



Cabinet

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held at The Forum, Towcester, NN12 6AF on Friday 23 September 2022 at 6.00 pm

Agenda

| Public Session | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 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 The previous set of minutes of to be confirmed at the meeting on the 11 th October 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. | Corporate Plan Performance Report - 2022-23 Q1 (Pages 5 - 30) |
| 7. | Revenue Monitoring Quarter 1 - Financial Year 2022-23 (Pages 31 - 60) |
| 8. | Quarter 1 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| | Monitoring Report 2022-23 (Pages 61 - 76) |
| 9. | Treasury Management Update Quarter 1, 2022-23 (Pages 77 - 88) |
| 10. | West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy (2022-2025) (Pages 89 - 140) |
| 11. | Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) (Pages 141 - 160) |
| 12. | WNC Multiply Funding Investment Plan (Pages 161 - 166) |
| 13. | UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) (Pages 167 - 174) |
| 14. | Recommissioning of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (Pages 175 - 182) |
| 15. | Towns Fund: 24 Guildhall Road Phase 2 Works (Pages 183 - 198) |
| 16. | <p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>The appendices for report Item 14 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 appendices 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> |
| Private Session | |

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
15 September 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.

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:

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

23RD SEPTEMBER 2022

**COUNCILLOR LEADER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRATEGY: COUNCILLOR
JONATHAN NUNN**

Report Title Corporate Plan Performance Report – 2022-23 Q1

Report Author Richard Corless
Business Intelligence, Policy & Performance
richard.corless@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| West MO | Catherine Whitehead | Via ELT 15 th August |
| West S151 | Martin Henry | 6 th September |
| Other Director/SME | Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive and All Directors via ELT and EPB. | Rebecca Peck – 30 th August ELT – 15 th August EPB – 22 nd August |
| Communications | Becky Hutson | 30 th August |

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Corporate Plan Report – 2022-23 Q1

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The attached appendix provides an update for quarter one to Cabinet on West Northamptonshire Council's performance metrics for the current year and set against the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.

2. Executive Summary

- 1.2. This report provides an overview of performance for West Northamptonshire Council for the period of April to June 2022 (quarter 1). The performance indicators included in the report have been subject to review, challenge and approval by both the Cabinet and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) with our aim being to create a meaningful dashboard of measures that provides members and officers with good insight into the councils performance.
- 1.3. Following the end of the first year of West Northamptonshire Council a review was undertaken on the metrics included in this report in order to ensure that the reporting to Cabinet is representative of the councils priorities. This work was undertaken in full consultation with both the Cabinet and with all directors via ELT, the outcome of this work is shown in the table below with the metrics which have either been removed from the corporate scorecard (these are still monitored through the relevant director scorecards) and those which have been included as new metrics this year.

| Priority | Removals | Additions |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 – Clean and Green | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household waste sent for re-use, recycling or composting Waste from HWRCs diverted from landfill Council vehicles that are electric or hybrid. Council owned parks and green spaces that have Green Flag accreditation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual waste treated Number of fly tips cleared Number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Environmental Crime Visitors to leisure centres Council Homes with improved energy efficiency Satisfaction of Parks (survey based) Satisfaction of cleanliness of area (survey based) |
| 2 – Improved Life Chances | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress 8 Score Children achieving grade 9-4 in English & Maths Older people (65+) offered reablement services following discharge from hospital (ASCOF) In-year eligible population offered an NHS Health Check In-year eligible population who received an NHS Health Check | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Northants attainment summary – All phases New requests for services where route of access was discharge from hospital that had a reablement service (SALT) Home adaptations spend (DLUHC grants) |
| 3 – Connected Communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadband gigabit connectivity Rural Broadband coverage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric vehicle charging points (West Northants area) Also moved to clean and green |
| 4 – Thriving Towns and Villages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful appeals to planning applications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications approved by Committee as recommended Visitors to Libraries |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement - People settled / supported |
| 5 – Economic Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People (aged 16-64) who are in employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeships in West Northants area Visitors to Museums Pensioners on Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) Working age claimants on CTRS Total on CTRS |
| 6 – Robust Resource Management | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Benefit – Time to determine new applications Housing Benefit – Time to determine change in circumstances |

- 1.4. 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 in Revenues and Benefits where the services are run in three different contracts and models.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note the content of the appendix covering the first quarter of 2022-23

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 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 performance 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 reallocated 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 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. The Corporate Plan priorities and wider service objectives are underpinned by 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. This quarterly report will provide updates on the council's progress to this aim as appropriate.

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.

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 this quarterly report.

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Corporate Plan 2022-23 Quarter 1 Report

April to June 2022

Last Updated: 13th September 2022



Welcome to the latest update on delivery of the West Northamptonshire Council Corporate Plan with data and project updates covering first quarter of 2022-23 broken down into monthly information where that is available. The metrics included in this report have been chosen based upon the priorities identified within the corporate plan and consultation with both the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Cabinet members.

Quarterly Update content

The data elements that are provided in this report include a monthly breakdown of the current quarter, where the information is available to that level, as well as an overall quarterly position. In addition to this there is trend information for the current year and last year. Where there is externally published information available we have begun to add in benchmark data, covering national (normally England), regional (East Midlands) and where appropriate statistical neighbour groups (for Children's Services).

The report contains two main elements - a summary 'dashboard' type information on each page alongside a short narrative and also at the end of the report all indicators are available in a detailed scorecard view. Some of these areas are long term projects and therefore there will not always be an update to that narrative each quarter, we will provide an update each quarter assuming that there has been progress or something has changed since the previous report.

1 Green and Clean Environment & Wellbeing

- 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

4 Thriving Villages & Towns Place shaping & Homes

- 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

2 Improved Life Chances Health, Social Care & Families

- 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

5 Economic Development Growth & Prosperity

- 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

3 Connected Communities Transport & Connectivity

- 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

6 Robust Resource Management Transparency & financial probity

- 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

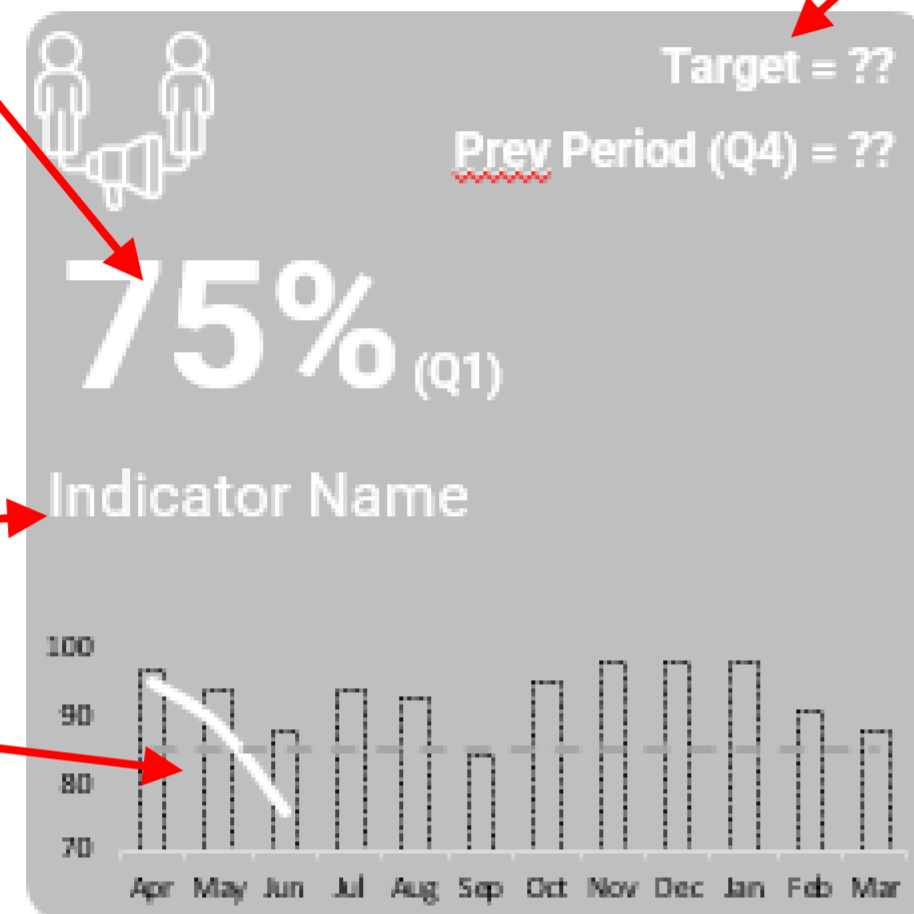
The below diagrams for the indicator dashboard pages and the detailed scorecards outline the data elements within them and how to interpret what is being shown.

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

Indicator Name

Trend Chart

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

Dotted Line – this is the target

Bar chart – this is last years performance

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.

Performance Data

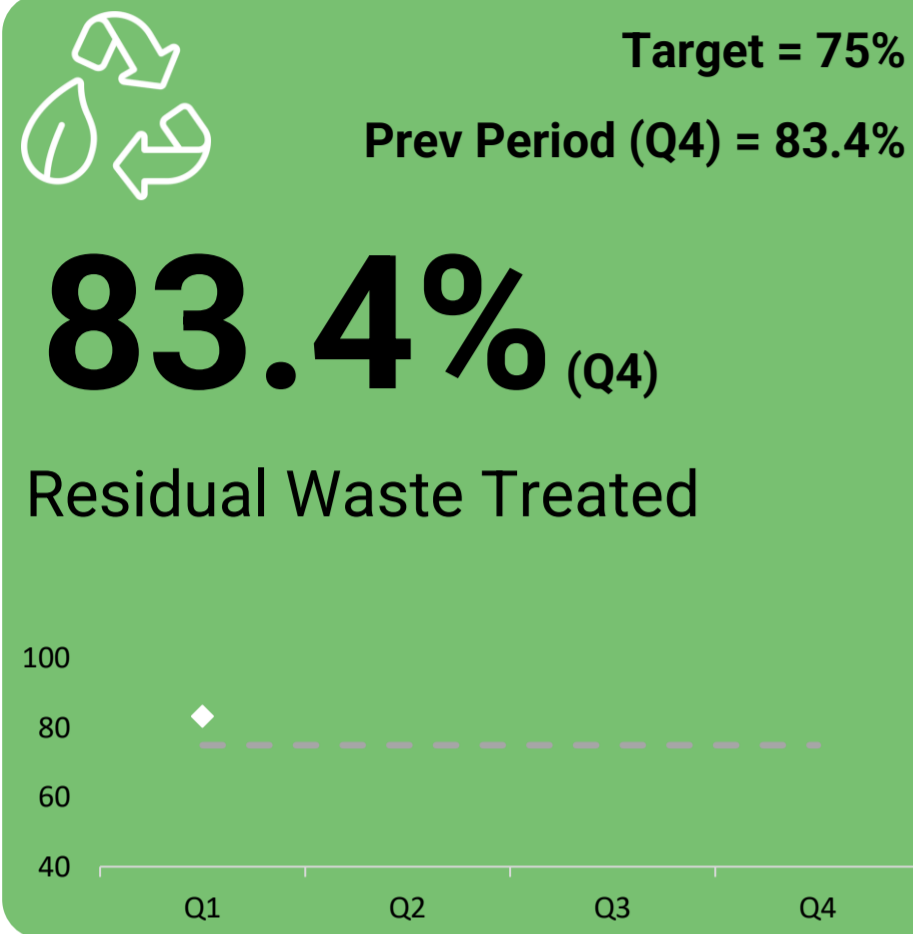
This section includes the target and current performance data broken down to month where available, quarterly and year to date (YTD).

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 re-use, 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

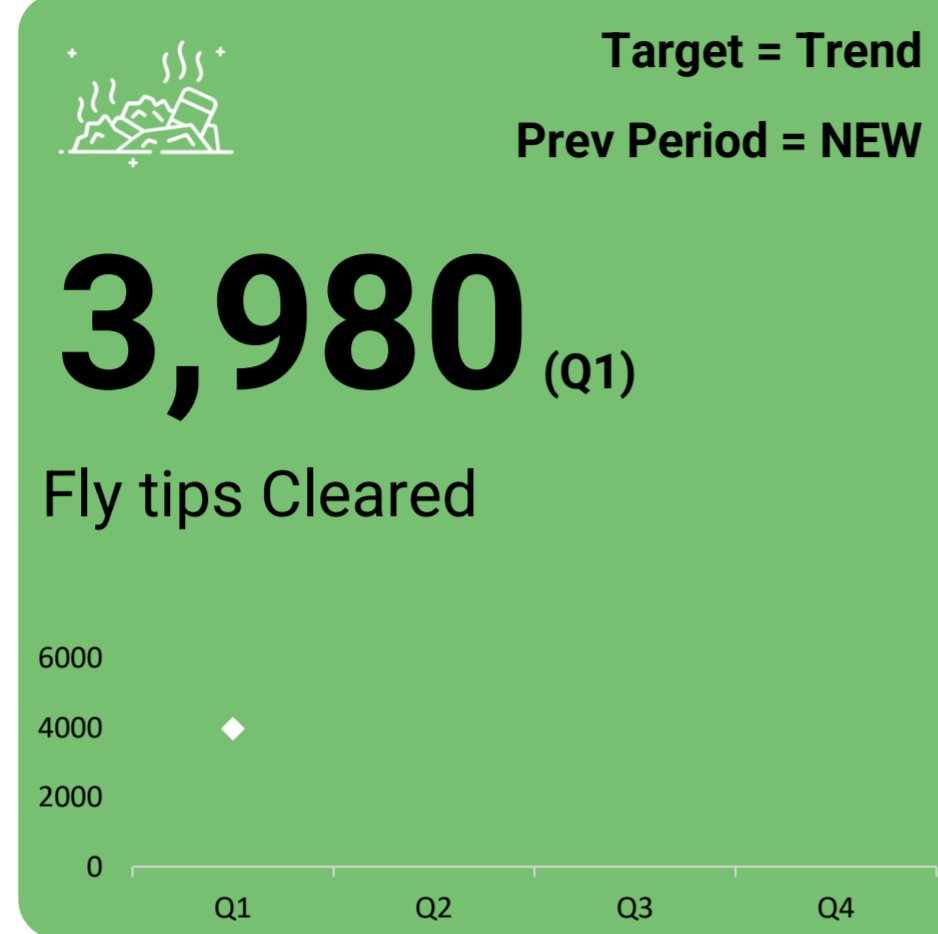
Priority 1 – Green and Clean Environment & Wellbeing



This indicator measures a combination of all waste types which go through some form of treatment process (i.e. do not go to landfill) and provides an overview of how waste is treated in West Northamptonshire.

This indicator replaces the two recycling measures previously included in this report. This is because those two measures form part of the Residual Waste metric, but also combine other elements which would otherwise be absent from reporting.

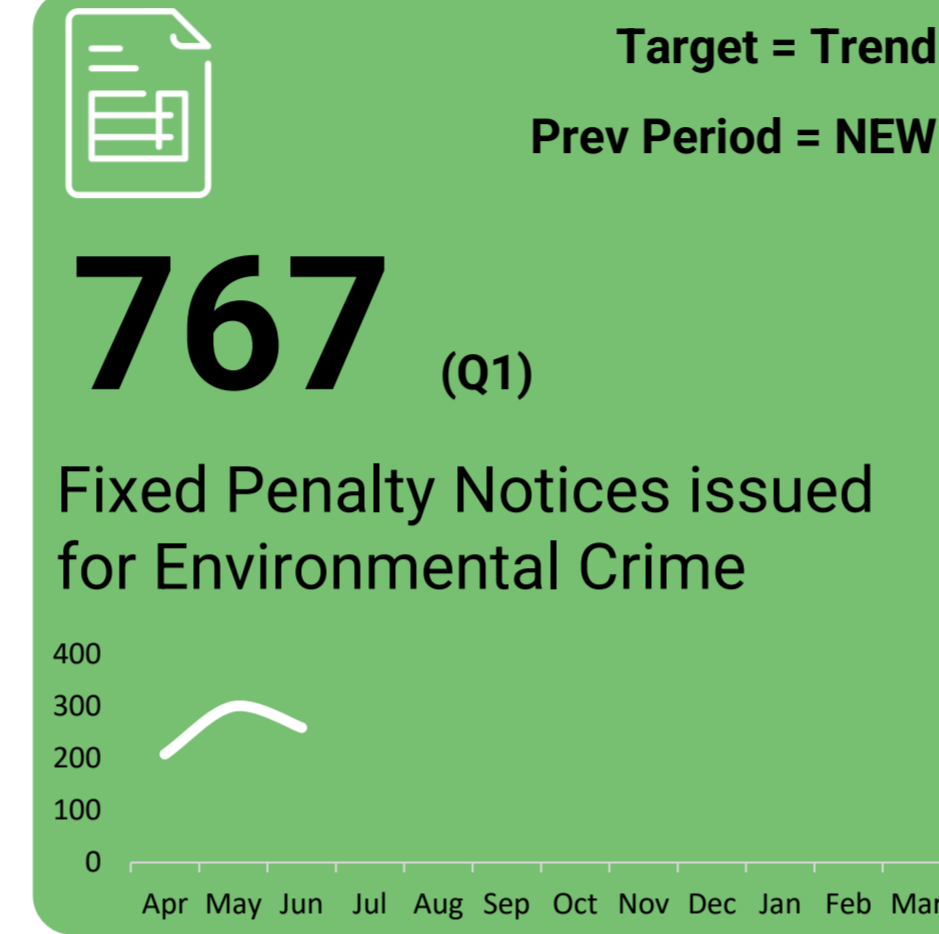
This measure is reported a quarter in arrears due to reporting processes via WasteDataFlow and therefore this report shows the performance for Q4 of 2021-22.



Fly-tipping is illegal dumping of liquid or solid waste on land or in water. The waste is usually dumped to avoid disposal costs. Should the fly-tipping occur on public land it falls to the Local Authority to clear the rubbish away, the cost of disposal then falls on the LA.

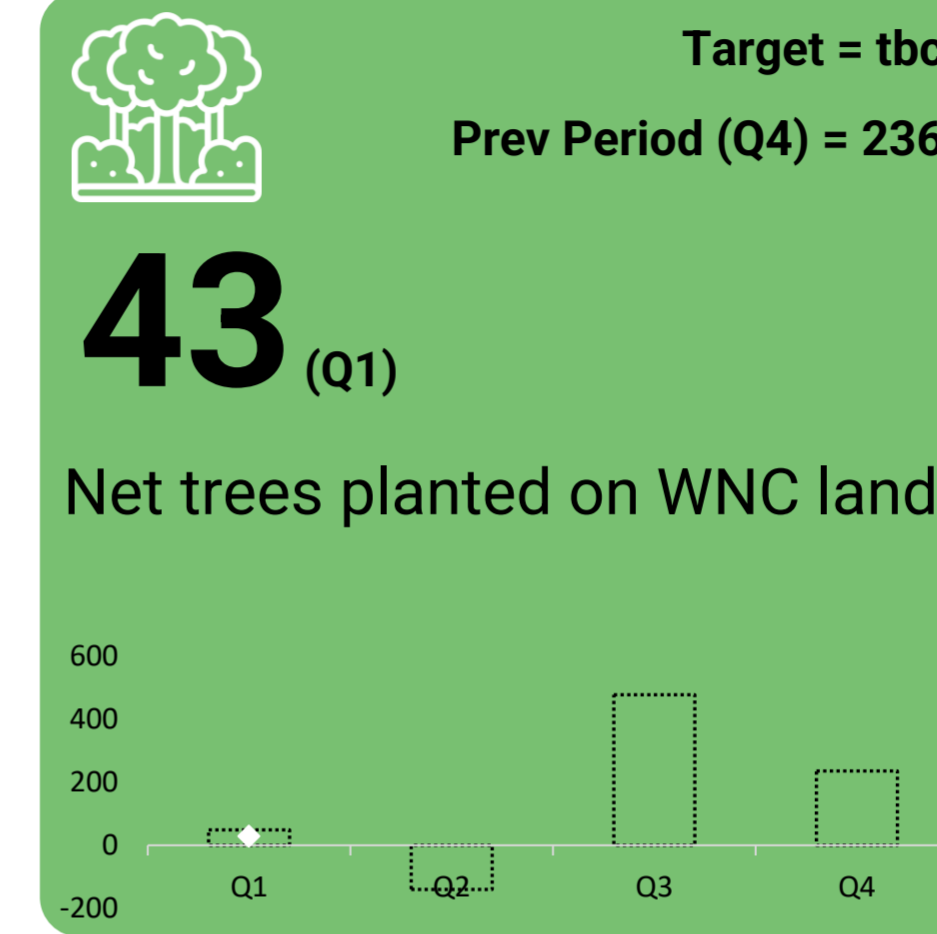
This is a new measure in the corporate scorecard and is a trend based measure, whilst there is no target against this measure we have a responsibility to clear all fly-tips in relevant land.

The first quarter this year has seen WNC needing to clear 3,980 fly-tipping incidents.



This measure reports against those fixed penalty notices (FPNs) which have been issued on behalf of WNC for environmental crime, this would include those fines issued for fly-tipping.

This measure is a new collection for the authority this year (although fines were issued last year). Across the first quarter this year there were 767 FPNs issued, the peak of these occurring during may with 300 FPNs issued.



Normal planting season for trees is in the months between October and April which means that any removals of tree's outside this period due to planned works or developments are likely to result in a negative net trees planted position.

This quarter, which is out of normal planting season has seen 91 tree's planted on WNC land and 48 tree's removed resulting in a Net position of 43 trees.

In addition to this as part of the Queen's Garden Canopy project to mark the jubilee the council is working with Parish Councils and community groups to plant tree's across 2022. so far there are 2,296 tree's planted or planned by Parish Councils and a further 2,983 through community groups or private parties.

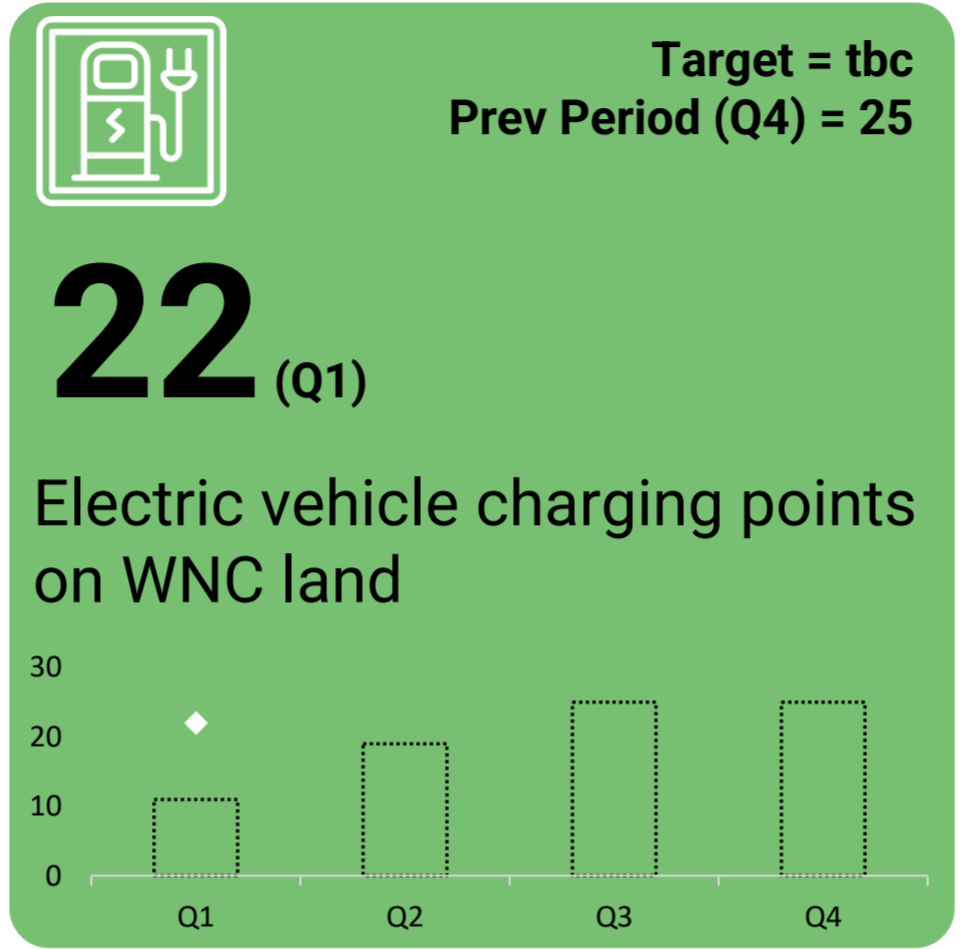
Priority 1 – Green and Clean Environment & Wellbeing



This measure counts the number of visitors to leisure centres that are ran by West Northamptonshire Council.

Overall numbers each month remain consistently above the forecast target but some classes / sessions remain below pre-covid levels at the current time.

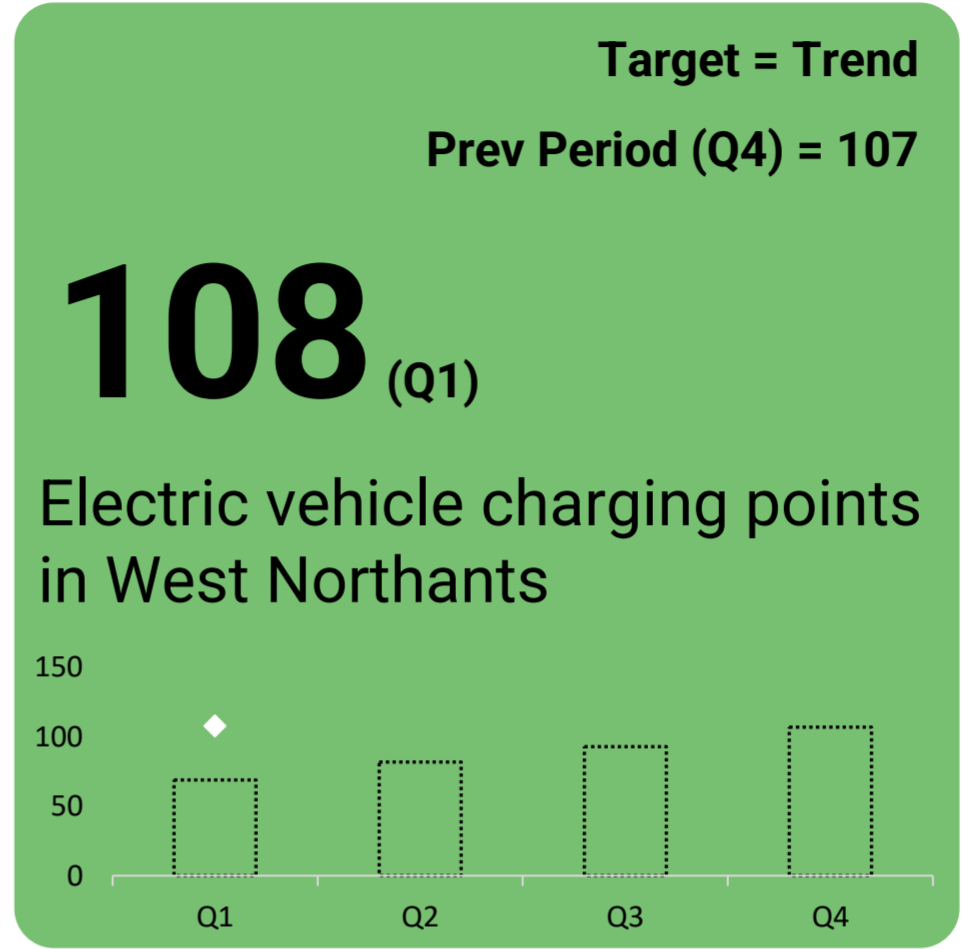
The first quarter of the current year has seen over 0.5million visitors into the leisure's centres with the peak in May with 186,601 visitors.

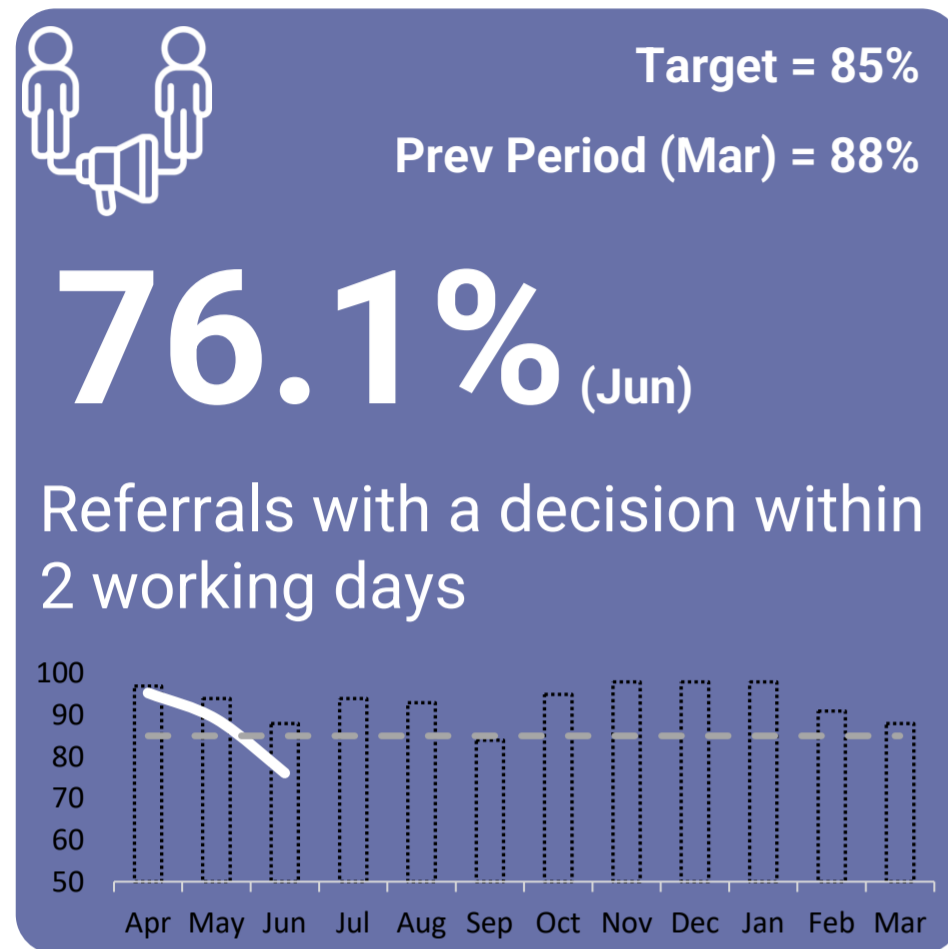


WNC has 22 electric vehicle charge points in place on our premises or property that are available for electric vehicles, this is a reduction of 3 points that were reported at the end of the previous quarter – this was due to the same position as reported in the previous quarter.

Additionally the total charging point access for West Northamptonshire as at July 2022 shows that there are 108 public charging devices of which 37 rapid charging devices. This is an increase overall of 1 charging point since April 2022 (107)

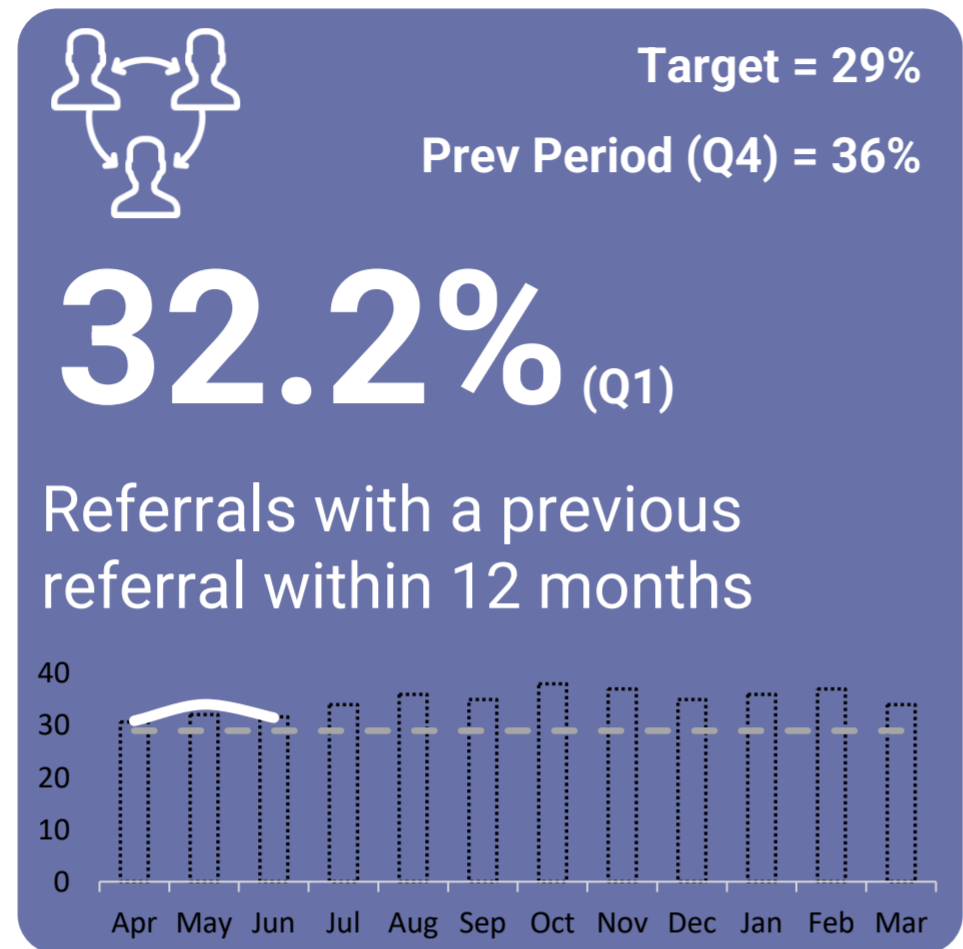
The West Northamptonshire area has 26.6 charging points per 100,000 population which is lower than the East Midlands (35.3) and England (48.6) averages.





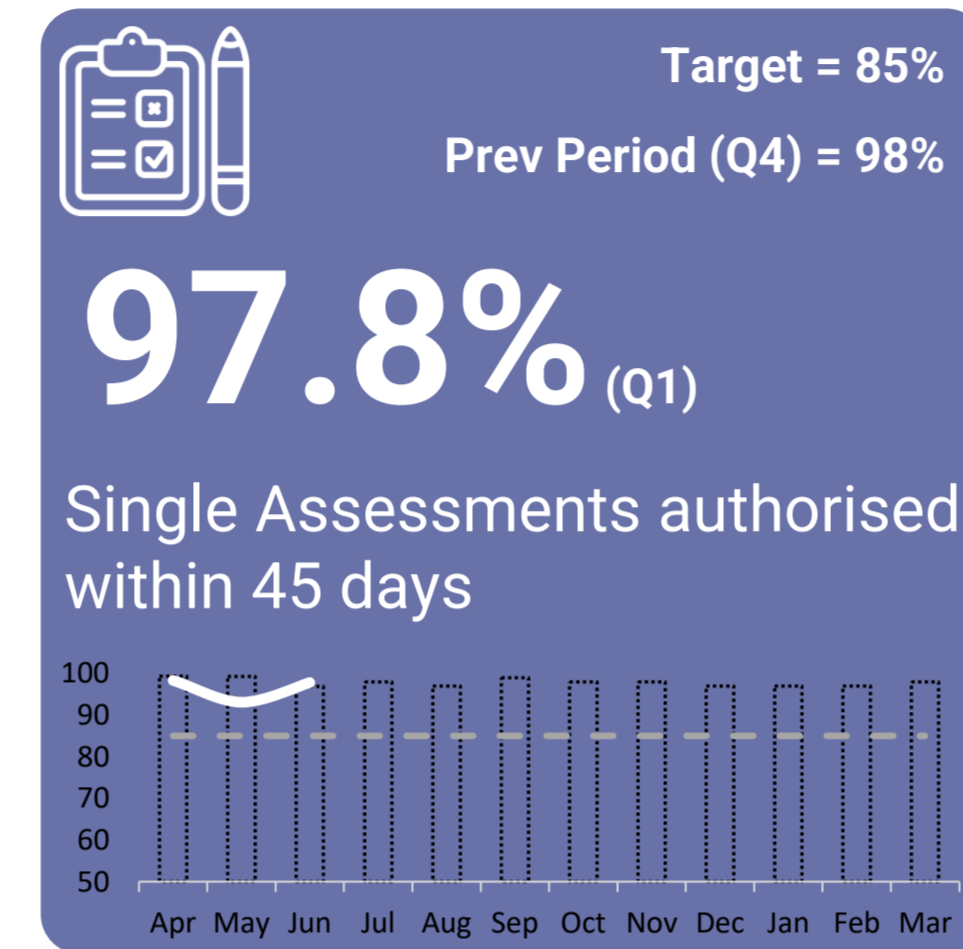
Performance has declined this month following an increase in business. The service continues to work hard on ensuring timely decision making is maintained. Cases that are rag rated RED are prioritised and decisions made within 1 day.

There is ongoing improvement work in the MASH to continually increase quality and enhance performance. This is an area that has been supported by PIP and they completed the 2nd part of the peer review in May which evidenced ongoing progress. Areas for development and recommendations from the first part of the PIP review are currently being actioned.



There has been a decrease in re-referrals this month. Audit and review for learning is ongoing. It is anticipated that the strengthened model in MASH and developments in CFSS/Early Help will continue to support appropriate reduction going forward.

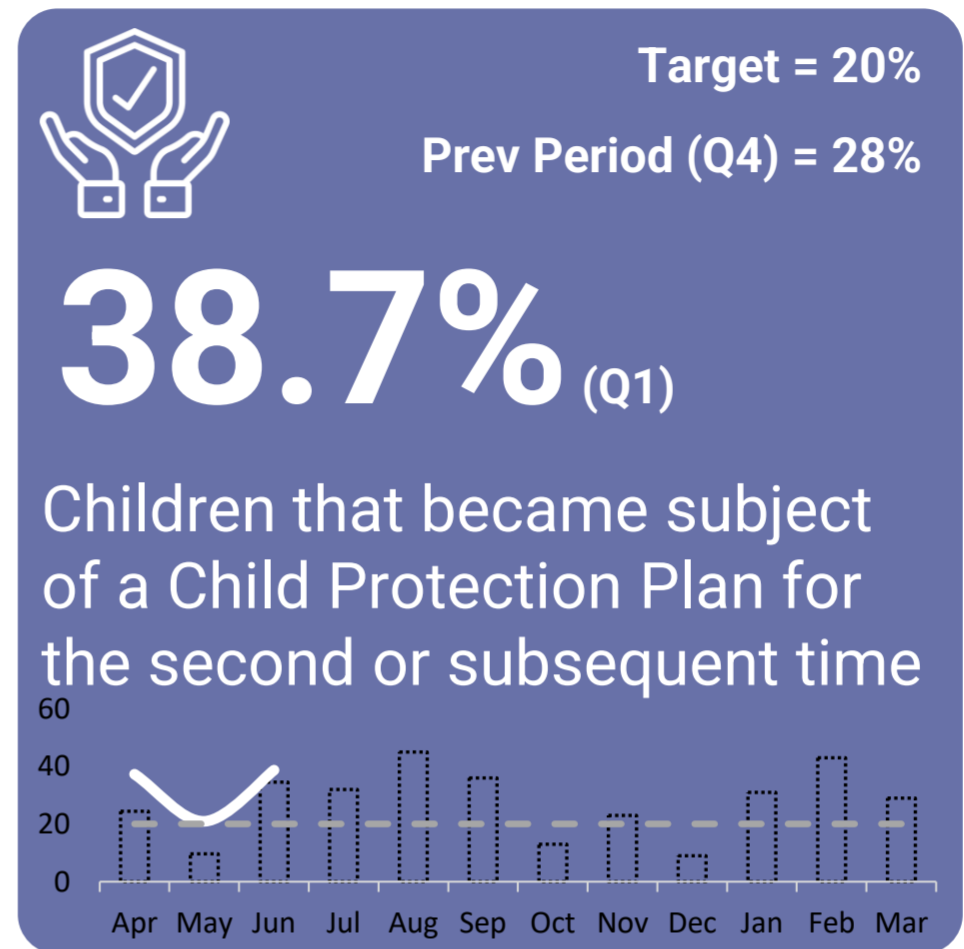
Steps have been taken to strengthen the Early Help partnerships with Partnership Support Team (Early Help MASH) being placed in the MASH pods and a leaner step down process. The high number of cases stepping down is presenting challenges in regards to capacity in Family Support/Early help partnership.



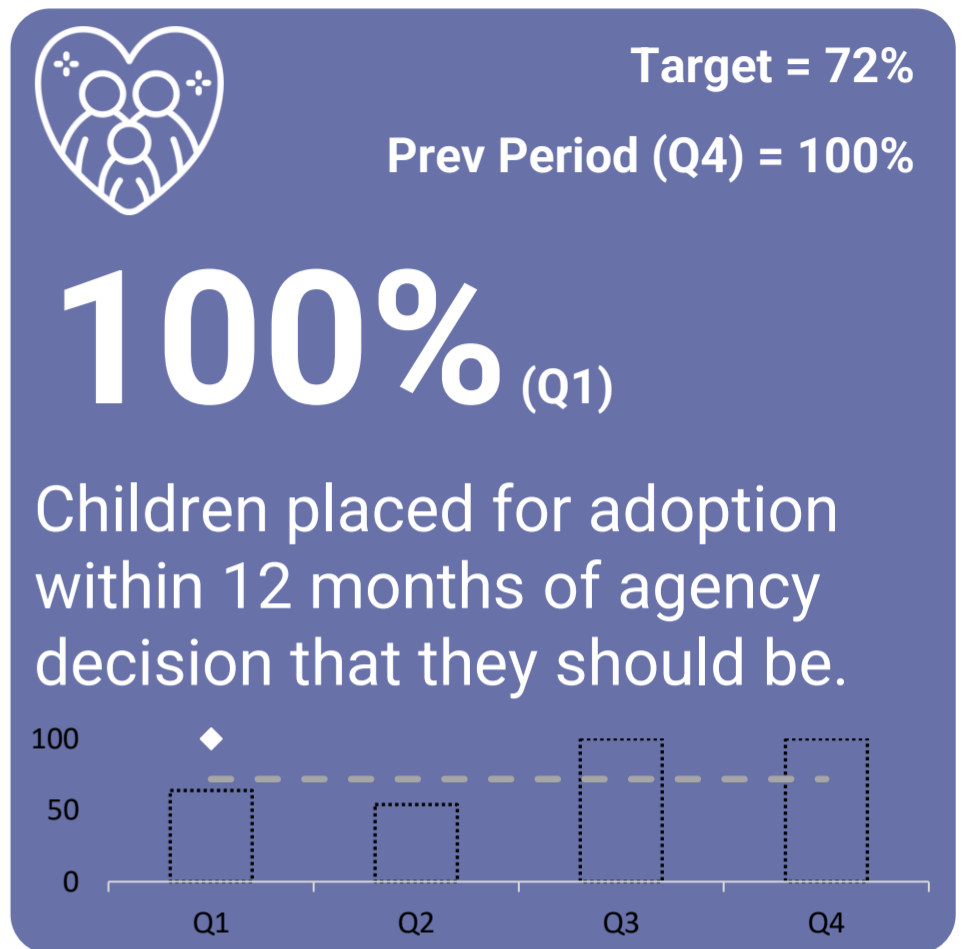
Assessment timescales remain consistently above target. All managers monitor this very closely via daily reports.

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 SofS in our interventions. PIP peer review has identified improvements in the quality of assessments.



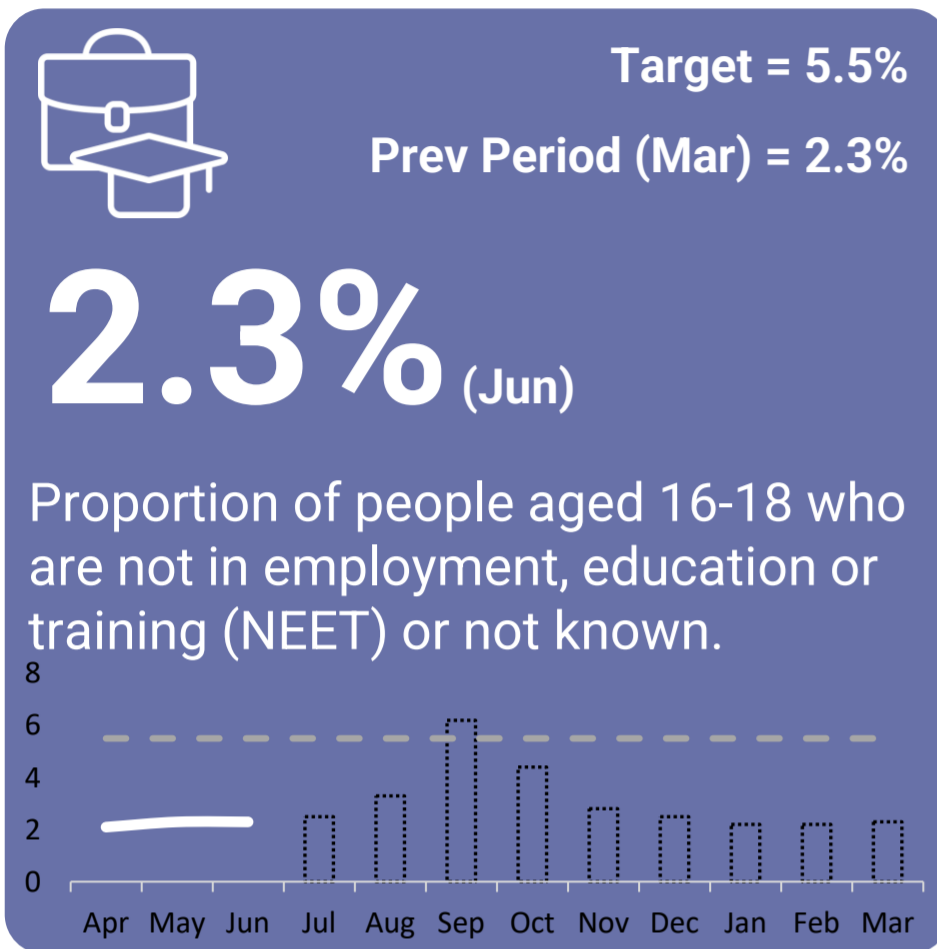
This measure continues to be variable and, on occasion, too high. However, positive progress has been made this month. 24 of 62 plans starting in June are for children who had been on a plan before (10 families). 7 families ended plans within the last 2 years and 3 ended 2 or more years ago. If looking at those repeating within 2 years, the figure is 27%. Cases are regularly reviewed and findings so far indicate that the pandemic may have contributed to increased stresses and pressure for families, consequently escalating their needs. Presenting issues are mostly associated with neglect and varying degrees of disguised compliance. Contingency planning for parents with mental health needs has been identified as an area for development



Strengthened family finding and matching processes have been implemented which alongside improved permanency tracking arrangements have supported timely decision making process and ability to progress adoption placements.

The use of foster to adopt placements have also positively influenced this performance indicator.

This quarters performance relates to 5 children who have been placed for adoption.

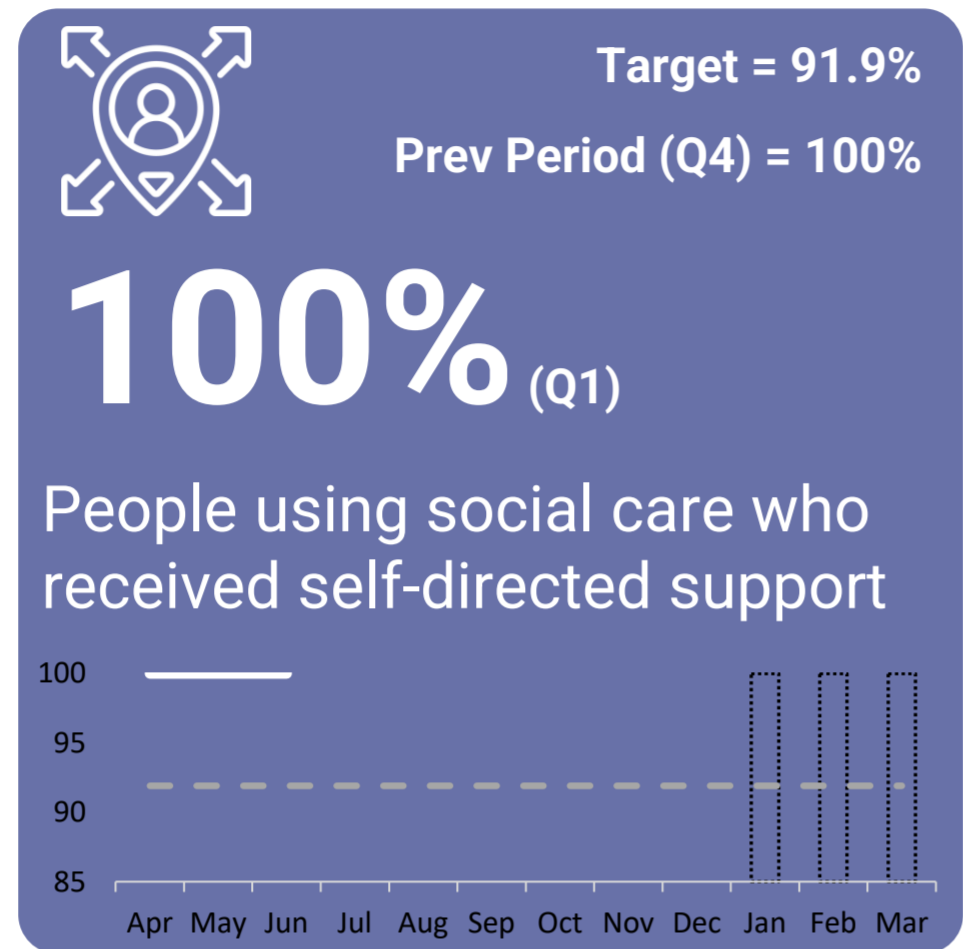


This indicator is showing the proportion of young people (aged 16-18) who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) or their status is 'not known'.

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.

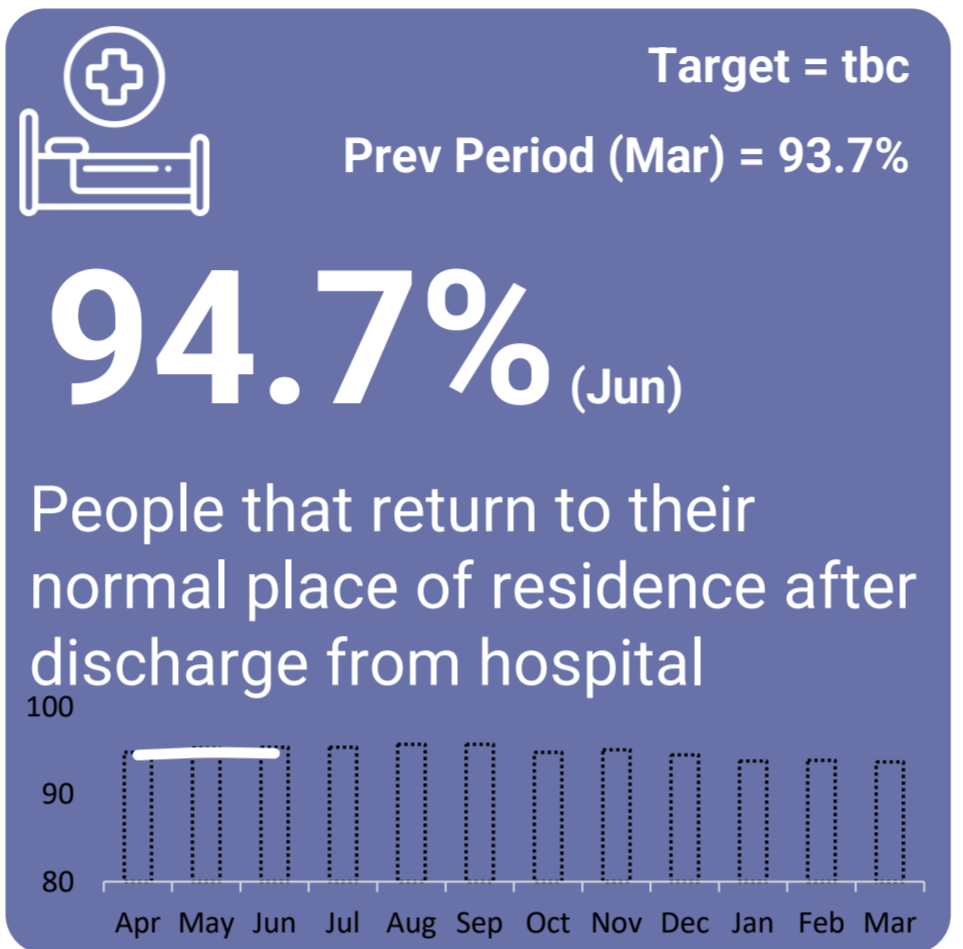
The latest position at the end of June shows that 2.3% of young people are either NEET or not known, this is the same as at the end of March.

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.

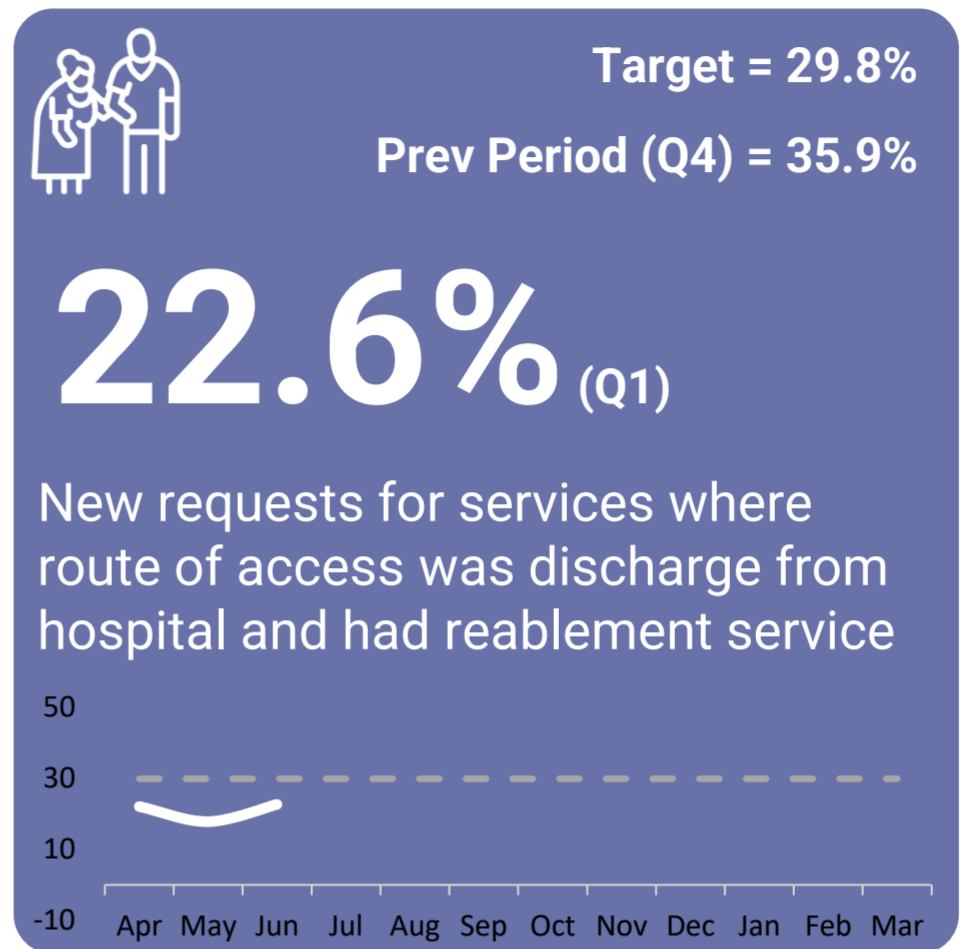
Currently the performance on this metric is showing that 100% of those in receipt of social care are managing their own support as much as they wish, this has been the case across the entire first quarter of the current year.



