



Democratic Support Service
PO Box 136
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MINUTES of the Business Meeting of the NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
held at County Hall, Northampton on 26 November 2015 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Councillor Phil Larratt (Chairman)
Councillor Malcolm Waters (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor	Sally Beardsworth	Councillor	Cecile Irving-Swift
"	Wendy Brackenbury	"	Joan Kirkbride
"	Julie Brookfield	"	Graham Lawman
"	Jim Broomfield	"	Derek Lawson MBE
"	Michael Brown	"	Stephen Legg
"	Robin Brown	"	Chris Lofts
"	Mary Butcher	"	Malcolm Longley
"	Michael Clarke	"	Arthur McCutcheon
"	Adam Collyer	"	John McGhee
"	Elizabeth Coombe	"	Allan Matthews
"	Gareth Eales	"	Dennis Meredith
"	Brendan Glynane	"	Ian Morris
"	Matt Golby	"	Steve Osborne
"	André Gonzalez De Savage	"	Bill Parker
"	Christopher Groome	"	Bhupendra Patel
"	James Hakewill	"	Suresh Patel
"	Eileen Hales MBE	"	Russell Roberts
"	Mike Hallam	"	Ron Sawbridge MBE
"	Jim Harker OBE	"	Bob Scott
"	Stan Heggs	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	Alan Hills	"	Heather Smith
"	Sue Homer	"	Danielle Stone
"	Jill Hope	"	Michael Tye
"	Dudley Hughes	"	Allen Walker
"	Sylvia Hughes	"	

Also in attendance (for all or part of the meeting):

Honorary Alderman John Bailey
Dr Paul Blantern, Chief Executive
Art Conaghan, Conservative Group Political Assistant
Laurie Gould, Monitoring Officer
Paul Hanson, Manager, Democratic Services
Jenny Rendall, Democracy Officer (Minutes)
Ben Wesson, Labour Group Political Assistant

And 15 members of the public.

73/15 Apologies for non-attendance:

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Paul Bell, David Mackintosh, Dr Andy Mercer, Judy Shephard, Winston Strachan & Sarah Uldall

74/15 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2015:

RESOLVED that: Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2015 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

75/15 Notification of requests by members of the public to address the meeting

There were none.

76/15 Declarations of Interest by Councillors:

There were none.

77/15 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Felicity Ward who had painted his predecessor was invited to come down to the front of the Council Chamber to formally present Councillor Joan Kirkbride with her previous Chairman's portrait.
- At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Kirkbride addressed Council stating she felt this county was very fortunate to have such a superb university with a remarkable arts department which attracted many young people to further a career in arts. She had been delighted to continue a tradition started by Honorary Alderman John Bailey asking students from the university to paint portraits. She felt this was the start of a fantastic career for Felicity whose portrait she was really pleased with. She felt Felicity had an amazing talent and she hoped the links between the Council and the University would remain to assist other young artists to get the opportunity to paint such portraits.
- On Saturday the Chairman had been very pleased to attend a celebration of the achievements of our young leaders as well as hear about the new Young Leaders for the next 2 years. Some of our current young leaders have re-stood for election so some of these names won't be a surprise but our Northamptonshire Young Leaders for the term 2015-2017 are as follows:

Northampton	-	Georgia Simpson
Kettering	-	Taylor King
Corby	-	James Barker
East Northants	-	Typhaine Thompson
South Northants	-	Alistair Bassett
Wellingborough	-	James Burrow
Daventry	-	Abigail Newman

The Chairman welcomed some of them to the meeting.

- Over the lunchtime period there would be a video playing in Room 15 from the Shadow Board Rap Group as well as a video on Project Angel which the Chairman urged everyone to watch.
- Councillor Matt Golby was congratulated in efforts in 'Strictly' an event which had raised over £45,000 for worthwhile causes.

78/15 Petitions:

None received.

79/15 Opposition Priority Business:

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Jill Hope proposed the following motion (copies of which had been previously circulated):

"Council notes the Liberal Democrat motion passed in March of this year to require business cases to be presented before moving any department forward into the 'next generation' model.

However, Council further recognises that these business cases must be both credible and accessible if it is to help safeguard services and inform the public. Furthermore, Council recognises the need for proper scrutiny to ensure that changes to the structure of the Council and delivery of services are not allowed to have a negative impact on service-users' quality of life.

Council has grave concerns that the new model of service provision could see reductions in service provision far greater than the savings required necessitate, and could see a substantial increase in overhead costs and bureaucratic redundancy.

Council notes that many of these concerns are apparent in the recent wellbeing CIC "business plan" presented to Cabinet.

Council therefore resolves that further business cases will be made available to appropriate scrutiny committees at least 6 weeks before presentation to cabinet to ensure proper democratic scrutiny. Furthermore, Council will require an external and independent report to the consistency and efficacy of all further business cases to be presented to cabinet alongside the cases themselves."

In moving the motion, Councillor Hope stated this motion was concerned with the broader principles of business cases although it did touch on the business case for the wellbeing CIC that would be discussed later that day. She felt more time was required when considering the major changes that were happening in the Council and she felt sending these ideas to scrutiny for further consideration was a really good idea. She felt the business case for the Wellbeing CIC was not adequate as a business case but could be improved by being forwarded to scrutiny first.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Chris Lofts.

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Adam Collyer then proposed an amendment to the motion to delete the final sentence. In moving this amendment, Councillor Collyer stated he felt business cases were very important and required proper consideration and he felt it was difficult to discharge his duty as a councillor when the business case is produced with

short notice. He felt Cabinet should be scrutinising and challenging the things proposed by officers and this could be done through scrutiny. He therefore could not support the idea of funding external support to do something Council had a mechanism for doing anyway.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Chris Groome.

The amendment was not accepted and Councillors debated it commenting as follows:

- Some felt the amendment was not necessary as external reports were requested regularly on Council decisions in order to guarantee transparency. It was therefore felt better to support the motion as originally proposed.
- Some felt it was worth spending a sum on getting a business case checked and looked over by an expert in this particular field who could look at it in a forensic way and possibly point out further areas of consideration.
- Reference was made to the debacle between Northampton Town Football Club and Northampton Borough Council as well as the Council's own loan to Silverstone which included due diligence to ensure the agreed sum could be returned. As the Health & Wellbeing CIC was such a big responsibility for the Council it was therefore considered appropriate to go through the necessary checks and balances including commissioning an external review.
- Some felt an external review was the only way to ensure mistakes were not made.

In reply Councillor Hope stated she did not like the idea of an amendment being passed based on an assumption and therefore could not accept the amendment to the motion.

Upon the vote, the amendment to the motion was defeated.

Discussing the substantive motion, councillors commented as follows:

- Some felt it was really important to be able to receive all of the information required and scrutiny had not had the ability to look through the business case for the Health and Wellbeing CIC.
- There had been too much information in the business case to fully read and digest in the time provided
- It was also noted much of the information in the business case had been discussed by scrutiny in a meeting on 14 October, the third of 3 meetings specifically set up to discuss the Wellbeing CIC. At each of these meetings the broad principles were discussed quite thoroughly.
- Some expressed concerns about whether this was the right thing to do and felt that employing an external consultant to ascertain if this was the right thing to do would at least give councillors the reassurance that it was because the ramifications if it was not would be massive.
- Concerns were raised that the business case did not state that this would be a better way to move forward. It was felt important to ensure this was the right way forward as the Council had a statutory duty to its children, adults, elderly adults, the vulnerable and all citizens of the county.
- Further concerns were expressed that this report was issued too late for it to be adequately read by those who were expected to make a decision about it.
- It was felt this was about ensuring all councillors had the transparency to make a good decision. It was felt all members required the information.
- It was noted that although the business case might have been discussed at length it was not actually made available until approximately 24 hours before it was due to be discussed. It was felt however that the business case should have been released earlier so that all members could see the detail.

- Some felt they could not support the motion because the engagement process for the Wellbeing CIC had been one of the most comprehensive that had been carried out.
- Councillors who had attended each of the scrutiny sessions were thanked for their support and commitment to scrutinising the documents before they were finalised.
- Concerns were raised that the business case for the Wellbeing CIC had been released late and was not presented to scrutiny, particularly as this would have provided a real opportunity for the portfolio holder to be inclusive, transparent and write a well written business case.

RESOLVED that: Upon the vote, the motion was defeated.

80/15. Discussion Paper submitted by Councillor Christopher Groome:

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Christopher Groome introduced his discussion paper stating the cost of HS2 had risen from £50billion to £55.7billion. He had 3 issues within his paper the first being the effect of HS2 on those people using the existing railway in Northampton, Milton Keynes, Rugby and Long Buckby. When he had produced his original paper, there was an interesting dichotomy between what was said and what the figures being fed through behind the scenes said about what people would receive. The services appeared to be augmented by the removal of high speed trains not just through Northampton and Milton Keynes but also Kettering, Wellingborough and Market Harborough. The figures however did not actually reflect what was being said.

Councillor Michael Clarke was thanked for undertaking a good job as Chairman of a group helping the people of South Northamptonshire to get mitigation for the damage this intrusive railway line will cause as it is built across their territory without any benefits.

Turning to Euston, Councillor Groome noted the number of approach tracks would be reduced from 6 to 4 and the number of platforms available for existing services from 18 to 11: a serious reduction. The resilience of the system with these reductions would be considerably reduced with trains needing to turn around faster in Euston and a serious risk of major disruption and ongoing problems. There were also no plans costed in for taking people from Euston to elsewhere in London and when he had raised this as an issue at a meeting organised with HS2 Ltd he was informed it was a matter for Transport for London.

Stage 2 of the plan is the Eastern route which in his opinion had been very poorly thought out and did not include stations where they needed to be. There would be an additional cost for linking Totton with Nottingham and Derby and links to stations going north would be poor.

Overall Councillor Groome suggested the Council needed to be active in terms of problems at Euston and on Stage 2 where there were cheaper ways of providing the service as set out in his paper.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Concerns were raised that passenger numbers from Northampton had risen from 1.9million in 2013/14 to 2.8million in 2014/15. Euston had poor underground connections and the answer seemed to be Crossrail2 which wouldn't even be available until the 2030s.
- Further concerns were raised that Great Britain had spent too long talking about HS2 to the point that the country was probably already 50 years behind continental Europe.

- Concerns were raised that the county should be complaining about the general deterioration of services along the line to and from Euston. Northamptonshire was a growing county that should be shouting against the reductions in service it was receiving and the solution was to revamp Euston in much the same lines as St Pancras had been revamped.
- A further area of concern was North Northamptonshire which did not appear to have the electrical capacity.
- Councillor Groome's knowledge and experience in this industry was noted.
- The HS2 Committee in South Northamptonshire had met every few weeks with Councillors Morris, Walker, Sawbridge and Broomfield as well as the Chairman, Councillor Groome and Clarke. It had direct relevant input into the way HS2 would come across in the county and it had been able to achieve a Bypass which would affect the parish of Chipping Warden and extracted a considerable sum from HS2. It had lobbied the House of Commons Select Committee with petitions and within other areas had influenced the rail users group. Through the persistence of Councillor Strachan and Honorary Alderman Brian Binley, a lot of lobbying had taken place in the background and whilst the minutes from the meetings were not widely published they could prove the contribution county councillors were trying to make to people's lives.
- The economic heart of England being Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire had discussed HS2 and recognised the opportunity to grow along more traditional lines such as through the East-West link between Cambridge and Oxford. This tri-county alliance would continue under the leadership of Tony Ciaburro to achieve as much as possible for the benefit of the area.
- It was also confirmed the Northampton Rail Users Forum was well aware of issues at Euston and would continue to lobby for the best possible outcome.

