



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Cabinet

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at The Forum, Towcester, NN12 6AF on Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

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 David Smith

Also Present:

Councillor Jamal Alwahabi
Councillor Phil Bignell
Councillor Rosie Herring
Councillor Nigel Hinch
Councillor Keith Holland Delamere
Councillor Rosie Humphreys
Councillor Ian McCord
Councillor Kevin Parker
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Emma Roberts
Councillor Cathrine Russell
Councillor Danielle Stone

Officers:

Anna Earnshaw, Chief Executive
Martin Henry, Executive Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer)
Catherine Whitehead, Director of Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer)
Paul Hanson, Head of Democratic Services and Elections
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
Gillian Baldock, Political Assistant to the Conservative Group
Rebecca Peck, Assistant Chief Executive
Jed Scoles, Political Assistant to the Labour Group
Kathryn Holton, Democracy Officer
Sofia Neal-Gonzalez, Democracy Officer (minutes)

130. **Apologies**

Councillor Malcolm Longley

131. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Daniel Lister advised that he was a Governor of a school affected by the PFI item.

132. **Minutes**

The Minutes from the meeting of the 20th December 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

133. **Chair's Announcements**

None

134. **Urgent Business**

None

135. **Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (if any)**

No report

136. **Public Health & Integrated Care Board Integration Programme for Children & Young People's Community Health & Wellbeing Services**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Baker presented the report and summarised the salient points. The importance of extending the contract was noted in order to accomplish all work that had been planned.

Councillors made the following comments.

- The report mentioned interest from the market, could this be explained better.
- It was noted an equality impact assessment was missing from the report.
- It was queried whether the funding amount was a shared portion between North and West or solely West.
- It was advised that the Youth Summit would welcome the findings from the report.
- The cost seemed to be modest when compared to the seriousness of the report, was the Council being realistic.

The Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing advised that the current contract had been in place for a significant time and as such there had been no dialogue with other service providers. The interest from the market stems from this.

The Director of Public Health advised that any communication with the Youth Summit would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- a) Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Public Health and Wellbeing and Children, Families and Education and the Director of Finance, to **extend** a Section 75 agreement (or equivalent public sector agreement) for up to 2 years with Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) in partnership with North Northants Council and Northamptonshire Integrated care board (ICB) for a jointly commissioned 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services and a range of health commissioned services supporting children and young people in West Northants from April 2023 – March 2025 or an earlier end date as required.
- b) Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in collaboration with the Director of Children Services and Cabinet Member for Public Health, to agree future governance arrangements for this service with the ICB

137. **Public Health Framework**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Matt Golby presented the report and summarised the salient points.

Councillors made the following comments.

- Could non-prescribed services relate to Active Travel.
- It was advised that this area produces more CO2 emissions than the national average.
- It was noted that the council had a legacy of disposing of assets that could be used in other functions.

The Director of Public Health made the following comments.

- It was noted that non-prescribed services also related to Active Travel, and to the health and wellbeing of residents.
- Holiday activities do receive additional funding, but they are commissioned through the Children's Trust.

RESOLVED: Cabinet noted the contents of the attachment and approve the adoption of this framework going forward.

138. **Care Home Services Commissioning Intentions for Adults Age 18 and Above**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Matt Golby presented the report and summarised the salient points.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was queried what the Councils' percentages were compared to national figures.

- Concern was raised by the fact that the DPS delegated authority duration had no end date. The question of how the Council could scrutinise the project was asked.
- It was noted that the Ethical Care Charter could have been included in this report, as well as an Equality Impact Assessment.

The Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing made the following comments.

- The CQC inspection had advised that the Council was currently within the 'good' care setting.
- It was important to remember that the Council was now considered against unitary councils and not county councils.
- An Equality Impact Assessment would be sent to those who request to see it.
- The Ethical Charter would continue to be considered.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved:

- A new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the purchasing of commissioned care home services for adults aged 18 and above and includes people with Physical Disabilities and Mental Health conditions and is introduced from May 2023.
- Duration of the DPS would be indefinite; with no proposed end date.
- Applicants' admission to the DPS would be determined via expressions of interest.
- 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.

The recommendations underpin strategic commissioning intentions to design and procure a new outcome-based delivery model for adult residential and nursing care for the long-term. Purchasing of effective, sustainable, and affordable provision supply will enable West Northamptonshire Council to fulfil its statutory duties to meet care needs and shape the local care market

139. **Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Daniel Lister presented the report and summarised the salient points.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that there didn't seem to be much of a correlation between the issues identified within rural areas and the projects that were selected.
- It was requested that officers undertake further investigations into the town's tourist attractions.
- It was noted that there were significant needs in rural areas.
- Some of the projects mentioned in the report were not very well detailed, clear criteria was requested for them.
- An integrated transport plan was needed for rural areas.

Councillor Daniel Lister advised that the council had good data on tourism within the county.

RESOLVED:

- a) Noted an investment plan addendum to draw down the REPF was submitted to the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on 30 November 2022.
- b) Noted the selected interventions and funding allocated within the submission.
- c) Noted that DEFRA will review the WNC REPF Addendum and year one funds are expected to be received in April, following sign off.

140. **Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled West Northamptonshire schools for 2024 intakes**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Fiona Baker presented the report and summarised the salient points.

A Councillor queried whether there was any provision in place for children who do not always live at their primary address.

Councillor Fiona Baker advised that their primary address should be where a child spends the majority of their time.

RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the admission arrangements as detailed in Appendix A.

141. **West Northamptonshire Council-Northamptonshire Partnership Homes Governance Framework**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Adam Brown presented the report and summarised the salient points. It was noted that there was an increasing demand for housing, and it was important to ensure that comprehensive governance was in place.

