



Democratic Services  
One Angel Square  
Angel Street,  
Northampton, NN1 1ED

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## CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2017 at p.m.

Venue: The Covey Room, One Angel Square, Northampton (Meeting held in public)

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

#### Cabinet Member

Councillor Heather Smith  
Councillor Matthew Golby  
Councillor Robin Brown  
Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage  
Councillor Ian Morris  
Councillor Bill Parker

#### Portfolio

Leader of the Council  
Deputy Leader & Children's Services  
Finance  
Public Protection  
Transport, Highways & Environment  
Adult Care Delivery

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

Councillor Jane Birch  
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury  
Councillor Rachel Cooley  
Councillor Graham Lawman  
Councillor Arthur McCutcheon  
Councillor Bob Scott  
Councillor Chris Stanbra

Councillor Elizabeth Bowen  
Councillor Michael Clarke  
Councillor James Hakewill  
Councillor Stephen Legg  
Councillor John McGhee  
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw  
Councillor Danielle Stone

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

Officer	Role
Joni Ager	Media Relations Specialist
Josie Bateman	Senior Project Manager
Anna Earnshaw	Managing Director of Northamptonshire Adult Social Services
Barbel Gale	Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Lesley Hagger	Director for Children, Families and Education
Paul Hanson	Democratic Services Manager
Damon Lawrenson	Interim Chief Executive
Andrew Quincey	Commercial Director
Susan Zeiss	General Counsel

There were 18 members of the press and public in attendance.

#### 123/17 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Sylvia Hughes, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing and Councillor Longley, Cabinet Member for Commercial Development.

#### 124/17 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

## 125/17 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 19 October 2017

**RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 19 October 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.**

## 126/17 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

## 127/17 Announcements

The Chairman made the following points:

- She explained that Councillor Malcolm Longley had been appointed as a member of the Cabinet in a part time capacity working with the Commercial Director;
- She clarified that Councillor Longley, who had previously been an Assistant Cabinet Member was not in receipt of an allowance because his position on the Cabinet was part time;
- She welcomed Andrew Quincey, the newly appointed Commercial Director for the Council; and
- She welcomed the first year journalism students to the meeting.

## 128/17 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) new capital scheme approvals

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

Councillors made the following points:

- A request was made that the Councillor Services and Governance Working Group look into the webcasting arrangements for the new venue, with a view to providing more cameras; and
- The Corby technical school junction improvements were welcomed however the divisional Councillors had not been consulted with on the proposals and it was felt that the crossing was being located in the wrong place as children had to cross the road in another location in order to reach the crossing.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services explained that the Council had been aware of the need for a crossing when the school opened and further work would be undertaken to ensure it was safe.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

1. **Approved capital investment totalling £2,092,117 to promote three schemes included in the Capital Strategy 2017-18:**
  - i. **West Haddon Primary Extension - £800,000**
  - ii. **Corby Technical College Highways Works - £312,117**
  - iii. **Property Minor Works 2017 - £980,000**
2. **Approved capital investment totalling £344,000 to extend three schemes within the current Capital Programme**
  - i. **William Knibb Refurbishment - £200,000**
  - ii. **Project Angel Out of Scope Works -£100,000**
  - iii. **Country Parks Minor Works - £44,000**

## 129/17 Quarterly Treasury Management Report, 2017-18

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Brown, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining that the Treasury Management team continued to bring benefits to the Council.

Councillors made the following points:

- The report noted that the in house investment returns received on cash balances continued to compare favourably to the benchmarks however it was felt that the comparison should be made against other similar councils to get a true comparison;
- The report indicated that borrowing was likely to be higher than originally forecast and it was queried if this was because capital receipts were being used for the revenue budget;
- It was felt that the Council took a short term approach regarding its financial stability; and
- Regarding the additional loan of £8m to the University of Northampton to enable an Energy Centre to be constructed, the type of energy being created was queried and clarification was sought as to who approved the application.

Councillor Brown explained that the benefit of having the LGA Peer report was to provide the Council the opportunity to ensure that the strategies it was to follow would be capable of ensuring that the statutory services were provided in a way that was fair and equitable within the confines of funding that was available. It was right that the Council had used capital receipts to fund transformation within the revenue spend. The transformation was necessary to ensure that the Council were able to continue to provide the highest quality services that the county deserved. A lot of the investment returns were benchmarked and the benchmark used was a fair reflection of the amount of money being invested at the current time. Regarding robust plans, it was noted that the demand on statutory services was such that the Council must ensure that the budget process that it was currently going through would deliver a balance budget next year and ensure that there was a plan in place for future years.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the Treasury Management Report.**

## 130/17 Youth Offending Service (YOS) - Youth Justice Plan 2017/18

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

- He felt it was a positive report with the past year seeing the Youth Offending team and partnership achieving good results in youth justice;
- Performance against the key performance indicators had been maintained or improved in all significant areas;
- Young people continued to be engaged with the design and development of the youth offending service over the past year, including the development of the junior attendance centre;
- Prevention work within the service continued to develop effectively;
- Regarding the Northamptonshire re-offending rate, it was 29.8% in 2016/17 which was lower than the national rate;

- Regarding the National custody rate, it was noted that Northamptonshire had reduced the number of custodial sentences year on year; and
- The first time entrant rate had also reduced this year.

Councillors made the following points:

- Being able to comment on a report which demonstrated the strength of partnership working was welcomed;
- There was a need to ensure that any young people got the appropriate support if they entered the criminal justice system to reduce the risk of re-offending;
- It was a very positive report which showed that when the Council did have the strength of partnership working a lot could be achieved;
- A section of the report was quoted as follows '*Remand management was previously managed through commissioning arrangements, but in 2014 this was brought back in house to the YOS, in order to manage this more closely as an area of risk. This has been a successful approach, with effective oversight now in place.*' because it showed that the Council needed to have control of important services.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet agreed the Youth Justice Plan 2017/18 and recommended it for approval by full Council.**

#### 131/17 Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan Update

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

- He offered his thanks to Josie Bateman, Senior Project Manager for the amazing work carried out on the Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan; and
- The report was proposing some amendments which were clearly listed.

