;
- details of enrichment and extended services, for example, breakfast clubs, sports clubs, homework clubs, after school clubs and music and art clubs and opportunities for community engagement;
- the school's approach to: PHSE; the Prevent duty; safeguarding and welfare; and promoting fundamental British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs); and
- relationships and sex education (RSE) that enables all pupils to develop the skills to make safe and sensible life choices, and to form positive beliefs, values and attitudes to the choices made by others and including how the school will develop a positive culture on sexuality and relationships.

37 In addition, applicants should provide the following detail:

- a list of subjects and qualifications you trust will offer;
- the number of hours spent per week on the subject (you do not need to provide sample timetables);
- the curriculum that your trust is proposing to teach, explaining how it meets the needs of the expected intake of pupils and their special educational needs;
- the length of the school day, including any enrichment time, making a distinction between compulsory and voluntary activities;
- how you will use resources from an existing school or other organisations to help deliver the curriculum/a subject or improve teaching capability;
- how you intend to develop literacy, numeracy, and science skills;
- an understanding of the expected pupil intake and their needs, e.g. levels of pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) and free school meals (FSM);

- details of a strategy to assess and meet the needs of all pupils including: looked after children, children requiring reading recovery and / or intervention (including pupils with EAL); with differing degrees of special educational needs and/ or disability and pupils who attract the pupil premium;
- describe how you will establish a baseline of pupils' current level of attainment (including external validation of this);
- describe how you will assess and monitor pupil performance and progress, ensuring this relates to the outcomes in an individual's EHC plan (please include preparation for adulthood outcomes for pupils in year 9 and beyond);
- the strategies you will put in place to support pupils to be successful when they enter and leave your school to transition to their next phase of education or future employment – this needs to include your approach to careers education, information, and advice so that pupils become happy, healthy, empowered, and included adults, who participate in, and contribute towards society;
- set out what success looks like for pupil performance, behaviour, and attendance – this needs to reflect high aspirations for emotional well-being and personal development and achievement, as well as academic achievement;
- explain how you will use success measures to improve the school's performance, including non-academic targets for students' skills and outcomes in independence, employability, healthy living, and participation in society; and
- describe your approach to developing pupils' social learning and understanding, promoting independence as well as mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

38 Prospective sponsors will also be assessed on how they plan to:

- use assessment data to inform teaching and increase progression and attainment for all pupils with EHCPs;
- measure the quality of teaching in the classroom;
- involve parents and report progress to them against EHCP outcomes; and
- involve pupils and their families in decisions about their support, ambitions, and progress.

Section E: capacity and capability

39 Your trust will need to demonstrate that it has the capacity and capability to set up and run the proposed school and that it has access to appropriate educational, financial, and other expertise, either within your group or externally. Please evidence all the relevant criteria in [Annex C](#) of the free school presumption guidance.

40 As a minimum please ensure you include the following:

- who will be in charge during pre-opening and provide a copy of their CV;
- the resources your trust can draw upon and deploy to support the development of the new free school by the opening date;
- clear evidence that you have the range of skills and abilities necessary to set up and then run a school effectively, including managing school finances; leadership, project management, marketing, human resources, safeguarding and health and safety;
- how the school would be organised and what the governance arrangements would look like, including a diagram of the proposed structures;
- details of your trust's expansion strategy including any other significant changes planned;
- a demonstration of commitment to West Northamptonshire's SEND partnership strategy and the way in which you would take account of it in the trust's development of the school; and
- how your trust would help set high aspirations and evidence achievement of ambitious outcomes for its pupils.

Section F: funding and costs

41 The proposal to create an all-through phase special school in West Northamptonshire has been discussed with the council's cabinet members for children's and finance and the executive director of finance. They have agreed capital funding subject to the final business case being accepted by the capital approvals board (CAB), followed by formal agreement by the cabinet and full council. The site will be provided by the Tiffield St. John's charitable trust on a standard 125-year lease arrangement.

42 In terms of revenue funding, places will be funded in line with proposed high needs funding arrangements. This means that each pupil will attract base funding of £10,000 from the Education and Skills Funding Agency plus a top-up figure based on the needs of the pupils through West Northamptonshire council's banding system. The proposed relevant top-up funding levels are as follows:

Key Stage	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8	Band 9	Band 10
Primary	£5,007	£7,854	£11,192	£14,923	18,359
Secondary	£7,364	£10,210	£13,548	£17,181	£20,715
Post-16	£8,370	£11,216	£14,554	£18,187	£21,721

43 Additional revenue funding to support start-up costs will be agreed once the successful sponsor has been confirmed. With regard to the top-up, in the business case presented to WN council's capital approvals board, the average of bands 8, 9 and 10 across all the age ranges has been used - £26,709.

Section G: impact and equalities assessments

As prescribed by [Section 9 Academies Act 2010](#) and [Section 149 Equality Act 2010](#), the local authority must assess the potential impact of any new school on existing educational provision in the area. The local authority must also consider whether the new school would impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

Whilst the school will be responsible for its own compliance with equalities legislation and the formation and lawful implementation of policy in this area, it is not considered that the establishment of this new school will impact particularly on people with protected characteristics.

Some of the children who will attend the school will fall within the definition of disabled as set out in the Equality Act, 2010. The impact on the autistic pupils and pupils with severe learning difficulties who require a special school placement will be a positive one. The opening of the new special school will enable eligible pupils to have their educational needs met closer to home, without the need to travel often long distances out of area as is currently the case.