This indicator 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.

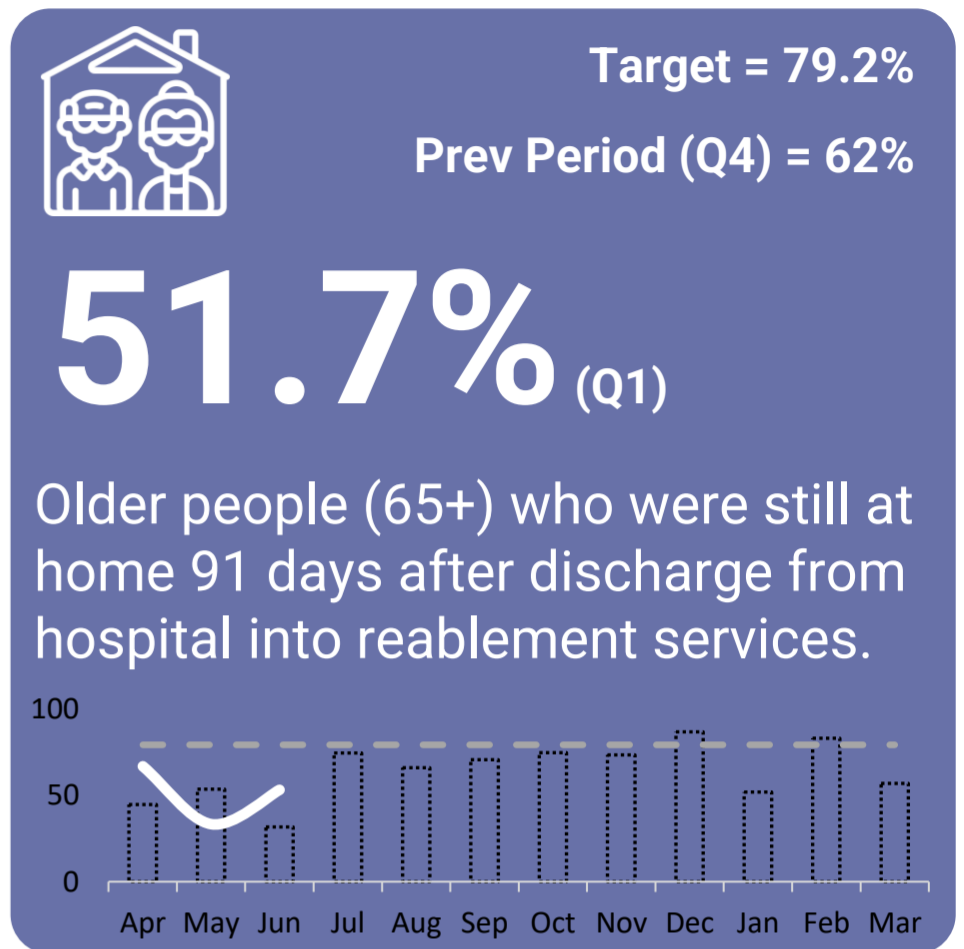
Performance has been consistent across the first quarter of the year with April at 94.5%, May at 94.8% and June at 94.7%. This is a small reduction when compared to last year of c0.5% each month. The target for this measure is in the process of being set through the Better Care Fund (BCF) work.



This measure is one from the SALT return and focuses on new requests for service that directly follow a period of stay and discharge from hospital that had resulted in some form of reablement services.

Performance in the first quarter of the year shows that 22.6% of those new requests for service have had a reablement service.

We are currently under performing this this area with the target for this measure is to be inline with the latest regional average of 29.8%. Work is being undertaken to investigate and understand if this is partly to do with how new requests are being entered onto the ASC database.



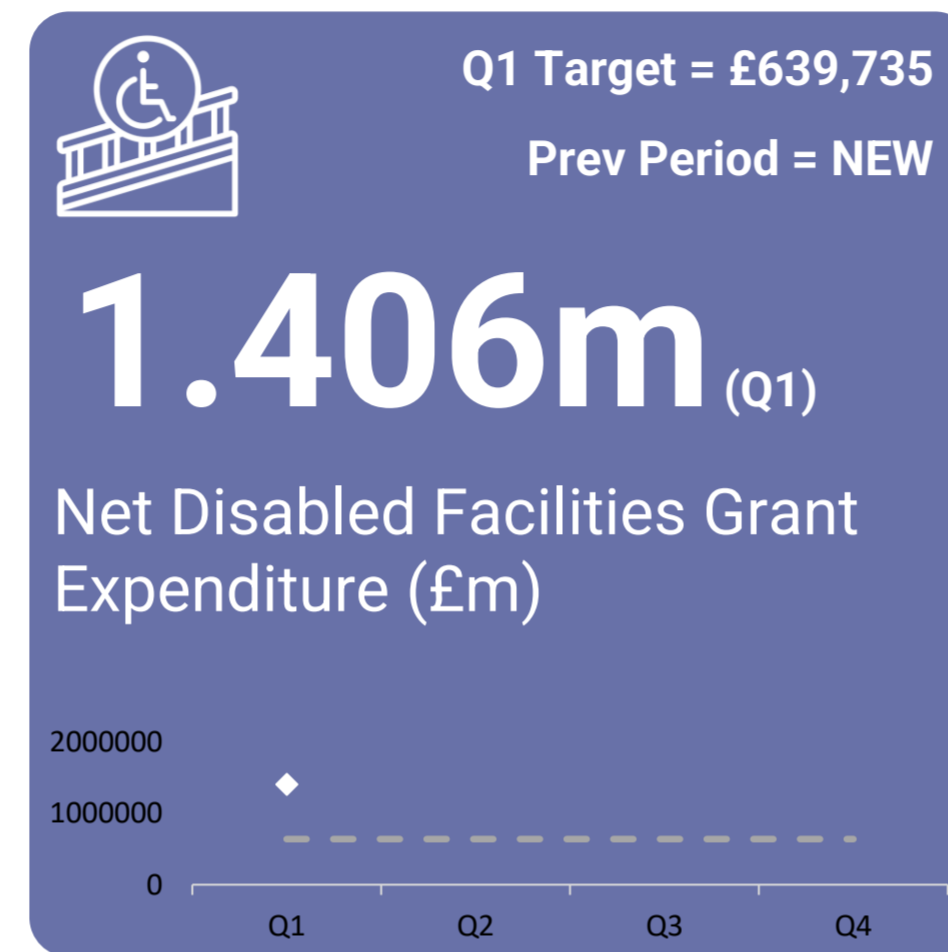
This indicator is one of the measures from the Better Care Fund (BCF) in the current year and measures those people (aged 65+) who were still at home 91 days after left hospital and had some form of reablement service.

Performance in this area has is typically lower in the first quarter of the year, for comparison our own performance last year was 43.9% in the first quarter.

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 79.2% and the WNC outturn for that period was 76.2%.

Priority 2 – Improved Life Chances

Health, Social Care & Families



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

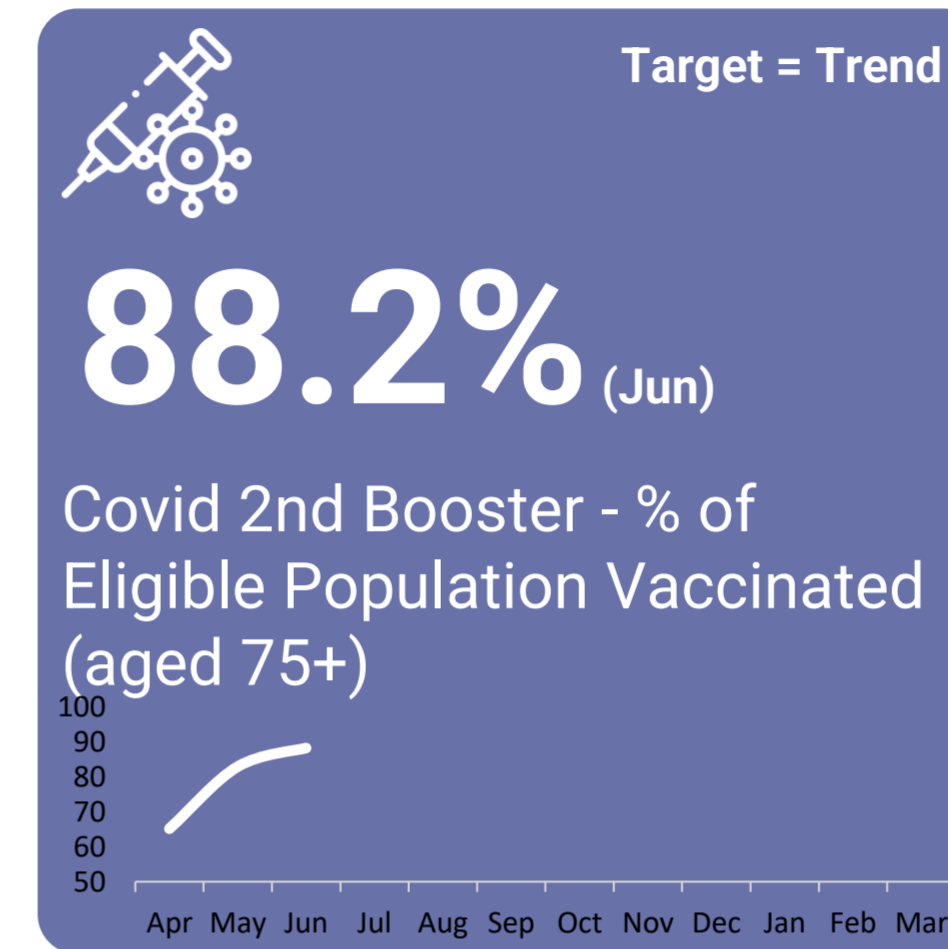
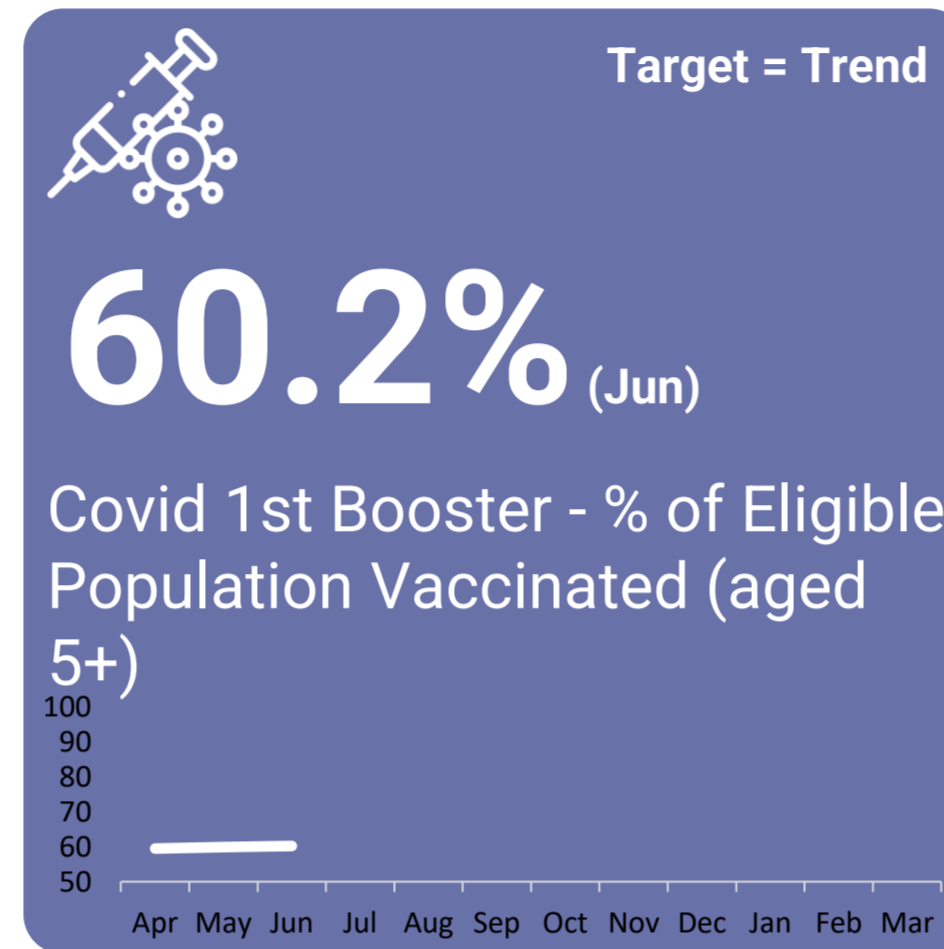
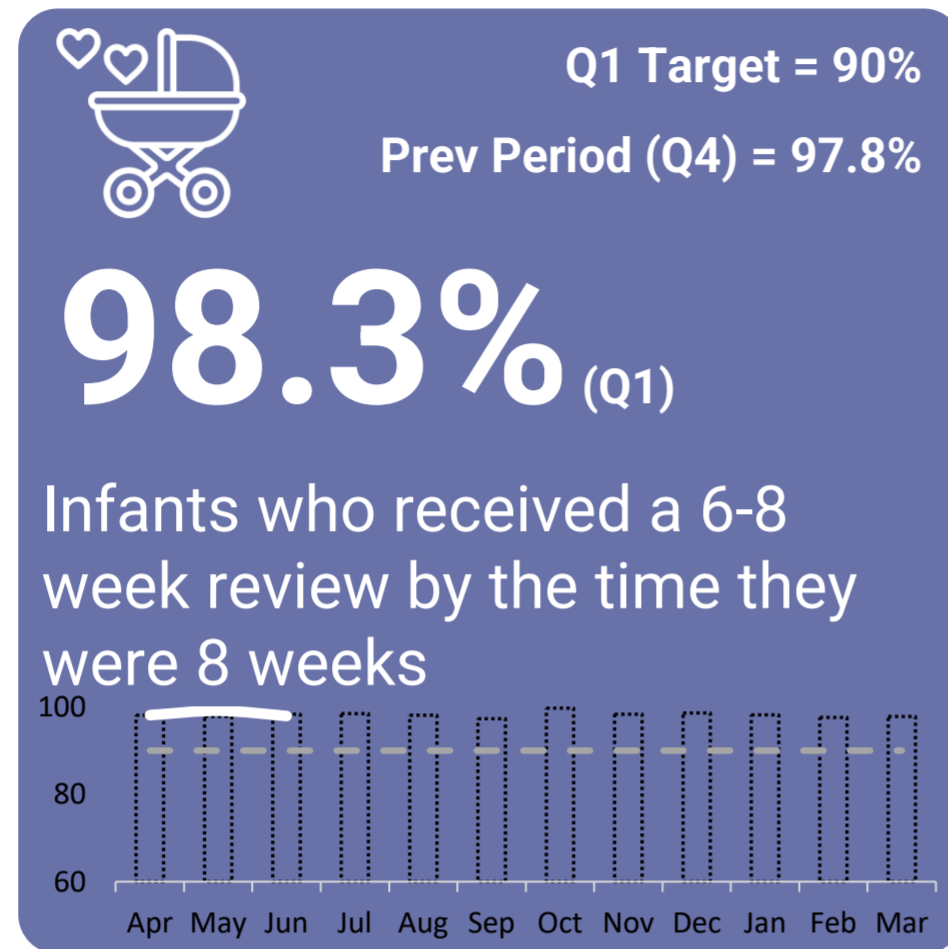
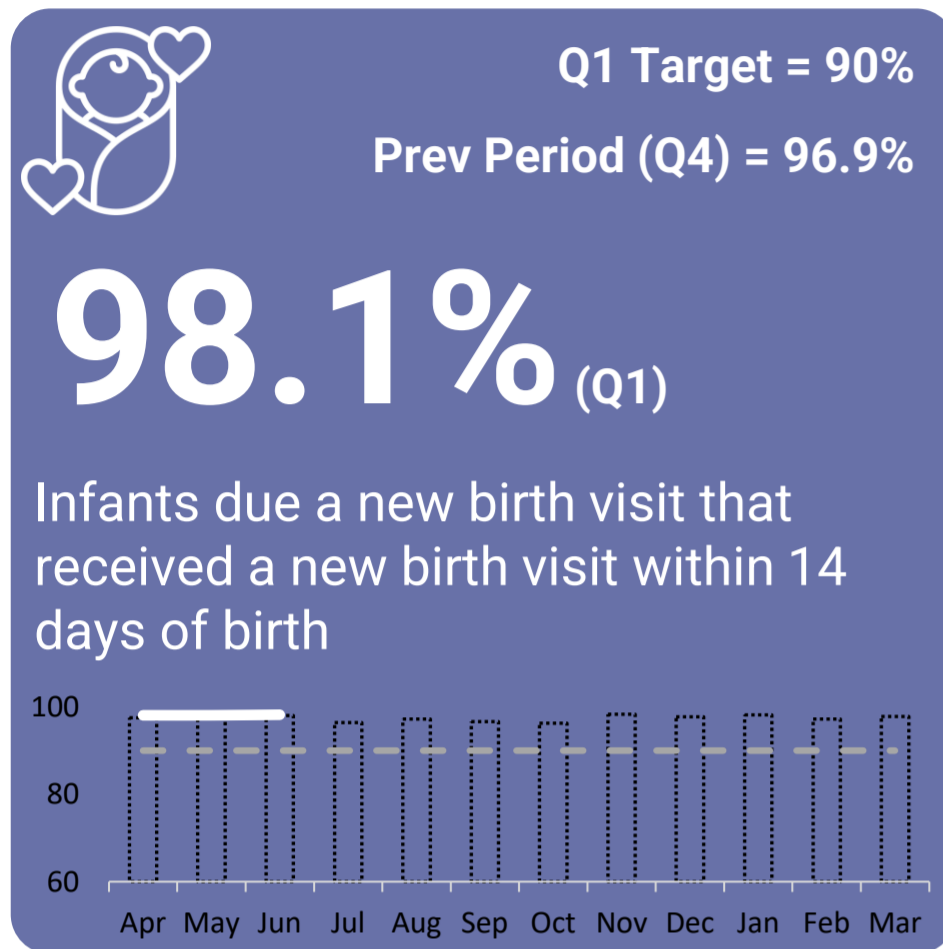
During the Prevention Duty we must take reasonable steps to prevent any eligible applicant from becoming homeless, regardless of priority need status, intentionality and whether they have a local connection. This can involve assisting you to stay in your current accommodation or helping you to find a new place to live. Under this part of our duty we have prevented 114 households from becoming homeless in the first quarter of the year, this is above our target for this period.

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 124 cases where homelessness was successfully relieved in quarter 1, as with the first indicator this is above our target for this period.

Combined under the two duties we have supported 238 households across the authority area from becoming homeless in the first quarter of the current year.

A Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a grant administered by the local council available to fund a range of work that will help a disabled person remain in their home. It has to be supported by an occupational therapist recommendation. The maximum amount per grant is £30,000.

This measure seeks to monitor the expenditure against the DFG sum that the authority has to spend in the current year, this total is £2.558m for 2022-22. the target for Q1 is a profiled target based upon the overall pot of money available.



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 98.1% for quarter 1, an increase from the 96.9% reported in the final quarter of 2021-22. Similarly an increase in the 8 week reviews completed, from 97.8% in quarter 4 to 98.3% in the first quarter of the current year.

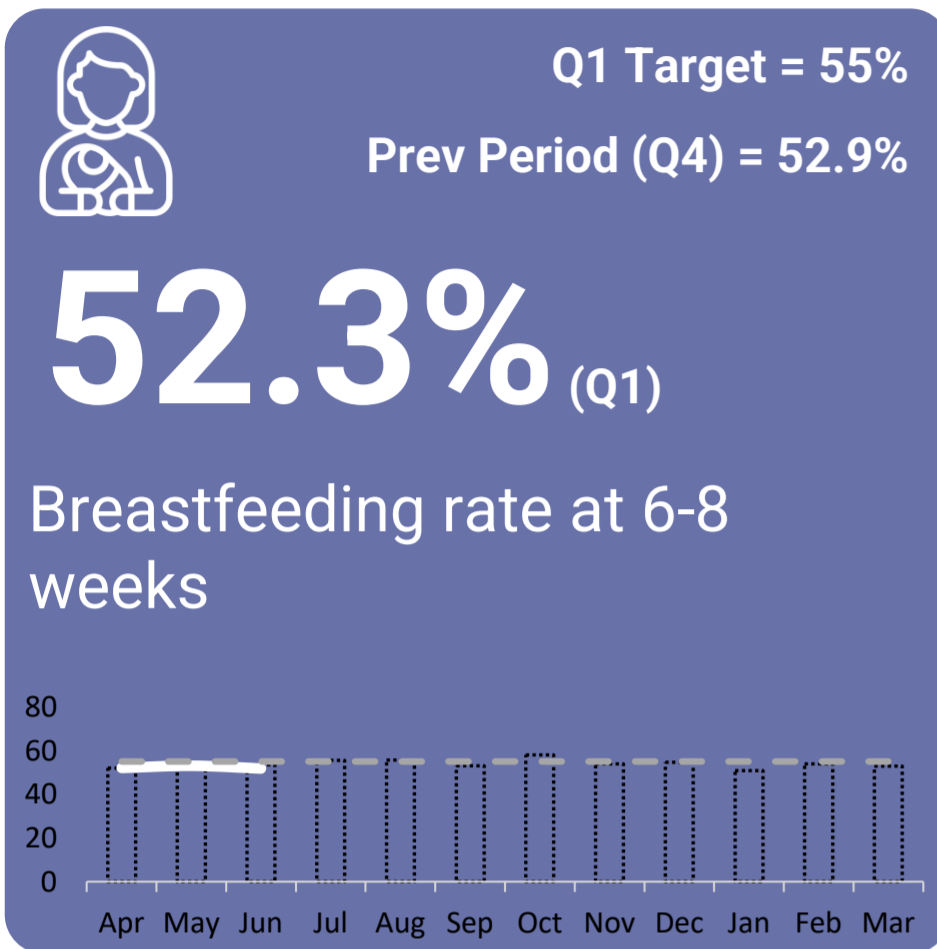
Both of these indicators perform well in comparison to national averages of 88% for 14 day visits and 80.2% for the 8 week visits and are above our local target of 90% for each indicator.

These two metrics are in place to monitor the progress of the 1st and 2nd boosters for the Covid19 vaccination programme. The 1st Booster is eligible to those who have received their 1st and 2nd doses and are aged over 5 years. The 2nd booster is eligible to those who have received their 1st booster and are aged over 75years.

The take up of the first booster is currently at 60.2% within West Northants and 88.2% for the 2nd booster (those aged 75+).

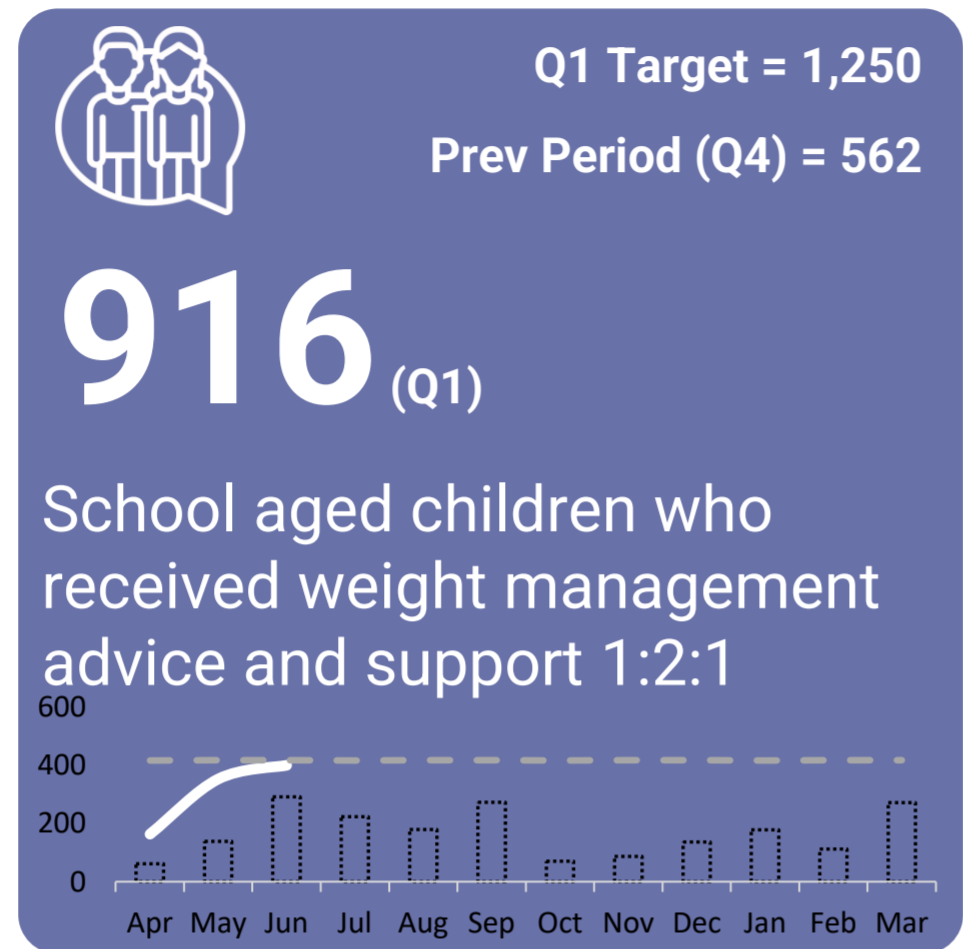
Contributory factors to the performance of both of these measures are the take-up of the 1st and 2nd doses (i.e. there cannot be more 1st boosters than there are 2nd dose take-ups) As at the end of June the overall vaccination take-up figures for West Northants for each of the vaccination stages are;

- 1st Dose – 79% with 1,455 1st doses administered in Q1 (84.5% England Ave)
- 2nd Dose – 75.4% with 4,268 2nd doses administered in Q1 (79.1% England Ave)
- 1st Booster – 60.2% with 4,930 doses administered in Q1 (62.3% England Ave)
- 2nd Booster – 88.2% with 23,533 doses administered in Q1 (76.2% England Ave)



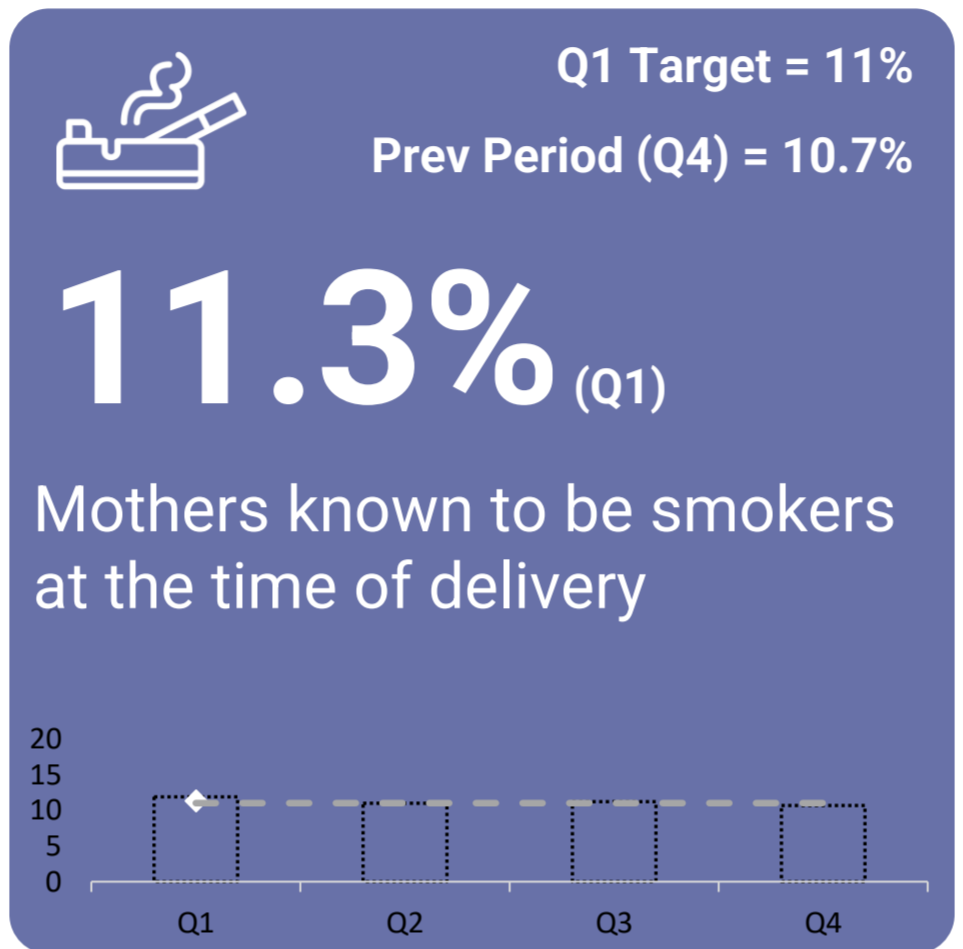
Increases in breastfeeding are expected to reduce illness in young children, have health benefits for the infant and the mother and result in cost savings to the NHS through reduced hospital admission for the treatment of infection in infants (Quigley et al 2007.) Breast milk provides the ideal nutrition for infants in the first stages of life.

In West Northamptonshire there were 52.3% of babies are breastfed at 6-8 weeks in the first quarter this year, a similar level to the previous period (52.9%). The performance of this measure has been relatively consistent over the past year (52-57%), this compares favourable with the latest national average of 47.6%.



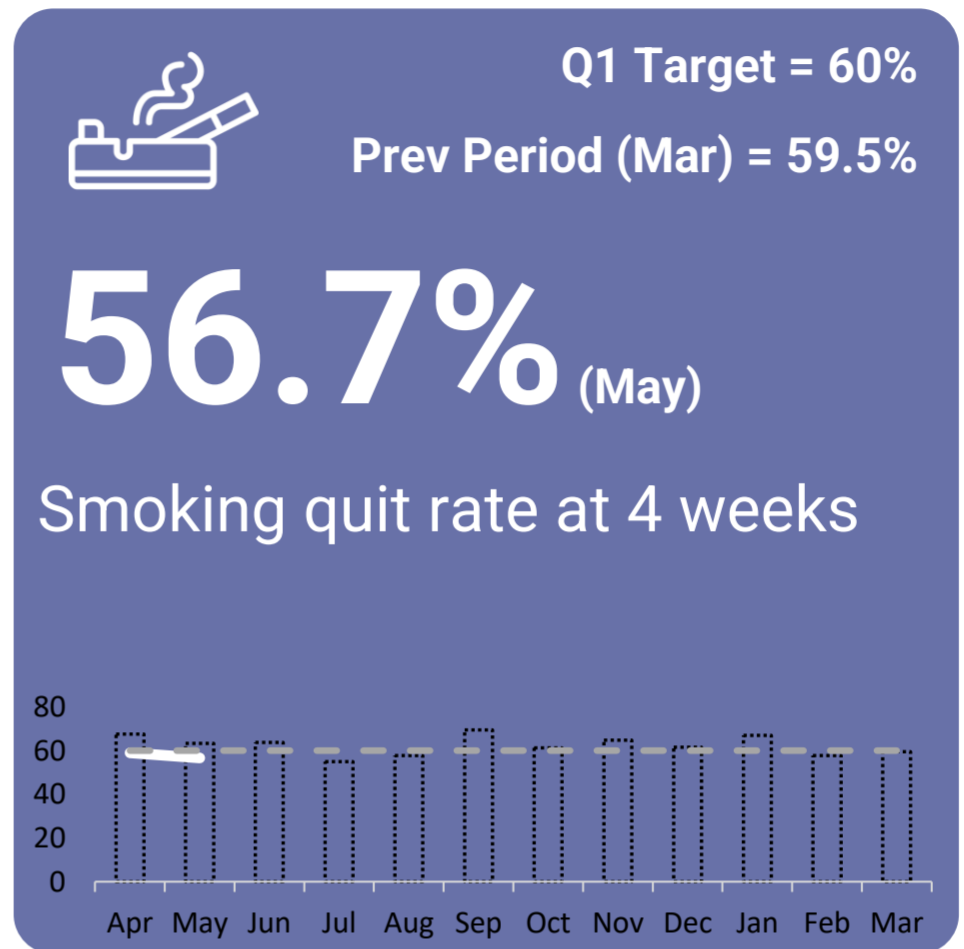
Though not part of the Public Health statutory services, this measure looks at the support that is provided to school age children with weight management advice and support, this is delivered through the Health Child Programme – a series of public health interventions for children and families from birth to age 19.

This quarter the service has supported 916 school aged children through this service offer which is an improvement on the 562 children supported in the previous quarter and also an increase in comparison with the same period last year when 491 children were supported.



Smoking in pregnancy has well known detrimental effects for the growth and development of the baby and health of the mother. On average, smokers have more complications during pregnancy and labour, including bleeding during pregnancy, placental abruption and premature rupture of membranes.

Of the births this quarter 11.3% of mothers are known to be smokers at the time of birth, this is 0.6% higher than the number in the previous quarter and compares with a latest (2020-21) regional average of 11.4% and England average of 9.6%.

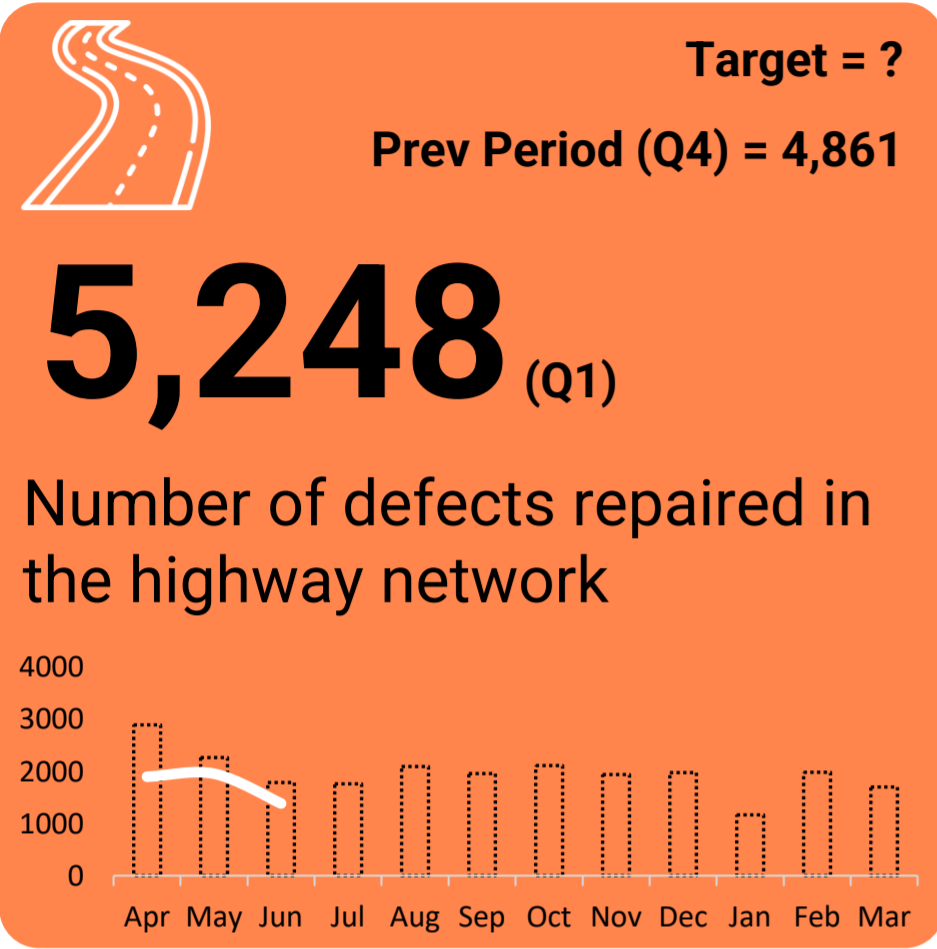


Our local performance data shows that 56.7% of clients who set a quit date have successfully quit at 4 weeks in May of the current year. Looking back over the previous 12 months this is one of the lower performing months of the past 12 months that have seen a high of 69.5% and a low of 55%.

In comparison to the national quit rate for 2019-20 of 51% (latest available) West Northamptonshire is above the national average for those that quit smoking through the local service offer.

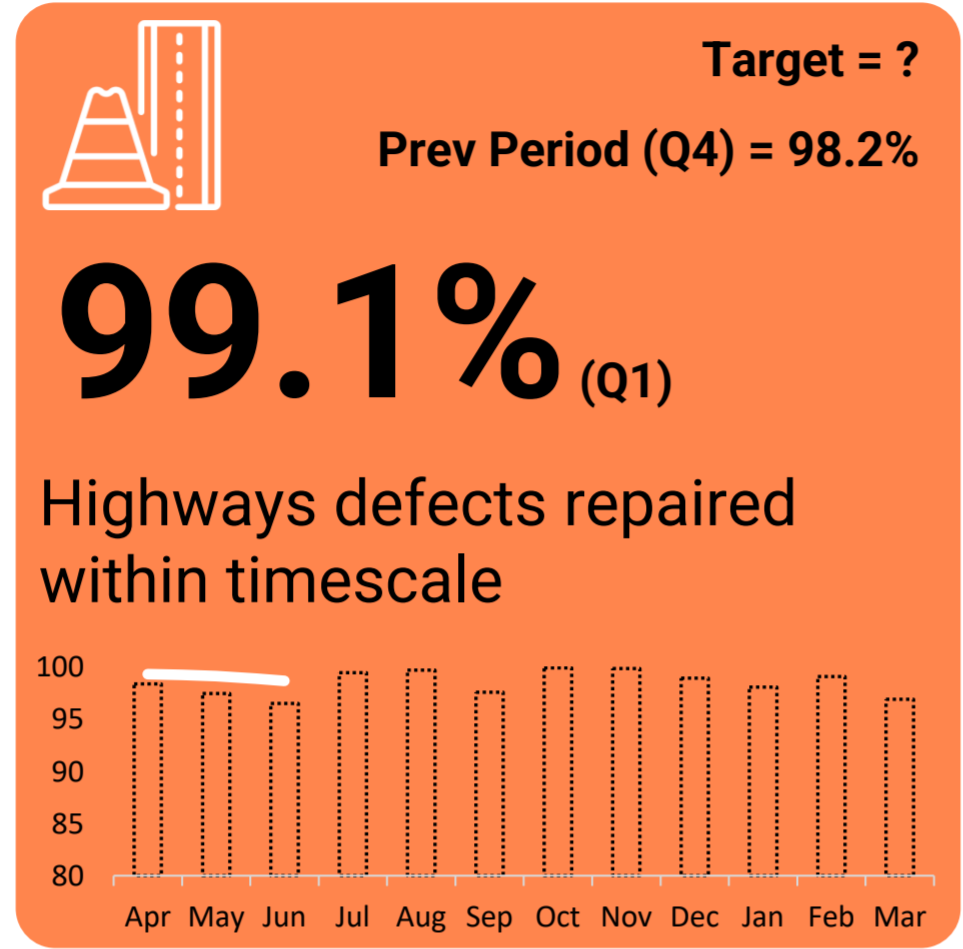
Priority 3 – Connected Communities

Transport & Connectivity



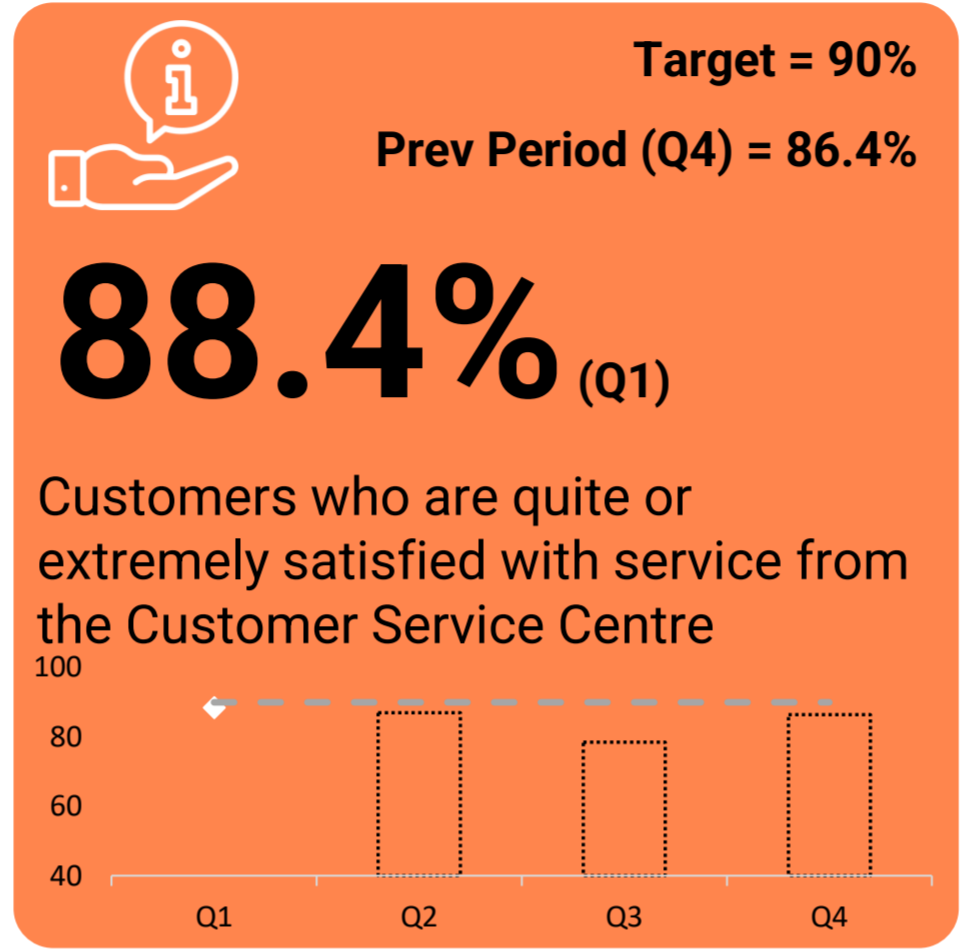
Repairs to the highways network are always needed, nationally there is a backlog of outstanding repairs with increasing traffic volume and changeable weather conditions, of which both contribute to the deterioration of the road network.

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 1 was 5,248, an increase from the 4,861 repairs undertaken in the final quarter of last year.



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.

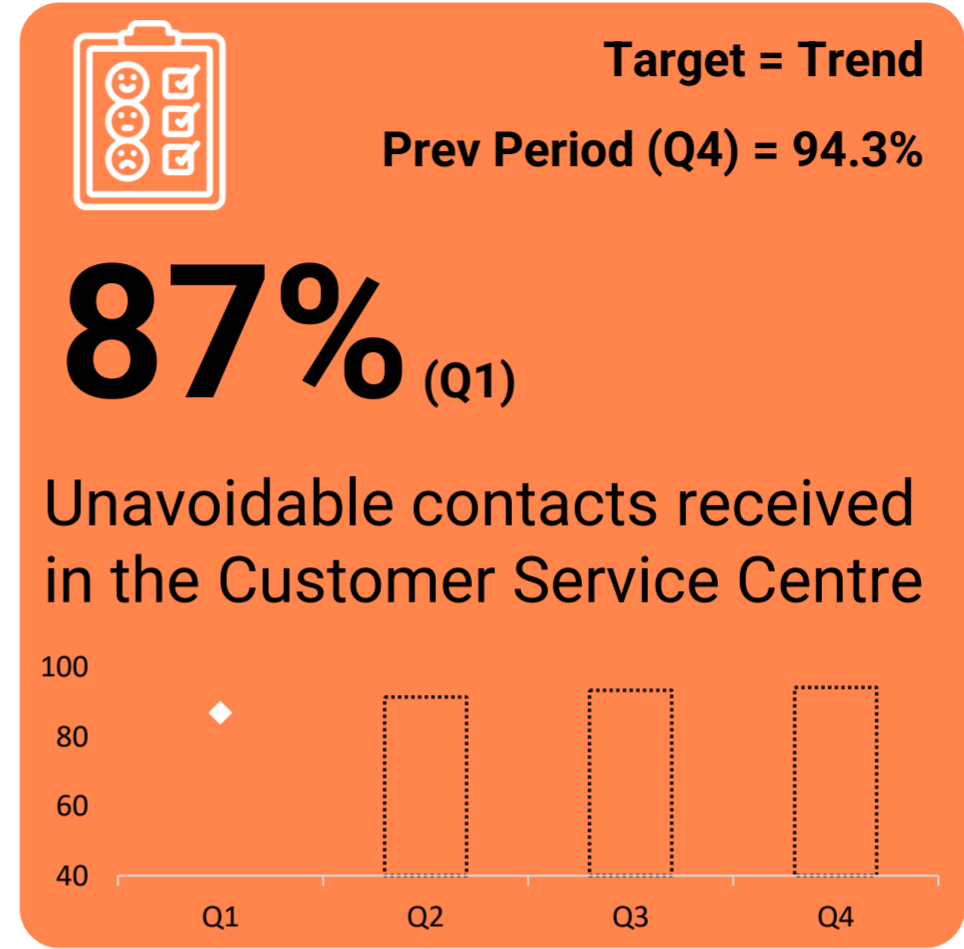
Of those reported repairs that have been completed this quarter 99.1% of those have been repaired within the required timescale, whilst this is an increase from the position of 98.2% in the last quarter of 2021-22. This remains a high performing metric.



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, therefore no comparison is yet possible to previous years.

The final quarter of the year has resulted in a small increase in the satisfaction level in the Customer Service Centre – up 2% to 88.4% when compared to the previous quarter.

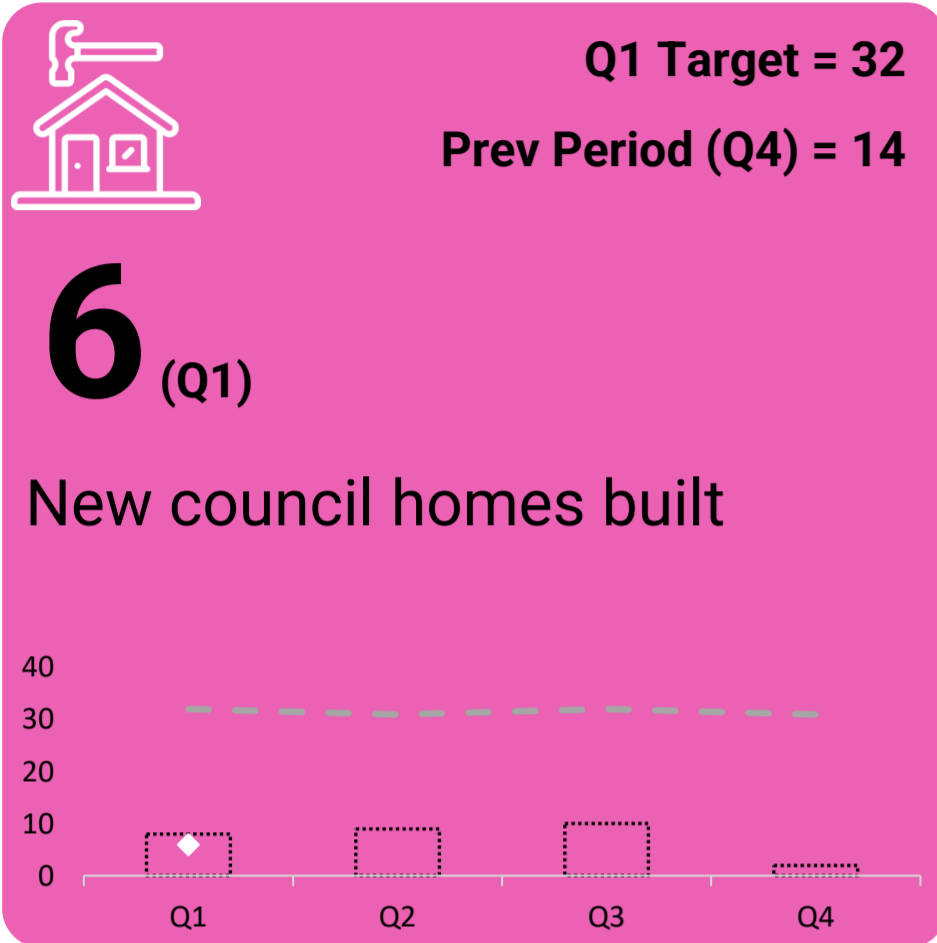
In total 561 customers took part (Q4 was 1,261) in the survey and of those asked 88.4% of those were either quite or extremely satisfied with the overall service.



This is a new indicator being reported within the Customer Service Centre from Q2 last year and shows the percentage of unavoidable contacts received, essentially first time that contact has been made with the council. The remaining proportion are repeat contacts, for example following-up on a previous request made to the council.

This measure is a trend based measure and we'd like to see that the vast majority of calls into the Customer Service Centre are unavoidable.

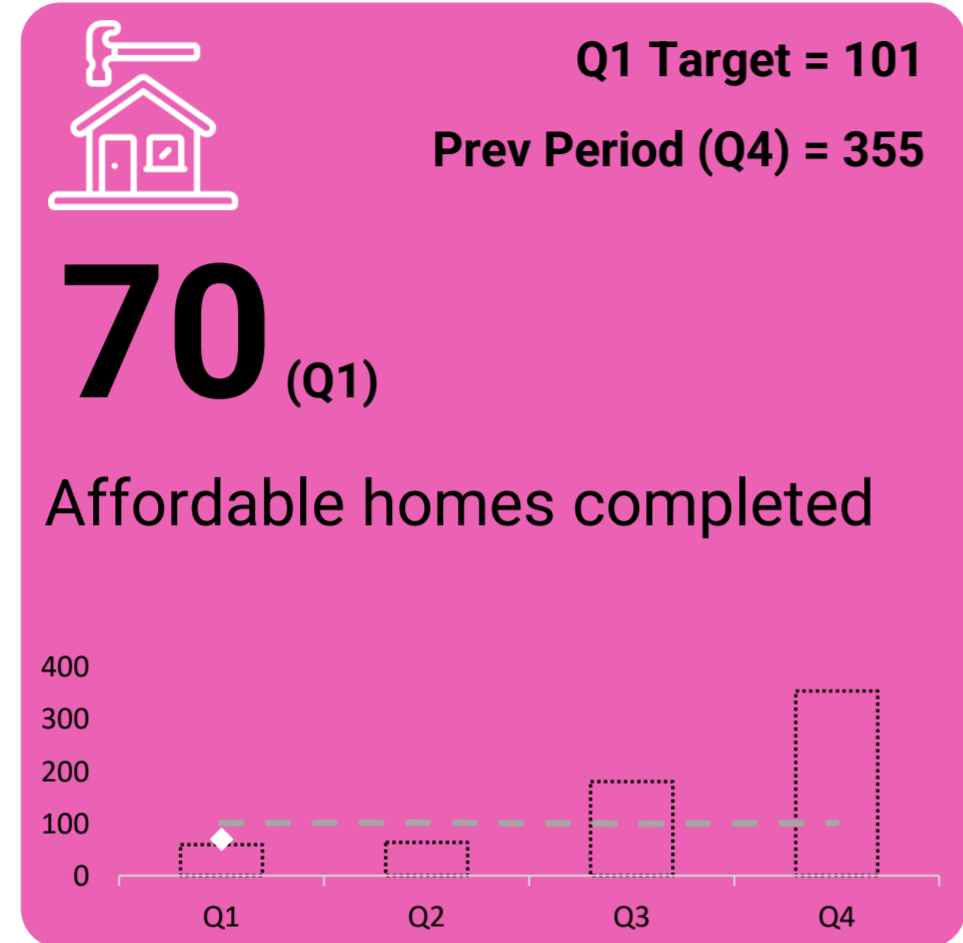
The current period shows 87% of unavoidable contacts in quarter 1, this is a decrease from the 94.3% reported in the final quarter of last year.



The West Northamptonshire Council corporate plan commits to build 500 council homes over the lifespan of the current corporate plan. 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 6 council homes completed a decrease from the 14 completed in the previous quarter and taking the completions since the inception of West Northamptonshire Council to 47 homes.

In addition to council homes we have also seen 70 affordable homes completed in the quarter and a year to date figure of 730 affordable homes completed since the 1st April 2021.



This measure monitors the relationship between recommendations that officers make on planning applications versus the decisions that the committee make on those applications. This is a trend based measure and not appropriate to have a target in place.

This quarter has had 30 planning applications that have been considered by the planning committee with 28 of these applications have had the decision made by the committee as recommended by Planning Officers.

Supporting the Local Visitor Economy

The Economy Team continue to support the Visitor Company and work with partners to promote local attractions, events and reasons to enjoy everything West Northamptonshire has to offer.


This included a highly effective marketing campaign for English Tourism Week (18-27 May) in partnership with the Communications Team. The celebration of attractions and reasons to love West Northants included content across all of our social media platforms and the creation of a WNC TikTok to target all audiences and utilise popular mediums for engagement. It may have been English Tourism Week, but this was a innovative showcase of West Northamptonshire to the world.

Ongoing plans are taking place to prepare for Heritage Open Days in September 2022, with a variety of businesses and attractions already signed up to take part, delivering events, tours and more. All of these free activities are publicised on the WNC website and will be built on each year, as the Economy Team celebrates heritage and culture in West Northamptonshire.

The Economy team have been working on an exciting new “Explore West Northants” App, funded by the Welcome Back Fund, the App has been developed to showcase local businesses, attractions, events, walking paths and more. It will be a long-term tool to promote everything West Northants has to offer and allow residents and visitors to explore the wide variety of things to see, do and enjoy. The Economy Team are working closely with partners to promote Explore West Northants to businesses, so that it can be launched later in the year with a full spectrum of the great things to discover in this area.

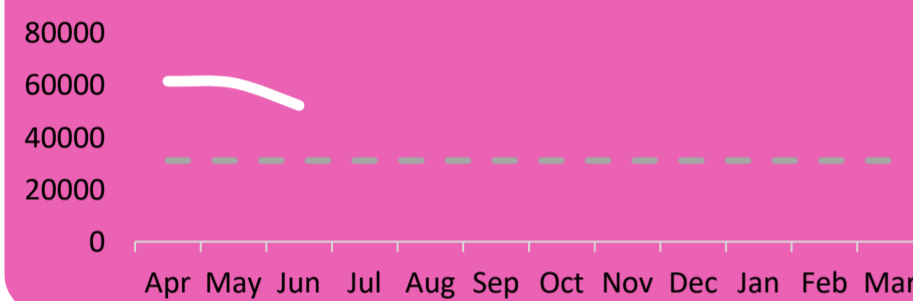
Priority 4 – Thriving Villages & Towns

Place Shaping & Homes

 Q1 Target = 125,000
Prev Period (Q4) = ?

174,893 (Q1)

Visitors to Libraries



This measure counts the number of visitors into our libraries across West Northamptonshire.

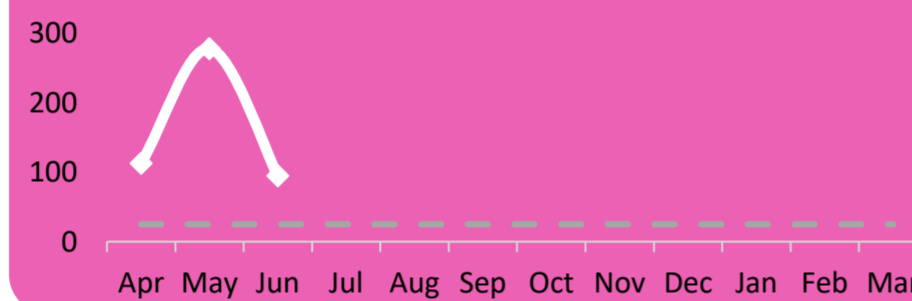
The first quarter of the year has resulted in nearly 175,000 visitors which is above the quarterly target of 125,000 (based upon an annual aspiration for 0.5million visitors this year).

Visitors were highest in April and May, both around 61,000 visitors, June had a reduction to 52,000 visitors primarily due to one of our libraries being closed for 3 weeks during that period for building work and across all libraries the impact of the additional bank holiday.

