



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Cabinet

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

Present Councillor Jonathan Nunn (Chair)
 Councillor Adam Brown (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Fiona Baker
 Councillor Matt Golby
 Councillor Mike Hallam
 Councillor Phil Larratt
 Councillor Daniel Lister
 Councillor Malcolm Longley
 Councillor David Smith

Also Present: Councillor Dermot Bambridge
 Councillor Sally Beardsworth
 Councillor Pinder Chauhan
 Councillor Alison Eastwood
 Councillor Nigel Hinch
 Councillor Rosie Humphreys
 Councillor Charles Manners
 Councillor Bob Purser
 Councillor Wendy Randall
 Councillor Emma Roberts
 Councillor Danielle Stone

Officers Anna Earnshaw, Chief Executive
 Rebecca Peck, Assistant Chief Executive
 Martin Henry, Executive Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer)
 Catherine Whitehead, Director of Legal and Democratic (Monitoring
 Officer)
 Paul Hanson - Democratic Services and Elections Manager
 Sofia Neal-Gonzalez - Democratic Services Officer
 Jane Carr, Director of Communities & Opportunities
 Stuart Lackenby, Executive Director - Adults Communities and
 Wellbeing
 Sarah Reed, Executive Director - Corporate Services
 Stuart Timmiss, Executive Director - Place and Economy
 Belinda Green, Assistant Director, Revenues and Benefits
 Jed Scoles, Political Assistant – Labour Group

102. Apologies

Councillor Rebecca Breese sent her apologies.

103. **Declarations of Interest**

None

104. **Minutes**

RESOLVED: That the minutes from the Cabinet meeting on the 8th November 2022 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

105. **Chair's Announcements**

None

106. **Urgent Business**

None

107. **Report of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Tree Policy and Strategy**

At the Chair's invitation the report was presented to Cabinet by Councillor Pinder Chauhan. Members were advised that there had had input from 7 councillors and the report had taken 6 months to complete. Various groups had been involved in the work, including the Woodland Trust and the Queens green canopy project. Work was being done to fill the role of Tree Strategy and Project Officer.

In his capacity as chair of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor Dermot Bambridge advised that this had been the first major piece of work undertaken by the task and finish group. Its importance with regards to environmental assets was also discussed.

Councillors made the following comments.

- This report was a great example of good scrutiny.
- It was noted that it was important to have the right trees planted in the right places.
- Ancient Woodland had compiled an inventory of ancient trees, many of these were found in West Northants.
- It was hoped that the March deadline would be enough time.
- It was queried whether distance to woodland would be aligned with the Council's active travel strategy.
- How would the authority deal with any issues of tree disease?
- The council did have a legacy obligation to properly maintain trees.
- It was noted that the grading and salary of the Tree Strategy and Project Officer role needed to be looked at as it was not sufficient.

Councillor Adam Brown queried how this new policy would affect trees on NPH land.

Councillor Phil Larratt agreed that the project had been a major piece of work and welcomed the recommendations, however, concern was shown at the tightness of the March deadline. It was hoped that WNC would work in partnership with NPH regarding any trees on their land.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet welcomed the recommendations of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Tree Policy and Strategy and undertook to review the recommendations and respond with detailed proposals at a future meeting

108. **Corporate Plan Performance Report - 2022-23 Q2**

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- With regards to priority 2, did the council differentiate between full and part time work?
- There had been no target or description of works carried out by highways.
- There had been a delay with some of the new council houses, could there be an update?
- With regards to school complaints, it was queried whether councillors could be given a number and not a percentage.
- It was noted that fly tipping figures had continued to rise despite campaigns. How much had this cost the Council so far?
- The amount of social housing being provided was still small. There were currently 4000 people on the waiting list for one.
- Recognition was given to the re-settlement teams working with people from Ukraine and Afghanistan. It was queried how many families had actually been resettled in the area.
- It would be helpful to see how WNC compares to other authorities on apprenticeships, and how many of these were existing employees.
- It was queried how the Council planned to re-coup the 90 day overdue debt.

Councillor Adam Brown noted that the housing delays caused by snagging had since been completed, specifically related to Beaumont House.

Councillor Matt Golby noted that there had been good performance throughout the Public Health department.

Councillor Mike Hallam advised that customer service satisfaction was at 91%, the number of complaints could be added to future reports.

Councillor Phil Larratt noted that the quarter discussed in the report was covered by the old contract and that scrutiny would have more of a role going forward. It was noted that the cost of clearing fly tipping was part of the overall contract.

Councillor Malcolm Longley advised that he was happy to discuss the debt with councillors should they wish to.

RESOLVED: Cabinet noted the content of the appendix covering the second quarter of 2022-23.