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

14th June 2022

Cabinet Member Responsible for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth: Councillor Daniel Lister

Report Title	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Multiply Funding
Report Author	<p>Julia Raven Head of Economy, Culture & Tourism Julia.Raven@WestNorthants.gov.uk</p> <p>Louis Devayya Senior Economic Growth Officer Louis.Devayya@WestNorthants.gov.uk</p>

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Catherine Whitehead	8 th June 2022
Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer)	Martin Henry	8 th June 2022
Other Director/SME	Jane Carr – Director of Communities & Opportunities	31 st May 2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	8 th June 2022

List of Appendices

None.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet Members of West Northamptonshire Council's allocation of £5.4m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the approach required to secure this funding; and
- 1.2. To inform Cabinet Members of the opportunity to draw down £1.9m of Multiply funding to support Adult Numeracy in West Northamptonshire and the required methodology to secure the fund.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025 and replaces ESIF funding.
- 2.2 Places will be empowered to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances. Local places will be able to use the Fund to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision to maximise impact and simplify delivery.
- 2.3 The deadline for all lead authorities to submit their UKSPF Investment Plan to Government to secure the funding allocation is 01/08/2022.
- 2.4 Multiply is part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which replaces the European Social Fund and is one of the first programme areas under the UKSPF People and Skills Pillar. Multiply requires WNC to develop a separate Investment Plan for bespoke adult numeracy programmes, against a national menu of interventions.
- 2.5 UK Government expect local areas to measurably improve adult functional numeracy levels locally. That includes through increasing the number of adults participating in, and achieving, adult numeracy qualifications up to and including Level 2 (both GCSE Grade C/4 or above, and Functional Skills Qualifications).
- 2.6 The deadline for all lead authorities to submit their Investment Plan to Government to secure the funding allocation is 30/06/2022.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - a) Note UK Government has 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) Endorse the approach to develop both Investment Plans by sourcing evidence and liaising with internal and external stakeholders

- c) Note that under existing delegated powers, officers will submit a WNC Multiply Investment Plan by 30th June 2022 to the DfE and update Cabinet in July
- d) A further report be submitted to Cabinet in July to address the submission of the UKSPF Investment Plan by the deadline of August 2022

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 Reasons for recommendations:

- a) To ensure West Northamptonshire benefits from this grant funding to enhance the community, boost the economy and support local residents and businesses.
- b) To maintain ongoing economic growth within the area, particular with the impending loss of EU funding and the need to utilise UKSPF to deliver positive economic development within the community.
- c) To enable the Council to submit the Multiply Investment Plan by 30th June 2022.
- d) To secure the maximum level of investment to enhance local skill levels, benefiting the community and economy.

5. Report Background

5.1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund

5.2 The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. This aligns with Levelling Up White Paper missions, particularly: 'By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.'

5.3 Alongside economic pull and push factors, people's lives are shaped by the social and physical fabric of their communities. The local mix of social and physical capital gives local areas their unique character and shapes where people choose to live, work and invest. Recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the pandemic, this Fund will improve the places people live in, and support individuals and businesses. It will drive noticeable improvements that matter to local communities, foster local pride in place and increase life chances including health outcomes.

5.4 Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills. There are detailed objectives associated with each of these priorities which are aligned to the relevant Levelling Up White Paper mission.

5.5 The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest

- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency
- 5.6 The UKSPF forms part of a suite of complementary levelling up funding. It builds on the competitive Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund through long term, stable funding, allocated to all places. Its mix of revenue and capital funding can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build pride in place and improve life chances. These can complement Levelling Up Fund capital projects, strategic Freeport investments or community-level Community Ownership Fund projects, as well as existing employment and skills provision.
- 5.7 Every place in the UK has been allocated a share of the UKSPF, with even the smallest places receiving at least £1 million. This recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support. It will help people access opportunity in places in need, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and support people who are economically inactive or have skills needs that cannot be met through mainstream provision.
- 5.8 As set out at Spending Review 2021, the Fund is worth £2.6 billion over the period to 2024-25. The Fund will ramp up to £1.5 billion in 2024-25, including Multiply.
- 5.9 Funding is confirmed for three financial years – £400 million for 2022-23, £700 million for 2023-24 and £1.5 billion for 2024-25, providing predictable baseline local growth funding.
- 5.10 Each place's allocation will comprise both revenue and capital funding. Lead local authorities should set out their preferred mix of funding in their investment plan. Note - each place must identify a minimum percentage of capital funding, each year in line with the overall split of revenue and capital at UKSPF level set out in the above tables.
- 5.11 Match funding will not be required to unlock an area's allocation. This provides flexibility, reduces bureaucracy and empowers lead local authorities to tailor their approach to local circumstances.
- 5.12 To access the funding allocation, each place will be asked to set out measurable outcomes that reflect local needs and opportunities. These should inform the interventions they wish to deliver. Places will be able to choose from investment across three investment priorities of communities and place, local business and people and skills.
- 5.13 Within the context of the Fund's aims, each place will have flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. It should build on existing national provision to create the optimal mix of support for each place.
- 5.14 Working to a UK-wide framework published by the UK government, local partners will influence the Fund through development and delivery of an investment plan for each place. This represents a fundamental shift in responsibility compared with the European structural funds that the Fund succeeds.