In reply Councillor Groome thanked colleagues for their comments. He felt plans were required for both Euston and the Eastern Arm. This involved a very large sum of money and the strategy which had been previously referred to did not include a lot of quick wins and nothing would be to the benefit of Northamptonshire. There was a need for the people of Northamptonshire including its leaders to keep a close eye on developments and the affect they will have on the area.

RESOLVED that: Council noted the discussion paper.

81/15 Business items (including Budget & Policy Framework items, Appointments & Annual Reports)

(a) Annual report by SACRE 2014-15

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Dudley Hughes proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) who thanked the previous Chairman, Elizabeth Drage for all of her support but who had retired due to ill health. He also thanked Lesley Pollard for all of her assistance firstly as a local authority advisor assigned to supporting SACRE and then latterly as an external advisor. Unfortunately not all of the team results could be provided because they were not available at the time the report was published. The work of SACRE was a central part of the Council's PREVENT strategy. Many faiths were represented on SACRE which provided good resources for RE teachers as well as many members visiting schools to discuss the faiths they include. This was an important thing to do in terms of the PREVENT strategy and Ofsted, particularly some of the schools in more rural areas who wouldn't usually meet other faiths. RE in the county's schools had

move on from teaching people about something to actually teaching young people to have knowledge and respect for other faiths and that was needed on the current society.

Councillor Matt Golby seconded the report stating religious education was extremely important, ensuring all cultural differences were emphasised and understood

The current Chairman of SACRE, Mrs Jenny Dixon was also present and answered queries on the report as follows:

- SACRE's constitution was set by parliament and was inflexible.
- RE had developed in the past few years much more into a use of language and debating skills
- Academies had a choice of using either the Northamptonshire syllabus or one adopted by their adoptee. No analytical work had been undertaken in relation to which syllabus academies generally chose to adopt.
- PREVENT was not within SACRE's statutory remit. The only remit for the local authority was to ask them how they implemented the PREVENT strategy.
- Philosophy and ethics was very much the province of the Vice-Chairman of SACRE. SACRE had received a presentation from Northampton School for Boys who had a first rate 6th form who had presented on how they would use it in the future.
- Applying the SACRE methods to the primary sector could be reviewed by an advisor.
- Having a non-voting humanist member was contradictory and something that could be reviewed.
- The Chairman of the Northamptonshire Supplementary Schools was a member of SACRE.

In reply Councillor Hughes thanked his colleagues for the very real discussion that had been held between them.

RESOLVED that: Council received and approved the SACRE Annual Report for 2014/15 to be published to schools in order to improve the quality of provision for Religious Education and collective worship.

(b) Health & Wellbeing Board Annual Report

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Robin Brown proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating it was a pleasure to bring forth the annual report which was a straight forward paper. It was a statutory paper with a defined set of inclusions. One change in the last report was that the Board had become responsible for oversight of the Better Care Fund and membership of the Board now included representatives from main providers of health in the county. The Board itself had no statutory powers to make anyone do anything and it was very much in the hands of the partners themselves to work together and find solutions for improving outcomes for people in the county. Northamptonshire did have a troubled health economy and pressures on adult social care. Many activities had been promoted through the Healthier Northamptonshire Programme. All of the public sector members had signed up to a healthier workplace event and there were now 30,000 employees actively involved with a healthier workplace programme. Details of the Better Care Fund would be made available in December and the strategy will be consulted in public during January/February 2016 and this would include a workshop for councillors.

The report was seconded by Councillor Heatherr Smith who stated the continuation of Council's support for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Disappointment was stated in that some of the data still wasn't within the body of the report, particularly that relating to the level of reduction in childhood obesity.
- It was also felt important to include representation from the primary stage, particularly as the primary sector being on board with any programmes was really important.
- It was also suggested more could have been done in terms of collaboration.
- Concerns were raised that the Council's scrutiny function had not been consulted. Also that aids and targets set out in the report did not include any narrative to explain why they had not been achieved.
- Further concerns were raised that the report was quite thin and disappointment was expressed that so little was provided in the report about support to young people with mental health issues.
- It was suggestion a member from the opposition should be invited to join the Health & Wellbeing Board as this would enable members of the Board to achieve greater in the future.
- Disappointment was expressed that the report read like a wish list without saying how things would or could be achieved. It was noted that in the previous year 50,000 died from respiratory issues but it did not say how the targets for the current year would be achieved.
- Mental health was something that some felt should be talked about more, particularly by the Health and Wellbeing Board who could do much to improve life for those suffering from mental health issues.
- The Northamptonshire Young Leaders were thanked for the work they had undertaken to assist young people suffering with mental health issues and remove the stigma of mental health. Many are afraid to admit when they have been affected by mental health issues and the Northamptonshire Young Leaders had done much to reduce this.
- Some felt a need to understand what had gone wrong and how it could be corrected.

In reply Councillor Brown noted the Health & Wellbeing Board had no powers to change the individual areas partners wished to follow. The Health Adult Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee could ask GPs and health providers to come to a meeting and be asked what and/or why a particular thing was happening. He shared some of his colleagues' frustrations as sometimes there were obvious things that should happen but for whatever reason the Board decided to do something else. Also sometimes, Monitor might brief against another regulator and collaboration could fail as a result of partner organisations having to work to differing and particular financial outcomes.

Continuing, Councillor Brown referred to Dr David Smart who was the specialist advising the Board and who had in many ways ensured the Board had signed the mental health service concordat and been engaged with the Northamptonshire Young Leaders on their work. The bulk of the work could be found through the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA). He always ensured information was shared with colleagues in education to ensure improvements were made. There were at least 8 drop-in workshops a year that all members could attend to see how work was achieved.

RESOLVED that: Council:

- 1) Agreed to continue to support the Health & Wellbeing Board as it took on its role as a statutory body; and**
- 2) Received the Health & Wellbeing Board's Annual Report.**

(c) Amendments to the Constitution

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Bill Parker proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating these were required changes to the Constitution as detailed in sections 4-6 of the report. Section 4 was a requirement in terms of upper tier officers in Highways, Section 5 related to changes required to the Council's responsibilities in weights and measures and Section 5 related mainly to trading standards. A further change related to the sale of cigarettes to those under the age of 18 years. The Personnel Committee had also agreed at its last meeting to no longer be involved in appeals against dismissal.

The report was seconded by Councillor Allen Walker.

Councillors commented as follows;

- It was noted the Personnel Committee had agreed to engage further with unions and only decided at its last meeting to no longer take part in appeals against dismissal and not when these papers had been published.
- It was suggested it was now time to reconsider whether the Council required a stand alone personnel committee and it was confirmed this was on the agenda for the Administration at its next AGM.

In reply Councillor Parker thanked everyone for their contributions.

RESOLVED that: Council agreed

- 1) The changes to the constitution as set out in Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the report; and**
- 2) That these changes would take effect immediately and agreed that the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to make these amendments, any associated, confirming amendments and to republish the Constitution.**

(d) Treasury Management Report, Quarter Two 2015-16

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Bill Parker proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating this was a report he brought to Council every 6 months and which was asking Council to agree some changes to the minimum revenue provision policy. The Council currently had a 4% reducing balancing system as outlined on page 132 of the report. This would mean it would take 200 years to pay off the debt but a fixed 2% until 2029/30 would put the Council in a profit situation.

The report was seconded by Councillor Andre Gonzalez de Savage.

Councillors commented as follows:

- The Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Councillor Parker were thanked for ensuring the Council's assets were well looked after and supported by a scrutiny function that was alive and well.
- It was suggested the Council undertake a benchmarking exercise to compare its results with those of other councils
- It was noted that the Council had an increase in capital finance requirement above that originally required in the budget and although it had some success in internal borrowing, the report did state later that it was becoming increasingly difficult to bring borrowing down. A word of caution was therefore highlighted and the need to consider more long-term solutions.

In reply Councillor Parker stated he would be happy to discuss which of the Council's assets would be sold to fund the Council's activities outside of the meeting with Councillor Stone. He also noted the point about looking at what other local authorities were doing that could influence such papers in the future.

RESOLVED that: Council agreed to:

- 1) Note the Treasury Management Report and forward to Full Council; and**
- 2) Approved the proposed Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, set out within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2015-16 (section 16 of the report)**

(e) Monthly Capital Report (MCR) new capital scheme approvals:

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Bill Parker proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating this report required approval of 2 schemes, one for £50,000 funding loan regarding investments and highways and the other is a feasibility study into St Johns Secure Unit.

The report was seconded by Councillor Heather Smith who stated the feasibility study into the St John's Secure Unit that was mothballed several years ago when the premises no longer met current day standards. She was pleased to note the funding was now available to see if they could use the building in any way.

It was suggested that road access into St Johns Secure unit also be reviewed as it appeared to be becoming a bit of an accident black spot and there was a need to put pressure on to Highways England to try and improve access.

In reply Councillor Parker stated the accidents issue on the A43 had been taken on board as a very serious issue.

RESOLVED that: Council:

Approved the inclusion of 2 new capital schemes:

- NPCC Funded Local Road Safety Improvements, totalling investment of £50,000; and**
- Feasibility Study – St John's Secure Unit, totalling investment of £39,970.**

To enable their formal entry into the Council's Committed Capital Programme following Cabinet and Capital Investment Board (CIB) recommendations (as detailed in Section 5 of this report).

(Councillor Eileen Hales left the meeting at this point)

(f) Wellbeing Community Interest Company (CIC) Business Case:

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Robin Brown proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating he had been responsible for Health within the Executive since 2009 at which time he worked closely with the Director of Public Health, Professor Horsley. When Central Government changed the way in which public health would be delivered and that it would be delivered by upper tier authorities from 2013 Professor Horsley stayed on the medical side and the Council recruited Dr Akeem Ali who acted as an interim and then permanent Director since 2013. Having a fresh pair of eyes look over public health and how it would be delivered had benefitted the Council. NHS is a brand, the best brand in the county and the benefit of being associated with that brand gave confidence to all users and residents of the county. The final papers took 6-9

months to develop and consultation with the public and councillors had taken place during that time.

