

**Summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the
Cabinet held on Tuesday 11 October 2022**

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

Agenda Item and Recommendations	Decision
<p>Agenda Item 5 Amendments to the Articles of Association</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted that from the 1st April 2021 the Council became a social housing provider for the entire West Northants area and the AoA were being amended to reflect this. b) Noted changes to the AoA which NPH will consider to enable them to operate within the wider West Northants area. c) Delegated to the Director of Communities and Opportunities the preparation of a new Management Agreement with NPH to incorporate the arrangements for NPH to operate in the wider area to be agreed at a future Cabinet meeting. <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that the necessary steps are taken to enable the Council to carry out the role of social housing provider across the whole of the Council area. 2. To strengthen and modernise the governance framework with NPH through amendments to the AoA and management agreement. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p>

	<p>Failure to maintain the AoA would mean the opportunity to strengthen and modernise the governance framework would be lost.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 6 Proposal to extend the age-range at Parklands Maintained Nursery School from 2-3 to 2-4 years of age via the incorporation of Parklands Playgroup</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <p>a) Approved the proposal to lower the admission age range at Parklands MNS from 3 years to 2 years to enable the Nursery School to offer provision to 2-year-old children from 31 October 2022.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To ensure compliance with the statutory process for changing the age range by 1 year. 2) To ensure the council is able to provide a sufficient number of places for 2-year-olds within the Parklands community in future years. 3) To enable Children to benefit from high quality teaching and learning experiences at a younger age led by a deputy head with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). 4) To provide improved transition arrangements for children from 2-year-old provision to 3–4- year-old provision with all children fully integrated into the nursery. <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:</p> <p>Do nothing – this would lead to a decrease of places for 2-year-olds within the community due to the closure of Parklands Pre-school</p> <p>Creation of 8 FTE places at Parklands MNS would ensure sufficiency of places for 2-year-olds in high quality provision led by the Deputy with QTS.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 7 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review 2021/22</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <p>a) Noted the proposed improvements to the process for administering and responding to Ombudsman enquiries in paragraph 2.7.</p> <p>b) Noted the proposed practice improvements set out at paragraph 2.8.4.</p>

	<p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <p>1) The recommendations are focussed on encouraging local resolution at an earlier stage in the complaints process and to empower managers to resolve complaints at a local level and increase the satisfaction rate of cases remedied before they reach the LGSCO.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>The report is for information.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 8 Household Support Fund 3 Proposal: Distribution of Funds and Recipients for HSF3</p>	<p>RESOLVED: That Cabinet;</p> <p>a) Noted that the Household Support Fund (3) investment was to be managed locally.</p> <p>b) Approved the Recommended Scope and Diversity of Distribution as set out in section 4 of the report.</p> <p>c) Approved the control and oversight approach to be undertaken through a central operational team.</p> <p>d) Authorised any funds that had not been assigned or committed to by 31st January 2023 according to the distribution methodology set out in section 4, to be redistributed in line with the wider Department for Work and Pensions Guidelines (attached to the report as Appendix A).</p> <p>e) Agreed that Table 1 at paragraph 5.6 of the report be amended to clarify that the amount available per foodbank is “up to £20k per food bank as assessed on a case0by-case basis”</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <p>1) To ensure that the Household Support Fund (3) is directed to funding a lower income sector of the working community, and families with children.</p> <p>2) To enable the distribution of funds to meet the wider communities’ financial needs, where other grants and funding are not available.</p> <p>3) To ensure that the application process is managed in-house to provide additional security and confidentiality of data.</p> <p>4) To minimise the duplication of grants for the same purpose.</p>

- 5) To provide financial support to underpin the West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy and ensure residents most in need receive that support.
- 6) To build on the successful Household Support Fund (2) partnership with the VCSE in distributing funds via the downstream voluntary organisations to residents that may not otherwise be identified through the benefits system.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

There were three considerations that have been considered by officers:

Wider Distribution Option – this option created a wide range of recipients for delivery over the six months of the scheme. It included families with children, households on low income, pensioners, community hubs and donations to food banks. It was felt that this option was too complex and may confuse residents where applications were required. It was discounted due to feasibility concerns.

Simple Segmentation – this option consolidated many of the recipient types which simplified and enhanced the understanding of the delivery scope. However, it was felt that a greater proportion of the funds should be provided to families with children and households who are receiving a very low income despite a working household member. It was discounted due to a desire to recalibrate the distribution of the funds.

Lower Income Segment – was the preferred option and represents the recommendation within this report. This option rebalanced the funding for families with children and the lower income segment but also allowed funds to be allocated to the community through food banks, community engagement activities, voluntary organisations and support for households with winter emergencies

**Agenda Item 9
New Public Spaces Protection Order**

RESOLVED:

(PSPO) for the former Daventry District and former South Northants administrative areas of West Northamptonshire Council

that Cabinet:

a) Approved the introduction of a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) across the former Daventry and South Northants District administrative areas of WNC with all nine proposed measures set out at paragraph 2.4 above to be included, to remain in force for a period of three years until September 2025.

b) Resolved that the Draft PSPO at Appendix A shall be made by the Council as a result.

c) Delegate the power to formally make the PSPO and to comply with the remaining statutory requirements to bring it into force (as set out in the legal implications at paragraph 7.2 below) to the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

d) Agree to the gathering of further evidence take place between October and December 2022 and consultation to commence in January 2023 to determine if additional measures may be required regarding dog fouling on sports pitches. The consultation to be agreed with the Portfolio Holder prior to start.

