



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

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 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 Sandra Naden-Horley
Councillor Victoria Perry

Portfolio

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

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

Councillor Richard Auger
Councillor Jane Birch
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
Councillor Julie Davenport
Councillor James Hakewill
Councillor Arthur McCutcheon
Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Bob Scott
Councillor Chris Stanbra
Councillor Michael Tye

Councillor Fiona Baker
Councillor Elizabeth Bowen
Councillor Julie Brookfield
Councillor Martin Griffiths
Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Gill Mercer
Councillor Mick Scrimshaw
Councillor Jason Smithers
Councillor Danielle Stone

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

Officer

Councillor Chris Miller
Ian Boll
Ian Duncan
Anna Earnshaw
Chrissie Farrugia
Barbel Gale
Theresa Grant
Paul Hanson
Paul Helsby
Phil Jones
Janet Kealey
Tony McArdle
Susan Zeiss

Role

Leader, Daventry District Council
Interim Executive Director of Commercial and Place
Executive Director Finance
Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Chief of Staff - Commissioners
Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Chief Executive
Democratic Services Manager
Director of Transformation
Flood and Water Manager
Deputy Monitoring Officer
Lead Commissioner
Monitoring Officer

There were 6 members of the press and public in attendance.

147/18 Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the new format of Cabinet meetings. He had sought examples of best practice from Democratic Services and the Local Government Association. He would welcome feedback on the new process.

The Leader of the Labour Group clarified that although he was sat with the Cabinet he was not part of the Cabinet and did not vote on proposals. The Labour Group felt the new format was a reduction in democracy. The proposals should have been discussed at the Councillor Services and Governance Working Group however this had not happened.

Members attending the meeting indicated that further clarity on the new arrangements was required.

The Ofsted report published following their recent focused inspection which found significant failings. He felt the Council's new management team would move the Council forward. Plans would be put in place to address the failings.

The Leader of the Labour Group explained it was a disappointing report. Previously £80m extra funding had been spent to achieve an Ofsted rating of 'Requires Improvement' however new issues have occurred and the rating was not maintained. The Chairman said that everyone was aware of the situation and had been assured previously that things were progressing. He was upset and disappointed at the result.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Families and Education said she was disappointed in the report. She queried why the Council had been given the impression that the service was improving. Weekly meetings were held regarding the unallocated cases. She queried why Ofsted hadn't considered this during their focused inspection in May 2018.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment & Public Protection explained that additional government funding had been made available for road repairs. It was expected that the Council would receive around £6.7m.

148/18 Apologies for non-attendance

There were none.

149/18 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

150/18 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 9 October 2018

RESOLVED: The minutes of meeting held in public on 9 October 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record.

151/18 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

152/18 Report by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Scrutiny of Stabilisation Plan measures

At the Chairman's invitation the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The report highlighted the outcomes from the Committee's first meeting;
- The Committee wanted to inform and assist Cabinet in their decision-making and offer advice, being a critical friend when needed;
- The Committee considered the cost of the learning disability service and were reassured that the proposals were achievable;
- The Committee supported the council tax reform because it felt the alternative options were unpalatable; and
- Concerns were raised should those and other savings not be realised.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment & Public Protection, Councillor Morris recognised the importance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and asked what the Cabinet could do to support its role.

In response the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee said everyone on the Committee was willing to work together and the membership was well balanced.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Councillor Longley indicated that he met with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before the Cabinet meeting to discuss the reports informally.

Councillors made the following points:

- The resolutions indicated that a response was to be provided from Cabinet and it was hoped that this response would be received in time for discussion at the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting;
- In order to make scrutiny more robust, earlier access to the savings proposals was required;
- It was important to be able to understand not just the risks associated with proposals but the costs of the proposals;
- The costs of the Commissioners and representative from CIPFA was queried;
- The costs needed to be judged against the outcomes;
- Following the introduction of the Commissioners it was queried what processes had changed.