The report was seconded by Councillor Sylvia Hughes.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Although there were items in the business case that were sensitive, large parts weren't. A more open approach would be to have made as much of this report as possible put in the public domain.
- Not all of the conclusions in the report were agreed with. To some it was felt there was nothing in the business case to reassure members that the major upheaval this would produce would be worth it. The rationale at the outset was about integration of pooled budgets but the Council appeared to be contributing 96% of the core budget. The university was contributing expertise but of course they did that now. The NHS would do what it had always done and only contributed 4% of the funding.
- Section 5.11.2 of the report referred to health checks in country parks and concerns were raised that these were little used by those who struggled with access to them. Section 4.4 referred to integration and holistic processes but these were things NCC should be delivering anyway.
- Section 5.12 of the report referred to equalities impact assessment and some were glad to see the journey travelled in this respect. There was a need to look at finance creating finance.
- Concerns were raised that opposition members had not received the private business case until days before it was due to be discussed.
- The business case would have a crucial and important role in helping provide services. Integrating public health and NHFT would provide the way for real and creative working, reduce more costly intervention and focus on less costly and earlier preventions. It was a vital and appealing in his work to give the vulnerable and elderly better outcomes.
- Reference was made to a letter received from a resident and the relevant portfolio holder was asked to respond to this letter.
- Whilst many agreed the need to work closer with heath, the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the evidence for how this would make things any better and achieve improved outcomes was requested.
- It was suggested an external review and report on the business case would provide the people of Northamptonshire the reassurance that they could trust the Council.
- Concerns were raised that the Wellbeing CIC did pose significant risks. Originally it was due to begin in September and now it had been delayed to December. Issues remained on the legal side and it was interesting to note that nationally 77% of organisations failed. Whilst the longer it takes, the more it will cost, there was a need to ensure it was undertaken correctly. It was also suggested this could be performed through an arms length company or more appropriately in-house.
- It was recognised there could be some really good benefits from the proposed model but it was also noted there would be £8million additional costs over the first 4 years and all benefits appeared to be speculative guesses and depended on this organisation selling quite a lot of services. Some estimated the true cost could be at least £20million over the first 4 years and suggested the business case needed more work done to it.
- It was noted current times were of unprecedented change in society, resulting in demands on society that could no longer be provided. The Wellbeing CIC was an opportunity to enhance and increase delivery of services. The business case was bold and innovative and the strategy embraced the vision for the future of next generation public health. The structure proposed was accountable and fully

appropriate to achieve what was required of it. The county was very focussed on next generation working and there had never been a better time to do so.

- There was always the need for rigorous development on finance and some felt the business case provided good proof of it and alongside the leadership capacity that was essential.

In reply Councillor Robin Brown stated he accepted that from a population of 700,000, 1,000 responses did not count as many. The reality was that the Council had worked with patients, the public and its employees in terms of understanding how the service which had been provided until now. Evidence he was aware of from other parts of the country, such as Northumberland and parts of Lincolnshire, where similar organisations had been created, the savings available had been much greater than those presented in this business case. He felt officers had been very prudent when predicting what could be saved and he felt sure the sum spent would be well spent. The number of people touched by these services would be much greater than those in the past or by the NHFT. It will be touching a much greater number of people, it is about wellbeing and improving wellbeing. Self care and awareness of self care was the way forward and he felt this new organisation would work towards providing a greater wellness service with opportunities for officers to understand and gain an understanding of the new ways of working.

Upon a recorded vote of 32 for and 16 against with 1 abstention, the motion was accepted.

RESOLVED that: Upon a recorded vote of 32 for and 16 against with 1 abstention, and in order to agree the formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) and having regard to its part in the Next Generation model Council noted:

- 1) The consultation that had taken place as reported in relation to the development of a CIC and have due regard to its results in the final decision making process;
- 2) That the process for obtaining leading counsel's advice has now started and work is being pursued with counsel on the:
 - a) Appropriate service agreement between the Council and the proposed CIC and all ancillary documentation relating to the establishment of the CIC;
 - b) Area of due diligence as reflected in the CIC as part of the Next Generation Model;
 - c) Process for ensuring good governance is in place and the Council's statutory obligations and duties are clearly reflected in the CIC;
- 3) approved the Business Case for the proposed CIC as referred to in this report subject to:
 - (a) Confirmation by the Chief Finance Officer as expected that the overall partial exemption threshold for NCC as a whole is not breached; and
 - (b) Positive completion as expected of further work to finalise the tax implications of the CIC.
- 4) agreed the proposals contained in Section 4 of the report on the initial transfer of some services and all necessary novations of relevant agreements;
- 5) agreed the proposals within the Business Case to transfer the services currently directly provided by the Council to the wellbeing CIC as managed services, as set out in paragraph 7.4 of the report and to delegate to the Monitoring Officer authority to make the necessary amendments to the Council's constitution subject to final agreement by Council at a future meeting.
- 6) endorsed Cabinet's decision to delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the S151 Officer, the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and

Wellbeing and the Director of Health and Wellbeing the power to take all necessary steps:

- a) To agree the process for formally setting-up the CIC and ensure the necessary compliance with all legal and financial formalities;**
- b) To approve all the recruitment and appointment of staff to the CIC;**
- c) To report to a future meeting of Cabinet on any matters that may require further consideration and decision-making.**
- d) To ensure that the results of any necessary consultation exercise are taken into account in the appropriate decision-making process.**

(g) Meeting dates for the Year 2016-17

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Allen Walker proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated).

The report was seconded by Councillor Bill Parker.

RESOLVED that: Council approved the following meeting dates for the year 2016-17:

- Thursday 16 June 2016**
- Thursday 22 September 2016**
- Thursday 24 November 2016**
- Thursday 16 February 2017**
- Thursday 16 March 2017**
- Thursday 11 May 2017**

82/15 Cabinet Business:

At the Chairman's invitation, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jim Harker introduced his report (copies of which had been previously circulated).

Answers to supplementary questions were received as follows:

- The Race to the Top Programme fell into 2 parts; carrot and stick. The carrot was the incentive which was going really well. The stick which was just as important was the prevention process to see how the Council could help schools to perform better. The Council had called in all schools within the bottom 2 categories, met with the Headteacher and Chair of governors. Initially during the summer they had interviewed 32 schools, the majority of which had been able to demonstrate they had robust improvement plans in place. 4 of these schools did not and each of them received a formal warning notice. 3 of these resulted in the appointment of additional governors and 1 led to a new Headteacher. 7 schools were then invited to a pre-warning meeting and 2 to an additional meeting. At least 2 of these will require intervention as far as their management is concerned. This demonstrated how seriously the Council took performance of its schools but there was still an outstanding issue and that was academies and how to ensure they were dealt with in the same robust way as the Council's schools. The Council would be meeting with an advisor the following week to ensure the Department for Education (DfE) places the same importance on reflective sufficient and efficient education of the county's pupils.
- The legal position with regard to declaring in interest was entirely for a councillor's own discretion. Northampton Borough Council was an entirely separate organisation.
- The amount offered towards the cost of maintaining the county's roads was incredibly challenging. Cabinet had passed its Highways Asset Management Plan

which identified an additional £10million into the Highways budget over the next few years which would make a real impact on the Council's roads. The Council's strategy which was nationally recognised was designed in a way to manage the county's highways with partners KIER WSP.

- The statement by the chancellor the previous day had provided some help in that upper tier authorities could consider an additional 2% target on council tax. Although the Council had gained a reputation for low spending and as a low taxing authority there was a need to ensure the necessary resources were in place to continue its work. There was also a need to ensure the Council received its share of the new homes bonus and business rates.
- The main benefits to the people of Northamptonshire would be the fact that they will be bringing together the better expertise of NCC and the University under one umbrella working to one story. Expectations were changing, demands were changing and the way they respond had to change as well. The Leader of the Council was very confident the Wellbeing CIC would improve health in the county and the main thing was that the Council could do better.
- The evolution agenda was about more than just connectivity issues. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were working really well in a very detailed way of working and that was the type of way in which county councils would need to work in the future. About 6 weeks previously, he had met with the 7 district and borough leaders in the county to discuss issues around the Strategic Alliance and a combined authority. It had never been easier to work together and had the Council been able to agree a waste agenda some years previously, it would have saved £7million a year. Working together to consider a combined authority could hopefully be the start.
- As far as he was aware the cost to date of setting up the Wellbeing CIC had been £250,000.
- Clearly the Police had rights and limited resources which meant that you had to rely on the common sense of those using schools. Perhaps they could speak to some of those who persistently parked on double yellow lines outside of schools.
- Councillor Clarke was more than happy to meet with Councillor Beardsworth to discuss issues coming up.
- The Council now employed a new permanent assistant director for schools and there would be a renewed focus to tackle why the County's schools were under performing.
- As far as he was aware the Wootton Hall free school was still on track to open.
- All policies were now Care Act compliant.
- The actions being taken by Public Health and Wellbeing in the county are such that once again, they had been extolling the virtues of people ensuring they make use of their pharmacists to obtain a flu inoculation and that GPs ensure all those vulnerable people were contacted and invited to attend to obtain a flu inoculation.

One verbal question was also answered as follows:

- The assistant director had already been involved in the entrance to the new Aldi Store on Harborough Road, Northampton. Whilst he would visit the site, he would also very much be guided by professional judgement. He would also keep Councillor Beardsworth informed of any progress.

RESOLVED that: Council noted:

- 1) The report by the Leader of the Council; and**
- 2) Answers provided to questions submitted both in writing and verbally to the meeting,**

83/15 Report by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Committee

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Jim Hakewill introduced his report (copies of which were previously circulated) stating there had been excellent scrutiny yesterday with representatives from NEP and SEMLEP.

The report was seconded by Councillor Dudley Hughes who stated the meeting of the Children, Learning and Communities Scrutiny Committee would take place the following week at which reports about apprenticeships and school places would be heard and the Director of Children, Families and Learning would be present to answer any questions.

Queries were answered as follows:

- All of the issues raised by councillors during discussions about the Wellbeing CIC had been listened to and considered.
- On 16 December 2015 every councillor should have a list of budget scrutiny dates. Every councillor would have the opportunity to bring up items for scrutiny.
- Councillor Parker would be attending a working group on 1 December 2015 at 2pm to talk about issues relating to the budget

RESOLVED that: Council noted:

- 1) the report by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Committee**
- 2) Answers provided to questions submitted both in writing and verbally to the meeting.**

84/15 Motions submitted by Councillors Under Rule 13.1 of the Constitution:

(a) Motion submitted by Councillor Mary Butcher:

The Chairman invited Councillor Mary Butcher to move the following motion:

"This Council notes that increasing numbers of people who require equipment, aids and adaptations made to their homes have to wait long periods of time before such changes happen. In certain cases it is believed that elderly people have passed away prior to receiving these essential services.

This Council recognises that simple changes (like grab rails, ramps and installing stair lifts) can make a real difference between living independently and requiring carers or more intensive social care support. Providing these services in a timely fashion is essential to ensuring quality of life for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and enables them to live in their own homes, which we know the majority of people prefer.

We therefore ask Full Council to refer this matter to relevant scrutiny committee for them to conduct review (seeing input from colleagues in the Borough/District Councils) with a view to improving the overall length of waiting times experienced for adaptation services in Northamptonshire".

