Northampton Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 - Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement



Please find enclosed the agenda and supporting papers for Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 - Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement

Date: Monday, 25 January 2010

Time: **6:00 pm**

Place: Guildhall - Jeffery Room

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on 01604 837408 ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For Further information regarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 - Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement please visit the website http://www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny.

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor John Yates
Vice-Chair	Councillor Iftikhar Ahmed Choudary (Ifty)
Committee Members	Councillor John Caswell
	Councillor Jenny Conroy
	Councillor Mel de Cruz
	Councillor Brendan Glynane
	Councillor Judith Lill
	Councillor David Palethorpe
	Councillor Andrew Simpson

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
•	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 - Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement

Agenda

Item	Title	Pages	Action required	
No			Marsham to sate	
1	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitution.	
2	Minutes	2 - 10	Members to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2009	
3	Deputations/Public		The Chair to note public address requests.	
	Addresses		The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register you intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.	
4	Declarations (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests	
5	Consultation Details - Five Year Review- West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC)		The Committee to receive details of the consultation regarding the five-year Review of WNDC	
6	Planning Consent - Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Schools	11 - 18	The Committee to receive details of th Planning Consents for PFI Schools	
7	The Central Area Action Plan: Submission Draft Publication Consultation	19 - 60	The Committee to receive details of the Central Area Action Plan: Submission Draft Publication Consultation	
8	NBC's Environmental Health Service Consultancy input to WNDC	61 - 62	The Committee to receive a briefing on NBC's Environmental Health Service – Consultancy input to WNDC	
9	Byelaw for Good Rule and Government	63 - 74	The Committee to receive a briefing on the Byelaw for Good Rule and Government	
10	Draft Budget for 2010-11 to 2012-2013		Members are asked to comment on the draft budget for 2010-2011 to 2012-2013 (Copy to follow)	
11	Single Equalities Scheme - Action Plan		The Committee to receive details of the Action Plan contained in the Single Equalities Scheme	

Northampton Borough Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 - Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement

	Monitoring Work Programme 2009/2010	75 - 80	Members to review the Monitoring Work Programme and determine the Committee meetings at which the implementation of the Task and Finish Group reports' recommendations will be monitored
12 (a)	Councillor Call for Action Task and Finish Group Report	81 - 83	The Committee to receive an update on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Councillor Call for Action Task and Finish Group report. As a reminder the recommendations contained in the Task and Finish Group's report is attached.
13	Task and Finish Group Updates		
13 (a)	Community Centres Task and Finish Group	84 - 87	The Chair of the Task and Finish Group to provide a progress report
14	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 - Work Programme 2009/2010	88	Members to review the work programme and note that the order in which the outstanding Task and Finish Groups will operate is a matter for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to determine
	- 437 L - 0		
15	Best Value Performance Indicator Monitoring	89	The Chair and Vice Chair have been asked to examine the performance indicators and bring to the attention of the Committee those they wish to investigate further
16		90 - 99	to examine the performance indicators and bring to the attention of the Committee

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - PARTNERSHIPS, REGENERATION, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT

Monday, 12 October 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Simpson (Chair); Councillor Ifty Choudary (Deputy

Chair); Councillors John Caswell, Tony Clarke, Brian Markham, Kevin

Reeve and Pam Varnsverry

Councillor Brian Hoare Deputy Leader of the Council (for Item 5(a))

Councillor Richard Church Portfolio Holder (Planning and Regeneration) (Item 10a)

Thomas Hall Head of Policy and Community Engagement
Sue Bridge Head of Planning (for Items 5(a) and 6)
Jane Jennings Principal Planning Officer (for Item10(a))

Tracy Tiff Scrutiny Officer

Member of the Public

Mr Chris Grethe

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sadik Chaudhury.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 24th June, 6th, 12th and 18th August 2009 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Mr Chris Grethe addressed the Committee on agenda item 8(a) – Concessionary Fares Appreciative Inquiry.

4. DECLARATIONS (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

Councillor Brian Markham declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 8(a) – Concessionary Fares Appreciative Inquiry, in his capacity as a Concessionary Fare Holder.

5. REPORT BACK ON CABINET'S RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT

(A) PARTNERSHIP WORKING - NBC AND WEST NORTHANTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (WNDC)

Councillor Brian Hoare, Deputy Leader of the Council, and Sue Bridge, Head of Planning, presented Cabinet's report to the Overview and Scrutiny report on Partnership working – NBC and West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC).

The Committee heard that: -

- Since the production of the Overview and Scrutiny Report, management changes at WNDC had taken place with a new Chair and a new Chief Executive. However before these changes working relations had significantly improved
- There are a number of major planning applications before WNDC and some more are anticipated. An Officer Group comprises representatives from NBC and WNDC will work together on all major and strategic planning applications over the next few months.
- There have been changes to how NBC works with WNDC in respect of Policy formulation.
- In response to a query regarding the five year Review of WNDC, it was noted that the consultation period ended on 18 September 2009 and Cabinet considered the Council's response to this Review at its September meeting. An initial response to the consultation is expected by the end of 2009.
- Several meetings at Chief Executive level have taken place to ascertain whether a
 collective response to the five-year Review of WNDC would be submitted. There
 are some common themes and some differences of opinion. It was confirmed that
 these details could be presented to the next meeting.
- The Secretary of State has not confirmed whether details of the consultation will be published.
- Councillor Brian Hoare confirmed that he was not in a position to respond to the Committee's query regarding Brownfield Initiatives and the ownership of the land.
- In response to a query regarding recommendation 21) That WNDC provides feedback on the Environmental Health consultancy work currently being undertaken by NBC. WNDC also be asked to provide a view on the long-term use of NBC's Environmental Health Service to provide consultancy input, it was suggested that Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection, be asked to attend the next meeting and provide details.
- **AGREED:** (1) That Cabinet's response to this report be noted.
 - (2) That details of the consultations, informing of the common themes and differences of opinion, in response to the five year Review of WNDC be presented to the next meeting.
 - (3) That Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection, be asked to attend the next meeting and provide details in respect of recommendation 21 of the report as detailed above.

6. UPDATE ON NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCHOOLS PRIVATE FINANCE AND THE LOSS OF PLAYING FIELDS

Sue Bridge, Head of Planning, and Councillor Richard Church, Portfolio Holder (Planning and Regeneration) apprised that Cabinet, at its meeting on the 14th July 2008, resolved as follows:

(a) Confirmation is to be sought from WNDC that Managed Community Access Agreements have been put in place with respect of former school sites that

- have been developed under both the PFI scheme and where school land has been sold and developed for housing.
- (b) Cabinet is to use its best efforts to ensure that the Borough's 2003 Planning Statement on Surplus School Sites, Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment Audit and Playing Pitch Strategy are incorporate into the emerging new Local Development Framework as a matter of urgency.
- WNDC has granted planning permission for the re-development of the following school sites, subject to agreements under Section 106 of The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 on the 23rd December 2008:
 - Former Blackthorn Middle School, Blackthorn Road
 - Former Ecton Brook Middle School, Ecton Brook Road
 - Former St Mary's RC Middle School, Grange Road
 - Former Cherry Orchard Middle School, Birchfield Road East
 - Former Millway Primary School, Millway
- Planning applications for the former Northampton Middle School and Green Oak Lower School sites, Bective Road and Parklands Middle School site, Devon Way and Kingsthorpe Middle School site, Northfield Way remain undetermined.
- It was noted that the Committee received a position statement at the meeting of 3rd February in respect of the community access arrangements to non-PFI schools. WNDC has imposed, through the Section 106 agreements, an obligation requiring the County Council to use all reasonable endeavours to ensure access for the community to those remaining school playing fields adjacent to the PFI sites. This obligation has not been implemented and its legal enforceability is questionable. The position remains, therefore, that there is still the possibility that less pitches will be available for community use than was initially pledged through the delivery of the PFI arrangements.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard: -

