



## Finance and Performance Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 29 October 2018 at 7.00pm, at East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Steven North - Chairman Roger Glithero JP Glenvil Greenwood-Smith David Jenney Richard Lewis
	<b>Officers:</b>	David Oliver                      Chief Executive Glenn Hammons                Executive Director (Resources and Commercial) Michelle Drewery                Head of Resources Julia Smith                        Head of Customer and Community Services Amy Eyles                         Finance Manager Lucy Hogston                      Benefits Manager Matthew Lineham                Facilities Manager

### **1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillor David Brackenbury.

### **2.0 MINUTES**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee held on 10 September 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

### **4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

### **5.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE**

5.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report recommending the updating of the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19, in order to reflect changes to the capital programme and any potential need to borrow in future years.

It was noted that the prudential indicators and capital financing requirements had changed during 2018/19 significantly for future years and would also need to incorporate

the inclusion of the East Northants Enterprise Centre, based on current estimates.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) That the revised Prudential Indicators and Capital Finance Requirement for 2018/19, as at appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:**

- b) That Council incorporates the revised Prudential Indicators and Capital Finance Requirement as an addendum to the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19, as 'Appendix F'.

*(Reason – To accord with CIPFA guidance and best practice in Treasury Management.)*

**6.0 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2019/20**

- 6.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report outlining the options for a local Council tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2019/20.

It was noted that the report presented two options, the first of which was to make no change to the percentage reduction in the current scheme, which would present an estimated overall funding gap in 2019/20 of approximately £304k, of which £25k related to East Northamptonshire Council. The second option was to increase the percentage reduction in the current scheme from 20% to 31%.

Members noted that there were a number of factors that could affect both the scheme going forward and the resultant collection rates. These included the likely need to harmonise the support scheme should a new unitary be formed in north Northamptonshire, the delayed rollout of universal credit, and potential for increased council tax arrears on those least able to pay.

It was therefore considered prudent not to introduce any changes for 2019/20.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 5 NOVEMBER 2018 AND TO COUNCIL ON 28 JANUARY 2019:**

That the Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 for East Northamptonshire adopts the existing Council Tax Support Scheme with no amendments.

*(Reason – To deliver a Council Tax Support Scheme for 2019/20 that meets all the statutory requirements.)*

**7.0 NCC Stabilisation Plan**

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee considered a verbal update from the Executive Director (Resources and Commercial) on the Northamptonshire County Council Stabilisation Plan which included measures, savings and initiatives totalling almost £20m to tackle its 2018/19 overspend, some of which would directly impact on East Northamptonshire Council.

These impacts included the following measures:-

- i) Early payment of the County Council's share of council tax during the current financial year – work was being undertaken with other Borough and District Councils and the external auditor to assess its validity and if so, how it should be recorded in the council's accounts;
- ii) Reducing the level of bad debt provision – Borough and District Councils had agreed to review and work with the County Council and external auditor to see if there was the potential for a reduction, noting there was a variation in collection rates of debt across some authorities.

Any work in reducing the level of bad debt provision in East Northamptonshire, which already performed very highly in this area, would be undertaken in compliance with East Northamptonshire Council's existing policies.

- iii) Proposal to freeze recycling credits – this would mean the inflationary update not being applied, saving the County Council £205k, spread across the District and Borough Councils.

**NOTED:**

The update on the NCC Stabilisation Plan.

*(Reason: To keep the Sub-Committee informed of potential impacts on the Council arising from the NCC Stabilisation Plan.)*

**8.0 TRANSFER OF FUNDS INTO THE 2018/19 CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

- 8.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report requesting approval to transfer the budget of £18,000 in relation to the procurement of a committee management system from the development pool into the 2018/19 capital programme.

It was noted that some provision would be made in the 2019/20 budget for use of technology to deliver efficiencies arising from the procurement.

**RESOLVED:**

That approval be granted for the transfer of £18,000 from the development pool into the 2018/19 capital programme for the purchase of a Committee Management System.

*(Reason: To enable improvements to the creation, publication and dissemination of agendas, reports and minutes and to prepare staff and councillors for new ways of working.)*

**9.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

- 9.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

## **10.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT – OCTOBER 2018 UPDATE**

- 10.1 The Sub-Committee received an exempt report updating it on the Council's asset management and which sought approval for various actions to be taken in relation to specific sites.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the updates in the report be noted.

*(Reason: To deliver the Asset Management Strategy)*

**Chairman**