

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW AUTHORITY

SHADOW EXECUTIVE MEETING

27 October 2020

Report by the Interim Chief Executive

Report Title	Assets, Capital Schemes and Reserves Notification Process – Update Report
Report Author	George Candler, Interim Chief Executive George.Candler@westnorthants.gov.uk

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Shadow Executive of a number of proposals that are considered to be notifiable under the Assets, Capital Schemes and Reserves Notification Process (the Process) adopted by the Shadow Executive at its meeting on 23 July 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Shadow Executive considers and endorses the proposal set out at Appendix 1, in accordance with the adopted Assets, Capital Schemes and Reserves Notification Process:
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme Budget;

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Background

- 3.1.2 The new unitary authorities for North and West Northamptonshire will come into existence from 1 April 2021. The resources, investments and assets of the predecessor authorities will transfer to one or other of the new authorities on that date. It is recognised that decisions and actions taken by the existing authorities should be done so in the context of not adversely impacting on the new authorities.
- 3.1.3 A Process was adopted by the Shadow Executive at their meeting on 23rd June 2021. Under the process, any **proposed** purchase, disposal and transfer of assets, new capital schemes with on-going financial commitments and use of reserves **above those already set out in each council's budget**, by any of the existing councils above a set *de minimis* level must be notified to the relevant Shadow Executive(s).
- 3.1.4 The *de minimis* level above which notification for financial proposals must be made is £100,000. The notification requirement and *de minimis* level will apply to both capital and revenue proposals. Exceptions exist for:

- Adult and Children care packages
- HR matters and issues.

3.1.5 The process requires that any qualifying proposal must be submitted by the applicable authority's Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer (s.151 officer) to the Interim Chief Executive(s), who will arrange for the proposal to be discussed at the next available meeting of the Shadow Executive(s).

3.1.6 The Shadow Executive(s) will act as a consultee and will be asked to endorse, rather than approve the proposal put before it.

3.2 Issues and Choices

3.2.1 The proposals for consideration are set out at Appendices 1 to 3 to this report.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The proposals for consideration are considered to be notifiable under the Process as outlined above.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The process of notifying the Shadow Executive of the attached proposals is a mechanism for reducing the risk of an individual authority making a decision that may be detrimental to the unitary authority(ies).

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Process is an alternative to a Section 24 notice and allows local needs to be met, such as certain exceptions, and builds on the spirit of collaboration and co-operation in managing resources, investments and assets that already exists amongst the existing councils.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 None specifically.

Appendix 1: Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme Budget