

Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 3 May 2022

1. Date of publication of this summary: 3rd May 2022
2. Deadline for requests for call-in (detailing reasons for doing so): 10th May 2022
3. Earliest date for implementation of decisions: 10th May 2022
4. Urgent decisions taken and not subject to the call-in procedure: 3rd May 2022

Agenda Item and Recommendations	Decision
<p>Agenda Item 3 Minutes</p> <p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 12th April 2022.</p>	<p>The minutes from the Cabinet meeting of the 12th April 2022 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 6 Highways Contract Procurement Update</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the continued progress to procure new arrangements for highways and transport services and the readiness to make an award post Final Tender submission and evaluation in May 2022; b) Agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director Place, Economy and Environment and Executive Director Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Services, and the Portfolio Holder for Finance to award the contract. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Council had a statutory duty to provide highways services as set out in the Highways Act 1980. b) The Council must provide these services and the Council is procuring a new contract in order to

	<p>do so in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Failure to make an award would have a number of implications for the Council, not least the need to establish and mobilise alternative delivery arrangements from the end of the KierWSP contract in September 2022 and the cost and risk associated with commissioning and /or delivering an alternative solution in the medium to long term. d) The delegations requested would enable the procurement process to proceed with appropriate governance through to its conclusion. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None</p>
<p>Agenda Item 7 Modern Income Management Solution</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the completion of the procurement of the Income Management Solution; and b) Delegated authority to Executive Director Corporate in consultation with Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services to award the contract to the identified best fit supplier. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expiry of the incumbent contracts – all contracts expire in 2023 without the ability to extend any further. A competitive process needed to be followed to ensure continuity of the functionality required of income management systems, whilst creating an opportunity to harmonise and modernise the income management systems inherited by West Northamptonshire Council. 2. Economies of scale – by choosing to implement the Income Management Solution with partners, implementation and support costs would be shared, providing better value for money for the taxpayer. Furthermore, expertise and experience gained from partner

organisations can be used to benefit citizens of West Northamptonshire Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Option 1 – Shared Income Management Solution

- This option would have seen West Northamptonshire Council pool their resources with partner organisations with whom they currently share Accounting System and back-office support teams to procure, develop and implement an Income Management Solution benefitting from economies of scale and scope, and accumulated expertise and knowledge across all partner organisations.
- This option was recommended having scored the highest in the Options Appraisal.

Option 2 – Individual Income Management Solution

- This option would have seen West Northamptonshire Council independently procure, develop, and implement an Income Management Solution for sole use of the council. Technically, this is equally as viable as Option 1, however, it does not offer the opportunity for additional efficiencies and the benefits of economies of scale and therefore would result in reduced long term cost savings. West Northamptonshire Council would be fully responsible for the procurement, development, implementation and ongoing support of the solution and therefore incur the whole burden of the cost.

Option 3 – Extend Existing Contracts

- West Northamptonshire Council to extend the contracts with the incumbent suppliers.
- This option was deemed not viable as West Northamptonshire Council will be in breach of Public Contract

	<p>Regulation 2015 opening them to challenge from prospective suppliers denied the opportunity to bid for the business.</p> <p>Option 4 – Do Nothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This option was deemed not viable as after the current contracts expire in 2023, West Northamptonshire Council would lose the ability to effectively receive, manage and allocate monies from their service users.
<p>Agenda Item 8 Hunsbury Park SEND unit</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Approved the publication of the statutory notice of its intent to establish a new, 50 place, SEND unit catering to pupils with a primary need of ASC, at Hunsbury Park Primary School.b) Noted that following the publication of the statutory notice a four week period of consultation on this matter will commence.c) Noted that a further, final decision will be required in July as to whether or not to establish the proposed SEND unit at Hunsbury Park Primary School. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposal would help ensure that the Council is able to fulfil its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of SEND places within West Northamptonshire.• The proposal would provide an increased number of SEND places and will help ensure that children with additional needs were able to access education in a provision that is best placed to meet their individual needs.• The proposal could be considered to benefit all West Northamptonshire primary schools as it will reduce the need for mainstream school settings to provide places to children with additional needs where that provision is not best placed to meet

a child's additional needs.

- The recommended course of action was the most cost-effective and will reduce pressure on the High Needs Block (HNB) element of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) via a reduction in the number of children being required to be placed in more expensive out of county and independent provisions to meet their individual needs.
- The Council and its customers would receive the maximum benefit from the option proposed.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

- Do nothing: This option would result in the failure of WNC fulfilling its statutory obligation of providing a sufficiency of SEND places in West Northamptonshire. It would also result in the requirement to utilise places in increasingly distant and more expensive places within the independent sector, which would place a further strain on the HNB of the DSG. If WNC cannot demonstrate that it is able to manage its DSG allocation in a balanced position (or have plans to do so) this would result in intervention by the DfE. This option would have also prevented WNC from addressing issues relating to the timely provision of places in an appropriate setting for pupils in receipt of an EHC plan. This option was discounted for these reasons.
- To provide the additional SEND places at another education setting: WNC officers have engaged in discussions with a significant number of area schools relating to the possible provision of additional SEND places. However, a number of important criteria must be considered and met before a setting can be considered suitable to provide SEND places;
 - The setting/operator must have the relevant expertise or proven track record of delivering a

- successful SEND provision;
- The setting must be willing to provide places that would meet the type of need specified by WNC;
- The capital cost of the proposed scheme must be cost effective and meet value for money considerations;
- The school must be located in or close to the areas of highest demand for SEND places (to reduce home to school transport costs);
- It must be possible to deliver new capacity at the setting by September 2022 (ideally) or September 2023 (at the latest);
- The school must have the physical space available to accommodate an increased number of pupils on its site.