- A report had been submitted to Northamptonshire County Council's Cabinet on 15th September 2009 however information regarding sites contained in this report is not publicly available. Nine sites are recommended for disposal
- Concerns were conveyed that in the planning agreement for some sites, it had stated that Managed Access Agreements be provided. The Committee had asked for sight of these documents but to date had not received copies. The Committee felt that these conditions had not been met as part of the Planning Permission
- NBC is a consultee for both Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and non-PFI planning applications
- Planning for the building of some PFI schools was given in 2006, permission for surplus school sites was granted in December 2008. NBC's Planning Committee is

- a consultee and recommended that Community Access Agreement be put in place. There is a need to ascertain whether WNDC accepted this recommendation.
- The Committee was concerned regarding the availability of facilities at PFI schools to the community and groups, in particular fees and charges
- The Committee commented on the methodology used by NCC to calculate the number of playing fields and pitches. It was felt that some senior playing pitches, such as the one at Cliftonville School, were not recorded. Sue Bridge advised that NBC, along with Sports England, was in negotiation with NCC regarding its methodology. It was emphasised that there was a need for an agreed methodology and playing field audit
- Sue Bridge confirmed that Planning has all information regarding the school sites as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the briefing note and added that the letter dated 18 May refers to PFI schools. Sue Bridge confirmed that she would provide details of Planning Consent for PFI schools to the Committee at its next meeting

AGREED: (1) That details of Planning consent for PFI schools be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

7. TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES

(A) CONCESSIONARY FARES APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

Richard Holmes, Principal Planning Officer, referred to the recommendations contained in the report, in particular the two options for the Committee's consideration: -

- Option A That, on the basis of the evidence presented in this report, that the Statutory Minimum Concessionary Fares Scheme be retained within Northampton, offering free local bus travel between 9.30am and 11pm Monday-Friday in the Northamptonshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2010-11.
- Option B That, in view of the clear support for and priority given to the
 introduction of all-day weekday free bus travel in the public consultation undertaken,
 further member consideration be given to the introduction of this discretionary
 element in the concessionary travel scheme for Northampton or selective elements
 of the proposal as set out in the report.

He added that it was estimated that it would cost in the region of an additional £300,000 per year for free all day travel for Concessionary Fare Holders. It was commented that should Concessionary Travel become a County Council function the Scheme would be standardised countywide.

At this point Mr Chris Grethe addressed the Committee. He supported the recommendation in the report:-

That Companion Travel for eligible disabled pass-holders, both within Northampton and for eligible disabled pass-holders from other Northamptonshire districts be introduced in Northampton from April 2010, in the Northamptonshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2010-11

Mr Grethe concluded his address advising that in his opinion many Concessionary Fare Holders need to travel prior to 9.30am, he suggested that Concessionary Fare Holders be

charged a nominal fee of £1 to travel before 9.30am. He did however; support the introduction of free travel for Concessionary Fare Holders adding that he also supported this Overview and Scrutiny Review.

Mr Grethe was thanked for his address.

The Committee discussed the Report, making comment and observations: -

- Support was given to the recommendation in relation to Companion Travel
- The Committee gave its support to Option B contained in the Report, advising that there are many Concessionary Fare Holders that do need to travel before 9.30 am
- Support was also given to the final recommendation contained in the report: -

That a charge for replacement bus passes be introduced as soon as practicable – the recommended charge to reflect administration and production costs being £10.

AGREED: That the Concessionary Fares Appreciative Inquiry report, as amended, be presented to Cabinet for consideration.

(B) COMMUNITY CENTRES WORKING GROUP

It was reported that the first meeting of this Group would take place on 19 October 2009. It was suggested that when the Work Programme permits that this Working Group becomes a Task and Finish Group.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

The Committee's Work Programme 2009/2010 was noted. It was agreed that it be recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee that the Community Centres Working Group becomes a Task and Finish Group when the Work Programme permits. It was envisaged that this would be around early December 2009.

At this point, the Committee suggested that the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the new Structure for Overview and Scrutiny be submitted to all Overview and Scrutiny Committees for information.

10. MONITORING WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

The Committee's Monitoring Work Programme 2009/2010 was noted. It was agreed that the Committee would monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Councillor Call for Action Task and Finish Group at its next meeting.

(A) HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND REGENERATION OPPORTUNITIES TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT

Councillor Richard Church, Portfolio Holder (Planning and Regeneration), Sue Bridge, Head of Planning, and Jane Jennings, Principal Planning Officer, provided a progress report of the implementation of the accepted recommendations as contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Historical Buildings and Regeneration Opportunities Task and Finish Group Report. It was highlighted that progress had been restricted by the

resources available. It was noted that the recommendations of Cabinet were reported back to Overview and Scrutiny, by the Portfolio Holder on 25 June 2008. The response of Cabinet covered four principle areas:

Additional Staffing (a team of six officers)

Cabinet resolved to reject this recommendation for budgetary reasons.

Bring forward proposals to map buildings that are not listed.

This is not currently being progressed due to a lack of resources. The Council has an adopted 'local list' for the town centre and a draft list covering the remainder of the Borough. There are currently 605 buildings included in the combined lists and each will require assessment to establish if they merit inclusion on the final adopted list. The adopted list will need to be robust in the event of challenge, particularly at appeal, and therefore it will be necessary to develop a mechanism for both assessment and evaluation. It is therefore recognised that the work would take time to deliver and would impact on current work streams.

Review County Archaeological advice

The lack of a County wide archaeological advice service is being actively addressed. A working group has been established with the remit of considering the options available to provide a full archaeological advice service. Following consideration of the possible options the County Chief Planning Officers group has agreed that the most cost effective way forward would be to adopt a countywide partnership approach to providing the service. The current proposal is for the Northamptonshire County Council to provide the service with a buy-in from Borough and District Council's enabling the County Council to strengthen the current archaeology team ensuring a quality service to those Boroughs and Districts, which participate in the scheme. This will require a financial commitment from the Council and it is anticipated that, in the first instance, the Council will buy-in to the scheme for a period of two years. Those authorities choosing not to participate in the partnership will not benefit from the advice service but will be able to interrogate and interpret the Site and Monuments Record on an individual basis. The details of the draft service level agreement are currently being discussed with Borough Solicitor and partner organisations.

Examine the feasibility of building a physical and computer model of Northampton central area

It is accepted that a physical and computer model of the town centre would assist in understanding the context within which development proposals would sit. The key issue relating to this element is cost. A number of quotations were obtained for a physical model and a MTP bid for £25,000 was made for 2009/10 to facilitate this. Due to financial constraints the bid was unsuccessful. The Committee heard that in July 2009 the Department for Culture, Media and Sport released for public consultation the draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 15 – Planning for the Historic Environment. The PPS will replace the existing Planning Policy Guidance notes 15 and 16, Planning and the Historic Environment and Archaeology and Planning. The draft PPS is supported by a draft 'practice guide', published separately by English Heritage with the purpose of assisting Local Authorities in implementing the PPS and is also open to consultation. The consultation period for both documents closes on 30 October 2009 and

comments/observations are currently being drafted. Following consultation the documents will be published jointly.

