



Democratic Services
County Hall
Northampton
NN1 1DN

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2016 at 2:00pm

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

PRESENT (FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING):

Cabinet Member	Portfolio
Councillor Robin Brown	Finance
Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage	Deputy Leader & Public Protection
Councillor Sylvia Hughes	Public Health & Wellbeing
Councillor Ian Morris	Transport, Highways & Environment
Councillor Bill Parker	Adult Care Delivery
Councillor Suresh Patel	Corporate Parenting
Councillor Heather Smith	Leader of the Council

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

Councillor Sally Beardsworth	Councillor Julie Brookfield
Councillor Elizabeth Coombe	Councillor Brendan Glynane
Councillor Dudley Hughes	Councillor Phil Larratt
Councillor Malcolm Longley	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Bob Scott	Councillor Mick Scrimshaw

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

Officer	Role
Joni Ager	Media Relations Specialist
Paul Blantern	Chief Executive
Roy Boulton	Assistant Director Environment, Planning & Transport
Matt Bowmer	Director of Finance
Barbel Gale	Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Laurie Gould	Monitoring Officer
Paul Hanson	Democratic Services Manager
Dr Carolyn Kus	Director of Adult Social Care & Managing Director of Olympus Care Services Ltd
Sharon Muldoon	Acting Director of Children, Families & Education

There were 2 members of the press and public in attendance.

77/16 Apologies for non attendance

Apologies were received from Councillor Matthew Golby, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

78/16 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

79/16 Minutes of the meeting held in public on 10 May 2016

RESOLVED: The minutes of meetings held in public on 10 May 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record.

80/16 Declarations of Interest by Councillors

There were none.

81/16 Announcements

The Chairman explained that Councillor Golby was attending the Active Healthy Minds Programme event at the House of Lords, which was why he wasn't present at the meeting.

The Chairman noted that Lesley Hagger had been appointed as the new Director for Children, Families and Education and would be joining the Council in July. This appointment would be ratified at the Full Council meeting on 16 June 2016.

82/16 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015/16

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

- The Director of Public Health had a responsibility to produce an annual report and the Council had a responsibility to publish the Director of Public Health's annual report;
- It was a statement from the Director of Public Health and the detail, format and content of the report was determined locally;
- The report was being produced in the style of a newspaper;
- A summary version would also be published and it was anticipated that some 200,000 people would be reached; and
- The report would be presented at the Full Council meeting on 16 June 2016.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was agreed that there was a need to reduce the amount of people who smoked, especially pregnant women;
- An increase in hospital admissions was noted;
- 15 of the key indicators for Northampton were worse than the national averages;
- It was queried if the report would be discussed at the relevant scrutiny meeting; and
- For clarity of reading and comparison the report should be presented in the same format each year.

The Chief Executive explained that the final document was being produced as an A3 newspaper and clarified that the content would remain the same.

RESOLVED That Cabinet noted the Director of Public Health's annual report for 2015/16 and endorse the key recommendations made in the report.

83/16 A43 Northampton – Kettering Improvements

At the Chairman's invitation the Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Protection, Councillor Gonzalez de Savage, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- The proposed expansion would be broken down into phases; and
- The work would be carried out with all developers and partners.

Councillors made the following points:

- The report was welcomed and there was a need for the road to be dualled;
- There was a need to ensure that momentum was kept on the project;
- The improvements were welcomed however caution was expressed that other measures, such as keeping the verges cut and a reduction of road signage, should not be forgotten;
- A petition regarding the A43 was being submitted for discussion at Full Council on 16 June 2016; and
- A rumour had been heard that land at Buckton Fields was being sold however the funding was not being put towards the North West Bypass.

Councillor Gonzalez de Savage explained that he was not aware of the sale of the land at Buckton Fields and the Council was aware of the commitment made. The Council would continue to work with Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership to get as much funding as possible along with seeking contributions from surrounding Council's.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Welcomed the successful completion of Phase 1a of the A43 Northampton – Kettering Improvements.**
- 2. Agreed the revised phasing for the improvements outlined in section 6 of this report and seeks support from Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership for this approach**
- 3. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Place Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Public Protection, to commence a Compulsory Purchase Order, if required, to acquire the remaining land necessary for the construction of Phase 2, as outlined in section 6 of this report.**
- 4. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Place Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Public Protection to appoint contractors to complete design of and construct the new Phases 1b and 2, as outlined in section 7 of this report.**
- 5. Agreed that the council carry out a consultation into the proposed Phase 3 scheme, with the expectation that a report approving the next steps in delivering that scheme is brought to Cabinet later this year.**
- 6. Noted the financial implications outlined in section 11 of this report for the delivery of phases 1b and 2.**
- 7. Agreed that the County Council seeks support from the Local Enterprise Partnerships and Daventry District Council for a funding package to enable the delivery of Phase 3 of the A43 Improvements.**

84/16 Network Northamptonshire – Total Transport Project Progress Report

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

- The full business plan would be presented to Cabinet in November 2016;
- The Council would work with providers to ensure that resources were used more effectively;

Councillors made the following points:

- The report was supported;
- A scrutiny working group had previously looked at bus services and had highlighted the need for providers to work together;
- There was concern that the funding put forward could be affected depending on which way the European Union referendum went;
- The report did not mention any consultation with local businesses, business parks or community groups;
- It was suggested that the business plan should be submitted to the relevant scrutiny committee for consideration; and
- There was a report in the Chronicle & Echo that bus subsidies were being cut which would mean a drop in bus services.

