

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held in the The Council Chamber, Lodge Road, Daventry, NN11 4FP on Monday 7 November 2022 at 6.30 pm

Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
3.	Minutes (Pages 5 - 12) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 October 2022.
4.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
5.	Urgent Business The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
6.	Budget Scrutiny The Committee to commence its budget scrutiny process for 2022-23 with a particular focus on the Northamptonshire Children's Trust Budget.
7.	Call-in of Cabinet Decision of 11 October 2022 - Agenda Item 13: Office Optimisation Stage 1 building adaptations budget and disposals (Pages 13 - 22)

Called in by Councillors:

Cllr Wendy Randall (originator)
Cllr Janice Duffy
Cllr Jamal Alwahabi
Cllr Keith Holland-Delamere
Cllr Catherine Russell
Cllr Danielle Stone
Cllr Kyriakoulla Jolley
Cllr Muna Cali

In accordance with 10.5.5 of the Council's Constitution.

Cabinet – 11 October 2022 – Agenda Item 13: Office Optimisation Stage 1 building adaptations and disposals

Decision:

- a) Agree to the proposed new capital budget of £2 million to carry out Stage 1 of the Office Optimisation project and recommend to Council that the Capital budget is amended to reflect the proposed change.
- b) Authorise the Assistant Director Assets & Environment to procure and award the contracts to deliver the Stage 1 works.
- c) Authorise the Assistant Director Assets & Environment in consultation with the Executive Director Finance and Cabinet Member for Finance to dispose of the Lodge Road offices, in whole or part, by leasehold or freehold, for the best consideration reasonably obtainable.
- d) Agree that the Lodge Road offices be vacated by 31st March 2023 in order that the revenue savings and/or capital gains be achieved as quickly as practicable thereafter.

Reasons for Call-in

- That the financial implications and data associated with this decision requires further examination by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- There was a failure to adequately consider alternative options with this decision.
- There was failure to consider the impact this decision would have on the voluntary organisations currently based in the Abbey Centre and in turn the ramifications that would have on the local community.

On these grounds, this Cabinet decision contravenes clauses:

- (a) "take into account all relevant considerations and ignore those which are irrelevant"
- (d) "due consultation and proper advice is taken and consideration of alternative options before decisions are reached"
- (n) "following best practice, securing best value and making the most efficient and effective use of resources"

Under section 1.22 "Principles of Decision Making" in the West Northamptonshire Council Constitution.

It is requested that this matter placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and review.

The alternative course of action requested of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and in turn Cabinet, to take into consideration is keeping the Lodge Road

	offices open for staff that require desks and renting out any vacant space.
8.	Review of Committee Work Programme (Pages 23 - 32) To review and note the Committee Work Programme.

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
28 October 2022

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members:

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

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Richard Woods / Tracy Tiff, Democratic Services via the following:

Tel: 01327 32043

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

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