- 5.15 In the plans, places will select outputs and outcomes relevant to each UKSPF investment priority. This will allow lead local authorities, local partners, the UK government, and the devolved administrations to monitor progress.
- 5.16 Government have provided forty-one example interventions which align with the three themes of the UKSPF for lead authorities to consider when developing the required Investment Plan. Interventions which deviate from this list (see Appendix A) require evidential justification as to what the need is.
- 5.17 Lead local authorities can determine, with partners, the most appropriate scale for each intervention – for example, regional, local or through collaboration with other places or bodies to deliver specific interventions. This can include working with places in different parts of the UK. This should consider value for money, effectiveness and current arrangements.
- 5.18 Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund. They may wish to use a mix of competitions for grant funding (which is the default approach set out in Cabinet Office Grants Standards), procurement, commissioning or deliver some activity through in-house teams. For example, some community level interventions may require a commissioning or in-house approach, recognising that competitions for grant may create barriers to participation in left behind communities.
- 5.19 Working with other places is strongly encouraged in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. This could take the form of national or regional interventions, or projects that deliver across places either side of national boundaries in the UK with strong economic and social ties.
- 5.20 In particular, Government strongly encourage lead local authorities to work with other authorities (district, county or unitary councils where relevant) to agree and commission people and skills activity, or business support activity over a larger scale representative of the full local labour market or business base. Lead local authorities will be asked to set out their approach in their investment plan.
- 5.21 Each district or unitary council is expected to produce and deliver a standalone investment plan for its place. As noted above, working with other places is strongly encouraged in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. This can include working across wider county or other geographies. Any such plans should be identified in the place's local investment plan.
- 5.22 Lead local authorities are tasked with working with a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders, civil society organisations, employer bodies responsible for identifying local skills plans, and businesses or business representative groups to achieve Fund outcomes in their areas.
- 5.23 Members of the UK Parliament play an important role in representing the views of their constituents, working collaboratively with local authorities and other local partners to work for the good of local places. They should be closely engaged in the design and delivery of the Fund. In most cases, all MPs in the area should be invited to join the local partnership group.

- 5.24 Government will pay each lead local authority annually in advance. In 2022-23, funding will be paid once the local investment plan has been signed off. In 2023-24 and 2024-25, payment will be made at the start of the financial year. Lead local authorities will receive a grant determination letter and Memorandum of Understanding setting out Fund requirements and obligations. Lead local authorities will be asked to return any underspends at the end of each financial year.
- 5.25 Government expect Fund investment and outputs to be achieved in line with each place's investment plan, on time and in-year. Government reserve the right to withhold or delay payment and alter payment cycles from 2023-24 onwards where there are performance or other issues with delivery.
- 5.26 Lead local authorities will be asked to report data to ensure that allocations are being spent to agreed timescales and milestones, including achievement of outputs and outcomes at the project level. Local authorities will also need to report individual project outputs and outcomes at UK Parliament constituency level.
- 5.27 The milestones, expectations and timescales will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding with each lead local authority. There will be a formal reporting request every six months, with qualitative updates on a more frequent basis also required.
- 5.28 Prior to each annual payment, lead local authorities will also be asked to complete a report. Depending on timings of the first payment, for the second annual payment, lead local authorities may be asked to submit a report earlier than six months after the first report is submitted.
- 5.29 In terms of monitoring and evaluation, Government are developing a national approach to evaluation, including a scoping study in partnership with the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth. The evaluation methodology cannot be fully specified until they have received investment plans and understand the range of activities to be funded. This may include pooling or synthesising data from several different areas.

5.30 **Multiply Funding**

5.31 The overall objective of Multiply is to increase the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population across the UK. DfE have identified the following success measures for the whole programme at a national level:

- More adults achieving maths qualifications courses (up to, and including, Level 2 – with GCSEs and FSQs as the qualifications of choice in England – or equivalent) and an increase in participation in numeracy courses. We expect local areas to evidence improvements in functional numeracy, rather than solely participation in Multiply interventions.
- Improved labour market outcomes e.g. fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
- Increased adult numeracy across the population – this overall impact, which goes beyond achieving certificates or qualifications, will track both the perceived and actual difference taking part in the programme makes in supporting learners to improve their unders

and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work - and to feel more confident when doing so.

- 5.32 DfE will evaluate Multiply nationally against these and other success measures and local areas will be asked to collect data in order to inform this evaluation. In their investment plans, local areas may wish to identify local measures of success against their stated ambitions for the programme in order to understand the impact and benefits at a local level.
- 5.33 Target learners are adults 19+ who have not previously attained a GCSE Grade 4/C or higher maths qualification. They can either be working towards a maths GCSE or Functional Skills Qualification, need specific numeracy skills for their work or progression, or just want to brush up on the skills to help them get on in life and work.
- 5.34 DfE want local authorities to have the flexibility to determine what provision is needed to deliver high quality, innovative numeracy interventions that meet the needs of local people and the national aims for Multiply. Some of these interventions will lead to attainment of a qualification, but non-qualification provision should also be developed where more appropriate.
- 5.35 To support local areas to identify the right provision, DfE have designed a menu of ten interventions which they can draw down from – choosing a mix of interventions that best suits each area. These interventions should be for adults aged 19 and over.
- 5.36 This menu is based on the growing evidence base on the barriers that hold people back from addressing their numeracy skills and what works in tackling poor adult numeracy, as well as engagement with local areas, providers and other numeracy organisations.
- 5.37 Please note that interventions delivered with Multiply funding need to be additional and differentiated from that which is already fully funded through the Adult Education Budget (AEB) legal entitlement and should not displace that provision.
- 5.38 The provided interventions provided by DfE to address using the Multiply Fund are as follows:
- Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications
 - Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money
 - Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace,
 - Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in numeracy order to access a certain job/career
 - New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification.
 - Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression
 - Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence
 - Numeracy courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system

- Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need.
- Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.

5.39 In order to qualify for Government funding, investment plans must address and meet the criteria below. Plans will be reviewed against these criteria over the summer, with the Department for Education and local areas agreeing success measures to be met before memorandums of understanding are issued.

- **Deliverability** - Reaching those most in need of improved numeracy skills may be challenging and will require strong coordination in local areas
- **Evidence of Need and Demand** – Clear understanding of current provision and the areas that need to be addressed through Multiply Funding
- **Interventions** – The interventions that the lead authority will address with the funding and explanation how these will not displace or duplicate the maths entitlement funded through the Adult Education Budget
- **Strategic Fit** - Investment plans should demonstrate how interventions fit with the Government’s wider ambitions set out in the Levelling Up White Paper and Skills For Jobs White Paper
- **Engaging and Motivating Learners** - Local areas should set out how they intend to engage and motivate learners to achieve their proposed interventions

5.40 DfE expect areas to submit plans for the full three-year funding allocation. However, more tentative plans for years 2 and 3 will be accepted, to enable local areas to build on the growing evidence base from year 1 of the programme on what works to improve adult numeracy. DfE will revisit investment plans, and allocations before each year of Multiply in order to approve any amendments.