Councillors praised the work done on the Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which involved seeking views from local residents and incorporating those views into the policy where possible.

Councillor Gonzalez de Savage also thanked Josie Bateman for the work done around managing the data behind flooding and understanding the possible effects to this during times of growth in the county.

The Chairman felt that Northamptonshire was very fortunate to have such an effective system in place, which led the way for others.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the minor amendments to the Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and approved the associated Action Plan 2017.**

## 132/17 School and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Funding Arrangements for 2018/19

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 had some good news given that the indicative figures announced to date showed that an additional £10m in the schools formula block and £2.4m in the high needs block would be available in 2018/19, which was welcomed; and
- However the way that the figures were calculated by government did not provide what the Council felt it needed and the changes to the capping would cause difficulties in the future.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried if members of the Cabinet had visited the NUT website, which had a map and showed what the funding loss for each school was and the impacts of that loss;
- It was felt that it would be of benefit to the public and schools if something similar was provided to show the Council's narrative around schools funding;
- The proposed increases initially sounded fine however they would not cover basics such as salaries, energy costs, pensions, supplies and maintenance, of which the impact is really serious for the county;
- The Government was not giving the funding required of which the impacts could mean that schools could lose some support services;
- There was a need to address the class sizes in the county;
- It was noted that a letter from teachers across the country had been sent to Government about the lack of funding and it was hoped that the lobbying would have an effect;
- It was felt that academies were cutting back on their curriculum due to the reduced funding available; and
- It was felt that the early years funding had been reduced over the years by Government and disappointment was expressed that some of the quality elements in the early years funding had been removed.

Councillor Golby made the following points in response:

- The report contained lots of detail and the Council's website had a link to the schools funding 2018/19 briefing which went to all schools gave further information;
- There was concern over the high needs funding arrangements which will be capped on the amount of funding that could be placed in that area to mitigate the pressures;
- He gave assurance that it was the aspiration of the Cabinet and Council to support the academies to improving the quality of education offered;
- He was not aware of any significant pressure from government to increase class sizes;
- Regarding local authorities starting their own academy trusts, he clarified that there was nothing currently in legislation to allow local authorities to do that; and
- There was still a need for the Council to campaign for a better funding settlement.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet:**

- 1. Noted the latest position with the Government's National Funding Formula for the Dedicated Schools Grant funding blocks (Schools, Central Services Schools Block, Early Years and High Needs) and the potential implications on Northamptonshire.**
- 2. Delegated authority to the Director for Children, Families and Education in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's services, and the Director of Finance (S151 Officer) following consultation with the Schools Forum to determine:**
  - a) The 2018/19 school funding formula for Northamptonshire to enable the required submission to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in January 2018;**
  - b) Northamptonshire's funding arrangements for 2018/19 for pupils with high needs in line with Department for Education guidance; and**
  - c) Northamptonshire's funding arrangements for 2018/19 for the Early Years Single Funding Formulae in line with Department for Education guidance.**
- 3. Noted the work being undertaken in conjunction with Schools Forum and schools to consult with Northamptonshire Primary and Secondary schools on:**
  - a) Options for the Northamptonshire local schools formula in 2018/19; and**
  - b) Options for funding the projected high needs overspend in 2018/19.**

133/17 Presentation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) multi agency strategy

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

- He referred to a letter the Council received from the Minister of State for Children & Families, following the joint local area SEND inspection which stated:
  - He had taken a close interest in the Ofsted and CQC inspections of SEND services and was encouraged to read the strengths including increasing the approach to identifying need, the strong commitment from leaders across education and health care to improving outcomes for children with special educational needs; concluding with
  - The local area was well placed to secure further improvement services;
- He felt that letter was a positive recognition from Government that the Council was working well with partners
- The strategy had been written following co-production events, called 20/20 vision;
- He attended the events and felt they were inspiring events and it was great to see the passion expressed by all at those events;
- The following 4 points would form the backbone of the strategy:
  - Priority 1 – To ensure that every child and young person with SEND made excellent progress, thought access to high quality provision;
  - Priority 2 – To engage with children, young people and their families to promote early identification and provide support to meet needs;
  - Priority 3 – To develop smooth progression to adulthood for all young people with SEND; and

- Priority 4 – To improve the quality and timeliness of multi-agency assessments and the quality of plans for those who required specialist levels of support;
- The action plan would be implemented with full involvement from children and families together with professionals, from statutory and non-statutory services across the local area, that support them; and
- He congratulated all involved in the strategy.

Councillors made the following points:

- The success measures were welcomed and it was wished that it could be started sooner;
- It was thought that the strategy was ambitious but that was a good thing;
- There was a need to keep doing special needs activities and it was important to ensure that staff were supported;
- There was a need to ensure the right children and staff were in the right school according to their needs and skills;
- It was felt that priority 2 was key and there was a need to engage at the earliest opportunity;
- Staff in schools needed to be properly trained to recognise and put in place early interventions;
- Co-production was an example of good practice and should be replicated in other areas;
- Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans were taking too long to be completed and it was too stressful for families to get them; and
- A more developed offer for special needs children both inside and outside the classroom should be available.

Councillor Golby noted the comment about the EHC plans and explained that the team was working hard to address this.

**RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the publication of the Special Educational Need and Disability Strategy in relation to children and young people.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.50PM

Barbel Gale  
Democratic Services

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