In response Councillor Longley explained that written responses would be provided.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Cabinet noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is supportive of the Stabilisation Plan measures relating to Learning Disability services and the aims of improving commissioning and supporting people towards independent living where appropriate, on the understanding that the Council must continue to meet people's assessed needs.**

- 2) That the Cabinet ensured that there is no slippage in the provision of the additional capacity required by Northamptonshire Adult Social Services to support the delivery of the savings associated with the Stabilisation Plan measures relating to Learning Disability services.
- 3) That the Cabinet gave consideration to increasing the number of officers carrying out welfare benefits reviews as part of the Northamptonshire Adult Social Services financial assessment process with a view to supporting delivery of the Stabilisation Plan measures relating to Learning Disability services.
- 4) That the Cabinet noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agrees that the Stabilisation Plan measures relating to Council Tax and Business Rates collection should be pursued in preference to seeking equivalent savings in frontline services.
- 5) That the Cabinet ensured that appropriate action is taken as a matter of urgency to work with district and borough councils to try to resolve remaining questions that could affect the ability to deliver the Stabilisation Plan measures relating to Council Tax and Business Rates collection.
- 6) That the Cabinet recognised that there remains a risk that alternatives to the Stabilisation Plan measures relating to Council Tax and Business Rates collection will be required and ensures that this is taken into account in continuing work on the Plan.
- 7) That the Cabinet agreed that written responses to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's recommendations above be provided in accordance with the process set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report.

153/18 Monthly revenue monitoring report for the financial year ending 31st March 2019, as at 30th September 2018 (period 6)

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 the report was being reviewed to provide greater clarity. Responses would be provided to questions raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He believed that the Council had the best management team in place to address the issues. There were four areas to address the Council's financial pressures. Working in partnership with the district and borough councils was key. There was an ongoing drive across the Council towards cost reduction and transformation.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment & Public Protection, Councillor Morris was encourage by the Period Six position for the Place directorate and he was confident that the budget would be balanced by the end of the financial year.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Families and Education, Councillor Perry explained that members were welcome to ask questions or speak with Cabinet Members at any time, questions did not have to wait for Cabinet meetings.

The Chairman was encourage and developing confidence that the deficit was being reduced.

Cabinet Member with responsibility for Performance, Transformation & Local Government Reform, Councillor Dr Mercer, was disappointed by LGSS' forecasted figures and felt there was further work to be done.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following points:

- The report highlighted the projected overspend for 2018/19 was an improvement of £12m however the position had only improved by £1.9m;
- Questions were raised regarding the achievability of the savings;
- The report noted an underspend on wages in Children's Services due to difficulties in recruiting agency staff, there was a concern this would impact services; and
- Previously the budget tracker listed the savings proposal regarding centralisation of communications and marketing functions of £190,000 as green, meaning that saving was delivered and secure however the Period 6 report indicated that only £85,000 of that proposal was now shown as green.

The Chairman indicated that it would be beneficial if the questions submitted and responses given could be emailed to all members.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was questioned if underspend in Children First Northamptonshire would have an impact on services;
- Confirmation was sought if highways work could no longer be carried out on dangerous junctions; and
- There was no plan B if the proposals involving the district and borough councils did not succeed.

In response Councillor Longley said that the pre-cabinet meeting took place with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure people were kept informed and he felt those meetings worked well. There were four strands to ensure the proposals succeeded, those were the original savings plan, the stabilisation plan, constant monitoring by the cost control team and the transformation plan.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the forecast outturn position for 2018-19, and associated risks.**
- 2. Noted the risk assessment of 2018-19 saving proposals in Appendix A.**
- 3. Noted the inclusion of the 2018-19 Stabilisation Plan savings proposals.**

154/18 Transformation Strategy

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Performance, Transformation & Local Government Reform, Councillor Dr Mercer, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and explaining there had been significant changes in the demographic of the county and local government needed to change to keep up with this. The report formalised the structure to manage transformation. He corrected an error in section 3.3 of the report, the figure of £.75m should read £.775m.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care, Councillor Naden-Horley offered her thanks to the Director of Transformation for producing a very professional report.