 Q1 Target = 75
Prev Period = NEW

486 (Q1)

People resettled



West Northamptonshire Council have been supporting people from the Ukraine and Afghan countries via hotel accommodation and also placing in households who are able to support. here have been 486 people resettled in the first quarter of the current year, and so far to date a total of 729 have been supported with wrap around care.

The council is carrying out, on behalf of the government a number of activities under these schemes, including

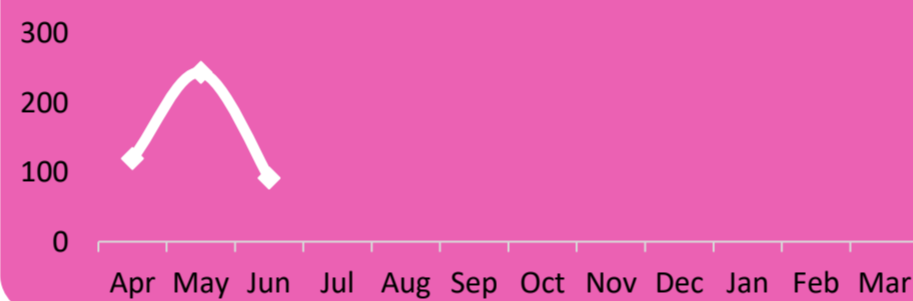
- Assessing the host properties
- Carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on hosts – enhanced checks will be required for homes which will be hosting children or vulnerable adults
- Providing immediate financial assistance, potentially until access to benefits and work entitlement is arranged
- Continuing to support the household over the first 12 months and help with access to services and integration into UK systems and processes

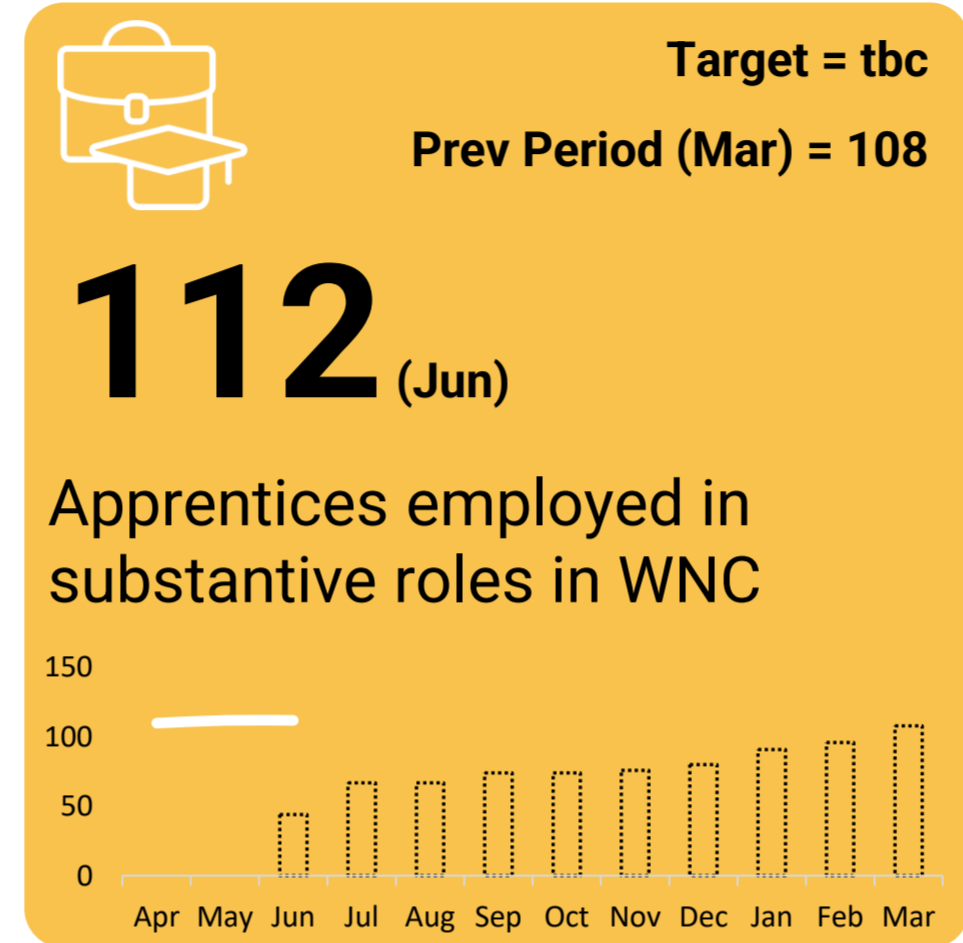
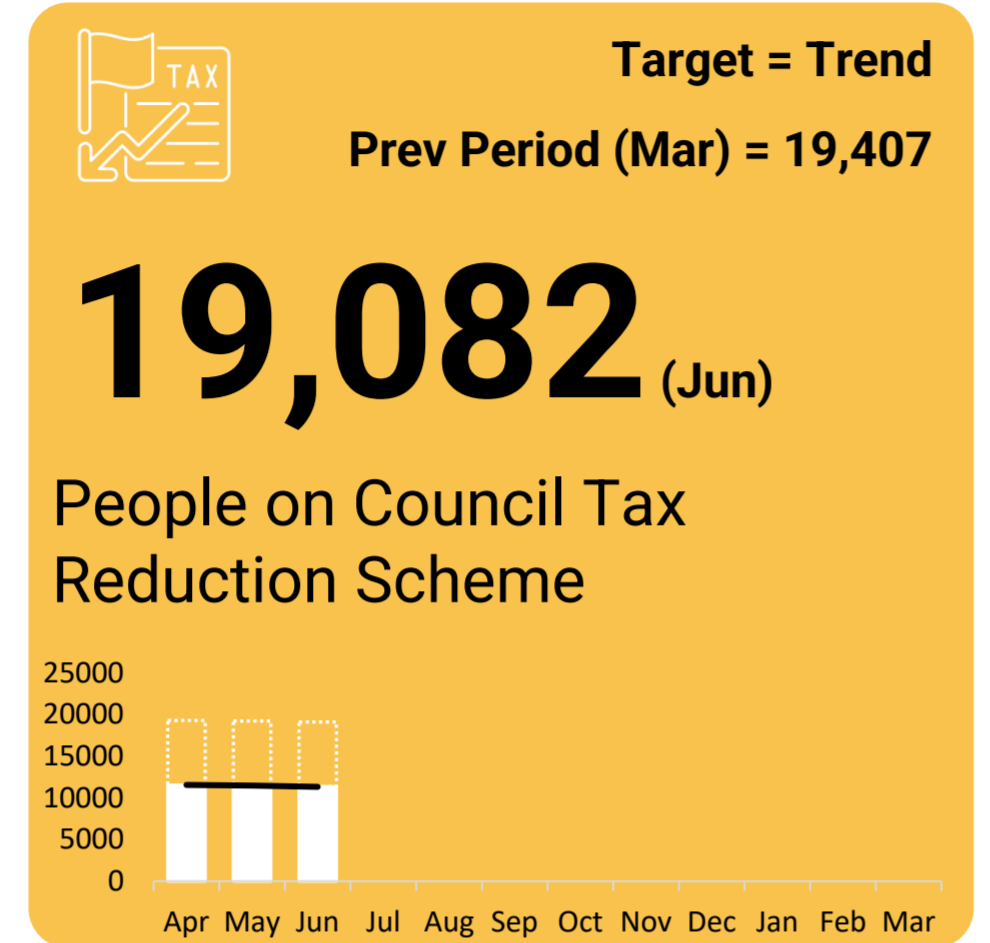
In addition to providing accommodation we are also providing ongoing wrap-around support 443 Ukrainians across West Northants and 275 Afghans currently placed in bridging accommodation since these two schemes commenced.

 Prev Period = NEW

729 (Total to Jun'22)

People supported with wrap around care





Supporting West Northamptonshire Businesses

Supporting local employers, as well as attracting new ones into the area, is a high priority for the Economy Team. Not only does the Team connect businesses of all sizes and scale to support, funding, expert advice, training and recruitment (from internal and external services), but they work with them for as long as the business needs. These services aren't one off's, the Team build long-lasting relationships with the local businesses to help them throughout their growth journey, overcoming challenges and realising opportunities.

A recent initiative the Economy supported, was the two WNC procurement events to inform local businesses how they can win contracts and work with West Northamptonshire Council, to demystify the process and inform them of opportunities. The events were highly successful and not only helped employers, but showcased West Northamptonshire Council as "Open for Business".

April saw exhibition changeover in the art gallery and temporary exhibition gallery with the Valhalla – Life and Death in Viking Britain and British Wildlife Photographer of the Year finishing. Both saw strong visitor numbers with 22,0000 visitors to Valhalla and 18,500 to British Wildlife Photographer of the Year. Two new exhibitions opened Japan – A Floating Word in Print, a captivating display of Japanese prints from the Edo and Meiji masters wood block prints, and May The Toys Be With You, an exhibition of the UK's finest collection of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters from 1977 – 1985. Both have been very popular with over 11,000 visitors to May the Toys Be With You in its opening month.

Chart Key: Working Age Pensioners

Each Local Authority is required to agree a Council Tax Reduction Scheme each year. The scheme applies only to working age claimants as the government provides a prescribed scheme for those of pension age. As the scheme is a local one there is a financial impact to the authority and moving forward, we plan to report on the number of both working age and pension claims to enable us to forecast any possible impact.

As of 30 June 2022 the number of LCTRS working age claimants was 11, 316 which is a slight decrease from 11,605 at the end of 21-22. There are currently 7,766 pensioner claims and again this figure has reduced from the end of 21-22. The reductions may be due in part to the peak in caseload figures we saw during the pandemic as we now move out of Covid.

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 June West Northamptonshire Council had 112 apprentices employed in substantive roles, this is up from 108 at the end of March.

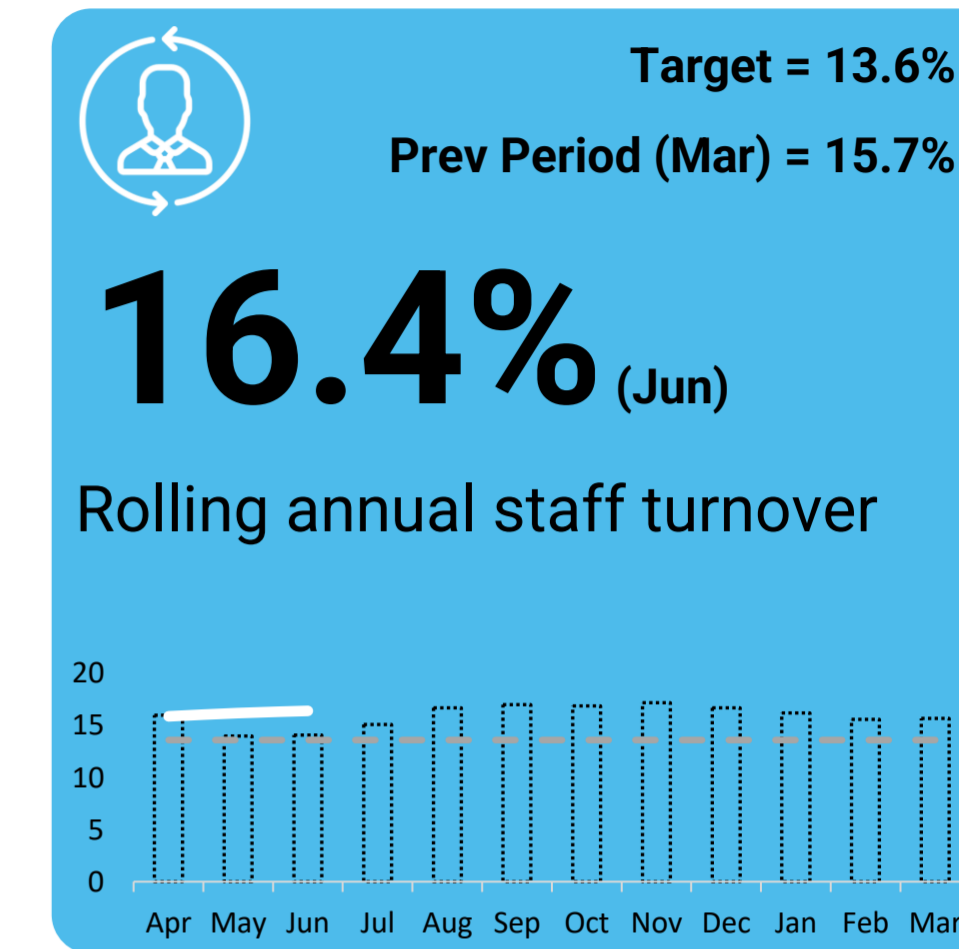
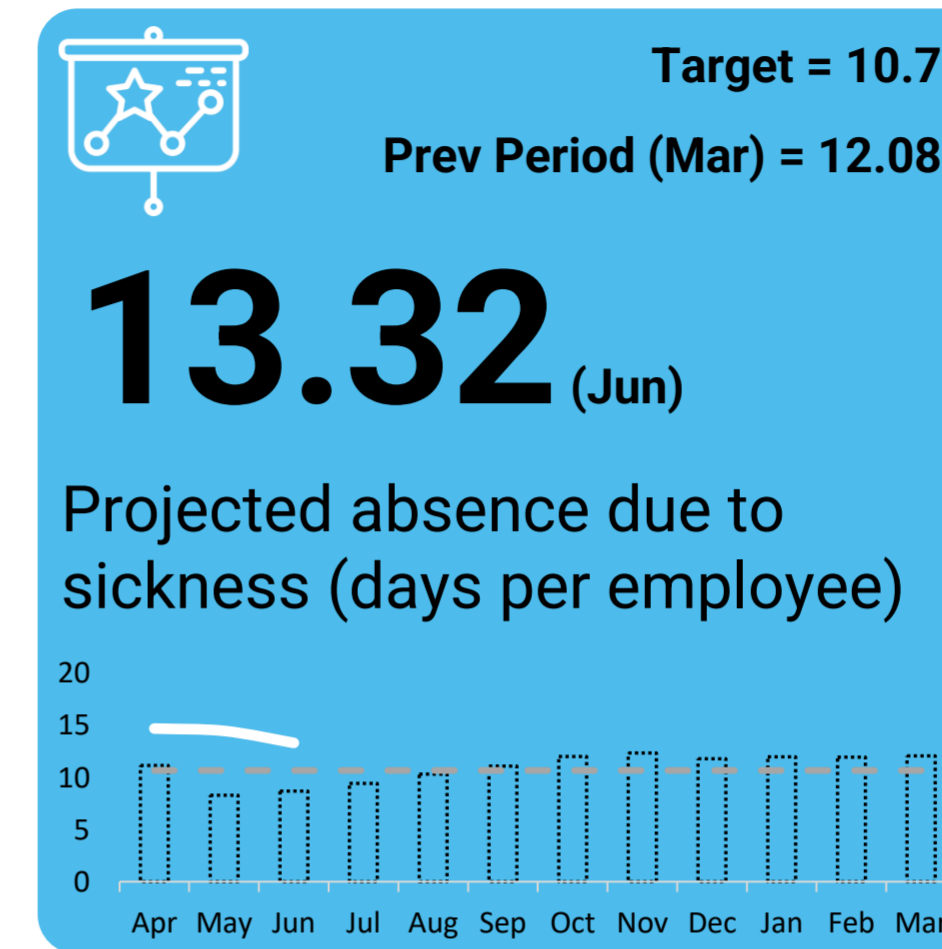
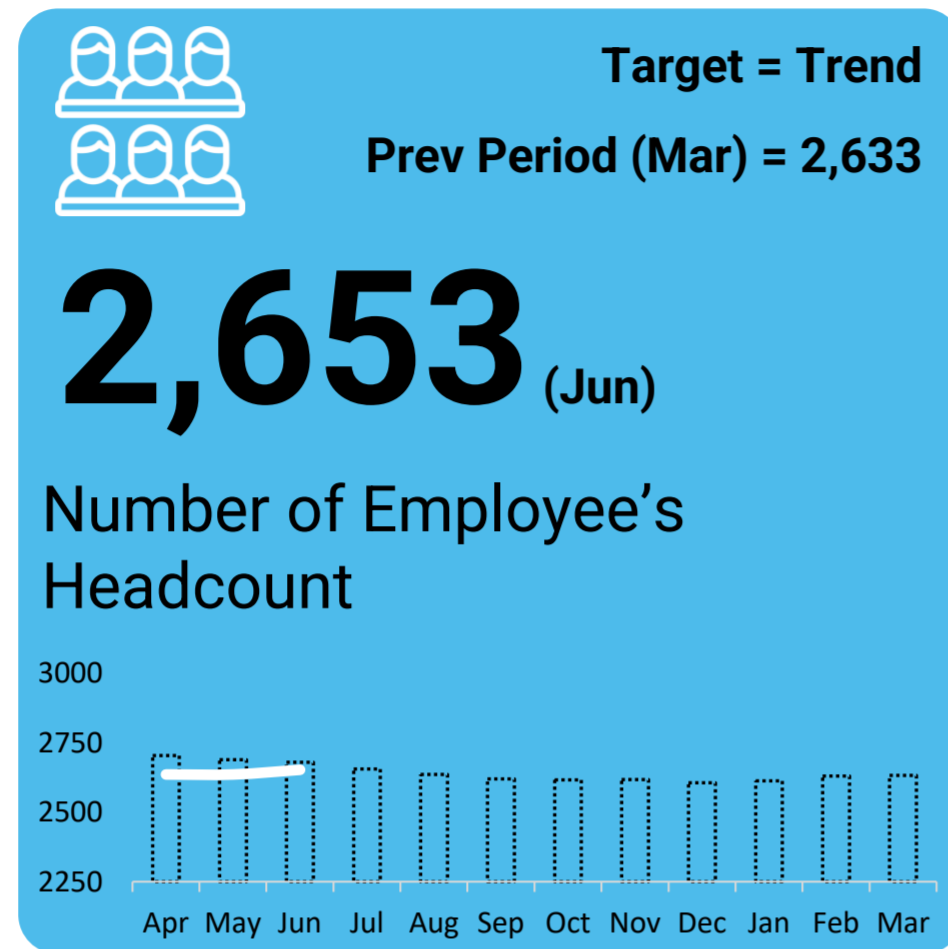
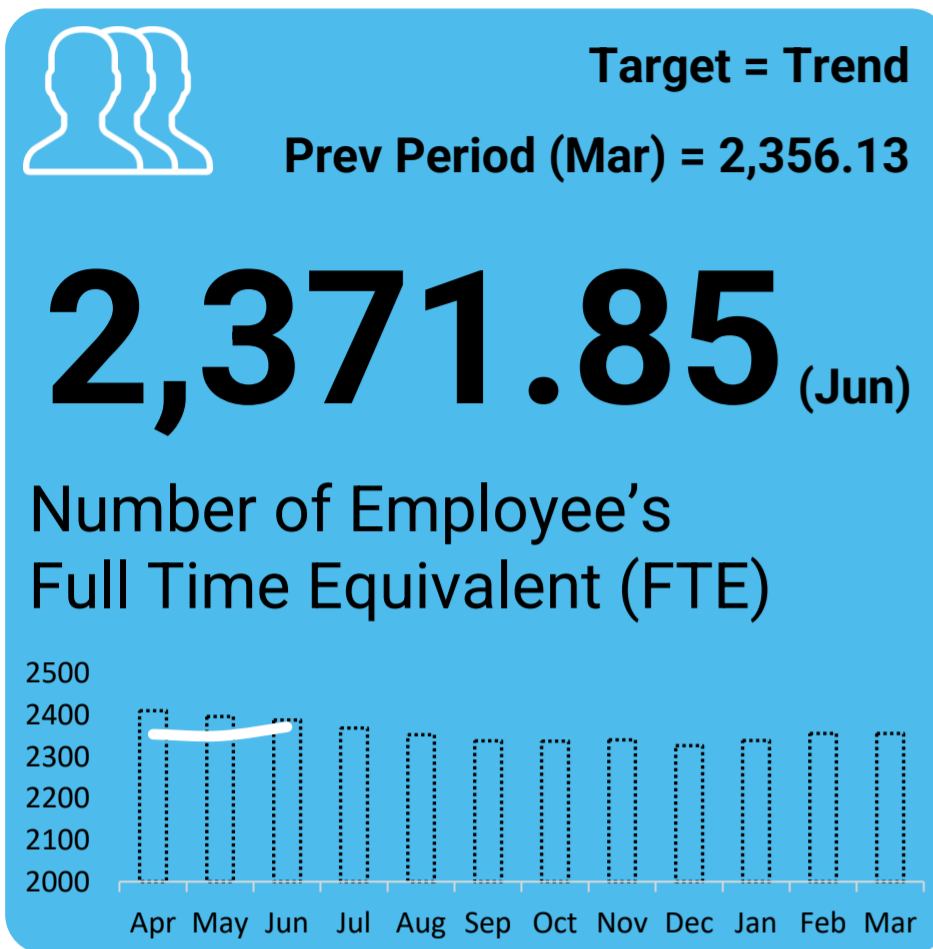
In addition to this there are 1,460 people, as of April 2022, on an apprenticeship across the West Northants area.

The Economy team's social media accounts and monthly business e-newsletter continues to grow in reach, posting content out which is seen by thousands, of latest news, local initiatives and opportunities, events, information and more. There has been a lot of activity recently around the new category which the Economy Team has sponsored in the Northamptonshire Business Awards 2022 – West Northamptonshire Business of the Year. These awards showcase the best of the County and it is expected that local employers will secure many of these awards, with many local finalists being recognised for their quality businesses. The finalists for these awards will be announced in September, with the winners being announced in early November.

WNC Employment Support Activities

The Economy Team continue to support local employment, working with residents and employers to ensure local vacancies are filled with local people.

The monthly employment e-newsletter, promoting events, vacancies, training and more continues to grow its database and provide instant access to beneficial information. The Economy Team regularly promote the combined offer of the 25+ partners working in collaboration with them to deliver free, accessible and innovative employment support across West Northamptonshire. The Team regularly liaise with recruiting employers within the area to ensure their vacancies are highlighted to the local labour market, benefiting the local economy and the community.



These two indicators provide detail on the number of employee's within the council, both individual people (headcount) and the full time equivalent, which for West Northamptonshire Council refers to 37 hours per week.

The current establishment shows 2,653 employee's at the end of June 2022, an increase of 20 when compared to the position reported at the end of March (2,633), there is a similar trend in the number of FTEs with an increase to 2,371.85 at the end of March 2022.

Due to the unitary transition and there are no trends available prior to the 1st April 2021 this year specifically for West Northamptonshire, this information is now available and we are able to compare those levels showing this quarter with that of 2021, this shows that the headcount and the FTE has reduced from the same point last year (2653 & 2388.49).

These two indicators provide both an actual absence average per month across the year and the second indicator is the projected absence due to sickness by the end of the year, each of these indicators is an average per employee.

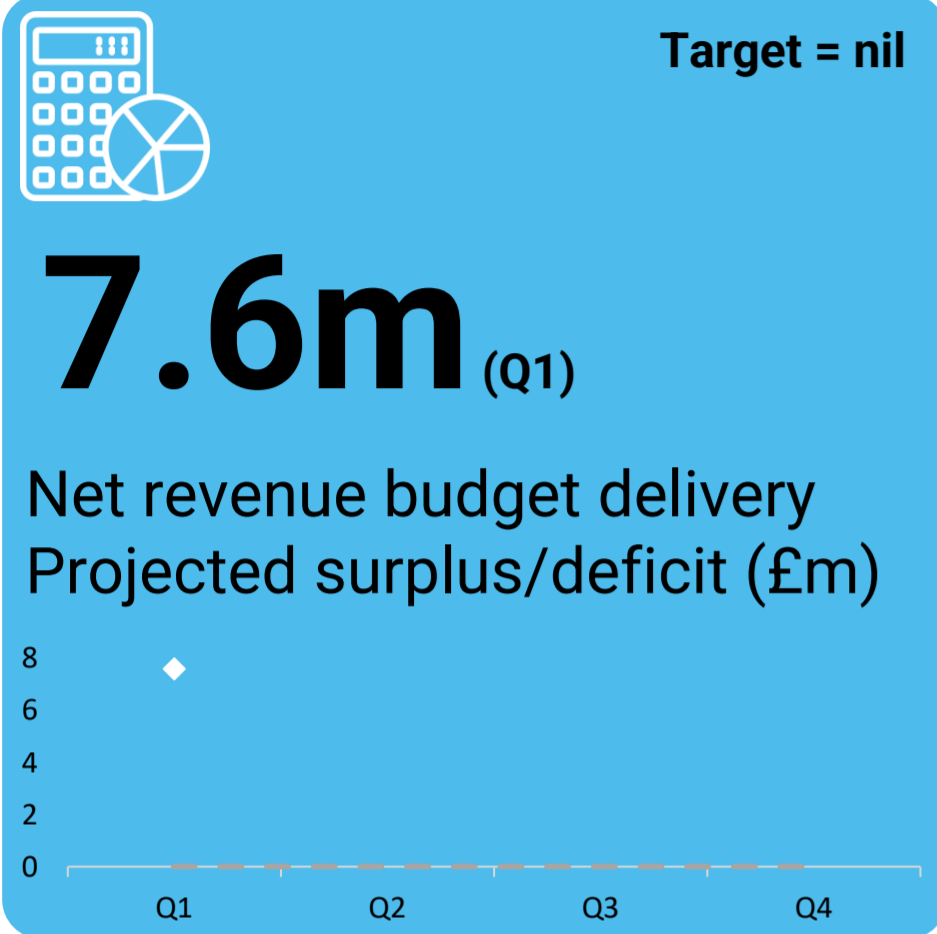
Current sickness absence from work continue to be impacted by Covid-19 which will be directly impacting ability to attend work in parts of the organisation, typically those front line services. But also the current working arrangements with office based staff continuing to work from home for at least part of the week is likely to be resulting in less staff absence in parts of the organisation.

The average number of days lost due to sickness in the first quarter of this year (2.51 days per employee) is similar to the same period last year (2.24). Currently we are projecting that sickness per employee for the full year will be 13.32 days, should this occur it will be an increase of 1.24days per employee when compared to last years outturn.

It is healthy for any organisation to have a level of staff turnover through staff moving on to other organisation and the council attracting new staff into the organisation.

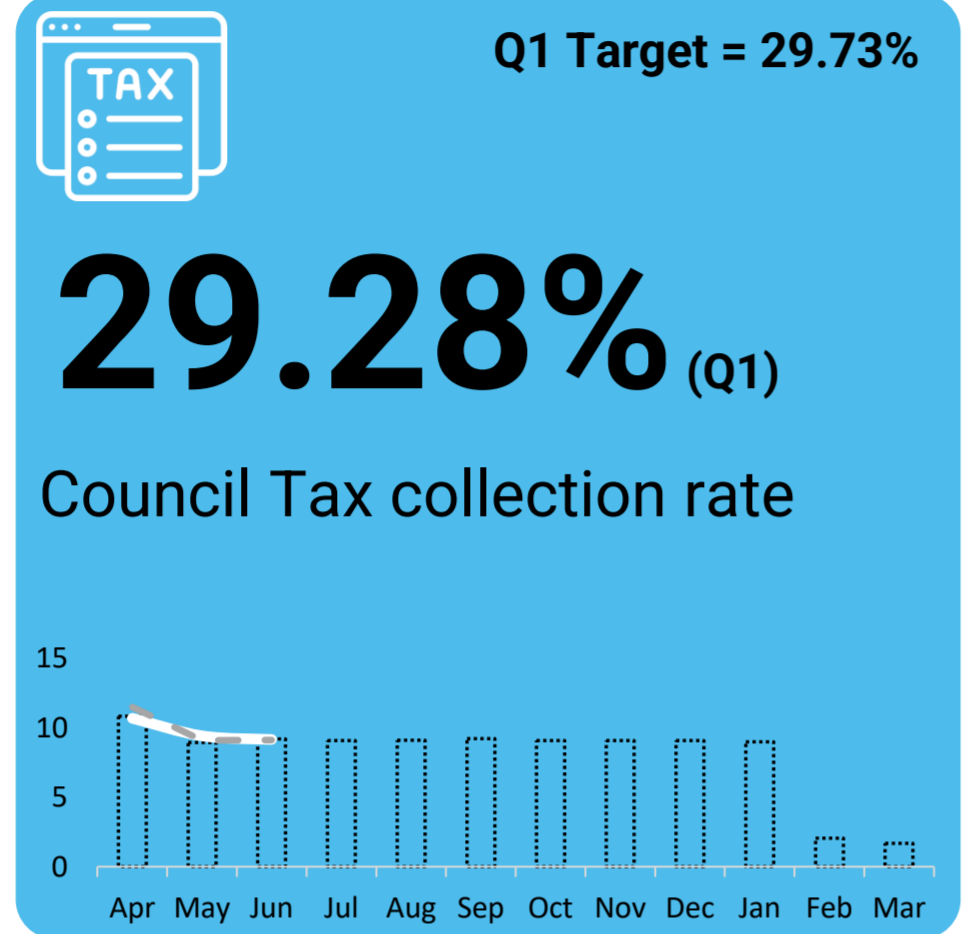
The annual staff turnover level typically fluctuates between 14% and 18%. The Majority of this turnover is voluntary turnover, part of a normal flow of staff in and out of the organisation.

The latest figures show that in the past 12 months there has been a turnover figure of 16.4%, an increase of 0.7% from the position at the end of March.



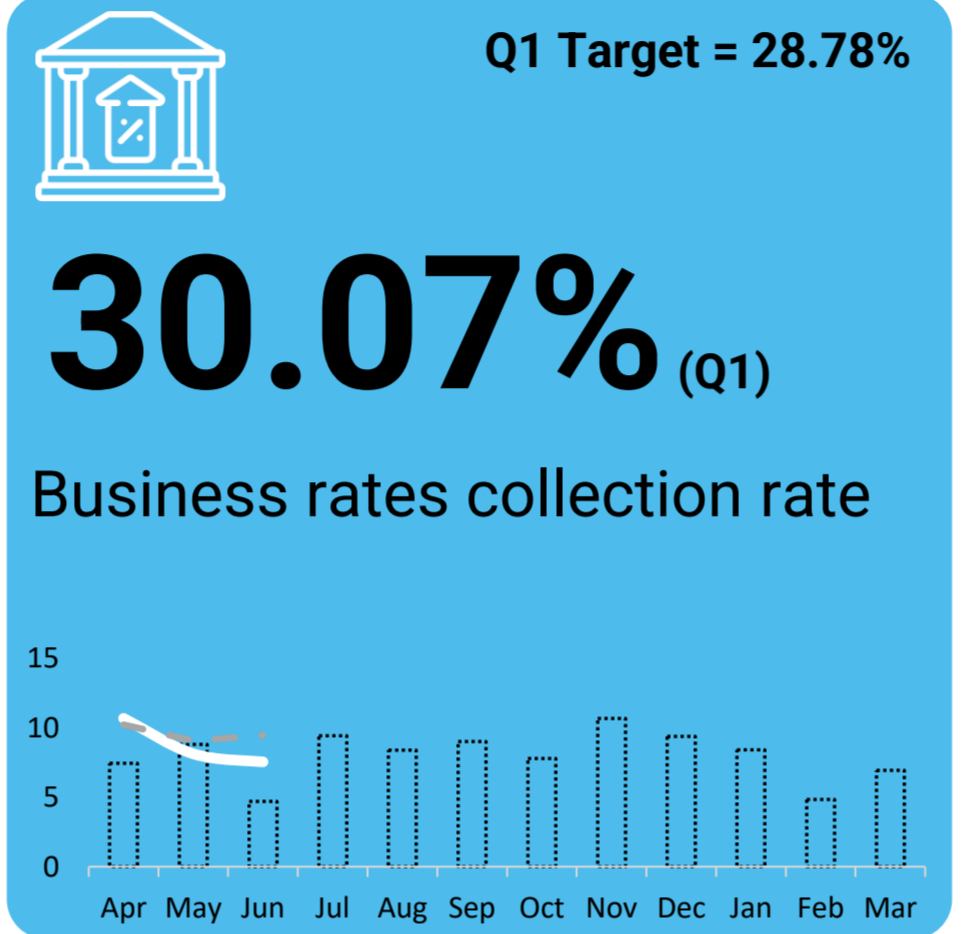
The forecast outturn position for 2022-23 quarter one is an overspend of £7.6m.

Full details of the current position on the councils budget can be found in the Revenue Monitoring report, this outlines the main reasons for the pressures and how the council is going about addressing the gap. The Q1 revenue monitoring report is being considered at the same Cabinet meeting as this report on the 23rd September 2022.



Performance continues to be good with a collection rate of 29.28% against a target of 29.73%.

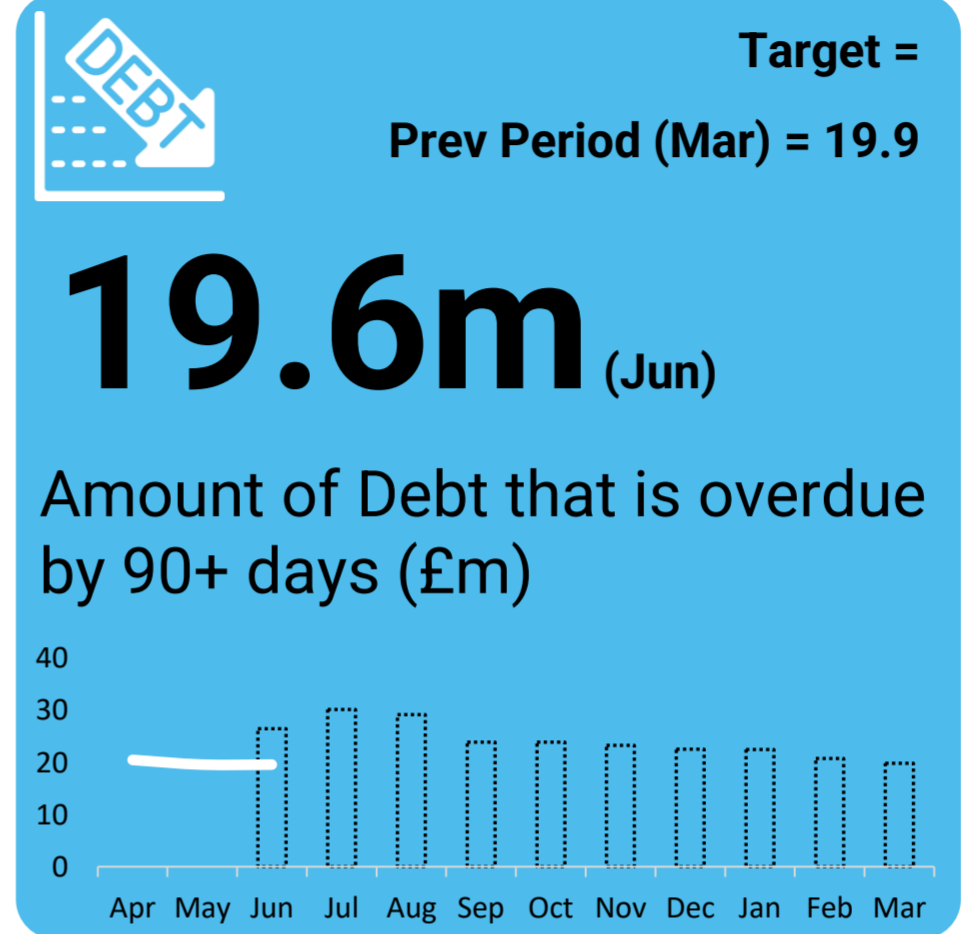
Whilst this is slightly under target, we continue to take a pro-active approach to collection and are working with the Magistrates Courts to increase the recovery action we are able to take post Covid.



The profiled collection target for the end of quarter one 2022-2023 is 28.78%.

As at the end of June the collection rate is 30.07% which is 1.29% above target.

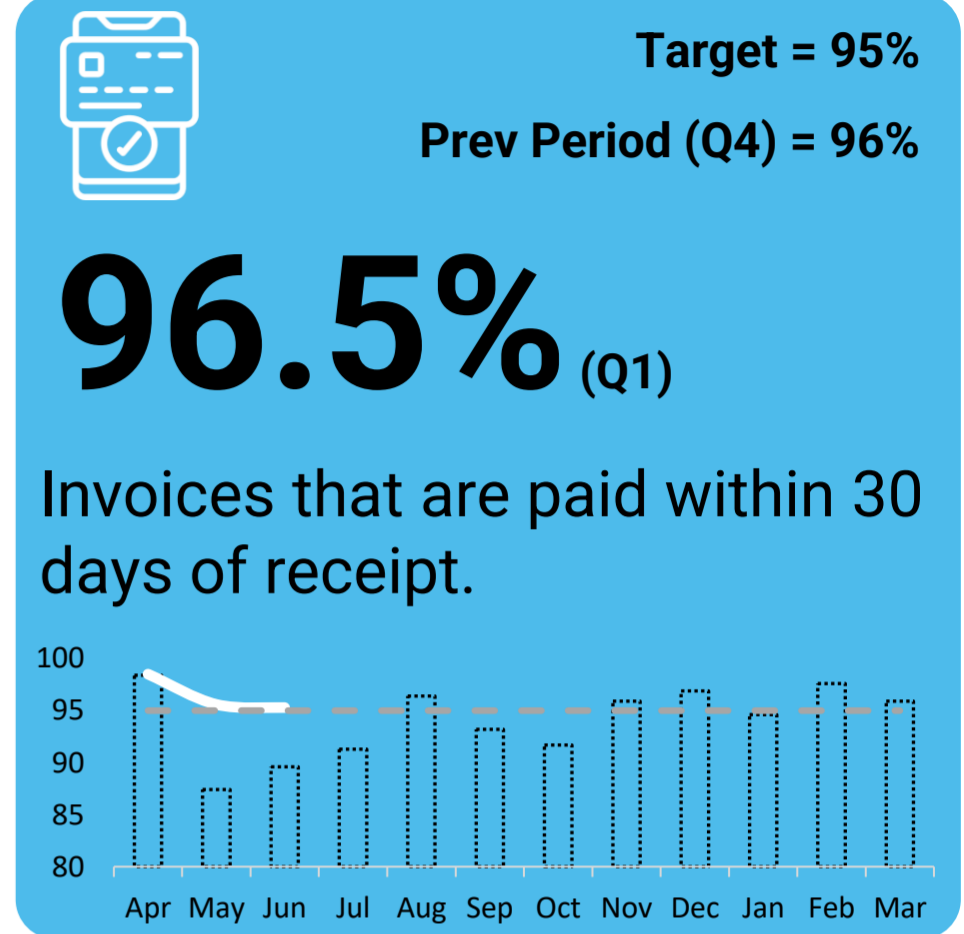
This equates to £2.4m in monetary terms. This is an excellent performance and the team have consistently performed above target for all of quarter one.



There has been a reduction in the aged debt (90+ days) over the past year with the latest performance showing that £19.6m of debt owed to the authority is overdue by at least 90 days. This is a reduction from £19.9m reported at the end of last quarter.

This continues the positive trajectory in the management of the councils aged debt since the Unitary transition, which has reduced by over £10m since that time.

To provide context against previous year, end the end of June 2021 the aged debt outstanding stood at £26.5m, resulting in an improvement in the position of £6.9m in the past 12 months.



5,999 of the 6,214 invoices paid during Q1 were processed within 30 days resulting in an outturn of 96.5% for the quarter, this is above the target of 95%

The performance this quarter compares favourable to the same period last year in which 91.7% of invoices were paid within 30 days of receipt.

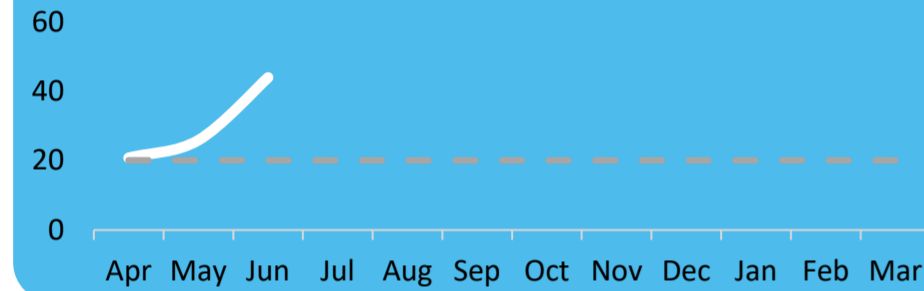
Performance has generally improved since the turn of the year as staff are now more used to a new system in which to raise Purchase Orders and pay invoices. This is evident with 5 of the 6 months this calendar year exceeding target.



Target = 20 days

28.23 (Q1)

Housing Benefit: Average days to determine a new application



The average time taken to assess new claims for Housing Benefit for the first quarter on 2022-2023 is 28.23 days against a target of 20 days.

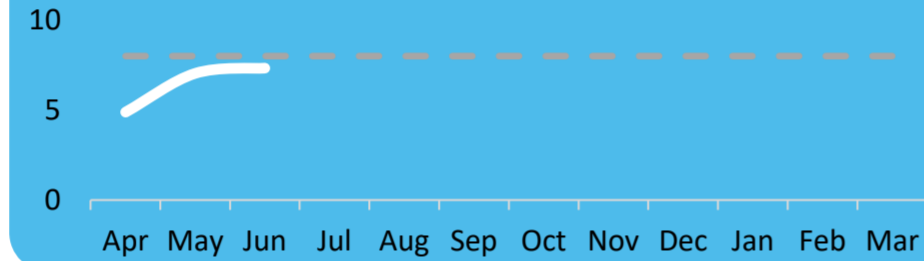
Performance is above target, and this is due in part to a systems issue that has been discovered in one of the legacy areas. We continue to work towards improving this indicator.



Target = 8 days

6.38 (Q1)

Housing Benefit: Average days to determine a change in circumstance



The average time taken to assess a change event for quarter one is 6 days against a target of 8 days.

This continues to be a strong performance ensuring that customers are receiving the correct amount of benefit.

Detailed Scorecard Appendix

| Corp Ref: | Metric Title | Priority | Lead Directorate | Better to be? | 2022-23 Target | Apr | May | Jun | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | YTD | Stat Neighbour | Regional | National |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|----|----|----|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|
| 1.7 | Residual waste treated | 1. Green & Clean | Place & Economy | Higher | 75.0% | | | | 83.4% | | | | | | | |
| 1.8 | Number of flytips cleared | 1. Green & Clean | Place & Economy | Lower | Trend | | | | 3,980 | | | | 3,980 | | | |
| 1.9 | FPNs Issued for Environmental Crime | 1. Green & Clean | Place & Economy | Trend | Trend | 208 | 300 | 259 | 767 | | | | 767 | | | |
| 1.4c | Net trees planted this year | 1. Green & Clean | Place & Economy | Higher | no target | 13 | 54 | -24 | 43 | | | | 43 | | | |
| 1.12 | Number of visitors to leisure centres | 1. Green & Clean | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 1,562,829 | 175,717 | 186,001 | 180,858 | 542,576 | | | | 542,576 | | | |
| 1.13 | Number of Council Homes with improved energy efficiency | 1. Green & Clean | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5a | Number of charging points - WNC Land | 1. Green & Clean | Place & Economy | Higher | no target | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | | | | 22 | - | - | - |
| 3.5b | Number of charging points - W/N area | 1. Green & Clean | Place & Economy | Higher | - | 107 | | | | | | | | | 1,718 | 32,011 |
| 3.5c | Charging Points per 100,000 population - W/N area | 1. Green & Clean | Place & Economy | Higher | - | 26.3 | | | | | | | | | 35.3 | 47.7 |
| 2.1a | Percentage of all referrals with a decision within 2 working days | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 85% | 95% | 89% | 76% | | | | | | - | - | - |
| 2.1b | Percentage of referrals with a previous referral within 12 months | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Lower | 29.0% | 30.9% | 34.1% | 31.5% | | | | | 32.2% | 20.9% | 23.3% | 21.3% |
| 2.1c | Percentage of Single Assessments authorised within 45 days | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 85.0% | 98.3% | 93.1% | 97.8% | | | | | 96.1% | 90.7% | 92.9% | 87.6% |
| 2.1d | Percentage of children that became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for the second or subsequent | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Lower | 20.0% | 37.3% | 21.0% | 36.7% | | | | | 31.2% | 20.7% | 24.0% | 22.1% |
| 2.1e | Percentage of children in care who were placed for adoption within 12 months of an agency decision that | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 72% | | | | 100% | | | | | 73% | - | 74% |
| 2.9 | Proportion of young people (aged 16-18) who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) or Not | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Lower | 5.5% | 2.1% | 2.3% | 2.3% | | | | | | - | 6.2% | 5.5% |
| 2.4 | Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 91.9% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | | | | | - | 94.0% | 92.2% |
| 2.5 | Proportion of people that return to their normal place of residence after discharge | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | | 94.5% | 94.9% | | | | | | | - | - | - |
| 2.7 | Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 79.2% | 66.7% | 33.3% | 53.1% | 51.7% | | | | 51.7% | - | 82.3% | 79.1% |
| 2.6a | New requests for services where route of access was discharge from hospital that had a reablement service | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 29.8% | 22.0% | 17.8% | 22.6% | 22.6% | | | | | - | 29.8% | 34.6% |
| 2.8a | Number of homeless preventions | 2. Improved Life Chances | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 400 | 40 | 40 | 34 | 114 | | | | 114 | - | - | - |
| 2.8b | Number of cases where homelessness was successfully relieved | 2. Improved Life Chances | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 400 | 47 | 38 | 39 | 124 | | | | 124 | - | - | - |
| 2.17 | Net Disabled Facilities Grant Expenditure | 2. Improved Life Chances | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 2,558,938 | | 610,983 | 795,572 | 1,406,555 | | | | 1,406,555 | - | - | - |

Detailed Scorecard Appendix

| Corp Ref: | Metric Title | Priority | Lead Directorate | Better to be? | 2022-23 Target | Apr | May | Jun | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | YTD | Stat Neighbour | Regional | National |
|-----------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|----|----|----|---------|----------------|----------|----------|
| 2.11 | Percentage Smoking quit rate at 4 weeks | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 60.0% | 59.0% | 56.7% | | | | | | | - | - | 51.0% |
| 2.12 | Breastfeeding rate at 6-8 weeks | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 55.0% | 52.1% | 53.1% | 51.8% | 52.3% | | | | | - | n/a | 47.6% |
| 2.13 | Number of school aged children who receive weight management advice and support 1:1 | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 5,000 | 163 | 353 | 400 | 916 | | | | | - | - | - |
| 2.14 | Percentage of mothers known to be smokers at the time of delivery | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Lower | 11.0% | | | | 11.3% | | | | | - | 11.4% | 9.6% |
| 2.15a | Infants due a new birth visit that received a new birth visit within 14 days of birth | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | 90.0% | 98.1% | 98.1% | 98.2% | 98.1% | | | | | - | 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 | People | Higher | 90.0% | 98.1% | 99.1% | 97.9% | 98.3% | | | | | - | 85.8% | 80.2% |
| 2.16a | Covid 1st Booster - % of Eligible Population Vaccinated (aged 5+) | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | Trend | 59.5% | 59.9% | 60.2% | | | | | 60.2% | - | - | 62.3% |
| 2.16b | Covid 2nd Booster - % of Eligible Population Vaccinated (aged 75+) | 2. Improved Life Chances | People | Higher | Trend | 65.2% | 82.9% | 88.2% | | | | | 88.2% | - | - | 76.2% |
| 3.1 | Number of defects repaired in the highway network | 3. Connected Communities | Place & Economy | Higher | - | 1,900 | 1,958 | 1,390 | 5,248 | | | | | - | - | - |
| 3.2 | Percentage of defects repaired within timescale (P1-P4) | 3. Connected Communities | Place & Economy | Higher | | 99.37% | 99.18% | 98.71% | | | | | | - | - | - |
| 3.6 | Percentage of customers who are quite satisfied and extremely satisfied with the service received from the | 3. Connected Communities | Corporate Services | Higher | 90.0% | 89.1% | 86.2% | 89.6% | 88.4% | | | | 88.4% | - | - | - |
| 3.7 | Percentage of contacts received within Customer Services for the first time (unavoidable contacts) | 3. Connected Communities | Corporate Services | Higher | Trend | | | | 87.0% | | | | 87.0% | - | - | - |
| 4.1 | Number of new council homes built | 4. Thriving Villages & Towns | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 126 | | | | 6 | | | | 6 | - | - | - |
| 4.5 | Number of affordable homes completed | 4. Thriving Villages & Towns | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 404 | | | | 70 | | | | 70 | - | - | - |
| 4.6 | Planning applications approved by Committee as recommended | 4. Thriving Villages & Towns | Place & Economy | Higher | | 100.00% | 100.00% | 81.82% | 93.33% | | | | | | | |
| 4.2 | Number of visitors to libraries | 4. Thriving Villages & Towns | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 500,000 | 61,617 | 60,970 | 52,306 | 174,893 | | | | 174,893 | | | |
| 4.7a | Number of people resettled | 4. Thriving Villages & Towns | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 300 | 113 | 278 | 95 | 486 | | | | 486 | | | |
| 4.7b | Number of people supported through wrap around care | 4. Thriving Villages & Towns | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 300 | 393 | 637 | 729 | | | | | 729 | | | |
| 5.3 | Visitors to Museums | 5. Economic Development | Communities & Opportunities | Higher | 137,000 | 12,369 | 13,665 | 16,632 | 42,666 | | | | 42,666 | | | |
| 5.4a | Total number of people on Council Tax Reduction Scheme | 5. Economic Development | Finance | Lower | Trend | 19,305 | 19,220 | 19,082 | | | | | | | | |
| 5.4b | Pensioners on Council Tax Reduction Scheme | 5. Economic Development | Finance | Lower | Trend | 7,765 | 7,764 | 7,766 | | | | | | | | |
| 5.4c | Working age people on Council Tax Reduction Scheme | 5. Economic Development | Finance | Lower | Trend | 11,540 | 11,456 | 11,316 | | | | | | | | |

| Corp Ref: | Metric Title | Priority | Lead Directorate | Better to be? | 2022-23 Target | Apr | May | Jun | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | YTD | Stat Neighbour | Regional | National |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|----|----|----|----------|----------------|----------|----------|
| 5.5a | Number of apprentices employed in substantive roles | 5. Economic Development | Corporate Services | Higher | | 110 | 112 | 112 | 112 | | | | 112 | - | - | - |
| 5.5b | Number of apprenticeships starts in West Northants | 5. Economic Development | Corporate Services | Higher | - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6.7a | Number of Employee's - Full Time Equivalent (FTE) | 6. Robust Resource Management | Corporate Services | No Tolerance | - | 2,354.09 | 2,350.10 | 2,371.85 | | | | | 2,371.85 | - | - | - |
| 6.7b | Number of Employee's - Headcount | 6. Robust Resource Management | Corporate Services | No Tolerance | - | 2,636 | 2,636 | 2,653 | | | | | 2,653 | - | - | - |
| 6.7c | Average number of days lost due to sickness | 6. Robust Resource Management | Corporate Services | Lower | | 0.80 | 1.68 | 2.51 | | | | | 2.51 | - | - | - |
| 6.7d | Projected sickness | 6. Robust Resource Management | Corporate Services | Lower | 10.70 | 14.72 | 14.49 | 13.32 | | | | | 13.32 | - | - | tbc |
| 6.7e | Rolling Annual Staff Turnover | 6. Robust Resource Management | Corporate Services | No Tolerance | 1360.0% | 15.9% | 16.2% | 16.4% | | | | | 16.4% | - | - | tbc |
| 6.1 | Net Revenue budget delivery - Projected surplus/deficit (£m) | 6. Robust Resource Management | Finance | Lower | 0.0 | | | | 7.6 | | | | 7.6 | - | - | - |
| 6.2 | Council Tax collection rate | 6. Robust Resource Management | Finance | Higher | - | 10.70% | 20.12% | 29.28% | 29.28% | | | | | - | - | - |
| 6.3 | Business Rates collection rate | 6. Robust Resource Management | Finance | Higher | - | 14.37% | 22.51% | 30.07% | 30.07% | | | | | - | - | - |
| 6.4 | Amount of debt owed to the council that is overdue by at least 90 days (£m) | 6. Robust Resource Management | Finance | Lower | | 20.5 | 19.6 | 19.6 | | | | | | - | - | - |
| 6.5 | Percentage of invoices that are paid within 30 days of receipt | 6. Robust Resource Management | Finance | Higher | 95.0% | 98.5% | 95.6% | 95.3% | 96.5% | | | | | - | - | - |
| 6.6a | Housing Benefit - time to determine new applications | 6. Robust Resource Management | Finance | Lower | 20.00 | 20.78 | 25.84 | 43.91 | 28.23 | | | | 28.23 | | | |
| 6.6b | Housing Benefit - time to determine change in circumstances | 6. Robust Resource Management | Finance | Lower | 8.00 | 4.89 | 7.04 | 7.33 | 6.38 | | | | 6.38 | | | |



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

23 SEPTEMBER 2022

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCE: COUNCILLOR
MALCOLM LONGLEY**

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Report Title | Revenue Monitoring Quarter 1 - Financial Year 2022-23 |
| Report Author | Martin Henry, Executive Director (Finance) Martin.Henry@westnorthants.gov.uk |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – 2022-23 Revenue Forecast Outturn by Directorate as at Quarter 1

Appendix B – Budget Savings Tracker

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report provides an assessment of the Council's financial performance against its approved 2022-23 budget, incorporating key financial risks, issues and opportunities identified since 1st April 2022 for General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

2. Executive Summary

- 1.2. West Northamptonshire Council provides a range of services to residents and businesses across the area including care to vulnerable adults and children, education, the collection and disposal of

of waste, household waste recycling, leisure and community wellbeing, highways, planning, economic development, collection of council tax and business rates, housing benefit, council tax support, housing and support for the homeless.

- 1.3. The council successfully balanced its 2021-22 budget and published the details in the provisional outturn report that Cabinet have previously considered.
- 1.4. However, since the last year, the Council, alongside many other local authorities and organisations across the nation, has seen a significant impact on its finances as a result of external factors beyond its control. The main drivers of these cost pressures are highlighted below:
 - Inflationary and cost of living pressures impacting directly on the cost of providing services.
 - Ongoing financial impact of COVID allied with the withdrawal of significant COVID funds previously received.
 - Demand led and inflationary pressures within the Children's Trust.
 - Demand led pressures within the Adult Social Care.
 - Cost of living pay award expected to be significantly greater than the amount included at the time of setting the budget based on the latest national pay award offer made by the employers' organisation.
- 1.5. As a result of this challenging financial position, Directors have developed mitigation plans to reduce the cost of service delivery in their areas to support the council to forecast spend closer in line with the budget, while ensuring that services are still delivered and that there isn't a corresponding reduction in service provision. All directorates are actively seeking to reduce costs or increase income without having an impact on service delivery.
- 1.6. The original budget included contingencies in excess of £10m to help to deal with any unexpected costs pressures the authority may face and it is clear that at this stage in the year these will need to be fully utilised. With the use of the contingencies and the delivery of management actions the net position of the authority is a forecast overspend of £7.6m which represents a forecast variance of **2.2%** of the total net budget of £342.3m.
- 1.7. **A variance of 2.2% of the net budget is within acceptable tolerances** however that is not to say that further action does not need to be taken to seek to reduce spend further and bring the spend back within the budget before year end. Officers have acted swiftly to restrict expenditure and ensure that only essential expenditure is incurred until the overall position is closer to the budget.
- 1.8. Spending restriction panels have been set up and all expenditure over £500 is now considered by this panel unless the specific type of expenditure is exempt from the process as a result of it being deemed critical to the delivery of our statutory services. All vacant posts will also be considered by the panel to determine if they are essential. If they are deemed to be essential recruiting to the posts will be approved.
- 1.9. Directors, Assistant Directors and budget holders will continue to seek further efficiencies to also improve the overall position.

