



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

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2018 at 2pm

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

PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Cabinet Member

Councillor Matthew Golby
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift
Councillor Malcolm Longley
Councillor Dr Andrew Mercer

Councillor Ian Morris

Councillor Victoria Perry

Portfolio

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader & Public Health
Finance
Performance, Transformation & Local
Government Reform
Transport, Highways, Environment & Public
Protection
Children, Families and Education

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

Councillor Fiona Baker
Councillor Elizabeth Bowen
Councillor James Hakewill
Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Anjona Roy
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Jason Smithers
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Michael Tye

Councillor Jane Birch
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
Councillor Eileen Hales
Councillor Gill Mercer
Councillor Suresh Patel
Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Heather Smith
Councillor Chris Stanbra
Councillor Winston Strachan

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

Officer

Ian Boll
Roy Boulton
Anna Earnshaw
Chrissie Farrugia
Barbel Gale
Theresa Grant
Paul Hanson
Tony McArdle
Walter McCulloch
Kelly O'Neill
Brian Roberts
James Smith
Susan Zeiss

Role

Interim Executive Director of Commercial and Place
Assistant Director Environment and Planning
Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Chief of Staff - Commissioners
Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Chief Executive
Democratic Services Manager
Lead Commissioner
Interim Executive Director, Children, Families and Education
Consultant in Public Health
Finance Commissioner
Head of Finance & NCC Deputy S151 Officer
Monitoring Officer

There were 21 members of the press and public in attendance.

133/18 Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Sandra Naden-Horley, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care.

134/18 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

Item	Name
Item 7	Marion Collyer
Item 10	Graham Rait, Chairman of Isham By-pass Committee
Item 10	Barry Hobbs, Isham Parish Councillor
Item 10	Martin Evans
Item 10	John Davis
Items 11 and 12	Patrick Cross

135/18 Minutes of the meetings held in public and private on 11 September 2018

In response to a query regarding minute 127/18 'Quarterly corporate report on performance' where it was noted that 'Councillors expressed the view that the report was now too short and noted that twenty six indicators were no longer included'. The Chairman clarified that those indicators were not included in the report as they were not due to be reported on in that quarter. They would however be reported from the first quarter that they were available.

RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public and private on 11 September 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

136/18 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

137/18 Announcements

The Chairman indicated that the format of the Cabinet meetings would change and further details would be announced when finalised.

138/18 Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31st March 2019, as at 31st August 2018 (period 5)

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Longley, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and said this period was similar to the previous one. An adjustment to the treasury management figures had reduced the forecasted variance.

Councillors noted that the forecast had been reduced for this period however there was concern the overspend in Adult Social Care had increased within the last two months. This could put the overall budget balance at risk. Councillor Longley asked that the question be put in writing to him for a response.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the Council's statutory duty to balance the 2018-19 budget.**

2. **Noted the forecast outturn position for 2018-19, and associated risks.**
3. **Noted the risk assessment of 2018-19 saving proposals in Appendix A.**
4. **Identify additional in-year savings to reduce the projected deficit in 2018-19.**

139/18 Financial stabilisation plan

At the Chairman's invitation Marion Collyer made the following points:

- The timeline in appendix C of the main report indicated that it was for 2019 however it was actually happening now;
- She wanted the libraries to stay open;
- She felt that the proposal was about how much money the Council could get from the property sales and rent of the library buildings; and
- The library service was a statutory service that should be provided by the local authority and not the community.

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

- It was a milestone report and the proposals would be supported;
- He felt that a talented group of people had devised the proposals in the report;
- The proposals were a definite step in the right direction but the plan contained some serious risks;
- A risk was that the plan did not propose any action to manage the unforeseen and the authority had no reserves to cover this;
- The stabilisation plan was very dependent on the district and borough councils co-operation, which if not received would make the plan more difficult to deliver;
- The plan did not contain enough detail and there was a lack of input from district and borough councils;
- The stabilisation plan had accompanying supplementary plans however everything needed to be pulled together with everyone supporting it; and
- The stabilisation plan did not end with this financial year because next year was also demanding and action needed to be taken now to ensure the next financial year's budget was also deliverable.

