



Democratic Services  
County Hall  
Northampton  
NN1 1DN

## CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2016 at 1:00pm

Venue: The Blue Room, County Hall, Northampton (Meeting held in public)

### PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Cabinet Member	Portfolio
Councillor Heather Smith	Leader of the Council
Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage	Deputy Leader & Public Protection
Councillor Robin Brown	Finance
Councillor Matt Golby	Children's Services and Education
Councillor Ian Morris	Transport, Highways & Environment
Councillor Bill Parker	Adult Care Delivery
Councillor Suresh Patel	Corporate Parenting

### OTHER COUNCILLORS PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Councillor Sally Beardsworth	Councillor Michael Clarke
Councillor Brendan Glynane	Councillor James Hakewill
Councillor Stan Heggs	Councillor Jill Hope
Councillor Phil Larratt	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Chris Lofts	Councillor Malcolm Longley
Councillor John McGhee	Councillor Allan Matthews
Councillor Bob Scott	Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Allen Walker	

### ALSO PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Officer	Role
Dr Akeem Ali	Corporate Director People Commissioning
Matt Bowmer	LGSS Director of Finance
Tony Ciaburro	Corporate Director Place Commissioning
Catherine Greenfield	Democracy Officer
Laurie Gould	Monitoring Officer
Lesley Hagger	Director for Children, Families and Education
Paul Hanson	Democratic Services Manager (Minutes)
Dr Carolyn Kus	Director for Adult Social Care & Managing Director of Olympus Care Services Ltd
Damon Lawrenson	NCC Director of Finance

There were 7 members of the press and public in attendance.

112/16 Apologies for non attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Sylvia Hughes.

#### 113/16 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

#### 114/16 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

#### 115/16 Announcements

The Chairman explained that the Council's finances were the administration's foremost priority and the meeting was an ordinary meeting of the Cabinet which had been convened in order to discuss this subject. She welcomed the new Director For Children, Families and Education, Lesley Hagger and the new NCC Director for Finance, Damon Lawrenson, to the Council.

#### 116/16 Monthly Financial Report as at the end of June for the financial year ending 31 March 2017 including review of Budget Delivery Proposals.

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Brown, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The report represented an update on the Council's financial position, as discussed and agreed at the meeting in July;
- Any suggestion that the Council was not in control of its finances was untrue;
- A series of measures were in place to identify pressures on budgets and services;
- The Council would continue to act in a way that was fair and equitable and would protect the most vulnerable in society;
- The report proposed the start of consultation on a range of measures that would allow the Council to deliver its budget;
- A number of factors had changed since the Council set its budget in February, including changes in Central Government and to the way in which the Council was allocated funding;
- There was a pressure of £14.6m on the Council's budget;
- The Council had a statutory responsibility to live within its means and the proposals set out in the report would help to ensure the savings programme would be delivered;
- The overall aim was to improve services despite having a limited amount of money available.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was suggested that the pressure on the budget may not be limited to £14.6m;
- It was suggested that the proposed measures would have an impact on the most vulnerable and were not credible;
- Assistance should be sought from Central Government;
- Concern was expressed about the potential of the measure set out in the report to increase the problem of 'bed blocking';

- It was felt that there had not been sufficient time to properly consider the content of the report;
- The impact of population change on demand for service also had to be taken into account;
- Savings derived from assessments could have a negative impact on the NHS by contributing to 'bed blocking';
- It was suggested that the proposals should be debated and agreed by full Council as they represented a change to the budget; and
- 'Bed blocking' cost the taxpayer £50k a day and the proposals could make the situation worse.

The Chairman made the following points:

- The Council would come in on budget, and allegations that its finances were not under control were untrue;
- The health sector was stretched across the country; and
- Children's services had improved a lot but needed to be put on a sustainable footing for the future. Neighbouring authorities delivered good children's services at a lower per-capital cost.

Councillor Parker made the following points:

- He was holding weekly meetings with officers to discuss the delivery of the budget;
- The Care Quality Commission had recently judged services to be good, which demonstrated that the Council was exceeding the national average in terms of adult social care; and
- Plans to make additional savings were being developed in order to mitigate the pressures arising from non-delivery of the Better Care Fund savings proposal.

Councillor Patel stated that the Council had always had a good partnership working arrangement with the NHS and a meeting was due to take place to discuss the potential for savings on 3 August.

Councillor Golby made the following points:

- In response to pressure on Children's Services budgets, a number of mitigations were being considered;
- These included a review of children's mental health service provision, which was based on an old agreement with Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Youth Offending Service, which was delivered jointly with Police and Probation services, and the Children's Disability Service, which could be delivered in a more joined-up way;
- He praised the work undertaken by the Director and stated that it demonstrated that the Council was in control of its finances.

Councillor Brown made the following points in response:

- He praised the organisation for being on top of its finances and for being able to make the decisions necessary to live within its means;
- Going 'cap in hand' to the Government was not an option;
- The county was an area of growth, but the Council had to be effective and deal with this;
- Adult social care was a means-tested service and had to serve the most vulnerable in society;

- The report would enable the beginning of a consultation that would result in the budget being delivered, but of course there could be changes before the next meeting of Cabinet in September; and
- He would ensure that proposals would be as fair as possible to taxpayers and would promote efficiency and reduce bureaucracy.

The Chairman explained that the Council would continue to work with colleagues in the Health Service to find a way to address the issues set out in the report.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Noted the Council's financial position including the significant progress that has been made in delivering the 2016/17 budget savings ask of £65m, with 47% already delivered and in absorbing any in year pressures on services that have arisen since the budget was set in February 2016.**
- 2. Noted further potential actions required to ensure we deliver a balanced budget and then at a meeting of Cabinet to be held in September 2016 consider the results of any necessary consultation exercise, where appropriate, in respect of the following proposals put forward in this report:**
  - 2.a) Adult Care Services – (see Appendix A, section 4.4)**
    - Review of Day services.
    - Review Specialist Care Centre beds in terms of change of use to local authority customers freeing up capacity to provide for self-funders in Olympus Care Services.
    - Review Short Term Assessment and Rehabilitation Team (START).
    - Review Crisis Response Team in hospitals and discharge support process.
    - Review Council Health Partnership and Hospital Discharge Teams currently working in the two Hospitals who manage effective discharges and put Care Package in place.
  - 2.b) Children's Services – (see Appendix A, section 5.4)**
    - A review and refocus of Children's Services Mental Health provision.
    - Remodelling of Youth Offending Service
    - Ensure a more focused and joined up Children's Disability Service.
- 3. Noted that other proposals within this report may also require a consultation process before any decision is taken and the process for this will be further reported to the next meeting of Cabinet in September 2016.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1.35PM

Paul Hanson  
Democratic Services

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_