- 1.10. The other side of this management intervention and control is the underlying drivers that are pushing cost up and reducing income and **it is critically important to highlight that the demand for services and other external factors such as spiralling inflation, may increase the overspend position further.**
- 1.11. The overall position will be closely monitored through the revenue budget monitoring process to determine the impact the spending restrictions are having but also to see if significant new cost pressures emerge over and above those already declared within this report. It is the view of officers that we may not have seen the worst of the financial pressures yet and further pressures may emerge between now and year end. However, these will continue to be tackled head on a proactively to deal with the overall financial situation.
- 1.12. Table one summarises the revenue forecast currently being estimated for this financial year.

Table One: Forecast Outturn 2022-23 by Directorate

| Directorate | Net Budget £'000 | Forecast Net Spend £'000 | Provisional Outturn Forecast Variance £'000 | % Forecast Variance against budget £000 |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Corporate Services | 22,516 | 22,726 | 210 | 0.9% |
| Chief Executive Office | 3,011 | 3,011 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Education Services | 4,524 | 4,139 | (385) | -8.5% |
| Children's Trust | 70,664 | 75,105 | 4,441 | 6.3% |
| Communities and Opportunities | 10,970 | 11,476 | 506 | 4.6% |
| Adult Social Care | 105,729 | 112,618 | 6,889 | 6.5% |
| Place and Economy | 83,106 | 89,593 | 6,487 | 7.8% |
| Finance Directorate | 10,590 | 10,228 | (362) | -3.4% |
| Cost of services | 311,110 | 328,895 | 17,785 | 5.7% |
| Technical / Centrally Controlled Budgets | 31,208 | 24,698 | (6,510) | -20.9% |
| Total budgeted expenditure | 342,318 | 353,593 | 11,275 | 3.3% |
| Less funding | (342,318) | (346,018) | (3,700) | -1.1% |
| Net Position 2022-23 | 0 | 7,575 | 7,575 | 2.2% |

1.13. The forecast outturn position for 2022-23 is an overspend of £7.6m. The detailed forecast variations against budget are set out in section 6.

1.14. The main reasons for the pressures are as follows;

- Increasing levels of inflation, with RPI currently standing at 12.3% and CPI currently standing at 9.9% affecting contracts, operations and running costs.
- Increase in homelessness and the use of expensive nightly purchase temporary accommodation.
- Increase in Adult social care demand at the end of 21-22 due to demands from hospital discharges.
- More Adults care packages and packages at higher costs reflecting both increase in complexity following COVID and market conditions. Demand is outstripping supply which is directly pushing costs up. Work is also ongoing on with Social Care Reform.
- The Children's Trust are seeing increasing demand for limited, and expensive placements for children with complex needs. This is driving up costs.
- Following negotiation with the Unions there have been updates to the staff pay award to reflect market conditions. However, it should be noted that these negotiations have not yet concluded.
- Significant pressures relating to Home to School Transport spend.

Housing Revenue Account

1.15. The HRA forecast outturn at the end of the Quarter 1 is as follows:

Table two: HRA

| Other Funds (HRA) | Net Budget | Expenditure | Forecast Net Spend | Quarter 1 Variance |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Dwelling rents | (53,050) | (14,542) | (52,430) | 620 |
| Non-dwelling rents | (951) | (279) | (1,033) | (82) |
| Other charges for services | (2,435) | (735) | (2,584) | (149) |
| Contributions towards expenditure | (16) | (2) | (22) | (6) |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 14,892 | 5,081 | 14,942 | 50 |
| General Management | 9,391 | 3,636 | 9,408 | 17 |
| Special Services | 5,277 | 1,483 | 5,277 | 0 |
| Rents, Rates, Taxes & Other | 302 | 0 | 302 | 0 |
| Provision for Bad Debts | 400 | 0 | 400 | 0 |
| General Fund Recharges | 2,650 | 0 | 2,650 | 0 |
| Interest & Capital Financing | 8,802 | 0 | 7,525 | (1,277) |
| Depreciation (MRA) | 13,500 | 0 | 13,500 | 0 |
| Rev Contributions to Capital | 1,238 | 0 | 1,238 | 0 |
| Contribution to/(from) Reserves | 0 | 0 | 827 | 827 |
| Net Position | 0 | (5,358) | 0 | 0 |

- 1.16. The forecast outturn for dwelling rents is £0.6m less than when the original budget was prepared. Throughout 2021-22 it was reported rental income was less than anticipated due to the delay in new properties being let to tenants. It was assumed during the budget process that as Covid19 restrictions were relaxed that the letting process would improve and rental income would increase. The original budget assumed an opening stock of 11,366 dwellings at 1 April 2022 whereas the actual stock was 11,317.
- 1.17. This reduction is partially offset by a higher than anticipated income from garage rents. There is also anticipated additional rental income from other HRA properties due to the uplifting of lease rentals.
- 1.18. The demand for repairs and maintenance to dwellings is increasing and whilst every effort is made to keep within the budget it is now anticipated that there will be a £50k overspend on programmed repairs.
- 1.19. Similarly, the anticipated overspend in general management is due to the difficulties in filling vacancies and the need to cover vacant posts with agency staff.
- 1.20. Capital financing charges have reduced due to the rephasing of major schemes in the capital programme, which offsets the residual pressures reported.
- 1.21. Even with these financial challenges, the fund is still able to contribute a positive contribution to general reserves.

Dedicated Schools Grant

- 1.22. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring-fenced specific grant allocated to the Local Authority (LA) by the Government to support a range of education related services.
- 1.23. The Department for Education (DfE) currently operate a four-block funding model for funding schools and pre-16 education including early years as set out in the following table:

| Dedicated Schools Grant | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Schools Block | Early Years Block | High Needs Block | Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) |

- 1.24. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) forecast at the end of Quarter 1 is as follows:

Table Three – DSG

| DSG Block | Gross Expenditure Budget | Recoupment | Net Expenditure Budget | Forecast Net Spend | Variance |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Schools* | 318,848 | (251,356) | 67,492 | 67,492 | 0 |
| Early Years Provision | 26,572 | 0 | 26,572 | 26,572 | 0 |
| High Needs | 63,477 | (16,027) | 47,450 | 47,843 | 393 |
| Central Schools Services Block* | 4,234 | 0 | 4,234 | 4,234 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 413,132 | (267,383) | 145,749 | 146,142 | 393 |

*Includes carry forwards totalling £657k

- 1.25. The DSG is currently forecasting an overspend of £0.4m which is entirely in the high needs block.
- 1.26. Educational placements provision for pupils with SEND in mainstream and special schools due to growth in education, health and care plans are forecast to overspend by £0.85m based on latest projections.
- 1.27. The 2022-23 capital programme includes investment to increase resourced places in mainstream schools and special school expansions.
- 1.28. Post 16 top ups are forecast to overspend by £0.2m due to demand above budgeted levels.
- 1.29. These are mitigated in part by a £0.6m forecast underspend on alternative provision following changes with one major provider of alternative education during the 2021-22 financial year which led to pupils having to be placed elsewhere. The current year budget assumed the majority of pupils would be re-placed with this provider for the whole financial year, but this has not yet materialised to date.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Note the forecast outturn position for 2022-23 and associated risks
- b) Note the deliverability assessment of West Northamptonshire Council savings requirement for 2022-23 summarised in section 7 and detailed in Appendix B
- c) Delegate authority to the Executive Director – Finance in consultation with the portfolio holder for finance to apply any budget virements required to effectively manage the overall budget.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- *To update members on the financial position of the Council and ensure that the Authority complies with its financial regulations*

5. Report Background

5.1 The Council's budget for 2022-23 is £342.3m and was approved on 24 February 2022 by Full Council, the budget includes £19.3m of savings proposals. This report includes an analysis of the deliverability of these efficiency and income proposals, and the in-year variations to budgeted assumptions.

6. Financial Overview by Directorate

6.1 This section of the report provides an update on the forecast variations against 2022-23 budget A more detailed breakdown of the 2022-23 forecast is included in Appendix A.

Corporate Services

Net Budget £22.5m

Forecast Outturn £22.7m

Forecast overspend £0.2m

Variance percentage 0.9%

6.2 The Corporate Services Directorate delivers services including human resources, customer services, Digital Technology and Innovation (DTI), legal, democratic and transformation services.

6.3 The Directorate is reporting a forecast outturn position of £0.2m overspend. This position includes overspends of £1.3m of which mainly relate to increases in the costs of IT contracts, the additional cost of mobile phone usage, income targets which will not be met and a number of services with staffing pressures. These are part mitigated through one-off income and staffing underspends in some corporate services which are unable to recruit.

6.4 In addition to the above the Corporate Services Management Team have identified efficiency proposals which will contribute £0.5m towards mitigating current budget pressures.

Chief Executive Services

Net Budget £3.0m
Forecast outturn £3.0m
Forecast Under/overspend £0
Variance percentage 0%

- 6.5 Chief Executive Office includes the Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive, Communications and Business Intelligence Services. There is no reported variance against budget for 2022-23.

Education Services

Net Budget £4.5m
Forecast outturn £4.1m
Forecast underspend £0.4m
Variance percentage -8.5%

- 6.6 Education Services is made up of Council services which deliver statutory education functions against approximately 200 duties as set out in various Education and Children Acts, and regulations including, but not limited to, school quality assurance and intervention, pupil place planning and admissions, early years and special educational needs.
- 6.7 Children and Education retained Council services are forecasting a net underspend of £0.4m which includes £0.5m underspend which is largely due to staffing budget forecast underspends as a result of vacancies, mainly across Educational Psychologist posts, of which there is a national shortage of qualified staff. This underspend offsets a traded income shortfall in the same division.
- 6.8 The Education Service has identified efficiency proposals which will contribute a further £0.2m towards mitigating the reported budget pressures.

Northamptonshire Children's Trust

Net Budget £70.7m
Forecast outturn £75.1m
Forecast overspend £4.4m
Variance percentage 6.3%

- 6.1 The contract for Northamptonshire Children's Trust provides children's social care services across both West and North Northamptonshire Councils.
- 6.2 Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) are forecasting a total overspend of £7.93m against the approved contract sum of £137.45m. Based on the agreed contract split between West and North Northamptonshire Councils, WNCs share of the total is a forecast overspend of £4.44m against the contract sum of £76.75m (56%).

- 6.3 The main reason for the forecast overspend relates to placements for children in care which amounts to a total of £7.64m. There are now 44 more children in care compared to April 2021. The current levels of volatility, efficiency of joint funding process, flux of emergency placements and increasing complexity of need, in addition to inflationary pressures, represent a significant financial challenge for the year ahead. This is representative of the national picture where there is a shortage of appropriate places in children's homes and with foster carers, meaning that high prices are often being paid by local authorities who are responsible for placing children in appropriate settings.
- 6.4 The key drivers of the overspend are residential and supported accommodation placements, with the top 5 placements costing in excess of £10,000 per week.
- 6.5 There are also forecast pressures on transport costs of £0.56m which is a result of an increase in fuel costs. The impact of covid led to increased transport demand for supporting children in care. Whilst work is underway in implementing transition arrangements to reduce historic agreements, there is a risk that the inflation on transport costs could rise above current levels and the recent increase in covid infections may reduce the opportunities to lessen demand.
- 6.6 The current staffing forecast across the Trust is an underspend of £0.27m. Whilst pressures exist within the Prevention and Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting services due to a combination of reliance on agency staff to cover vacancies and price increases in the agency market, these are offset by vacancies across the rest of the services.
- 6.7 It is important to note, due to the volatility in children's placements and other challenges, the Trust have reported a significant risk that their financial position could deteriorate further due to the pay award exceeding budget, further demand/cost pressures (particularly in placements and transport) and the achievement of planned savings. The Trust are currently working on developing proposals to mitigate their forecast pressures and this will be followed up as part of the governance arrangements between the Council and the Trust, which includes regular monitoring reports.

Communities and Opportunities

Net Budget £11.0m

Forecast outturn £11.5m

Forecast overspend £0.5m

Variance percentage 4.6%

- 6.8 The Communities and Opportunities Directorate includes Housing, Leisure, Libraries, Economic Development, Regeneration and Community Safety & Engagement. The Directorate is forecasting an outturn position of £0.5m pressure.
- 6.9 In overall terms the Directorate is facing pressures of £1.5m, in the main this relates to three main issues. The first is the result of increases in the cost of temporary accommodation. The nightly costs of housing are increasing rapidly due to economic inflationary pressures totalling £0.6m, consisting of additional bed and breakfast costs and additional temporary private housing costs.

- 6.10 The service is forecasting a £0.2m pressure relating to an increase in Housing Benefit subsidy loss due to the higher demand for temporary accommodation for the homeless and the increasing use of expensive nightly purchase accommodation. This pressure is being directed to the Housing service where Homelessness and temporary accommodation use is managed.
- 6.11 The final key issue relates to the risk of receiving a £0.5m management fee from a leisure facility in the South Northants area. The leisure facility are advising that the impact of COVID has meant that they are operating at a loss, or will be operating a loss if they make the management fee payments to WNC. As such the relationship needs to be managed appropriately and a level of management fee decided. A benchmarking exercise will dictate payments from Sept 2022 to March 2023.
- 6.12 The Communities and Opportunities Management Team have identified mitigating actions which will contribute £0.8m to offset the reported position.

Adult Social Care

Net Budget £105.7m

Forecast outturn £112.6m

Forecast overspend £6.9m

Variance percentage 6.5%

- 6.13 The Adult Social Care Directorate consists of services that provides support to older people or those living with disabilities or with mental or physical illness under the Care Act, to promote their independence and improve their well-being. This support enables them to manage their needs and live life to the fullest regardless of the challenges they may face as a result of their circumstances.
- 6.14 The Directorate also has responsibility for Public Health. This service is currently hosted in North Northants but is due to be disaggregated and provided by West Northamptonshire Council from the 1st October 2022. The Adult Social Care Directorate are forecasting an overall £6.9m pressure against budget for 2022-23 driven largely by significant demand and cost pressures since budget setting.
- 6.15 There are now 500 more clients requiring care than in April 2021, a considerable increase on the 3,500 clients at that time and a clear sign of the level of demand experienced. This has resulted in a significant upturn in the level and cost of independent care packages across client cohorts of £5.0m following the publication of the 2022-23 budget. £2.0m of this is driven by cost and volume increases within Learning Disability and Mental Health cohorts as a result of the long-term impact of the pandemic, £2.0m in Older Peoples services driven by higher complexity of individuals, and £1.0m due to the impact of the movement of a number of clients across both the West and North Northants councils in late 2021-22 where it was recognised that their 'Ordinary Residence' was incorrect following a review. This pressure is the net impact of the client care costs and the contributions to care.
- 6.16 At the height of the pandemic, there was an urgency to clear hospitals of medically fit clients and the cost of the first four weeks of these Discharge to Assess (D2A) placements was covered by

Health but this has since ceased. The cessation of the national funding from the beginning of this financial year has created a budget pressure of £1.7m. The service assumed that clients discharged from hospital could be covered within existing care budgets. In addition to this there is a residual pressure of £1.0m on the Older People's Residential budgets from the D2A placements, driven by a combination of the significantly high cost per week and higher than average length of time clients have remained in these placements.

- 6.17 On a related issue, following a detailed review, there is a significant risk to budgeted savings delivery of £7.0m. The Strength Based Working planned savings of £4.1m are at risk of delivery as even though tracked savings for 2021-22 evidenced delivery of £5m, it is unclear how this impacted independent care budgets on an ongoing basis, and the overall expenditure remained unchanged in the current year. However, work has commenced with the service to fully assess the potential delivery of savings in 22-23. In addition, £2.9m of Admission avoidance savings, including undelivered savings brought forward from 2021-22 of £2.3m, is at risk due to insufficient evidence that the targeted reduction in acute admissions will reduce Adult Social care demand in this financial year. It is likely that new demand is outstripping the demand management interventions put in place.
- 6.18 There are external contract pressures of £0.5m from the Adult prevention contracts, from property voids mainly as a result of the inability to fill some beds due to compatibility issues and from increased legal costs due to increase in number and complexity of cases. In addition, the PFI contract budget is forecast to overspend by £0.3m due to a higher than budgeted indexation level. The social care transport service is also reporting an £0.2m pressure due to increased demand for transport from eligible service users to enable them access services and promote independence. The DOLS service is also reporting a pressure of £0.1m from statutory doctors' section 12 assessments.
- 6.19 The Adult Social care teams are forecasting an underspend of £0.6m as a result of difficulties in filling social worker vacancies due in part to a nationwide shortage of care workers and regional competition for qualified and experienced staff.
- 6.20 There is currently a financial risk around the 4 Specialist care centres that WNC operate with Shaw healthcare (Shaw are contracted to deliver Hard Facilities Management services under a unitary charge). Due diligence has highlighted that all centres are inadequately funded to operate at safe staffing levels, therefore there is a risk of overspend as budgets allocated were not sufficient. Work is currently taking place to look at how these services can be better integrated with Health however two of the centres are based in North Northants and the WNC budget assumes that North Northants pick up costs for beds utilised in the centres. Whilst an agreement in principle has been established, payment based on utilisation leaves an unfunded liability for WNC. Ongoing engagement with North Northants and health colleagues is taking place to resolve this issue.
- 6.21 In addition to the above the Adult Social Care Management Team have identified efficiency proposals that will contribute £8.4m to reduce costs pressures within the directorate.

Net Budget £83.1m
Forecast outturn £89.6m
Forecast overspend £6.5m
Variance percentage 7.8%

- 6.22 The Place Directorate delivers services including Waste Management, Highways and Transportation, (including Home to School Transport), Asset Management (including car parking), Environment Services, Regulatory Services & Planning.
- 6.23 The Directorate has been significantly impacted by the long-term effect of covid and the rising cost of inflation on contracts and service provision. Demand has altered because of changes in people's behaviours, and the national labour shortage in the transport market has resulted in decreased competition and a subsequent increase in operator prices. Overall, the Place and Economy Directorate is reporting a forecast overspend of £6.5m.
- 6.24 The underlying pressures in this directorate total £8.4m, of which Home to School transport is forecasting a pressure of £3.1m due to a combination of both the long-term impact of covid on the transport market and increased fuel prices.
- 6.25 There is a forecast pressure of £2.5m on energy costs across properties within Place & Economy, street lighting and traffic signals. Contract inflation is causing a pressure of £0.9m due to the inflation rates being higher than estimated during budget setting.
- 6.26 The service aggregation saving carried forward from 2021-22 is not achievable. When the current budget was set it was assumed that restructuring throughout the directorate would deliver the savings proposal, however as transformation work is still on-going, this is causing a savings shortfall of £0.8m.
- 6.27 There are a number of other pressures resulting from higher reactive maintenance liabilities, the use of agency workers for critical roles that cannot be filled with permanent members of staff and several income streams that have not yet returned to pre-covid levels due to a reduction in demand totalling 1.1m.
- 6.28 These have been partly offset by underspends in estate management running costs due to working from home arrangements, reductions in concessionary fare payments and a number of staffing vacancies.
- 6.29 Waste tonnages are still exceeding pre-covid levels and although a proportion of this was factored into the budget, volumes are still greater than anticipated. This pressure has not yet been forecast due to its volatile nature but is being flagged as a risk at this stage.
- 6.30 Whilst the Directorate experienced a significant underspend in 2021-22, a proportion of that underspend was one off funding. Substantial additional planning income was also received, but the income for this service area is not showing a significant increase this year, likewise neither is the income from HWRC recycle. These areas will be monitored closely to ensure that any change in activity is forecast as soon as possible.
- 6.31 The Place and Economy Management Team has identified efficiency proposals that will contribute £1.5m to offset the reported position within the directorate.

Finance

Net Budget £10.6m

Forecast outturn £10.2m

Forecast underspend £0.4m

Variance percentage -3.4%

- 6.32 The Finance Directorate services include strategic finance, accountancy, revenue and benefits, procurement, and internal audit services. The Directorate is reporting a £0.4m underspend. The Directorate have reported an underspend of £0.3m driven by both staffing vacancies and additional income received.
- 6.33 The Finance Management Team has identified efficiency proposals which will contribute a further £0.1m to reduce the pressures reported in other directorates.

Technical/Centrally Held Items

Net Budget £31.2m

Forecast Outturn £24.7m

Forecast underspend £6.5m

Variance percentage -20.9%

- 6.34 Technical and centrally controlled budgets include the treasury budgets, pension deficit contribution payments for West Northants and the contingency budgets. This area will also reflect any council wide corporate cross cutting issues or opportunities. The Technical and Centrally Controlled Directorate are forecasting an overall underspend of £6.5m against budget for 2022-23.
- 6.35 This pressure includes the estimated impact of a higher than budgeted pay inflation offer. The Council's budgets were prepared and published in February 2022 and since then the national economic outlook has materially changed with rapidly increasing inflation rates. This estimated pressure of £3.8m incorporates the latest estimated impact of these changes on the Council's 22-23 pay offer, which for 2022-23 is linked to the national pay offer and is currently being negotiated with the Trade Unions at this level.
- 6.36 A council wide contingency budget is managed within the centrally controlled budget which at the start of the year stood at £15.5m. This consists of disaggregation budget of £0.5m brought forward from 2021-22, pay inflation £4.9m and a general contingency of £10.1m.
- 6.37 To date £3.4m has been allocated to services from the pay inflation contingency to cover the cost of 21-22 pay catch-up, increments awarded to staff with headroom and 2% cost of living increase. The table below provides a breakdown of previously approved virements and the remaining budget contingency available.

Table Four

| Budget Contingency – Virements for Cabinet Approval | £k |
|---|---------------|
| Opening contingency balance | 15,490 |
| Previously approved virements (delegated authority): | |
| Allocation of pay award | 4,954 |
| Use of general contingency | 10,139 |
| Total virements previously approved: | 15,093 |
| Virements to be approved: | |
| Release remaining disaggregation contingency to part offset pressures in Corporate Services | 397 |
| Budget contingency remaining | 0 |

Funding

- 6.38 The Council’s net service budget is funded from the following areas: Council Tax income, Business Rates income, Government grants, one off COVID funding and reserves. A breakdown of the funding budget is detailed below in Table Five.

Table Five

| Funding | Net Budget £’000 |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Council Tax income | 224,146 |
| Business Rates income (including S31 Grant) | 64,696 |
| Adult Social Care Grants | 22,414 |
| Transfer from Reserves | 21,464 |
| New Homes Bonus | 5,152 |
| Services Grant 22-23 | 3,457 |
| Other Government Grants | 989 |
| Total Funding | (342,318) |

- 6.39 Within the funding budget it has been identified that business rates receivable will be greater than the set budget by £3.7m and this is incorporated into the forecast outturn position.

7. Summary of savings delivery 2022-23

- 7.1 The Council has a savings requirement within its 2022-23 budget of £19.3m. Finance and Service Directors have undertaken a review of savings deliverability, with the summary forecast position reported in table six.

Table Six

| Directorate | 2022-23 Savings Proposals £'000 | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | RAG Analysis | | | | |
| | Budgeted saving | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
| Adult Social Care | (11,711) | (296) | (6,754) | 0 | (4,661) |
| Chief Executives Office | (248) | 0 | (248) | 0 | 0 |
| Communities & Opportunities | (660) | 0 | (390) | 0 | (270) |
| Children's Services | (762) | (629) | (133) | 0 | 0 |
| Corporate Services | (908) | 0 | (779) | 0 | (129) |
| Place and Economy | (3,215) | 0 | (2,433) | (457) | (325) |
| Finance | (837) | 0 | (837) | 0 | 0 |
| Centrally controlled Budget | (966) | (966) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | (19,306) | (1,891) | (11,573) | (457) | (5,385) |

Blue = Delivered and Confirmed

Green = Deliverable, on target

Amber = Deliverable, with risks

Red = Unlikely to be delivered

- 7.2 Overall, there are seven savings (£5.4m) flagged as 'red' which are unlikely to be delivered and eight savings (£0.5m) flagged as 'Amber' which are deliverable but have risks. The largest red rated savings proposal is the Adult Social Care proposal for strengths based working efficiencies detailed in section 6.17.
- 7.3 These pressures are set out in the directorate section and included in the budget monitoring figures contained in the report. A detailed assessment of the individual savings proposals is set out in Appendix B.

8. Implications (including financial implications)

8.1 Resources and Financial

8.1.1 The resource and financial implications for West Northamptonshire Council are set out in the body of, and appendices to, this report.

8.2 Legal

8.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals. The report has been cleared by Legal Services.

8.3 Risk

8.3.1 This report sets out the financial forecast for this financial year. The key risks associated with this report relate to continuing demand led pressures, COVID impacts and spiralling inflationary costs driving further financial pressures over and above the pressures already identified. These risks were identified earlier in the report.

8.4 Consultation

8.4.1 The Council carries out public consultation and communications on its annual Budget proposals. These activities took place in the months prior to the budgets being approved by Full Council in February 2022 for the 2022/23 budget.

8.4.2 Any management interventions that require a policy change will be subject to a consultation before any decision is taken.

8.4.3 Where consultation is necessary, full details will be presented to Cabinet separately. Cabinet can only make a decision after taking careful account of the results of such consultation in order to reach an informed decision.

8.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

8.5.1 All 2022-23 budget proposals were consulted on prior to the budget being approved by Full Council in February 2022. Any management interventions that require a policy change will be subject to a consultation before any decision is taken. Where consultation is necessary, full details will be presented to Cabinet separately.

8.6 Climate Impact

8.6.1 All management interventions and mitigations identified within this report will be reviewed on an individual basis for any environmental impact.

8.7 **Community Impact**

8.7.1 This report will have a positive impact on the community by providing scrutiny on how public funds are being used to fund services for local residents in 2022-23.

8.8 **Communications**

8.8.1 Communication will continue with service directors to ensure that the Council achieves a balanced budget in 2022-23.

9. **Background Papers**

9.1 The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report:

9.2 Final Budget Report and Medium Term Financial Plan, meeting of Council, 24 February 2022 [Agenda item - Final Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan - West Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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| Directorate | Appendix A - 2022-23 Provisional Outturn position by Directorate | Quarter 1 £000 |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Corporate Services | Savings Delivery Pressure: 2223-B6-020 - Pressure on staff savings due to the delay in the implementation of a project driving improvements in the telephony system | 129 |
| | | 129 |
| | In-Year Budget Variations – Overspends: | |
| | Budget pressures on Data, Technology & Innovation staffing budgets due to non achievable staff capital recharge & historical income targets | 291 |
| | Additional in year IT contract costs as a result of price & volume increases | 295 |
| | Increase in mobile phone and data usage due to remote working | 212 |
| | HR - historical income pressures | 96 |
| | Payroll shared service staffing pressures - structural budget deficit previously thought to be covered from training budgets, but these will be needed to cover potential shortfalls from L&D disaggregation | 97 |
| | Members Allowances - increased by 2% not included within corporate allocations for pay award | 87 |
| | Staffing / Agency pressures in Legal and Democratic services. Cost of locums is very expensive. Gross overspend is £275k, offset by £160k carry forward | 115 |
| | Income budget pressure in Legal and Democratic services | 24 |
| | Elections service - legacy income budgets not achievable | 59 |
| | Information Governance - salaries pressure | 15 |
| | | 1,291 |
| | In-Year Budget Variations – Underspends: | |
| | Overachievement of income in the Coroners and Registrations services (netted against additional staffing costs) | (55) |
| Income, principally Schools Appeals income | (32) | |
| Professional fees saving budget is offsetting staffing / agency pressures. | (183) | |
| One-off income related to Northampton Town FC legal charge and sale of property | (114) | |
| Miscellaneous small underspends across the directorate | (51) | |
| Transfer from consolidation contingency re staffing structure | (96) | |
| Staffing Underspends | (137) | |
| | (668) | |
| Management Actions: | | |
| Mitigating action plans | (542) | |
| | (542) | |
| | | |
| Net Position – Corporate Services | 210 | |
| Chief Executive Services | Savings Delivery Pressure: | |
| | No variances to report | 0 |
| | | 0 |
| | In-Year Budget Variations – Overspends: | |
| | Net budget pressures on service aggregation savings | 247 |
| | | 247 |
| In Year Budget Variations – Underspends: | | |
| No variances to report | 0 | |
| | 0 | |
| Management Actions: | | |
| Mitigating action plans | (247) | |
| | (247) | |
| | | |
| Net Position – Chief Executive Services | 0 | |
| Education Services | Savings Delivery Pressure: | |
| | No variances to report | 0 |
| | | 0 |
| | In-Year Budget Variations – Overspends: | |
| | Forecast shortfall in Educational Psychology traded income | 174 |
| | Estimated shortfall on penalty income in Educational Entitlement team | 47 |
| | Forecast Staffing Overspend due to Interim DCS costs | 54 |
| | Estimated disaggregation costs | 25 |
| | | 300 |
| | In Year Budget Variations – Underspends: | |
| Forecast staffing underspends due to vacancies | (489) | |
| Forecast underspend on non-pay expenditure | (8) | |
| | (497) | |

| Directorate | Appendix A - 2022-23 Provisional Outturn position by Directorate | Quarter 1 £000 |
|--|---|-------------------|
| | Management Actions: Mitigating action plans | (188) |
| | | (188) |
| | Net Position – Education Services | (385) |
| Children's Trust | Savings Delivery Pressure: No variances to report | 0 |
| | | 0 |
| | In-Year Budget Variations – Overspends: Northamptonshire Children's Trust demand and inflationary pressures | 4,441 |
| | | 4,441 |
| | In Year Budget Variations – Underspends: No variances to report | 0 |
| | | 0 |
| Management Actions: No variances to report | 0 | |
| | 0 | |
| Net Position – Children's Trust | 4,441 | |
| Communities and Opportunities | Savings Delivery Pressure: | |
| | 2223-B6-012 Reduction in need for high cost temporary accommodation | 270 |
| | | 270 |
| | In year variations - overspend: | |
| | Temporary Accommodation costs expected to exceed budget due to cost of living leading more individuals in to homelessness, along with increase cost of B&Bs | 345 |
| | Forecast for no management fee income is received from Parkwood for running the leisure centres in the South of the county. | 428 |
| | Pressures on supported accommodation as a result of legacy decision regarding paying over the housing benefit subsidy limit. | 237 |
| | Overspend expected on management of Ecton Lane travellers site (£6k), along with anticipated overspends on staffing salary increases as well as use of agency staff (£44k). | 70 |
| | Overspend also expected against legal fees (£20k) which are unlikely to be recovered. | |
| | Variances against Daventry and Moulton Leisure centre income and expenditure budgets | 43 |
| | Smaller various Directorate overspends | 63 |
| | | 1,186 |
| | In year variations - underspend: | |
| Economic Development Budget Saving and saving on revenue expenditure | (123) | |
| Smaller underspends across Directorate | (23) | |
| | (146) | |
| Management Actions: Mitigating action plans | (804) | |
| | (804) | |
| Net Position – Communities and Opportunities | 506 | |

| <u>Directorate</u> | <u>Appendix A - 2022-23 Provisional Outturn position by Directorate</u> | Quarter 1 £000 |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Adults Social Care | Savings Delivery Pressure: Admission Avoidance - Forecast undeliverable savings including brought forward savings previously funded through covid grant. This is reliant on the system wide programme to reduce admissions to hospital | 2,915 |
| | Strengths based working - There is a high level of risk of pressure where although savings were achieved in 21-22 against set indicators, the cashable savings were not realised | 4,067 |
| | | 6,982 |
| | In-Year Budget Variations – Overspends: Independent care demand pressure above original structural deficit identified as part of 22-23 budget process | 5,062 |
| | Loss of Discharge to Assess funding from 1st April 2022 that funded the first 4 weeks of care following hospital admission | 1,691 |
| | Cost of Discharge to Assess placements including those placed in March 2020 during Covid | 1,000 |
| | External Contracts pressures - Adult prevention contract disaggregation, Voids and Legal | 493 |
| | PFI Unitary charge budget pressure due to increased indexation | 307 |
| | Social Care Transport | 204 |
| | Liberty Protection Safeguards Doctors section 12 Assessments | 117 |
| | | 8,874 |
| | In Year Budget Variations – Underspends: Forecast underspends across care teams due to vacancies | (576) |
| | | (576) |
| | Management Actions: Mitigating action plans | (8,391) |
| | (8,391) | |
| Net Position – Adults | 6,889 | |
| Place and Economy | Savings Delivery Pressure: The Northampton estate is currently being reviewed however with the current level of vacant properties it is unlikely that this additional income will be achieved | 100 |
| | The tenanted property development saving was reliant on a third party which is now unlikely | 15 |
| | Intensifying accommodation use - Delays in project and no corporate agreement to charge existing occupants. | 210 |
| | | 325 |
| | In year variations - overspend: Pressures on Home to School transport due to the long term impact of covid on the market (supply and price) and increased fuel costs | 3,100 |
| | Increased utilities costs for properties and non PFI street lighting. | 1,264 |
| | Increased utilities costs for PFI street lighting and traffic signals. | 1,222 |
| | The rate of inflation applied on several contracts within Waste is higher than the budgeted assumption, causing an overspend. | 610 |
| | Unachievable service aggregation saving from 2021-22 | 797 |
| | The rate of inflation applied on several contracts within Highways & Transport is higher than the budgeted assumption, causing an overspend. | 338 |
| | Across the directorate there is a pressure against staffing budgets due to the use of agency for critical roles | 258 |
| | Additional play areas have been added to the grounds maintenance contract resulting in increased costs (£163k) plus inflation pressure of £55k. | 218 |
| | Vacant properties is resulting in a pressure on estate management income | 135 |
| | Loss of income from Northampton market | 128 |
| Various small overspends across the directorate | 10 | |
| | 8,080 | |
| In year variations - underspend: The staggered reduction of guaranteed payments to bus operators relating to Concessionary Fares will result in an underspend. | (172) | |
| Underspend on Reactive Maintenance due to continued working from home. | (171) | |
| Underspend on staffing by delaying recruitment activity | (67) | |
| | (410) | |
| Management Actions: Mitigating action plans | (1,508) | |
| | (1,508) | |
| Net Position – Place | 6,487 | |
| Finance Directorate | Savings Delivery Pressure: | |

| <u>Directorate</u> | <u>Appendix A - 2022-23 Provisional Outturn position by Directorate</u> | <u>Quarter 1 £000</u> |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| | No variances to report | 0 |
| | | 0 |
| | In year variations - overspend: | |
| | Subscriptions costs higher than originally budgeted | 20 |
| | Other minor variances | 4 |
| | | 476 |
| | In year variations - underspend: | |
| | Forecast underspend on staffing due to vacancies | (95) |
| | Additional income of £91k not included in budget (income will cease in 22-23), and establishment savings of c£60k. | (151) |
| | Savings anticipated on bringing Internal Audit service back in house | (30) |
| | | (276) |
| | Management mitigation: | |
| | Mitigating action plans | (110) |
| | | (562) |
| | Net Position – Finance Directorate | (362) |
| | | |
| | Cost of services | 17,785 |
| | | |
| Technical /Centrally Held Budgets | Savings Delivery Pressure: | |
| | No reported pressures | 0 |
| | | 0 |
| | In year variations - overspend: | |
| | Estimated pressure on employers pay award | 3,800 |
| | | 3,800 |
| | In year variations - underspend: | |
| | Other minor underspends | (86) |
| | External audit forecast overspend is offset by the grant income and the underspends on the DDC and SNC legacy audits however it should be noted that final costs for the NBC NCC and WNC audits are still to be finalised. | (35) |
| | | (121) |
| | Management Actions: | |
| | Mitigating action plans | (50) |
| | Use of contingency | (10,139) |
| | | (10,189) |
| | Net Position – Technical/ Centrally held budgets | (6,510) |
| | | |
| Funding | Additional Business Rates | (3,700) |
| | | |
| Total WNC: | | 7,575 |

West Northamptonshire Council - Budget Proposals 2022/23 to 2024/25 - efficiencies and technical changes as at Quarter 1

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------|------------|------|---------|-------|---------|
| Adult Social Care | Strengths based working | The continuation of transformation of adult social care pathways and processes to ensure focus on client outcomes, independence, better decision making and best practice approaches to reduce delays and spend. | Efficiencies | (4,067) | | 0 | 0 | (4,067) |
| Adult Social Care | External funding review for Adults in house provider services | Full review of the funding opportunities for in house provider services within Adult services. | Income Generation | (2,300) | | (2,300) | | |
| Centrally controlled Budget | Increase Vacancy Factor | Increase vacancy factor to 4% | Efficiencies | | | | | |
| Adult Social Care | Increase Vacancy Factor | Increase vacancy factor to 4% | Efficiencies | (730) | | (730) | | |
| Chief Executives Office | Increase Vacancy Factor | Increase vacancy factor to 4% | Efficiencies | (79) | | (79) | | |
| Children's Services | Increase Vacancy Factor | Increase vacancy factor to 4% | Efficiencies | (98) | | (98) | | |
| Corporate Services | Increase Vacancy Factor | Increase vacancy factor to 4% | Efficiencies | (493) | | (493) | | |
| Finance | Increase Vacancy Factor | Increase vacancy factor to 4% | Efficiencies | (168) | | (168) | | |

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------|------------|-------|---------|-------|-----|
| Place and Economy | Increase Vacancy Factor | Increase vacancy factor to 4% | Efficiencies | (598) | | (598) | | |
| Adult Social Care | External funding review for Adults Communities and Wellbeing | Maximise external funding opportunities across the Directorate. | Efficiencies | (1,500) | | (1,500) | | |
| Adult Social Care | Progression and Improvement of independent outcomes within Learning Disability services | Progression and Improving independent outcomes within Learning Disability services. This can result in lower cost packages as individuals become more independent. | Efficiencies | (1,000) | (296) | (704) | | |
| Place and Economy | Green waste income harmonisation | Harmonising green waste charges over the whole of WNC and bringing the management & administration of the service in house. | Income Generation | (992) | | (992) | | |
| Centrally controlled Budget | General contingency | Delete remaining base budget contingency | Efficiencies | (966) | (966) | | | |

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Adult Social Care | Improvement in utilisation of in house residential provision | Increase utilisation of in house provider services with less reliance on the independent market for care provision | Efficiencies | (906) | | (906) | | |
| Children's Services | Specialist, hearing impairment and visual impairment services | Whilst services will remain at the current level, the proposed future funding of these services is through a top slice of delegated schools and academies budgets funded from notional SEN budget from the schools block. | Efficiencies | (629) | (629) | | | |
| Adult Social Care | Review of Direct Payment accounts across all client groups | Review of Direct Payment accounts and assess whether these are meeting eligible needs and the planned outcomes for customers. | Efficiencies | (600) | | (600) | | |
| Adult Social Care | Admission avoidance service | There is a system wide drive to reduce the number of clients being admitted into hospital and the likelihood of long term social care needs. | Efficiencies | (594) | | 0 | 0 | (594) |
| Communities & Opportunities | Reduction in need for high cost temporary accommodation | Reduction in need for high cost temporary accommodation through proactive and preventative case working | Efficiencies | (270) | | | | (270) |
| Place and Economy | Intensifying accommodation use | Intensifying accommodation use | Efficiencies | (250) | | (40) | | (210) |

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------|------------|------|-------|-------|-----|
| Finance | Revenues and Benefits Restructure | Savings from implementing an in-house team | Efficiencies | (200) | | (200) | | |
| Chief Executives Office | Release of disaggregation | Release of disaggregation contingency in relation to | Efficiencies | (169) | | (169) | | |
| Place and Economy | Enterprise Zone Admin Budget Changes | Adjustments to budgets, funded from increased Business Rates income via the EZ Reserve. | Efficiencies | (167) | | (167) | | |
| Finance | Closure of Accounts resources | Reversal of one-off budget from 21-22. Resources to ensure legacy Northamptonshire Council's prior year accounts were closed | Efficiencies | (160) | | (160) | | |
| Finance | Review charges to other funds | Impact of increasing charges to other funds to properly reflect a fair share of corporate costs. | Income Generation | (150) | | (150) | | |
| Place and Economy | Income from property | Generate additional income from WNC properties | Income Generation | (144) | | | (144) | |

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Corporate Services | Customer Services - Staffing | Reduction in the numbers of customer service staff through the deletion of vacant posts and replacement with apprenticeships as necessary. This is possible due to the more effective utilisation of resources across our four hubs and by improving online and self-service alternatives. | Efficiencies | (150) | | (21) | | (129) |
| Corporate Services | Removal of two senior management posts as restructure within Digital, Technology and Innovation | Deletion of two management posts | Efficiencies | (125) | | (125) | | |
| Communities & Opportunities | Housing | HRA recharge for leadership and management | Efficiencies | (120) | | (120) | | |
| Place and Economy | Building control - Increased demand and increased income | Increased income from additional building control work which offsets costs of providing service. | Income Generation | (120) | | | (120) | |
| Place and Economy | Saving from kitchen pods | Saving from kitchen pods due to expiration of the service | Efficiencies | (106) | | (106) | | |
| Communities & Opportunities | Housing | The Homelessness Service is expected to be able to deliver this saving by reviewing the accommodation and support for residents threatened with or who are homeless | Efficiencies | (100) | | (100) | | |
| Place and Economy | Rectifying Northampton Estate | A review of the Northampton estate could lead to increased rental income | Income Generation | (100) | | | | (100) |
| Place and Economy | Outgoing post | Efficiencies from new hybrid mail contract | Efficiencies | (100) | | (100) | | |
| Place and Economy | Incoming post | Efficiencies from combining post room services from the previous authorities | Efficiencies | (100) | | (20) | (80) | |

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------------|------------|------|-------|-------|-----|
| Place and Economy | Embedded lease | Embedded lease for waste transfer station now finished, cost budget can be removed | Efficiencies | (88) | | (88) | | |
| Place and Economy | Chester House Estate | It has been agreed the Council will exit the CHE shared service. | Efficiencies | (88) | | (88) | | |
| Finance | Procurement disaggregation budget not required | Contingency set aside to fund disaggregation impact not required. | Efficiencies | (84) | | (84) | | |
| Corporate Services | Registrars - Income generation / Fees & Charges review | Registrars - Income generation / Fees & Charges review | Income Generation | (80) | | (80) | | |
| Communities & Opportunities | Housing | Optimisation of Disabled Facilities grant | Efficiencies | (78) | | (78) | | |
| Finance | Finance disaggregation budget not required | Contingency set aside to fund disaggregation impact not required. | Efficiencies | (75) | | (75) | | |
| Place and Economy | Events to Northampton Town Council | Northampton Town Council will deliver these services in future. There will be a staged transfer of costs. | Efficiencies | (67) | | (67) | | |
| Place and Economy | Parking Payments | Council's parking payment systems being changed to remove the need for physical tickets and provide easier payment options for the larger car parks. This should increase use income and reduce some costs. | Efficiencies | (55) | | (55) | | |
| Place and Economy | Regulatory Services - Commercialised service with arms length company | Income from discretionary services within environmental health, trading standards and licensing | Income Generation | (50) | | (20) | (30) | |
| Place and Economy | Closed landfills | Saving resulting from adopting a reactive and risk management based approach for closed landfills. | Efficiencies | (50) | | (50) | | |
| Communities & Opportunities | Libraries | Maximising Libraries traded income | Income Generation | (42) | | (42) | | |
| Place and Economy | Aggregation of Development Management service | Aggregation of Development Management planning services across the new WNC area | Efficiencies | (40) | | (40) | | |

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------|------------|------|-------|-------|------|
| Place and Economy | Planning and Climate Policy | Deletion of a conservation officer post, to offer an ongoing revenue saving | Efficiencies | (40) | | (40) | | |
| Children's Services | Fees and charges | Increase in proposed Fees and Charges | Income Generation | (35) | | (35) | | |
| Corporate Services | Paperless meetings, webcasting | Reduction in meeting management costs | Efficiencies | (35) | | (35) | | |
| Place and Economy | Street lighting | Revenue savings resulting from Street Lighting capital investment | Efficiencies | (34) | | 0 | (34) | |
| Place and Economy | Increase to Highways Regulations fees and charges | It is proposed to increase Highways Regulations fees and charges by 5% to generate additional income for the Council | Income Generation | (34) | | 0 | (34) | |
| Communities & Opportunities | Leisure Services | Move to consolidated Leisure centre contract management approach | Efficiencies | (30) | | (30) | | |
| Corporate Services | Legal and Democratic Service Efficiency Savings | Review of service to identify reductions in cost without impacting on service delivery | Efficiencies | (25) | | (25) | | |
| Communities & Opportunities | Libraries | Establishing Corporate approach to Library Wi Fi | Efficiencies | (20) | | (20) | | |
| Place and Economy | Tenanted property development | Tenanted property development | Efficiencies | (15) | | | | (15) |
| Adult Social Care | Saving from Fire and Rescue | Payment previously made to the Fire & Rescue Service for fleet management | Efficiencies | (14) | | (14) | | |
| Place and Economy | Staff catering consistency | Institution of the same core approach to catering for staff refreshments across the Council's corporate buildings, adjusted for scale of building. | Efficiencies | (12) | | (12) | | |

| Directorate | Proposal Title | Proposal Description and service impact | Category | 2022/23 £k | Blue | Green | Amber | Red |
|--------------------|--|---|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Place and Economy | Regulatory Services consolidation of contracts | Reduction in costs from consolidating of existing service contracts | Efficiencies | (10) | | | (10) | |
| Place and Economy | Catering Enhancements | Improved catering offer at the Council's offices should improve income. | Income Generation | (5) | | 0 | (5) | |
| Place and Economy | More effective fixed penalty notices | Increased income from more effective use of fixed penalty notices in environmental crime. | Income Generation | (5) | | (5) | | |
| Corporate Services | Transformation Team | Transformation Team - removal of initial funding. Funding of the team beyond 2022/23 will be via the generation of savings from the Transformation Programme to cover any | Efficiencies | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Place and Economy | Concessionary fares | Removal of surplus budget for Concessionary Fares based on updated passenger number forecasts. | Efficiencies | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Corporate Services | Investment in telephony system | The consolidation of Telephony & CRM systems will deliver saving on resources and reduce contract costs | Efficiencies | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Place and Economy | Home to school transport - Policy Change | Savings associated with proposed policy change | Efficiencies | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Place and Economy | Document Storage | Savings from reducing need for document storage contract | Efficiencies | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Corporate Services | Artificial Intelligence | Efficiency savings to be realised through the increased use of Artificial Intelligence | Efficiencies | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Place and Economy | Air Quality Officer to Increase grants | Employment of a specialist air quality to focus on development of action plans and development of grant funded work | Efficiencies | 55 | | 55 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | Net Position | | (19,306) | (1,891) | (11,573) | (457) | (5,385) |



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

23 SEPTEMBER 2022

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCE: COUNCILLOR
MALCOLM LONGLEY**

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Report Title | Quarter 1 General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Monitoring Report 2022-23 |
|---------------------|---|

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Report Author | Sharon Gregory, Senior Finance Business Partner, Sharon.gregory@westnorthants.gov.uk |
|----------------------|--|

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| West S151 | Martin Henry | 6 September 2022 |
| West MO | Cath Whitehead | 8 September 2022 |
| Portfolio Owner Approval | CLlr Malcolm Longley | 8 September 2022 |
| Communications | Becky Hutson | 7 September 2022 |

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Revised General Fund capital programme

Appendix B – Revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The report sets out the latest General Fund and HRA capital programme monitoring positions for 2022-26 for West Northamptonshire Council and identifies new schemes which have been approved for submission into the capital programme since the last update to Cabinet in July 2022.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Note the latest capital monitoring position for the General Fund and HRA.
- b) Note the new capital schemes and changes to the Capital Programme since the report that was considered by Cabinet in July 2022.

3. Reason for recommendations

- In order to continue to ensure sound management of the council's finances.

4. Report Background

4.1 The General Fund and HRA Capital budgets were approved by Full Council in February 2022 as part of the authority's budget-setting process.

4.2 As part of that approval, Full Council gave delegated authority to the Executive Director - Finance in consultation with the cabinet member for Finance to amend the capital programme for 2022-23 going forward so that it accurately reflects a number of issues. These include rephrasing on 2021-22 projects that will need to be added to the programme, any amendments made to existing capital programmes, adjustments to accommodate any future use of capital receipts policy and for any other reason where the capital programme needs to be adjusted.

4.3 The February budget-setting process for 2022-23 was undertaken before the end of the financial year. As part of the year end process, carry forwards have been identified and these were reported to Cabinet in July 2022.

4.4 This report sets out the latest capital programme for the General Fund and HRA since the previously reported position to Cabinet in July 2022. It provides an update on new capital schemes, the latest monitoring position and any other technical issues that need to be raised.

5. Governance and process

5.1 The Council maintains a well-established robust approval and monitoring process for the capital programme. This governance ensures the Council has financial rigour and strict management controls in place to manage the programme effectively.

5.2 The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and the Capital and Assets Board (CAB) are key elements of the governance process.

Executive Leadership Team(ELT)

- ELT will have first sight of all budget proposals / capital bids and will undertake an initial scrutiny and challenge process before any schemes are submitted to the Capital and Assets Board for approval (see below). There is an expectation that before any proposal is considered by ELT that it has already received the relevant portfolio holder's support.

Capital and Assets Board (CAB)

- This is an officer and councillor group, chaired by the S151 Officer. The purpose of this Board is to review and challenge capital schemes prior to their submission to Cabinet / Full Council for final approval, in line with the limits outlined in the Capital Strategy. The group will also monitor and challenge active projects, holding project managers to account for specific project performance.

5.3 All elements of proposed, and active schemes are robustly challenged and monitored throughout the project lifetime, and in some cases will be subject to a ‘lessons learned’ review on completion.

5.4 All schemes will be in line with Council objectives, and must have clear, measurable deliverables or outcomes. Applications must show how projects will deliver value for money, meet council priorities, assess and mitigate risk, and manage resource capacity issues.

6. Monitoring of the General Fund Capital Programme 2022-2026

6.1 Since the update to Cabinet in July there have been a several minor changes to the capital programme. These changes are outlined below:

Table 1 – Changes to the General Fund capital programme since July 2022 Cabinet.

| Scheme | | 2022-23 £k | 2023-24 £k | 2024-25 £k | 2025-26 £k | Total £k | Funding Source |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Additional CIL budget requested for the Watermeadows’ project approved by Capital and Asset Board | Economic Growth & Regeneration | 75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | CIL |
| Additional re-phasing of budget from 21/22 for the Guildhall Roof project | Assets and Environment Capital | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 | Existing Borrowing |
| Virement from Wootton Library to Doddridge Centre | Adults, Communities and Wellbeing | -4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -4 | Net nil |
| Virement to Doddridge Centre from Wootton Library | Adults, Communities and Wellbeing | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|
| New scheme - Adult Social Care Cygnum Replacement System | Adults, Communities and Wellbeing | 82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | Borrowing |
| New scheme - East Hunsbury Primary School - S106 improvement project | Children's | 92 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92 | S106 |
| New scheme - Harlestone Primary School - S106 improvement project | Children's | 154 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 154 | S106 |
| Total | | 445 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 445 | |

6.2 Given the current economic situation, detailed reviews are currently being undertaken into:

- The impact of inflation on capital schemes
- Project delivery plans

This will inform the next monitoring report and regular updates will be made to the Capital and Assets Board).

7. Summary of Changes and Revised 2022-26 Capital Programme – General Fund

7.1 The full updated capital programme is shown in Appendix A. Summary information is shown in the tables below.

Table 2 - Summary of changes from the July reported position

| West Northants GF Capital Budget | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | Total |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | £k | £k | £k | £k | £k |
| Revised budget 2022-23 July Cabinet | 134,083 | 48,500 | 29,053 | 13,093 | 224,729 |
| New scheme approvals | 328 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 328 |
| Changes to existing scheme budgets | 75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 |
| Slippage | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| Total | 134,528 | 48,500 | 29,053 | 13,093 | 225,174 |
| Movement from July Cabinet | 445 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 445 |

Table 3 - Revised WNC capital programme by Directorate

| Revised WN Capital Programme as at July 22 | Approved Capital Programme | New scheme approvals | Changes to existing | Additional re-phasing | Total 2022-23 to 2025-26 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | |

| | July Cabinet Report | | scheme budgets | from 2021-22 | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | £k | £k | £k | £k | £k |
| Adults, Housing & Communities | 31,599 | 82 | 0 | 0 | 31,681 |
| Assets and Environment Capital | 36,136 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 36,178 |
| Children's | 29,369 | 246 | 0 | 0 | 29,615 |
| Corporate | 4,966 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,966 |
| Economic Growth & Regeneration | 48,711 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 48,786 |
| Finance | 732 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 732 |
| Highways and Waste Capital | 73,216 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 73,216 |
| Total | 224,729 | 328 | 75 | 42 | 225,174 |

The funding table has been updated to reflect the latest position.

Table 4 - Funding for the revised WNC capital programme

| WN Revised Capital Financing | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ | 2024/25 £ | 2025/26 £ | Total £k |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Capital receipts | 2,578 | 85 | 85 | 0 | 2,748 |
| Prudential Borrowing | 58,011 | 9,588 | 4,796 | 9,118 | 81,512 |
| Internal Borrowing | 834 | 415 | 428 | 0 | 1,677 |
| S106** | 8,370 | 6,119 | 3,750 | 0 | 18,239 |
| Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** | 4,251 | 14,117 | 1,000 | 393 | 19,761 |
| Grant Funding | 54,732 | 14,360 | 8,694 | 382 | 78,168 |
| Funded from Reserve | 413 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 413 |
| Revenue Funding | 1,047 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,047 |
| External Funding | 4,292 | 3,816 | 10,300 | 3,200 | 21,608 |
| Total Funding | 134,528 | 48,500 | 29,053 | 13,093 | 225,174 |

** Some of the s.106 and CIL funding will be received several years after the completion of the project in some cases. Those schemes will be forward funded with Discretionary funding, which will be repaid when the relevant CIL and s.106 are received. The funding table shows the eventual funding source for these, rather than the forward funding.

8. HRA Capital Monitoring Report – Period 4

8.1 Set out in Table 5 is the forecast outturn as at the end of Period 4

| Programme | Original Budget plus Carry Forwards 2022/23 £k | Net Over (Under) Spends £k | Re-phasing of Projects and External Improvements £k | Brought Forward from Future Years £k | Period 3 Forecast Outturn 2022/23 £k |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| External Improvements | 23,570 | 0 | (6,263) | | 17,307 |
| Internal Works | 2,201 | 0 | 0 | 515 | 2,716 |
| Structural Works and Compliance | 172 | 0 | 0 | 235 | 408 |
| Disabled Adaptations | 1,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,500 |
| Environmental Improvements | 3,198 | 0 | (308) | 0 | 2,890 |
| IT Development | 512 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 512 |
| New Build Projects | 51,179 | 0 | (35,526) | 0 | 15,652 |
| Buybacks and Spot Purchases | 4,409 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,409 |
| Total | 86,741 | 0 | (42,097) | 750 | 45,394 |

8.2 It can be seen from the above table that following a major review of current new build and external improvements projects by NPH there has been significant re-phasing of the capital programme over the medium-term. Table 6 shows how the capital programme is re-phased over the medium term 2022-2027.

Table 6 - Re-profiling the Capital Programme over the Medium Term 2022-2027

| Description | Forecast 2022-23 £k | Estimate 2023-24 £k | Estimate 2024-25 £k | Estimate 2025-26 £k | Estimate 2026-27 £k | Total £k |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| WNC approved HRA Capital Budget plus approved 2021/22 carryovers | 86,741 | 67,292 | 53,019 | 39,083 | 38,650 | 284,785 |
| Changes to Existing Schemes in 2022/23 Budget | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Re-phasing of New Build and External Improvement Schemes | (42,097) | 8,245 | (2,913) | 17,976 | 18,789 | 0 |
| Schemes brought forward from future years | 750 | (750) | | | | 0 |
| New Schemes into Approved Capital Programme | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| New Funding Announcements | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revised HRA Capital Programme | 45,394 | 74,787 | 50,106 | 57,059 | 57,439 | 284,785 |

8.3 External improvements are undertaken by NPH in accordance with an agreed work programme. This includes Wave 1 of the decarbonisation programme which must be delivered according to Government timescales. The planned workload plus the decarbonisation programme means that some external improvements will have to be re-phased.