The Committee asked questions, made comment and heard: -

- The County Archaeological Advice Service is progressing well. The Council is looking to buy into this Service
- Each historical building requires an assessment, which is open to public consultation
- The purpose of the Heritage Protection Reform is to bring all protections under one umbrella. Due to the economic downturn the Draft Heritage Bill was not ultimately included in the Queen's Speech in December 2008 and a revised date for consideration has yet to be announced. The Heritage Bill formed part of the proposed Heritage Protection Reform, which also included a review of the existing Planning Policy Guidance. Despite the delay in the Heritage Bill the proposed review of the existing PPG's has progressed.
- In response to a query regarding the impact of PPS 15 and 16, Councillor Richard Church advised that progress is being made. Conservation areas in Northampton are being reviewed, for example Duston Conservation area. The Northampton Heritage Forum is involved in discussions and taking issues forward. Discussions are also taking place regarding a Civic Society. Cabinet supported the creation of this Society, however there needs to be sufficient volunteers.
- The Area Action Plan is not permitted to duplicate Government Policy. When a PPG becomes a PPS it has more weighting.
- In a response to a query regarding the maintenance of historic buildings, it was confirmed that the owner does not have a legal responsibility to maintain their building.

AGREED:

That the monitoring report of the accepted recommendations contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Historic Buildings and Regeneration Opportunities Task and Finish Group report be accepted and noted.

11. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING

The Chair advised that, neither himself nor the Vice Chair, had selected any Best Value Performance Indicators for further monitoring.

12. NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL SELF ASSESSMENT AND DIVERSITY PEER CHALLENGE

Thomas Hall, Head of Policy and Community Engagement, and Silvina Katz, Policy Team Leader, provided a brief update on the Diversity Peer Challenge. Following the self-

assessment, the Diversity Peer Challenge had taken place on 29th and 20th September 2009. NBC applied for and has now achieved Level 3. The Peer Reviewers advised that the Authority had met all the requirements for Level 3. They produced a report, which contained twenty-three recommendations for preparation for the future. The new Equality Framework allows Councils with level 3 to becoming achieving.

The Committee made comment: -

- It is an excellent achievement
- In response to a query whether the Council was sharing its success with the Forums, Silvina Katz advised that the Youth Forum had been involved in the Peer Assessment. The Peer Reviewers had commended the enthusiasm of the Youth Forum. However, this success story can be conveyed to the Council's Forums.
- NBC has been at the heart of equality and diversity work for many years.
 However, there is a need to reach communities with communities and look beyond
 national ethnicity, for example culture and religion. In response, Silvina Katz
 apprised that a component of the new framework is to 'know your communities.'
 The Council is implementing a way of mapping communities.

The Chair asked that the Committee's congratulations be conveyed to all involved in the Diversity Peer Challenge and asked that the action plan, as part of the single Equalities Scheme be presented to the next meeting.

AGREED: That the action plan, as part of the single Equalities Scheme be presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

13. DRAFT BILL ANALYSIS

The draft Bill Analysis was noted.

14. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan, for the period 1 October 2009 to 31 January 2010, was noted. It was suggested that details of the draft Bye Law for Good Rule and Government for the Borough of Northampton be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee. It was further suggested that the Central Area Action Plan: Submission Draft Publication Consultation be presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

- **AGREED:** (1)That details of the draft Bye Law for Good Rule and Government for the Borough of Northampton be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.
 - (2) That the Central Area Action Plan: Submission Draft Publication Consultation be presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

15. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 8:10 pm



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 (PARTNERSHIPS, REGENERATION COMMUNITY SAFETY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)

25Th JANUARY 2010

BRIEFING NOTE

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOLS PFI DEVELOPMENT

1 Purpose

1.1 To receive an up date on the community access arrangements for PFI schools in Northampton.

2 Background

- 2.1. At its meeting on 12th October, Committee requested further details of the planning consents for the PFI schools as they relate to community access and use of the premises.
- 2.2. The County Council submitted applications in 2004/05 as part of the school review to change education in Northampton from a three tier to a two tier system. Some 35 applications were considered and approved. Of these 8 schools contained specific provision for community use agreements including sports development plans to be submitted and approved by the County Council.
- 2.3. The schools in question are:

Bridgewater Primary
The Duston School
Green Oaks Primary School
Kingsthorpe Community College
Mereway Community College
Northampton Girls School site
St Lukes School
Weston Favell School site

- 2.4. Details in respect of the condition were considered and discharged by the County Council on 11th December 2006. A copy of the community use agreements and sports development plan has been requested from the County Council and at the time of writing had not been received. A full up-date will be provided at the meeting.
- 2.5. It is understood, that whilst the planning conditions relate to those schools listed above, the community use agreements have now been applied to all the schools in Northampton, bringing a consistent approach to hiring the facilities (including charges), compared to individual schools having their own arrangements in place.
- 2.6. Committee is referred to the agenda item and addendum of 12th October which sets out the arrangements implemented by Northampton Schools Ltd in a letter dated 18th May 2009. However, it is understood that the web-based booking system schoolbookers.com has still not gone live.
- 2.7. Any further information will be brought to Committee.
- 2.8. The outstanding issues remain as set out in the 12th October report, although it is understood that WNDC will shortly be considering the Bective Road Middle School site application for residential development.

Report Author, Sue Bridge, Head of Planning

13.01.10



Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety & Engagement

12th October 2009

Briefing Note

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCHOOLS' PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE AND THE LOSS OF SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

1. Background

- **1.1** To provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 with a position statement on the outstanding resolutions in relation to this matter from Cabinet on the 14th July 2008 and to up-date the Committee following the briefing note received and considered on 3rd February 2009.
- **1.2** Cabinet, at its meeting on the 14th July 2008, resolved as follows:
 - (a) Confirmation is to be sought from WNDC that Managed Community Access Agreements have been put in place with respect of former school sites that have been developed under both the PFI scheme and where school land has been sold and developed for housing.
 - (b) Cabinet is to use its best efforts to ensure that the Borough's 2003 Planning Statement on Surplus School Sites, Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment Audit and Playing Pitch Strategy are incorporate into the emerging new Local Development Framework as a matter of urgency.

2. Current Position

- **2.1** Committee received an up-date at its meeting on 3rd February and a copy of the relevant extract of the Minute is attached for information.
- 2.2 WNDC has granted planning permission for the re-development of the following school sites, subject to agreements under Section 106 of The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 on the 23rd December 2008:

Former Blackthorn Middle School, Blackthorn Road

Former Ecton Brook Middle School, Ecton Brook Road

Former St Mary's RC Middle School, Grange Road

Former Cherry Orchard Middle School, Birchfield Road East

Former Millway Primary School, Millway

- 2.3 Planning applications for the former Northampton Middle School and Green Oak Lower School sites, Bective Road and Parklands Middle School site, Devon Way and Kingsthorpe Middle School site, Northfield Way remain undetermined.
- 2.4 WNDC has requested NCC to provide more information on The Bective Road site in relation to traffic generation and traffic management and the potential to provide on-site community facilities. The Kingsthorpe and Parklands sites both have outstanding objections from both the Borough Council and Sport England to the loss of playing pitches.
- 2.5 In June 2009 Atkins, on behalf of the County Council, released a report 'Northampton Schools Re-organisation Programme'. This report was intended to update both Sport England and Northampton Borough Council in respect of sports pitch facilities in Northampton, with a view to reconsidering the outstanding objections in respect of Kingsthorpe and Parklands.
- 2.6 Both Sport England and Northampton Borough Council have questioned the methodology of the report and as a result the objections have been maintained as the report in its current form cannot be relied upon to provide a true reflection of pitch provision within Northampton.
- 2.7 For the Borough Council to make a decision on whether or not these sites can be lost to development with no playing pitch provision either on or off site, the County Council needs to revise its report and agree the methodology in advance with both the Borough Council and Sport England.
- 2.8 It is unlikely that these applications will be determined until the County Council resolves the outstanding issues to the satisfaction of all parties.