A Councillor suggested there were unfinished areas within the report and no real detail.

Councillor Adam Brown advised that having a governance framework was a requirement.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the contents of the WNC-NPH Governance Framework and Implementation Plan.

142. **Purchase of the long leasehold interest in six houses in Brackley**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Matt Golby presented the report and summarised the salient points.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was important for the Council to be sure that it was getting good value for money.
- The question of who would manage and live in these houses was raised.

The Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing agrees that value for money was important. These homes are due to be turned into supported living homes.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Recommended to Council that a capital budget of £2.012 million is created to acquire the long leasehold interest in the six residential properties in Brackley referred to in the report and refurbish them.
2. Subject to Council approval of the budget, authorised the Assistant Director Assets & Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to agree the terms of the acquisition and any related transactions.

143. **Northampton Active Quarter**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Adam Brown presented the report and summarised the salient points.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was agreed that the active quarter would be an asset, however it may not be within reach of many residents.
- It was noted that there had been no engagement with the ward councillors for the area.
- The question of whether the Council had a clear vision for this project was asked.
- Targeted group events would help residents to feel an ownership of the project.
- It was noted that there was currently no governance structure in place.

Councillor Adam Brown advised that ward councillors would be contacted in the future. Members were advised that no formal governance structure was needed at this time, and work was being undertaken with the University on the cycle network.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the content of this report.
2. Endorsed continued support of working collaboratively with partners, towards achieving the Active Quarter ambitions outlined within the report.
3. Noted the 'in-principle' funding contribution from Public Health of a single payment £10k to support evidenced-based research, develop the Active Quarter (AQ) communication and engagement strategy and align AQ ambitions with WNC's strategic priorities

144. **Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Lifecycle Works**

The Chair presented the report and summarised the salient points.

A councillor queried whether further PFI cuts had been made and whether further issues around this topic would emerge in future.

The Executive Director Place & Economy advised that he was confident that there would be no further issues related to the contract under discussion.

Councillor Daniel Lister advised that he was a governor of a school affected by PFI.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Approved a capital budget of £1.100m to undertake essential asset replacement works to the Northampton PFI Schools.
2. Authorised the procurement of these works.

145. **Asset Disposal**

The Chair presented the report and summarised the salient points.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was queried whether a scoping exercise would take place, in order to fully understand the needs of residents.
- It was noted that the Daventry home was gifted to the people of Daventry. Would the money from the sale be retained by Daventry?
- There was a need for community hubs in various locations.
- It was noted that a full strategic oversight was needed on assets in order that the Council did not come and regret any decisions.

The Executive Director Place & Economy made the following comments.

- It was advised that every neighbourhood would have a needs assessment.
- The totality of the land around Brackley house had been looked at.
- Any decisions made as the council goes forward will be open to scrutiny.

RESOLVED: Cabinet;

1. Agreed that authority be given to the Assistant Director of Assets & Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to agree terms for the disposal of the following assets and enter any documentation required to implement this:
 - a) Former Ribble Close Group Home, Northampton (freehold) for transfer to HRA).
 - b) Former Ecton Brook Care Home, Northampton (freehold or transfer to Housing Revenue Account).
 - c) Former Evelyn Wright Care Home, Daventry (freehold)
 - d) Walker House, Northampton (leasehold or long leasehold, sub-lease or assignment of lease).
 - e) Former Brackley Swimming Pool Site, Brackley (freehold).

146. **Parking charge arrangements at parks**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Phil Larratt presented the report and summarised the salient points. A season ticket for residents who take part in fun runs was recommended.

Mr Rowan Smith was invited to address the Cabinet and made the following comments on behalf of his son.

- There was not enough on street parking for residents in the area and parking near to their homes was a challenge.
- No one chooses to park at the racecourse at night, especially due to the high levels of crime.
- Should this be approved, could there be a night-time resident only permit made available.
- Could there be more permit parking made available around the Mounts area.

Mr Mark Higgs was invited to address the Cabinet and made the following comments.

- During Covid the importance of green spaces for the mental health of residents was paramount, now with these added charges it will make it more difficult for residents to enjoy them.
- The Council seemed to be obsessed with monetarising everything and risked destroying green spaces.
- It was queried whether this decision was in the best interest of the Council or of residents.
- It was noted that there had not been consultation or research on the proposal.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was noted that members of the public had spoken powerfully about this issue.
- It was requested that proposals were deferred until further research had been undertaken.
- There had been no consultation or evidence provided.

Councillor Phil Larratt made the following comments.

- The parking at the racecourse had been brought to the attention of the Council by local businesses whose patrons had found it difficult to park.
- It was noted that there were significant costs to maintaining a car park.
- By charging for parking, the Council would be able to invest more in the upkeep of the parks.
- The scheme would be reviewed in 6 months' time and an amended recommendation was put to Cabinet.

The Executive Director Place & Economy made the following comments.

- It was noted that there were a number of issues around the racecourse.
- Teams would be out to speak to residents soon about their concerns.

RESOLVED: Cabinet;

1. Approved a capital budget of £144k for new parking charge arrangements at Daventry and Brixworth country parks, and the Racecourse.
2. Authorised the implementation of new and revised parking charges for those areas as set out in Tables 2 and 3 of the report, to be implemented as soon as practical.
3. Noted that the new and revised parking charges would be reviewed after 6 months and this will include the consideration of overnight parking for residents and other comments made at the Cabinet meeting, including comments relating to junior park run
4. Noted that Park Run season tickets would be valid at each location

147. **Capital expenditure relating to Rebuild of Windflower Place**

The Chair presented the report and summarised the salient points.

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

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

149. **Northampton Market Square Redevelopment**

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____