In moving the motion Councillor Butcher stated she would like to bring Full Council's attention to an issue in adult social care. She considered trying to encourage people to be more independent and live longer in their own homes was wonderful. Adaptations made to their own homes enabled this but she was becoming increasingly aware that it was taking longer for these adaptations to be made. It saved the Council a lot of money log-

term but some residents had passed away before changes can be made. She was therefore bringing this to the Council's attention in a bid to have it reviewed by scrutiny. She would like to set up a scrutiny party to work with borough and district councils to ensure these adaptations were made quicker. She had recently spoken to one couple who had had half the adaptations put in but not the other half so had to bring in nurses to help them live in their own home.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John McGhee.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Some did not consider it necessary to bring this motion forward but more prudent to approach the scrutiny committee directly to request it be put on the agenda.
- It was felt important to ensure people remained in their own homes for as long as possible. Concerns were raised however about the borough and district abilities to provide a service.
- It was noted; young people also required adaptations in their own homes.
- Concerns were raised about the main steps a resident had to go through to get adaptations undertaken in their own home. It was also suggested the form sent out to those applying be reviewed as it was quite a thick form to go through.
- It was noted that every £1 spent generated £7.70 in social care relief.
- It was also noted all chief executives in the county had recognised this issue.

In reply Councillor Butcher thanked everyone for the support. She pointed out that it cost £26,000 per year to place someone in a nursing home but only £6,000 a year to make adaptations in the home.

RESOLVED that: Upon the vote the motion was accepted.

(b) Motion submitted by Councillor Danielle Stone:

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Danielle Stone proposed the following motion:

"This Council asks the Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider asking those schools which currently do not have to provide school breakfast clubs for their pupils. In particular, it is asked to consider the impact this would have on raising attainment, improving absence rates and lateness and to investigate how sponsorship, alongside the Pupil Premium, might fund the breakfasts. This information should then be provided to all schools in the county".

In moving the motion Councillor Stone stated her feelings that this was a very practical idea that could be implemented to bring about some big wins for schools at little cost to the Council. She was calling for a scrutiny review into school breakfast clubs which were a good idea but like every good idea, deserved review from time to time. Schools across the county should be setting them up. They improved attendance, attention and behaviour and had a good effect on how people learned. They assisted schools to establish their social network. She would therefore like a review of how many schools providing breakfasts and what type of breakfast was being served.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Julie Brookfield.

Councillors commented as follows:

- It was suggested Councillor Stone could have put this request to the relevant

scrutiny committee to consider as part of their work programme.

- Some felt it very important for children to have the opportunity to attend a breakfast club, especially as children learned better on a full stomach. Sponsorship was rife and there could also be other ways of sponsoring breakfast clubs could also be reviewed.

In reply Councillor Stone stated she felt schools could be encouraged to provide breakfast clubs during term time. There was also a need to consider what happens to children who don't get their breakfast as well as ensuring who was accountable and responsible for providing one.

RESOLVED that: Upon the vote the motion was unanimously accepted.

(c) Motion submitted by Councillor Chris Lofts:

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Chris Lofts proposed the following motion:

"Council notes with disappointment the failure of this administration to deliver the budget set out at the beginning of the financial year.

In particular, Council notes the deferral of highways schemes which will in turn reduce budgets for further maintenance work in future years, an issue about which the residents of Northamptonshire feel extremely strongly.

Council recognises the lack of a meaningful democratic mandate on many of the cuts made over the course of the last 2 years, since the budgets delivered have varied wildly from those passed by Council and, more importantly, consulted on by the public.

Council therefore resolves that the finance portfolio holder will be held to a higher standard in the upcoming budget, and his failure to construct a budget that can deliver the service standards promised to residents of the County in the pre-budget stage will no longer be deemed acceptable."

In moving the motion Councillor Lofts stated his motion was not intended as a criticism of Councillor Parker for whom he had every sympathy. Then looking at directorates it could be seen that one was varying its original budget by 12%, another nearly 7%, another over 8% and another nearly 6% and in total £44million this year would have been spent other than within the agreed budget. This motion was trying to state this was no longer acceptable. When the budget was put together, scrutiny warned council that there were a huge number of areas where scrutiny picked up the risks in being able to bring the budget about. There was a need to ensure the budget was more adequately consulted on.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sally Beardsworth.

Councillors commented as follows:

- It was felt by some that scrutiny had been developed very well enabling councillors to talk to many and come out with recommendations based on what had been heard.
- Some felt it unacceptable that the budget had changed by the sum of £44million during the course of the year and that it had not been discussed by scrutiny. If scrutiny was so good why wasn't it consulted earlier?
- Concerns were raised that the motion did not state what they considered the higher standard to be.

- It was suggested questions on the budget should be made to Councillor Parker at the scrutiny workshop on 1 December 2015.
- It was noted Councillor Parker had presented a budget to Council which had been scrutinised with concerns highlighted. However, the budget had now changed by £44million and none of this had been scrutinised. This was a huge amount of money that affected other services and it was felt more robustness was required. It was also noted that the borough and district councils had various contracts they could not get out of and therefore a waste contract could not be arranged between the county and borough and district councils.
- It was noted that despite having additional funding allocated to it, Children's Services had still managed to overspend on its budget. It was pointed out all councillors were corporate parents but still this budget was overspent.
- It was noted the Highways budget was the most efficiently run directorate in the county.

In reply Councillor Chris Lofts quoted the Assistant Director for Highways' e-mail in which he referred to works being deferred to the following year's programme but this would reduce the amount of money available in the next year's budget.

RESOLVED that: Upon the vote the motion was defeated.

(d) Motion submitted by Councillor Brendan Glynane:

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Brendan Glynane proposed the following motion:

"This Council recognises the fundamental role that education provides in underpinning a strong, competitive and growing economy both locally and nationally. This Council further notes that accessible education provides one of the last meaningful methods of social mobility, ensuring that people are able to contribute to society to the reach of their ability, irrelevant of their social and economic background. It is for this reason this Council and this administration have fostered investment and growth in post-16 education across the County.

This Council therefore notes with dismay the possible consequences to higher education colleges considering the Chancellor's expectation that Government departments find between 25% and 40% of their budget to cut ahead of this year's spending review.

Figures released this month suggest as many of 40% of post-16 educational establishments would need to close under such cuts from National Government.

This Council resolves to write to the Minister in charge and the Prime Minister calling for education to be protected from the swinging cuts of this Government. Further, this Council calls on Northamptonshire's members of parliament not to support any budget that would lead to the closure of post-16 educational establishments within our County."

In moving the motion Councillor Glynane stated how important education was for the economic success of the county. Whilst he felt some steps had been made forward in the right direction it was also important to protect the college of further education and whilst the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not cutting funding, in real terms it would be a decrease in funding. He also stated he accepted the amendment to the motion as he felt it was something they could all agree on.

In 2016, he noted there would be a consultation which he hoped all councillors would become involved with.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Dennis Meredith.

The Chairman then informed Council that the following amendment had been received:

“This Council recognises the fundamental role that education provides in underpinning a strong, competitive and growing economy both locally and nationally. This Council further notes that accessible education provides one of the last meaningful methods of social mobility, ensuring that people are able to contribute to society to the reach of their ability, irrelevant of their social and economic background. It is for this reason this Council and this administration has fostered investment and growth in post-16 education across the County and acknowledges the unfairness of the current funding formula which severely disadvantages Northamptonshire’s schools.

This Council therefore notes that an unfair funding formula combined with reductions in the education budget will unduly challenge our efforts to raise education outcomes for our County’s Children.

This Council resolves to continue to campaign with the F40 group, our MP’s and other relevant parties to redress the current unfair funding formula on behalf of Northamptonshire’s schools and write to the Minister in charge and the Prime Minister to seek assurances that no post 16 education establishments in Northamptonshire will close as a result of any reduction in funding.”

This amendment was accepted by Councillor Glynane and councillors commented as follows:

- This amendment was considered to be an opportunity to add a bit more to what had already been presented as it was particularly important to protect funding for post 16 education. Northamptonshire had some fantastic institutions but funding was always a persistent issue and the news from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the day before was welcomed. There were also benefits of perhaps joining a multi academy trust.
- The Council’s commitment and involvement with the F40 Group which campaigned for a fairer deal for the youth of Northamptonshire was affirmed and all MPs had been encouraged to become involved with that.
- Councillors were grateful to the Government for supporting 2 University Technical Colleges in the county and it was also noted the number of apprenticeships taken up in Northamptonshire had increased.
- The statement that a consultation would be held on a national funding formula was welcomed as it was something the F40 Group had lobbied for, for many months,
- There was also a need for realism as the overall picture also gave an 8% fall in funding for other services such as speech therapy. Therefore, the county should be prepared for a fall in funding as well as a rise or no change.
- Local colleges were good for the county as they provided a local focal point for young people. They provided a more grown up environment in which to learn and they should be preserved as a good local focal point for young people who did not wish to travel too far.
- The statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in effect a cut in funding and concerns were raised about the possible withdrawal of the educational support grants for post 16 students.

In reply Councillor Glynane stated an important thing in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement the previous day was help for house building. At the current time, the country was building approximately 160,000 houses per year and the biggest problem is that the construction industry had a workforce of just over 120,000 and a third of the workforce was over 50. Building the country's skill base was important for the county. Consulting on post 16 education was also important.

RESOLVED that: Upon the vote the motion was accepted.

85/15 Urgent Business:

There was none.

86/15 Exempt Business:

There was none.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.35pm.

Jenny Rendall
Democratic Support
30 November 2015

Chairman's Signature:-

Date:-

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Recorded Votes for Council:					
Date of Meeting: Thursday 26 November 2015					
Item No: 9(f) Wellbeing Community Interest Company (CIC) Business Case					

Surname	First Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Beardsworth	Sally		√		
Bell	Paul				√
Brackenbury	Wendy	√			
Brookfield	Julie		√		
Broomfield	Jim		√		
Brown	Michael		√		
Brown	Robin	√			
Butcher	Mary		√		
Clarke	Michael	√			
Collyer	Adam		√		
Coombe	Elizabeth		√		
Eales	Gareth				√
Glynane	Brendan		√		
Golby	Matthew	√			
Gonzalez de Savage	Andre	√			
Groome	Christopher			√	
Hakewill	James	√			
Hales	Eileen				√
Hallam	Mike	√			

Surname	First Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Harker	James	√			
Heggs	Stanley	√			
Hills	Alan	√			
Homer	Sue	√			
Hope	Jill		√		
Hughes	Dudley	√			
Hughes	Sylvia	√			
Irving-Swift	Cecile	√			
Kirkbride	Joan	√			
Larratt	Phil	√			
Lawman	Graham	√			
Lawson	Derek	√			
Legg	Stephen	√			
Lofts	Chris		√		
Longley	Malcolm	√			
McCutcheon	Arthur		√		
McGhee	John		√		
Mackintosh	David				√
Matthews	Allan	√			
Mercer	Andrew				√
Meredith	Dennis		√		
Morris	Ian	√			
Osborne	Steve	√			
Parker	Bill	√			
Patel	Bhupendra	√			

Surname	First Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Patel	Suresh	√			
Roberts	Russell	√			
Sawbridge	Ron	√			
Scott	Bob		√		
Scrimshaw	Mick		√		
Shephard	Judy				√
Smith	Heather	√			
Stone	Danielle		√		
Strachan	Winston				√
Tye	Michael	√			
Uldall	Sarah				√
Walker	Allen	√			
Waters	Malcolm	√			
Totals		32	16	1	8

Date: 26 November 2015

Agenda Item No: 2

Questions submitted under rule 10.2

Urgent Question to Councillor Jim Harker, Leader of the Council from Councillor Brendan Glynane:

Given recent revelations by the BBC concerning the member for Billing & Rectory Farm, will the cabinet be writing to all Councillors reminding them to update their declaration of interests, and reminding them of their legal and moral duties to the electorate regarding disclosure of interests?