3. Managed Community Access Agreements

- 3.1 At it's meeting on 3rd February, the Committee receive a detailed report on the community access arrangements for both the PFI and non-PFI schools.
- 3.2 Committee will recall that the Council requested that the County Solicitor confirm in writing the arrangements that had been put in place with the PFI provider to ensure the access to, availability and affordability of the facilities for the community. This letter of

confirmation has not been forthcoming despite repeated requests. However, a copy of a letter from Northampton Schools Limited to the County Council dated 18th May 2009 has been received which sets out the arrangements for 'out of hours' third party usage of the 41 (soon to be 42) PFI Schools. A copy of the letter is attached for information. Northampton Schools Limited confirm that it is committed to maintaining current levels of community usage and is looking to increase the web-based booking system schoolbookers.com. This is due to go live by the end of November.

3.3 The Committee received a position statement at the meeting of 3rd February in respect of the community access arrangements to non-PFI schools. WNDC has imposed, through the Section 106 agreements, an obligation requiring the County Council to use all reasonable endeavours to ensure access for the community to those remaining school playing fields adjacent to the PFI sites. This obligation has not been implemented and its legal enforceability is questionable. The position remains, therefore, that there is still the possibility that less pitches will be available for community use than was initially pledged through the delivery of the PFI arrangements.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 It is regrettable that more positive progress towards resolving the outstanding issues cannot be reported. However, in respect of PFI schools, the position regarding community access arrangements is established. The position remains the same as reported in February in respect of community access arrangements for non-PFI schools, that the County Council has undertaken to use reasonable endeavours to secure access. This will be monitored to assess whether or not there is an adverse impact on the provision of playing fields available for community use as a result of the PFI project
- 4.2 In order to progress the Kingsthorpe and Parklands applications, the County Council has been requested to provide further information on the playing field audit and revise the June 2009 Report. This information is currently outstanding.

County Council's Schools Private Finance Initiative and the loss of school playing fields 전PDF 46 KB

Minutes:

Sue Bridge, Head of Planning submitted a Briefing note that detailed progress made to date.

A meeting had taken place on Monday 26th January 2009 to discuss the current position in relation to all the applications for the surplus school sites planning applications to resolve the outstanding issues, primarily in respect of the Section 106 agreements. The focus was on two outstanding applications for the former Parklands Middle School and the former Kingsthorpe Middle School to resolve outstanding issues, including the outstanding comments from Sports England.

The Committee heard that a Managed Community Access Agreement is in place for the PFI run schools. This provides the conditions of affordability, accessibility and availability as requested by the Borough Council.

The PFI arrangement makes some provision towards the supply of junior pitches but does not sufficiently address the deficit. There is no increased deficit in adult pitches and there is an over supply of mini pitches.

The Borough Council has requested a solicitor's letter from the County Council to confirm the Managed Community Access scheme is in place of the PFI schools.

A Managed Community Access Agreement for non-PFI schools cannot be legally secured, although WNDC has made an obligation upon the County Council through the S106 Agreement to use all reasonable endeavours to persuade selected schools to make their pitches available for community use.

An audit of provision within the PFI run schools will inform the update of the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit.

An update on all outstanding issues will be made to this Committee following the conclusion of the discussions between NBC, WNDC and the County Council in conjunction with Sport England.

The Chair acknowledged that the interim report covered the issues contained in the Overview and Scrutiny report that was presented to Cabinet in July and requested that a further report be submitted to this Committee, detailing Cabinet's response.

AGREED that a further report be presented to this Committee at a future meeting, detailing Cabinet's response to the Overview and

Scrutiny report – County Council's Schools Private Finance Initiative and the Loss of School Playing Fields.

Northampton Schools Limited

18 May 2009

Northamptonshire County Council PO Box 216 John Dryden House 8-10 The Lakes Northampton NN4 7DD

FAO Peter Burrell

RE: Third Party Lettings

Dear Peter,

As you are aware we are now managing and operating nearly all of the 'out of hours' third party usage at all 41 (soon to be 42) of the Schools within the PFI Contract.

As requested we are happy to provide some assurance that as part of this 'change of management' we are keen to continue, and indeed looking to grow, the levels of 'community use' which were in place at the time of the changeover.

We will shortly be launching a web-based booking system under the brand 'Schoolbookers.com' and through this we will seek to promote and encourage both community and commercial use of all the PFI Facilities including the Playing Fields and Sports Pitches, remembering of course that priority and consideration must always be given to ensuring that the facilities are available for School use as and when required under the PFI Contract.

In accordance with our contract we are required to consult with the Authority when setting and reviewing rates and we hope you will agree that we have demonstrated our commitment to 'community use' by offering significantly discounted rates to community groups and organisations which meet some basic criteria. We have also demonstrated that the rates offered are well below the Authority's Advisory Rates for Schools outside of the PFI.

We acknowledge that in some cases it has not been possible to continue to offer community usage at the same rates which were previously in place but we hope that you agree we have dealt with any issues sympathetically and fairly, and that any new rates imposed have been fairly introduced.

Please do let us know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Hawkins Contractors Representative

Cc David Cross (Amey)

Northampton Schools Limited
14" Floor, 5, Aldermonbury Square, London ECZV 71R (Registered Office)
Registered in England & Wales No. 05613429
Telephone +44 (0)20 7203 7300 Facsimile +44 (0)20 7203 7301

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

25th JANUARY 2010

BRIEFING NOTE

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA ITEM

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOLS PFI DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Further to Paragraph 2.4 of the substantive report, the details of the community use agreements have now been received from the County Council. Copies will be available at the meeting.
- 2. From a planning point of view, the details considered and approved pursuant to the conditions attached to the planning approvals for the schools listed in Para 2.3 of the report are enforceable by the County Council. Therefore, in calculating the community and sports facilities, including the playing fields, in a playing pitch audit it is appropriate to include these facilities as they have to be made available for community use under the terms of the planning consent.
- 3. As far as the remaining PFI schools are concerned, community access arrangements are as set out in the report to this Committee on 12th October 2009 and the letter from Northampton Schools Ltd dated 18th May. The contractual arrangements relating to community access to the facilities are unknown and therefore, the issues as set out in the report of 12th October remain unresolved as a true picture of sports and playing pitches available for community, use cannot be quantified.
- 4. The Council's objections to the release of Kingsthorpe and Parklands schools are therefore maintained until the whole question of access to the PFI playing pitches has been resolved. The County Council's agents have been advised of the position of both this Council and Sport England.
- 5. The Council's Planning Committee re-considered Bective School at its meeting on 12th January. WNDC has been advised that the proposals for this site should make provision for on-site community facilities.



