

# WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Cabinet Member For Corporate Services and HR:  
Councillor Mike Hallam**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Modernising Systems</b>
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## List of Appendices

**Appendix A - Report of the Modernising Systems Task and Finish Group**

**Appendix B – Review of Recommendations by Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1 To present to Cabinet for consideration, the findings and recommendations of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the findings of the Scrutiny Spotlight Review – Modernising Systems.

### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee established the Modernising Systems Task and Finish Group (the Task and Finish Group) with the purpose of making informed and evidenced based recommendations to Cabinet regarding modernising systems.

- 2.2 The Task and Finish Group undertook a Spotlight Review and presented its final report to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which was approved at its meeting on 15 May 2023.
- 2.3 The report of the Task and Finish Group is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.4 The report has been reviewed by Executive Leadership Team and their comments are attached at **Appendix B**.

### **3. Recommendations**

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3.1 It is recommended to Cabinet that it considers the recommendations of the Modernising Systems Task and Finish Group

#### **3.2 Reason for Recommendations**

The recommendation seeks to ensure that Cabinet considers the recommendations coming from the group.

### **4. Report Background**

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- 4.1 The purpose of this Scrutiny review was to provide scrutiny input into modernising systems. The key lines of enquiry were:
- To identify what good systems look like before any potential investments can be made.
  - To consider both the capital and revenue expenditure for modernising systems
  - To examine how transformation from services is joined up.
  - To understand the financial consequence for not modernising systems.
  - To recognise the benefits associated with the impact of modernising systems - for example, freeing up staff time and there no longer being the need to chase up data if automated.
- 4.2 Following approval of its work programme for 2021/2022, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Task and Finish Group comprising all members of the Committee, to undertake a spotlight review – Modernising Systems. It was timely for the review to commence in September 2022.
- 4.3 This review links to the Council’s corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority - Robust resource management but also it is acknowledged that systems underpin all of the council’s key activities and priorities as an enabling function.
- 4.4 Following the evidence gathering, the Task and Finish Group established its key findings and conclusions, details of which are contained within Section 4 of its report.

## **5. Issues and Choices**

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5.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendation of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and advise the Committee of its response to the recommendation.

5.2 The options available to Cabinet are to:

a) Respond immediately to the recommendation by either:

- i. Accepting the recommendation from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- ii. Accepting some of the recommendations from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- iii. Rejecting the recommendation from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Or:

b) Receive the report of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and report the response to the recommendation at a future meeting of Cabinet.

## **6 Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **Resources and Financial**

6.1 The recommendation of the Committee in relation to the Council increasing its spend on ICT and considering the appropriate percentage to be put into the budget annually; the cost of which would be found from the service areas; would have an impact on budgets; as could the recommendation regarding increasing the pace of transformational change in respect of digital and core systems.

### **Legal**

6.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees have statutory powers under section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 which includes to review or scrutinise decisions Cabinet is planning to take, those it plans to implement, and those that have already been taken/implemented.

6.3 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 7 of the Council's Constitution.

### **Risk**

6.4 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee had regard to any risks and mitigation factors associated with the recommendation as detailed at paragraph 3 of this report.

### **Consultation and Communications**

6.5 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and HR, together with Senior Officers from Corporate Services provided evidence to the Task and Finish Group.

6.6 There is no further requirement for the Committee to consult prior to making recommendations to Cabinet.

### **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

6.7 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and approved the report of the Task and Finish Group at its meeting on 15 May 2023.

### **Climate Impact**

6.8 There are no significant climate impact issues arising from this report.

### **Community Impact**

6.9 There are no significant community impact issues arising from this report.

## **7 Background Papers**

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Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee - agenda and minutes of the meeting of 15 May 2023

Report of the Modernising Systems Task and Finish Group (May 2023)