Standing orders of all of our committee meetings including this meeting already remind members of their duties and responsibilities in this regard. The declaration of interest is a matter of personal responsibility of each and every Councillor.

1. Question to Councillor Jim Harker, Leader of the Council from Councillor Dudley Hughes:

Can you tell me how the Race to the Top bid money has been spent this year?

Twenty-two projects involving almost 100 schools have been awarded a share of the fund and these got underway in September.

The projects include:

- Ferrers School which is running masterclasses and transition projects with pupils at Higham Ferrers Junior School, South End Junior School and Whitefairs Junior School to improve English, maths and science skills and ease their transition to secondary school.
- The Hospital and Outreach Education pupil referral unit which is working to encourage young people with autism and anxiety to re-engage with learning and bring them back into education through The Bridge project.
- Geddington CofE Primary School which has launched the Geddington University, working with Kettering Buccleuch Academy and voluntary sector partners, to provide a series of after-school sessions involving a sporting activity, a homework club, workshops and talks, with the aim of raising aspirations and improving pupil participation.
- Clipston Endowed VC Primary School which is training its lunchtime supervisors to lead positive play activities during breaktimes to engage pupils.
- Wren Spinney which is working with Isebrook and Maplefields Academy to offer work-related learning opportunities for students with learning difficulties at The Studio in Kettering.

2. Question to Councillor Jim Harker, Leader of the Council from Councillor Malcolm Longley:

What is the current cost to completely repair our road and footpath to bring it up to as new condition?

Our current estimation of repairs needed to bring the asset up to 'as new' position is almost £226 million.

3. Question to Councillor Jim Harker, Leader of the Council from Councillor Ian Morris:

How does the funding formula financially disadvantage this local authority?

The funding formula is complex, but an example would be that the population data used in the formula is outdated, so as one of the fastest growing counties we do not get funding that fully recognises our population now.

Again, as an upper tier authority we lose out on funding streams such as New Homes Bonus and the 80:20 split for business rates because the majority of this funding goes to lower tier authorities but it is the upper tier authorities that bear the majority of the costs of growth in both infrastructure and service costs.

4. Question to Councillor Jim Harker, Leader of the Council from Councillor Wendy Brackenbury:

Can the Wellbeing CIC be privatised?

No, Community Interest Companies were set up in 2005 by the last Labour Government under the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004, and were designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good. Community Interest Companies can only be transferred into charities.

5. Question to Councillor Jim Harker, Leader of the Council from Councillor Joan Kirkbride:

What NHFT and University services are being considered for delivery through the new Wellbeing CIC?

NHFT currently provide a number of services including smoking cessation, public health grant funding for Changing Minds, school nursing, the family nursing partnership, health visits, breast feeding support, falls support, & oral health information. It is expected that these services will be novated to the new Wellbeing CIC.

6. Question to Councillor Jim Harker, Leader of the Council from Councillor Brendan Glynane:

The following letter was sent by the Prime Minister to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council.

Rt Hon DAVID CAMERON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Ian Hudspeth
Rannoch Lodge
Bladon
Oxon OX20 1RD

Monday, 14th September 2015

Dan Ian,

Oxfordshire County Council budget

I wanted to write further to the 2016-17 Budget Briefing that your office kindly sent across.

The local government finance settlement will not be determined until after the Spending Review and, as in previous years, it will be published in draft in December, subject to the approval of the House of Commons in February. As we made clear in the 2015 Conservative manifesto, every part of the public sector needs to continue to play their bit to help pay off the deficit that the last Labour Government left, including local government which still accounts for a quarter of all public spending.

I was disappointed at the long list of suggestions floated in the briefing note to make significant cuts to frontline services – from elderly day centres, to libraries, to museums. This is in addition to the unwelcome and counter-productive proposals to close children's centres across the county. I would have hoped that Oxfordshire would instead be following the best practice of Conservative councils from across the country in making back office savings and protecting the frontline.

Your briefing note suggested that £204 million had been taken out of the budget since 2010. Yet this is a cumulative figure that includes efficiency savings from cutting waste. The fact of the matter is that Oxfordshire's spending has actually increased in recent years.

Based on financial returns your Council has sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government, Oxfordshire County Council's net current expenditure fell from £823 million in 2009-10 to £772 million (budgeted) in 2015-16, a 6 per cent change. Yet this fall is due to the re-allocation of school funding from local education authorities to academies. Excluding education, the County's net current expenditure actually rose from £341 million in 2009-10 to £438 million (budgeted) in 2015-16. There has been a slight fall in government grants in cash terms, but this has effectively been made up for in other fiscal streams. Indeed, the county's spending power has increased this year by +1.3% in 2015-16, compared with a headline national average reduction of -1.7%.

The briefing note made no mention of the work that could be done to generate savings in a more creative manner. I note that the statutory Local Government Transparency Code 2015 requires councils to produce and publish a full property asset register. This process is an opportunity for the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of all its public property, to dispose of surplus assets, generate capital receipts, reduce overhead costs, increase rental rates of return, and identify brownfield land for regeneration and development in partnership with the private sector.

From the Member of Parliament for the Witney constituency in the district of West Oxfordshire, including Bampton, Burford, Carterton, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Eynsham, Witney and Woodstock.



There is also significant scope for more locally-led joint working and sharing of services between other local authorities and other public authorities inside and nearby Oxfordshire. This is not just about councils – for example, much can be done to improve co-operation and sharing between the blue light emergency services, generating savings and improving the effectiveness of emergency responses.

I note that social care accounts for a quarter of all the County's spending, and adult and children's social care net current expenditure rose from £201 million in 2009-10 to £266 million (budgeted) in 2015-16. An ageing population is a challenge for all councils, putting pressure on funding for other services. The Government is already taking forward pilots for the integration of health and social services in Greater Manchester and for elderly care integration in Cambridgeshire. As part of a devolution deal, such an initiative could potentially be available to Oxfordshire, provided there was reassurance that the County was taking a constructive approach to protecting frontline services.

In that context, I would be happy to initiate a further dialogue with advisers in the No10 Policy Unit and yourself – please contact Sheridan Westlake (swestlake@no10.x.gsi.gov.uk) if you wish to take this up.

Given the settlement will not be determined until December, I hope that the County will move cautiously in setting out its Budget plans, listening to both public opinion and the views of my fellow Parliamentary colleagues from across Oxfordshire.

Yours,
David

David Cameron

cc. Oxfordshire MPs

- a. What is the total fall in Government grants to Northamptonshire County Council since 2010/11?
- b. Would you agree with the leader of your party that these cuts are reasonably characterised as “small”?
- c. Do you believe the Prime Minister’s characterisation of Oxfordshire County Council suggests he has an adequate understanding of Local Government?
- d. Do you believe that the Prime Minister is completely out of touch with the Consequences of his cuts?
- e. If not, are you concerned about entering into a local devolution partnership with a Council and administration the Prime Minister evidently thinks is not living up to best practice in his management of Oxfordshire County Council?

During the lifetime of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government, the total fall in Government grants to this authority has been £185 million. Those reductions were signed off each year by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Danny Alexander. The other issues you raise in your questions are a matter for the elected member for Whitney and the leader of Oxfordshire County Council and I will not be drawn on this issue.

7. Question to Councillor Bill Parker, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and LGSS from Councillor John McGhee:

Precisely how much has been spent on the set up of the Wellbeing Community Interest Company so far (broken down by Officer time, consultant costs, legal fees etc)?

This is a question that you raised in November’s Cabinet and I am aware that officers are forming a response for you through that channel.

8. Question to Councillor Bill Parker, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and LGSS from Councillor Adam Collyer:

Following the closure of the ‘County Cavern’ staff cafe at County Hall, has consideration been given to offering it as an opportunity for a franchised cafe or coffee shop, which might be provided on a commercial basis at no cost to the Council?

We are planning such an opportunity for a coffee shop as part of our building plans for Project Angel, which should be realised by next year.

9. Question to Bill Parker, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance & LGSS from Councillor Brendan Glynnane:

The budget of year 2014/15 came in balanced, however, in terms of spend there was substantial deviation from the spending plans published, consulted on and approved by Council at the beginning of the year.

What is the total amount of money spent in areas that were not budgeted for last year?

I have provided a summary and enclosed the appendix A that was published in June which gives all of the details behind the final position and addresses question 1 and 2. The final sheet on this provides detail on the Reserves that were drawn down into the Directorates during the year and the main areas of overspend within Adults and Children Social Care.

These were then recognised in the budget set for 2015-16 with extra growth allocations given for increased demand. (Appendix H - also enclosed)

	£000
<u>Adults and Transition</u>	21,373
Less Mitigations and contract efficiencies	(5,612)
Total Overspend excluding Draw Down	15,761
Less Draw Down from Reserves	(3,891)
	11,870
<u>Safeguarding & Children's Services</u>	25,219
Less Mitigations and contract efficiencies	(7,620)
Total Overspend excluding Draw Down	17,599
Less Draw Down from Reserves	(7,115)
	10,484

10. Question to Bill Parker, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and LGSS from Councillor Brendan Glynnane:

We are in the same situation this year.

What is the current amount of money spent in areas that were not budgeted for this year?

Your question is answered in detail in the Monthly Financial Report that was published and discussed at November Cabinet.

11. Question to Bill Parker, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance & LGSS from Councillor Jill Hope:

Does the Council invest in petrochemical companies either directly or through the pension fund? To what degree?

NCC hasn't made any investments in petrochemical companies although we are still trying to confirm the position in respect of the pension fund investments.

12. Question to Councillor Michael Clarke, Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways & the Environment from Councillor Bob Scott:

How many schools have Civic Enforcement Officers (CEOs) visited during the last year?

In which areas were these schools and how many fines were levied during the visits?

Most of the parking problems around schools are with yellow zig-zags road markings which are not enforceable by our Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's). Only by the police has the powers of enforcement.

Where there are double yellow lines in the vicinity of the school, the current legislation only allows for the enforcement of a parked vehicle. It is not illegal for a car to stop on the double yellow lines to allow passengers to get in or out of the vehicle and therefore no enforcement action can be taken where a parent has stopped to drop off a child.

The number of schools visited by CEO's during the last year is 127 and this resulted in fifteen offences being detected where a ticket was issued.

13. Question to Councillor Michael Clarke, Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways & the Environment from Councillor Michael Brown:

In 2010 a formal application was made to the County Council for the adoption of the current footpath across the private land between numbers 23 and 24 Coverdale, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, to the Brampton Valley Way, to allow continuing access to part of the National Cycleway. This access has been used for the last 35 years at a minimum and probably since 1902. All the residents feel that the current landowner is being very obstructive. Yet the footpath is being used by hundreds of people weekly. I am aware that this is now top of the list of footpaths for the County Council. Can you please confirm when the County Council will arrange for this footpath to be formally adopted as it has been over 5 years since the original application?

It is not unusual for this process to take a number of years to complete and like any legal process this will be open to objections, which means that there is no guarantee the right of way will be legally adopted.

The footpath in question is the next Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) to be considered once the current ones have been processed. Once the process has started, the evidence will be examined, which involves for considerable and detailed research to be undertaken before an order can be taken forward, as ultimately it can be referred to the Secretary of State for resolution.