Councillors made the following points:

- It would be challenging to deliver the plan as it was now half way through the financial year;
- It would require a lot of assistance from the district and borough councils however no consultation had been conducted;
- No detail was available to support the stabilisation plan;
- The Council needed to find ways to be more efficient rather than reduce services;
- The new scrutiny function would not indicate where savings could be made but it would investigate proposals and would need to see the supplementary plans;
- Time was of the essence to resolve the financial pressures to ensure the deficit wasn't increased;
- There was a lack of information available about where the funding to meet the costs of redundancies was being found;
- Information was needed regarding the costs of agency staff;

- The impact of the national pay award and terms and conditions was not known;
- Staff needed to feel valued in order to retain knowledge and experience;
- The question of why the savings for voluntary redundancies were so small was asked;
- More pressure should be exerted on Shaw to force them to renegotiate the PFI contract;
- It was queried what the Cabinet Members were doing to identify savings opportunities;
- The stabilisation plan would have a massive impact on the vulnerable of the county, the impact of which was incalculable;
- The cost of implementing the stabilisation plan was sought;
- It was queried if every opportunity for additional funding was being sought;
- In adverse weather conditions many people and local businesses relied on the rural roads being gritted, therefore the proposal to cut this service should be reviewed;
- The proposals for children's services were not welcomed and there were no more efficiencies to be found there;
- Social workers should be given more support to carry out their duties;
- Home to school transport should be reconsidered to ensure vulnerable children could get to and from school quickly and safely;
- The unintended consequences of the stabilisation plan needed to be considered;
- It was queried how much additional funding could be raised from increased council tax collection; and
- It was suggested that the single person's council tax discount was not removed.

Councillor Perry said she had raised her concerns with the Commissioners. A scheme to focus on the retention of social workers was being drawn up. The Council's Children's Services was the most expensive per head in the country. Funding could not be removed from an unstable service therefore efficiencies were needed and demand managed. Cabinet Member were pushing for additional funding from all avenues.

Councillor Irving-Swift noted that the libraries proposals were being developed. A more positive approach was needed. The stabilisation plan would be robustly scrutinised.

Councillor Mercer explained that he was not concerned about the individual proposals. The plan required lots of people to deliver it, with everyone doing an excellent job. It was a high risk plan that needed to be one hundred percent delivered.

Councillor Morris indicated that all proposals needed to be accompanied by a business plan to ensure success.

The Chairman said the plan represented a big step forward. A robust plan was also needed for the 2019/20 financial year. Business plans were required for the proposals. He was confident that the stabilisation plan would make the Council more stable.

Councillor Longley said the Cabinet would share as much information as possible. Records showed that good progress had been made to reduce reliance on agency

staff over the last few years. He felt that the single person council tax discount would remain but would be monitored to ensure compliance.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Considered the savings measures set out in the Stabilisation Plan in Appendix A;**
- 2. Instructs officers to develop implementation plans for each savings measure contained within the Stabilisation Plan, in collaboration with partners Districts and Boroughs, and report progress back to Cabinet through the Monthly Revenue Finance Report; and**
- 3. Instructs officers to continue to identify further savings opportunities**

140/18 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Longley, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) explaining that the outlook for the 2019/20 financial year was more challenging. As many proposals as possible needed to be implemented within this financial year to have the maximum impact on next year's budget.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried if Star Chamber meetings were still being held;
- Pay inflation for staff had been removed from the MTFP however the report mentioned the importance of rewarding the dedication of employees; and
- The question of why spending in public health and planning and development was higher per head was raised.

The Chairman said Star Chamber meetings had been replaced by budget workshops.

Councillor Longley explained the Cabinet were now considering the budget by directorate rather than considering all areas at one meeting.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the significant financial challenge facing the County Council;**
- 2. Noted the statutory deadline in setting a balanced 2019/20 budget;**
- 3. Noted the approach outlined in the report to updating the Medium Term Financial Plan; and**
- 4. Referred the matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Medium Term financial position, as set out in this report.**

141/18 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) new capital scheme approvals

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Longley, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explained that the forecast was similar to last month.

Councillors expressed concern at the cost to the Council of the Northampton International Academy. The school had environmental issues, which could have been managed via Section 106 funding. The timescales for the St James Mill link road were queried.