8.4 Many new build projects have had to be re-phased due to a whole variety of reasons and a detailed list is set out in Appendix B. However, there have been several projects where the re-phasing is significant, and these are as follows:

- Belgrave House Clock House, Town Centre
Building control negotiations have concluded resulting in an uplift in the fire proofing specifications and changes to the design. These changes are in line with the post Hackett review recommendations but will result in delays to the start of construction works.
- Avenue Campus
Enabling works, including asbestos removal and utility diversions are continuing along with structural demolitions. It is anticipated that these will be completed by the autumn, but the extent of the works and the time taken to complete them will mean that the budget will have to be re-profiled.
- New Stourbridge Road
The scheme is being reviewed. This delay has resulted in the budget being re-profiled.
- Berkeley House & St Mary's
Archaeological investigations and other technical explorations require the budget to be re-profiled.
- Fraser Road, Thorplands
The land for development has been identified in the Local Plan, however, the planning application has necessitated a significant re-profiling of the 2022/23 capital programme. This project is not funded by any grant from Homes England, and it is anticipated that the project will be part funded using Right to Buy (RTB) receipts. This is a large project and should it not proceed other schemes will be brought forward to utilise the receipts.
- Riverside House
Work has commenced on site and all drainage works have been completed. The full strip of the previous office accommodation has taken place and the conversion to flats is continuing. Due to the sequencing of the work the current level of expenditure is lower than anticipated which has necessitated some re-profiling.

- Ringway Briar Hill
There have been delays in considering the planning applications. As a consequence the budget has had to be re-profiled.
- Bouverie Road Hardingstone
This scheme is at the feasibility stage and due to the site constraints, the development is challenging. This has necessitated the re-profiling of the budget.

9. Implications (including financial implications)

9.1 Resources and Financial

- This report informs Cabinet of the latest capital position for 2022-23 and for the medium term. The capital programme outlined in this report is fully funded, either through borrowing, internal resources or external funding arrangements. Ongoing expenditure relating to these projects will continue to be robustly challenged and monitored by Finance and the Capital and Assets Board.

9.2 Legal

- There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

9.3 Risk

- There are a number of processes in place to robustly challenge new schemes and progress for existing schemes such as through the Executive Leadership Team, the Capital and Assets Board and in reports to Cabinet. Funding for all capital schemes has been identified, and progress against budgets will be closely monitored to Cabinet on a regular basis

9.4 Consultation

- There has been no consultation in relation to this report.

9.5 Climate impact

- There is no direct climate impact in relation to this report.

9.6 Community impact

- All capital programme schemes are assessed for their impact on the community and individual Project Boards liaise with relevant community group.

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 Provisional Outturn 2021-22 and Revised Capital Programme for 2022-26 report – July 2022.

| WNC GF Capital Programme | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | Total 2021/22 - 2025/26 |
|--|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Adults, Housing & Communities | | | | | |
| Disabled Facilities Grant South Northants | 946,496 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 946,496 |
| Disabled Facilities Grant Northampton | 4,127,924 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,127,924 |
| Disabled Facilities Grant Daventry | 506,661 | 2,589,981 | 2,589,981 | 0 | 5,686,623 |
| Community Equipment | 4,700,000 | 4,700,000 | 4,700,000 | 4,700,000 | 18,800,000 |
| Grants to aid voluntary servies | 239,150 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 239,150 |
| Improvements to Sports Centre Facilities | 200,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200,000 |
| Home Repair Assistance Grants | 292,520 | 155,000 | 155,000 | 0 | 602,520 |
| Discretionary Grants - Emergency Assistance | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50,000 |
| Grants - Community & District Initiatives | 223,538 | 85,000 | 85,000 | 0 | 393,538 |
| Lilbourne Rural Exception Scheme | 40,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40,000 |
| Leisure Facilities Contract | 42,264 | 30,000 | 22,500 | 0 | 94,764 |
| Homelessness Reduction Act | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 20,000 |
| Choice Based letting | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 15,000 |
| Improvements to Athletics Facilities at Stefan Hill Sports Park | 24,605 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24,605 |
| Adult Social Care Cygnum Replacement | 81,895 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 81,895 |
| Northamptonshire Libraries Self Service Terminals | 40,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40,000 |
| Community Library Prog - Roade | 96,069 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 96,069 |
| Community Library Prog - Brackley Library | 15,973 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15,973 |
| Wootton Library | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doddridge Centre | 3,650 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,650 |
| Library Management System Replacement | 203,114 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 203,114 |
| Adults, Housing & Communities | 11,848,859 | 7,574,981 | 7,557,481 | 4,700,000 | 31,681,321 |
| Children | | | | | |
| Towcester South Primary School | 650,814 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 650,814 |
| Northampton School for Girls Extension | 2,750,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,750,000 |
| School Minor Works 2021-22 | 352,634 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 352,634 |
| Schools Minor Works Programme 2019-20 | 30,975 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,975 |
| Magdalen College School Expansion | 209,901 | 200,000 | 0 | 0 | 409,901 |
| Moulton School and Science College Expansion | 86,025 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 86,025 |
| Schools Minor Works 20-21 | 308,777 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 308,777 |
| Schools Minor Works 22-23 | 1,732,900 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,732,900 |
| Guilsborough School | 32,313 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32,313 |
| Parker E-ACT Academy SEND expansion | 10,938 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,938 |
| Campion School Improvements | 64,945 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64,945 |
| Northampton Secondary School Capacity | 266,732 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 266,732 |
| Headlands Primary School ASD Unit Expansion | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Schools Strategic Maintenance – PFI Blinds | 146,852 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 146,852 |
| Homes to support fostering | 115,550 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 115,550 |
| Northampton Capacity - Duston School bulge | 400,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 400,000 |
| Malcolm Arnold S106 Works | 26,151 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26,151 |
| Northampton Secondary Schools Capacity – Northampton School for Girls Bulge Capacity | 346,835 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 346,835 |
| Northampton Secondary School Capacity - Kingsthorpe College Bulge | 58,880 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 58,880 |
| Elizabeth Woodville School S106 | 12,754 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12,754 |
| Northampton Schools PFI Wave 2 Lifecycle Funding | 357,773 | 365,644 | 373,688 | 381,909 | 1,479,014 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Provision of Primary SEND places | 2,080,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,080,000 |
| Provision of Secondary SEND places | 3,550,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,550,000 |
| Provision of All Through SEND places | 800,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 800,000 |
| 3G Sports Pitch at Wantage Farm | 717,968 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 717,968 |
| Wootton Park Free School Temporary Bulge Capacity | 234,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 234,000 |
| Sponne School | 712,786 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 712,786 |
| The Grange School | 92,811 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 92,811 |
| Barrack Road Educational Facilities | 43,340 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 43,340 |
| East Hunsbury Primary School - S106 improvement project | 91,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91,500 |
| Harlestone Primary School - S106 improvement project | 155,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 155,000 |
| Temporary bulge capacity at Malcolm Arnold Academy | 400,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 400,000 |
| Overstone Leys | 500,000 | 3,750,000 | 3,750,000 | 0 | 8,000,000 |
| Total Children | 17,339,154 | 4,315,644 | 4,123,688 | 381,909 | 26,160,395 |
| Children's Trust | | | | | |
| Refurbishment of John Greenwood Shipman | 0 | 1,172,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,172,000 |
| New residential 4 bed home | 1,142,792 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,142,792 |
| Independent Fostering and Adoption IT system | 300,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300,000 |
| New ways of working | 840,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 840,000 |
| Total Children's Trust | 2,282,792 | 1,172,000 | 0 | 0 | 3,454,792 |
| Corporate | | | | | |
| Social Care system replacement | 896,077 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 896,077 |
| IT Transition | 366,688 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 366,688 |
| ICT Improvement / Refresh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Capita ONE to Cloud | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IT Security Solutions | 85,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85,000 |
| Office365 Implementation | 80,818 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 80,818 |
| Sharepoint 2007 Migration | 79,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 79,000 |
| Ncloud Server replacements | 66,802 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66,802 |
| Election Equipment | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Express Signature Verification Software | 5,500 | 5,500 | 6,000 | 0 | 17,000 |
| Low Code Platform | 180,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 180,000 |
| DTI Minor works | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 | 200,000 |
| Future IT Infrastructure Discovery Work | 160,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 160,000 |
| PC Equipment Hardware Refresh | 1,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,000,000 |
| Service Management Solution | 165,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 165,000 |
| Telephony & Contact Centre Replacement | 1,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,000,000 |
| SIEM Solution & Cybersecurity tools | 200,000 | 150,000 | 0 | 0 | 350,000 |
| Identity and Access Management | 150,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 150,000 |
| Replacement of End of Life Local Area Network equipment | 70,000 | 90,000 | 0 | 0 | 160,000 |
| Total Corporate | 4,564,885 | 295,500 | 56,000 | 50,000 | 4,966,385 |
| Finance | | | | | |
| IFRS16 Lease Right of Use Assets | 538,663 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 538,663 |
| Revenues and Benefits Capital Investments | 193,380 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 193,380 |
| Total Finance | 732,043 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 732,043 |
| Highways and Waste Capital | | | | | |
| Northampton North West Relief Road | 24,069,634 | 15,517,000 | 1,000,000 | 2,343,000 | 42,929,634 |
| DfT Highway Maintenance Needs Block 21/22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DfT Pothole Fund 21/22 | 1,161,833 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,161,833 |
| DfT Highway Maintenance Needs Block 22/23 | 4,742,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,742,000 |
| DfT Highway Maintenance Incentive Block 22/23 | 1,185,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,185,000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|---------|---|-----------|
| DFT Pothole Fund 22/23 | 4,742,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,742,000 |
| LTP Integrated Transport Block 2022-23 | 1,550,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,550,000 |
| Northampton Growth Management Scheme Phase 1 | 4,446,014 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,446,014 |
| A45 Daventry Development Link Road | 980,922 | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,080,922 |
| DfT Highway Maintenance Incentive Block 21/22 | 326,288 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 326,288 |
| Active travel scheme tranche 2 | 1,066,280 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,066,280 |
| National Productivity Investment Fund(NPIF) - Cliftonville | 25,561 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25,561 |
| LTP Integrated Transport Block 2021-22 | 1,438,636 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,438,636 |
| Vehicle Replacement Programme | 670,488 | 171,000 | 600,000 | 0 | 1,441,488 |
| HS2 Road Safety Fund | 170,342 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 170,342 |
| LTP Integrated Transport Block 2020-21 | 30,414 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,414 |
| Challenge Fund Schemes 2020-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DFT Highways 2020-21 Further Works | 152,054 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 152,054 |
| Capital support to routine maintenance 2020-21 | 21,126 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21,126 |
| S106 Former Timken, Main Rd Duston, Northampton | 454,249 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 454,249 |
| S106 - Silverstone Circuit Silverstone (file 264) | 415,852 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 415,852 |
| Environmental Services Contract [NBC] | 422,442 | 262,200 | 0 | 0 | 684,642 |
| Highway Maintenance - LTP 2020-21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| s106 Buckton Fields Northampton | 311,206 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 311,206 |
| A43 Moulton Phase 2 | 338,816 | 129,369 | 0 | 0 | 468,185 |
| Pothole Machinery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| s106 Wood Burcote Court Towcester | 255,118 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 255,118 |
| S106 Monksmoor Daventry | 242,521 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 242,521 |
| UU Sailsbury Landscape Boughton Road Moulton | 205,800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 205,800 |
| Household Waste Recycling Centres Sinking Fund | 36,087 | 36,087 | 36,087 | 0 | 108,261 |
| HCA Upton Remedial Works | 592,738 | 197,196 | 100,000 | 0 | 889,934 |
| S106 Flore Traffic Calming | 148,006 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 148,006 |
| S106 - Wootton Fields Ph3 (file 449) | 133,803 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 133,803 |
| S106 Radstone Fields, Brackley | 132,282 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 132,282 |
| S106 Harlestone Rd Northampton | 130,794 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 130,794 |
| S106 Overstone Leys | 120,420 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 120,420 |
| S106 West Station Rd Long Buck | 115,584 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 115,584 |
| S106 land at Brackmills (Bedford Rd Roxhill) Npt | 101,535 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 101,535 |
| Smart Commuters | 91,471 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91,471 |
| Installation of Bin Holders in Laybys | 74,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 74,000 |
| S106 Buckton Fields West | 73,340 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 73,340 |
| S106 Apex Park | 72,570 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72,570 |
| S106 - Bective Sch Whiston Rd, Kingsthorpe Npt (file 431) | 67,253 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67,253 |
| S106 Cary Close Moulton (DWH) | 55,473 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55,473 |
| s106 Ashton Road (pianoforte) Road | 61,978 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61,978 |
| A43 Northampton to Kettering Phase 1b | 2,000 | 540,000 | 0 | 0 | 542,000 |
| s106 Booth Rise North Npt | 40,712 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40,712 |
| Wheelie Bins | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 | 0 | 120,000 |
| S106 Camp Hill Bugbrooke | 39,589 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39,589 |
| s106 Overstone Leys (SUE) Overstone | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| S106 Overthorpe Rd M40 Banbury | 32,575 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32,575 |
| S106 Foxhills Brackley | 31,207 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31,207 |
| S106 Towcester Vale SUE | 30,648 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,648 |
| S106 Emmanuel Church Sc. Site, Billing Brook Road | 29,717 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29,717 |
| S106 Chaplins Yd Stratford Road Road | 724 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 724 |
| s106 Wootton Fields Northampton (335) | 26,272 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26,272 |
| S106 - Peace Hill Bugbrooke (file 343) | 26,095 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26,095 |
| S106 Summerhouse Rd Moulton Park | 24,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24,500 |
| S106 Old Greens Norton Rd Tow | 23,919 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 23,919 |
| s106 Nth of Ford - Royal Oak Way South, Daventry | 20,097 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,097 |
| S106 Npt Lane Moulton | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15,000 |
| S106 Site 7 Edgar Mobbs Npt | 14,910 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14,910 |
| S106 Watford Lodge Watford | 14,700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14,700 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| DCOb DIRFT 3, Hilmorton | 10,456 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,456 |
| S106 Towcester Rd Old Stratford | 10,359 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,359 |
| S106 Banbury Lane KingsSutton | 5,871 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,871 |
| S106 Former Allotments N-P Rd | 5,916 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,916 |
| S106 Dockham Way Crick | 5,650 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,650 |
| s106 Byfield Road, Woodford Halse (306) | 5,297 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,297 |
| S106 Danes Camp Way Northampton | 4,976 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,976 |
| Domestic Recycling Waste Bins | 4,606 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,606 |
| S106 65 Byfield Rd Woodford Ha | 2,571 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,571 |
| S106 GlebeFm Yelvertoft WindFm | 1,979 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,979 |
| S106 Grosees QueensPark Kingsth | 1,542 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,542 |
| Northampton Gateway | 200,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200,000 |
| Total Highways and Waste Capital | 52,103,818 | 16,992,852 | 1,776,087 | 2,343,000 | 73,215,757 |
| Economic Growth & Regeneration | | | | | |
| Northampton Market Square | 7,275,472 | 863,779 | 0 | 0 | 8,139,251 |
| Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband | 4,482,845 | 1,394,000 | 0 | 0 | 5,876,845 |
| Vulcan works | 266,426 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 266,426 |
| Abington Street Redevelopments | 4,499,779 | 2,867,000 | 1,047,000 | 0 | 8,413,779 |
| Watermeadows | 344,339 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 344,339 |
| Northampton Bike Park | 679,893 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 679,893 |
| Central Museum Development | 196,476 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 196,476 |
| Old Black Lion | 465,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 465,000 |
| Extension of 78 Derngate | 300,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300,000 |
| 24 Guildhall Road Block | 3,249,196 | 550,000 | 100,000 | 0 | 3,899,196 |
| Towcester Toilets | 5,321 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,321 |
| Upton Country Park | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Capital Improvements - Regeneration Areas | 50,000 | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| Heritage Gateway | 30,895 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,895 |
| Middleton Cheney Church Yards | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sponne Arcade | 831,634 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 831,634 |
| Emporium Way | 2,000,000 | 1,103,365 | 903,364 | 0 | 4,006,729 |
| Four Waterside | 0 | 1,500,000 | 7,000,000 | 0 | 8,500,000 |
| Marefare Heritage Gateway | 800,000 | 1,100,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,900,000 |
| Northampton Town Centre Public Realm | 2,080,630 | 2,750,000 | 0 | 0 | 4,830,630 |
| Total Economic Growth & Regeneration | 27,557,906 | 12,178,144 | 9,050,364 | 0 | 48,786,414 |
| Assets and Environment Capital | | | | | |
| Northamptonshire Holistic Flood Resilience | 889,009 | 1,198,000 | 3,865,000 | 0 | 5,952,009 |
| Town Centre Vision - Cinema Site 1 | 284,307 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 284,307 |
| Homelessness Temporary Accomodation | 889,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 889,500 |
| Northampton Leisure Trust | 1,290,472 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,290,472 |
| Daventry to Braunston Cycle Track | 263,074 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 263,074 |
| Property Minor Works 2020-21 | 343,412 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 343,412 |
| Parks / Allotments / Cemeteries Enhancements | 368,407 | 250,000 | 0 | 0 | 618,407 |
| Leisure Centre East | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Operational Buildings - Enhancements | 793,496 | 250,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,043,496 |
| 4-14 High March Refurbishment | 1,285,040 | 450,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,735,040 |
| Property Minor Works 2019-20 | 59,423 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59,423 |
| Guildhall Boilers | 309,849 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 309,849 |
| St Michaels MSCp lift refurbishment | 253,830 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 253,830 |
| Mulberry Place Restaurant capital contribution | 167,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 167,500 |
| Middlemore Infrastructure Completion Works | 241,996 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 241,996 |
| Long Buckby Flood Management | 155,464 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 155,464 |
| Racecourse Enhancement | 46,646 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46,646 |
| Community Youth Provision | 125,356 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 125,356 |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Country Park Improvements (S106 funded) | 27,293 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27,293 |
| Public toilets refurbishment | 98,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 98,000 |
| Parks, Allotments and Cemeteries funded by external contributions | 85,054 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 85,054 |
| Car Park Extension St John's Square and Chapel Lane | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 |
| New Rehabilitation Building | 63,312 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63,312 |
| Refurbishment of Paved Areas | 86,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 86,000 |
| Heartlands commercial new build | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Monksmoor Primary School | 66,256 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66,256 |
| Rainsbrook Crematorium enhancements | 71,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 71,500 |
| Middlemore Cycle/Rural Tracks | 71,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 71,000 |
| Affordable Housing Gouldens View | 65,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65,000 |
| Lodge Farm Community Centre | 40,653 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40,653 |
| Commercial Landlord Responsibilities | 50,000 | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| Heartlands completion works | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50,000 |
| Refurbishment of paths and structures for open spaces | 45,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45,000 |
| Capital Works to 68 and 68a High St | 39,888 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 39,888 |
| Electric Charge Points | 17,464 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17,464 |
| Middlemore minor works | 21,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21,500 |
| Northampton Parks and Open Spaces (additional) | 2,086 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,086 |
| Elgar Centre M&E | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15,000 |
| DCP refurbishment programme | 5,680 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,680 |
| Middlemore Landscape Completion Works | 31,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31,000 |
| Guildhall Roof | 42,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42,000 |
| Country Park - Capital Costs | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 30,000 |
| Lodge Road Fire Risk Assessment | 33,369 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33,369 |
| Public Offices - Improvements, Plant & Equip. | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 | 15,000 |
| Westbridge Depot - Accommodation for NPH | 1,190,281 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,190,281 |
| Property Minor Works 2022-23 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 2,000,000 |
| Northampton Leisure Centres Fire Assessment Works | 1,000,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,000,000 |
| County Hall Refurbishment/Improvements | 948,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 948,000 |
| Central Library Refurbishment | 425,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 425,000 |
| LED Replacement Lighting Scheme | 139,568 | 139,568 | 139,568 | 279,136 | 697,840 |
| West Northamptonshire Crematorium & Mortuary | 62,861 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62,861 |
| Replacement of Boiler Management System at One Angel Square | 46,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46,000 |
| Floor and wall finishes replacement/ renewal | 862,000 | 579,750 | 579,750 | 3,478,500 | 5,500,000 |
| Boiler Replacements | 225,000 | 225,000 | 225,000 | 1,125,000 | 1,800,000 |
| Bridge Replacement Works | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| Magistrates Court and Hazelrigg House Roof Repairs | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50,000 |
| Southfields Community Centre Refurbishment | 90,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90,000 |
| Abington Museum Boilers | 270,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 270,000 |
| Restoration of Historic Monuments & Statues | 140,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | 185,000 |
| Street Lighting Upgrade (ex- NCC assets) | 2,806,623 | 2,018,589 | 929,845 | 0 | 5,755,057 |
| Play Equipment at Children's Centres | 90,000 | 60,000 | 0 | 0 | 150,000 |
| Outdoor Exercise Equipment | 45,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45,000 |
| EPC Improvements to Leased Buildings | 150,000 | 220,000 | 220,000 | 220,000 | 810,000 |
| Active Traffic Management and Air Quality | 130,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 130,000 |
| Total Assets and Environment Capital | 18,099,169 | 5,970,907 | 6,489,163 | 5,617,636 | 36,176,875 |
| Total | 134,528,626 | 48,500,028 | 29,052,783 | 13,092,545 | 225,173,982 |

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| APPENDIX B - Period 4 | Original LA | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | Total |
|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | | £,000 | £,000 | £,000 | £,000 | £,000 | £,000 |
| NPH Pell Court, Lumbertubs | NBC | (16) | 20 | - | - | - | 4 |
| NPH0011 Berkeley House & St. Marys House (Roof Gdns) | NBC | 988 | 2,947 | 6,635 | - | - | 10,571 |
| NPH0017 Swale Drive, Kings Heath | NBC | 14 | - | - | - | - | 14 |
| NPH0018 Orchard Close, Wootton | NBC | 39 | - | - | - | - | 39 |
| NPH0019 Norman Road, Abington | NBC | 14 | - | - | - | - | 14 |
| NPH0021 Longueville Court, Lumbertubs | NBC | 13 | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| NPH0023 Harold Street, Town Centre | NBC | 9 | - | - | - | - | 9 |
| NPH0024 Blakesley Close, Kingsthorpe | NBC | 23 | - | - | - | - | 23 |
| NPH0025 Margaret Street, Town Centre | NBC | 9 | - | - | - | - | 9 |
| NPH0026 Baukewell, Preston & Nethermead, Lumbertubs | NBC | 15 | - | - | - | - | 15 |
| NPH0028 Connaught Street, Town Centre | NBC | 12 | 5 | - | - | - | 16 |
| NPH0033 Tyes Court 2 (G7-17), Lings | NBC | 116 | 4 | - | - | - | 120 |
| NPH0044 Gloucester Avenue (2) (G1-7), Delapre | NBC | 50 | 6 | - | - | - | 56 |
| NPH0045 Prentice 3 & Overleys, Goldings | NBC | 6 | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| NPH0047 Medway Drive, Kings Heath | NBC | 17 | - | - | - | - | 17 |
| NPH0050 East Paddock Ct (Hayeswood), Lings | NBC | 21 | - | - | - | - | 21 |
| NPH0051 Derwent Drive, Kings Heath | NBC | 761 | 382 | - | - | - | 1,143 |
| NPH0052 Fraser Road, Thorplands | NBC | 20 | 19,628 | 2,044 | - | - | 21,692 |
| NPH0053 Riverside House | NBC | 3,238 | - | - | - | - | 3,238 |
| NPH0054 Beaumont House | NBC | 239 | - | - | - | - | 239 |
| NPH0055 Belgrave House / Clock House, Town Centre | NBC | 937 | 4,948 | 5,285 | 788 | - | 11,958 |
| NPH0058 Churchill & Windermere Way, Lakeview | NBC | 11 | - | - | - | - | 11 |
| NPH0059 Oak Tree Rise (Billing Brook Road) | NBC | 82 | - | - | - | - | 82 |
| NPH0061 Valley Road, Little Billing | NBC | 0 | - | - | 502 | - | 502 |
| NPH0062 Glebeland Road, Dallington | NBC | 293 | 99 | - | - | - | 392 |
| NPH0063 Stenson Road, St James | NBC | 306 | - | - | - | - | 306 |
| NPH0066 Prentice Court (4), Goldings | NBC | 475 | - | - | - | - | 475 |
| NPH0067 Prentice Court (5), Goldings | NBC | 663 | 17 | - | - | - | 680 |
| NPH0068 Ringway (3), Briar Hill | NBC | 191 | 1,536 | 31 | - | - | 1,759 |
| NPH0069 Northfield Road (2), Duston | NBC | 22 | 301 | - | - | - | 323 |
| NPH0071 The Bungalows, Lings | NBC | 137 | - | - | - | - | 137 |
| NPH0073 Woodstock Roof Extension | NBC | 70 | - | - | - | - | 70 |
| NPH0074 Dover Court Roof Extension | NBC | 712 | - | - | - | - | 712 |
| NPH0076 New Southbridge Road | NBC | 1,185 | 2,265 | 70 | - | - | 3,521 |
| NPH0077 Paddock Mill Court, Blackthorn (G89-94) | NBC | 8 | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| NPH0078 Hopmeadow Court, Blackthorn | NBC | (30) | 8 | - | - | - | 23 |
| NPH0079 Maidencastle (4) Garages 19-22, Blackthorn | NBC | 69 | 8 | - | - | - | 76 |
| NPH0080 Pikemead Court, Blackthorn | NBC | 4 | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| NPH0082 Avenue Campus | NBC | 3,812 | 12,780 | 13,331 | - | - | 29,924 |
| NPH0083 Montague Crescent, Duston | NBC | 215 | 1,199 | - | - | - | 1,414 |
| NPH0084 Bouverie Road, Hardingstone | NBC | 20 | 1,226 | - | - | - | 1,246 |
| NPH0085 Colwyn Road, Town Centre | NBC | 50 | 597 | - | - | - | 647 |
| NPH0091 East Oval, Kings Heath | NBC | 184 | 158 | - | - | - | 342 |
| NPH0092 Upper Thrift Street, Town Centre | NBC | 100 | 263 | - | - | - | 364 |
| NPH0093 Wessex Way, Abington | NBC | 122 | 87 | - | - | - | 210 |
| NPH0094 Ambush Street, St James | NBC | 10 | 205 | - | - | - | 215 |
| NPH0095 Stanley Road, St James | NBC | 20 | 625 | - | - | - | 645 |
| NPH0096 Althorpe Road East & West, St James | NBC | 47 | 514 | - | - | - | 561 |
| NPH0097 Ecton Brook Care Home | NBC | 290 | 1,987 | 949 | - | - | 3,227 |
| NPH0098 Harefield Road, Blackthorn | NBC | 58 | 1,399 | - | - | - | 1,457 |
| New Build Pool | NBC | 0 | - | 4,286 | 39,330 | 39,330 | 82,946 |
| Buybacks and Spot Purchases | NBC | 3,790 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 503 | 11,793 |
| NSAP - 15 x 1 bed accommodation | NBC | 19 | - | - | - | - | 19 |
| Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) | WNC | 601 | - | - | - | - | 601 |
| External Improvements | NBC | 17,307 | 11,894 | 7,850 | 6,850 | 10,679 | 54,580 |
| Internal Works | NBC | 2,716 | 2,134 | 2,134 | 2,134 | 2,134 | 11,250 |
| Structural Works and Compliance | NBC | 408 | 461 | 461 | 461 | 461 | 2,250 |
| Disabled Adaptations | NBC | 1,500 | 1,285 | 1,285 | 1,285 | 1,285 | 6,640 |
| Environmental Improvements | NBC | 2,890 | 2,815 | 2,815 | 2,815 | 2,815 | 14,150 |
| IT Development | NBC | 512 | 483 | 430 | 395 | 234 | 2,054 |
| Total HRA | | 45,394 | 74,787 | 50,106 | 57,059 | 57,439 | 284,785 |

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

23 SEPTEMBER 2022

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCE:
COUNCILLOR MALCOLM LONGLEY**

Report Title Treasury Management Update Quarter 1, 2022-23

Report Author Martin Henry, Executive Finance Director

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|
| West MO | Cath Whitehead | 14/09/2022 |
| West S151 | Martin Henry | 14/09/2022 |
| Other Director/SME | Audra Stratham | 07/09/2022 |
| Communications | Becky Hutson | 14/09/2022 |

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Treasury and Prudential Indicators

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a first quarter update position on the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

2. Report Background

2.1 Capital Strategy

2.2 In December 2021, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA), issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. These require all local authorities to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following:

- a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services.
- an overview of how the associated risk is managed.
- the implications for future financial sustainability.

2.3 Treasury management

2.3.1 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low-risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.

2.3.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

2.3.3 Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

3. Introduction

3.1 This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021) and covers the following

- An economic update for the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year updated to reflect the most recent developments in the economy.
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators.
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2022/23.
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2022/23.
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken to in the first quarter.
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet note the report and treasury activity for the first quarter of the 22-23 financial year.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 To ensure that the Authority complies with its financial regulations and Treasury management policies.

6. Economics update

The second (calendar year) quarter (Apr -Jun) of 2022 saw:

- GDP fall by 0.1% in March and by 0.3% in April.
- An easing rather than a collapse in the composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI);
- A further rise in Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation to a new 40-year high of 9.1% in May (currently 9.9% as at August)
- The first signs that the weakening in economic activity is filtering into a slightly looser labour market.
- Bank Rate rose to 1.25% back in June and is currently 1.75%, taking it to its highest level since the Global Financial Crisis.
- Gilt yields caught up in the global surge in bond yields triggered by May's strong rise in US inflation.
- Rising global bond yields and concerns overgrowth drive a global sell-off in equity markets

It is acknowledged that the following economic update is backward looking and indicating future action, which has now recently been superseded by the change of Prime Minister, a new Cabinet, inflation being higher, utility prices being substantially higher and the increase in base rate in August.

The new Prime Minister Liz Truss announced that the government would cap domestic energy prices for households at £2,500 while limiting them for businesses to ease the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and the FTSE 250 moved 0.36% higher on the news. Further economic updates will be reported in subsequent reports in the year as we continue to monitor the markets to review the impact on the finances of WNC

- 6.1.1. Following the 0.1% fall in GDP in March and the 0.3% contraction in April, the economy is now moving towards a recession (two quarters of falling output in a row). Indeed, GDP would need to rise by 0.4-0.5% m/m in both May and June to prevent the economy from contracting in Q2 as a whole. That said, without the joint wind down of the COVID-19 Test and Trace and vaccination programme, GDP would have risen by 0.2% m/m and 0.1% m/m in March and April respectively.

That's hardly strong, but it suggests the underlying momentum is not quite as weak as the headline figures imply.

- 6.1.2. There is not much evidence that higher inflation and higher interest rates have yet become a big drag on activity. Services output did fall by 0.3% in April. But output in consumer-facing services, conversely, rose by a solid 2.3% in April. And although the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that some of the 1.0% fall in manufacturing output was linked to the drag on activity from higher prices, it also said that some of the 0.4% drop in construction output in April was a drop back after the boost in the wake of February's Storm Eunice.
- 6.1.3. The fact that the composite PMI didn't fall in June also suggests that in Q2 (Apr – June) real GDP has softened rather than collapsed. The S&P Global/CIPS all-sector PMI for June was unchanged from its level of 53.1 in May, signalling tepid but positive growth. According to the Lloyd's barometer, business confidence in May also remained remarkably resilient.
- 6.1.4. Despite the fall in the GfK (Gesellschafts für Konsumforschung -German society for consumer research) composite measure of consumer confidence to a new record low of -41 in June, April's £1.4bn rise in consumer credit suggests households appear to have turned to credit to support their spending as the cost-of-living squeeze has intensified. Meanwhile, the household saving rate held steady at 6.8% in Q1 in line with its long-term average and we expect households to lower their saving rate further when the bigger falls in real incomes come in Q2 and Q3 to cushion the blow to spending.
- 6.1.5. There have been early signs that the recent weakening in economic activity is filtering through into a slightly looser labour market. The unemployment rate edged up from 3.7% in the three months to March to 3.8%. The single-month data showed that employment fell by 254,000 in April and the unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 4.2%. And the upward march in the number of job vacancies slowed, with the three-month average only rising from 1.296m in April to 1.300m in May. A seasonal adjustment of the single-month data implies that vacancies fell in May for the first time since COVID-19 was rife in December.
- 6.1.6. At the same time, a 1.8% fall back in average earnings in April meant that the 3myy rate of earnings eased from 7.0% in March to 6.8% in April. And a lot of the 0.5% m/m rise in earnings excluding bonuses was probably due to the 6.6% rise in the National Living Wage on 1st April. The 3myy rate of earnings excluding bonuses stayed at 4.2%.
- 6.1.7. That said, conditions in the labour market remain exceptionally tight. The unemployment rate is still close to its recent 47-year low, and there is the same number of unemployed people as job vacancies and at 6.8% in April, the 3myy rate of average earnings is at a 10-year high (although it is still falling in real terms) and is well above the 3.0-3.5% that is broadly consistent with the 2.0% inflation target (assuming that productivity growth is 1.0-1.5%).
- 6.1.8. CPI inflation rose from 9.0% in April to a new 40-year high of 9.1% in May and it is not yet close to its peak. The increase in CPI inflation in May was mainly due to a further leap in food price inflation from 6.7% to a 13-year high of 8.5%. With the influence of increases in agricultural commodity prices yet to fully feed into prices on the supermarket shelves, we think that food price inflation will rise above 10% in September. And with two-thirds of the observation period for the Ofgem price cap having now passed, something like a 40% rise in utility prices is pretty much baked in the cake for October. The further rise in core producer price inflation, from 13.9% to 14.8%, suggests that core goods CPI inflation will probably rise to 14% before long. We think

that will take CPI inflation to a peak of around (currently 10.1%) 10.5% in October. The recently published position at August shows CPI is currently 9.9%.

- 6.1.9. There now seems to be an even greater likelihood that second-round effects, whereby high inflation feeds back into higher price and wage expectations, keep inflation higher for longer. For some time, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has placed a lot of weight on the results of the Bank of England's monthly Decision Maker Panel which asks businesses how they expect to change their prices and wages over the next year. May's survey revealed that businesses still expect to raise their selling prices by 6.0% and their wages by 4.8% over the next year. Meanwhile, XpertHR said that pay settlements across the economy stayed at a 30-year high of 4.0% in May. The government appears to be contemplating raising public sector pay by up to 5%. And the 7.1% pay rise granted to some railway workers sets a high bar for the negotiations that led to train strikes across large parts of the country in mid-June.
- 6.1.10. As of June, The MPC has increased interest rates five times in as many meetings and raised rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis. Even so, coming after the Fed raised rates by 75 basis points (bps) in June and a handful of other central banks have recently raised rates by 50bps, the Bank of England's action is relatively dovish. Since June, The MPC has increased the rate to 1.75%. The decision was supported by 9 members of the MPC showing a commitment to act forcefully amid growing concerns about the upside risks for inflation with headline CPI rate forecast to rise above 13% in the last quarter of this year.
- 6.1.11. The MPC's new guidance is that if there are signs of "more persistent inflationary pressures" it will, "if necessary, act forcefully in response". We expect the MPC to continue to raise rates in steps of 25bps rather than 50bps. We think the MPC will raise rates from 1.75% now to a peak of 2.75% next year. That's higher than the peak of 2.00% forecast by economists, but lower than the peak priced into the financial markets.
- 6.1.12. Gilt yields have been caught up in the global surge in bond yields triggered by the surprisingly strong rise in CPI inflation in the US in May. The rises in two-year gilt yields (to a peak of 2.37% on 21st June) and 10-year yields (to a peak of 2.62%) took them to their highest level since 2008 and 2014 respectively. And in response to signs that central banks (particularly the US Fed) are going to raise interest rates faster to get on top of inflation, we now think that 10-year gilt yields will reach a peak of 2.70% (up from 2.39% currently) this year and into 2023.
- 6.1.13. Finally, the pound has already weakened from \$1.37 and €1.21 earlier this year to \$1.21 and €1.16 (currently \$1.16 and €1.15) . A lot of these moves have been driven by concerns over the outlook for the global economy and the resulting poor performance of risky assets, which has increased the demand for the dollar relative to sterling.

7. Interest rate forecasts

- 7.1. The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates.
- 7.2. The latest forecast on 13 Sept is compared to the previous forecast in the first quarter (26th June & 10th May). A comparison of these forecasts shows that PWLB rates have increased generally and show a speed up in the rate of increase in Bank Rate as inflation is now posing a greater risk. The increase in PWLB rates reflects a broad sell-off in sovereign bonds internationally as inflation

concerns abound. To that end, the MPC has tightened short-term interest rates with a view to trying to slow the economy sufficiently to keep the secondary effects of inflation – as measured by wage rises – under control, but without pushing the economy into recession.

7.3.

| Link Group Interest Rate View 13.09.22 | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Sep-22 | Dec-22 | Mar-23 | Jun-23 | Sep-23 | Dec-23 | Mar-24 | Jun-24 |
| BANK RATE | 2.25 | 2.50 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.25 |
| 5 yr PWLB | 2.80 | 3.00 | 3.10 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.90 | 2.90 |
| 10yr PWLB | 3.00 | 3.20 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.10 | 3.10 | 3.00 |
| 25yr PWLB | 3.40 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.40 | 3.40 | 3.30 |
| 50 yr PWLB | 3.10 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.10 | 3.10 | 3.10 |

| Link Group Interest Rate View 21.06.22 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Sep-22 | Dec-22 | Mar-23 | Jun-23 | Sep-23 | Dec-23 | Mar-24 | Jun-24 | Sep-24 | Dec-24 | Mar-25 | Jun-25 |
| BANK RATE | 1.75 | 2.25 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.25 | 2.25 | 2.25 | 2.25 |
| 3 month ave earnings | 2.00 | 2.50 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.60 | 2.50 | 2.30 | 2.30 | 2.20 | 2.20 |
| 6 month ave earnings | 2.50 | 2.80 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.80 | 2.70 | 2.60 | 2.50 | 2.40 | 2.30 |
| 12 month ave earnings | 3.10 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.00 | 2.90 | 2.80 | 2.60 | 2.50 | 2.40 | 2.40 | 2.40 |
| 5 yr PWLB | 3.20 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.10 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 2.90 | 2.90 |
| 10 yr PWLB | 3.40 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.40 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.10 | 3.10 |
| 25 yr PWLB | 3.70 | 3.70 | 3.70 | 3.70 | 3.70 | 3.70 | 3.60 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.40 | 3.40 | 3.30 |
| 50 yr PWLB | 3.40 | 3.40 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.40 | 3.40 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.10 | 3.10 | 3.00 |

| Link Group Interest Rate View 10.5.22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Jun-22 | Sep-22 | Dec-22 | Mar-23 | Jun-23 | Sep-23 | Dec-23 | Mar-24 | Jun-24 | Sep-24 | Dec-24 | Mar-25 | Jun-25 |
| BANK RATE | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.75 | 1.75 |
| 3 month ave earnings | 1.20 | 1.50 | 1.70 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 1.70 | 1.70 | 1.70 | 1.70 | 1.70 |
| 6 month ave earnings | 1.60 | 1.90 | 2.10 | 2.20 | 2.20 | 2.20 | 2.20 | 2.10 | 2.00 | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.90 | 1.90 |
| 12 month ave earnings | 2.00 | 2.20 | 2.30 | 2.40 | 2.40 | 2.30 | 2.30 | 2.20 | 2.20 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.10 |
| 5 yr PWLB | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.50 |
| 10 yr PWLB | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.80 |
| 25 yr PWLB | 3.00 | 3.10 | 3.10 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.10 | 3.10 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| 50 yr PWLB | 2.70 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 2.80 | 2.80 | 2.70 | 2.70 | 2.70 | 2.70 | 2.70 |

LIBOR and LIBID rates ceased at the end of 2021. In a continuation of our previous forecasts, our money market yield forecasts are based on expected average earnings by local authorities for 3 to 12 months.

Our forecasts for average earnings are averages i.e., rates offered by individual banks may differ significantly from these averages, reflecting their different needs for borrowing short-term cash at any one point in time.

8. Summary WNC Treasury Portfolio Position

8.1 The highlight for the treasury portfolio position for the period to June 2022 is the council is forecasting net borrowing position of £330m compared to the approved budget of £344m.

forecast for 2022/23 shows a £14m improvement mainly as a result of a reduction in new borrowing requirement that was forecasted.

8.2 The expected borrowing requirement to fund the capital programme is lower than expected during the year to date hence the overall forecast performance.

Table 1

| West Northamptonshire Council 2022-23 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| TREASURY PORTFOLIO 22-23 | | | | | |
| | TMSS Approved Budget | Actual | Actual | Forecast out-turn | Forecast out-turn |
| | | 30-Jun-22 | 30-Jun-22 | 31-Mar-23 | 31-Mar-23 |
| | £000 | £000 | % | £000 | % |
| Treasury investments | | | | | |
| Total managed in house | 204,035 | 140,174 | 93% | 193,122 | 95% |
| Total managed externally | 9,641 | 10,222 | 7% | 10,222 | 5% |
| Total treasury investments | 213,676 | 150,396 | 100% | 203,344 | 100% |
| Third party loans | 35,097 | 36,443 | | 35,097 | |
| Treasury external borrowing | | | | | |
| Local Authorities loans | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% |
| PWLB | 519,779 | 463,174 | 86% | 493,751 | 87% |
| Market, LOBO & other loans | 73,682 | 75,743 | 14% | 75,336 | 13% |
| Total external borrowing | 593,461 | 538,917 | 100% | 569,087 | 100% |
| | | | | | |
| Net treasury investments / (borrowing) | (344,688) | (352,078) | | (330,646) | |

8.3 During the first quarter, the council has made £3.577m of loan repayments detailed below:

- Partial principal repayment of £0.577m on annuity PWLB loan.
- Full repayment of £3m on Growing Places Fund loan back in April 2022.

8.4 The forecast position on total external borrowing is £569m compared to the budget of £593.4m. This demonstrates a reduction in anticipated borrowing requirements than envisioned, this is being monitored and the anticipated impact will be reported in the next report.

9. Borrowing

9.1 The need for further borrowing will be reviewed in line with the capital programme delivery schedule.

9.2 Table 2 below sets out the maturity profile of the Council's borrowing portfolio at the end of Q1.

Table 2

| Term Remaining | Borrowing | | Limits |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| | £m | % | % |
| Under 12 months | 9.5 | 2% | 80% |
| 1-2 years | 8.8 | 2% | 50% |
| 2-5 years | 28.8 | 5% | 50% |
| 5-10 years | 24.9 | 5% | 50% |
| 10-20 years | 20.0 | 4% | 100% |
| 20-30 years | 15.3 | 3% | 100% |
| 30-40 years | 254.7 | 47% | 100% |
| 40-50 years | 157.0 | 29% | 100% |
| Over 50 years | 20.0 | 4% | 100% |
| TOTAL | 538.9 | 100% | |

10. Borrowing Restructuring

10.1 Rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken in the current financial year to date. Officers continue to monitor the position regularly.

11. Investments

6.1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on the 24th Feb 2022. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

6.2. The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short-term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information.

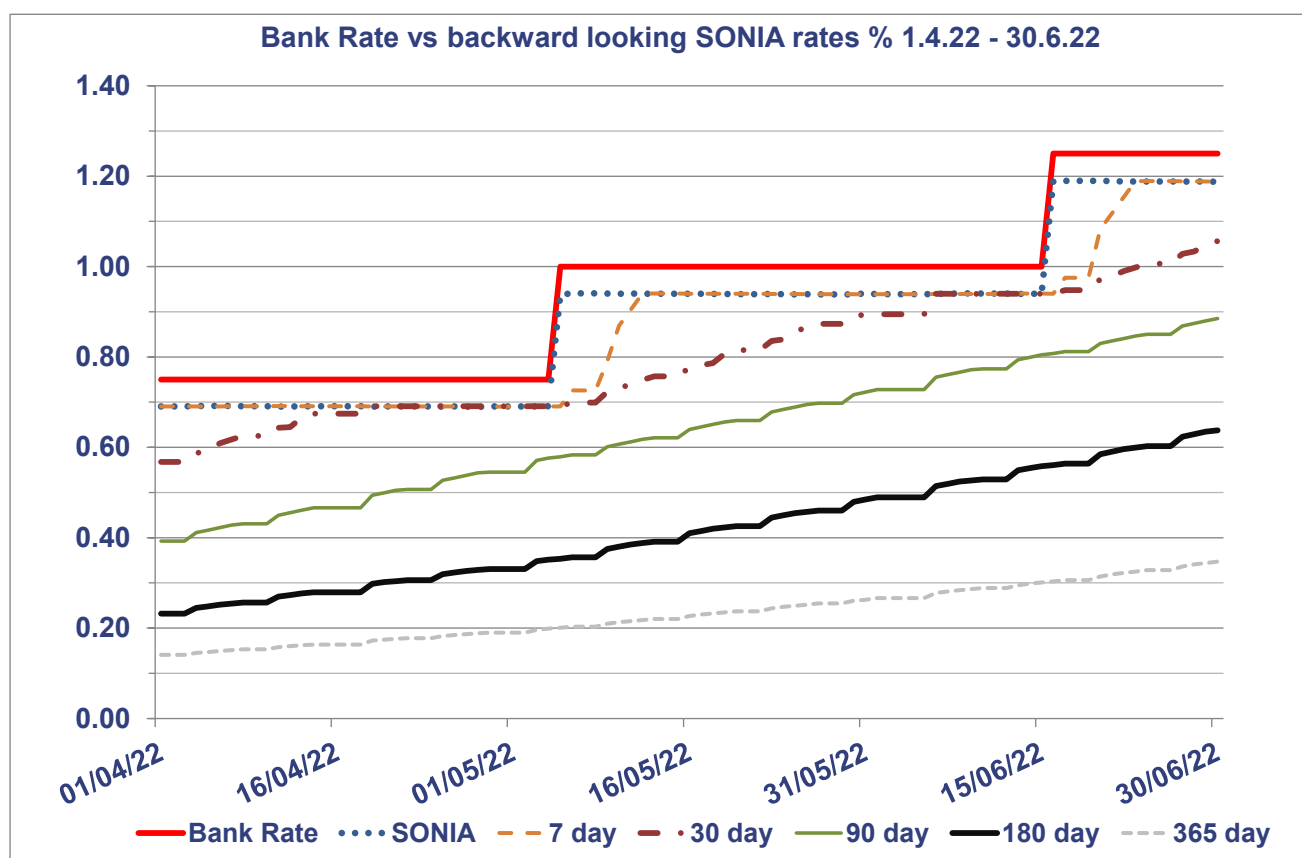
As shown by the interest rate forecasts in Section 6 above, rates have improved dramatically during Q1 and Q2 2022 and are expected to improve further as Bank Rate continues to increase over the next year or so.

11.3 The average level of funds available for investment purposes during the quarter was £150m. These funds were available on a temporary basis, and the level of funds available was mainly dependent on the timing of payments, receipt of grants. The Council held £69m of liquid cash balances and £85.4m of short terms investments expected to mature during year.

12. Investment performance year to date as of 30th June 2022

9.1 Below is SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Averages) indicators based on backward looking showing the performance of the market when investments were made in the past.

Graph 1



| Period | SONIA benchmark performance | Council performance |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 months | 0.89% | 0.90% |

9.2 As illustrated above, the Council outperformed the benchmark by 1 basis point. The Council's budgeted investment return for 2022/23 assumed an average of 0.30% return based on the

of placed and future short-term investment at the time of budgets preparations and as such has outperformed the budget assumption to date.

10. Treasury Management budget

10.1 Outlined below is the Treasury budget performance to date for 22/23. The net costs is not expected will vary significantly to budget as shown in the forecast out-turn.

Table 5

| Treasury revenue budget | Council Approved Budget | Forecast -out-turn | Variance - favourable/(adverse) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| | £'m | £'m | £'m |
| Net financing costs - | 14.07 | 14.57 | (0.50) |
| Interest receivable on investments | (1.8) | (2.3) | 0.50 |
| Total | 12.31 | 12.31 | 0.00 |

10.2 The key explanation for variance to the budgets are:

Within the net financing costs-

- **Finance charges:** We are forecasting a budget overspend of £0.5m as a result of increased bank charges which will be offset by the improvement on interest receivable on investment due to the upward trend of bank interests.
- **Interest receivable on investments** – we are expecting a better yield performance, however this is currently offset by unbudgeted finance charges highlighted above in this report. Interest rate yield are constantly changing and expected to improve further going forward.

11. Approved Limits

11.1 Officers can confirm that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the period ended 30th June 2022.

12. Compliance with Treasury & Prudential limits

12.1 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the first quarter ended 30th June 2022, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23.

12.2 The Director of Finance reports that there are no difficulties expected for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

12.3 All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

13. Background Papers

None

Appendix A: Treasury and Prudential Indicators

| Prudential Indicator | 2022/23 Indicator | 2022/23 Q1 |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | | Page 87 |

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|------|
| Authorised limit for external debt <i>[Excluding PFI and Finance Lease Liabilities]</i> | ----- £850.0m ----- | |
| Operational boundary for external debt <i>[Excluding PFI and Finance Lease Liabilities]</i> | ----- £800.0m ----- | |
| Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) <i>[Excluding PFI and Finance Lease Liabilities]</i> | £935m | TBC |
| Ratio of financing costs to net revenue streams | 1.6% | TBC |
| Principal sums invested > 365 days <i>[Excluding third party loans]</i> | £20m | £nil |
| Maturity structure of borrowing limits: - | | |
| Under 12 months | Max. 80% Min. 0% | 2% |
| 12 months to 2 years | Max. 50% Min. 0% | 2% |
| 2 years to 5 years | Max. 50% Min. 0% | 5% |
| 5 years to 10 years | Max. 50% Min. 0% | 5% |
| 10 years and above | Max. 100% Min. 0% | 86% |
| | | |



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

23 SEPTEMBER 2022

CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSING, CULTURE AND LEISURE: COUNCILLOR ADAM BROWN

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Report Title | West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy (2022-2025) |
| Report Author | Jacqueline Brooks – Interim Head of Housing Strategy and Partnerships jacqueline.brooks@westnorthants.gov.uk |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

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| West S151 | Martin Henry | 24 th August 2022 |
| ELT | | 22 August 2022 |
| Other Director/SME | Jane Carr Joanne Barrett | Communities and Opportunities DLT 17 th August Communities and Opportunities DLT 17 th August |
| Communications | Becky Hutson / Holly Skelton | 22 August 2022 |

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1:** West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy 2022-2025
- Appendix 2:** West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy appendices
- Appendix 3:** Pre-decision scrutiny committee recommendations

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek approval of the West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy (2022-2025).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Housing Strategy is a key high level strategic document that sets out the local authority's strategic priorities and vision for housing in their area. Whilst a housing strategy is not a statutory duty for the Council, it is a best practice approach and local authorities are encouraged to create a strategic document that states their housing ambition.
- 2.2 The Housing Strategy has been developed having regards to the objectives and priorities of the Corporate Plan (2021-2025) alongside the Council's strategic housing responsibilities, statutory requirements and guidance and wider government policy and initiatives. The strategy supports the Council's vision for the area – to make West Northants a great place to live, work, visit and thrive.
- 2.3 The Housing strategy is intended to cover the next 3 years, which is considered to be a suitable duration to reflect the transitions that West Northants Council are still progressing through. There are a number of different factors that have fed into this timespan, including the development of the West Northants Strategic Plan (due to be adopted in 2025), when a formal review /refresh of the strategy will be required to ensure it is sufficiently aligned.
- 2.4 The Housing Strategy sets out four themes:
- Deliver homes people need and can afford
 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
 - Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
 - Support thriving and sustainable communities

These themes are supported by 14 strategic priorities. Each of the strategic priorities identify a number of actions required to deliver the priority.

- 2.5 The Housing Strategy has been developed through evidence gathering and consultation with members, internal council teams, the local community, our partners and wider stakeholders via validation workshops, stakeholder events and public consultation.
- 2.6 The formal public consultation on the draft themes and priorities for the Housing Strategy took place from 14 April – 24 May 2022. We had nearly 600 responses analysed, with 257 completing the whole questionnaire and over 280 comments in total from a variety of groups and individuals including residents, registered providers, voluntary and charitable organisations, statutory bodies and parish/town councils.
- 2.7 Feedback from the consultation was generally positive and there was a good level of support for the strategy's four proposed themes and their associated priorities. The responses to the consultation have all been taken into consideration and have supported the development of the actions required to deliver the strategy

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the outcome of the consultation and how this has been reflected in the Housing Strategy.
- 3.2 To approve the West Northants Housing Strategy 2022-2025 for adoption.
- 3.3 To approve the adoption of a robust Delivery Action Plan, aligned to the priorities set out in the housing strategy, which will be produced with the continued engagement of partners.

4 Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 Approval of the strategy will provide the strategic direction of the Council and will support the delivery of key priorities for the Council, including the Corporate Plan (2021-2025).
- 4.2 Local authorities are encouraged to create a document that clearly states their housing ambition and provides a clear and strategic direction for planning and delivering housing in their area and improving housing outcomes for residents.
- 4.3 The housing strategy will ensure that housing is considered at a strategic level so housing related services and plans are delivered efficiently and effectively in a joined-up way.
- 4.4 The strategy has been developed through robust communication and consultation channels. The outcome of the consultation was largely positive and there was strong support for the themes and priorities from residents and well as our partners and wider stakeholders.

5 Report Background

5.1 The Housing Strategy is a key high-level strategic document that sets out a local authority's strategic priorities for housing in their area. The strategy is built around four themes that connect strongly with the Council's vision to create a great place to live, work, visit and thrive and the Corporate Plan.

5.2 The Housing Strategy has been developed based on research and analysis of our evidence bases, the key issues identified have been summarised below:

- A need for more housing to meet the needs of our growing aging population
- Rising house prices and cost of living increases are adding to affordability pressures
- A need for more affordable housing, in particular a need for social rent
- Increasing housing needs on the Council's housing registers/waiting lists
- High number of households living in temporary accommodation
- A need to better understand the longer term need and demand for supported housing, housing care and support and other specialist housing options

5.3 The housing strategy 2022-2025 has four themes:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford;
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services;

- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives;
- Support thriving and sustainable communities.

5.4 As a new unitary authority we are still making progress in harmonising the delivery of services and undertaking a full transformation programme. Over the life of this strategy the council will continue to develop a range and plans and strategies and the strategy may need to be reviewed to ensure it remain sufficiently aligned.

5.5 We need to have ambitious plan to create homes people need alongside a thriving economy to ensure we meet the housing needs and demands of existing and future residents and achieve the best outcomes for our area.

5.6 Housing is a crucial component of wellbeing. Good quality housing provides a sound platform to build a good quality of life. Poor quality or inadequate housing tends to be associated with poorer outcomes for people.

5.7 As a key council document, the housing strategy has a significant impact with regard to place-shaping for our area. The strategy cuts across a significant part of many of the other services that the council provides, including adult social care commissioned services, children's services and community needs, and impacts on a number of issues including housing need, affordability, economic growth, vulnerable people and social care provision. The effective delivery of the housing strategy is focussed on delivering positive housing outcomes for the area and its residents.

5.8 The Housing Strategy has been developed through consultation with members, the local community, partners and wider stakeholders. The formal consultation on the emerging themes and priorities ran from 14th April – 24th May 2022. We had nearly 600 responses analysed, with 257 completing the whole questionnaire and over 280 comments in total from a variety of groups and individuals including residents, registered providers, voluntary and charitable organisations, statutory bodies and parish/town councils. There was overwhelming support for each of the themes and the priorities to be progressed.

5.9 The comments and responses through these various consultation channels have influenced and have been reflected into the final housing strategy

5.10 Following adoption of the strategy a Delivery Action Plan will be developed, this will set out the specific actions and targets for the delivery of the Housing Strategy. This will be prepared with partners.