The Chairman indicated that the transformation projects would continue beyond the life of the Council and needed to be carefully managed going forward.

Councillors made the following points:

- Part of the Chief Executives role was the delivery of sustainability and transformation therefore it was queried why a separate Director of Transformation had been appointed;
- Could an assessment of the amount of savings provided through transformation projects be provided to members;
- The report noted that there were risks that the projects would not be delivered and it was asked if there was an acceptance that some projects were not going to be eligible for use of capital receipts; and
- Any allocated funding should also be transferred when services were transferred to alternative delivery vehicles.

In response Councillor Dr Mercer explained that the Chief Executives focus should be on running the authority therefore it was expected that delivery of transformation would be a separate post. The external auditors would determine if the transformation projects were eligible for use of capital receipt funding. He would expect that the funding would transfer to the new delivery model however the funding transferred would be less due to efficiencies.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the Transformation Strategy as set out at Annex A.**
- 2. Noted the resources required to deliver the Transformation Strategy.**
- 3. Recommended this report to full Council for approval.**

155/18 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) – Forecast Outturn for the financial year ending 31 March 2019 as at 30th September 2018 (Period 6)

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 approach to capital funding would be modified. Before capital money could be spent there was a need to know how it would be funded. The funding for the Corby Link road was to cover and claims and outstanding issues.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport, Highways, Environment & Public Protection, Councillor Morris praised the Corby Link road project noting its importance.

The Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Health noted the official opening of the Daventry Development Link road would be held on Thursday 15 November 2018. Section 106 funding had been used to build a new classroom at Naseby Primary School.

Councillors made the following points:

- The Corby Link road was very important for the local economy;
- Compensation payments should be completed as soon as possible;
- Only one investment to save item has been listed and it was asked when more would be added; and
- The Isham by-pass, which was critical to the area, should be kept in mind as a priority for the Council.

In response Councillor Morris said he was aware of the hold up in processing the compensation claims and hoped it would be resolved as soon as possible. The Council was considering invest to save projects where possible because they created long term savings. The Isham by-pass was continuing but it would not be something that the Council could deliver.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Families and Education felt that there was a more joined up approach to working across the services now which was assisted through the Director of Transformation.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the forecast capital expenditure of £102m for 2018-19.**
- 2. Approved capital investment totalling £3,788k to extend two schemes within the current Capital Programme.**
 - i. Corby Link Road £1,788k**
 - ii. Community Equipment £2,000k**
- 3. Approved capital investment totalling £524k to promote three schemes from the Development Pool included in the Capital Strategy 2018-19.**
 - i. Stanton Cross Primary School £361k**
 - ii. Kettering Secondary School extensions £123k**
 - iii. Naseby Primary School £40k**
- 4. Approved a reduction in capital investment totalling £43k to one scheme within the current Capital Programme.**
 - i. Carefirst Oracle Upgrade**

Further detail on the above schemes can be found in Section 9.

156/18 HS2 Road Safety Fund

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 fund was announced in November 2017 with £1.65m being allocated to Northamptonshire;
- The funding had to be spent on road safety improvements such as traffic calming, safer junctions, pedestrian crossings but the Council could set its own priorities but it must be used along the route;
- It was unlikely that the value of the fund would cover the full cost of proposals therefore an attempt to get additional funding from the proposed contractor was being made; and
- Approval to spend £82,500 on feasibility design had been agreed in June 2018 however the funding had not yet been received.

