

West Northamptonshire Council Cabinet
Record of Decisions taken on 20th June 2021

Item	Subject	Decision	Responsible Officer
04	Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2021	RESOLVED: That the Cabinet approved the minutes of the meeting of the Shadow Executive held on 20 April 2021.	Sofia Neal-Gonzalez
05	West Northamptonshire Council Corporate Plan 2021-2025	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the Corporate Plan subject to further review, consultation and stakeholder engagement on the detailed implementation of the priorities within the services, and 2. Delegated to the Chief Executive final approval in Consultation with the Leader <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The recommendation was made in order that West Northants Council sets a clear foundation for its future planning and direction aligned to its stated vision of making West Northants “a great place to live, work, visit and thrive”. It is important that the priorities to achieve the Council’s vision provide a clear reference point to link all decision making back to and provide a clear direction to inform all service planning. 2. It is common and best practice for Councils to publish such plans as a means to communicate their priorities, for stakeholders to be clear on what the future holds and for everyone to understand what future success would look like and how it will be measured. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>None. The plan is required as the first formal statement of the intent and commitment of the new Council and to set out where its focus will be as it moves towards longer term planning, service design and transformation.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	Anna Earnshaw
06	Transformation Task and Finish Group update	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorsed the agreed Transformation Priority Plan timeline to disaggregate the hosted services between North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. 2. Endorsed the principles of transformation as laid out in section 4.5 (a) to (l), inclusive <p>REASONS:</p> <p>The recommendations were both agreed outputs of the Joint North Northamptonshire Council and West</p>	Jane Carr

		<p>Northamptonshire Council Members Transformation Task and Finish Group</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p> <p>DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
07	<p>School Minor Works budget to address condition issues in West Northamptonshire Maintained Schools Estate – 2021/2022</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the 2021/22 'School Minor Works' budget to rectify condition issues in WNC maintained schools, ensuring the Council continues to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate; 2. Noted that WNC's allocation of 'School Condition Allocation' funding for 2021/22 has been confirmed by the DfE at £1,629,546 and agree that this grant funding will be utilised as WNC's 'School Minor Works' budget for 2021/22; 3. Noted that any works undertaken under the 'Schools Minor Works' budget will be delivered as part of a rolling programme of conditions surveys at maintained schools in the Local Authority <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WNC will continue to fulfil its statutory obligation of maintaining its school estate; 2. The recommended course of action is the most effective and prevents delays in procuring essential works; 3. Consistency with previous decisions. This is the third year of the 'School Minor Works' programme. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>This paper relates to the fulfilment of WNC's statutory obligation of maintaining its maintained schools estate. If WNC take no action the schools estate will deteriorate and remedial works will represent a greater financial liability when requiring to be addressed in the future. The grant would also need to be returned to central Government.</p> <p>Failure to address works categorised as 'urgent' or 'required immediately' would increase the risk of serious health and safety incident(s) occurring, with schools potentially having to close as a result of condition issues and pupils being unable to access</p>	Cathi Hadley

		<p>education. This is not considered to be a viable option.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
08	Residential and nursing care services for older people – interim commissioning intentions	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the commissioning activity to date along with ongoing intentions to commission and procure residential and nursing care services for the future. 2. Approved for delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing to undertake a procurement exercise to secure and implement an interim Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) framework to commence the 1 September 2021 for a period of 12-months. 3. Approved the proposed fee rate inflationary uplift of 2.65% for 2021-22 to support market delivery cost pressures. <p>REASONS: The recommendations underpinned strategic commissioning intentions to design and procure a new outcome-based delivery model for older peoples residential and nursing care for the long-term purchasing of effective, sustainable and affordable provision supply that enables West Northamptonshire Council to fulfil its statutory duties to meet care needs and shape the local care market</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: The option to proceed with procurement tender only when the cost of care and fee structure work had been completed was considered and rejected. The current Care Home Services Framework and DPS contracts would expire as per the existing terms and from 1 September 2021 the Council would seek to secure supply of residential and nursing care services on a spot-purchased basis until long-term commissioning arrangements are secured. A further report would be presented to Cabinet in due course to seek approval for future arrangements. While spot purchasing can be used to secure services, this approach can increase susceptibility to variable pricing and is not the most effective way of managing cost and supply.</p> <p>CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	Stuart Lackenby