5.41 Once investment plans are assessed and approved, provisional allocations will be signed off, grant agreements will be put in place and first payments made in September 2022.

6. Issues and Choices

6.1 To note the requirement to develop and submit an Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to develop pride in place and deliver specific interventions within West Northamptonshire, identified based on detailed analysis and engagement with stakeholders within the community.

6.2 To not develop and submit an Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund would result in a loss of major potential investment into the area, which would be used to support the community and place, business support and people and skills.

6.3 To approve the development and submission of an Investment Plan for Multiply Funding to the Department for Education to increase skill levels, employability and support residents and the community. Also, to note that given the strict deadlines, the Investment Plan would need to be developed and submitted by officers by 30 June 2022.

6.4 To not develop and submit an Investment Plan for Multiply Funding by the deadline would result in a loss of major potential investment into local skill levels, addressing existing and potential anti-poverty, impacting the local quality of life, local employment and future of West Northamptonshire residents.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 There are no resource or financial implications arising from this proposal.

7.1.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply Fund are 100% grant funding, meaning there is no financial risk to West Northamptonshire Council.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this proposal.

7.3 Risk

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

7.3.2 There is a risk to West Northamptonshire Council's reputation and the economic recovery/growth to not submit the Investment Plans to secure this funding.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 In order to successfully assess impact, deliverability and strategic fit when analysing the interventions to address using the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, WNC has procured a consultant to support the development of the Investment Plan. Consultation will include with stakeholders, partners and internal/external services.

7.4.2 In order to successfully assess impact, deliverability and strategic fit when considering the interventions to address using Multiply Funding, WNC has engaged with numerous partners in the early stages of development of the Investment Plan.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 None.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 Where proposals for projects which align with the interventions set out in the UKSPF Investment Plan have a climate impact, the council will ensure the provider will undertake the relevant Environmental Impact Assessments.

7.7 **Community Impact**

7.7.1 This proposal will result in a positive impact on the whole West Northamptonshire community, including the quality of the place, resulting in economic growth and delivery of priorities set out within WNC's vision.

7.8 **Communications**

7.8.1 Communications will be developed to inform and engage stakeholders to raise wider awareness of the opportunities the UKSPF & Multiply funds create for partners, employers and residents once the Investment Plans have been approved by Government.

8. **Background Papers**

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs](#)

[Multiply Investment Prospectus](#)

[Multiply Technical Guidance](#)



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

14th JUNE 2022

**LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR STRATEGY:
COUNCILLOR JONATHAN NUNN**

Report Title	Decision taken by the Leader of the Council under urgency procedures: Disposal of 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne, BN21 2HZ
Report Author	Catherine Whitehead catherine.whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	06/06/2022
West S151	Martin Henry	
Other Directors/Officers	Simon Bowers – Assistant Director Assets and Environment Stuart Timmiss – Executive Director Place, Economy & Environment	

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Record of Decision by the Leader in relation to the disposal of the property known as 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report seeks to notify Cabinet of the decision taken by the Leader of the Council to dispose of the property known as 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2000 Section 9E provides that the Leader of the Council can take any executive decision alone or with his Cabinet. In West Northants the vast majority of Executive decisions, not otherwise delegated, are taken collectively by the Leader and Cabinet together but in cases of urgency the Leader of the Council can take decisions where it is necessary to avoid the delay of a Cabinet meeting.
- 2.2 Because the council is subject to an order of the court to dispose of the property, and there is therefore very little discretion and because there is a need for urgency to allow the sale to proceed the Leader of the Council has made a decision in relation to the disposal of 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet note the decisions taken by the Leader of the Council set out at Appendix A.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 Where decisions that would otherwise be taken by the Leader and Cabinet have been taken by the Leader alone, in the interests of transparency, the decision is reported to the next available meeting of the Cabinet.
- 4.2 The decision taken provided the authority for the Council to exchange and complete on the above property which was subject to a short timescale.
- 4.3 Full reasons for the decision taken are set out in the decision records appended to this report.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 Northampton Borough Council (NBC) advanced £10.25m to Northampton Town Football Club (NTFC) to carry out works to improve the stadium facilities at Sixfields (£9m) and to develop a hotel at Sixfields (£1.25m).
- 5.2 The funds were advanced to NTFC by NBC by way of facility agreement. NTFC unilaterally passed these funds to 1st Land Limited. This latter company was placed in Administration

after failing to pay its Contractor, Buckingham Group Contracting Limited. Despite robust questioning of various parties at that time, NBC was unable to trace all the funds associated with the loan.

- 5.3 NBC was successful in tracing some of the funds through David Cardoza to a property owned by his wife Christine Cardoza. In this case, as it was possible to trace the funds, NBC pursued the Cardoza's through the High Court and at a hearing dated 24th January 2019, the court enabled NBC to register a charge against the property.
- 5.4 On the 29th November 2019 Mr Justice Rouine granted an Order against Christina Loraine Cardoza to secure the sums as set out in 7.1.2. Mrs Cardoza had until 2nd June 2021 to pay the sum as set out in 7.1.2.
- 5.5 On 1st April 2021 responsibility for pursuing the debt and the benefit of the court order passed to West Northants Council under transition provisions.
- 5.6 Mrs Cardoza failed to make payment by the due date and therefore WNC prepared for possession proceedings in relation to the property. Agreement was reached with Mrs Cardoza to allow her to leave the property on 10th August 2021 to avoid the need for possession proceedings. West Northants Council took possession of the property and as required by the court order, marketed the property for sale in order to meet the existing charge to Barclays Bank and the outstanding debt ordered by the court and interest.
- 5.7 The property was marketed with a local estate agent and an offer was received and accepted by the Assistant Director Assets and Environment subject to a Cabinet decision. Waiting for a Cabinet decision once the sale was ready to go through would risk losing the offer and sale and would incur further interest against the existing charge to Barclays Bank. The decision was therefore made on an urgent basis by the Leader of the Council.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The decision taken was necessary in order to sign off the proposed paperwork to enable the sale to progress and the Council to receive funds from this sale, in accordance with the buyers timeframe and to avoid losing the sale.
- 6.2 The sale was subject to a court order and having taken possession the Council had no alternative but to sell the property. The Council were advised by external estate agents as to the value of the property in the Eastbourne area and the offer accepted was over the asking price.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 The Council has sold the above property for £765k.
- 7.1.2 As set out in the Order the Council were entitled to secure the sum of £365,975.97 plus costs and interest at £80.21 per day until completion of the sale.
- 7.1.3 There was also an existing charge on the property to Barclays Bank and this was settled for £300,244.82
- 7.1.4 The Council has therefore received £464,755.18 which will be returned to Council reserves to offset the outstanding debt.