5.11 It will be essential that we keep the delivery action plan under review and adapt accordingly to recognise changes in the housing market, national policy and changes in the economic outlook and the continual alignment with the Council's priorities and other strategies

5.12 The delivery action plan will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by officers and on an annual basis the delivery action plan will be presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny committees to update on progress and outcomes and will feed into the annual budget process. In addition, with the strategy's strong links with the wider determinants of health the Health and Wellbeing Board will also contribute to the implementation and progress of this strategy on an annual basis.

6 Issues and Choices

6.1 Cabinet agrees to adopt the Strategy, themes, priorities and actions

6.2 Cabinet agrees not to approve the housing strategy and consider an alternative focus for future action. To note by not adopting the West Northamptonshire Council Strategy will result in the council not providing the strategic leadership and focus for our partners and wider stakeholders.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 The approval of the Housing Strategy does not in itself incur any new revenue or capital liabilities for either the Housing Revenue Account or the general fund.

7.1.2 The implementation of and delivery of the Housing Strategy requires significant investment of time and resource by existing council staff and its partners. The delivery action plan will need to be fully costed to set out the expected financial impact on the council. If the financial impacts cannot be covered within existing resources a further report will be brought back to Cabinet to determine if additional resources will be released and how they will be funded.

7.1.3 The delivery plan will be an ever-evolving document and if additional resources are required in the future they may be considered as part of the normal budget setting process.

7.1.4 Throughout the lifetime of the strategy there will be some specific projects and developments where decisions will need to be made and the full revenue and capital implications will be made clear at the time. None of the projects or development will be able to proceed until the appropriate funding is agreed and in place.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 It is not a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a housing strategy. However, it sets out objectives and targets and policies on how the Council intends to manage and deliver its strategic housing role and provides an overarching framework against which the Council considers and formulates other policies on more specific housing offices which relate to the delivery of the Council's housing functions.

7.2.2 Consultation responses received from key services users, key stakeholders and other interested parties on the Council's strategic housing role are required to be considered in the decision making process.

7.2.3 The Council is required to comply with its public sector equality duty, under s149 of the Equality Act 2010 to consider whether policies or decisions affect people who are protected under the Equality Act. Members are referred to the community impact statement in the body of this report and the housing evidence base document as Appendix 2 which should be considered in the decision-making process.

7.3 Risk

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

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 The Housing Strategy has been developed through consultation with members, the local community, partners and wider stakeholders through the following channels:

- Evidence gathering – We collected a wide range of evidence across all areas which impact on Housing to understand the situation including trends and future predictions.
- Validation workshops – We held a number of workshops with different departments in the council and external organisations who will be involved with the delivery of the strategy to understand the context and delivery challenges they face.
- Stakeholder events – We brought together a wide range of people with an interest including local voluntary groups, members, officers and other organisations to get their feedback and input into the recommendations.
- Member involvement – We attended a number of committees with elected members to share the strategy as it was developed and to get their input into it. This included an all-member workshop in May 2022.
- Formal public consultation – We did a full public consultation to understand people's concerns and priorities so that we could ensure the strategy had the right focus and included actions which would address their concerns.

7.4.2 The formal consultation on the emerging themes and priorities ran from 14th April – 24th May 2022. We had nearly 600 responses analysed, with 257 completing the whole questionnaire and over 280 comments in total from a variety of groups and individuals including residents, registered providers, voluntary and charitable organisations, statutory bodies and parish/town councils. There was overwhelming support for each of the themes and the priorities to be progressed.

7.4.3 The comments and responses through these various consultation channels have influenced and have been reflected into the final housing strategy in the following ways:

- Priorities have been consolidated where required
- Responses have been used to strengthen priorities
- Responses have helped identify actions to deliver the strategy
- The priorities and actions are more outcome focused for services users
- Targets have been added to allow monitoring

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 During the validation period of developing the strategy, a presentation was given to People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees, this provided an overview of the evidence base gathered and the draft themes and priorities to be consulted on. During the formal consultation period all members were invited to a Housing Strategy workshop. In August a pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Housing Strategy took place. The workshop was led by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee but was open to members of the Corporate and Place Overview and Scrutiny committee to attend.

7.5.2 The recommendations of the pre-decision scrutiny are an appendix to this report.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 Supporting thriving and sustainable communities is one of the four themes of the Housing Strategy. It sets out that the provision and management of housing plays a role in helping to deliver the overall sustainability goals the Council are seeking to achieve through its Corporate Plan and the recently adopted Sustainability Strategy.

7.6.2 The strategy recognises the need to achieve zero carbon will be a significant challenge

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 The Housing Strategy will have a positive direct and indirect on housing, health and wellbeing across multiple areas. It promotes the provision of healthy housing, good quality supported housing, aim to reduce homelessness, supports economic prosperity and provide support for those who need it. It also supports good quality environments and public spaces that also benefit are our mental health and wellbeing.

7.7.2 An Equality Impact Screening Assessment (EIA) was undertaken to inform the development of the draft Housing Strategy. The results of this screening process did not highlight any areas of concerns as the strategy document doesn't seek to introduce any policy change directly and any actions from the strategy that do introduce new policy or approach will be accompanied by their own EIA screening.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None

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**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

West Northamptonshire

Housing Strategy

2022-2025



Foreword

As a new unitary authority covering a wide geographical area that includes large urban centres and rural hinterlands, it is important that we detail how WNC and its partners will undertake the strategic housing role. It provides an opportunity to shape and deliver our vision for the West Northamptonshire area.

This is the first Housing Strategy for West Northamptonshire Council, forming one of the cornerstones for delivering the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2025.

We recognise that there are challenging times ahead, the current energy crisis and the cost-of-living increases are causing severe financial difficulties to many households. It is critical that the housing strategy focusses priorities and actions that provide greater stability and support for households and communities that will help create sustainable and thriving communities for people living in West Northants.

This strategy sets out to tackle big issues like affordability, health, the supply of new homes and the environment. These are not easy things to solve, but we can make a real contribution to improved outcomes for many people by taking the right steps now.



This strategy is a high-level document setting out a clear vision with strong leadership for West Northants Council and its partners to ensure that housing, planning, health, economic development and regeneration work together to deliver and influence an integrated housing market. It is critical therefore that working in partnership and across boundaries forms part of our approach.

The strategy has been brought together by a wide range of people with different views so we have already started this journey.

Councillor Adam Brown
Portfolio Holder for Housing, Culture and Leisure





Our vision

is to make

West Northants

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 young people grow up qualified and inspired to succeed.

A place where people are proud to live, with strong sustainable communities, decent homes, a fulfilling job, and stress-free travel through well connected places.

A place where people are supported to live independent, self-sufficient lives and where everyone has the best life chances. A place where services are joined up and if you need a helping hand you'll get it.

A place with a thriving and prosperous economy that draws in investment, visitors and talent. A place where we have modern towns but where rural character is cherished.

A place at the forefront of action on climate change with clean air, sustainable growth and a flourishing natural environment.

Introduction

This strategy is built around four themes that connect strongly with this vision and the Council's Corporate Plan that sits alongside it.

As a local authority we want to be ambitious and deliver great outcomes for our residents and the area. We however need to ensure that this strategy is sustainable and financially resilient and we will only achieve our outcomes by working with partners and stakeholders across the area.

The themes of this strategy are:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
- Support thriving and sustainable communities



The establishment and development of Northamptonshire's Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) presents an opportunity to shape the partnerships that will have a key role in supporting and working with our communities. A place-based approach will be implemented, with a focus on ensuring needs are understood and addressed at the most appropriate local level. 9 neighbourhood profiles are being developed across West Northants to inform the priorities and areas of actions for each of these neighbourhoods. These action plans will recognise the differences between and within places and neighbourhoods and ensure that services are targeted and appropriate to meet population need.

Live Your Best Life identifies 10 ambitions which the Council and health partners hope to achieve through the Integrated Care System.

- Thriving Childhood
- Access to the best available education and learning
- Opportunity to be fit, well and independent
- Employment that keeps them and their families out of poverty
- Housing that is affordable, safe, and sustainable in places which are clean and green
- To feel safe in their homes and when out and about
- Connected to their families and friends
- The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong
- Access to health and social care when they need it
- To be accepted and valued simply for who they are.

These ambitions link to the ICP as a way of involving communities and community organisations in the design of services which meet health inequalities in its widest sense. Through the collaboration of partners to deliver the housing strategy will also contribute to the live your best life ambitions.

The 2022-2025 West Northants Housing Strategy will replace any housing strategies that the previous legacy councils had in place.

Context

This strategy cannot operate in isolation and in developing it with other stakeholders we have been mindful of changing conditions which will impact on its delivery. We have taken into account the following national, local and organisational factors.

National Policy

There is an increased emphasis on regulation nationally which will greatly impact the delivery and management of housing, with a particular emphasis on social housing, much of which stems from the enquiries into the fire at Grenfell. As a result of this we will see:

- New Social Housing (Regulation) Bill, which will:
 - Promote consumer standards and a greater level of intervention from the Regulator for Social Housing (RSH)
 - New tenant satisfaction measures
 - New complaint handling code and increased role for housing ombudsman
- A new regulator for Building Safety within the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that will oversee the implementation of new regulations
- A New Homes Ombudsman for owners of new-build homes to escalate complaints
- New Government targets for environmental sustainability
- A new standard for Decent Homes
- Uplift in the energy efficiency of new homes through changes to Building Regulations and published Future Homes Standard

Local Policy

The Housing Strategy is designed to support the delivery of the objectives set out in the West Northamptonshire Corporate Plan and works in tandem with other strategies and plans including:

- Allocation's policies
- Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Better Care Fund plans to enable the delivery of the disabled facilities mandatory and discretionary regime
- Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (ICAN)
- Joint Commissioning Strategy for people with a learning disability
- Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans
- Northampton Town Centre Masterplan
- Northamptonshire Children's Trust – Looked after Children and Care Leavers strategy (2021-25)
- Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability and the Climate Emergency

Challenges in social, economic and environmental sustainability are critical to our future and need to be taken into account. The Government wants to deliver ambitious targets, particularly in relation to climate through local Councils and communities. West Northants has signed up to UK100 which seeks to deliver some of those targets ahead of Government deadlines and this strategy is aligned to these goals.

The Council have set three sustainability pledges

- To make the Council's own emissions net zero by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045;
- Take a community leadership role for Sustainability across West Northants;
- Ensure Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

The role that housing plays in creating a better and fairer society is recognised, and can be instrumental in some of the other council priorities including tackling poverty and inequality and the impacts on people's health and security.

Context

Economic outlook

At the time of writing this strategy, there were a range of challenges which were making the economic outlook uncertain. Against a backdrop of a rapidly rising cost-of-living particularly in relation to food and energy costs, increased inflation and interest rates were affecting things like debt and mortgages. This in turn was creating an upward pressure on wages in public services and elsewhere.

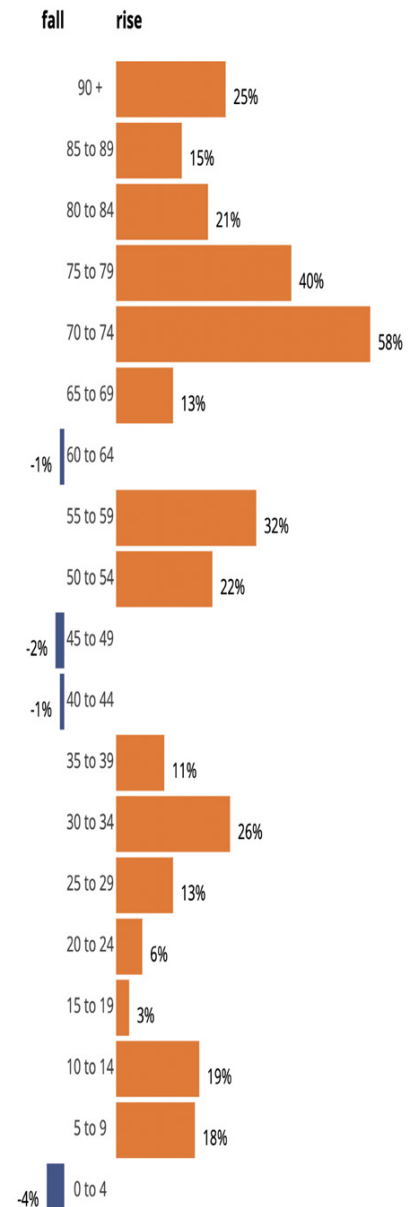
Reduced access to materials, food and energy was also likely to increase due to global difficulties relating to sanctions and the war in Ukraine. This has the potential in affecting the cost of new build homes, leading to a reduction in the volume of new homes being built.

A changing local population

West Northants is a growing area, with a population of 425,700 (2021 Census) residents, it is anticipated that the population will grow by 7% up to 2030, and the number of households is set to grow by 12% by 2030. Within that, the population aged 65 year and over is expected to grow by 9% which represents 76% of total population growth.

The latest census information confirms this trend with a population growth of 13.5% in the last 10 years (the second highest in the East Midlands and against a national average of 6.6%). Within this the data also reflects an ageing population as well as a growing population across almost all age groups:

Figure 1: Population change (%) by age group in West Northants (2011 to 2021)



We need to have ambitious plans to create the homes people need alongside a thriving economy to ensure we meet the housing needs and demands of existing and future residents.

West Northamptonshire also has an ageing population, so alongside the current and potential future public health challenges we need to have the right kind of support that can flex as the need arises. Identifying and responding to an individual's changing needs requires the integration of housing support and health services so that they are joined up from the perspective of the people using them. This challenge is within a context of increased pressure on Adult Social Care funding including recruitment difficulties.

Context

West Northants Council - a developing organisation

As a newly created unitary authority we are still making progress in harmonising the delivery of services and undertaking a full transformation programme. Over the next three years (the life of this strategy) the council will continue to develop a range of plans and strategies and when this strategy is reviewed in 2025 we will ensure that we are aligning the Housing Strategy goals with strategies that have been adopted during that period.

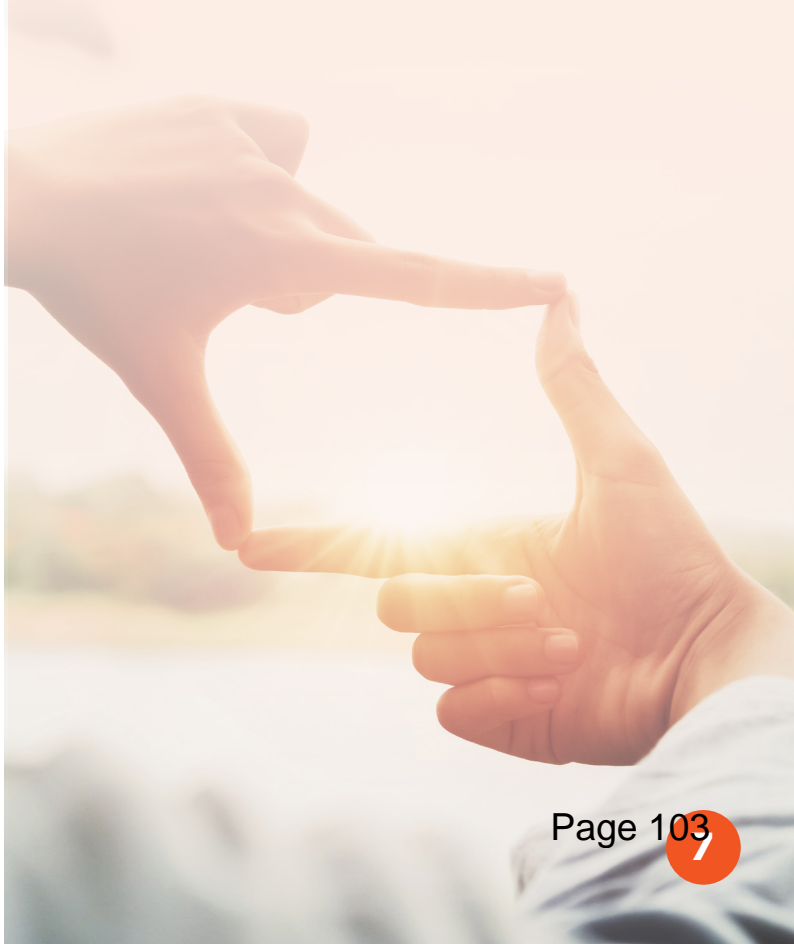
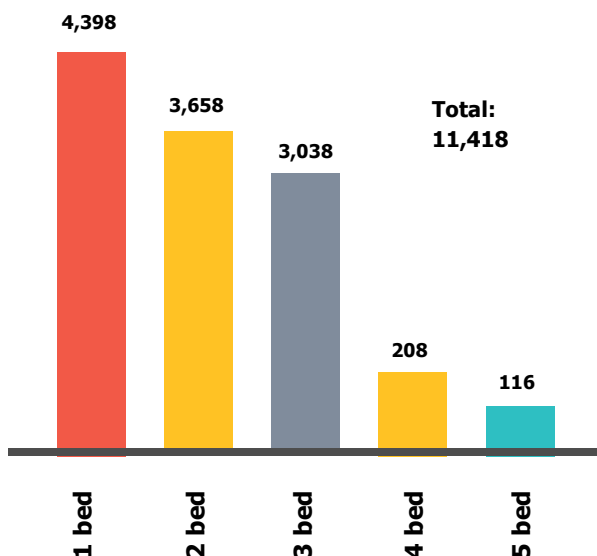
This strategy and the operational delivery plan will be clear on what priorities /action can be delivered within the lifetime of this strategy and those that are much longer term.

The Council as a landlord

Whilst this strategy covers all forms of housing including home ownership, private rented and social housing, West Northants Council owns over 12,000 homes (including leaseholder and shared ownership) with the majority of the homes managed by Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), who are the Council's arms-length management organisation (ALMO).

As an owner of social housing, we are registered with the Regulator for Social Housing and we are also an investment partner with Homes England, which has enabled the development by NPH of over 325 new council homes.

As a provider of social housing, we will work in partnership with NPH to ensure that we set high standards and work effectively with other local registered providers (RPs) to drive both the supply of new affordable housing and the standards to which they are managed across the Council's area.



Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

Context

West Northamptonshire is an area with significant growth and economic potential. It is a prosperous place, where people want to live and stay. It has an attractive and good quality housing offer, creating prosperous places and neighbourhoods, to attract and retain skilled people, investment, employment opportunities and new economic opportunities. The housing strategy presents an opportunity to improve the use of housing in the area as an enabler for economic growth and local economic development and make stronger links between housing and the economy at a local level.

The supply of new homes is central to the economic and social prosperity of any area. It is critical therefore that we ensure the delivery of a range of housing options at the right price and in the right locations to cater for different needs both now and in the future.

The feedback we have had (from the consultation for this strategy) was that affordability and supply of new homes was the most important issue for residents. All too often local people are priced out of the area and are forced to move away from family, friends and sometimes employment. The importance of delivering genuine affordable housing was a key concern. Also, the Council's adopted anti-poverty strategy highlighted that high housing and living costs had the most direct impact on poverty and material deprivation.

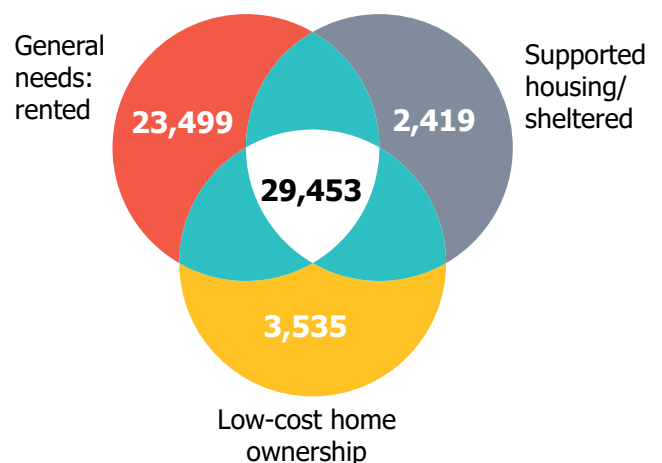
Alongside this, residents said that new development needs to be supported with the right infrastructure with people citing health, education and public transport as things which need to be considered. This ties in with the provision of a range of services that need to go alongside housing to bring about prosperity and improved community and health outcomes. This is covered more in Theme 3.

Of course, we recognise that in some areas affordability is the biggest challenge, whilst in other areas there is a need to add greater variety catering for different incomes and standards to increase choice and value. Therefore, we need to understand our local housing market and to help deliver what is appropriate and affordable.

Levering new investment into the area will be essential to meet our current and future needs and this strategy recognises that strong partnerships are needed to achieve this. As an investment partner, our relationship with Homes England will be crucial in how their funding can support greater certainty to deliver the homes we need.

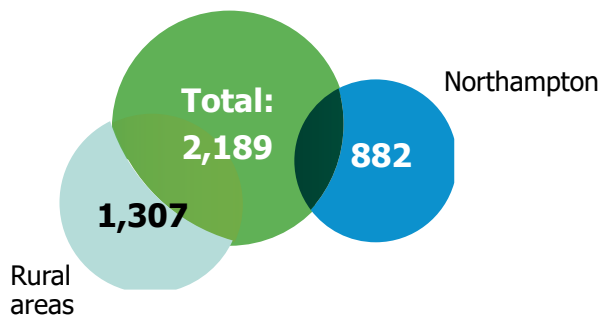
Registered Providers across West Northants own and manage over 29,000 affordable homes across the area, which includes just over 12,000 council homes managed by our arm's length management company – Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH).

Figure 2: The number of affordable homes across West Northants (2021)



Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

Registered providers also develop new homes with an extra 2189 homes delivered over the last five years and an additional 973 due to complete in the next two years.



Working in partnership with affordable housing providers alongside Northampton Partnership Homes who manage our Council homes is key to delivering the range of housing options needed by residents. As part of this, it is important that we fully understand our own portfolio of assets, including our housing estates, to identify opportunities for new development, under-utilised spaces or redevelopment of poorly performing properties.

A key focus of NPH's new housing delivery programme will be the regeneration of the Council's housing estates, which will deliver benefits to tenants and the wider community.

Although a large component of new affordable housing delivery is through S106 led development – a legally binding agreement or planning obligation as part of the granting of planning permission. It is important that NPH should only consider delivering S106 sites where this represents additionality and the best value in delivering new properties. There are RP partners working across the Council area who would purchase affordable housing through S106 led development.

The Council will play an active role in engaging with partners and developers in bringing

forward sites to ensure a pipeline of high-quality homes that also meet our ambitions for environmental sustainability. This will include supply chains for factory-built homes using modern methods of construction (MMC) to improve quality, reduce waste and shorten delivery times.

The availability and land development costs can be prohibitive and act as a barrier to development, the consideration of joint ventures is a proactive way that brings together the local authority, RPs, Homes England and other key partners to help scale up delivery, develop homes that are needed and are in right location and the ability to manage exposure, sharing risk and reward and help keep the costs of development in an uncertain market.

Planning Requirements

The planning policy requirements for new housing, including affordable housing, are set out in the West Northants Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS) (December 2014) and the part two local plans which have been adopted for the former Daventry and South Northants. The part two local plan for Northampton is expected to be adopted by the end of 2022.

The Council's Local Plans sets out the requirement for an appropriate mix of housing types, tenures and sizes, and the required percentage of affordable housing (subject to viability). It is important that to deliver truly sustainable and healthy communities the Council works with developers / applicants/agents etc to ensure that the size of accommodation that is delivered meets the reasonable expectations of the intended number of occupants and where possible aligns with nationally prescribed space standards. The WNJCS emphasises the importance of maximising development opportunities on brownfield land. Northampton provides the most opportunities for brownfield development, and several sites included in the emerging part two plan are on previously developed land.

Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

West Northants Council is preparing a new West Northants Strategic Plan (WNSP) for the area (due to be adopted in 2025) which will replace the WNJCS and set out the spatial vision for the area up to 2041. This will include the range and amount of housing that needs to be provided across West Northants, including the proportion of housing that should be affordable.

Work undertaken so far in the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment which looked at the period to 2050, shows that 64,170 additional dwellings are needed (2139 annually) by 2050, 37 869 of which would need to be affordable properties.

This compares to 2182 new affordable homes delivered over the last 5 years, however the development of the WNSP will be an opportunity to review our planning policies in relation to affordable housing and ensure we maximise delivery of affordable homes through the planning system.

The WNSP will also seek to connect the supply of new housing to wider strategies and policies including the quality of place and town centres, infrastructure provision including schools and health facilities, as well as looking at utilities, transport, access to open space, flood risk and sustainability. The WNSP once adopted will give developers, landowners, Registered Providers and Investors a clear policy context to work within.

Theme 1: Our priorities

1.1 Develop an evidence base of the full range of housing need across West Northants and identify gaps with the current housing supply

1.2 Increase the supply of social and affordable housing, including the delivery of council homes through our ALMO (NPH), and working in partnership with a range of providers and making the best use of the Council's land assets and resources

1.3 Support the delivery of a range of housing to meet local needs including private rent, housing for older people, low-cost home ownership, intermediate rent and outright sale.

Theme 1: What do we plan to do

1.1 Develop an evidence base of the full range of housing need across West Northamptonshire and identify gaps with the current housing supply

- We will collect and make available evidence of our housing market intelligence that can be used by a variety of stakeholders to plan the delivery of the right housing in the right location
- We will outline the specific needs of various groups including young people, care leavers, older people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health needs, marginalised ethnic groups, travellers and people with learning difficulties

1.2 Increase the supply of social and affordable housing, including the delivery of council homes through our ALMO (NPH), and working in partnership with a range of providers and making the best use of the Council's land assets and resources

- Through the Local Plans, we will drive developers' compliance in delivering the required percentage of affordable housing on all qualifying development sites
- We will engage with the development of the Strategic Plan to support the delivery of infrastructure and promote placemaking through quality of the environment, public realm, quality recreation and community space.
- We will maximise grant funding opportunities and ensure continual engagement with central Government departments including DLUHC, Homes England and BEIS
- We will review options to encourage a faster rate of delivery of new homes through modern methods of construction (MMC)

Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

- We will work with partners to deliver more social rent and genuine affordable housing and set out a definition for affordability across West Northants
- We will co-create with NPH a Development Strategy to identify development opportunities to deliver 500 Council homes (2021-2025) and where feasible on a social rent basis
- We will work closely with the Regeneration team to identify sites that will support the delivery of new affordable housing opportunities
- We will create a development framework with affordable housing providers to focus the delivery of new homes in alignment with the Council's aspirations and priorities
- We will work with Assets and Regeneration to develop a Council Asset Management Strategy which encompasses opportunities for development on Council owned sites including disposal criteria that take into account social value.

1.3 Support the delivery of a range of high-quality housing to meet local needs and wider economic aspirations and prosperity, including private rent, housing for older people, low-cost home ownership, intermediate rent, self-build and outright sale homes.

- We will work with 'Build to Rent' providers to ensure the new provision of high quality private and intermediate rent properties in locations where they are needed
- We will work with Parish and Town Councils and community groups to deliver rural affordable schemes and community led homes for residents
- We will identify areas which will benefit from intermediate and low-cost home ownership and Government led schemes to increase supply in those areas

Theme 1: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| New Homes | The number of new homes delivered (all tenures) |
| Affordable Housing | The % of homes which are affordable on sites and meeting the local plan's threshold for affordable housing provision |
| New Council Homes | The number of new council homes delivered (500 by 2025) |



Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Context

Everyone living in a rented property should have well maintained homes and services that meet minimum standards and it is expected that we will use the powers we have across private rent and social housing to ensure this happens. Health outcomes are strongly linked to the condition of homes so it is vital that we maintain and invest in the housing stock and work together to drive up standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents. Where we own the homes, as a council we will ensure we deliver the regulatory requirements and where these are changing, we will work across social landlords to ensure the new standards are met.

The Social Housing White Paper (2020) focussed on rebalancing the relationship between tenants and landlords to ensure tenants are safe in their home, that they have good quality homes and neighbourhoods to live in, and ensuring tenants voices are heard. This spans across all tenures and it part of our role whether renting from a social or private landlord to ensure the rights and responsibilities of landlords are protected.

The Levelling Up White Paper (2022) provides 12 missions to 'Level Up' the UK. From a housing perspective, Mission 10 seeks to ensure that renters will have a secure path to home ownership, and that the Decent Homes standard will be used to measure the quality of private rented properties.

Safe and Decent Homes

Keeping residents safe from fire and other hazards is critical and requires regular maintenance, and planned investment. This is reflected in the Building Safety Bill and Fire Safety Act 2021, which is overhauling the building safety framework and introduces sweeping changes to the control and

management of high-risk residential buildings which need to be adhered to.

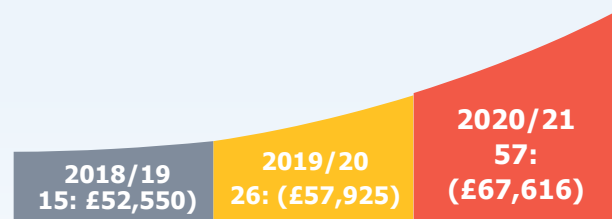
Where we own the homes, as a council we will ensure we deliver the regulatory requirements and where these are changing, we will work across social landlords to ensure the new standards are met. This is particularly applicable to the introduction of a new Decent Homes Standard for social housing where we will need to ensure compliance is delivered for Council homes within a reasonable timescale.

Private rented sector

The private rented housing sector is a valuable part of the housing market and it is growing across West Northants. It caters for a number of different types of housing need and demand, and for some it is the tenure of choice, however for others it is not, this is mainly due to affordability, concerns of security of tenure, bad management and property conditions. The Council have increased notices service on private landlords in recent years.

Figure 4: The number of Civil Penalty Notices (2018-2021)

Civil Penalty Notices:



Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

West Northants, and particularly Northampton is very reliant on the private rented sector for helping with housing needs and homelessness demand, however the availability and cost of good privately rented accommodation varies greatly across the area and is in limited supply. According to the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment the profile of the private rented sector in West Northants includes a much younger demographic profile and a high proportion of multi-adult households.

Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) can form a vital source of housing, traditionally providing housing at the more affordable and transient end of the housing market. However, it is also acknowledged that HMOs often house the most vulnerable in society. They can present challenging management issues and can impact on the community. The extended definition of houses in multiple occupation also expands the local authority's role and therefore we need to ensure we have the capacity available to enforce and raise standards.

People should be able to expect good standards within the private rented sector with a greater degree of consistency, regardless of how strong the demand is for these homes. Access to private renting should also be available to anyone who needs it, including those in receipt of benefits or who might otherwise present as homeless. A strong private rented sector made up of good quality homes benefits the whole community.

Empty Homes

Empty homes are a wasted resource, and we need to do more to make best use of this resource to bring them back into residential use. An empty property is defined as a residential property that has been unoccupied for six months or more. The Council's Revenue and Benefits team monitor the overall number of empty homes and the length of time they have been empty. We will need to employ a range of

measures working with partners and also property owners to bring their properties back into use to meet housing need and demand.

Making best use of our affordable housing stock

The need and demand for social housing is considerable and this is reflected in the number of households on the housing registers operating cross West Northants. With three housing allocation schemes operating due to legacy LA policies, as a new unitary we need to adopt a consistent, effective and fair approach in how we allocate social housing stock. As part of this work

We will work in partnership to drive up standards, stay compliant with changing regulation and have a consistent approach to the allocation of a social housing. As a strategic authority we will enable the delivery of these goals by creating the right expectations and conditions for both the Council and our partners to act.

Theme 2: Our priorities

- 2.1 Deliver high quality services and standards to residents in social housing, and ensure residents are empowered to have a voice to help shape their local environment
- 2.2 Influence the private sector to improve standards and access and ensure safe homes for all
- 2.3 Have a consistent approach to the letting of social housing across West Northants

Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Theme 2: What do we plan to do

2.1 Deliver high quality services and standards to residents in social housing, and ensure residents are empowered to have a voice to help shape their local environment

- We will create a Housing Partnership Board made up of strategic registered provider partners to share performance information and enable closer working to drive improvements for residents.
- We will work with Registered Providers who meet the Regulator's requirements and can demonstrate they offer high levels of customer satisfaction.
- We will work with NPH to deliver planned investments to maintain the quality of Council's homes.

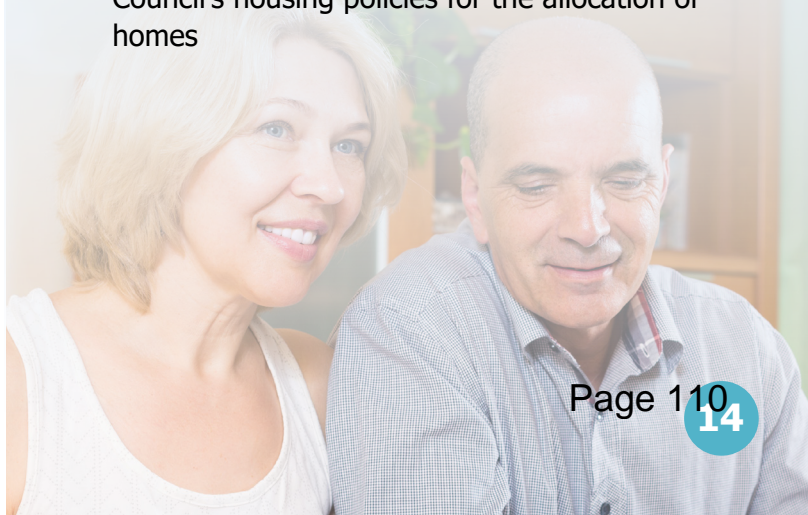
2.2 Influence the private sector to improve standards and access and ensure safe homes for all

- We will commission a new stock condition survey to ensure that the Council understands and can focus its service delivery informed by the quality and standard of accommodation in West Northants.
- We will encourage sustainable and resilient communities by having targeted enforcement services that address rogue landlords and poor practices to ensure better standards of housing in the private rented sector.
- We will conduct a full review, look at options for selective licencing and pursue landlords of unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMO's).

- We will review the licensing scheme prior to its expiry in January 2025 to ensure that its objectives have been achieved and implement further additional licensing if supported by the evidence base.
- We will improve conditions on the private rented sector by implementing actions arising from HMO licencing responsibilities, our formal and informal enforcement interventions and our grant and loan work.
- We will work in collaboration with the Revenue and Benefits team in bringing empty properties back into use by working with property owners and where necessary take appropriate and proportionate enforcement action.
- We will strengthen the forum for private landlords so landlords can keep up to date with their legal duties and sources of help and support.
- We will support tenants facing eviction from their private rented homes, ensuring that evictions can only be undertaken on legal grounds, and that landlords seeking to exploit poor practices are targeted by enforcement services.

2.3 Have a consistent approach to the lettings of social housing across West Northants

- We will develop and implement a new West Northants Housing Allocation's Policy
- We will explore ways to make best use of the Council's housing policies for the allocation of homes



Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Theme 2: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress:

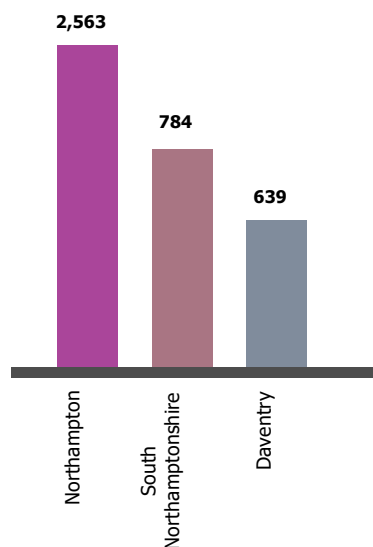
| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Private Landlords | The number of enforcement notices served on private landlords |
| Good repair standard | RP and Council homes that do not meet the Decent Homes Standard |
| Housing Allocation's policy | The approval of a new West Northants Housing Allocations Policy (by April 2024) |

Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

Context

Good quality affordable housing is a cornerstone of any community, but to deliver thriving neighbourhoods, health and support services need to work alongside the right kind of housing provision including housing for older people, children living in or leaving care, housing that supports people with learning and physical disabilities, travellers and people escaping domestic abuse.

The pandemic has also brought into focus the importance of housing and how our homes are critical supporting people to live well, work, feel safe and take part in community life. However, for some, their home can be challenging and contribute to poor physical and mental health, whilst others may be experiencing homelessness or live in homes that have disrepair or a lack of security.



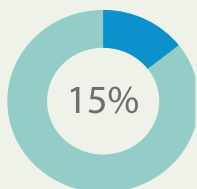
A network of services also means a network of providers. This strategy aims to bring partnership working to the fore and to leverage the contribution which each individual organisation can make in a way which delivers more than the sum of its parts. The Council play's a key role in understanding different needs across the area, enabling joint working and identifying opportunities to come together to solve challenging social issues relating to the everyday experience of living in your home.

Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

Creating the right services for the future

The Health and Housing Care Act 2022 is reforming the health and care system by bringing together geographically based partnerships to plan, co-ordinate and commission services. In effect this means creating hubs where housing, health, older people's services, adult social care and care leavers are brought together through locally integrated services.

To do this effectively, our plans need to be underpinned by an evidence base which clearly maps the different needs at a local level. This information can then be used to tailor accessible services at a local level to meet individual needs in a person-centered way. This work will form the basis of a new Supported Housing Strategy.



of people are living with a disability

One of the key outcomes of this strategy is how we engage and reflect the voices of people with lived experiences and provide opportunities for them to get involved in decisions that affect them with an aim to ensure that the services we deliver are both relevant and of value. Done in the right way, we can expect to see a reduction in health inequality, improved health and wellbeing across the wider population as well as reduced duplication and inefficiency at the point of delivery.

Reducing demand for health services

We know that people experiencing homelessness have far worse health and care inequalities than the general population. During the pandemic, local authorities, health services, and the voluntary and charity sectors worked in partnership to respond to homelessness, including the 'Everyone In' initiative. This showed that with appropriate funding, integrated working and systems, there are opportunities for positive change.

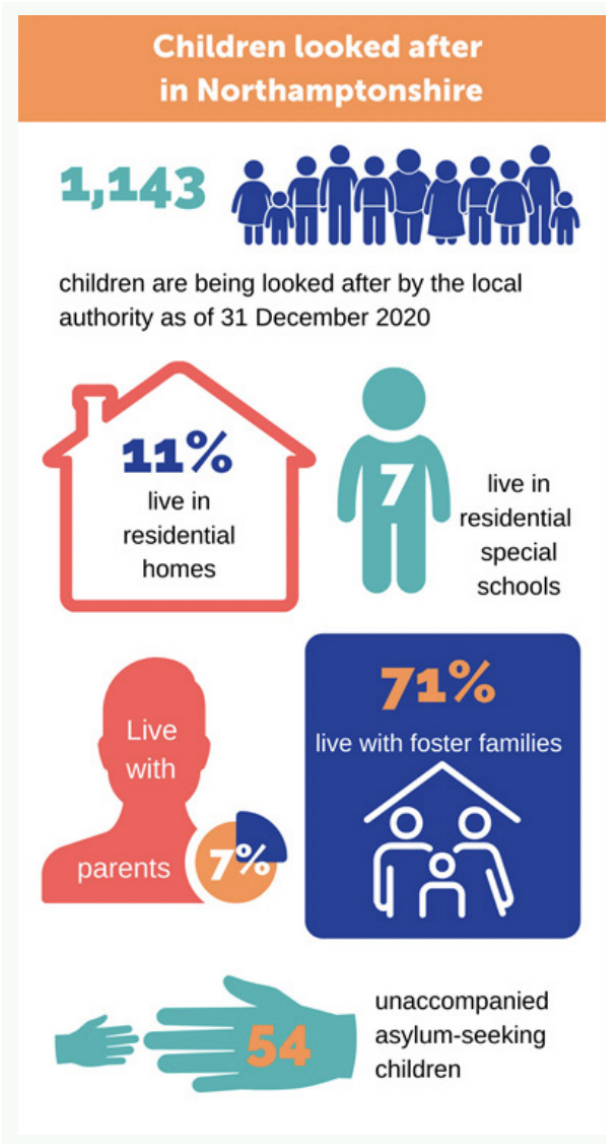
For this group and many others however, we need to have a better understanding of the impact on local primary health care and acute health provision so that we can identify opportunities for prevention which cost less in the long run. Through this work we will help statutory and voluntary sector organisations and housing providers to identify solutions using a multi-disciplinary approach and develop a more upstream prevention-based approach to homelessness.

This needs to be reflected in our commissioning role and reflects the approach set out in existing arrangements like the Commissioning Strategy for People with Learning difficulties.

We also need to ensure that the development of effective and integrated housing and health responses to an ageing population supports older people to return to their homes and provides practical assistance to reduce the likelihood of falls by, for example removing hazards or installing adaptations in the home to prevent hospital admission.

Similarly, the needs of young people need to be planned for in co-ordination with the Children's Trust and others to ensure access to housing for groups like care leavers who come from a range of situations and with varying needs that need to be addressed. Below is a snapshot of children currently being looked after.

Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives



Theme 3: Our priorities

3.1 The effective integration of housing, health, adult social care, and the Children's Trust to deliver enhanced person-centred outcomes for all

3.2 Ensure that residents who require specialist housing provision have access to homes and support services that allow them to live independently in an area that is right for them

3.3 Develop services around the needs of residents by involving them in the process of shaping and commissioning housing options, services and support.

3.4 Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in a way that delivers positive long-term outcomes for each individual

Theme 3: What we plan to do

3.1 The effective integration of housing, health, adult social care, and the Children's Trust to deliver enhanced person-centred outcomes for all

- We will bring together teams from different disciplines including housing, health, adult social care and others to work out of the same locations close to the communities they serve
- We will map the different needs across the area to enable commissioners and providers to plan joined up service provision for the future
- We will create opportunities for collaboration and joint working to tackle areas where services cross over

3.2 Ensure that residents who require specialist housing provision have access to homes and support services that allow them to live independently in an area that is right for them

- We will assess levels of need for different types of supported housing and related services in order to identify the gaps in provision
- We will set up commissioning group for young people's accommodation in partnership with Northamptonshire Children's Trust to look at future provision for young people and people leaving care
- We will review housing for older people including low demand and 'end of life' supported housing and care homes and make recommendations for re-provision that also support related issues like hospital discharges

Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

- We will, in collaboration, develop a Supported Housing Strategy
- We will continue to meet the demand for adaptations to assist older and disabled people to remain living independently in their own homes

3.3 Develop services around the needs of residents by involving them in the process of shaping and commissioning housing options, services and support

- We will develop consultation mechanisms for residents to feed into the provision of specialist housing and support services for their local area
- We will increase awareness of the range of front-line services and support available to residents
- We will review our advice and information systems to ensure residents are enabled and empowered

3.4 Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in a way that delivers positive long-term outcomes for each individual

- We will complete a review of Homelessness and complete a new West Northants Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- We will reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation and improve the provision of temporary accommodation to ensure it is managed well, of a high quality and standard and is affordable
- We will develop integrated pathways in partnership with Housing, Adult Social Care, Health and the Children’s Trust that reduce the risk of first time or repeated homelessness

Theme 3: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress:

| | |
|---|--|
| Temporary Accommodation | The reduction of the number of households in temporary accommodation |
| Resident engagement | NPH Resident satisfaction that their views are taken into account |
| Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy | The approval of a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (by April 2024) |



Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

Creating the right services for the future

In line with the United Nation’s agreed Sustainable Development Goals, the Council seek to bring together a sustainability programme that covers social, economic and environmental issues. Housing sits at the heart of all three of these areas and in many ways forms a strong link that binds them together.

It is critical therefore that the provision and management of housing plays its role in helping deliver the overall sustainability goals the Council are seeking to achieve.

The UN sustainability goals:



Within the environmental aspect, the council are also seeking to out-perform the Governments 2050 targets by signing up to the UK100 pledge which commits us to having net zero emissions by 2030 and to have the same for all residents and businesses by 2045.

The Government produced a policy document in October 2021 ahead of the COP26 summit in Glasgow that December, 'Build Back Greener', which outlined their strategy for Net Zero. The document outlines their ambition to have all homes achieve an energy rating on their Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of level C by 2035. The introduction of Energy Company Obligation (Eco4) will support delivery of this ambition through targeted financial support for homes in energy efficiency rating bands E, F, and G. The table below shows that there is a lot of work to do to achieve level C for West Northants.

| Area | Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Ratings (% of properties) | | |
|-----------------|--|-----|-----|
| | C+ | D/E | F/G |
| Daventry | 49 | 48 | 3 |
| Northampton | 49 | 50 | 1 |
| South Northants | 54 | 43 | 3 |
| England | 48 | 49 | 3 |

Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

Future rounds of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) as well as initiatives aimed at the private rented and home ownership sectors will further aid delivery of this ambition. Initiatives to reduce carbon emissions in homes included heat pumps, hydrogen ready boilers and insulation backed with clear, easy to follow advice. The planned investment of Council homes delivered through NPH has focused on improvements to thermal performance, safety and security, comfort and well-being of residents. Successful funding bids through SHDF has enabled the scope of planned investment programme to be optimised into a whole retrofit programme for a selection of properties, so far 150 properties with a further 429 as part of SHDF wave 1, with the aim of improving energy efficiency.

The Government also set out plans for a standard relating to new build homes that will reduce emissions by 31% compared to the current standard. This is due to be a regulatory requirement by 2025 through the Future Homes Standard.

Work has been undertaken within the Council to map the activities and measures of the Council against the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 associated targets. We plan to establish baseline data in many of these areas so that we can monitor progress and further align our actions with these goals.

The Role of Housing within Sustainability

Social – The UN sustainability goals include 1. No Poverty, 3. Good Health and Wellbeing, 4. Quality Education, and 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities. The chances people have in life can be enhanced for those on lower incomes through access to a secure home they can afford which allows children to have a

settled education and the wider family access to employment and support networks. These things can be made possible through provision of the right kind of housing in the right locations.

Environmental – The UN sustainability goals includes 12. Responsible Consumption and production and 13. Climate Action. The construction of new homes is critical in ensuring sustainable materials are used and that the design of homes allows for high levels of energy efficiency, re-cycling and biodiversity. Similarly, the way we manage, repair and refurbish our homes contributes to these outcomes either directly or through our supply chains.

Economic – The UN sustainability goals includes 8. Decent work and Economic Growth and 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. High levels of employment are only achievable if the local housing offer gives easy access to work and is affordable in relation to local wages. Aligning the housing needs of sectors like keyworkers in health and education with the local housing market will greatly enhance how well the local economy works, increasing the number of economically active households and generating more money in a local circular economy. Many local Housing organisations also work with their residents to increase the numbers in training and employment through a range of interventions.

Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

Delivery

This theme supports some of the other themes including support for residents and the quality of homes. As such, we will ensure that as we work with partners to deliver this strategy, we will include sustainability within delivery plans as an integral part of overall delivery as well as identifying specific sustainability targets. There is a lot of work to do in this area and as baseline information becomes available, we will be able to prioritise and align actions with achieving the goals we have signed up to.

Theme 4: Our priorities

4.1 Contribute to achieving the pledges as set out in the Council's sustainability strategy

4.2 Improve the energy performance of homes within the social housing sector

4.3 Have a positive impact on the energy performance of privately owned homes and homes in the private rented sector

4.4 Support thriving local economies and communities by linking local employment with suitable housing opportunities

Theme 4: Our priorities

4.1 Contribute to achieving the pledges as set out in the Council's sustainability strategy

- We will continually review data coming out from the Council's work on sustainability to inform our priorities and work collaboratively to deliver the maximum impact when achieving our stated goals.

- We will work with Northampton Partnership Homes to develop and deliver a specific response to sustainability which aligns with the UN goals.

4.2 Improve the energy performance of homes within the social housing sector

- We will consider bids for future rounds of funding such as Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) funding from the Government and others in order to reduce emissions across all housing markets.
- We will work with local registered providers and Northampton Partnership Homes (who manage the council's homes) to support the investment in homes to bring them up to an EPC rating of C or higher.

4.3 Have a positive impact on the energy performance of privately owned homes and homes in the private rented sector

- We will actively build relationships with developers who have a good track record on sustainability and are seeking to achieve ambitious progress in reducing emissions in new build homes as part of our role in local planning. This includes the use of MMC (modern methods of construction) to improve the quality and air tightness of new homes.
- We will effectively promote and administer Government grants available to all tenures.

Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

4.4 Support thriving local economies and communities by linking local employment with suitable housing opportunities

- We will undertake a review of opportunities to provide key worker accommodation in partnership with the local NHS Trusts.
- We will work with the Regeneration team to identify the optimum delivery of housing to aid in the regeneration of our towns and communities.
- We will seek to maximise the opportunities for local construction jobs and apprenticeships through the delivery of council backed housing developments.

Theme 3: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Energy performance | Percentage of NPH and RP homes with an EPC rating of D or lower |
| Funding | Number of NPH homes benefiting from central Government funding aimed at reducing carbon emissions |
| Grants | Number of private individuals benefiting from grants aimed at increasing energy performance of homes administered by WNC |

Bringing the Strategy to life

In order to have effective delivery of the strategy, we have identified three principles that need to be adhered to. By keeping focussed on the following three areas, we will be able to achieve greater impact and stronger foundations for the future.

The delivery principles

Principle one: Partnership working

Partnership working is a critical thread running through the strategy as without this we will not be able to tackle the big challenges which lie ahead. The Council sits at the centre of a wide range of stakeholders who need to come together and deliver outcomes that link back to the priorities set out here. The council will create the leadership and conditions needed to for this to happen. This will include communicating the strategy, creating the right forums for collaboration, bringing together disparate groups and linking together complementary strategies across the Council.

Principle two: Fairness and consistency

Recognising and respecting diversity is key to everything the Council does. Fairness in areas like access to housing, distributing limited resources and targeting issues that affect some groups more than others like poverty and support forms part of the approach set out here. Ensuring fairness is however also about consistency where it matters and as the three legacy Authorities become integrated over the life of this strategy, we will have new and consistent use of policy.

Principle three: Financial resilience

Tackling the scale of the issues which face us will require some different solutions. As we innovate service models, explore new products and work with new partners we will always make sure that we minimise financial risk and carry out the necessary due diligence to ensure our activities as a Council are not loss making. Maintaining our financial strength will enable us to do more in the long term and continue to provide critical services for people who need them.

Delivering the Housing Strategy

This high-level strategic document highlights the priorities for the Council and high-level plans to deliver them. An operational delivery action plan will be developed with SMART actions which will be regularly monitored and reviewed. This will be developed after the strategy has been adopted and in collaboration with partners.

Monitoring of the Housing Strategy

The delivery action plan will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by officers and on an annual basis the delivery plan will be presented to Cabinet and People and Place Overview & Scrutiny committees to update on progress and outcomes and will feed into our annual budget process. In addition, the Health and Wellbeing Board and its remit around the wider determinants of health will also contribute to the implementation and progress of this strategy on an annual basis.

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Housing Strategy

Evidence Base

September 2022

This document outlines the available evidence to inform strategic decision making for the Housing Strategy under four themes:

Theme 1: Deliver the homes that people need and can afford to live in.

Theme 2: Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services.

Theme 3: Enable residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives.

Theme 4: Support thriving and sustainable communities



Context: Our growing and diversifying population

This section is an overview of the population demographic of West Northamptonshire and provides context to the other data contained within this document.

The Census (2021) shows that 425,700 people live in West Northamptonshire

224,290 in the urban area



182,443 in the rural areas

In West Northamptonshire, the population size has increased by 13.5% between 2011 and 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%)

The population is projected to grow by 7% up to 2030, with the rural areas growing at a faster rate than Northampton. This is almost double the rate of growth than the national average.



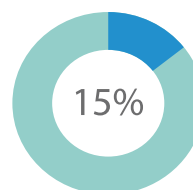
The number of households in West Northamptonshire is projected to grow by 12% by 2030.



The number of people aged 65 or over accounts for 1/5 of the population and this is predicted to grow.

In 2020, there were an estimated 72,609 people aged 65+ living in West Northamptonshire of which three quarters live in the rural areas. This is projected to grow by 59% by 2050 and represents 76% of total population growth.

Under 18s comprise almost a quarter of the population, with over half living in Northampton.



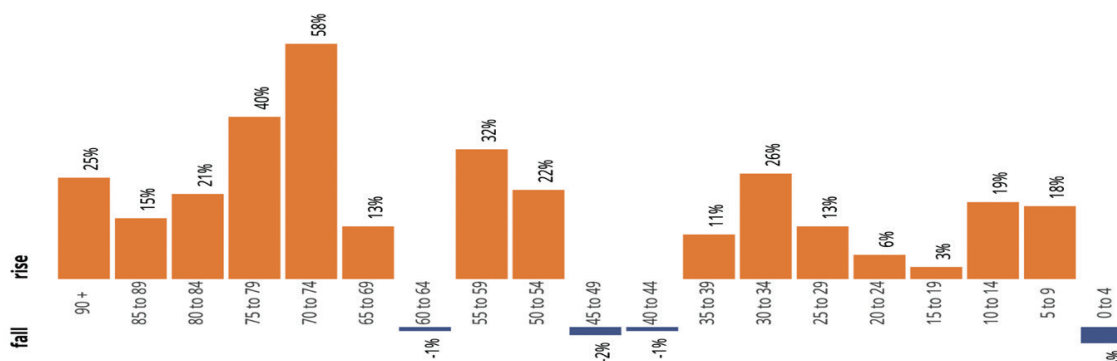
15% of people are living with a disability

In 2015 there were 61,300 adults with a disability in West Northants - 89% have physical disabilities and 11% have learning disabilities. This is expected to increase by a third by 2030.

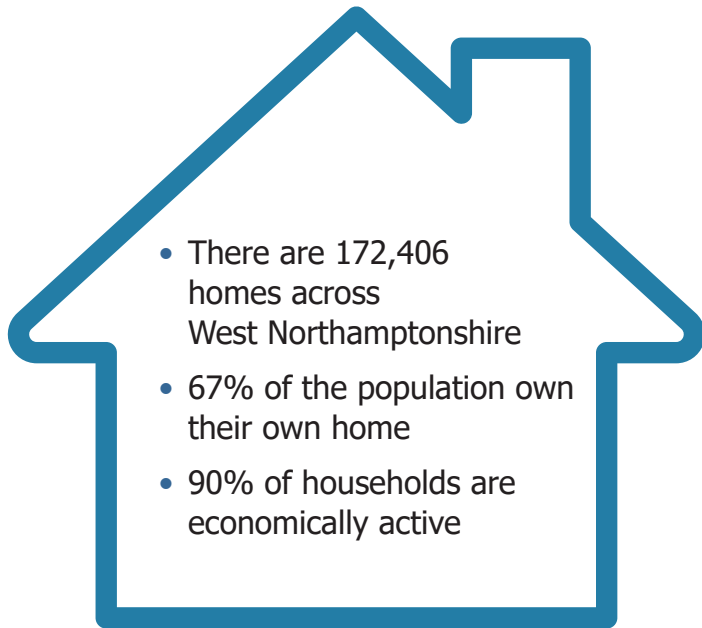
In 2019 it was estimated that West Northamptonshire's population was 8% non-White, whilst the population of Northampton locality was 17% non-White. This is compared to a national average of 16% non-White.

Population change (%) by age group in West Northamptonshire, 2011 to 2021

The Census (2021) has shown that the population has continued to age. In West Northamptonshire, there has been an increase of 30.3% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 10.5% people aged 15-64 years, and an increase of 10.8% in children aged under 15 years.



Context: Our growing and diversifying population



Northampton has the lowest homeownership levels but the highest private rented and social housing levels.

Economically active means at least one person who is in employment. 10% of households are economically inactive, meaning those who are of working age but unable to work due to study, retirement, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.