14. Question to Councillor Matt Golby, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Learning, Skills & Education from Councillor Danielle Stone:

What is the reason for the continued underperformance of the county's schools?

There are a number of factors that usually result in high performance in schools and it is often the combination of these that are important. They include:

- High quality, strong effective leadership and governance of schools
- High quality teaching in the classroom and the availability of high quality staff.
- An engaging curriculum offer that is suitable for the cohort of children that attend the school.
- A relentless focus upon performance outcomes and progress being made by each child or specific groups of children– using data openly and transparently and then analysing it, both within each school and between schools, clusters, localities and whole authority area (comparing to regional and national outcomes) to identify early any areas requiring specific interventions
- Effective training and development opportunities for teachers, governors and support staff
- Strong and visible leadership by the local authority to keep a strong focus upon learning and the importance of education (which links to economic growth and priorities too)
- There are other factors that can affect children's performance as individuals of course such as poor diet, lack of sleep or disruption to their education e.g. LAC moves of home and / or school

We launched Race to the Top last year which set out our 3 clear objectives on how we improve outcomes across the county. In the coming months, we will be increasing our focus on the issues above, especially in relation to ensuring the highest quality of leadership in all of our schools and nothing less than highest quality teaching practice.

15. Question to Councillor Matt Golby, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Learning, Skills & Education from Councillor Danielle Stone:

How is the county council going to meet the demand for secondary school places?

The county council is exploring a number of possibilities as to how it will meet the increased demand for secondary school places over the coming years.

The council is already working with external providers and the Education Funding Agency to provide an additional 420 places in the year of entry (Yr 7) and 2100 secondary places in total in Northampton, from September 2016, in the form of two new free schools; Northampton International Academy (NIA) and Wootton Hall Free School.

The need for additional secondary capacity has also been identified in Corby and the council is working with an Academy Trust regarding expansion for September 2017, prior to establishing a new secondary school for Corby before the end of the decade. Negotiations are at an early stage regarding site acquisition, and the possibility of this being a Free School is being discussed with the Education Funding Agency. Secondary school sites in Kettering and Wellingborough will be provided as part of the planned housing developments.

In addition to this, the county council is in the process of drafting an updated Strategy for school place planning to be published for consultation early in the New Year. We are also working closely with the Regional Schools Commissioner and EFA to identify how Free Schools will form part of the solution in respect of NCC meeting its statutory responsibility of providing sufficiency of school places within the county. The Capital Strategy for 2016-21 has also been updated as part of the MTFP and budget-setting process to recognise the pressure on secondary school capacity.

16. Question to Councillor Matt Golby, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Learning, Skills & Education from Councillor Danielle Stone:

Given that it is no longer than the County Council's intention for John Dryden House to be turned into a secondary school, can the Cabinet Member confirm which other sites in Northampton are being considered for new secondary provision?

There is a shared responsibility for the Council and the Regional Schools Commissioner / EFA to plan for new Free Schools where there is the greatest demographic pressure. The DfE has confirmed its intention to engage in a more active way with local authorities for free school proposals that meet a need for additional, high quality school places and we welcome this development. We are working with the EFA to identify a number of options for further secondary capacity in the town. A site is reserved for secondary as part of the Dallington Grange housing development and a new secondary school to the west of the town has been identified as a priority in the West Northants Joint Planning Unit Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The future use of John Dryden House is still a matter of discussion and no final decision has been made.

17. Question to Councillor Matt Golby, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Learning, Skills & Education from Councillor John McGhee:

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on how discussions with the Education Funding Agency and the Police & Crime Commissioner's office are progressing in terms of the proposed Wootton Hall Free School set to open next September?

Discussions regarding the opening of Wootton Hall Free School are still ongoing with the EFA, and plans are proceeding in the expectation that the school will open in September 2016. To date, no update has been received to contradict this information.

18. Question to Councillor Matt Golby, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Learning, Skills & Education from Councillor John McGhee:

Over 58% of primary schools in Corby are in an Ofsted category (Requires Improvement or Inadequate). What work was done to stop the schools going into a category and what is being done now to improve the quality of education for our children?

- In recent years the School Improvement team has been reduced in line with the reduction of central government resources and grants but remaining resources have been targeted to schools in Ofsted categories of RI or Special Measures and the LA carries its own evaluation of schools to identify any known to be at risk process which also informs the targeting of resources.
- Those schools causing repeated or significant concern are subject to a pre warning meeting with the LA and then if there is no improvement a Formal Warning Notice
- We now work in a very different and diverse educational landscape with a variety of faith, LA maintained, academy and free schools. This diverse landscape has been changing too in terms of school support which is now being offered not just by the LA but through a variety of other means e.g.: Teaching schools, Identified teacher and leaders with good practice and experience (National Leader of Education and National Leaders of governance) the regional schools Commissioner and DFE for academies and free schools and school to school support.
- Some schools employ their own School Improvement partner or expert to assist them
- The LA provide monitoring visits to the schools and advise them on their action plans or specific interventions
- Some schools are aligned to partner schools or may have an executive head teacher appointed to strengthen their leadership
- A combination of any of these resources are then deployed to support particular schools
- A variety of training and events exist for schools to access accordingly each year.
- Where schools are not performing, we will take appropriate steps including options around changing leadership (either removing the Headteacher or governing body) or sponsored academy solutions.

Shifting schools to being good and outstanding through Ofsted inspections is our key priority and we are making changes to our approach to ensure we have maximum impact with the resources we have available.

19. Question to Councillor Suresh Patel, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care from Councillor Sally Beardsworth:

Following your assurances at the last Council meeting, are you personally confident that all staff now have a proper understanding of the care act?

Staff underwent an extensive training up to 1 April 2015 in readiness for the first part of the Care Act becoming law as of that date.

Training took the form of a blended training approach starting with Care Act lunchtime overview sessions covering delivered in December 2014. These laid the foundation for classroom based follow-up training and focused on staff understanding the major changes and how this would affect them. A mandatory training course, specifically on the Care Act followed, which ran from January to end of April 2015. The course specifically on key skills that staff would need to successfully implement the Act including determining eligibility within the new national eligibility criteria and exploring how universal services and family support can contribute to meeting needs. In addition a comprehensive online Care Act workbook was created and made available to staff. Staff were asked to complete this at their own pace and managers have been reviewing progress with the workbooks through professional supervision.

Whilst the training focused on areas where our analysis indicated staff had the greatest need for training, the Care Act is a broad and sizeable legislation. To support staff to build knowledge in the areas of the Act that their role requires them to use less frequently, and to reinforce the core skills covered in training each team or locality have a hard copy Care Act Go Live Resource Pack of 2 volumes and a Practice Guidance pack which details the changes and also contains up to date policies following the necessary changes from the Care Act Legislation. Designed to allow quick access to some of the complexities within the act, these Resource Packs are amended as necessary when policies or procedures are updated or any beneficial expert additional knowledge that will assist staff to carry out their duties more effectively is sourced.

To supplement the ongoing acquisition of Care Act knowledge and to deepen professional understanding we planned a series of backup Bite Size Lunchtime Care Act sessions on various topics from the Care Act to embed the changes. These have been running since September 2015 and will go through to April 2016. They cover various aspects of the Care Act in more detail and have included guest speakers on particular aspects of the Act. The feedback from these has been positive in that staff understands how this impacts on their everyday job role.

Care Management change to practice included changes to the use of CareFirst. The practice and processes concerning use of Care First for ASC staff to record the assessments has also undergone a radical change to reflect the changes in the eligibility criteria to be Care Act compliant. The accompanying procedures to guide staff through these new formats have also been updated. Mandatory training for this was given in the form of webinars.

20. Question to Councillor Suresh Patel, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care from Councillor Sally Beardsworth:

Following your assurances at the last Council meeting, are you personally confident that all policies are now care act compliant?

During the year leading up to the Care Act going live on April 1st 2015 all the major policies for Adult Social Care such as the Personalisation Policy and the Personalisation Core Procedures plus the Assessment and Eligibility Policy and the Assessment and Eligibility Policy Guidance have been updated. These are available to view at the web site below along with other updated policies.

The Deferred Payments Policy, Ordinary Residence Policy, Recording with Care and the Complaints and Representations Policy and Procedure and the No Recourse to Public Funds guidance have also been reviewed and overhauled

<http://intranet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/Services/TSS/Adult/cmsds/Pages/ASCdocuments.aspx>

21. Question to Councillor Robin Brown, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Health & Wellbeing from Councillor Brendan Glynane:

The NHS nationally is concerned about a 6% fall in flu vaccinations. Does your department track the uptake of flu vaccinations in Northamptonshire? If so, what is the uptake compared with last year? What is the Health and Wellbeing directorate doing to ensure take up amongst at-risk groups?

PHW Directorate track the uptake of flu vaccination fortnightly. The total people vaccinated to date (week 43) is 2% less than last year, but five GP practices have not been able to upload their data onto the surveillance system ImmForm.

Progress to target

Org Code	Progress to Target					% change from week 43 2014-15		
	Total population	Total vaccinated (includes by other providers)	% vaccinated by all types of providers	Number still needed to vaccinate to meet England goal*	Number still needed to vaccinate to cover everyone eligible+	Total - At risk (6 months to under 65 years) - At-risk	65 and over	Total vaccinated
NHS Corby CCG 15/16	24994	9212	36.9%	13111	15782	1.9	5.0	3.6%
NHS Nene CCG 15/16	215365	70142	32.6%	119114	145223	-1.7	-0.6	-2.8%
Northants 15/16	240359	79354	33.0%	132225	161005	-1.4%	-0.1%	-2.2%
*assuming goal is 100% of those aged 6m-65 years in at risk group, those pregnant not in risk group, those aged 2,3,4,5 or 6 and 75% of those aged 65 and over								
+assuming target is 100% of eligible population i.e. those aged 6m-65 years in at risk group, those pregnant not in risk group, those aged 2,3,4,5 or 6 and all those aged 65 and over								

Please note that % change in total vaccinated in 2015-16 includes 5 and 6 year olds for the first time. Therefore direct comparison with total vaccinated in 2014-15 should be interpreted with caution. The overall figure for Northants does not include those practices that sit within NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



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PHW is working with NHS England and the CCGs to:

- Promote flu vaccinations to at risk groups via social media, press releases.
- Sought assurance from GPs via the CCGs that robust call/recall systems are in place and patients are being invited
- Identifying through data analysis low performing practices and working with CCGs to support those practices
- Promoting community pharmacies that are offering flu vaccination
- Promoting flu vaccination for frontline Adult Social Care staff