7.2 **Legal**

The property was subject to a court order for sale to enable the Council and Barclays Bank to recover their debts. WNC will continue to take steps to recover the debt provided that it is economically sensible to do so. Other outstanding lines of enquiry relate to the proceeds of crimes within ongoing criminal proceedings and recovery through bankruptcy proceedings.

7.3 **Risk**

There are no risks in this decision, there would be a risk in delaying the decision which could have resulted in a lower receipt as the interest on the existing Barclays charge was continuing to accrue interest and that took priority over the Council's claim.

8. Background Papers

None

Appendix 1:

RECORD OF DECISION FORM

Name, job title, Directorate and Service of Decision Maker:	Leader of the Council
Subject matter:	Disposal of 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2HZ
Decision Taken:	<p>To delegate to the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment to complete the disposal of the property known as 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2HZ for £765k</p> <p>To delegate to the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment authorise exchange and completion notwithstanding insufficient sale proceeds following the discharge of all charges and liabilities on the property under the Court Order.</p> <p>To delegate to the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment to pursue payment of any shortfall remaining from the proceeds of the sale as per the Order.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	<p>In the High Court of Justice Chancery Division, Birmingham District Registry on the 29th November 2019 an order was made between Northampton Borough Council (Claimant) and Christina Loraine Cardoza (Defendant) to place an equitable charge upon the Defendant's interest in the property at 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2HZ to secure the sum of £365,975.97 plus costs and interest at £80.21/day until completion of the sale pursuant to a charging order made on 24th January 2019 in the Business and Property Courts in Birmingham (Case No. C30BM120). As per the Constitution the decision would have been made by the Cabinet but due to the timescales of the property transaction the Council expects to complete on this transaction by the end of April</p>

	2022. A report to advise Cabinet of this decision will be presented at a future date.
Date Decision Taken:	20/04/2022
Type of Decision:	Key Decision: Yes eligible for call-in: No
Documents, reports, etc considered as part of making the Decision:	See: Decision - Disposal of 22 Le Brun Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2HZ - West Northamptonshire Council (moderngov.co.uk)
Name of the Executive Member consulted (if applicable):	N/A
Any conflict of interest that has been declared by the Executive Member:	None
Does the decision maker have a registerable interest:	No
In relation to any such interest, has any dispensation been granted:	N/A
Wards affected:	None specific
Consultation undertaken (where applicable):	N/A
Any Legal, Financial, or Equality Implications considered:	Set out above.
If not the Decision Maker, the name and contact details of the officer to contact for background papers:	Judy Goodman judy.goodman@westnorthants.gov.uk



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

14 June 2022

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION AND GROWTH: COUNCILLOR DANIEL LISTER**

Report Title	Sponne Arcade Short Stay Car Park Redevelopment, Towcester.
Report Author	Kevin Langley Head of Major Projects and Regeneration Kevin.Langley@westnorthants.gov.uk Mike Carter Strategic Projects and Programme Officer Michael.Carter@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
West MO	Catherine Whitehead	Emailed 30 th May 2022
West S151	Martin Henry	30 th May 2022
Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	Stuart Timmiss	30 th May 2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Craig Forsyth	23/05/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Sponne Arcade Car Park Title Plan

Appendix B – Sponne Arcade Car Park General Arrangements

Appendix C – Confidential Financial Appendix (Not for publication under Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to obtain necessary consents to progress with the implementation of the Sponne Arcade car park redevelopment and improvements as defined in this report.
- 1.2. To provide an update on the progress and programme.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the Sponne Arcade Redevelopment Project. The site of the car park and retail premises was acquired in July 2020 by South Northamptonshire Council (SNC). The report covers the background to the project, decision-making that happened at SNC, and the current project status. The details and locations of the site are also included to provide further guidance on the scale and benefits of the project to the local community.
- 2.2 The initial intention for the site was to undertake a project to demolish the former Co-op retail premises in order to make way for an additional temporary car park area. It was later determined that this should be a permanent short stay car park to benefit the local community with increased permanent parking capacity. A planning application was granted on 4 November 2020 for the revised proposals.
- 2.3 The stages of the capital project to date are explained below, including the principal contractor's appointment for preconstruction works, updates on the detailed design process, and the planning requirements. The construction works are anticipated to take six months once the contract with the principal contractor is finalised.
- 2.4 The project now requires West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Cabinet approval to allow the contractor to be appointed and the project to proceed.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to:
 - a) Note the work to date in securing the land, gaining necessary planning approval and bringing the project to the on-site delivery stage.
 - b) Authorise 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 has 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) Note the saving to the revenue budget of approximately £29,500. This saving is 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.