5% of the working age population are unemployed and claiming out of work benefits, with 6% in Northampton, which is above the national average of 4.7%.

| Area | Owner Occupation | Private Rented | Social Housing |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Daventry | 25,921 (71%) | 5,420 (15%) | 5,128 (14%) |
| South Northants | 30,255 (76%) | 5,675 (14%) | 4,103 (10%) |
| Northampton | 59,677 (63%) | 19,692 (21%) | 16,535 (16%) |
| West Northants | 115,853 (67%) | 30,787 (18%) | 25,766 (15%) |
| England | 66% | 18% | 16% |

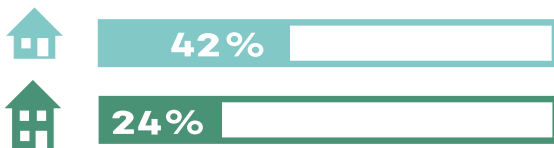


Theme 1: Deliver the homes that people need and can afford to live in

To meet the housing needs of our growing and ageing population, we will support the delivery of the right number and types of new homes in the right locations.

Affordable Housing Need

- In March 2021 there were **4,828** households on the housing register, of which 61% are from the Northampton area. 90% of households require general needs accommodation and the remaining 10% require sheltered/extra care housing.
- There are three housing registers (waiting lists) operating across West Northants.
- A third of applicants have an acute housing need.
- 42% of those on the housing registers need a one-bedroom home and 24% need a two-bedroom home.
- This indicates a requirement for most of the affordable housing for young people, single households, small families, and older people. However, the supply of larger family homes is scarcer, and larger households are waiting on average much longer.
- 1,253 new affordable homes are needed every year until 2050, of which 90% are for rent.
- The HENA (Housing and Economic Needs Assessment) 2021 states that 2,139 dwellings are needed per year between 2020-2050, including 59% new affordable properties.



59%

Affordable properties

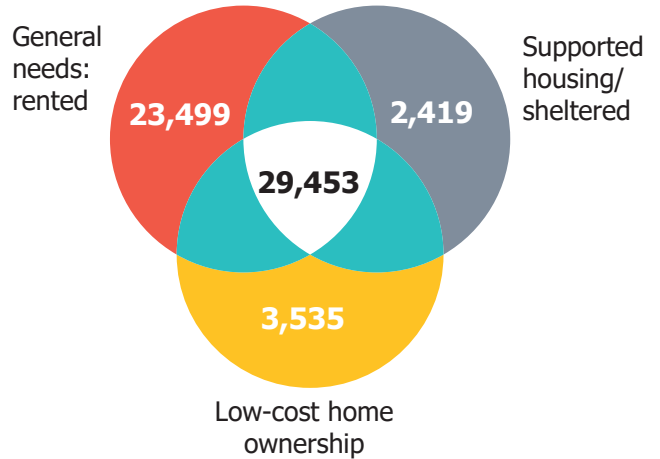


Theme 1: Deliver the homes that people need and can afford to live in

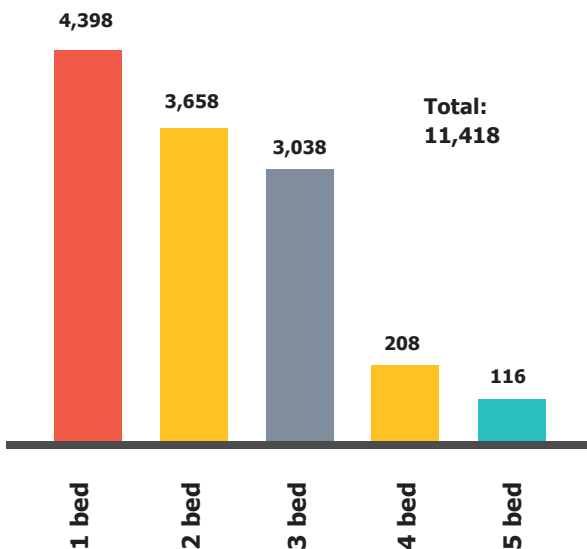
Affordable Housing Supply

There are just under 30,000 affordable homes across West Northants

The total amount of all affordable housing stock (council owned and RP - registered provider, also known as Housing Association - owned) stock in March 2021 is shown to the right.

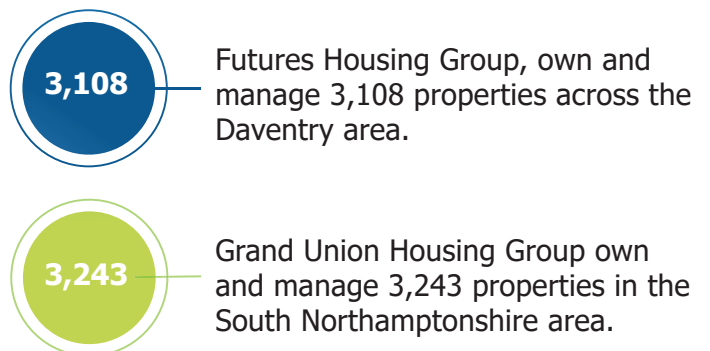


The council owns just over 12,000 affordable homes managed by Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), the council's ALMO (arms length management organisation).



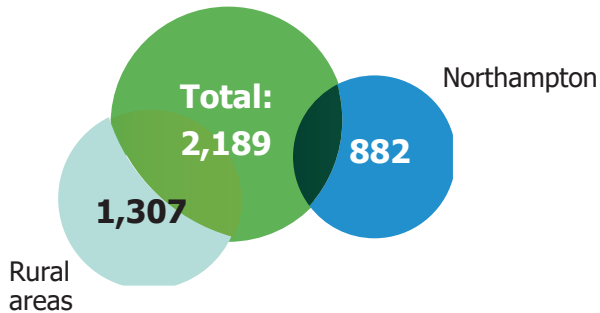
Future's Housing Group and Grand Union Housing Group own and manage 6,351 properties

Around 30 Registered Providers own and manage approximately 12,174 additional affordable homes for rent and at least 3,530 low-cost home ownership properties in the West Northants area.



Theme 1: Deliver the homes that people need and can afford to live in

2,182 new affordable homes completed over the last five years



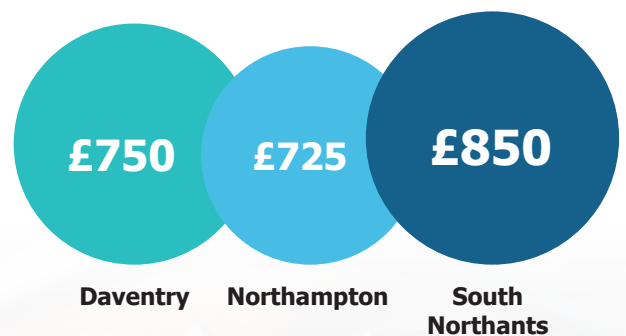
973 new affordable homes due to complete over the next two years, comprising 418 in the rural areas and 555 in Northampton (including 222 new council homes).

781 council homes were sold via the Right to Buy between 2015 and 2021.

The Right to Buy has had a significant impact on the overall supply of affordable homes in Northampton.

Private rents are higher than the national figures

- A median private rent in Daventry is £750 a month.
- A median private rent in Northampton is £725 a month.
- A median private rent in South Northants is £850 a month.
- Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is the maximum limit of how much housing benefit can be paid to people living in private rented accommodation.
- The LHA rates do not cover the cost of privately renting a property.



Affordability

House prices are higher than the national average

- For West Northants the median house price is £274,998.
- For West Northants the median gross annual earnings is £26,662.
- This would mean that a typical house is 10 times more than a typical salary.
- This however does not reflect that there are large variations in house prices across West Northants. House prices in the rural areas, particularly in South Northants are overall the most expensive.

Theme 2: Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Everyone has the right to live in a decent home. We will ensure that homes in all tenures are of good quality and are safe and there are high-quality landlord services across West Northants.

Housing Standards

Part of the Council's role is to ensure that homes meet good standards across all tenures, including council homes. New consumer and safety regulations will be enforcing new standards and we want to be sure that we are ready for these changes.

The council has limited information on the condition of all housing stock and therefore it is recognised that there is a need for a survey, across all tenures, to provide this information.

New tenant satisfaction measures will be introduced for registered providers which will provide a consistent approach in gathering this information and allow comparisons across providers to be made.

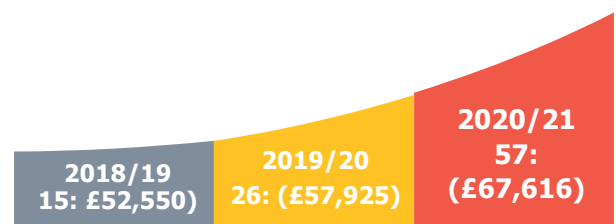
West Northants currently licence 1,280 properties as HMOs

1,233 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Northampton (of which mostly support the student population) and 47 in the rural areas.

18% of households live in the private rented sector

The number of private sector housing tenants living in unacceptable conditions are increasingly being investigated. This can be seen by the the number of Civil Penalty Notices being served year on year between 2018 and 2021.

Civil Penalty Notices:



In 2020 there were 1,332 long term empty properties

66% of long-term empty properties (those empty for at least 6 months) were in the Northampton area. Empty properties make up 0.7% of the total dwellings in the area.

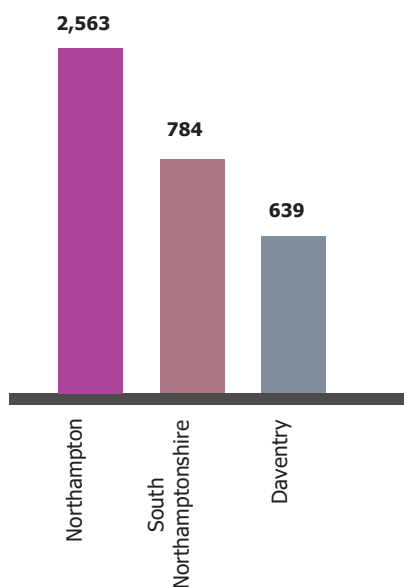
Most of the empty properties are either in an uninhabitable condition and/or unavailable, otherwise the council works with owners to bring empty properties back into use.

Theme 3: Enable residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

Settled, safe, good quality housing with tailored support to meet individuals' needs can significantly reduce health inequalities and improve life chances.

During 2020/21 3,986 people asked the council for advice about housing and homelessness

The above figure can be broken down into the following three areas:



The main reasons for homelessness were:

- Family and friends no longer willing or able to accommodate.
- Loss of private rented accommodation (where the main reason is an Assured Household ending).
- Domestic abuse.

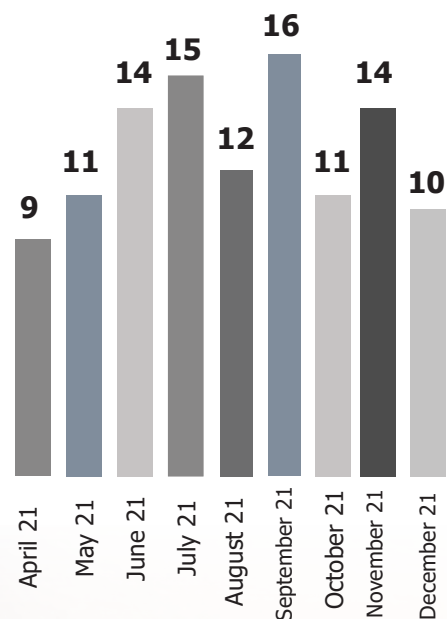
There has been an increase in domestic abuse, which may be a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As of December 2021, there were 380 households in temporary accommodation

Most of these households come from and are housed in the Northampton area.

15 people were estimates to be sleeping rough on a single night in November 2021

Councils are also required to provide monthly snapshot single night figures throughout the year.



Supporting households at risk of homelessness

In 2020/21 the council helped **1,083 households** to secure settled accommodation and to either prevent or relieve their homelessness.

Theme 3: Enable residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

Ageing Population

With an increasing ageing population and the frailty that may accompany it, there is a need to understand the housing provision requirements to meet their needs in West Northants.

The HENA 2021 suggests there has been an:

- increase in the number of people over 65 with dementia by 116%.
- increase in the number of people with mobility issues by 98%.

There is a need to increase the provision of specialist housing to meet older people's care and support needs in the future.

Disabilities and Ill-health

- Linked to an ageing population is the increase in people with long term health problems or disability.
- During 2020/21 465 disabled facilities grants were approved and 107 disabled facilities works completed.
- Approximately 29% of households include someone with a long term health problem or disability.

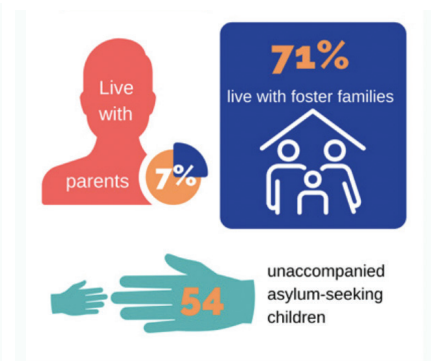
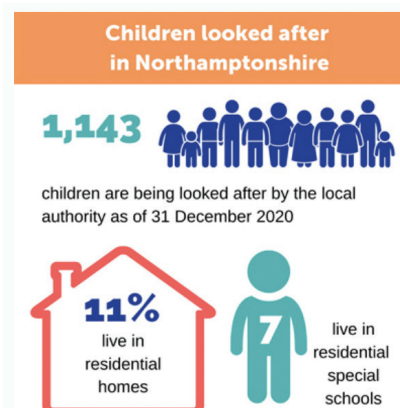
Need for supported accommodation

We need to provide a range of housing to meet different kinds of need in order to achieve better health outcomes. There is a need to increase the housing provision for people with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorders.

| Future Provision 18/19 to 22/23 | Purpose built for people with complex needs | Supported living | Extra care housing units for people with learning disabilities | Total |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|--|-------|
| Daventry | 5 | 24 | 2 | 31 |
| Northampton | 15 | 37 | 14 | 66 |
| South Northants | 6 | 24 | 3 | 33 |
| Total units | 26 | 85 | 19 | 130 |

Young People

Access to housing for young people and care leavers need to be addressed. As of December 2020 there were 1,143 children being looked after in Northamptonshire.



Theme 3: Enable residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

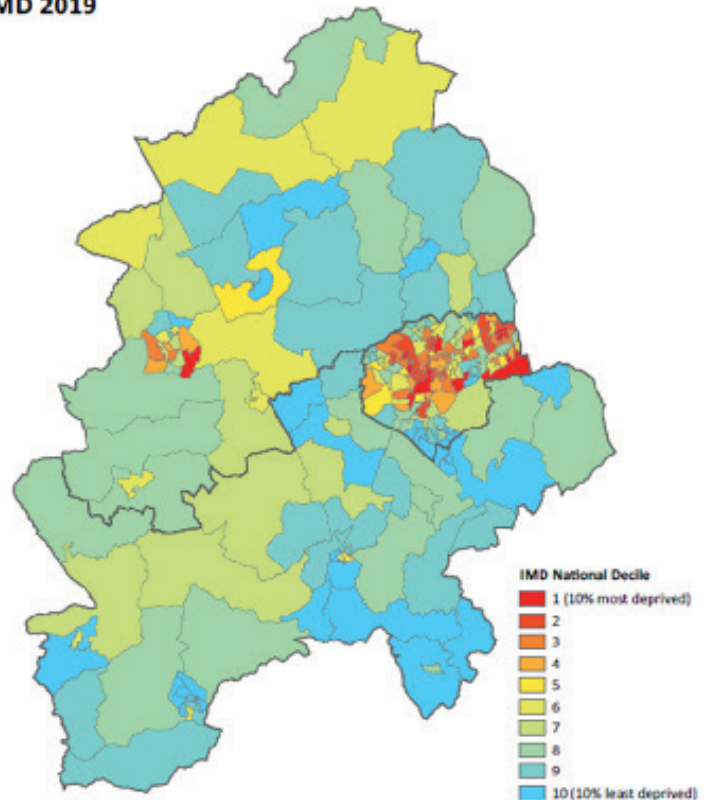
Poverty and Deprivation

In 2019 9.6% (37,318) people in West Northants were living in income deprivation. This is lower than England (12.9%).

In 2019 10.8% (9,398) of older people in West Northants were living in deprivation. This is lower than England (14.2%).

- The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that 16.95% of the population of West Northamptonshire live in the 20% most deprived areas.
- The area with the highest proportion of residents living in the top 20% deprived areas is Northampton (28.2%).

West Northamptonshire
IMD 2019



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Domestic Abuse

The overall level of economic and social costs due to domestic abuse in Northamptonshire is estimated at £1,081m per year.

£91m of these costs falls on public sector and voluntary and community sector organisations. The average costs are £37k per victim-survivor per year, of which public services incur around £4.3k.

Refuge provision within Northamptonshire is 36% below recommended capacity. 7% of households presenting as homeless do so for reasons of domestic abuse and most are housed in temporary accommodation rather than refuge.

Most victim-survivors prefer to remain safe in their own homes. However, arrangements to

ensure this are inconsistent across landlords and target-hardening budgets are often underspent. There are variations in approach and support for refuge residents seeking to move on.

Complications result in long stays and exacerbate shortages taking up spaces which are no longer needed.

During 2020-21 of almost 9,000 social care assessments completed, 40% had 'Domestic Violence' recorded as a factor of concern.

40%

Theme 4: Support sustainable and thriving communities

We want to create vibrant, economically active and resilient neighbourhoods that meet residents' needs locally and improve quality of life, while minimising the impact on the environment.

Climate Change

Across West Northamptonshire, our 170,000+ homes are responsible for an estimated 2.2 million tons of CO2 emissions each year. Through changing the way we approach our residences, there is a huge opportunity to greatly reduce our net carbon emissions and effectively combat the climate crisis.

West Northamptonshire has a significant amount of agricultural industry and rural communities which play an integral part in tackling the climate crisis. Agriculture across the UK is responsible for 10% of all total greenhouse gas emissions, and with over 122,000 hectares of West Northants land being farmed, it is crucial to create a sustainable future for our farmers, food, and rural communities.

Energy Efficiency & Fuel Poverty

The average EPC rating in West Northants for new properties is 'B' and for existing properties is 'D'.

| Area | Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Ratings (% of properties) | | |
|-----------------|--|-----|-----|
| | C+ | D/E | F/G |
| Daventry | 49 | 48 | 3 |
| Northampton | 49 | 50 | 1 |
| South Northants | 54 | 43 | 3 |
| England | 48 | 49 | 3 |

All areas of West Northamptonshire had a higher percentage of surveyed properties with an EPC rating of C or above than the national average.

The baseline carbon footprint of council homes for the financial year 2018-19 was 2,474 tCO2e (tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent)

We will target continual reductions in carbon emissions of 7% per year, and a 20% reduction in the NPH carbon footprint by 2023, compared to the baseline.

Northampton Partnership Homes have been upgrading 150 Council homes to help improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills.

Additional government funding will also continue to support more council homes (up to 400) becoming zero carbon.

These works and funding have been able to support the local economy and helped create jobs.

Nearly 20% of rural households in West Northants are in fuel poverty

8.7% in the urban area of Northampton and 19.9% in the rural areas, which ties with the fact that almost a third of rural properties are not on mains gas and therefore, have alternative sources of heating.



Through the work with our emerging sustainability strategy, we will have more data and information about the impact of climate change in West Northants.

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Appendix 3 - People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendations from an Overview and Scrutiny workshop on the draft Housing Strategy

9 August 2022

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper is intended to set out the conclusions resulting from an Overview and Scrutiny workshop-style meeting held on 9 August 2022 to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Housing Strategy for West Northamptonshire Council. The workshop was led by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee but was open to members of the Corporate and Place Overview and Scrutiny committees also to attend. The following councillors and officers participated:

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Rosie Herring (Chair)

Cllr Imran Chowdhury

Cllr Raymond Connolly

Cllr Karen Cooper

Cllr Janice Duffy

Cllr Sue Sharps

Cllr Mike Warren

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Jamal Alwahabi

Cllr Sally Beardsworth

Cllr Rupert Frost

Cllr Keith Holland-Delamere

Cllr Ken Pritchard

Cllr Danielle Stone

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr William Barter

Cllr Terrie Eales

Cllr Nigel Hinch

Cllr Charles Morton

Cllr Kevin Parker

Cllr Ken Pritchard

Officers

Joanne Barrett, Assistant Director Housing and Communities

Jacqueline Brookes, Interim Head of Strategy and Partnerships

John Baldwin, consultant, 4OC

James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager

Kathryn Holton, Committee Officer

2. Background

- 2.1 Housing and communities forms part of the remit of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee but this is a topic that can cut across the remit of all three Overview and Scrutiny committees. Both the People and Place Overview and Scrutiny committees held workshop-style meetings during March 2022 to scrutinise work on the development of a new Housing Strategy for West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). Arising from this, the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to hold a further workshop to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the final draft Strategy. The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group subsequently agreed that this workshop should be open to members from all Overview and Scrutiny committees to attend.
- 2.2 This further workshop meeting was scheduled for 9th August 2022 to fit in with the timetable for developing the draft Strategy for presentation to the Cabinet meeting on 13th September 2022. The draft Strategy was circulated to Overview and Scrutiny councillors 24 hours before the workshop.

3. Scrutiny of the draft Housing Strategy

- 3.1 The Interim Head of Strategy and Partnerships gave an introductory presentation outlining the key themes of the draft Housing Strategy and how its development had been informed by stakeholder engagement and public consultation. The following points were highlighted:
- The four themes of the Strategy had not really changed since the previous engagement with Overview and Scrutiny in March 2022, which reflected the work done to develop them before that point.
 - Subsequent evidence-gathering had included engagement events with a range of internal and external stakeholders and validation workshops. The validation workshops had identified the need to strengthen the evidence-base for the Strategy.
 - Public consultation on the draft Strategy in April – May 2022 had produced over 600 responses, with most respondents agreeing with the proposed themes and priorities.
 - Feedback from stakeholders noted that the wording of priorities had seemed to focus on delivering outcomes for WNC rather than for customers and this had been addressed.
 - The key issues highlighted in responses to the public consultation were affordable housing and the provision of infrastructure supporting housing development.
 - Each theme in the Strategy had 6-7 priorities prior to the public consultation but these had since been consolidated and strengthened. The Strategy was now more focused on service users and targets had been added to allow monitoring.
- 3.2 Councillors considered the draft Strategy and introductory presentation. The following points were raised during the course of discussion:
- It was surprising that consultation responses had not given a higher priority to sustainably-built housing, particularly given current cost-of-living pressures.
 - It was questioned that the Strategy appeared to prioritise affordable housing rather than social housing.

- It was questioned whether WNC was considering further outsourcing of housing provision as part of the Housing Strategy and how WNC sought to maintain good engagement with outsourced providers.
- Partnership working was vital in relation to housing provision. Insufficient partnership working with the planning function could contribute to issues such as inadequate drainage or waste disposal facilities in flats.
- Biodiversity and green space should be given more prominence in future housing provision. Houses needed to retain heat in winter and lose it in summer.
- Some single bed homes were below the World Health Organisation (WHO) minimum space standard. The Housing Strategy could be more prescriptive on this issue and state that WNC would not accept homes below the WHO minimum standard.
- It could be necessary to raise social rents by 11-12% next year in line with the Consumer Price Index. This would not affect tenants on Universal Credit but the 29% of tenants who were working could find this situation unaffordable.
- The future Housing Strategy should include quality standards for housing that would cover problems arising from extreme weather conditions.
- Concern was expressed regarding the impact of increased fuel costs on both public and private tenants. If homes were heated less this might also result in condensation and damp that could damage buildings. WNC could consider taking a proactive approach to this issue.
- WNC should consider opportunities to make better use of existing housing supply as a whole, for example, by helping people who might wish to downsize from a home that was bigger than they needed. Shared ownership should also be available for people wanting to step down as well as to step up.
- Provision of the community infrastructure needed to support new housing development should be securely written into the Housing Strategy.
- Private sector housing was not subject to a rent cap. If landlords raised rents it could cause some tenants to become homeless and need to be housed by the local authority. The government should be encouraged to recognise the need for a more joined-up approach to this situation than just adding to demands on local authorities. At the same, it was noted that applying a rent cap could have a significant impact on private landlords facing increased mortgage costs. This could have a negative effect on housing supply.
- Concerns were expressed about developers not bringing forward existing brownfield sites for development and the potential for increased land-banking in future. It was questioned whether WNC could take a more robust approach to this issue by using compulsory purchase powers on brownfield land if it was not brought forward for development within a certain time.
- It was questioned whether WNC had information about who now owned local homes that had been purchased under the right-to-buy scheme. This would help to inform future provision and identify any issues that could result from properties ending up with private landlords.
- Effective future monitoring of the delivery of the Housing Strategy would help to address scams that could affect the housing market.
- The Housing Strategy needed to take into account that people's requirements changed over time.

- It was questioned whether WNC would have sufficient resources for functions needed to support actions set out in the Strategy, such as working with the private sector to improve standards and access.
- It was questioned whether WNC was still able to carry out small repairs for residents funded by putting a charge on their property. This approach could assist in supporting independent living.

3.3 Service officers made the following points during the course of discussion:

- The theme of delivering the homes that people need and afford was intended to recognise pressures on the cost of living. There was also very strong support in the Strategy for environmental sustainability.
- Social housing was a strong theme of the Strategy, with social rent properties to be provided where viable. The Strategy as a whole was intended to link in with and support WNC's Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- Further outsourcing of housing was not being considered as part of the proposed Housing Strategy: WNC was a new organisation and that would be a matter for the future. The financial regime that had applied when local authorities had made previous stock transfers had also now changed and a significant piece of work would need to be done to identify whether this approach would still be effective.
- WNC was currently working to re-set its relationship with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) following local government reorganisation, with a new governance structure to be put in place later in 2022. WNC also maintained good engagement with other local housing providers such as Grand Union Housing and Futures Housing, which had been involvement in the development of the Strategy as stakeholders.
- The creation of WNC as a unitary authority would assist with joined up working by bringing services together in one organisation. It was essential to work closely with the planning function on issues such as infrastructure provision. The Strategy proposed to create a new Housing Partnership Board, which would bring together key stakeholders.
- Minimum space standards were set out in local plans. It would be possible to incorporate standards in the Housing Strategy but care needed to be taken to ensure that this did not conflict with the local plans.
- WNC currently worked towards the national statutory definition of overcrowding. The Housing Allocations Policy was due to be reviewed in future and this work could consider whether WNC might adopt a different definition.
- Rent increases linked to inflation would be higher than they had been in recent years. WNC was working with NPH to model different scenarios. This involved balancing different factors: lower rent would result in NPH having less resources to meet other needs. Work was also being done on anti-poverty measures and signposting people to available support.
- The Anti-Poverty Strategy included actions directed at increased fuel costs.
- WNC could take some action that would help to make better overall use of existing homes through the Housing Allocations Policy but did also need to have a better offer in relation to downsizing in some parts of the local authority area.
- The intended aim of WNC taking a more proactive approach to developers not bringing forward brownfield sites for development was recognised. However, WNC

would need to consider how it could express this in practice to take into account the planning process and other relevant factors.

- The WNC Anti-Poverty Strategy included the aim of influencing the government to get a better deal for local communities. Consideration might be given to how the issue of private sector rent control could be brought into this. WNC did already seek to work with high-quality, ethical housing providers and to influence the market in this direction.
- There was not any recent work available on ownership of properties purchased under the right-to-buy scheme in West Northamptonshire.
- The West Northamptonshire Spatial Strategy informed the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan that was due to be adopted in 2025. The proposed Housing Strategy covered the period to 2025 to reflect this: a new Housing Strategy would be developed for the period after 2025.
- WNC had sufficient capacity to meet current enforcement demands that would result from the Housing Strategy: bringing together existing locality-teams to work in a more authority-wide way would help to maximise capacity. Future demands would need to be considered as they arose.
- WNC put a charge on properties in order to carry out repair work in some circumstances, such as if a property was in a state of disrepair. However, it could be possible to look at other options that would assist residents to carry out repairs to their homes, such as ethical equity release schemes.

4. Conclusions

4.1 At the end of discussion the councillors present agreed that the following points should be represented to the Cabinet as the conclusions from the Overview and Scrutiny workshop session on the draft Housing Strategy:

- a) The importance of effective partnership working to the successful delivery of the Housing Strategy be emphasised.
- b) WNC should consider setting minimum space standards for new homes.
- c) WNC should consider reviewing the effectiveness of its existing housing stock in relation to extreme hot and cold weather conditions.
- d) WNC should consider the principle of setting a certain time by which community infrastructure relating to a new housing development should be provided.
- e) WNC should consider taking a more robust approach to land banking and cases of developers not bringing forward brownfield sites that could be developed.
- f) WNC should consider carrying out a study of the current ownership of properties in the authority purchased under the right-to-buy scheme, to assist in informing future housing provision.
- g) WNC should consider the potential to enhance local advertising of shared ownership products, including for home-owners looking to downsize.

- h) WNC should consider options for carrying out repairs on homes in the interests of supporting independent living funded by ethical equity release schemes.
- i) WNC should consider making representations to the government concerning the use of rent capping in the private rented housing sector, whilst making clear that this approach should not be used at the cost of reducing the private sector market.



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

13 SEPTEMBER 2022

CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR HR AND CORPORATE SERVICES: COUNCILLOR MIKE HALLAM

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Report Title | Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) |
| Report Author | Catherine Whitehead, Director of Legal and Democratic Services (catherine.whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk) |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------|
| Monitoring Officer | Catherine Whitehead | 07/09/2022 |
| Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) | Martin Henry | 09/09/2022 |
| Communications Lead/Head of Communications | Becky Hutson | 07/09/2022 |

List of Appendices

Appendix A: RIPA Surveillance Policy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report asks Cabinet to note the RIPA Surveillance Policy (Appendix A) and recommends that Cabinet designate the Council's Audit and Governance Committee as the responsible statutory committee to oversee the operation of RIPA policies.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 It is mandatory for the Council to have a policy which applies to all surveillance carried out by the Council, including external surveillance covered by RIPA authorisations, communication data acquisitions covered by the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) and

internal surveillance covered by the Employment Practice Codes. The Policy at Appendix A provides a framework for the carrying out of covert surveillance of the public and staff by the Council. Some amendments to the policy were made following the recent inspection.

2.2 In May this year the Council underwent an inspection from IPCO (Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office). The results of that inspection were reported to the Chief Executive and noted that:

2.3

Your Council was recently the subject of a remote inspection by one of my Inspectors, Mr Paul Gratton.

‘While no authorised activity has taken place since the new authority was formed, it is good to see that a clear process is in place to manage such activity should authorisation be sought. Mr Gratton has had sight of the organisation’s surveillance policy and has shared a number of observations’.

2.4 The Council’s Senior Information Responsible Officer (SIRO) is the Director of Law and Governance. The SIRO is responsible for the implementing of this policy and for ensuring that relevant staff are adequately trained. Relevant staff includes Executive Directors (Authorised Officers) and also employees of the Council who may use surveillance.

2.5 Pursuant to this responsibility, an external training provider has been identified and engaged to ensure relevant staff will receive in-depth training. This report also recommends that Cabinet designates the Council’s Audit and Governance Committee as the responsible statutory committee to oversee the operation of RIPA policies.

3 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Note the revised RIPA Surveillance Policy set out at Appendix A
- b) Agree to designate the Council’s Audit and Governance Committee as the responsible statutory committee for overseeing the operation of RIPA surveillance policies.
- c) Notes that an external training provider has been identified to provide in-depth training to nominated staff (i.e. Authorised Officers and employees of the Council who may use surveillance).

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 Reasons for Recommendations:

- The Council must have a policy in place to ensure that such directed surveillance is carried out in compliance with the law and does not breach the human rights of any of the surveillance subjects, and that surveillance in or around the workplace is also carried out in compliance with the law. The updated RIPA Investigatory Policy is set out at Appendix A.

- The Council must also designate a committee as the responsible statutory committee for overseeing the operation of RIPA surveillance policies.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Human Rights Act 1998 gave effect in UK law to the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Amongst the qualified rights is a person's right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, as provided for by Article 8 of the ECHR. It is Article 8 that is most likely to be engaged when public authorities seek to obtain private information about a person by means of surveillance.
- 5.2 Part II of the RIPA provides a lawful mechanism for public bodies such as the Council to use covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources compatibly with Article 8 of the ECHR and the Data Protection Act 2018, where it is for the purpose of the detection or prevention of crime. Any use of those powers must be proportionate and necessary both in use and scope.
- 5.3 Part II of the RIPA also provides a statutory framework under which covert surveillance activity undertaken by the Council can be authorised and conducted. Surveillance, for the purpose of the RIPA, includes monitoring, observing, or listening to persons, their movements, conversations or other activities and communications. It may be conducted with or without the assistance of a surveillance device and includes the recording of any information obtained.
- 5.4 The Employment Practices Code provides a framework under which surveillance activity of employees can be authorised and conducted compatibly with Article 8 and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 5.5 Surveillance is covert if, and only if, it is carried out in a manner calculated to ensure that any persons who are subject to the surveillance are unaware that it is or may be taking place.
- 5.6 Specifically, covert surveillance may be authorised under the 2000 Act if it is either intrusive or directed:
- Intrusive surveillance is covert surveillance that is carried out in relation to anything taking place on residential premises or in any private vehicle (and that involves the presence of an individual on the premises or in the vehicle or is carried out by a means of a surveillance device) (NB local authorities cannot authorise intrusive surveillance).
 - Directed surveillance is covert surveillance that is not intrusive but is carried out in relation to a specific investigation or operation in such a manner as is likely to result in the obtaining of private information about any person (other than by way of an immediate response to events or circumstances such that it is not reasonably practicable to seek authorisation under the 2000 Act).
- 5.7 The grounds on which local authorities can rely to authorise directed surveillance are narrower than those available to the police or security services. A local authority can only

authorise directed surveillance of a member of the public if the designated person believes such surveillance is necessary and proportionate for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime.

- 5.8 In most cases the crime for directed surveillance must be an offence for which there is a minimum prison sentence of 6 months, and the surveillance must be authorised by a magistrate.
- 5.9 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 amended s28 of RIPA and brought in the requirement for a magistrate to approve a RIPA authorisation when the crime threshold was met (criminal offences which attract a maximum custodial sentence of six months or more or criminal offences relating to the underage sale of alcohol or tobacco.).
- 5.10 The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 provided powers to local authorities to access communications data to carry out their statutory functions as a Competent Authority under the Data Protection Act 2018.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 It is mandatory for the Council to have a RIPA Surveillance Policy which applies to all surveillance carried out by the Council, including external surveillance covered by RIPA authorisations, communication data acquisitions covered by the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) and internal surveillance covered by the Employment Practice Codes.
- 6.2 The revisions to the RIPA Surveillance Policy attached at Appendix A relate to the following issues:
 - 6.2.1 The introduction to the policy was felt by the Inspector to require further clarity and should outline the scope of surveillance which can be carried out by the council and make it explicitly clear that local authorities cannot carry out intrusive surveillance, and this change has been incorporated.
 - 6.2.2 The section entitled “Applicability to investigations carried out by or on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council” outlines some examples of the activity likely to be carried out by the Council. The deployment of noise reduction should not imply intrusive surveillance and therefore this section has been amended to be explicit on this point.
 - 6.2.3 Authorisation periods in the policy should include those for CHIS (Covert Human Intelligence Source), which have now been added.
 - 6.2.4 The section entitled ‘social media’ has been further strengthened in line with the Inspector’s comments.
- 6.3 The Council must also designate a committee as the responsible committee to oversee the operation of RIPA policies. It is suggested that the Audit and Governance Committee be selected as its terms of reference most closely align with this duty and this will be included within the policy.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 There will be a small cost attached to provision of training for the nominated staff. Costs will be met from within existing operational budgets.

8.1 Legal

- 7.1.2 The RIPA requires the Council to have processes for authorising, recording and reviewing any covert surveillance that it carries out that it is regulated by the Act. The processes must comply with the Act, relevant regulations and any statutory codes of practice. In accordance with the statutory code of practice a local authority must have a policy covering its use of covert surveillance. Further, the Council must report its RIPA activity to the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office on an annual basis and provide an update on its activity to members.

8.3 Risk

- 7.1.3 Failure to comply with the policy and procedural guidance could result in evidence being inadmissible in court proceedings and potential claims that an individual's right to privacy has been breached. However, the Council will have a clear policy in place and officers will have received the necessary training to ensure compliance. Information on the policy and procedures will be shared with relevant officers to ensure that they understand the requirements.

8.4 Consultation

- 8.4.1 Consultation is not required in relation to the RIPA Surveillance Policy. The Audit and Governance Committee will be charged with monitoring implementation of the policy.

8.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 8.5.1 RIPA is a statutory matter and has therefore not been referred to overview and scrutiny. Future oversight of the policy will be undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee.

8.6 Climate Impact

- 8.6.1 This report does not identify any adverse impacts on the Council's objectives relating to climate change.

8.7 Community Impact

- 8.7.1 The Surveillance Policy contains safeguards to protect individuals and businesses from unfair or inappropriate surveillance, minimising as far as possible any adverse impact on the community. Proportionate enforcement activity will also have a positive impact upon local communities.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None.

Surveillance Policy

Introduction

1.1 The Human Rights Act 1998 gave effect in UK law to the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Amongst the qualified rights is a person's right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, as provided for by Article 8 of the ECHR. It is Article 8 that is most likely to be engaged when public authorities seek to obtain private information about a person by means of surveillance.

1.2 Part II of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers 2000 Act provides a statutory framework under which covert surveillance activity undertaken by the Council can be authorised and conducted compatibly with Article 8 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

1.3 Surveillance, for the purpose of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, includes monitoring, observing or listening to persons, their movements, conversations or other activities and communications. It may be conducted with or without the assistance of a surveillance device and includes the recording of any information obtained.

1.4 The Employment Practices Code provides a framework under which surveillance activity of employees can be authorised and conducted compatibly with Article 8 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

1.5 Surveillance is covert if, and only if, it is carried out in a manner calculated to ensure that any persons who are subject to the surveillance are unaware that it is or may be taking place.

1.6 Specifically, covert surveillance may be authorised under the 2000 Act if it is either intrusive or directed:

- Intrusive surveillance is covert surveillance that is carried out in relation to anything taking place on residential premises or in any private vehicle (and that involves the presence of an individual on the premises or in the vehicle or is carried out by a means of a surveillance device);
- Directed surveillance is covert surveillance that is not intrusive but is carried out in relation to a specific investigation or operation in such a manner as is likely to result in the obtaining of private information about any person (other than by way of an immediate response to events or circumstances such that it is not reasonably practicable to seek authorisation under the 2000 Act).

1.7 The grounds on which local authorities can rely to authorise directed surveillance are narrower than those available to the police or security services. A local authority can only authorise directed surveillance of a member of the public if the designated person believes such surveillance is necessary and proportionate for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime.

1.8 In most cases the crime for directed surveillance must be an offence for which there is a minimum prison sentence of 6 months, and the surveillance must be authorised by a magistrate.

1.9 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 amended s28 of RIPA and brought in the requirement for a magistrate to approve a RIPA authorisation when the crime threshold was met (criminal offences which attract a maximum custodial sentence of six months or more or criminal offences relating to the underage sale of alcohol or tobacco.).

1.10 The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA 2016) provided powers to local authorities to access communications data in order to carry out their statutory functions as a Competent Authority under the Data Protection Act 2018.

1.11 The Council must have a policy in place to ensure that such directed surveillance is carried out in compliance with the law and does not breach the human rights of any of the surveillance subjects, and that surveillance in or around the workplace is also carried out in compliance with the law.

Scope

2.1 The policy applies to all surveillance carried out by The Council, including external surveillance covered by RIPA authorisations, communication data acquisitions covered by the IPA 2016 and internal surveillance covered by the Employment Practices Code.

Aim

3.1 To ensure all legal obligations on the Council are met, in particular, the Human Rights Act 1998.

3.2 To provide a framework for the carrying out of covert surveillance of the public and staff by the Council.

Applicability to investigations carried out by or on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council

This policy applies to covert surveillance activities carried out by or on behalf of the Council and includes, but is not limited to, the following:



- the taking of photographs of someone in a public place or;
- the recording by video cameras of someone in a public place;
- the use of listening devices or photographic equipment in respect of activities in a house, provided the equipment is kept outside the house and the equipment gives information of less quality and detail than devices which could have been placed in the house itself
- the taking of photographs of staff in the workplace or;
- the recording by video cameras of staff in the workplace;
- acquisition of communications data e.g. telephone call logs, subscriber details.

Review & Maintenance

5.1 This policy is agreed and distributed for use across the Council by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer on behalf of the Executive Leadership Team. It will be reviewed every two years by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer who will make any recommendations for change to the Executive Leadership Team for consideration and distribution.

Legal Requirements

6.1 The Council is obliged to comply with all relevant UK and EU information legislation. This requirement to comply is devolved to Elected Members, staff, contractors or others permitted to carry out surveillance on behalf of the Council, who may be held personally accountable for any breaches of Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (Right to Privacy).

6.2 The Council shall comply with the following legislation and other legislation as appropriate:

- The Data Protection Act (2018) and
- The General Data Protection Regulation (2016)
- Human Rights Act (1998)
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- The Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000
- The Investigatory Powers Act 2016

6.3 The acquisition of a RIPA authorisation will equip the Council with the legal protection (The RIPA 'Shield') against accusations of a breach of Article 8.



Policy Statement

7.1 West Northamptonshire Council supports the objectives of the Human Rights Act 1998, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. This policy aims to assist staff with meeting their statutory and other obligations which covers the issues of Information Governance.

Objectives

8.1 The policy is intended to provide a framework for carrying out surveillance activities in compliance with the law by:

- Creating and maintaining within the organisation an awareness of the Right to Privacy (Article 8, Human Rights Act 1998) as an integral part of the day-to-day business;
- Ensuring that all staff are aware of and fully comply with the relevant legislation as described in policies and fully understand their own responsibilities when undertaking surveillance activities;
- Ensuring that all staff acquire the appropriate authorisations when undertaking surveillance activities;
- Storing, archiving and disposing of sensitive and confidential surveillance information in an appropriate manner.

8.2 The Council will achieve this by ensuring that:

- Regulatory and legislative requirements are met;
- RIPA and surveillance training is provided;
- All breaches of privacy, actual or suspected, are reported, investigated and any resulting necessary actions taken;
- Standards, guidance and procedures are produced to support this policy.

Responsibilities

9.1 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer is the Senior Information Risk Owner and has overall responsibility for Information Governance within the Council.

9.2 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer is responsible for:

- Acting as the Council's RIPA Monitoring Officer



- Developing, implementing and maintaining the relevant corporate Information Governance policies, procedures and standards that underpin the effective and efficient surveillance processes;
- Support and advice to staff and managers on Surveillance;
- The production, review and maintenance of Surveillance policies and their communication to the whole Council;
- Provision of professional guidance on all matters relating to Surveillance;
- Oversight management of all privacy breaches and suspected breach investigations;
- Provision of corporate training;
- Provision, via the Intranet, of Surveillance briefing materials and, through ILearn, of on-line training;
- Management and recording of RIPA authorisations;
- Providing returns to national inspectors e.g. Investigatory Powers Commissioner's office (IPCO)
- Liaising with national inspection regimes, IPCO and the CCTV commissioner to organise inspections;
- Production of an annual Information Governance Report.

9.3 The RIPA Authorising Officers will assess and authorise RIPA applications.

9.4 The Senior Officer, who will be a service manager or above, will be made aware of IPA Communications data requests via the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) process.

9.5 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services will authorise all internal intercept requests

9.6 The in-house Legal Services Team will advise and assist in staff investigations.

9.7 All Executive Directors will:

- Implement this policy within their business areas;
- Ensure compliance with it by their staff;
- Sign off applications for surveillance of staff;
- Where appropriate take steps to protect the Health and Safety of investigators and third parties.

Surveillance Principles

10.1 West Northamptonshire Council is committed to a surveillance framework that ensures:

- Requests for Authorisations are assessed to ensure the privacy of the individual is not breached unless it is necessary and proportionate to do so.

- All requests are monitored, and performance indicators made available to demonstrate compliance with the legislation.

The surveillance process is regularly audited to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and that relevant national codes of practice are followed.

Intrusive Surveillance

11.1 Intrusive surveillance is covert surveillance carried out by an individual or a surveillance device in relation to anything taking place on residential premises or in any private vehicle. The Council is not permitted to carry out intrusive surveillance in any circumstances.

Directed Surveillance

12.1 Surveillance is directed surveillance if the following are all true:

- it is covert, but not intrusive surveillance;
- it is conducted for the purposes of a specific investigation or operation;
- it is likely to result in the obtaining of private information about a person (whether or not one specifically identified for the purposes of the investigation or operation);
- it is conducted otherwise than by way of an immediate response to events or circumstances the nature of which is such that it would not be reasonably practicable for an authorisation under Part II of the 2000 Act to be sought.

12.2 The Council will use Directed Surveillance to acquire information covertly where it is appropriate and legal to do so.

12.3 The appropriate Directed Surveillance application form, which will be available on the Council's intranet site, should be completed and submitted to the Authorising Officer.

12.4 Any officer completing the Directed Surveillance RIPA application form must contact Legal Services so that they can be authorised to attend the magistrate's court on behalf of the Council. This authorisation to act on behalf of the Council at the court remains valid as long as the applying officer is employed by the Council.

12.5 The applying officer must submit the signed Directed Surveillance RIPA application, once it is signed by the Authorising Officer, to the local Magistrate for approval.



12.6 At the start of an investigation, council officers applying for a RIPA authorisation must satisfy themselves that what they are investigating is a criminal offence and passes the criminal threshold test.

12.7 If confidential information or matters subject to legal privilege are to be acquired, the Directed Surveillance may only be authorised by the Head of Paid Service or their deputy in their absence.

12.8 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer will ensure there is always a minimum of three (3) trained Authorising Officers at the Council. These will be at Assistant Director level or above, and their names published on the Council's intranet.

12.9 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer will comply with requests from the IPCO in relation to the organisation of inspections of the Council

12.10 Statistical returns for directed surveillance data acquired using RIPA will be submitted to the IPCO by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer upon request.

12.11 A Directed Surveillance RIPA authorisation may also be used if the crime threshold is not met but the offence is a criminal offence under:

- (i) sections 146, 147 or 147A of the Licensing Act 2003; or
- (ii) section 7 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933

(Underage sales of alcohol and tobacco).

12.12 A RIPA authorisation is not needed when it is not reasonably practicable for an authorisation to be sought for the carrying out of the surveillance in an immediate response to events.

Covert Human Intelligence Sources

13.1 Under the 2000 Act, a person is a CHIS if:

1. a) he establishes or maintains a personal or other relationship with a person for the covert purpose of facilitating the doing of anything falling within paragraph b) or c);
2. b) he covertly uses such a relationship to obtain information or to provide access to any information to another person; or
3. c) he covertly discloses information obtained by the use of such a relationship or as a consequence of the existence of such a relationship.

13.2 A relationship is established or maintained for a covert purpose if and only if it is conducted in a manner that is calculated to ensure that one of the parties to the relationship is unaware of the purpose.



13.3 The Council may use a covert human intelligence source (CHIS) to acquire information covertly where it is appropriate and legal to do so. A CHIS covertly uses a relationship to obtain information or to provide access to any information to another person.

13.4 The crime threshold does not apply to the authorisation of a CHIS.

13.5 The appropriate CHIS application form, which will be available on the Council's intranet site, should be completed and submitted to the Authorising Officer.

13.6 The applying officer must submit the signed CHIS RIPA application, once it is signed by the Authorising Officer, to the local Magistrate for approval.

13.7 The Council will never authorise the use of a CHIS under the age of 18 without carrying out a special risk assessment in relation to any risk of physical injury or psychological distress to the source that may arise.

13.8 The Council will never authorise the use of a CHIS under the age of 16 to gather evidence against his parents or carers.

13.9 If confidential information or matters subject to legal privilege are to be acquired by the CHIS, or the CHIS is a juvenile or a vulnerable individual, the Directed Surveillance may only be authorised by the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service).

13.10 Monitoring of Internet and/or social media sites as part of investigations or enforcement activity must be carried out in compliance with the relevant Code of Practice. Refer to our separate Social Media Guidance.

Communications Data

14.1 Communications data is generated, held or obtained in the provision, delivery and maintenance of communications services, those being postal services or telecommunications services. The term 'communications data' embraces the 'who', 'when' and 'where' of a communication but not the content, not what was said or written. It includes the manner in which, and by what method, a person or machine communicates with another person or machine external to the Council.

14.2 Applications can be made for entity data (data that associates or links people, identifies people) or event data (data that identifies or describes events).

14.3 Local Authorities must not apply for access to internet connection records. It is a criminal offence to unlawfully access such internet data and any staff doing so may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

14.4 The crime threshold will apply only to the acquisition of communications data by local authorities for event data and not entity data.



14.5 The Council will appoint a Single Point of Contact (SPoC) known as the Senior Officer, who will be a service manager or above, responsible for the acquisition of external communications data. If the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) SPoC system is not used, a trained and accredited member of Council staff must undertake this role.

14.6 NAFN will submit the request to the Office for Communications Data Authorisations (OCDA) on the Council's behalf if the NAFN service is subscribed to. Any application returned by OCDA for re-work must be completed within 14 days or a new request submitted.

14.7 Any application rejected by OCDA can be appealed within 7 days. Any appeal must be re-submitted via the Senior Officer.

14.8 If the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) SPoC system is not used, the appropriate application form, which will be available on the Council's intranet site, should be completed and submitted to the Senior Officer.

14.9 Statistical returns for communications data acquired using IPA will be submitted to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer upon request.

14.10 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer will comply with requests from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) in relation to the organisation of inspections of the Council.

14.11 Council staff will refer to the statutory Codes of Practice issued by the government and guidance issued by the Council when applying for communications data.

Reviews, Renewals and Cancellations of RIPA Authorisations

15.1 The applying officer must review the authorisation monthly to decide if the operation needs to continue.

15.2 RIPA authorisations must be cancelled as soon as they are no longer required. Cancellations must be authorised by the Council's Authorising Officer.

15.3 RIPA authorisations are only valid for 3 months. If a renewal is required, it must be applied for prior to the three-month deadline. Renewals must be authorised by the Council's Authorising Officer and the Magistrate.



Reporting Errors in RIPA Authorisations

16.1 All errors in RIPA authorisations must be reported immediately by the applying manager or Authorising Officer to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

RIPA Requests from Third Parties

Requests from third parties to use Council equipment, facilities or buildings quoting RIPA authorisations must be made in writing, including a copy of the RIPA authorisation (redacted if necessary) and referred to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer or in the case of CCTV, the CCTV Manager.

CCTV

18.1 The Council operates CCTV systems, the use of which is subject to the national CCTV code of practice, as adopted by the Council.

18.2 The Council will keep its CCTV protocol up to date.

18.3 Where CCTV cameras are used covertly as part of an operation to observe a known individual or group, an appropriate authorisation must be applied for.

18.4 Any statistical returns required by the CCTV Commissioner will be supplied to him by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer upon request.

18.5 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer will comply with requests from the CCTV Commissioner in relation to the organisation of inspections of the Council.

Surveillance of Employees and Non-RIPA Surveillance

19.1 All managers must consider the impact on the human rights of the staff member(s) under formal surveillance and complete one of the appropriate forms which can be found on the Council's intranet.

19.2 The Council will follow the ICO's 'Employment Practices Code' to ensure employees' personal information is respected and properly protected under the Data Protection Act 2018.



19.3 The Council may use Surveillance and the acquisition of internal communications data where there are grounds to do so. Procedures must be followed in relation to its staff where it is appropriate and legal to do so to protect the Council against claims of a breach of Article 8. A RIPA authorisation is not available in these circumstances. It is good practice to apply the same process however to address Article 8 considerations.

19.4 For the acquisition of communications data (including but not limited to cryptag logs, email accounts, computer access, printing logs, internet use logs and telephone call logs) and CCTV footage (overt or covert) managers must complete the separate form for the Interception of Data which can be obtained from the legal services team at legalservices@westnorthants.gov.uk.

19.5 For all other directed surveillance of staff, managers must submit a request to the Legal Services Team (email above).

RIPA does not grant powers to carry out surveillance. It simply provides a framework that allows the Council to authorise and supervise a defined category of surveillance in a manner that ensures compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998. Equally RIPA does not prevent surveillance from being carried out in other circumstances that fall outside the RIPA framework.

- There may be times when it will be necessary to carry out covert Directed Surveillance or use a CHIS other than by using RIPA. For example, in relation to an investigation into an allegation that a contractor is not carrying out their work as contracted, a serious disciplinary offence by a member of staff is alleged e.g., gross misconduct, or children are at risk where Court Orders are not being respected, then a RIPA authorisation is not usually available because “*criminal proceedings*” are not normally contemplated.
- Similarly, there may be serious cases of neighbour nuisance or involving anti-social activity which involve potential criminal offences for which the penalty is below the thresholds which would enable use of a RIPA authorisation. Nonetheless in such cases there may be strong grounds for carrying out Directed Surveillance or use of a CHIS. Indeed, there may be circumstances in which Directed surveillance or use of CHIS is the only effective means of efficiently obtaining significant information to take an investigation forward.

19.9 Officers should be particularly careful to ensure that individuals who are not a CHIS at the outset of an investigation do not inadvertently become a CHIS by a process of “status drift”. If, for example a complainant volunteers to obtain further information about a person being investigated, care should be taken to consider whether the proposed action would involve the complainant becoming a CHIS and if so whether that is appropriate and in accordance with RIPA and the CHIS Code of Practice. Advice should be sought from the Head of Information Governance & Risk if such conduct is suspected.

19.10 In the circumstances outlined above, a RIPA application may be completed in accordance with this Policy and the application must be clearly endorsed in red



“NON-RIPA SURVEILLANCE” along the top of the first page. The application must be submitted in the normal fashion to the Authorising Officer who must consider it under the necessity and proportionality test in the same way they would a RIPA application. The normal procedure of timescales, review and cancellations must also be followed.

19.11 The authorisation, regular review, the outcome of any review, renewal applications and eventual cancellation must be notified to the RIPA Monitoring Officer in the normal way and using the same timescales as would be applicable to a RIPA investigation. However, for non RIPA surveillance the requirement to seek approval from the Magistrates Court is inapplicable. The authorisation for non RIPA surveillance takes effect from the date that it is authorised by the Authorising Officer.

Social Media

20.1 In some investigations, social media sites can form a useful source of intelligence. Usually, a review of open-source sites will not require authorisation. However, if reviews are carried out in respect of the same individual with some regularity, this may amount to directed surveillance and authorisation should be obtained.

20.2 If it is necessary and proportionate for the Council to covertly breach privacy controls (e.g., by becoming an account holder’s “friend” using a false identity) to conduct an investigation, then a directed surveillance authorisation will be required.

20.3 If the surveillance involves more than merely reading the sites contents, then an authorisation for the use and conduct of a CHIS will be required.

20.4 Such activities may be monitored by the Council.

Storage & Destruction of Surveillance Data

20.1 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer will store all signed authorisations electronically centrally in a secure manner.

20.2 All electronic copies of the signed authorisations, will be retained for three years and then disposed of securely, unless it is believed that the records could be relevant to pending or future criminal proceedings, where they must be retained for a suitable further period, commensurate to any subsequent review.

20.3 The Council will ensure that all material acquired during covert surveillance is held in secure locations, with clear handling instructions in place when material



exchanges hands, and a clear retention, review, destruction (RRD) schedule will be applied to all copies made.

20.4 Standard Operating Procedures will be followed within teams producing covert material to support officers at a tactical level outlining wider safeguarding requirements (security, access, information sharing) and all relevant staff will be trained on these procedures.

Compliance with the Legislation

22.1 The Council recognises the need to make the contents of this Policy known and ensure compliance by every employee.

22.2 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer will notify relevant staff of changes to RIPA and surveillance legislation, how these changes will affect them, when they will occur and what is needed to stay within the law.

22.3 The Council also recognises the need to make their policies known and accessible to the public. This policy will be published on the Council's website.

22.5 RIPA statistics, suitably redacted as to not reveal specific operations, will be published on the Council's website annually via the open data site.

22.6 West Northamptonshire Council expects all employees to comply fully with this policy. Disciplinary action may be taken against any Council employee who knowingly breaches any instructions contained in, or following from, this policy.