Councillor Morris explained that the full business plan was being developed therefore there was still an opportunity to feed into the proposals.

The Chief Executive explained that regarding the consultation. The first part of the process was to look at all the movements associated with public sector employees and their patients and customers first because they constituted the substantive part of the total transport infrastructure.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the progress made with the Total Transport project to date.**
- 2. Agreed the proposal to develop a Business Case to determine whether the social enterprise model outlined in section 6 of the report is a viable proposition for Northamptonshire and report the outcome back to Cabinet for further consideration.**

85/16 Implementing Direct Debit Payments as Standard Procedure for Implementing the Fairer Charging Policy with service users.

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

- This report was seeking to ask that services users used the direct debit payment process where possible;
- The Council was very mindful of those who needed assistance with this; and
- There was a need to be mindful of the councils aged debt, which was why the direct debit payment process was the Council preferred method and would help to prevent aged debt in the future.

Councillors made the following points:

- The proposed switch to direct debit payment method was welcomed, however they could not be treated as guaranteed payments;
- It was queried what the Council would do if a direct debit was unpaid;
- It was felt that the proposal was not as risk free as assumed; and
- It was felt that older people were suspicious of using direct debits therefore the Council needed to get the right people in to explain the system.

Councillor Parker explained that a lot of people already paid by direct debit and the report were just letting people know that this was the Council's preferred method of payment and he clarified that other methods of payment were still available.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. approved the *Direct Debit* method of payment be adopted as the default position where a service user of the Directorate falls within the Fairer Charging Policy and may be assessed as making a financial contribution towards the services they receive in all cases;**
- 2. approved that exceptions be made where there may be legal requirements to offer a different method of payment or the service user chooses not to; and**
- 3. Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to carry out any actions required to implement recommendation 1 above.**

86/16 Children's Services Improvement Programme

The Chairman offered her thanks to Alex Hopkins who had lead the changes to Children's Services. A huge effort had been made and it was a significant achievement.

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

- Explained that the report was asking Cabinet to note the results of the recent Ofsted inspection;
- The Council had received a 'Requires Improvement' rating and was listed as showing service improvement across all areas;
- A couple of the key areas were the creation of the Social Work academy and the Council's commitment to reducing a social workers case load; and
- He also offered his thanks for Alex Hopkins, Sharon Muldoon and all the staff for their efforts.

Councillors made the following points:

- It was noted that the Council was performing well in the area of children's comes, therefore it was queried why we were not doing more of it and look to have more Council run children's homes;
- It was felt that it was a bad report, that showed the Council was failing it's children and it the Council was school the leadership team would be removed;
- There had been 4 different directors of Children's Services during that time, 3 different Cabinet Members looking after the service, which did not create stability;

- It was felt that for 12 years the Council had let the children of the county down and that 12 years was the educational life of a child;
- Praise was given to officers who were doing their best;
- Disappointment and anger was expressed at the lack of support given to the children of the county;
- Opposition members were unable to change a decision taken by the Cabinet;
- Concern was expressed that 3 years and £63m later and the Council was still only 'Requires Improvement'; and
- All Councillors were welcome to attend the Children, Learning and Communities Scrutiny meetings, which didn't limit the time Councillors could speak on an item of business.

The Chairman noted that all of the political group leaders were able to have one to one meetings with the Chief Executive and could ask Cabinet Members questions at any time. The Council was looking to increase the number of children's homes it had but children would only be placed there if it was the right option for that child. She welcomed that the direction notice had been removed from the Council.

RESOLVED That Cabinet accepted the Ofsted report on Children's Services and the removal of the council from intervention as advised in the letter from Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children.

87/16 2015-16 Schools Outturn Report

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:

- He indicated that the report was for information only and that Cabinet were being asked to not the position; and
- He explained that the Schools Forum worked with the Council in terms of which priorities were set.

RESOLVED That Cabinet noted:

- 1. The 2015-16 outturn position for schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG); and**
- 2. School reserves at the end of the 2015-16 financial year.**

88/16 To declare those remaining freehold properties within the scope of Project Angel Surplus to the requirements on the Authority.

Please note the General Exception rule has been applied.