4. Reason for Recommendations:

The recommendations establish financial and requisite authorities so that the Sponne Arcade short stay car park redevelopment can proceed.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The site comprises a vacant store formerly occupied by Co-op and then Poundstretcher, together with about 70 associated car park spaces in the centre of Towcester, west of Watling Street and north of Richmond Road. Vehicle access to the site is available from Richmond Road and pedestrian access is gained via Sponne Arcade from Watling Street and from Richmond Road. Following the closure of Poundstretcher, the property has been vacant since March 2018.
- 5.2 A location plan is attached (appendix A) marking the extent of the site in red which measures 1.22 acres, with the site forming a flat area of a broadly rectangular shape.
- 5.3 The vacant premises comprise of a two-storey building of traditional cavity wall brick construction under a tiled pitched roof, constructed in the mid-1980s. According to the Valuation Office Agency website, the building has an estimated gross internal area of 15,352 square feet.
- 5.4 The car park is surfaced in a mix of tarmac finish and brick pavements with designated marked car parking spaces. The car park is served with timed evening floodlighting for user safety.
- 5.5 The former retail premises and car park was marketed for a long period by the private owners and in October 2019 SNC approved the acquisition of the site for £775,000 to enable the council to increase the vibrancy and accessibility of Towcester town centre. As indicated earlier in this report the purchase of the site by SNC was completed in July 2020.
- 5.6 The property is subject to a number of covenants and restrictions which provide limitations on its use and grant rights to third parties for parking and continued access. Notwithstanding the restrictions currently in place on the purchased land, owning it allows the council to have control of a town centre site that can be used to enhance car parking facilities in Towcester and provide a part of the town with necessary improvements.
- 5.7 Now vacant for several years the former Co-op retail has proved to be vulnerable, prone to break-ins, vandalism and other forms of anti-social behaviour, of which the police and community safety teams are aware.
- 5.8 Given the restrictions on the site the former SNC Project Board, which was overseeing this project at the time, decided that the car park should be made permanent rather than just a temporary facility to ensure that the needs of residents and visitors to the town continued to be adequately met.

- 5.9 A construction delivery partner was selected using the Scape Construction Framework and feasibility works contractor initially considered the delivery of a temporary car park, alongside demolishing the former Co-op building and the (at the time disused) public toilets.
- 5.10 After further consultation, SNC made a decision to submit a planning application for a permanent short stay car park, which changes the structural environment and operational requirements placed upon the given area and consequently, increased the associated costs.
- 5.11 A planning application established planning for a permanent car parking facility on the site was granted on 4 November 2020.
- 5.12 The deliverable outcomes of the project are:
- Increased number of available car parking bays from 70 to 150
 - Remodelling of existing car parking bays so they conform to current car parking standards
 - Improved lighting for additional safety
 - Safer pedestrian access and walkways
 - Increased allocation for disabled and family parking
 - Bicycle racks
 - Improved circulation routes around the car park
 - Improved visibility in the car park
 - Improved landscaping scheme
 - Seating areas
 - Improved CCTV coverage
 - Car charging points (installed 2021)
- 5.13 A series of smaller projects have already been undertaken to uplift the area. These small works included remedial landscaping, the refurbishment of the disused public toilet block to full working order, upgrading the current floodlighting for safety and installation of electric charging points for community use and improved electric car charging infrastructure within the town.
- 5.14 A pre-construction delivery agreement was then signed by SNC to further establish project costs, to progress with surveys and bring the contract to delivery stage. This included surveys, design development and costings.

Current Position

- 5.15 The council has worked with its contractor appointed to undertake the feasibility stage and is now ready to enter a construction contract for the works. The contract will be undertaken using a widely accept construction contract to manage the project (NEC4 short form of contract).
- 5.16 The project costs have now been crystallised for the works for the demolition and installation of a permanent car park in line with the approved planning permission. The council has employed a cost consultant to verify that the contractor's costs are correct and has established a suitable risk register and project contingency, and whilst the construction project costs have increased (due to scope changes, planning compliance and materials costs increases) they are considered to be value for money.

- 5.17 The council has employed a clerk of works to ensure standards are met through the delivery of the project.
- 5.18 Additional ground investigations have been undertaken with the inclusion of bore holes being drilled and samples of the grounds build up examined, from seven locations within the car park.
- 5.19 At the time of writing this report, the results of the ground investigations are yet to be received, however this will aid and support how the works are to be undertaken. This also provides a greater level of certainty as to the project costings and aids de-risking of the fiscal elements.
- 5.20 A communications plan has been developed in advance of the proposed works commencing and will be put into action after consent has been gained.
- 5.21 A project board has been established to provide project governance, meeting on a monthly basis.
- 5.22 The general arrangements for the permitted design of the short stay car park are shown in appendix B.
- 5.23 The public conveniences are now leased to Towcester Town Council which is responsible for their maintenance and operation. The public toilets were improved by way of separate funding and outside of the scope of this project.

Future operation

- 5.24 The management, maintenance and general operations are to be undertaken in the same manner as other car parks within the town, with responsibility of the asset resting within the Assets Team of WNC.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The options are set out below:
 - 6.1.0 To approve the decision of the sovereign council and allow for the construction of the short stay car park scheme as described in this report, and in line with the submitted planning consent.
 - 6.1.1 To leave the area as it currently stands, incur the annual charges and do nothing – this could have a reputational impact on the council through investing in the site and not delivering on its vision to improve the area as referred in the design and access statement of the approved planning application.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

- 7.1 **Resources and Financial**

7.1.1 As the building currently stands, there are annual costs associated with its ownership. These include:

- Ongoing business rates and maintenance costs payable for the former convenience store are currently £43,500 for 2022/23 and the council will remain liable for these until the building has been demolished (this does not include the car park as that is assessed separately)
- The council as owner of this site is also required to pay a service charge to Richmond Road (Towcester) Management Limited, the management company that looks after some common parts within the site, which equates to about £9,000 for the current financial year. This is an ongoing budget pressure and is reviewed annually in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI) and perceived maintenance costs.

7.1.2 Once the works are complete business rates for the new section of car park are forecast to be £4,000 and the maintenance costs for this new area being £10,000.