REASONS RESOLVED:

Section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides local authorities with powers to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) where they are satisfied that activities carried out in a public place:

- Have had, or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- Is, or is likely to be persistent or continuing in nature.
- Is, or is likely to be unreasonable.
- Justify the restrictions to be imposed.

Not having a PSPO currently in place makes it more difficult for the Council and Police Officers to control dog-related nuisance across the area or to enforce the prohibition of smoking in specific open spaces.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

	<p>Not having a PSPO currently in place makes it more difficult for the Council and Police Officers to control dog-related nuisance across the area or to enforce the prohibition of smoking in specific open spaces.</p> <p>All nine proposals have been strongly supported in the public consultation, as shown by the material included within Appendix B.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 10 Procurement of Elections Stationery and Printing Services</p> <p>To delegate authority to Director of Legal and Democratic to award a print supplier with contract for printing of election stationery.</p>	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>that the Cabinet;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agreed that the Council proceeds with the procurement of a maximum five-year year contract for the supply of elections stationery and printing services; and b) Delegated to the Director for Legal and Democratic Services authority to conduct the procurement in accordance with paragraph 6 of this report and award to the successful bidder <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <p>To ensure that the Council can comply with its statutory duties in relation to the conduct of elections.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with the Council's contract procedure rules and national procurement legislation in relation to the procurement of public contracts.</p> <p>To ensure that the procurement takes place before the expiry of the current contract.</p> <p>To ensure that the Council's printers are able to meet the very specific requirements relating to the printing of election materials.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>Other options that have been ruled out are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework agreements such as CCS RM6170-Lot 2- Print

	<p>Management Services – these agreements limit the options of printers with the relevant election experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-house printing - due to the specialist nature of this printing the in-house department are not able to provide the service required.
<p>Agenda Item 11 Adoption and community use of assets</p>	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Authorised consultation on the draft Adoption of Assets Policy. Adopted on an interim basis the draft Adoption of Assets Policy, pending the results of the consultation. Adopts the draft Policy on Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Council Property. That paragraph 3.2 on page 559 to be amended to read "The lists will be agreed in consultation with Cabinet and thereafter..." <p>REASONS RESOLVED:</p> <p>To provide a clear basis on which the Council takes decisions about the adoption of assets and about the use of its assets by voluntary, community, social enterprise, and faith groups.</p> <p>To retain member oversight and input on assets being listed as available.</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:</p> <p>It is proposed to adopt the Adoption of Assets policy on an interim basis whilst formal consultation is carried out on it, as continuing to operate without a policy framework is undesirable.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 12 Office Optimisation Stage 1 building adaptations budget and disposals</p>	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agree to the proposed new capital budget of £2 million to carry out

Stage 1 of the Office Optimisation project and recommend to Council that the Capital budget is amended to reflect the proposed change.

- b) Authorise the Assistant Director Assets & Environment to procure and award the contracts to deliver the Stage 1 works.
- c) Authorise the Assistant Director Assets & Environment in consultation with the Executive Director Finance and Cabinet Member for Finance to dispose of the Lodge Road offices, in whole or part, by leasehold or freehold, for the best consideration reasonably obtainable.
- d) Agree that the Lodge Road offices be vacated by 31st March 2023 in order that the revenue savings and/or capital gains be achieved as quickly as practicable thereafter.

REASONS RESOLVED:

To provide an effective accommodation solution, and best value for the residents of West Northamptonshire in consideration of service operating models and Council objectives.

To provide a fit for purpose facility to replace the Lodge Road offices for Council services which enables the wider objective to provide cost effective accommodation.

To reduce the Council's energy use and carbon emissions.

To ensure timely delivery of financial improvements

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The choices on the budget open to the Council are as follows.

- a. Do nothing. This would not enable the closure of Lodge Road to Council services, retain a high level of under-used office space, not contribute to savings goals or the development of a unified 'one

	<p>Council' culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Approve the proposed budget. This would enable the work to proceed and the new Daventry hub to be created. c. Instead seek to purchase or lease office accommodation elsewhere in central Daventry. This is unlikely to provide suitable accommodation and location, and would not optimise use of the Abbey. It would involve new lease rent or purchase costs. <p>Given the time required to deliver the Stage 1 works, procurement will need to commence as soon as possible. For this reason, formal Cabinet authority for procurement is recommended to be granted now, and in advance of Council approval of the budget.</p> <p>It is undesirable for the Council to hold vacant or partially vacant Lodge Road offices any longer than necessary. This incurs costs, leaves the building vulnerable, and does not make any economic or social contribution to Daventry. It is therefore recommended that authority is granted to enable its disposal for the most economically advantageous outcome.</p> <p>However, it is also possible that the building might deliver greater benefits from other Council uses. These will also be tested prior to any decision to dispose.</p>
<p>Agenda Item 15 Options and Business Case relating to the future delivery of legal services - EXEMPT</p>	<p>RESOLVED: The recommendation as set out in the report was approved.</p> <p>REASONS RESOLVED: Not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972</p> <p>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: Not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972</p>