Complaints

23.1 Complaints relating to any surveillance matters must be made in writing and addressed to:

Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, West Northamptonshire Council, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE, or via email to:

legalservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

If the complainant is still unhappy following the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer response, they must be advised to write to:

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal, PO Box 33220, London, SW1H 9ZQ.

Tel.: 0207 035 3711





WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION AND GROWTH: COUNCILLOR DANIEL LISTER**

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Report Title | WNC Multiply Funding Investment Plan |
| Report Author | Julia Raven Interim Head of Economy, Culture & Tourism Julia.Raven@WestNorthants.gov.uk |

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| West S151 | Martin Henry | 16 August 2022 |
| Other Director/SME | Jane Carr | 28 July 2022 |
| Communications Lead/Head of Communications | Becky Hutson | 28 July 2022 |

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Cabinet Members on West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) Multiply Funding Investment Plan, submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) on 30 June 2022, to draw down £1.9m funding for 2022 to 2025 to support Adult Numeracy in West Northamptonshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Multiply Funding is part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which replaces the European Social Fund and is one of the first programme areas under the UKSPF People and Skills Pillar. The

Multiply funding required WNC to develop a separate investment plan for bespoke adult numeracy programmes, against a national menu of interventions.

- 2.2 People who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages, and better wellbeing, and will be more able to progress to higher levels of free training to secure a skilled job.
- 2.3 Businesses who develop their employee's numeracy skills can boost productivity, increase profits, and improve employee retention.
- 2.4 The overall objective of Multiply funding is:
 1. 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. Government expects local areas to evidence improvements in functional numeracy, rather than solely participation in Multiply interventions.
 2. Improved labour market outcomes, for example fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
 3. 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 understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work - and to feel more confident when doing so.
- 2.5 Multiply funding will enable West Northamptonshire Council 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.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - a) Note an investment plan to secure the Multiply funding was submitted to the Department of Education on 30 June 2022.
 - b) Note the expectation is that DfE will assess the WNC Multiply investment plan and the provisional allocation will be signed off and approved by September 2022.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- a) To secure the maximum level of investment to enhance local skill levels, benefiting the community and economy.

- b) To ensure West Northamptonshire benefits from this grant funding to enhance the community, boost the economy and support local residents and businesses.
- c) 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.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The overall objective of Multiply funding is to increase the levels of functional numeracy in West Northamptonshire's adult population, in addition to and differentiated from that which is already fully funded through the Adult Education Budget (AEB) legal entitlement and would not displace that provision.
- 5.2 The DfE designed a menu of 10 interventions to draw down the Multiply funding:-
 - 1. Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications
 - 2. Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money
 - 3. Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace,
 - 4. 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
 - 5. New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification.
 - 6. Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression
 - 7. Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, recently released from prison or on temporary licence
 - 8. Numeracy courses aimed at those aged 19 or over, leaving, or who have just left, the care system
 - 9. 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.
 - 10. Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.
- 5.3 WNC's investment plan included a range of projects and proposals from local, regional and national partners that would use the Multiply funding to deliver the 10 interventions by:
 - targeting individuals who are unemployed or economically inactive and have no qualifications and/or who are low skilled;
 - targeting low skilled adults in the workplace to boost numeracy skills to enable progression in the workplace;
 - targeting adults in disadvantaged areas that have higher percentages of individuals with no qualifications ;

- boosting numeracy skills in the workplace, as identified by the Local Skills Improvement Plan, for example understanding data and data analysis;
- adopting creative approaches to embedding numeracy into a range of learning activities to enable the effective engagement of adults;
- bitesize innovative maths workshops/sessions for groups such as families to help intergenerational learning, help for parents/carers to support their children through specific exams;
- maths through employment routes such as working with employers through workforce development tools, working with union learning reps to support adult numeracy, helping remove the taboo of low numeracy skills and raising the chances of promotion and progression within the workplace;
- maths for work - working with the self-employed on maths required to run their own business;
- maths for life - short courses on financial literacy, budgeting for food, bills, household energy calculations, etc;
- maths bites - filling in the gaps for those who want to do a GCSE but have a few gaps – building skills to prepare for the next step of working towards and gaining a formal qualification the equivalent of a GCSE (FS level 2 or above or a GCSE grade 4 or above);
- developing digital online learning platforms;
- mobile maths - taking the programme to villages, shopping centres, sport grounds, etc;
- working with Northamptonshire Children’s Trust to support those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system with delivering numeracy courses;
- working with the Probation Service and prisons to support ex-offenders to improve their maths to help them get back into life/work;
- provision of numeracy champions within different setting to aid the longevity of the programme and embed support.

5.4 The WNC Multiply investment plan also set out how the Multiply funding provision strategically fitted with local priorities, coordinating where possible with wider skills and employment interventions in West Northamptonshire. Using a variety of sources including the West Northamptonshire Council’s Anti-Poverty and Live Your Best Life strategies, the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership Skills Strategy, Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce’s’ Local Skills Improvement Plan, as well as data sources from the Annual Population Survey, the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and the UK Numeracy Index.

6. Issues and Choices

6.1 To note, not submitting an investment plan for Multiply funding by the deadline would have resulted in a loss of 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 The Multiply Funding is 100 per cent grant funding, meaning there is no financial risk to West Northamptonshire Council's budgets.
- 7.1.2 The Multiply Funding annual allocations will be monitored in line with the Expenditure Profile submitted with the Multiply Investment Plan.
- 7.1.3 There is a risk that any unspent funds will be returned to DfE, however this will be monitored on a regular basis with DfE support to ensure the funds are spent in line with the expected outputs for each intervention receiving funding.
- 7.1.4 10% of the Multiply funding can be used for management of the Multiply funding, which will include a Funding Manager to oversee the management and delivery of the fund, mitigating any risks and ensuring the Multiply achieves the outputs/outcomes of WNC's allocation.

7.2 **Legal**

- 7.2.1 To access Multiply funding, the Council as a Lead Authority for the Funding was required to complete an Investment Plan. The Plan must be agreed by both the Council and by the Government to unlock the allocation.
- 7.2.2 The Council will receive the allocation to manage, including assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring and will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates.
- 7.2.3 The Council has the necessary legal powers under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to deliver the Fund's levelling up objectives. The Council will be required to ensure that the proposed projects are delivered in a legally compliant way in accordance with all relevant legislation in relation to the activities undertaken.

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 have submitted a West Northamptonshire Multiply Investment Plan to secure this funding.

7.4 **Consultation**

- 7.4.1 To successfully assess impact, deliverability and strategic fit while considering the interventions to address using Multiply funding, WNC engaged with numerous local, regional and national partners in the of development of the investment plan, which included:-

- Adult Learning
- Business2Business
- Diversiti
- DWP
- Evolve Your Future

- Job Centre Plus
- Learnings and Skills Academy CIC
- National Numeracy
- Northampton College
- Northampton Town FC Community Trust
- Northamptonshire Children’s Trust
- Northants Chambers of Commerce
- University of Northampton
- West Northamptonshire Council – Employment Support Hub Partners

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 N/A

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 N/A

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 Securing this funding will result in a positive impact on West Northamptonshire communities, 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 Multiply funds creates for partners, employers and residents once the investment plan has been approved by the DfE.

8. Background Papers

8.1 14 June 2022 - June Cabinet Report – UK Shared Prosperity Fund & Multiply Funding

8.2 Multiply Investment Prospectus -
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068822/Multiply_Investment_Prospectus.pdf



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOWN
CENTRE REGENERATION AND GROWTH: COUNCILLOR DANIEL LISTER**

| | |
|----------------------|---|
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| Other Director/SME | Jane Carr | 05/08/22 |
| Deputy Head of Communications | Craig Forsyth | 05/08/22 |

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update Cabinet Members of West Northamptonshire Council's (WNC) submission of an Investment Plan to draw down the allocation of £5.4m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The (UKSPF) 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 European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) funding.
- 2.2 WNC has been allocated £5,426,224 for a three-year period up until March 2025. This fund is flexible and can be used for both revenue and capital, with minimum requirements of capital funding for each financial year.
- 2.3 There are three investment priorities, which align with the Levelling Up Missions: communities and place, supporting local business, people and skills.
- 2.4 WNC has engaged with councillors, organisations across the public, private and third sectors, internal services and MPs to identify the opportunities and challenges for the area, to inform the selection of interventions and the allocation of funding.
- 2.5 WNC has developed and submitted an investment plan outlining how the UKSPF will be used across 12 government-provided interventions which align with the three investment priorities.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet/Committee:
 - a) Note an investment plan to draw down the UKSPF was submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 1 August 2022.
 - b) Note the selected interventions which the funding will be allocated to including the expected outputs and outcomes.
 - c) Note that the DLUHC will review the WNC UKSPF Investment Plan and year one funds are expected to be received in October, following sign off.

4. Reason 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.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK. The UKSPF is a £2.6 billion Fund designed to succeed and improve upon EU structural funds. The UKSPF is not a direct replacement for EU structural funds. It improves on these funds by:

- Focusing on UK priorities rather than policies dictated by the EU

- Giving local areas a greater say in investments, by giving more direct accountability to elected local leaders
- 5.2 Funding will be distributed to places based on a funding allocation for three years, paid annually. As a delegated fund, places will be empowered to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on building pride in place and increasing life chances, and delivered through three investment priorities: communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills.
- 5.3 For local authorities to draw down the funding allocated per area, each authority must develop a detailed investment plan, including expenditure and outcomes of which interventions will be funded.
- 5.4 In order to develop a comprehensive narrative around the needs, challenges and opportunities of West Northamptonshire, WNC facilitated a robust consultation far exceeding the requirements set out by Government. This was to ensure that local stakeholders had the ability to input into how the UKSPF would be allocated for this area.
- 5.5 This consultation included the following:
- Early and ongoing engagement with WNC councillors
 - Ongoing attendance at the WNC Executive Leadership Team and Executive Programme Board meetings
 - An online survey sent to all WNC councillors and shared with all staff through the Chief Executive's weekly communication
 - A press release promoting the allocation of funding
 - Three thematic workshops covering each investment priority – communities and place, supporting local business, people and skills
 - One-to-one meetings with local MPs
- 5.6 80 respondents completed the online survey, providing views on the challenges, opportunities and needs of the area.
- 5.7 Having effectively engaged with members, the community and stakeholders, as well as analysed the necessary data and strategies, WNC had the tools to establish which of the 41 government-provided interventions should be allocated funding. This was informed through the consultation and a review of the challenges and opportunities in the area, as well as identifying gaps in current and future funding, such as EU funding.
- 5.8 DLUHC has advised that it is important to note that it is looking for high level proposals and outcomes based on local context. The investment plan is not an exhaustive document containing detailed project or intervention planning.
- 5.9 Based on this, the following interventions have been included in the WNC UKSPF:

Communities and place

- E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area

- E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places
- E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups
- E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including measures to improve energy efficiency, combat fuel poverty and climate change
- E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies for projects in the communities and place investment priority

Supporting local business

- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks
- E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity
- E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment
- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies in the supporting local business investment priority

People and skills

- E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths through Multiply Funding and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps
- E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.
- E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level two and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that cannot be met through mainstream funding

5.10 DLUHC has said it expects to work with areas to refine the high-level ambitions outlined in the investment plan as the programme progresses. In line with the ethos of the fund, DLUHC will reduce bureaucracy and help places make pragmatic choices and adapt ambitions where necessary to maximise impact.

5.11 DLUHC recognises that some priorities may change following investment plan sign-off and it will work with the lead local authority should any changes need to be made to the investment plan.

5.12 The indicative financial breakdown between the three investment priorities is as follows:

- Communities and place: 27 per cent = £1,467,082

- Supporting local business: 40 per cent = £2,159,532
- People and skills: 33 per cent = £1,799,610

5.13 Expected outcomes of UKSPF projects include:

- New/improved cycleways or paths resulting in increased active travel
- Increased engagement in volunteering
- Increased take up of energy efficiency measures
- Numerous feasibility studies supported to inform projects
- Businesses receiving grants, resulting in new start-ups and jobs created
- Businesses identifying and delivering decarbonisation measures
- Economically inactive people receiving support resulting in active engagement with job searching
- Increased local people engaged in training resulting in increased local skill levels

6. Issues and Choices

6.1 To note the requirement to develop and submit an investment plan for the UKSPF to DLUHC has been completed, 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 note that not developing and submitting an investment plan for the UKSPF by the deadline would have resulted in a loss of major potential investment into the area, which would be used to support the community and place, businesses and people and skills.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- The UKSPF is 100 per cent grant funding, meaning there is no financial risk to West Northamptonshire Council's budgets.
- The UKSPF annual allocations will be monitored in line with the Expenditure Profile submitted with the UKSPF Investment Plan, though it is possible to reallocate funds from year to year with sufficient justification for doing so.
- Any UKSPF not delivered internally by WNC will be awarded following a funding competition which will be developed ahead of any funds being paid out. This will align with the existing WNC Community Grants.
- There is a risk that any unspent funds will be returned to DLUHC, however this will be monitored on a regular basis with DLUHC's support to ensure the funds are spent in line with the expected outputs for each intervention receiving funding.
- 4% of the UKSPF can be used for management of the UKSPF, which will include a Funding Manager to oversee the management and delivery of the fund, mitigating any risks and ensuring the UKSPF achieves the outputs/outcomes of WNC's allocation.

7.2 Legal

- To access UKSPF funding, the Council as a Lead Authority for the Funding was required to complete an Investment Plan. The Plan must be agreed by both the Council and by the Government to unlock the allocation.
- The Council will receive the allocation to manage, including assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring and will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates.
- The Fund can be used flexibly to support interventions via:
 - grant to public or private organisations
 - commissioning third party organisations
 - procurement of service provision
 - in-house provision
- However, Government has indicated that competitions for projects is the default approach for selecting recipients of public grants.
- The Council has the necessary legal powers under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to deliver the Fund's levelling up objectives. The Council will be required to ensure that the proposed projects are delivered in a legally compliant way in accordance with all relevant legislation in relation to the activities undertaken.
- All spend associated with the Fund must be assessed by the Council in advance to ensure that proposed investment is compliant with the Council's Constitution, including the Public Contracts grant rules, (mechanisms to recover funding where beneficiaries do not comply with fund parameters, legal or any other requirements) processes and procedures as and where relevant.
- Interventions will be required to be delivered within the subsidy control regime. Government has indicated that further guidance on subsidy control and UKSPF will be issued assist lead local authorities in carrying out their delegated delivery role.
- The Council is required to meet its statutory public sector equality duty in carrying out their duties related to the UKSPF.
- In submitting the Investment Plan, Government required assurance that legal obligations and all minimum standards set by the government will be adhered to.

7.3 Risk

- Risk: The short timescales for delivery in the first year and ensuring that once WNC receives approval of the investment plan, partners and providers are able to quickly access the funding to start delivering projects. The delay in having the Year 1 allocation confirmed impacts on the full year delivery of the programme and funding allocation.
- Contingency Measure: WNC would mitigate this through ongoing discussions with the DLUHC during the funding year to monitor performance and raise concerns regarding grant spend and adjust the outputs within the investment plan accordingly.
- Risk: Any unspent UKSPF funds would have to be returned to DLUHC after March 2025.
- Contingency Measure: WNC would develop a Grant Funding Agreement with any external organisation delivering WNC UKSPF and monitor this regularly to ensure funding was being delivered according to the necessary timescales, with the desired outputs/outcomes.

7.4 Consultation

- In order to successfully assess impact, deliverability and strategic fit when analysing the interventions to address using the UKSPF, WNC has procured a consultant to support the development of the investment plan. Consultation included with stakeholders, partners and internal/external services. This also includes local MPs, WNC councillors, town councils, and both public and private sector organisations, including the third sector.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- N/A

7.6 Climate Impact

- 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

- This funding 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

- Communications will be developed to inform and engage stakeholders to raise wider awareness of the opportunities the UKSPF creates for partners, employers and residents once the investment plan has been approved by Government.

8. Background Papers

8.1 12 July 2022 - Cabinet Report – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

8.2 UKSPF Investment Prospectus - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

13TH SEPTEMBER 2022

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION:
COUNCILLOR FIONA BAKER**

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Report Title | Recommissioning of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme |
| Report Author | Tony Challinor, Assistant Director of Commissioning and Partnerships, tony.challinor@westnorthants.gov.uk Rory Seymour, Commissioning Manager, rory.seymour@northnorthants.gov.uk Eloise Heneghan, Commissioning Manager, eloise.heneghan@northnorthants.gov.uk |

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| Other Director/SME | Tony Challinor, AD for Commissioning and Partnerships | 15/08/2022 |
| Communications Lead/Head of Communications | Becky Hutson | 16/08/2022 |

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Executive for the procurement of a supplier to coordinate the delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme in West Northamptonshire in partnership with the Council from March 2023.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In order to support low-income families with children, the Department for Education has provided all upper tier local authorities with funding to deliver a Holiday Activities and Food Programme in their area. This programme should provide children who are eligible for Free School Meals with free activities, including a meal, during the Easter, Summer and Christmas School Holidays.
- 2.2 Since the programme launched in April 2021, West Northamptonshire has, jointly with North Northamptonshire, commissioned an external provider to deliver the service. This contract is due to end in February 2023, with no option to extend beyond this date.
- 2.3 An options appraisal has been conducted which recommended that West Northamptonshire Council continue to commission a provider to coordinate the programme but that the new specification should more clearly define the respective roles of the council and the provider.
- 2.4 It also recommended conducting two procurement exercises with one for West Northamptonshire and one for North Northamptonshire.
- 2.5 Section 7.1 details the possible scale of the procurement, indicating that Cabinet approval is required.
- 2.6 If approval from Executive is granted, officers will undertake a robust procurement process to find a provider to deliver the service and will consult with the Executive member for Children, Families, Education & Skills to award the contract.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Note the delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to date and its benefits to children, young people, and families in West Northamptonshire.
 - b) Approve the procurement of a supplier to coordinate the delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme in West Northamptonshire in partnership with the Council from March 2023 in line with the Contract Procedure Rules.
 - c) Delegate authority to the Executive Member for Children, Families, Education & Skills in consultation with the Executive Director of Children's Services (DCS) to take any further decisions and actions required to conclude this procurement and award the contract.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- Delivering the Holiday Activities and Food Programme makes best use of resources from central government
- The programme will deliver benefits to vulnerable children, young people, and their families
- Commissioning a provider to coordinate the programme alongside the council will allow the Council to benefit from the expertise and experience of the successful provider in delivering similar programmes and working with Community and Voluntary Sector organisations that deliver holiday activity programmes whilst also retaining an element of input and control of the programme

5. Report Background

National Context

- 5.1 The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is a programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE). This funding is for the 152 upper tier local authorities to coordinate and provide free holiday provision including healthy food and enriching activities.
- 5.2 Following successful pilots between 2018 and 2020, the programme was rolled out to all upper tier local authorities including West Northamptonshire in 2021. Research has shown that the school holidays can be pressure points for some families. For some children this can lead to a holiday experience gap, with children from low-income households being:
- less likely to access organised out-of-school activities
 - more likely to experience ‘unhealthy holidays’ in terms of nutrition and physical health
 - more likely to experience social isolation
- 5.3 The HAF programme is a response to this issue, with evidence showing that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people.
- 5.4 The holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals. Local authorities have discretion to use up to 15% of their funding to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related free school meals but who the local authority believe could benefit from HAF provision.
- 5.5 In October 2021, The Department for Education has confirmed a further investment of over £200 million per year over the following 3 financial years for the holiday activities and food programme. This means there will be funding available to West Northamptonshire Council until the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

Local delivery to date

- 5.6 Responsibility for the programme initially sat with the Northamptonshire Public Health service. Due to the very short turnaround between the Department for Education announcing the programme and the commencement of delivery, Northamptonshire Public Health directly awarded a contract to SSG Solutions for the Easter 2021 programme.

- 5.7 For the Summer Programme onwards, a full procurement was undertaken with Northamptonshire Sport being the successful bidder. The contract was for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year with an option to extend for an additional year, in February 2022 this option was taken, and the current contract is due to expire on February 28, 2023.
- 5.8 It was agreed that responsibility for the service would transfer to Children's Services from April 2022, to better connect the programme with other children's services.
- 5.9 Due to the contract being let by Public Health when it was a shared service, the programme has been delivered on a Northamptonshire-wide basis with a single contract. However, since April 2022, data has been collected and submitted to DfE separately for WNC and NNC. The contract management for the service is led by the Commissioning and Partnerships Team in Children's Services, which currently remains a shared service hosted by NNC. This may change during the period of the contract as part of the disaggregation process.
- 5.10 Northamptonshire Sport coordinate the delivery of the programme but work with local delivery partners who provide the activities and meals for participating children. There has been positive feedback around the quality and variety of activities on offer, the positive impact on children who attend and the provision of a free meal to low-income families during the holidays. Areas for improvement include the quality and nutrition of the food provided, engaging secondary aged children, and providing children and families with education around nutrition.
- 5.11 Data on the provision to date shows:
- There appears to be a trend towards more children attending provision as awareness of the scheme grows. 892 children attended the first Easter 2021 programme across Northamptonshire whilst 2435 (of which 1209 were in West Northamptonshire) attended the Easter 2022 programme.
 - Covid-19 has had an impact on attendance, especially during the Easter 2021 and Christmas 2021-22 holidays
 - Primary school-aged children are significantly more likely to attend than secondary aged children
 - Most children who have attended are eligible for Free School Meals, this has been between 93-98% each holiday which is above the DfE minimum of 85%
 - Around 15% of children who have attended each holiday have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)
- 5.12 To evaluate their delivery of the programme, Northamptonshire Sport commissioned the University of Northampton to undertake an evaluation of the programme. [The report is publicly available](#) and lessons from this report have been considered in the recommissioning project and options appraisal.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Officers have reviewed the existing contractual arrangements in conjunction with colleagues from both the Legal and Procurement teams. This has confirmed there are no options to flex or extend the existing contract and therefore a new arrangement must be adopted in advance of 28th February 2023.
- 6.2 An options appraisal has been undertaken in two parts. The first part of the options appraisal considered the delivery model for the service into the future and whether WNC should deliver the service themselves or commission a third party to deliver the service. The second part of the options appraisal considered whether the service should be jointly commissioned with North Northamptonshire Council.
- 6.3 The option not to deliver the service was rejected. Not delivering the service would mean not taking advantage of funding available to the council and not delivering services to children from low-income families who would benefit from the programme.
- 6.4 The review of the service indicated that the council should commission an organisation to work with WNC to coordinate the programme. This would mean the council takes advantage of the skills and experience of an organisation who have worked with local community groups who deliver similar services.
- 6.5 However, the council will retain an element of control over the coordination of the programme and would work alongside the provider. This ensures WNC is meeting the terms of the grant from the Department for Education and allows the council to direct the provider to consider the Council's priorities when coordinating the programme.
- 6.6 The review found that the Council should undertake separate procurement exercises, one for the West and one for the North. Consideration was given to jointly commissioning the service; this was rejected because of a wish to see services that meets the needs of each local area and that the different governance processes at each council may delay the procurement being delivered to timescales.
- 6.7 There will be separate service specifications for North and West Northamptonshire Council. Learning from the previous contract, the WNC specification will better define the respective responsibilities of the provider and the council and will create a mechanism to manage performance.
- 6.8 It is recommended that the contract is awarded for a period of 2 years. This reflects the fact that the Department for Education has committed to funding the programme for the next two financial years.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 This service is entirely funded by the Department for Education grant for the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. The Department for Education has confirmed that this programme will be funded until the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

7.1.2 The exact funding available for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial year has not been confirmed; for 2012/22 West Northamptonshire Council received £1,018,366.00 and in 2022/23 £1,055,190.00. It is assumed a similar amount will be available for the next two financial years with a slight increase each financial year.

7.1.3 As per the terms of the grant, 10% of the funding can be spent administration costs for the local coordination of the Programme. The remainder must be spent on the provision of free holiday club places for eligible children. In the current contract, 98% of the funding available for administration has been given to Northamptonshire Sport with the remaining 2% being retained by WNC. The commissioning review has found that the 2% does not accurately reflect the amount of time spent managing the contract and proposes WNC keeps 10% of the funding available for administration. This is summarised in the table below using 2022-23 funding as an indicative amount:

| West Northamptonshire Budget breakdown | 2022-23 funding |
|---|------------------------|
| Maximum available provider management and administration fee (90% of management and administration fee) | £94,967.10 |
| Funding kept by WNC for contract management and programme management (10% of management and administration fee) | £10,551.90 |
| Total management and administration (10% of overall funding available) | £105,519.00 |
| Funding available for service delivery and commissioning of delivery partners | £949,671.00 |
| Total DfE funding | £1,055,190.00 |

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 There is no option to extend the current contract within the existing Terms and Conditions.

7.2.2 The procurement will follow a compliant procurement process, under the Light Touch Regime as set out in Schedule 3 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules and Constitution.

7.2.3 In procuring the supplier, WNC will ensure that all money is spent in line with the grant agreement with the Department for Education.

7.2.4 The Legal team have been engaged throughout the procurement to ensure a full and appropriate contract is prepared to meet the requirement.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 There is a risk to the timely commencement of the procurement and start of the service if delegated authority is not authorised, to enable further decisions and/or actions, with Page 180

need to return to the Executive. If procurement is delayed, there is a risk that there is insufficient mobilisation time for the provider to set up the arrangements for the service.

7.3.2 This service is entirely funded by the grant provided by the Department for Education. Whilst funding has been earmarked for the next two financial years, there is a risk that due to a change in government policy future funding for the programme is withdrawn or reduced. Should this occur, the Council would either have to reduce the funding available to the provider, cease running the programme or fund the service from other sources. To mitigate this risk, it will be written into the contract that the contract can be terminated, or contract sum adjusted if funding for the programme is ceased or reduced by central government.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 No consultation was required or undertaken in respect of this proposal.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 The procurement process and/or any part of the requirement may be selected for consideration by Scrutiny.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 There is no climate impact arising from the proposal.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 There is no distinct community impact arising from this proposal.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 A communications plan will be developed as part of taking the programme forward, and to cover all key milestones within the lifetime of the programme. Publicity agreement with chosen contract provider will be required to ensure WNC's involvement and contribution is reasonably reflected in any output.

8. Background Papers

8.1 [Holiday activities and food programme 2022 DfE Guidance](#)

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

23RD SEPTEMBER 2022

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOWN
CENTRE REGENERATION AND GROWTH: COUNCILLOR DANIEL LISTER**

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Report Title | Towns Fund: 24 Guildhall Road Phase 2 Works |
| Report Author | <p>Kevin Langley, Head of Major Projects, and Regeneration Kevin.langley@westnorthants.gov.uk</p> <p>Rob Saunders, Major Project Manager Robert.Saunders@westnorthants.gov.uk</p> <p>Mike Carter, Strategic Projects and Programmes Officer Michael.Carter@westnorthants.gov.uk</p> |

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| West S151 | Martin Henry | 12/09/22 |
| Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment | Stuart Timmiss | 08/09/22 |
| Communications Lead | Craig Forsyth | 13/09/22 |

List of Appendices - Exempt from Publication

Appendix 1 – 24 Guildhall Road Phase 2 Business Case EXEMPT
Appendix 2 – 24 Guildhall Road Phase 2 Subsidy Control Advice EXEMPT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the refurbishment project for 24 Guildhall Road, Northampton. It sets out the completed construction works undertaken for Phase 1 and confirms the proposals for implementing the Phase 2 of the project.
- 1.2 The project is now ready to move into Phase 2, which include plans for the conclusion of the remaining building refurbishment. /
- 1.3 Phase 2 works will include works to the external fabric, mechanical and electrical upgrade to the whole building premises, completing entrance and common areas serving the building and the Northampton Museum (including compliant access arrangements), completing aspects of refurbishment of areas to be leased to Northampton Arts Collective Limited (NNCA), and will refurbish the two upper floors of the building, which have not been undertaken in Phase 1.
- 1.4 The report requests approval of the business case to draw down on £1.75m from the Northampton's Towns Fund grant allocation, and will set the combined Phase 2 project Budget at £3.25m (including £1.5m WNC capital borrowing which was approved by Full Council in February 2022 as part of the authority's budget setting process).
- 1.5 The report requests delegation of authority to the Assistant Director of Place Shaping to appoint a Principal Contractor following a compliant procurement process to undertake the works.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The 24 Guildhall Road project is being delivered in two phases due to the funding timeframes, and resultant constraints.
- 2.2 Key spaces of the refurbished building are to be occupied by the council's anchor partner Northampton Arts Collective Limited, who operates under its trade name of NN Contemporary Arts (NNCA). Heads of terms are agreed for a 25 year lease at a peppercorn in relation to space on the lower ground, upper ground and first floors on the building, and the organisation will enter the lease at an appropriate time to coincide with the relevant section of NNCA refurbishment completing.
- 2.3 The council has a Partnership Agreement (Collaboration Agreement), dated in October 2021, which covers the relationship between the organisation and the council. The council meets regularly with NNCA at both operational and Executive levels in relation to the agreement and partnership workings.
- 2.4 Works to the planned NNCA occupation was prioritised in Phase 1 in order to leverage and meet the Getting Building Fund (GBF) deadlines and meet the grant objectives. Successful Implementation of Phase 1 enabled a substantial element of the 24 Guildhall Works to be achieved in August 2022.

- 2.5 Phase 2 is funded by a further successful award through the Towns Fund of £1.75m and agreed £1.5m capital borrowing (agreed at WNC's Full Council February 2022). The total Phase 2 budget is therefore confirmed as £3.25m.
- 2.6 There are substantial design elements for Phase 2 of the project, and the Council has procured and appointed a professional and design team to lead the works under the oversight of the Council's Project Manager. Works to date include an initial scope, arrangement drawings, and a cost plan that has been worked up in conjunction with officers of the Council for Phase 2. This cost plan has informed the Business Case, this report and general project planning.
- 2.7 NNCA is to appoint its own designer and client advisory to integrate their design their remaining interiors spaces, and this will be funded by the project budget. This has been agreed by the Council and is outlined how this is implemented in this report.
- 2.8 The next stages of the Phase 2 capital project are explained herein including the project governance process, the procurement process for a principal contractor and the delivery programme in line with the Towns Fund Funding milestones.
- 2.9 The Phase 2 works include completing of some spaces that are not yet complete within NNCA's demise, full refurbishment of the two upper floors (outside of the NNCA demise), and extensive works to the roof, windows and façade of the building. Mechanical and Electrical works will also be undertaken, which impacts all areas of the building areas (including NNCA spaces), and internal and external access improvements, and various access and use modifications will be concluded. Some of these matters are also understood to require planning consent which have been accounted for within the programme.
- 2.10 The 24 Guildhall Road Phase 2 Business Case has been produced in accordance with good practice guidance published by HM Treasury and has been independently reviewed by external agency Hatch Ltd. The Northampton Forward Board also approved the business case and recommended it to proceed on the *31st August 2022*.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- a) approve the business case for 24 Guildhall Road Northampton Project Phase 2.
 - b) delegate to the Assistant Director of Place Shaping authority to enter into a contract to appoint a principal contractor for the build.
 - c) delegate to the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment authority to enter into a lease in relation to the upper floors of the completed building.

4. Reason for Recommendation

- 4.1 Reason for recommendation:

- a) to bring the building back into use.
- b) to support creative industries within the area of West Northants and support wider economic growth.
- c) to further the delivery of the wider Northampton Town Centre Masterplan to support wider
- d) to support delivery of the vision to regenerate the town centre
- e) to enable the drawdown of £1.75m of Towns Fund funding and £1.5m WNC capital borrowing and be an essential strategic creative hub building within the Councils portfolio.

1. Report Background

- 4.2 Northampton town centre plays a vital role as a major centre serving the town and a wider catchment of over one million people. The population is expected to grow further over the coming years, however footfall in town centre has dropped 14.4 per cent year on year. Culture and heritage assets in our town have a key role to play in encouraging people back into our town. The Northampton Town Centre Masterplan sets the principles and the approach that will be taken to deliver the transformational change that is required in gaining more town centre attraction.
- 4.3 24 Guildhall Road was originally purchased by Northampton Borough Council (NBC) from Northamptonshire County Council as part of the building was required to facilitate the council's New Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG) project. Due to budgetary constraints the refurbishment of 24 Guildhall Road for the purposes of the NMAG project was not possible.
- 4.4 The building consists of five floors including the lower ground floor (basement), upper ground floor, first floor, second floor and third floor. Prior to the Phase 1 works on the building, the property was left in the same condition and layout as when occupied by NCC with office partitions, dated welfare facilities, non-compliant access arrangements and carpet tiles throughout.
- 4.5 Inspections by chartered surveyors completed in 2019 revealed that significant repairs were required to the flat roof coverings to prevent water ingress and ultimately destabilise the integrity of the flat roof joists. Mechanical and electrical defects have been identified throughout the building that will require remediation/ replacement. These works are within the scope in phase two.
- 4.6 The existing lift at the current main entrance to the building was not compliant with building regulations and was replaced alongside significant structural alternations, as part of the Phase 1 works. Each floor has a change in level that required further access enhancements to comply with building regulations for public use. Phase 1 has installed suitable lifts to enable access arrangements on the ground and first floor. Within Phase 2 works, the intention is to replicate these accessibility arrangements on the second and third floor, to allow full accessibility in all floor plates.

- 4.7 The former NBC cabinet decision on 9th September 2020 approved the GBF Grant of £1.15m and £385,000 of capital funding to refurbish the whole (five floors) of 24 Guildhall Road for Regeneration purposes and the relocation of NNCA This included making the building fit for occupation and public use, carrying out essential roof maintenance, windows and façade repairs, mechanical and electrical works, internal and external access improvements, and access and use modifications.
- 4.8 The WNC Cabinet decision in October 2021 approved a Partnership Agreement with NNCA, delegated authority to agree a 25 year lease to NNCA and that Phase 1 works could be progressed. Shortly following this, phase 1 contractor pricing was concluded, and a VE exercise concluded in November which enabled a Contractor to be appointed for Phase 1. Phase 1 construction Contract was entered in the November 2021, and site works commenced in December 2021.
- 4.9 In March 2021 it was confirmed that the Council would receive £25m for regeneration projects in Northampton Town Centre from the Towns Fund, subject to compliant Business Cases being submitted. Of this £25m grant, £1.75m has been granted for Phase 2 of the 24 Guildhall Road project. The funding is to be spent by March 2025
- 4.10 The Phase 2 project envisages the following main areas of improvement to the building to achieve the councils vision and occupation:
- Carry out essential repairs to the building exterior and roof and install a new air source heating system, making the building fit for occupation and low carbon.
 - Creating 950 sqm of new cultural / commercial space of which, 678 sqm is identified to be cultural sector workspace on the upper two floors subject to suitable cultural tenants being identified (failing which alternative marketing and tenant finding to take place).
 - Install a Civic Reading Room and Artist Lounge, equipping NNCA with event kitchenette and co working desk facilities.
 - Install a new street level lift to further open up a welcoming, street-level visitor entrance lobby on Guildhall Road and ensure an inclusive, contemporary public space for all, including access from the Northamptonshire Museum which is adjacent to the building.
 - Refurbishing additional 160 sqm of lower ground space for NNCA (if the fully funded budget is sufficient).
 - NNCA will be 24 Guildhall's anchor tenant on the three lowest building floors, currently subject to Phase 1 of the project's development and Phase 2 additional works. Head's of Terms for the NNCA lease are on a peppercorn rent for 25 years, with service rent applicable.
 - Note, the upper floors being developed through Phase 2 are intended for complimentary cultural use, which will be a commercial let, subject to suitable tenant.
- 4.11 The business case is a key document that ensures all stakeholders understand and are aligned on the why, what and how of the project. It helps to quantify the opportunity, prioritise activities and capture key assumptions and risks.
- 4.12 The Business Case has been produced in accordance with good practice guidance published by HM Treasury and follows the Five Case Business Case Model (Strategic, Economic, Commercial, Page 187

Financial and Management Cases) as the required framework for considering the use of public resources. A summary of the sections are included in this section below:-

- 4.13 The Strategic Case explains how the project fits into the overall strategic context of the town's development, as well as describing the benefits it will deliver. This business case also captures how the project will be financed, procured and managed.
- 4.14 The 24 Guildhall Road (24GHR) project will, through Phase 1 and Phase 2 delivery, create a new mixed occupancy cultural centre for Northampton. It aims to encourage an ethos of cultural and civic engagement in the town that is facilitated through arts and cultural organisations' networking and collaboration throughout all floors of the building.
- 4.15 On completion, the vision is to reimagine culture at the centre of civic life, being a place for community-building and engagement, and simultaneously acknowledging the building's history and its role at the centre of the town of Northampton.
- 4.16 The Towns Fund funded 24 GHR Phase 2 project will add value to the current Phase 1 project funded through the GBF. It sits within the Towns Fund arts, culture, and heritage intervention category where the aim is to maintain, regenerate, and creatively repurpose cultural, heritage, and community assets, to better support visibility, accessibility, and inclusive growth.
- 4.17 The project responds to the strong evidence of cultural, social, and economic need for a cultural and creative business venue. These include:
- a revitalised, regenerated, and promoted town centre after a long period of decline.
 - greater and better access to culture, heritage, learning and skills development for residents.
 - town centre job creation in the region's important creative industries.
- 4.18 The project outlines several objectives that will enable 24GHR to deliver significant benefit for Northampton town and its residents, summarised as: enhancing the cultural focus of the surrounding area, creating jobs, retaining creative talent, and acting as a catalyst for footfall into Northampton town centre.
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- 4.20 The Economic Case considers the scheme's value for money for both the total public sector costs across Phase 1 and Phase 2 (£3.31m) and for the Phase 1 project funding from Towns Fund alone. (£1.75m). The Business Case in Appendix 1 provides a short summary of the Benefits Cost Ratios (BCRs)
- 4.21 The total BCR of 2.70:1 demonstrates the value for money of the investment is categorised as "high" when considering the Towns Deal costs only. When assessed against the entire public sector costs the BCR reduces to 1.52:1, indicating "medium" value for money.

- 4.22 The estimated Budget Costs of this Phase 2 implementation is £3.14m. This is in addition to a Phase 1 investment of £1.56m predominantly funded from the GBF. And the total spend for the whole project will be c£4.70m.
- 4.23 The planned sources of Phase 2 funding are £1.75m from the Towns Fund and £1.5m of borrowing from the Council approved at February 2022 Full Council.
- 4.24 Informing and underpinning the Phase 2 review, has been cost planning work undertaken by the CS2 Chartered Surveyors based on RIBA Stage 2 designs by the Council's designers pHp Architects for all of the Phase 2 works
- 4.25 These have been subject to a series of cost plan revisions, the latest dated May 2022, that have provided a good level of confidence in the financial case.
- 4.26 Market analysis for the upper two floors of 24 GHR development has been completed by Avison Young, a commercial property agency during the Phase 2 Business Case development phase. The reporting concludes that there is strong interest and demonstrable demand for affordable, fit-for-purpose and flexible workspace to support the town's diversifying 'creative' industries sector, but that a serviced 'commercial' office space is been identified as the most profitable tenancy model.
- 4.27 In line with the project vision, the Council will however first explore occupation by the 'creative' industry market for occupancy across the upper floors with a view to 'break even' profitability in the first instance. This will occur during the project's design and early construction of Phase 2, and during this process the Council will consult and engage with NNCA as the anchor tenant on the lower floors (See section 5.9 Asset Management).
- 4.28 WNC is the Accountable Body for the project, and as such the Council will be responsible for discharging all obligations with Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). WNC will be responsible for overseeing the financial management and accountability monitoring of the project and will have direct responsibility for the governance of the project.
- 4.29 Additionally, the Council's project team is responsible for bringing the project through all the key delivery stages as outlined in the programme (highlights of which are identified in Table 1 in section 5.11.3 of this report) The Management section of the Business Case outlines the status of key aspects of the project from a project planning/management perspective:
- Planning Permission: Proposed external alterations as part of this project require planning permission. These are minor alterations (disabled access ramp and air source heat pumps on the roof) and we do not anticipate any planning difficulties. Planning application is scheduled to be submitted as part of the design stage programme.
 - Design: Current design for the cost planning requirements has been carried out to RIBA Stage 2, but some of this design will inevitably be re-visited and refreshed. NNCA's own design and client advisory will be integrated into the project design team to represent their areas of the works in design terms.

- Land: the site freehold is owned by the Council . NN Contemporary Art (NC) will be the anchor tenant of the ground and first floors. The upper floors (to which most of the works in scope for this business case will be carried out) will be leased to one (or a small number of) tenant(s), depending on the market situation at completion of the proposed works. All necessary joint working arrangements will be put in place.
- Team: delivery of the project will continue to rely on the successful model of partnership working that has characterised the development of 24 Guildhall Road since the project's inception. An Employers Agent/Contract Administrator (who will manage the construction project Management of the project) is appointed as described in this report. The appointed company is both local, and have led the Phase 1 project delivery aspects.

- 4.30 NNCA will act as advisory client for those elements of the project related to areas they will be occupying or managing (Ground and First floors, and common areas). NNCA were responsible for the design brief, and envisioning process. The key groups and roles involved in the delivery of the project are outlined in the table below:
- 4.31 The Cabinet is herewith requested to agree the Business Case attached in Appendix 1.
- 4.32 Given the demanding time constraints, the Council has moved forward to appoint its professional consultants team.
- 4.33 The professional consultants team are appointed to undertake the design and other project activities and have commenced work to design Phase 2 works Design to RIBA Stage 4. The team will undertake the Principal Design and design co-ordination role, and will undertake Contract Administrator and cost management activities throughout the project to Completion and the defect period. The key local consultants appointed include Peter Haddon Partners (as Architects and Principal Designer who will co-ordinate the design), cS2 Surveyors (as Contract Administrators and Cost Consultants), and The Engineering Practice (as Mechanical and Electrical Designers). All three consultants are familiar with the building and the project, having undertook Phase 1 Professional Services roles and re-appointing brings added value that the professional team already have about the structure, operations and stakeholders. The consultants teams work on Phase 2 commenced in early September 2022.
- 4.34 NNCA will continue with having Client Advisory and for Phase 2 will also appoint Design Advisory services to design their spaces. As such, a budget allowance has been identified from the funding for them to appoint these advisers. The Council has provided to NNCA a clear Brief to assist the procurement process that NNCA are embarked upon, and it is agreed that the Council will review the NNCA Scope, and confirm acceptance to the appointments. The Design Consultant and the Client Advisory Consultant will then be integrated into the wider design team. It is clear that the Council is and has to remain with the lead designer responsibilities, and are to manage the co-ordination of the design as it develops in the Design Stage as covered by the Management Case. Particularly, costs and time are important to manage effectively, and this will have close oversight by officers, so as to avoid scope and ultimately cost creep.

- 4.35 A principal contractor has yet to be procured, and once a full design to the appropriate RIBA Stage, as outlined in the programme shown in the table 1 at section 5.11.3 of this report. The Council's Project Manager with the assistance of the Councils Procurement team will procure a contractor competitively. This will either be through a compliant framework, or by an open tender. The contractor procurement decision stage will be overseen by the Head of Major Projects and Regeneration, subject to constitutional compliancy requirements.
- 4.36 The report request that the delegate authority is granted to the Assistant Director of Place Shaping to approve the appointment of a principal contractor.
- 4.37 24 GHR Phasing Plan – confirms the anticipated extent of Phase 2 works scope, and identifies the spaces that are agreed to be let to NNCA and shows the areas of the building that were completed as part of Phase 1 works.
- 4.38 The partnership agreement establishes the terms of governance, the roles and responsibilities of both parties, default provisions for non-compliance, timeframes for the partnership, timeframes for key decisions, general working arrangements and sharing/recording of information related to the partnership.
- 4.39 The partnership agreement established for Phase 1 also extends to Phase 2 of the project, and has dispute resolution provisions, as well as the ability to be amended by agreement, as an when, and indeed if it is required.
- 4.40 Collaboration is managed with a variety of co-ordinated meetings at Strategic, Operational and Construction Project delivery levels.
- 4.41 Lease of three floors to NNCA –Cabinet (October 2021) confirmed delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment to agree heads of terms for a lease and enter a 25-year lease on the lower ground, upper ground and first floors at a peppercorn rent to NNCA, including Service Charge Provisions.
- 4.42 Lease of two Upper floors – The project vision is for a 'creative' industry hub, and the Council will first explore letting the upper two floors to businesses the 'creative' industry sector with a view to 'break even' profitability.
- 4.43 It is envisaged that a marketing plan will be devised in conjunction with the Council's anchor tenant (NNCA), Asset Management colleagues, and as necessary appointed marketing agent/ advisors, to secure a creative sector tenant.
- 4.44 There is therefore anticipated to be a 'going rent' for the upper floors if let to a 'creative' industry tenant or tenants, but it will inevitably not be a full commercial rent that might otherwise be achieved.
- 4.45 It is further anticipated that if, following a reasonable period of marketing that no 'creative' industry tenant is identified, that the Council will, upon further engagement with stakeholders, pursue a commercial tenant to occupy the two upper floors on commercially acceptable terms.

- 4.46 Regardless of tenant type, it is anticipated that tenants on all floors of the property will be paying proportionally to the Service charge and running costs of their occupation as managed by the Council.
- 4.47 The 24 Guildhall Road premises is expected to be managed by the Council's Assets Team as an Investment property.
- 4.48 Delegation is herewith requested to the Assistant Director of Assets and Environment to agree suitable heads of terms and letting for a lease or leases in relation to the second and third floors of the premises and in line with the principles in 5.9.2 – 5.9.7 above.
- 4.49 The scheme will deliver:
- A place for ideas, culture, and inspiration
 - A place for young people and learning
 - A place for skills and employment - an extensive continuing professional development (CPD) programme, direct and indirect job opportunities.
 - A place to visit and enjoy – it will welcome 50,000 local and international visitors each year to NNCA and Northampton's Cultural Quarter.
 - A place of community and inclusion - a fully accessible public space engages all sectors of the community, creating pride in local heritage and social inclusion.
 - Increased spend in the town centre
 - Preserving a vital strategic asset in the town centre
 - Investment in the council's portfolio
 - Reduction in ongoing maintenance
- 4.50 The design process for the phase 2 works commenced in early September 2022. The programme milestones below Construction will commence in May 2023 with Construction Completion by November 2023. A detailed construction phase plan will be provided when the design process is complete.
- 4.51 Providing there are no unforeseen matters, the anticipated delivery programme for the completion of the construction works is by November 2023 is shown in Table 1 below.
- 4.52 It is envisaged that there will be a Section completion in relation to spaces to be leased to NNCA, who can then undertake their preparations for their opening concurrently to the completion of the remaining wider building works.

| Milestone | Indicative Dates |
|--|-------------------------|
| Professional Consultant Team Commence design | September 2022 |
| Cabinet - Business Case and funding approval | September 2022 |
| NNCA Design and Client Advisory integrate to the WNC Design Team | October 2022 |
| RIBA stages 1-4 (est. 18 weeks) | Sept 2022-Jan 2023 |
| Planning Application submitted | October 2022 |
| Procurement of Contractor | January - April 2023 |
| Planning Approval | February 2023 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Construction commences | May 2023 |
| Section Completion (NNCA spaces) | September 2023 |
| Construction Completion | November 2023 |
| Table 1 – Indicative Programme Phase 2 | |

5 Issues and Choices

- 5.1.1 It is envisaged that there will be a Section completion in relation to spaces to be leased to NNCA, who can then undertake their preparations for their opening concurrently to the completion of the remaining wider building works.
- 5.1.2 Agree to utilise the Towns fund to bring Phase 2 of the redevelopment project to conclusion, so to preserve the asset and assist in the strategic redevelopment of the town centre.
- 5.1.3 The council could decide to not to use the Towns Fund support, which would render parts of the property unoccupied. Further still, there would be potential the structural integrity and water tightness of the building could be compromised, causing long term damage to the building.
- 5.1.4 The inclusion of sustainable technologies would greatly help improve the buildings EPC (Environment Performance Certificate). This is an area which needs to be enhanced for compliancy with commercial building lettings in order to lease the property and make necessary revenue savings. Additional grant funds are being explored as part of current project activities.
- 5.1.5 Should funding not be made available, the building would not meet the legal requirement under the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard regulations in a couple of years from now, as well as not fulfil the council own energy and building targets.

6 Implications (including financial implications)

Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 The overall budget for the project is £3.25m. As part of the Towns Fund funding condition, all funds need to be spent by March 2025. A capital budget of £1.5m for West Northants contribution to the scheme has already been approved.

| Borrowing Costs | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | £k | £k | £k | £k | £k | £k |
| Repayment of principal | 0 | 0 | 36 | 36 | 37 | 109 |
| Interest | 48 | 47 | 45 | 44 | 42 | 226 |
| Total | 48 | 47 | 81 | 80 | 79 | 335 |

- 6.1.2 The figures in the table above estimate the revenue impact if the council chooses to borrow for their contribution to the scheme. As the capital budget is already included in the capital programme these costs will already be accounted for in the revenue account and there is no additional revenue impact as a result of this scheme proceeding.
- 6.1.3 The budget cost for the project has been calculated by the appointed cost consultants during phase 1. The very nature of the current cost inflation situation means that it is very hard to plan and fix costs in the current time and this is a potential risk.
- 6.1.4 The overall design will be drawn up and agreed with the partners NNCA to ensure that their requirements are met. However, WNC will retain control of the project and will be the accountable body for the grant. All spend on the project will be at the direction of WNC.
- 6.1.5 All capital expenditure on the project will be monitored through the council's finance software ERP Gold and an evolving cost plan based on up-to-date records of purchases. Finance officers will also be party to monthly board meetings for governance and compliancy.
- 6.1.6 £0.1m revenue costs for the capital project development and delivery, will be taken from the Towns Fund grant element, and this accounts for employed consultants who have prepared the Business Case or commented on it, officers who lead the project for the Council, and legal subsidy control advice costs to bring forward the Towns Fund Business Case, and bring the project forward through the delivery phase. The Towns Fund project is expected to be complete by winter 2023 at which time these delivery costs will substantially reduce, and cease following the defect period of the works.
- 6.1.7 It is anticipated that there will be long-term saving on maintenance costs and services relating to the floors NNCA will occupy and those occupied by others once the upper floors are let out. The tenants will be responsible for the service charges for their ongoing occupation of each lease, and the property will be managed by the Assets Team as an investment property in line with points 4.45 – 4.48 above
- 6.1.8 Prior to an occupation, the ongoing maintenance costs for the upper floors, will be identified and addressed as part of the annual budget-setting process.
- 6.1.9 It is noted that there are clear discrepancies between the Cabinet Reports considered by the former Northampton Borough Council and the West Northamptonshire Council which speaks directly to the nature of the works to be undertaken at 24 Guildhall Road, insofar it was understood that the works would be undertaken to the entire building. Cabinet must be satisfied that it had received further reports which establish the reasons behind the project change. It is planned that Phase 2 will conclude the works to the building, except for any ongoing maintenance responsibilities, which are intended to be kept to a minimum, by way of engaging with the marketing of the upper floors as soon as is practical.
- 6.1.10 The procurement and appointment of any consultant and/or contractor will be undertaken in strict accordance with the council's contract procedure rules.

- 6.1.11 Legal Services will continue in conjunction with any external legal provision required to support and provide all necessary legal advice in connection with this project. External legal advisors have to date provided legal advice (subsidy control advice) and their engagement may continue to complete instructions and accordingly must be budgeted for.
- 6.1.12 The risks identified below are significant in nature and could impact on the delivery of the project, accordingly if any issues arise from the identified risks these should be reported to Cabinet at a future meeting for any further decisions.
- 6.1.13 The Towns Fund funding has an obligation to complete the project by March 2025. The programme identified complies with the timescale.
- 6.1.14 NNCA's re-occupation is something that needs to be managed at a strategic level, as planning their return to the premises, and facility opening is naturally a significant and sensitive matter. For this purpose, the Council is meeting at both Strategic and Operational levels to ensure that the organisations needs are given suitable priority.
- 6.1.15 Mitigation measures to avoid significant disruption to the programme of works include extensive surveys and consultation with key stakeholders have been undertaken. There will also be provision within the construction contract where possible to ensure delays not foreseen and outside WNCs control are the responsibility of the contractor. There will also be regular communication with the funding body to alert them should any significant delays arise.
- 6.1.16 There is a foreseeable risk that due to the current extraordinary inflationary pressures on construction materials that the costs will exceed the budget for the project. This has been allowed for in the cost plan. The project planning has allowed for a period of VE discussions post construction tender to further mitigate this risk. All parties, including NNCA are aware of this, and ultimately, the construction contract that is let must be within the fully funded budget.
- 6.1.17 In the meantime, grants such as for Energy, such as the Salix Decarbonisation Grant, are being explored, as if available, could offset some of the Mechanical and Electrical upgrade costs, but cannot, at this stage be relied upon, and has not been accounted for.
- 6.1.18 Project management and governance controls have been put in place with financial management and reporting a key part of this. A Cost Consultant Surveyor has been appointed to the Design Team from inception to completion of the project. This will ensure costs are closely monitored, controlled and reported.
- 6.1.19 The new museum and art gallery share part of the 24 Guildhall Road premises, therefore works will need to be considered and phased around their needs and requirements. Regular consultation, co-operation and communication will be managed to best serve the project and the ongoing services.
- 6.1.20 Failure to deliver the Phase 2 refurbishment will result in reputational damage amongst key stakeholders and the public.

Consultation

- 7.1.1 The Town Centre Masterplan (TCM) included substantial consultation (via public exhibitions, online publication of consultation material, online surveys and distribution of leaflets and flyers) and informed the development of the projects for inclusion in the TCM. The 24 Guildhall Road refurbishment project is included as a key regeneration project in the TCM.
- 7.1.2 The 24 Guildhall Road arts centre was a top priority project in the Town Investment Plan
- 7.1.3 The 24 Guildhall Road arts centre and the partnership with NNCA will be used as a strategic asset to engage with the community through direct involvement in all the Northampton town centre regeneration projects.
- 7.1.4 The proposals have been presented to the Oversight and Delivery Group and Northampton Forward Board in August 2022 (31st August 2022) and comments from the board were incorporated into the proposals.

Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.1.5 N/A

Climate Impact

- 7.1.6 The materials used in the construction of the refurbishment will, where possible, be sourced in the UK to reduce the CO2 emissions caused through long distance transportation. All timber products will be sourced from ethical and accredited FSC suppliers.
- 7.1.7 The principal contractor that is procured for the project will be required to demonstrate social value including best practice to reduce the impact on the environment. The use of local sub-contractors will reduce the CO2 emissions caused through long distance travel.
- 7.1.8 Energy efficient/sustainable technologies will be used throughout with improvements to windows and doors to prevent drafts and heat loss. Air source heating units will be placed on the roof and will provide heating to the building to improve its energy efficiency rating.

Communications

- 7.1.9 The document has been assessed for accessibility. Progress on the project will be clearly communicated as part of the ongoing programme of publicity around the regeneration programme in Northampton.

Community Impact

- 7.1.10 Northampton town centre faces problems associated with antisocial behaviour, drug abuse and homelessness. The regeneration objectives and projects identified in the TCM aim to increase footfall and improve opportunities to live, work and socialise by rejuvenating core areas in the Town. The 24 Guildhall Road regeneration project will support these objectives and improve the outlook for the local community.

7.1.11 Local businesses have experienced a significant loss of footfall and revenue in recent years, which has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The 24 Guildhall Rod project will provide a destination that will attract more people to experience the town and its unique heritage and cultural venues. This will increase retail and leisure activity in the centre improving the outlook for local businesses.

7.1.12 The combined long-term effect of the regeneration projects proposed in the TCM will be to generate further private investment the area, improving job opportunities and therefore the quality of life for residents.

8 Background Papers

8.1 Northampton Towns Fund West Northamptonshire Cabinet Report July 2021

8.2 Cabinet Report Feb 2022 – Approval of borrowing for 24 Guildhall Road Phase 2

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