7.1.3 This will give the council an anticipated annual revenue saving of £29,500 PA.

7.1.4 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is not applicable to the provision of a permanent car park.

7.1.5 Please see the commercially sensitive appendix C for further information on finances.

7.2 Legal

6.2.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report but if the route of the land coloured yellow on Appendix B will be varied as a result of the proposed project works new leases to the management company from the Council and the owners of the adjacent Sponne Shopping Centre may need to be agreed to accommodate this.

7.3 Risk

7.4 A brief summary of the risks is detailed below:

- Financial risks:
 - If the project is not delivered within agreed timelines specified under the planning application, the council risks incurring additional charges for an area that is run down, tired, and in need of investment due to the town centre location
 - Construction cost inflation is a risk to the project with construction inflation running at 30 per cent over the past two years, so the longer the delay on entering the contract the more risk there is
- Reputational risks: If the programme of works is not delivered in a timely way:
 - It weakens the council's position within the community as works to regenerate the area have been undertaken through smaller already completed projects.
 - There would also be a reputational loss with the public, as the scheme has already been heavily promoted.

- Co-operation and communication have also been gained from local retailers who are in much need of an economic boost. The Richmond Road (Towcester) Management Company is also fully supportive of the development.
- Political risks: As a new authority, the council is under increased scrutiny from Government and the public, and if the projects are not delivered efficiently or effectively then this can seriously harm the council's perception to these audiences.

7.5 A project board has been established with a wide range of representatives from the council for governance. A project specific risk register will be developed and regularly monitored by the project board in the lead up to and during construction.

7.6 Consultation

7.6.1 Ward members have been liaised with on project development and had the opportunity to meet on site to discuss the project first-hand with the council's project manager.

7.6.2 Regular contact has been made with Towcester Town Council to provide updates on the project in person and via email.

7.6.3 Regular communications have been had with the Sponne Arcade land agent who acts as the principal point of contact to communicate with the arcade shop tenants.

7.6.4 Consultation has taken place with a residential landowner regarding the works and who uses the service road as the main means of access to their property.

7.7 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.7.1 N/A

7.8 Climate Impact

7.8.1 Ecological assessments have already been conducted to ensure no protected species will be endangered (bats). Following a primary roost appraisal (PRA) was completed in October 2020 which gave rise to a full bats survey being undertaken over a period of six weeks. The survey concluded in June 2021, with no bats returning or emerging from a roost during the surveys.

7.8.2 As part of the regeneration scheme for Sponne Arcade car park, eight electric car charging points have been installed to increase the electric car charging infrastructure within the town. Further charging points could be installed if practical and the budget is sufficient. Furthermore, the scheme allows for up to ten bicycle parking spaces within the scheme.

7.9 Community Impact

7.9.1 The short-stay car park will provide a welcome facility to support the regeneration of the town centre.

- 7.9.2 The short-stay car park will provide an asset that supports economic sustainability of traders in the town.
- 7.9.3 The short-stay car park has also been identified as a suitable replacement location for the expanding farmers market which currently has the use of the council's neighbouring car park, Richmond Road, but that site is not fit for purpose due to the provision of recently installed electric charging points.
- 7.9.4 Antisocial behaviour should improve given the former convenience store will no longer be able to harbour unwanted behaviour, and the design of the car park will reduce accessible places to undertake such activity through the provision of newly installed CCTV cameras.
- 7.9.5 The Communications Team has been engaged to ensure appropriate engagement activity throughout the project with a range of stakeholders.
- 7.9.6 This document has been checked for accessibility.

8. Background Papers

- 7.1 Hyperlink to Planning Application as referenced above
<https://snc.planning-register.co.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=107724>

These are the notes referred to on the following official copy

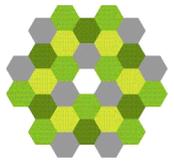
The electronic official copy of the title plan follows this message.

Please note that this is the only official copy we will issue. We will not issue a paper official copy.