Please ask for Tel Our Ref : Stuart Smith : (01604) 237711 : NO/04/1686C

Your Ref Date

: 11th December 2006

Northamptonshire County Council Children and Young People's Service Building and Capital Development PO Box 216, John Dryden House 8-10 The Lakes

Northampton

ftao Diane Farrell (Assistant

NN4 7DD

Education Officer, Property)

Dear Diane,

Planning Permission NO/04/1686C, The Duston School; Condition No.10 (Community Use Agreement)

I refer to your memorandum dated 6th November 2006 and accompanying documents (i.e. (i) NTPL Community Use (Sports) of School Playing Fields, and (ii) Agreement and arrangements for the use of all sporting facilities in Northampton PFI Schools) comprising a community use agreement submitted in accordance with the requirements of the above planning condition and can confirm that the submission is acceptable and, subject to its implementation and maintenance, the condition is therefore discharged

Yours sincerely

For the Head of Sustainable Development

Development Control, Growth Management PO Box 163, Floor 3 County Hall, Guildhall Road Northampton, NN1 1AX.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Phil Watson Development Control Manager

FROM: Diane Farrell

DATE: 6 November 2006 Cc **Peter Burrell**

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE **COUNTY COUNCIL**

10 NOV 2006 KS

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Northampton PFI Schools Planning Condition - Community Use Agreement

As agreed at our meeting on the 2 November 2006, I enclose the documents we discussed:

1. NTLP Community Use (Sports) of School Playing Fields

2. Agreement & arrangements for the use of all sporting facilities in Northampton PFI Schools

The NTLP Community Use document was produced and agreed in consultation with:

Sport England

Head teachers

NBC Planning Officers

NBC Sports Development Officers

NCC Sports Development Manager

NCC PFI Project Officers

The Agreement & arrangement for use of sporting facilities in Northampton PFI schools was produced and agreed in consultation with:

SPV (PFI Contractor)

Head teachers

NCC Sports Development Manager

NCC PFI Project Officers

Both documents were developed to take into account the commitment of the County Council to ensure the continuing use of school sporting facilities by the community.

The following schools have a condition as part of the planning permission that a Community Use Agreements is entered into:

Bridgewater Primary
Duston School
Green Oaks Primary
Kingsthorpe Community College
Mereway Community College
Northampton School for Girls
St Luke's Primary
Weston Favell School

I would be grateful if you could consider the points discussed at the meeting of the 2nd November, the documents enclosed and confirm that sufficient work has been undertaken to discharge the Community Use Agreement condition on each of the above schools.





Please ask for Tel Our Ref Your ref Date : Peter Burrell : 01604 237318

:PB/AW

: 17/10/06

To all Heads, Chair of Governors and Bursars of PFI Schools in Northampton

Dear Colleagues

Third Party Use

Thank you for your patience and forbearance as we develop our new procedures and charging policy.

As you know NCC's Third Party recommended charges documentation runs to 24 pages and so our meagre 9, which also includes a new category of reduced 'community' rate, is not too bad!

Inevitably as we begin to put our system into practice there will be a number of inconsistencies and inaccuracies with which we need to deal with. I am grateful to a number of schools who have raised such points and I have included the answers in this letter.

(1) Additional Hours (AH)

If there is another letting on in the school, at the same time as Additional Hours (AH), i.e. a Governors meeting coincides with another third party letting then the AH will not be counted against the school's allocation of AH. Completed forms are still required to notify Amey of the AH use.

(2) Letting Charges

The lettings charges, as quoted, will be the rates that will be used to recharge schools. These should be the minimum rates used. If schools wish to charge hirers more because the school will be providing services e.g. use of curriculum equipment, time to help to arrange weddings etc then the additional costs should be added to the minimum rates. NCC will only invoice the school for the sums indicated on the charge sheets.

Governors should agree to these charges and the charges should be included in the school's income or/and community policy, if they exist.

Northampton Town Learning Partnership John Dryden House, 8-10 The Lakes, Northampton, NN4 7DD

- t. 01604 237318
- f. 01604237532
- e. pburrell@northamptonshire.gov.uk



No thomotor Town Learning Portnership

(5) Swimming Pools

After further consideration it seems sensible to simply charge for swimming pools in the same way as all other use and therefore the charges are as on the appropriate sheets.

(6) Playing Field Use - Primary Schools for school matches

If the school only requires the school pitches to be available, the charges will be at the agreed rate of £13.10 to simply lock and unlock the school gate to allow access to the pitches. If access to the buildings is required then it will be necessary to use either additional hours or the community rate charge.

For all other users the normal charge rates should apply.

(7) Playing Field Use - Secondary Schools for school matches

For school use only, the school should use either additional hours (which will not be included within the schools AH allocation if point (1) applies) or the school could pay the Community rate.

For all other users the normal charge rates should apply.

(8) All Weather Pitches

The Commercial Use rate for these will be as originally stated as £45 per hour for the whole pitch which includes lighting and changing rooms. For a match the cost would be £56 for 1.5 hours unless changing rooms are required in which case the cost would have to be £76 for 2 hours.

Many users only require a 1/3rd of a pitch; however, this will be for schools to manage so that the overall cost of recovery by NCC will remain at £45 per hour.

Community Use rate is only applicable to Junior sections of sporting clubs and when this is applicable the rate should be as on the Secondary Community rate charge sheet.

(9) Amey Form - FAX/Memo for Hire of Educational Premises

With regards to entering All Weather Pitches/Swimming Pool/Playing Field use on the above form, the user category code will need to be entered as appropriate but please identify underneath the code All Weather Pitches, Swimming Pools, Playing Fields.

The Third Party user category code that needs to be entered on the form is the appropriate charge rate code that relates to the letting.

The Community Use – Directed code is CUD which replaces the code DU mentioned in another paper sent to schools.

I have also discussed with Amey, that although schools were asked to start the new system as from 01/10/06, there will be a need for some settling in time. I should be grateful however, if you would make every possible effort to use the systems we have set up and give Amey colleagues the notification requested as soon as possible.

Please see attached a new version of four sheets, which have been updated as a result of this letter. Can you please destroy the earlier versions and replace them with the attached.

Best Wishes

Yours sincerely

Peter Burrell

Head of Buildings & Capital Development / NTLP

NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOLS Use of School Premises V4 17.10.06

ADDITIONAL HOURS

Additional Hours should be identified on the form by the Code AH

 Additional Hours are intended to cover School use such as Governors Meetings, Parents Evenings, Concerts, Plays, PTA meetings & functions, School Fete, School sporting activities.

These hours cannot be 'passed on' to Third Party users.

COMMUNITY USE - DIRECTED

 Each group that wishes to qualify for free use of school premises must be registered with Children & Young People Services

 Each registered group is issued with a unique registration number that must be used each time a school is used

All groups are required to re-register each year

The registration Number plus the Code CUD should be entered on all forms

Adult Education Classes should be identified on all forms by the Code AE –
They will not be issued with a registration number but schools should add any
additional information e.g. Course No.

For details & queries on registered groups contact: jmulhall@nothamptonshire.gov.uk

COMMUNITY USE NON-DIRECTED

Further advice has been included in Peter Burrell's letter to schools on 17 October 2006.

All sporting activities will need to have gained or be "working towards" the nationally recognised 'Clubmark' award. On qualification, each group will be issued with a Registration No.