Councillor Morris explained the Council was working with the Government to reclaim funding for the Northampton International Academy.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £101m for 2018-19.**
- 2. Approved capital investment totalling £3.09m to promote one scheme from the Development Pool included in the Capital Strategy 2018-19.**
 - i. Northampton North West Relief Road £3.09m**
- 3. Approved and recommended the removal of one scheme from the capital programme.**
 - i. Prioritisation of Income – £13.5m**

142/18 A509 Wellingborough Development Link Phase 1 (Isham Bypass)

At the Chairman's invitation Mr Graham Rait, Chairman of Isham bypass Committee made the following points:

- Traffic counts had regularly carried out showing increased numbers;
- Increased traffic would lead to increased noise and environmental pollutions;
- Traffic was regularly at a stand-still during rush hour, which affected the surrounding villages; and
- If the bypass is paused then others should also be paused.

At the Chairman's invitation Mr Martin Evans made the following points:

- Hard fought for funding previously allocated to the bypass had been lost and would not easily be replaced;
- Additional funding could be achieved from the community infrastructure levy; and
- Every effort should be made to complete the long overdue road.

At the Chairman's invitation Mr John Davis made the following points:

- The Council had signed up to the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which stated the Isham bypass needed to be delivered by 2021;
- Could capital funding be used to fund the bypass; and
- He called on the Council to retain the funding from South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) and to find a way forward.

At the Chairman's invitation Isham Parish Councillor, Barry Hobbs, made the following points:

- He was disappointed to hear the funding had been lost;
- A public inquiry in respect of a refused Kettering Borough Council planning application was due to be held next year;
- The proposed development by DB Symmetry was huge with between seven to fourteen thousand vehicle movements 24 hours a day predicted;
- The development was of great concern to the residents of Isham and the surrounding area;
- As the Council owned the land for the proposed development, it was asked if the release of the land could be delayed until the bypass was in place; and
- He also asked if the Council could raise concerns were the inquiry inspector, recommending that if the application was granted permission, then a condition be added restricting the development from takings place until the bypass was constructed and operational.

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

- He shared the speaker's concerns however the Council didn't have capital funding available for the scheme currently;
- The SEMLEP funding was time sensitive; and
- The recommendation was that the scheme stayed a high priority.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was queried if the Council could cease to offer the land for sale to DB Symmetry;
- Traffic issues would continue to get worse if the bypass was not completed;
- The district and borough councils should work together to enable this bypass to proceed;
- The bypass had been planned for a long time and it was disappointing that it could be continued at this time;
- Could flexible capital receipts be used to fund the bypass; and
- It was requested that the decision be revisited.

Councillor Mercer said it had been a struggle to get all of the processes concluded within the required timescales. It would need to be built going forward and suggested growth funding be used.

Councillor Morris explained that the Council could not influence the public inquiry but all options would be considered.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the loss of £25m of SEMLEP Growth Deal funding towards the A509 Wellingborough Development Link Phase 1 due to the inability to deliver the scheme within funding timescales;**
- 2. Agreed that work on the project is paused due to the unaffordability of the current scheme;**
- 3. Agreed that the scheme remains a high priority for the County Council and that work should resume at such time as further funding can be secured as set out in section 7 of the main report.**

143/18 Northampton North West Relief Road

At the Chairman's invitation Mr Patrick Cross made the following points:

- The report recognised that whilst the North West Relief Road (NWRR) would bring significant traffic relief to some areas, it would also bring additional traffic to others;
- Harlestone, the Brampton's and Mill Lane would experience less traffic however Waspra, Boughton, Obelisk and other areas would experience more;
- The HGV's using the route were just feet away from children walking to school;
- A traffic count conducted had proved developers traffic predictions to be wrong; and
- They requested that the Council and future Councils planned, got finance and built a fit for purpose orbital road, which did not include the this Northampton NWRR.

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

- The NWRR was a long standing aspiration for the Council;
- The infrastructure was needed to support growth in the county;
- Northampton Borough Council (NBC) had committed funding, which combined with Section 106 funding provided the money to get the scheme ready for construction;
- The funding was in place for a single carriageway however opportunities for a dual carriageway would be explored; and
- The intention was to start construction in early 2020 and open towards the end of 2021.

Councillors made the following points:

- The road was overdue and would be welcomed;
- The timings coincided with the creation of the new unitary authorities;
- It would be more cost effective to dual the road;
- The proposed road affected lots of people, therefore surprise was expressed at the number of responses;
- The NWRR was welcomed but should not be opened before the Northampton Northern Orbital Route;
- Pollution and traffic congestion within Kingsthorpe were of great concern; and
- Both roads should be opened simultaneously.