Regarding the proposed road safety proposals, Brackley had suggested a new crossing over the High Street by the Town Hall and it was queried if there was time to consider a new proposal rather than the crossing. It was confirmed that there was time for the Parish Council to submit a new proposal.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Performance, Transformation & Local Government Reform, Councillor Dr Mercer said there was a need to ensure that the Council did not have to breach the gap if the amount of compensation awarded was not enough and Councillor Morris agreed.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1) Welcomed the £1.65 million allocation from the Department for Transport HS2 Road Safety Fund and notes the approval of £82,500 to undertake initial feasibility design;**
- 2) Agreed the approach to identifying road safety schemes to mitigate the impact of HS2 on the County to be delivered through the Fund;**
- 3) Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Acting Executive Director of Place and Commercial, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways, Environment and Public Protection to determine the exact programme of schemes to take forward for delivery in light of feasibility design work and further information being forthcoming from HS2 Ltd.**

157/18 Consultation regarding the future of the Adults specialist dementia domiciliary care service

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care, Councillor Naden-Horley, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- She explained that the report sought to start a ten week consultation process;
- There was a wide range of providers commissioned to meet a wide range of needs;
- Providers were contracted through block and framework contractors as well as some services being provided in house;
- Those arrangements were continually reviewed to ensure best value;
- Specialist dementia domiciliary care service had been provided by in-house for over ten years however the referral numbers and customers had decreased; and
- It was an under used service therefore a longer term outcome was required.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Public Health welcomed the report and noted the equalities impact assessment. The consultation should be focussed on the people using the service.

A Councillor noted that Northampton Borough Council had completed a scrutiny review into how to make Northampton town centre more dementia friendly. It was suggested that the outcome of this review inform the Council's consultation process. It was noted that the Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing had contributed to that scrutiny review.

When asking Cabinet to agree the recommendations the Chairman highlighted that this included noting the information provide in the equalities impact assessment.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the commencement of a consultation process on the proposals set out in this report.**
- 2. Noted that a further report will be presented to cabinet containing the results of the above consultation in order to make a final decision on the future of the service.**
- 3. Noted the contents of this report.**
- 4. Noted the content of the EqIA**

In response to a question raised by Councillor Tye before the meeting Councillor Longley confirmed that single residents who genuinely lived alone would not have their discount affected by the proposal to increase the council tax base collected by the district and borough councils.

158/18 Youth Offending Service - Youth Justice Plan 2018/19

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

- Youth Offending Services were required to produce a Youth Justice Plan which must address performance over the past year, future plans and the financial and staffing positions;
- The statutory, multi-agency partnership aimed to reduce offending and reoffending by children and young people;
- The innovative work involving Magistrates post-sentence reviews, the 'Northamptonshire Model, had achieved national recognition and would be showcased at the upcoming Youth Justice Convention;
- Youth Offending Service staff engaged in 2017 in the HMI Probation consultations on the new inspection regime, which was now in place and preparations were being made for the next inspection;
- Existing work on violent crime were being enhanced and the Knife Crime Programme was being rolled out to local schools;
- The move towards considering children involved in gang related activity as being 'Criminally Exploited' was helping to focus the child welfare and criminal justice agendas; and
- Strong working relationships with the voluntary sector were being created.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Public Health explained that the Health and Wellbeing Board considered adverse child experiences. The report noted good practice.

The Chairman said the service was functioning well and queried if the good practice was being shared with the rest of Children's Services.

Councillors made the following points:

- The success of the service was welcomed;
- It was queried there was a Head of the Youth Offending Service in post;
- Early intervention was key, therefore the MASH service needed to be given careful consideration; and
- It was queried if the MASH service had the capacity to respond in a timely manner.

In response Councillor Perry said no one was currently appointed as Head of the Youth Offending Service. Regarding the MASH service, Ofsted had highlighted it in the reviews so robust plans would need to be created to address the issues however she was confident that it would improve.

RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed the Youth Justice Plan 2018/19 (set out at Appendix 1) and recommended it for approval by full Council.