For further information contact: cholmes@northamptonshrire.gov.uk

NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOLS

Procedure for hire of school premises & Additional Use by Schools

Third Party Use / Community Use-Directed/Community Use-Non-Directed

Third Party Use

- 1. School accepts booking
- 2. Hirer completes NCC form:

(copy attached)

- APPLICATION FOR THE PRIVATE HIRE OF EDUCATION **PREMISES** (refer to Notes on Completion of Hiring Forms point 1.)
- 3. School completes Amey form (parts B & C):

(copy attached)

- Fax/Memo for Hire of Education Premises (H.E.P.) (refer to Notes on Completion of Hiring Forms point 2.)
- 4. Additional cleaning

If the hiring requires additional cleaning please complete the Amey form:

Hire of Educational Premises – Request for Facilities Services (refer to Notes on Completion of Hiring Forms point 3.)

- 5. Request for Catering (refer to Notes on Completion of Hiring Forms point 4)
- 6. School passes all forms to the Amey Site Manager giving at least seven clear days notice prior to the proposed date of use.

Additional Hours

School completes NCC form:

- APPLICATION FOR THE PRIVATE HIRE OF EDUCATION **PREMISES** (refer to Notes on Completion of Hiring Forms point 1.)
- 7. School completes Amey form (parts B & C):
 - Fax/Memo for Hiré of Education Premises (H.E.P.) (refer to Notes on Completion of Hiring Forms point School completes

The code for all Additional Hours must be entered as AH School passes form to Amey Site Manager (refer to Notes on Additional Hours)

02.10.06

- 1. It is essential that all Non School users complete the NCC form:
 - 'APPLICATION FOR THE PRIVATE HIRE OF EDUCATION PREMISES'

The completion and signing of this form is the confirmation by the user that they have appropriate Insurance.

Schools also are required to complete this form for all Additional Hours & NCC Adult Education classes.

- Each NCC form 'APPLICATION FOR THE PRIVATE OF EDUCATION PREMISES 'must be accompanied by the Amey form :
 - 'Fax/ Memo for Hire of School Premises'

Schools also are required to complete this form for all Additional Hours & NCC Adult Education classes.

The completion of this form confirms the arrangements that Amey need to make to accommodate the use.

Notes on completion of Amey form:

- (i). The details on this form are used by both the SPV and NCC to ensure the system of appropriate charging is used for all parties i.e. Hirer, Schools. NCC and SPV.
- (ii) A code must be entered for each type of use (including Additional Hours) The Code to be used for each hiring is detailed on the forms :
 - NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOLS Procedure for Hire of School Premises Codes and Hourly Rate

(iii) A Code & Registration number or AE for Adult Education use must be entered for all 'Community Use-Directed 'Please refer to form:

- NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOLS Use of School Premises Community Use Directed
- (iv) A Community Use-Non-Directed User must be deemed to qualify for the Community Use rate of charge for hiring the premises.

 Please refer to form:
 - Northampton PFI SCHOOLS
 Use of School Premises
 Community Use Non-Directed
- 3. If the hiring requires additional cleaning to be carried out or the proposed use could result in the need for additional cleaning, the Hirer should be advised of this additional charge, and agree to the cost. (Refer to Schedule of Charges for the hourly cleaning rate). Please note that should any use of the premises by a Third Party result in additional cleaning having to be carried out to ensure the premises are fit for school use, the school would be required to recover the additional costs from the Hirer.
- 4. If the Hirer requests that catering is provided by Scholarest, the School can obtain a form from the Amey Site Manager. The Hirer submits the form directly to Scholarest and all further transactions, including invoicing, are between the Hirer and Scholarest.

NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOLS DIRECTED COMMUNITY USE

Directed Community use Codes Secondary & Primary Schools V3 2.10.06

CODE At all times in Term Time & Outside Term Time NO Cost

AH Additional Hours

AE NCC Adult Education Classes

CUD Community Use Directed

NCC MCL NCC Multi Cultural Language Schools

NCC MS NCC Music School

02.10.06

NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOL NON DIRECTED COMMUNITY USE Procedure for Hire of School Premises Codes and Hourly Rate

Primary School Community Rate Charge

	£ Per Hour
A Monday to Saturday Any time from 8am for maximum of 3 hours	13.10
use	
B Monday to Saturday	20.80
Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	
E Sunday Any time from 8am for a maximum of 3 hours	19.10
use	
F Sunday Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	26.70
CODE Outside Term Time	£ Per Hour
NC Monday to Friday From 8am to 6pm	FREE
NB. This can only be provided when the caretaker is on the premises as part of his	
required hours	
A Monday to Friday & all day Saturday From 6pm for a maximum of 3 hours use	13.10
B Monday to Friday & all day Saturday Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	20.80
E Sunday Any time from 8am for a maximum of 3 hours	19.10
use	
F Sunday Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	26.70

02.10.06

COMMERCIAL USE

NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOL Procedure for Hire of School Premises Codes and Hourly Rate

Primary School	Commercial Rate	Commercial Rate		
CODE	Term Time	£ Per Hour		
J	Monday to Saturday Any time from 8am	23.50		
	Sunday Any time from 8am	29.80		
CODE	Outside Term Time	£ Per Hour		
R	Monday to Saturday Any time from 8am	23.50		
T	Sunday Any time from 8am	29.80		
02.10.06				

NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOL NON DIRECTED COMMUNITY USE Procedure for Hire of School Premises Codes and Hourly Rate

Secondary School Community Rate Charge

CODE	Term Time	£ Per Hour
C	Monday to Saturday Any time from 8am for maximum of 3 hours use	14.90
D	Monday to Saturday Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	25.70
G	Sunday Any time from 8am for a maximum of 3 hours use	21.20
H	Sunday Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	34.40
CODE	Outside Term Time	£ Per Hour
NC	Monday to Friday From 8am to 6pm NB. This can only be provided when the caretaker is on the premises as part of his required hours	FREE
C	Monday to Friday & all day Saturday From 6pm for a maximum of 3 hours use	14.90
D	Monday to Friday & all day Saturday Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	25.70
G	Sunday Any time from 8am for a maximum of 3 hours use	21.20
H	Sunday Cost per hour after first 3 hours use	34.40

02.10.06

COMMERCIAL USE

NORTHAMPTON PFI SCHOOL Procedure for Hire of School Premises Codes and Hourly RateV3 2.10.06

Secondary School		Commercial Rate
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CODE	<u>Term Time</u>	£ Per Hour
K	Monday to Saturday Any time from 8am	29.90
M	Sunday Any time from 8am	37.60
CODE	Outside Term Time	£ Per Hour
S	Monday to Saturday Any time from 8am	29.90
T	Sunday Any time from 8am	37.60

Charges and Codes for Special Areas of Use

ALL WEATHER PITCHES Charge £45 per hour whole pitch, match fee £56 for 1.5 hours and £76 for 2hours to include changing rooms.

SWIMMING POOLS Charge as Commercial or Community rates as appropriate

PLAYING FIELD USE – special rate for primary school use for school matches only £13.10 for locking and unlocking the gates to the site, no access to the buildings.

NCC MULTI CULTURAL LANGUAGE SCHOOLS this is Directed Use, Mark on Form NCC MCL

NCC MUSIC SCHOOL this is Directed Use, Mark on Form NCC MS

NORTHAMPTON TOWN LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Community Use (Sports) of School Playing Fields

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

Northamptonshire County Council is engaged in a review of the education system within the town of Northampton, changing the current three tier structure of lower, middle and upper schools to a two tier structure of primary and secondary. The principle aim of the change is intended to raise the educational achievement of students. All of the refurbishment and new building work will be completed by Autumn 2006, however, redeployment of staff and integration of pupils will be complete by September 2004.