The Chairman welcomed the progress made.

Councillor Morris clarified that funding for a single carriageway was in place but options for dualling would be considered. The opening of a completed road could not be delayed however considerations could be given to mitigating the impacts.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the results of the public consultation on the Northampton North West Relief Road set out in Section 5 and Appendix 2 of this report.**
- 2. Noted the financial contributions to the scheme from the SEMLEP Local Growth Deal and Northampton Borough Council.**
- 3. Agreed the route shown in Appendix 1 of this report as the preferred route for the Northampton North West Relief Road.**
- 4. Agreed to the continued development of the scheme including preparation of planning application, environmental statement and business case at a cost of up to £3.1m**

144/18 Northampton Northern Orbital Route (NNOR)

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

- The NNOR would completed the ring road around the north of Northampton;
- It had been difficult to find a preferred route;
- Dualling the road could lead to more housing developments;
- There was no current funding package for this scheme; and
- The Council could not force the infrastructure development before the housing development was in place.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the results of the public consultation on the Northampton Northern Orbital Route set out in Sections 4 and Appendix 2 of this report.**
- 2. Agreed that that the Northampton Northern Orbital Route remains a high priority for the County Council and that funding is sought to allow further work to be undertaken in developing the scheme.**

145/18 Winter Service Review for 2018-19

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

- Currently 43% of the network was gritted which would reduce to around 41%;
- The number of hours available for gritting would alter;
- The number of gritting vehicles would reduce from twenty six to nineteen;
- The grit bins would be reduced by around five hundred but communities and parishes were able to take ownership of these at no cost; and
- Footways had previously been kept clear using Ice-blast, a clear liquid de-icer but going forward a mixture of sand and salt would be used.

Councillors made the following points:

- A pledge was made in 2005 that there would be one fully gritted road into every village;
- If it was a bad winter, gritting would be difficult to manage;
- Town and parish councils did not have long enough to consider taking ownership of the local grit bins;
- Could a deal be reached to allow some of those five hundred grit bins to be retained;
- There was a lack of communication between the police and highways regarding data of accidents;
- Removal of the grit bins could make a community more vulnerable, had this been considered when choosing which to remove;
- Not every area of the county had a parish council to take ownership of grit bins;
- By reducing the roads gritted and the grit bins, it was queried how the Council was keeping people safe; and
- This proposal would achieve less than 1% of the savings required.

The Chairman said that hard decisions were required to make a high proportion of the required savings.

Councillor Perry asked if the costs of maintaining the grit bins could be provided.

Councillor Morris clarified that in adverse weather conditions every village would have a route out however it may be a longer route than previously. District and borough councils could consider maintaining the grit bins in the absence of a parish council.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the revised precautionary and adverse gritting networks.**

2. **Approved the time taken to undertake gritting actions to be changed from 3 hours to 3.5 hours.**
3. **Approved that grit bins which do not meet the evaluation criteria for their location will either be removed or where appropriate left in-situ for the community to maintain & replenish.**
4. **Approved the revised evaluation criteria for grit bin locations so that they will be located in places of greatest need.**

146/18 Demand and Capacity System for Health and Social Care

At the Chairman's invitation and in the absence of Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care, Councillor Naden-Horley, Assistant Cabinet Member, Fiona Baker, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and said that Cabinet was being asked to agree that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services to procure the development, implementation and delivery of a Demand, Capacity and Flow system for Northamptonshire Health and Social Care partners. The system would help partners to work and plan in a more integrated way regarding hospital admissions and discharges.

Councillors queried if this proposal was following a Care Quality Commission (CQC) report and if so was the decision being taken retrospectively. Could Shaw placements be used as a step down process?

The Executive Director for Adult, Communities and Wellbeing clarified that work on this proposal had already and the solution was presented to CQC before their report. The system was not fully live yet but was gathering data to go live shortly. There were weekly discussions regarding the use of Shaw placements.

RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Adults Communities and Wellbeing in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Services to procure the development, implementation and delivery of a Demand, Capacity and Flow (DCF) system for Northamptonshire Health and Social Care partners.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 4.00PM

Barbel Gale
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____