159/18 Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan Update

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:

- Cabinet were being asked to approval the updates to the 2016/19 Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2018 Action Plan;
- Three new projects had been added to the Action Plan making a total of ninety seven projects, these projects were:
 - The Pathfinder 3 community flood resilience projects which enabled local solutions;
 - A review and update of the Multi Agency Flood Plan; and
 - Working towards the key aims of the Nene Valley Catchment Partnership which worked towards enhancing water quality, green infrastructure and access and amenity;
- The Environment Agency was funding two temporary flood and water posts for the Council; and
- He thanked Phil Jones for his hard work, noting that he was doing an excellent job.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Performance, Transformation & Local Government Reform, Councillor Dr Mercer said that he has served on the Anglian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) where the exemplary standards the County set were noted. The Council had conducted modelling of likely places in the county that were at risk of flooding and it was hoped that this was retained. He commended the work of Josie Bateman and Phil Jones.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the suggested updates to the Action Plan associated with the 2016-2019 Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and**
- 2. Welcomed support from the Environment Agency for seconding two externally funded temporary flood and water posts to the County Council.**

160/18 Northamptonshire All-Age Autism Strategy

At the Chairman's invitation the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care, Councillor Naden-Horley, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The Strategy was a result of a joint strategic initiative involving Adult Social Services, Children First Northamptonshire, Nene and Corby Clinical Commissioning Groups and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust;
- Autistic individuals were important members of Northamptonshire population and demographics showed the number of children and adults being referred for diagnosis was increasing;
- Figures from the National Autistic Society indicated that the lifetime cost for someone diagnosed with autism equated to £3.1m which increased to £4.6m with the inclusion of a learning difficulty;

- Early intervention was crucial to reducing long term dependency, promoting independent living, and enhancing coping strategies; and
- Having a local Autism Strategy would ensure the Council met the requirements of the national Autism Strategy.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Performance, Transformation & Local Government Reform, Councillor Dr Mercer expressed concern that the diagnosis rate was increasing and felt that a coherent strategy was needed.

Councillors welcomed the report and felt that a priority should be to decrease the time spent waiting for an assessment. It was asked if a local directory of what services were available for families could be provided or prepared.

In response Councillor Naden-Horley clarified the need to work with partners in this area. A briefing was held for Councillors and she thanked Councillor Stanbra for attending.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children, Families and Education, Councillor Perry indicated that she used social media to ascertain what services were available in the local area. The Local Offer Northamptonshire contained details of local events for people with disabilities.

The Chairman said that information on the Local Directory should be shared with Members.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1) Take into account the outcomes of the consultation detailed within Section 5 (below) and the appendices to this report;**
- 2) Take into account the outcomes of the Equality Impact Assessment detailed within Section 6;**
- 3) Approve and endorse the five priorities identified within Northamptonshire's All Age Autism Strategy, namely:**
 - i. Raising Awareness and Understanding regarding the complexity of Autism;**
 - ii. Providing effective, quality assured Pre and Post Diagnosis support;**
 - iii. Enhancing education, employment, accommodation, social, and leisure opportunities;**
 - iv. Promoting seamless progression throughout periods of transition; and**
 - v. Providing effective and enabling care and support.**
- 4) Age Autism Strategy should be adopted and implemented via the delivery of the Local Action Plan Agree that the following recommendations contained within the All:**
 - i. Reconfiguration/realignment of current service provision**
 - ii. Exploration of the development of a multi-disciplinary autism team, covering mainstream services, schools and families, with Crisis Response as an integral part.**
 - iii. Implementation of a clear process for recording autism as a primary support reason**
 - iv. Service provision for autism and Learning Disabilities should be separate**
 - v. Development of best practice autism standards covering the following themes:**

- **Knowing the individual**
 - **Environment**
 - **Collaboration**
 - vi. **Implementation of outcome-focused, joint commissioning and interventions,**
 - vii. **Sector wide workforce development**
 - viii. **Establishment of a multi-disciplinary network of Autism Champions across Northamptonshire.**
 - ix. **Embedding of continuous practice development and quality assurance**
- 5) **Agree that, once these recommendations have been approved, the draft All Age Autism Strategy be amended and authority to sign off the final strategy be delegated to the Directors of Adult Social Services and Children First, Northamptonshire, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.45PM

Barbel Gale
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____