New Schools

The Learning Partnership will result in the number of schools in the town being reduced from 75 to 59, with most of the remaining schools in the new structure benefiting from enhanced facilities - new classrooms, libraries and science laboratories, etc. Sport will specifically benefit from the building programme, with a significant number of new and refurbished facilities;

- 47 junior football pitches at primary schools;
- 5 multi-use games areas at primary schools (including the provision of a primary sports facility for use by 3 inner town primary schools that have insufficient grounds for team games);
- 9 all weather pitches at secondary schools;
- 20 football pitches and 11 rugby pitches at secondary schools;
- 3 new 4-court sports halls and 1 2-court hall extended to 4 court at secondary schools;
- 3 new gymnasiums at secondary schools;
- primary school halls being extended or provided to enable delivery of the KS2 physical education curriculum; and
- provision of the youth and sports facility on the Bective site.

Private Finance Initiative

The resulting structure of schools in the town will largely be managed through a Private Finance Initiative. The selected company (to be decided) will have a responsibility to maintain, manage and operate 47 out of the 59 school capital assets within the Learning Partnership, within any policy or guidance that the Northamptonshire County Council writes into the contract. Although details are to be finalised, it is assumed that the PFI contractor will seek to maximise third party income from hiring out the facilities. The Northamptonshire County Council is working to ensure an equitable pricing policy to allow a balanced programme of sports development activity and 'income generators'.

Community Approach

In line with the Governments desire to see more schools adopting the 'Extended Schools' ethos, becoming centres for a range of different community services, the Learning Partnership will provide schools with the facilities and the opportunity to do this. It is a core principle of the Learning Partnership that the schools will take on a much wider role than delivering the National Curriculum, for example, providing childcare services, lifelong learning opportunities, cultural and sporting activities, youth services, connexions and other services required locally. The PFI contract will specify the nature and extent of this community approach and the contractor's performance will be measured against how well they meet these requirements.

2. PLAYING FIELDS

Surplus Sites

The re-organisation will result in a number of school sites being declared surplus to requirements. These surplus sites offer the Northamptonshire County Council a significant opportunity to work in close partnership with Northampton Borough Council to plug any gaps in the provision of pitches accessible to the public, and thus ensure that all people living in Northampton have somewhere within easy reach to play sport.

School Building on Playing Fields

In certain cases new school buildings shall be located on existing playing fields. This policy seeks to address any loss thus incurred.

Northampton Borough Playing Field Strategy

Northampton Borough Council recently undertook an assessment of the current and predicted level of playing field provision within the town. Using Sport England's nationally recognised methodology (matching supply against demand for 2002 and 2016 population estimates), the study set out a list of recommendations for playing fields in the town, covering;

- Protection of existing pitches
- Improving the quality of existing pitches
- Creating new pitches
- Building appropriate ancillary facilities

The resulting strategy is due to go to the NBC Executive during Autumn 2003 and will be adopted formally as part of the Local Plan, providing a robust assessment against which planning decisions will be made. Officers from the Northamptonshire County Council have played a part in shaping that strategy.

Working on population estimates for 2016 the general picture for Northampton is that the town will be short of approximately 21 pitches (football, cricket, rugby and hockey). Certain areas of the town will be worse off than others, in particular Duston, St.James, and Delapre, whereas Parklands and Kingsley are predicted to have a surplus. See table 1 below.

Table 1 - Northampton Playing Fields (2016)

PPM Summary 2016	Shorfall/ surplus of adult football pitches	Shortfall/ surplus of junior football pitches	Shortfall/ surplus of cricket pitches	Shortall surplus of rugby pitches	Shortfall/ surplus of STRs for hockey	TOTAL SHORTFALL/ SURPLUS
Area 1 : Castle, St Crispin, Abington	2.2	0.1	-3.9	-2.0	-1,1	-4.8
Area 2 : Thorplands, Lumbertubs, Ectonbrook, Billing	7.9	-3.8	-1.2	-4.2	-1.4	-2.7
Area 3 : Boughton Green, St David, Kingsthorpe	5.3	-6.1	0.8	-0.6	-1.4	-2.1
Area 4 :Delapre, Spencer, St James	-3.9	-4.0	2.7	-4.7	0.7	-9.2
Area 5 : Eastfield, Headland, Weston	3.5	-0.4	1.1	-3.3	-1.2	-0.3
Area 6 : West Hunsbury, East Hunsbury, Nene Valley	3.4	-1.0	0.9	-1.9	-0.9	0.5
Area 7 : Parklands, Kingsley	5.3	-7.0	9.6	-1.1	-0.8	5.9
Area 8 : New Duston, Old Duston.	-1.7	-3.3	-1.6	-1.3	-0.7	-8.6
TOTAL	22	-25.5	8.4	-19.1	-6.8	-21.3

Many school playing fields are used by local football, cricket, rugby and hockey clubs for training and competitions. However, no school sites were taken into account in the assessment's methodology due to the fact that no education site is 'secured' for that community use - the Governors of a school could remove permission for any community sports club to use their fields at any point. To find a way by which sports clubs could gain 'secured' access to the remaining school playing fields would go a long way to meeting the deficit in certain areas of the town.

Of the sites deemed surplus to education requirements, the Northamptonshire County Council will work with Northampton Borough Council and the other statutory planning authorities to ensure that sport benefits from the disposals.

Sport England

As a statutory consultee on proposals for development that affecting playing fields, Sport England opposes such development in all but exceptional cases, whether the land is in public, private or education use. Those exceptions are listed thus;

- E1: A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the English Sports Council that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- **E2:** The proposed development is **ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field** or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.
- E3: The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in: the loss of, or inability to make use of, any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins); a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch; the loss of any other sports/ancillary facilities on the site.
- E4: The playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development.
- E5: The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

The Learning Partnership team has worked very closely with officers from Sport England and the Borough Council on the site-by-site implications of the Learning Partnership proposals, in order to achieve a balance between what is being lost, and what is being gained. It might well be that the disposal of one pitch on one site does not specifically meet any of Sport England's exceptions. However, the big picture of new / improved facilities (as previously outlined), alongside a Policy that secures community access to school playing fields, will ensure that the five exceptions are met and indeed exceeded.

3. MANAGED COMMUNITY ACCESS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES

Policy

As previously mentioned, a fundamental vision of the Learning Partnership is the development of closer links with community organisations. Local sport clubs and teams form one such group. In order to achieve this goal, the Learning Partnership will adopt a 'Managed Community Access' policy concerning sports use of school playing fields.

By formalising the 'security' of school playing fields for the community's use, the Learning Partnership will make a very significant contribution to the public leisure provision town-wide. Indeed, secured community access to school playing fields across the town will result in over 90 more pitches being available for use, creating in the year 2016 a surplus of over 70 pitches.

Why have a policy?

A formal policy will outline the parameters by which a community user could gain access to the outdoor grass pitches on school sites. It will;

 Determine the way by which an organised club or user-group can arrange access to the school playing fields – opening / locking up, booking, paying, maintaining, storing kit, etc.

Outline the opportunities for quality sports development to be established between the school and

the club / user-group.

Set out a pricing policy consistent with the surrounding area and that includes incentives to build stronger sports development partnerships between the school and the club (ie. reduced rates for junior sections). Why can't it be a completely open access policy?

The great majority of school sites are surrounded by security fencing, to try and prevent burglary and vandalism outside of school-hours, and to cover issues concerning Child Protection of the pupils during the school day. In addition, public use of playing fields by dog walkers, etc, render them unsuitable for school use.