109. **Draft Integrated Care Northamptonshire Live Your Best Life Strategy**

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that the strategy would require serious funding.
- The home education figures were high, but there had been no information given as to why.
- There had not been a reference made within the report to the 'real living wage'.
- More information was required on how residents could access out of hours health and social care help.
- It was queried how deliverable this strategy would be.
- The voluntary sector had been acknowledged but it was noted that this area was very under resourced.
- It was noted that equality impact assessments were no longer provided with reports, could this practice be restarted.
- Could there be more follow up of SEND students who were being educated at home.

Councillor Matt Golby advised that he viewed this strategy as a big opportunity and presented the report to Cabinet. The following comments were made;

- It was advised that the strategy was a 10 year plan with lots of the work being undertaken involving local partnerships and communities.
- It was noted that funding would always be an issue.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet;

1. **Reviewed and considered the draft ICN Strategy and endorse the system direction of travel, vision, ambitions and outcomes.**
2. **Provided comments and feedback to the Place Director (People Directorate) on fundamental points of difference.**
3. **Endorsed plans to build upon the West Northants Health & Wellbeing Strategy and ensure alignment with the adopted ICN Strategy going forward.**
4. **Recommended the adoption of the ICN Strategy to the Integrated Care Partnership on 1st December 2022**
5. **Supported the further alignment of the WNC Corporate Strategic Plan with that of the ICN strategy and outcomes framework particularly in relation to how WNC work with partners in Local Area Partnerships**
6. **Agreed to receive an annual report on the progress of the ICN strategy and outcomes framework.**

110. **Procurement of a WNC Fleet management contract**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report and noted that where technology allowed the council would push towards electric travel.

RESOLVED: Cabinet gave approval to procure a new fleet management contract.

111. **Homecare Services Commissioning Intentions including extension to existing framework**

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that there had not been enough detail in economy of scale.
- The Ethical Care Charter should be at the centre of the service.

Councillor Matt Golby presented the report to Cabinet and noted that the council had a best value obligation to ensure that needs were met.

The Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing noted that this was a significant report and that it was important to have a good continuity of care. Levels of efficiency should increase.

RESOLVED:

- **A new framework for the purchasing of commissioned home care services be introduced from July 2023.**
- **Duration of the framework would be four years with an inclusive option to extend for a further period of 12 months; resulting in a framework for a maximum duration of 5 years**
- **Applicants' admission to the framework would be determined via competitive tenders.**
- **The existing homecare framework is extended until 01 October 2023 (with a recognition that it will cease before 01 October 2023 to coincide with the commencement of the new framework)**
- **The Executive Director for People Services in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the above recommendations**

112. **Extended photovoltaic system for One Angel Square**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report and its contents to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet;

1. **Approved a capital budget of £102k in 2022/23 to extend the photovoltaic array and install a green roof at One Angel Square.**
2. **Authorise the procurement of services and works and entering of contracts to facilitate the works**

113. **Procurement and implementation of Children's Social Care Case Management System**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Fiona Baker presented the report and its contents to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: Approved by Cabinet and then on to Council for approval due to the financial value:

- A. **Agreed to proceed with the replacement of the Case Management System for the Children's Social Care across Northamptonshire, which will be operated by Northants Children's Trust (NCT), with a financial contribution by WNC of £1.573m as outlined in section 6.**
- B. **Delegated authority to the Lead Member for Children, Families, Education and Skills, in liaison with the Executive Director of People Services, to take any further decisions and actions required to implement the Case Management System and award contracts in relation to this.**
- C. **Recommended to Council that a budget change is made as set out in the report, and that it delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance to access and utilise appropriate funding for the Case Management System for Children's Social Care.**

114. **Revenues and Benefits Single Software System**

At the Chairs invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report and its contents to Cabinet.

Councillor Adam Brown noted how glad he was so see transformation and unity in action.

RESOVLED: That Cabinet;

- A. **Noted the contents of this report**
- B. **Approved the procurement, purchase, and implementation of a single software system for Revenues and Benefits.**
- C. **Gave delegated authority to the Executive Director for Finance to take any further decisions and actions required to procure and implement the new system in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

115. **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) - Annual Report 2021 - 2022**

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- It would be interesting to compare performances between WNC and NNC.
- It was noted that 87% of enquiries had noted the provider of a service as the cause of the risk, which was worrying.
- It was queried whether the council had the resources to fund the assessments.
- Were there any patterns to concerns raised, were there any differences based on ethnicity.
- The Council works closely with the police force, had the impact of racism and misogyny within it been looked at.

Councillor Matt Golby presented the report to Cabinet and advised that any suggestions would be taken away and looked at.

Councillor Adam Brown advised that it is possible for councillors to challenge the Commissioner with any issues at the Police, Fire and Crime Panel meetings.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet received the Annual Report of Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board 2021 – 2022 (Appendix A) and noted the findings

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

117. **Old Black Lion Lease Arrangements**

Minutes are exempt

The meeting closed at 7.51 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____