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Service Area				Adult Social Care Services			
Assistant Directorate		Service	Total Variance	Commentary		Last reported Variance	
£k				£k			
Learning Disability Support - Support at Home Block Contracts		(161)	Contract efficiencies as a result of a move of clients from block to spot arrangements.		(161)	Quality and Contracts	
Learning Disability Support - Residential & Nursing Block Contracts		(92)	Under spend due to contract efficiencies.		(75)		
Intermediate Care Contracts		(80)	Under spend due to contract efficiencies.		(80)		
Residential and Nursing Block Contracts		(365)	Under spend due to contract efficiencies and client contributions.		0		
Support at Home Block Contracts		(72)	Under spend due to contract efficiencies.		0		
Quality and Contracts		(293)	Under spend due to staff vacancies and funding received to support services delivered.		0		
Northamptonshire Trading and related NCC income		(2,875)	Under spend due to contract efficiencies.		(3,012)		
(3,938)			(3,328)				
Health Partnerships and Strategy		Carers Service	168	Pressure mainly arising from carer contract commitments and ongoing TUPE staff pressure. The service is working on a sustainable solution to mitigate these pressures in the long term.		168	
Adults Mental Health Services		143	Pressure against the Supported Accommodation area of the Social Care element of the Pool, partly mitigated by client contributions.		486		
Social Care Funding		(215)	Under spend due to funding being allocated to cover staff costs.		0		
Equipment and Adaptations		(1,770)	Under spend due to additional contributions to the pool by the CCG's.		(1,682)		
(1,674)			(1,028)				
Physical Support - Residential & Nursing Individual Care Arrangements		2,625	5,427	Adults and Transitions		The higher activity across client groups and care provisions compared to budget has been the driver to the overall overspend against care budgets. This pressure in care expenditure across client groups has been partly mitigated by a number of savings that have been realised across the directorate. There has been a great degree of variation between individual budget lines for care due to the correction of the Long Term Primary Support Reason (Classification) over the last few months. This dictates where the expenditure sits for each client. This demand pressure has been reflected in the 2015-16 Adult Social Care budget.	
Sensory Support- Residential & Nursing Individual Care Arrangements		2				122	
Support with Memory & Cognition - Residential & Nursing Individual Care Arrangements		9,673				5,738	
Learning Disability Support - Residential & Nursing Individual Care Arrangements		3,547				4,845	
Mental Health Support - Residential & Nursing Individual Care arrangements		(2,986)				(54)	
Physical Support - Community care payments		3,468				1,849	
Sensory Support - Community care payments		(1,103)				165	
Support with Memory & Cognition - Community Care payments		88				441	
Learning Disability Support - Community care payments		2,493				(307)	
Mental Health Support - Community care payments		742				(97)	
Transitions		333	A year end pressure due to a number of payments for 14-17 clients being transferred across from Childrens budgets that had previously not been forecast.		0		
Mental Health Care Management		(240)	Under spend identified due to the review of forecasted DOLs assessment fees.		(238)		
Assessment & Care Management		(43)	A minor variance on staff budgets within Adult Social Care.		(34)		
Adults and Transitions Management Team		(1,826)	£2,146k pressure from undeliverable cross cutting savings including the contract rationalisation proposal following the review of contracts. This has been off set by the £3,891k previously reported release of reserves allocated to Adult Social Care Services.		(1,800)		
Centralised Care support		923	A decrease in the reported overspend due to activity on transport and Legal budgets being less than expected		1,008		
Monitoring & Payments (MAP)		(214)	A one off benefit realised at year end from the recovery of Personal Health budget payments from previous years.		30		
17,482			17,095				
Grand Total		11,870			12,739		

Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2014-15					
Service Area			Children, Families and Education		
Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Last reported Variance	
£k		£k			
Improvement in Children's Services required by the Improvement Board and Ofsted	1,638	Project management and agency worker costs continue above budget due to the DfE direction. Initial Assessment teams costs reclassified to Additional Demand/Vacant post not now being recruited to has resulted in a reduction in costs of £59k. Reduction in the use of Agency workforce - AD, 3 Auditors and 2 Social Care Investigators resulted in a saving of £176k. Backlog of salary costs for Auditors received to the value of £58k.	1,600	Children's, Families & Education	
Directorate MTFP savings to be found	300	Directorate MTFP savings considered to be undeliverable	300		
Education Services Grant Reserve	(1,300)	£500k one off release of reserves now re-classified to Corporate section. CMT direction to include as a service saving. A further £700k one off release of reserves to be included as a Service saving under direction from CMT. A further release of £100k from the reserve due to slippage on academy conversions.	(1,300)		
Release of Reserves	(6,415)	Under direction from CMT the release of reserves has been attributed to services	(6,415)		
Minor Variances	(152)	Staff and Consultancy costs savings	(131)		
(5,929)		(5,946)			
CFEHP division	(835)	MTFP saving (-£626k), staff vacancy savings (-£299k), support cost savings (-£45k) and minor variances (-£16k) offset by £151k pressure due to AD post occupied by interim consultant.	(829)	Children's, Families, Early Help & Prevention	
Troubled Families	(2,521)	£1,889k programme saving plus £771k PBR grant income, less £140k transferred back to earmarked reserve. Underspend (before transfer to reserve) increased from previous month due to additional programme savings.	(2,531)		
Prevention commissioning	(2,566)	The re-commissioning of Children's Centres meant that there was a number of one off costs that would be incurred during 2014-15. Funding to support these additional costs was sourced from utilising contingency funding held by centres within year. It was estimated that redundancy and associated costs would be in the region of £1.5m. In fact redundancy costs were far lower than expected at £280,000; suppliers transferred more employees than expected then reconfigured during which staff "at risk" with their new employer found alternative employment. Additional funding was allocated to cater for additional costs through transition and consultation £850,000 – again costs were kept to a minimum by provider and were significant lower than anticipated circa £165,000. Figures could not be finalised until the transition and restructuring that was Provider led was complete – this has just been completed and figures confirmed. CAMHS underspend (-£53k); YP contracts underspend (-£10k) and Aiming High underspend (-£99k). Offset by MST budget pressure (£36k).	(757)		
Minor Variances	(42)	Early Years services	(32)		
(5,963)		(4,148)			
Educational Entitlement Team	(91)	Underspend attributable to in year savings on staffing budgets due to vacant post and recruitment delays.	(91)	Learning, Skills and Education	
School Standards & Effectiveness	(63)	Underspend attributable to in year savings on staffing budgets due to vacant post and recruitment delays.	(63)		
LSE - Early Years	(165)	Underspend attributable to in year savings on staffing budgets due to vacant post and recruitment delays.	(143)		
SEN & Disability	(483)	SEN Grant not all required for 2014/15 therefore offset against Directorate pressures. The contribution will be replaced through the MTFP process.	(484)		
Educational Psychology	(443)	Increased traded activity with schools.	(458)		
Schools Redundancy/PRC	(351)	Reduction in the level of school redundancy claims.	(327)		
Strategic Planning	512	£370k demolition costs for Kings Cliffe School, £27k on external consultant/advisor costs on major projects within LSE e.g. PFI/East Northants. £50k for School improvement for East Northants Middle Schools. £104,000 agreed by CMT to be shown against Kingscliffe	568		
Virtual School	(9)	Underspend attributable to savings on staffing budgets due to vacant post and recruitment delays.	(22)		
Home to School Transport	(118)	Underspend attributable to in year changes in pupil demographics.	(113)		
Northampton Schools PFI	(1,260)	£1.26m PFI Insurance rebate (one off)	(1,260)		
Minor Variances	(371)	Minor Variances due mainly to savings on staffing across the division.	(366)		
(2,843)		(2,759)			
Agency Placements	8,548	Looked After Children Agency placements has been highlighted previously as a future risk however it has now been decided to include in the forecast position for year end. Demand for placements to date has outstripped the forecast annual growth resulting in the high level of overspend. This includes a higher than expected demand on high cost placements. This area is under constant review with a £1.48m targeted saving within this forecast. This targeted saving includes a reduction in adoptive placement assessment times, therefore decreasing the time in agency placements. Lower than anticipated take up of placements in September has resulted in a £300k reduction in the forecast. Reduction in LAC agency costs of £238k offset by a £230k investment to reduce assessment times. Increased revised average weekly cost applied to forecast from April 2014 and increased activity compared to profile. A change in the mix of placements (IFA down by 9 and Residential up by 2) and an	8,530	Safeguarding & Children's Services	

		increase in the average weekly costs has resulted in a pressure of £250k. This has been offset by the closure of open orders to the value of £380k. Review of actual spend to end of February taking into account all known commitments from the service indicates an increase in the forecast of £274k. Movements in March attributable to Secure placements provision not required through the year realising a saving of £220k offset by the under achievement of an invest to save initiative.		
Disabled Childrens team	(541)		Review of spend to end of February taking into account all known commitments suggests an underspend of £214k. Joint funded care packages with the Clinical Commissioning Groups cost to the Council increased by £182K	(214)
Employment Costs	13,508		Following further validation of posts and requirements against the locked down structure, there has been a shift of some posts from the Additional Demand stream and further posts in over locked down structure (not funded). The net effect of this is +£36k, -£500k DSG adjustment on Care Management (base funded structure) offsets an increase of +£138k on this line due to an increase in the use of agency staff to cover vacant posts, maternity leave and sickness. Overall the pressure consists of 3 main elements (i) £4.8m agency worker premiums for covering vacancies (ii) £6.3m for agency workers covering the additional demand posts and (iii) £2.0m for agency workers covering additional demand posts required since the beginning of the financial year. There is also a pressure due to the increased administration costs to support the service. Reclassification of the Initial Assessment team's costs from CSIP to Additional Demand £1,100k plus ERP re-alignment of staffing costs £250k offset by the introduction of a vacancy factor £1,150k to reflect churn within the service. Agency costs over accrued at year end this is being reviewed by the service plus non staff costs charged to a staffing budget.	13,284
Other Care Provision	2,287		Section 17 - Planned reduction are not forecasted to materialise and increased pressure has been recognised in current caseloads. Leaving care costs now reported separately due to the high costs currently running at £580k. Reclassification of costs to Care Management as non S17 expenditure. No recourse to Public Funds - The Division is currently providing accommodation to destitute people from abroad who are subject to immigration control and have no entitlement to welfare benefit which is a legal duty for the Council for the first 20 children. Currently there is no budget for this activity. Parenting Assessments - Pressure arising this month due to spot purchased parenting assessments. +£67k in respect of prior year invoices not accrued for. The remaining overspend is a forecast based on current and prior year trends. The service are currently exploring options, such as block purchasing, to mitigate this pressure. Leaving Care - The service is seeing higher costs than budgeted for care leavers and is spending on average more per care leaver than in previous years. Previously in S17 activity.	1,503
Legal	1,162		The forecast overspend is due to the increased activity from the care proceedings reform and the public law outline process. There is also an element of catch up fees for activity earlier in the year. Complex and sensitive case incurred high costs for QC and barrister time. No further fees expected for this case.	899
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	168		Review of service has now been completed and this has resulted in a pressure of £490k. This is due to high cost placements not matched by the grant received and the cost of employing agency workers. Revised placements costs downwards plus more grant received from Home Office than expected.	482
Other Minor Variances	87		Increases in in house residential and fostering and adoption costs. Higher take-up on Residential Short Breaks provision. YOS activity completed under budget.	46
25,219			24,530	
Grand Total		10,484		11,677