09	National Bus Strategy	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the challenges faced by the bus industry due to COVID-19 and the funding that is being provided by the Government and Council to ensure that bus services continue to operate, as set out in Section 5 of this report; 2. Noted the publication of Bus Back Better, the National Bus Strategy for England, as summarised in Section 6 of this report; 3. Committed to the formation of an Enhanced Partnership under the Bus Service Act 2017, for the reasons set out in Section 7 of this report; and 4. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways & Waste Services to prepare an Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan to be brought back to Cabinet for approval. <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve bus services for West Northamptonshire communities and minimise the risk of any communities losing their bus service; 2. To facilitate climate and environmental benefits through increasing bus use and the operation of more low emission buses; 3. To contribute to the implementation of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (the Local Transport Plan); 4. To enable the Council to access the funding being made available by Government to support the National Bus Strategy. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>As an alternative option to the formation of an Enhanced Partnership, it is open to the Council to consider Franchising, although Government has made clear in the National Bus Strategy that due to the lengthy process involved in developing and approving a Franchise model, Local Transport Authorities should develop an Enhanced Partnership in the meantime.</p> <p>Under the Bus Services Act, an Enhanced Partnership must contribute to the implementation of an authority's local transport policies, which for West Northamptonshire are currently the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (Local</p>	Stuart Timmiss
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		<p>Transport Plan) previously prepared by the County Council.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
10	Acquisition of the University of Northampton's Avenue Campus	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet Delegated to the Executive Director for Place, Economy and the Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Housing, the completion of the acquisition of the University of Northampton's Avenue Campus in St George's Avenue, Northampton Avenue Campus excluding the Newton Building to enable development to be taken forward as described in this report.</p> <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To enable the council to fulfil its statutory housing functions. 2. Increase the supply of affordable housing to meet local housing needs <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>The Decision was made not to purchase the Newton Building The original assumption in the NBC Cabinet report was that the Newton Building was required for Office Accommodation and provision for the acquisition was included in the HRA Capital Programme. WNC officers are clear that if there was a requirement for the Newton Building to be used for office accommodation then there is not the ability to charge the acquisition to the HRA. It would have to be a general fund purchase. There is no budget in the general fund capital programme to support the acquisition of the Newton Building and therefore if there was the desire to purchase the Newton Building then an additional capital budget would need to be approved by full council before being able to proceed. However, this point is largely academic as there is a more fundamental issue in that officers do not believe there is currently any need for further office accommodation to be held by the Council as it has sufficient office accommodation with its existing estate to accommodate all office accommodation needs. Therefore, it would not be good use of public funds to acquire further office accommodation when there is currently no requirement for it and this approach cannot be supported. As a result, the</p>	Stuart Timmiss

		<p>advice is that the acquisition of Newton Building by the Council should not proceed.</p> <p>The affordability of the purchase and development of the University Campus (excluding the Newton Building): In the previous business case it was assumed that a certain level of Homes England funding would be received. The expectation is that we will still receive a level of funding but to be prudent we have recalculated the business case and estimated the impact on the HRA in 2021-22 to see if the development is still viable under different scenarios of Homes England funding. Appendix D provides full detail of the funding models that include best and worst case scenarios.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
11	Report of Amendments to the Constitution	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The changes to the Constitution already made by the Monitoring Officer under her delegated power be noted 2. The proposed changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, aside from the changes under Part 8, paragraph 7. 3. Delegated power be granted to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution to give effect to the agreements for joint arrangements with LGSS (Cambridgeshire, Bedford, Milton Keynes) Northampton Partnership Homes and North Northamptonshire Council. 4. A further review of the Constitution and Member Officer Protocol be carried out by the Democracy and Standards Committee and referred to a future meeting of Council <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council must have a Constitution and that document must be kept up to date. 2. Executive delegations and amendments require approval by the Executive as all Executive functions sit solely with the Executive. 3. The proposed changes will support decision making and enable the Council to carry out its functions. 	Catherine Whitehead

		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: Failure to make the recommended changes could result in a Constitution that is not up to date or fit for purpose.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
12	Appointments to Partnership Organisations	<p>RESOLVED: Cabinet noted that the Leader will inform Democratic Services of the Appointments to Partnership Organisations.</p> <p>REASONS: Appointments to Partnership Organisations are required in order to ensure correct democratic representation on a number of bodies to which members may be appointed.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: There are none.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	Catherine Whitehead
13	Northampton North West Relief Road – progress update, funding approvals and approval of procurement of utility works	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted continued progress to deliver the Northampton North West Relief Road; 2. Supported the capital investment required to complete this scheme as set out in Section 6.1 of this report and required to proceed to construction including forward funding against future S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy payments; 3. Agreed to progress a bid to the Levelling Up Fund for £20 million; 4. Noted SEMLEP's proposed conditions on the continued financial support from the Local Growth Fund as set out in Section 5.2. <p>REASONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The scheme is identified within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy as being required to support anticipated additional growth, much of which is already consented requiring the additional highway capacity the scheme provides to mitigate their impacts. 2. The Levelling Up Fund provides an opportunity to gain the additional financial support the project requires and the project is a very good fit to the aims and requirements of this funding opportunity. 3. The £7.93 million Local Growth Deal funding administered by SEMLEP provides an essential contribution to the project funding. 	Stuart Timmiss

		<p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>The road is required in order to improve the highway network and help to address traffic problems in parts of northern Northampton and surrounding villages. By providing additional capacity the road will help to enable development including the major Sustainable Urban Extensions at Buckton Fields, Dallington Grange and Northampton West.</p> <p>During previous consultation, 64% of those responding to the consultation supported the need for the North West Relief Road. A number of respondents commented on potential flooding, noise and visual impacts and the severance of rights of way or thought that the road should be built as a dual carriageway from the outset. There was also significant concern expressed about possible traffic impacts due to the road opening before the Northampton Northern Orbital Road and it was suggested that the two roads should be built at the same time. However, there were very few suggestions that an alternative route would be more advantageous.</p> <p>CONFLICT OF INTERESTS DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED: None.</p>	
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Date Issued: 9 June 2021

Expiry of call-in period: 5pm, 16 June 2021