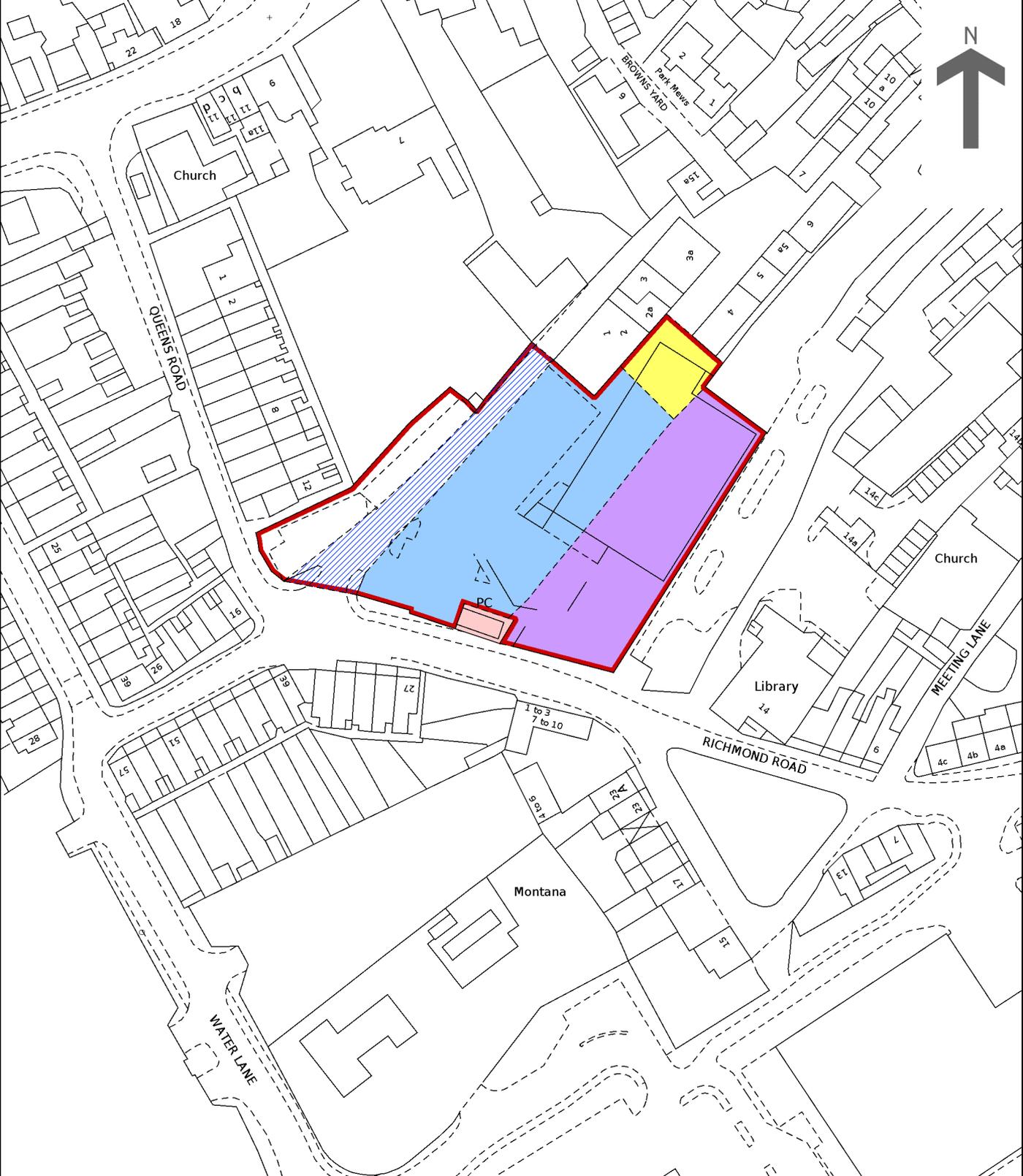
This official copy was delivered electronically and when printed will not be to scale. You can obtain a paper official copy by ordering one from HM Land Registry.

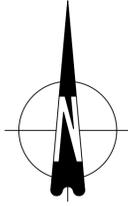
This official copy is issued on 03 January 2020 shows the state of this title plan on 03 January 2020 at 10:10:00. It is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original (s.67 Land Registration Act 2002). This title plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.

This title is dealt with by the HM Land Registry, Leicester Office .



© Crown Copyright. Produced by HM Land Registry. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior written permission of Ordnance Survey. Licence Number 100026316.





Notes

1. IF IN DOUBT - ASK !!! DO NOT SCALE
2. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS DRAWINGS.
3. ALL WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT BRITISH STANDARDS, CODES OF PRACTICE AND BUILDING PRACTICE.
4. ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED PRIOR TO STARTING THE WORKS ON SITE. ANY DISCREPANCIES TO BE REPORTED TO THE ENGINEER IMMEDIATELY.
5. CONTRACTOR TO ASCERTAIN THE LOCATION OF SERVICES ON SITE PRIOR TO STARTING THE WORK.
6. ALL DIMENSIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION ARE TO BE OBTAINED FROM SITE MEASUREMENTS OR ARCHITECTS SETTING OUT DRAWINGS PRIOR TO MANUFACTURE/BUILDING.

CDM 2015 DESIGNER NOTES

IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS, AND RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPE OF WORK DETAILED ON THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RISKS AND INFORMATION.

CONSTRUCTION:

1. N/A
- FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO END USE, MAINTENANCE, DEMOLITION, SEE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY FILE.
- IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY A COMPETENT CONTRACTOR, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO AN APPROVED METHOD STATEMENT.

KEY: ROAD MARKINGS

- PEDESTRIAN ROUTE
RED COLOUR HIGH FRICTION SURFACING
- WALKING MAN SYMBOL
WHITE THERMOPLASTIC - 1200mm HIGH
- DISABLED PARKING BAY SYMBOL
YELLOW THERMOPLASTIC - 1400mm HIGH
- PARENT AND CHILD PARKING BAY SYMBOL
YELLOW THERMOPLASTIC - 2000mm HIGH
- ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING SYMBOL
WHITE THERMOPLASTIC - 2000mm HIGH

ROAD MARKINGS (TSRGD)

REF:	LINE (mm)	GAP (mm)	WIDTH (mm)	DISTANCE BETWEEN DOUBLE LINES (mm)
1003	600	300	200	200
1004	4000	2000	100	
1009	600	300	100	
1023				GIVE WAY TRIANGLE - 3750mm
1038				MANOEUVRE ARROWS - 4000mm
1055.1	100	500	100	1800

ALL ROADMARKINGS IN WHITE THERMOPLASTIC SCREED WITH APPLIED SOLIDGLASS BEADS

P1	FIRST ISSUE	CS	12.04.21
ISSUE	REVISION	BY	DATE

THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF DAVID SMITH ASSOCIATES. IT MUST NOT BE REPRODUCED, COPIED NOR ITS CONTENTS DIVULGED WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION.
© DAVID SMITH ASSOCIATES

ISSUE **PRELIMINARY**

CLIENT
JEAKINS WEIR

CONTRACT
CAR PARK AT FORMER CO-OP RICHMOND ROAD TOWCESTER

TITLE
PROPOSED ROAD MARKINGS

DRAWN	CHECKED	DATE	SCALE
CS	RDJ	MAR '21	1:200 @A1

David Smith Associates
Consulting Structural & Civil Engineers

Tel: (01604)782620 8 Duncan Close
Email: northampton@dsagroup.co.uk Moulton Park
Website: www.dsagroup.co.uk Northampton NN3 6WL

DRAWING NUMBER	20	39042/63	REVISION	P1
----------------	----	----------	----------	----

This page is intentionally left blank