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Service Area			Environment, Development and Transport		
Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Last reported Variance	
£k			£k		
Chief Fire Officer	0		Within the Fire and Rescue Service there was a pressure around the risks associated with contingency planning as a result of the ongoing industrial action. This is a national dispute and the Fire Brigades Union is currently in negotiations with central government. For the year the service has incurred estimated net costs of £160k, which is considerably below the amounts being incurred by other Fire and Rescue Authorities. The service have mitigated this pressure within their current budget envelope.	0	
Environment & Planning	0		No reported variances.	0	
Highways, Transport & Infrastructure	0		No reported variances.	0	
Cross-Directorate	(1,227)		As a result of increased in-year pressures within the Council the Directorate was allocated further savings of £1.2m. These additional savings were allocated to the following services: Highways and Transport £500k, Environment and Planning £500k and Fire and Rescue £200k. This placed significant pressures on the Directorate services however, mitigating measures were taken to ensure the savings target was delivered and the Directorate achieved savings of £1,227k at the end of the financial year relating to this target.	(1,216)	
Cross-Directorate	(2,042)		Previously reported release of reserves allocated to EDT	(2,042)	
Corporate	Winter Maintenance / Bad Debt Provision	620	Since 2013-14, any pressure on the winter maintenance budget has not been picked up as an EDT overspend, but charged against an earmarked reserve. The balance on that earmarked reserve at the start of 2014-15 was £855k. The expenditure for winter maintenance for the year was is £2.8m against a budget of £1.2m, leaving a forecast shortfall in the reserve of £740k. Also, as part of the annual year end review of the bad debt provision there has been a reduction of £120k in the level required for the Directorate.	445	
Grand Total		(2,649)		(2,813)	

Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2014-15

Service Area			Public Health and Wellbeing		
Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Last reported Variance	
£k		£k			
Public Health and Wellbeing		0	0		
Customers, Culture & Place	(1,745)	The overall under spend identified includes under spend for Nourish due to a number of factors, predominantly an increase in meal income following the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) in September, and improved productivity by decreasing the unit cost of each school meal. Additional under spend on the Customer Service Centre attributable to savings on staffing budgets resulting from the introduction of improved technology. Offset by the requirement to fund investment in the upgrade and continued development of the Library Self Service System.	(1,756)		
Integrated Wellbeing Commissioning	(88)	There is a forecast under spend in the Integrated Wellbeing Commissioning budget relating to demand led social welfare services and also a reduction in the expected spend of the Learning Disability Partnership Board	(96)		
Grand Total	(1,833)	(1,852)			

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Service Area			Chief Executive		
Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance		Commentary	Last reported Variance
£k				£k	
Business Intelligence and Performance	Business Intelligence and Performance	(146)		The service has achieved an underspend of £147k for this year, primarily through proactive vacancy management. In addition to this the service had an in year pressure as a result of there being a statutory requirement for the Council to run a three stage complaints process in Children's Services, with stages two and three needing independent investigations. There has been a significant increase in the number of these investigations but the service has mitigated this within their budget envelope. Additionally the service is looking at medium and longer term process changes to both improve the service and ease financial pressures.	(140)
Executive Support	(241)			The service has delivered an underspend of £241k through vacancy management and a planned reduction in expenditure across the service.	(214)
Democracy	0				No reported variances at this time
(100)	Previously reported release of reserves allocated to Chief Executive Services			(100)	
Grand Total	(487)				(

Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Financial Report 2014-15

Service Area			Corporate and Technical Services		
Assistant Directorate	Service	Total Variance	Commentary	Last reported Variance	
£k			£k		
(6,664)	A review of the MRP charge in 2013-14 generated savings of £1.3m in 2013-14 and 2014-15. In addition following a further more detailed review of the existing MRP calculations, a further £5.7m has been identified. This has been partially offset by a pressure of £0.3m on capitalised interest.	(6,400)	MRP	Treasury	
(6,868)	The MRP work highlighted a significant retrospective saving, which will be sufficient to meet the Council's total projected overspend and improve the reserves position. The details of this will be finalised within the reserves report at year end.		(6,868)		
Utilisation of Cash Balances	(973)	Review of borrowing and utilisation of cash balances		(1,000)	
(14,505)			(14,268)		
Financing	Grant Funding	(50)	Confirmation of the £700k ESG Grant income allocation for 2014-15 and update of schools transferring to Academy Status has enabled one off funds to be released. This has now been allocated to directorates. Final allocation now confirmed and releases a further £50k underspend into their position	0	
(50)			0		
LGSS Dividend	(350)	Improved performance within LGSS has generated surpluses which has enabled the LGSS Joint Committee to pay a dividend to Northamptonshire County Council.	(350)	Corporate (Other)	
(600)	Utilities inflation is now surplus to requirements and will be used to mitigate the contracts rationalisation proposal shortfall.		(600)	Other	
1,376	Undeliverable contract rationalisation proposal following the review of contracts.		1,376		
(3)	Minor Variance		0		
3,381	Adjustment to the benefit released from the retrospective one off saving generated through the review of MRP charges in light of the latest forecast service positions reported.		634		
(700)	£700k of the proceeds from the winding down NEA Property Ltd which is payable to NCC		(700)		
(200)	Surplus on Pay Inflation budget after 0.6% payments made to employees.		(200)		
(185)	Reflects balances due reduction in the total amount required for Second Homes and Local Council Tax Schemes within Northamptonshire		0		
Pensions	(2,400)	The historical liability element of the employer's rate for the Northamptonshire Pension Fund was less than anticipated following the 2014-15 triennial review of the Fund.		(2,400)	
Review of Balance Sheet Items	(2,369)	£2m transfer from General Reserve; £12.45m previously reported release of reserves allocated to Directorates. £255k employment costs carry forward is no longer needed for its original purpose so has been offered up as a corporate saving. Review of balance sheet as previously agreed £114k		(2,255)	
(2,050)			(4,495)		
Grand Total	(16,605)			(18,763)	

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Service Area				Budgets Managed by LGSS on Behalf of NCC					
Directorate		Service		Total Variance		Commentary		Last reported Variance	
£k				£k					
Finance		Finance		(119)		There is an underspend of £119k against the external audit budget of £294k. The expenditure includes £160k final fees from KPMG for the 2013-14 audit, and £34k for grant certification and other fees. This expenditure is offset by an Audit Commission rebate of £19k. The expenditure does not include LGSS external audit fees which are being charged to LGSS operational.		(80)	
Strategic Assets		(136)		£136k underspend due to receipt of a payment from Children's Services commissioners to cover rent for children's centre premises during the 2014-15 consultation period.		0			
(255)				(80)					
Information Technology		(47)		There is an underspend of £47k in IT, due in the main to the bulk purchase of handsets at a reduced price.		0			
(47)				0					
People, Transformation and Transactions		Policy & Strategy		(148)		Medigold – £88k underspend due to reduction in headcount and fewer placement referrals from schools due to the increase in the number of academies. There is also a further £8k underspend due to reduction in referrals for the Relate Counselling Contract. There is an underspend of £32k due to efficiencies in the way school audits are carried out and a £20k provision set aside for school audits is no longer required as they will be covered by the team during 2015-16.		(96)	
OWD		(99)		In response to CMT's request, OWD have restricted spending and delayed development plans in order to achieve an underspend of £99k.		(100)			
(247)				(196)					
Law, Property and Governance		Democratic Services		81		There is an overspend of £81k relating to the £100k target saving for budgets managed by Democratic Services not being achieved.		92	
Property Services		63		There is a net overspend of £63k within Property Operations. An overspend of £25k on the Cambridge Catering and Cleaning Service contract and an under-delivery of £90k against the Leverage on Assets saving have been partially mitigated by an underspend on utilities costs.		0			
Procurement		(375)		Reimbursement of employment agency fees		(350)			
(231)				(258)					
Grand Total				(780)		(534)			

Directorate	Gross	Income Budget	Net		Net	Actual	Reallocation of	Variance before
Exp Budget	Budget	Expenditure	Revised		Variance		Reserves	Allocation of
12/05/2015		Net Expenditure			January Cabinet		Reserves	
£k	£k	£k	£k		£k	£k	£k	£k
Adult Social Care Services	198,546	(49,343)	149,203	161,073	161,073	11,870	3,891	15,761
Children, Families and Education	154,096	(71,431)	82,665	93,149	93,149	10,484	7,115	17,599
Environment, Development and Transport	104,765	(17,489)	87,276	84,627	84,627	(2,649)	2,042	(607)
Public Health and Wellbeing	60,839	(57,863)	2,976	1,143	1,143	(1,833)	288	(1,545)
Chief Executive	3,858	0	3,858	3,370	3,371	(487)	100	(387)
Corporate	50,011	23,854	73,865	54,532	57,260	(16,605)	(13,736)	(30,341)
Budgets Managed by LGSS	16,234	(1,128)	15,106	14,326	14,326	(780)	300	(480)
Total Net Expenditure	588,349	(173,400)	414,949	412,220	414,949	(0)	0	0
Memorandum Items								
LGSS		32,193	(16,929)	15,264				
DSG (Schools, Early Years, High Needs)		262,586	(264,479)	(1,893)				
Total Expenditure		883,128	(454,808)	428,320				

Appendix H							
2015-16 Revenue Expenditure Across Directorates							
	Base Gross Budget 2015-16	Unavoidable Service Pressure	Gross Service Budget Including Growth	Savings	Gross Expenditure Budget 2015-16	Income	Net Expenditure Budget
Directorate	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k	£k
Adult Social Care	197,023	24,984	222,007	(28,099)	193,908	(53,657)	140,251
Public Health and Wellbeing	57,977	341	58,318	(2,072)	56,246	(47,253)	8,993
Chief Executive Services	3,747	28	3,775	(730)	3,045	0	3,045
LGSS Direct	20,193	341	20,534	(1,016)	19,518	(6,539)	12,979
Managed by LGSS on behalf of NCC	14,302	184	14,486	(1,150)	13,336	(454)	12,882
Children, Families and Education (excluding Schools)	158,435	20,397	178,832	(8,931)	169,901	(46,683)	123,218
Environment, Development and Transport	90,192	3,567	93,759	(15,775)	77,984	(14,798)	63,186
Total Service Spend	541,869	49,842	591,711	(57,773)	533,938	(169,384)	364,554
Dedicated Schools Grant	152,000	0	152,000	0	152,000	(152,000)	0
Treasury	45,327	0	45,327	0	45,327	(2,358)	42,969
Precepts	1,291	60	1,351	(649)	702		702
Central Employee Budgets	1,229	0	1,229	0	1,229		1,229
Central Pension	9,500	1,720	11,220	(2,983)	8,237	(445)	7,792
Insurance	2,023	0	2,023	0	2,023	2,023	
Other	130	832	962	(6,600)	(5,638)	(5,638)	
Reserves	0	0	0	0	0	1,353	1,353
Total Technical , Corporate and Other	59,500	2,612	62,112	(10,232)	51,880	(1,450)	50,430
Total Revenue Spend	753,369	52,454	805,823	(68,005)	737,818	(322,834)	414,984
Net Budget Requirement				(414,984)			
Central Grants and Contributions				(11,917)			
Government Formula Grant				(163,226)			
Collection Fund Balance				(1,623)			
Council Tax Requirement				(238,218)			

Note 1: Service totals do not include Capital Charges or the costs of recharged support services

Note 2: The DSG budget is shown for completeness which will be adjusted downwards as maintained schools convert to academy status.

Note 3: The gross budget and income budget may alter between Draft and Final Budget due to budget adjustments.