At the Chairman's invitation the Deputy Leader with responsibility for Public Protection, Councillor Gonzalez de Savage, introduced the report (copies of which had previously been circulated) and made the following points:

- One of the missions of the Council was to maximise its assets and the Council had vacated and ended the lease on a number of building to ensure that Project Angel was on budget and on schedule, which included 12 buildings; and
- The report was seeking to declare the buildings that the Council did own as surplus to requirements.

Councillors understood that Project Angel was on budget but queried what the capital receipt would be and how it affected the original business plan.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Agreed to declare 9 Guildhall Road, Northampton (N0022A), Springfield, Northampton (N0159A), Northwood Centre, Northampton (N0182A), Briar Hill Resource Centre, Northampton (N0415A) and Norborough House (N0429A), Northampton Surplus to the requirements of the Authority (shown edged red on the plans attached as appendices).**
- 2. Agreed to delegate to the Director of Finance and Head of Strategic Assets, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Finance, the authority to agree terms and dispose of the properties listed above.**

89/16 Framework contract for ICON Enterprise Licence on behalf of LGSS

Please note the General Exception rule has been applied.

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 he apologies for the delay in the report being published.

Councillor Parker noted that it was a sensible way to proceed and would be a way of ensuring that direct debits were collected.

RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed that delegated authority be given to the LGSS Director of IT Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for LGSS to enter into an Enterprise License agreement with Civica (subject to agreement of appropriate terms) for the ICON income management system on behalf of LGSS partners and customers and subject to the clearance of the Invest to Save PID through the Council's Capital Investment Board.

90/16 To renew existing lease and enter into an agreement to lease with Northampton Steam Railway Limited

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

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Approved the renewal of the existing lease of part of the Brampton Valley Way held by Northampton Steam Railway Limited for a period of 50 years at a peppercorn rent: and**
- 2. Agreed to delegate the agreement of detailed terms and conditions to the Corporate Director of Place Commissioning, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member: and**
- 3. Approved the Council entering into an agreement to lease of a further length of the Brampton Valley Way. The agreement to lease to be subject to Northampton Steam Railway Limited raising funds to extend their operation and mitigating any environmental impact. The agreement to lease to be time limited to 10 years.**

91/16 Quarterly Treasury Management Report 2015-16

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 queried if a comparison against other Councils with similar investment portfolios could be provided to show the return on investment.

RESOLVED That Cabinet noted the Treasury Management Report.

92/16 Monthly Capital Report (MCR) final expenditure outturn for the financial year ending 31 March 2016

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

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the final capital outturn of £111m for the financial year 2015-16 and the expenditure and funding of subsequent financial years.**
- 2. Approved capital investment totalling £7,860,500 (detailed in section 9) associated with:**
 - I. Wren Spinney Community SEN Secondary School Expansion £900,000**
 - II. Isebrook SEN College Expansion £5,166,500**
 - III. Old Stratford Primary School Expansion £364,000**
 - IV. Rowan Gate Hydrotherapy Pool £50,000**
 - V. Barry Road Pool £80,000**
 - VI. St Giles Public Realm Phase 2 £1,300,000****following recommendations from the Capital Investment Board to enable entry into the Council's Committed Capital Programme.**

93/16 Final Outturn Report for the financial year ending 31 March 2016

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:

- He noted that it was the final outturn report and the Council had come in on budget;
- He was confident that future financing was based on delivery within the budget; and
- He understood that scrutiny would look at the budget in detail.

The Chairman explained that from the July Cabinet meeting the Monthly Finance Report would become the first item on the agenda.

Councillors explained that reserves were a great concern for the future and suggested that the Council looked at other ways of bringing revenue in such as using capital assets.

RESOLVED That Cabinet:

- 1. Noted the Council's reported financial position at the end of 2015-16.**
- 2. Approved the Carryforward request amendments as set out in Appendix B.**
- 3. Approved the level of Earmarked and General reserves as set out in Appendix C**
- 4. Noted the level of provisions as set out in Appendix D.**
- 5. Gave delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance to agree the release of the Earmarked Reserves and Carryforwards in 2016-17.**

94/16 Re-procurement of the contract for Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)

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 indicated that it was pleasing to note that the Council was continuing to invest in the assistance programme for employees.

Councillors queried if the themes of attendance were monitored and what monitoring was carried out on the programme.

The Chief Executive explained that a detailed, but anonymous report was produced detailing health, accidents, emergencies, both at a departmental level and at an organisational level which included details about employee assist.

RESOLVED That Cabinet agreed to:

- 1. Support the commencement of a new competitive tendering process for a re-procured framework for the provision of Employee Assistance Programme; and**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Director of PTT, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance to approve, award, execute and authorise the execution of all the necessary arrangements arising from a recommended service provider, providing the cost is no more than the budget provision.**

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Cabinet was scheduled for Tuesday 12 July 2016.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2.30PM

Barbel Gale
Democratic Services

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

