

# WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

## RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

13 September 2022

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Recommendations submitted by Overview and Scrutiny Committees</b>
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### List of Appendices

- Appendix A: Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Levelling up fund – Future rounds process**  
**Appendix B: People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children’s services performance**  
**Appendix C: People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Proposed changes to the provision of NHS outpatient renal dialysis services in Northampton and the change of use of Riverside House**

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

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- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of recommendations made by the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## 2. Executive Summary

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The Council's overview and scrutiny function is responsible for monitoring decisions made by the Cabinet, advising the Council on forthcoming decisions and assisting with the development of policy. The function also deals with decisions made by the Cabinet which have been called-in for scrutiny by members.

- 2.1 This report summarises recommendations made by the Council's Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and People Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the following topics:
- Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Levelling up fund – Future rounds process.
  - People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children's services performance.
  - People Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Proposed changes to the provision of NHS outpatient renal dialysis services in Northampton and the change of use of Riverside House.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 28 June 2022, the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee was required to consider a call-in request in relation to a decision taken by Cabinet on 14 June 2022 concerning the UK Levelling Up Fund Round Two. After the Committee heard the evidence, it resolved that:
- a) The Call in be rejected on the grounds that the Levelling Up Fund round 2 must be submitted by 6 July 2022.
  - b) It recommended to Cabinet that the consultation process for the Levelling Up - Round 3 is reviewed in order that early in the consultation process includes all ward Members and the voluntary sector are included as consultees.
- A full summary of the committee's recommendations and the background to the issue is set out at Appendix A
- 2.3 The People Overview and Scrutiny has a remit which includes scrutiny relating to children, families and education. The Committee receives updates on children's services performance on a quarterly basis from Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT), the latest of which was received on 21 June 2022.
- 2.4 The Committee considered information on progress with the overall development and improvement of children's services; demand and performance in key areas; achievements over the past year and priorities for the immediate future. The performance update was presented by the Chief Executive, Director of Children's Services and Director of Finance and Resources from NCT. In considering the performance update the Committee noted that 47% of children in care in Northamptonshire had an initial health assessment within 28 days of entering care in 2021/22. The Committee raised the need to improve performance in this area and resolved that it should highlight this need to the Cabinet. A full summary of the committee's recommendations and the background to the issue is set out at Appendix B.
- 2.5 The People Overview and Scrutiny Committee also undertakes the Council's statutory responsibilities for scrutinising the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the Council's area. At its meeting on 21 June 2022 the Committee considered proposals for changes to the provision of outpatient renal dialysis services in Northampton. The proposed changes involve the relocation of an existing unit from the ground floor of Riverside House to a new site in the town.

2.6 The Committee considered the requirements relating to dialysis services and the case for moving the existing unit. The Committee ultimately resolved to support the need to relocate the outpatient renal dialysis unit at Riverside House from its current site. The Committee also resolved to highlight the issues relating to the redevelopment work at Riverside House to the Cabinet, with a view to identifying if there was any learning that should be taken from this matter. A full summary of the committee's recommendations and the background to the issue is set out at Appendix C.

### **3. Recommendations**

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3.1 It is recommended that:

- a) the consultation process for Levelling Up - Round 3 is reviewed in order that early in the consultation process all ward Members and the voluntary sector are included as consultees (recommendation from Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
- b) Cabinet recognises the need to improve performance from the current position of 47% of children in care receiving an initial health assessment within 28 days of entering care (recommendation from People Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
- c) Cabinet looks into issues arising from the change of use of Riverside House from office space to housing that have affected its continued suitability as a site for outpatient renal dialysis, in order to support effective partnership working (recommendation from People Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

### **4. Reason for Recommendations**

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4.1 The recommendations seek to bring to the attention of the Cabinet issues identified by the Council's overview and scrutiny committees arising from recent scrutiny work.

### **5. Report Background**

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- 5.1 The Council operates an overview and scrutiny function that undertakes a number of roles including monitoring the decisions made by the Cabinet, advising the Council on forthcoming decisions and the development of policy.
- 5.2 The function also deals with decisions taken by the Cabinet that have been called-in. Call-in enables consideration as to whether the decision made was appropriate and the function may recommend that the Cabinet reconsiders the decision.
- 5.3 The full background to the issues that are the subject of the recommendations set out in Section 3 are set out in the appendices to this report.

## **6. Issues and Choices**

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- 6.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendations by the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and provide responses to the committees.
- 6.2 The committees have made these recommendation with a view to highlighting to the Cabinet matters concerning the effectiveness of services provided to the residents of West Northamptonshire.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1 Resources and Financial**

- 7.1.1 The recommendations made by the overview and scrutiny committees do not have any direct resources or financial implications.

### **7.2 Legal**

- 7.2.1 Overview and Scrutiny operates within the provisions as set out in:

- the Local Government Act 2000
- the Health and Social Care Act 2001
- the Local Government Act 2003
- the Police and Justice Act 2006
- the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
- the Localism Act 2011
- the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- the Overview and Scrutiny (Reference by Councillors) (Excluded Matters) (England) Order 2012
- the Health and Social Care Act 2012
- the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013

- 7.2.2 The West Northamptonshire Council Constitution (December 2021) Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules section 6 sets out the following provisions relating to reports by Overview and Scrutiny committees:

- 6.1 *Once recommendations have been formed, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee may submit a formal report for consideration by the Cabinet (if the proposals relate to an executive function and are consistent with the existing budgetary and Policy Framework), or to the Council as appropriate (if the recommendation would require a departure from or a change to the agreed budget and Policy Framework).*
- 6.2 *The Council or the Cabinet shall consider the report of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the next available meeting. The Council or the Cabinet shall respond to*

*that Overview and Scrutiny Committee within two months (or following the next available meeting in the case of the Council) of it being submitted.*

7.2.3 Call-in is the exercise of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee's statutory power in section 21(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 to review an Executive decision that has been made but not yet implemented. Where a decision is called in and an Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to refer it back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, it cannot be implemented until the call-in procedure is complete.

### **7.3 Risk**

7.3.1 Recommendations made by the overview and scrutiny committees are often intended to highlight an apparent area for improvement relating to service performance. Not agreeing the recommendations could risk a loss of focus on the continuing development of effective services for West Northamptonshire.

### **7.4 Consultation**

7.4.1 Information about consultation undertaken by the overview and scrutiny committees prior to developing their recommendations is set out in the appendices to this report.

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

7.5.1 This report concerns matters that were considered by the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **7.6 Climate Impact**

7.6.1 There are no climate impact issues arising from this report.

### **7.7 Community Impact**

7.7.1 There are no community impact issues arising from this report.

## **8. Background Papers**

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Cabinet Report of 14 June 2022 Item 10 – Levelling Up - Round 2

Decision Notice – Cabinet of 14 June 2022 Item 10 – Levelling Up - Round 2

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee – agenda and minutes – 28 June 2022

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee – agenda and minutes – 21 June 2022