Schools that have erected fencing around their site have seen criminal incidences drop significantly. For this reason schools, as would any business with extensive property to protect, will always have to control the access of members of the local community onto their site.

Who is it for?

The Policy potentially covers two parties; firstly, the 59 schools within Northampton following completion of the necessary school development works (9 secondary, 50 primary); secondly, any potential user of those fields, including;

- Senior teams in the main four pitch sports (football, hockey, cricket and rugby)
- Junior age-group teams in the main four pitch sports (football, hockey, cricket and rugby)
- Other sports clubs needing access to grass (non-pitch) areas (ie. archery, athletics, softball, orienteering, lacrosse, rounders).
- Non-sporting organisations wishing to play informal sport (ie. Youth Clubs, Black and Ethnic Minority Associations, Uniformed Organisations, Disability Clubs, etc).

What facilities does the Policy cover?

This Policy covers all the outdoor playing fields that form part of the school site;

- Formal marked out grass pitches for football (senior and junior), cricket, rugby and hockey
- Practice areas (grids, small sided games areas)
- Surrounding grass areas not marked out with pitches but capable of being used for sports not requiring formal markings (ie. archery).
- Synthetic turf pitches
- Multi-use Games Areas
- Hardcourt (tennis / netball) areas

Currently it does not cover the following school sports facilities, although the scope might be extended in the future;

Indoor sports facilities

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

PR NO.	POLICY RECCOMMENDATION	PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY	SECONDARY RESPONSIBILITY
1	Northamptonshire County Council to encourage all schools within the town to operate their playing fields for community use.	Northamptonshire County Council	Schools PFI Provider
2	Northamptonshire County Council to provide guidance to schools seeking ways and means of operating their playing fields for community access.	Northamptonshire County Council	
3	Northamptonshire County Council to include a policy / statement / condition within the PFI contract that specifies that the school playing fields should be available for community clubs and organisations to use, in a managed and controlled arrangement.	Northamptonshire County Council	
4	Northamptonshire County Council to ensure that the PFI contract covers combined maintenance	Northamptonshire County Council	

	due to both curriculum and community use.	· ·	
5	Northamptonshire County Council to provide a pricing structure (including rates of reduction for particular target user groups) to ensure consistency of hire costs across the Learning	Northamptonshire County Council	
	Partnership.		
6	The PFI provider, in conjunction with Northamptonshire County Council, to provide a planned marketing programme to ensure that	PFI Provider	Northamptonshire County Council
	community users are aware of the potential of using school playing fields.		,
7	Northamptonshire County Council to seek ways of using local / regional / national programmes and initiatives (ie. School Sports Co-ordinator Programmes) to support the establishment of links between schools and sports clubs.	Northamptonshire County Council	
8	Northamptonshire County Council to work with Northampton Borough Council to ensure that playing field provision across the town is both coordinated and of a sufficiently high standard.	Northamptonshire County Council	Northampton Borough Council
9	School Governors and senior management teams to seek with the PFI provider operational ways of allowing local sports clubs and groups to use their playing fields.	Schools	PFI Provider
10	School Governors and senior management teams to establish formal, documented, time-limited community use agreements with user groups, as per the template provided.	Schools	Sports Clubs / Users
11	School Governors and senior management teams to work with the user groups and clubs to build sports development pathways for their school children to progress from curricular PE lessons to club-based junior sections.	Schools	Sports Clubs / Users
12	PFI provider to maintain school pitches at a standard appropriate for school usage and community access.	PFI Provider	
13	Sports clubs to seek to extend their relationship with the school to be more than an operator / user arrangement, but a proactive sharing of resources and expertise.	Sports Clubs	Schools
14	Sports Clubs to seek to establish high quality opportunities for young people within the schools to participate and perform in their chosen sport.	Sports Clubs	Schools
15	Sports Clubs to commit to the formal community use agreements with the school and pay the agreed hire charge.	Sports Clubs	Schools
16	Northampton Borough Council to work with the Northamptonshire County Council on an ongoing basis to co-ordinate playing field provision to the public across the town.	Northampton Borough Council	Northamptonshire County Council

17	Northampton Borough Council to work with the Northamptonshire County Council to find an agreed solution with regard to retained and surplus school sites.	Northampton Borough Council	Northamptonshire County Council
18	Northampton Borough Council, in recognition of the contribution that Northamptonshire County Council is making to sports provision across Northampton, to provide an agreed annual sum for the maintenance of sports facilities and/or Sports Development.	Northampton Borough Council	

5. **SUMMARY**

The Northampton Town Learning Partnership offers sport in the town a real opportunity to set itself up with the right standard of facilities that a town of its size should have. On top of that is the prospect of extending the links between schools and clubs to be more than 'client / provider', taking them on to include junior coaching sessions, shared coaching expertise (club coaches and PE staff) and the creation of pathways from PE lesson, perhaps right through to representative honours.

BRIEFING NOTE

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / PARTNERSHIPS, REGENERATION, COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

25TH JANUARY 2010

REPORT ON PROGRESS ON

THE CENTRAL AREA ACTION PLAN

Purpose of the Report:

To provide Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a briefing on the progress of the Central Area Action Plan.

Recommendation:

That the O & S Committee note this report.

1. Background:

- 1.1 Committee will recall that extensive public consultation was undertaken on the emerging strategy for the CAAP during the Summer 2009.
- 1.2 At it's meeting on 4th November 2009, Cabinet received a report outlining the results of the consultation and the next steps. A copy of the report and appendices is attached for information.
- 1.3 Cabinet resolved
 - (a) To note the responses as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report.
 - (b) Approve the delay in the timing of issuing the Central Area Action Plan Pre-Submission Draft document for consultation from that identified in the current Local Development Scheme and
 - (c) Agree to work with WNJPU and GOEM to agree a realistic timetable for the production of the CAAP and for this to be incorporated into a revised Local Development Scheme for West Northamptonshire.
- 1.4 Although the consultation feedback on the CAAP showed general support for the key principles of the CAAP, the widespread consultation had led to the conclusion that there were significant gaps in the evidence base primarily in respect of traffic and transportation, the development of a sustainable transport strategy, and floodrisk and the water cycle. These deficiencies in the evidence base (set out in detail in Section 3 of the Cabinet report) are also equally applicable to the Joint Core Strategy.
- 1.5 A fundamental part of the planning process is that evidence should be gathered early in the process and used to help to make informed choices on the strategy and policies within development plans, rather

- than these choices being made and evidence. gathered to justify them later. It is clear, as a result of consultation that there is a significant amount of additional work to do on the evidence base to move the plan making process to the next stage of Pre-Submission Draft.
- 1.6 After taking advice from Counsel, it was considered by officers, and Cabinet agreed, that whilst it is the ambition of the Council to have a robust planning policy in place for the Central Area as soon as possible, there needs to be a clear understanding of the risk of taking the CAAP through the Statutory process in advance of the Joint Core Strategy. For a full reasoning, the Committee is directed to paragraphs 3.6.1 3.7.3 of the 4th November Cabinet Report.

2. Report on Progress:

- 2.1 Following the decision of Cabinet on 4th November, extensive discussions have taken place with the WNJPU and a revised timetable for the production of the Development Plan Documents, primarily the Joint Core Strategy and the Central Area Action Plan, has been produced.
- At it's meeting on 17th December the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee considered and approved the revised Local Development Scheme for submission to the Government Office for the East Midlands.
- 2.3 The revised timetable for the production of the DPDs was drawn up following extensive discussions with key organisations, including the County Council as Highway Authority, the Highways Agency, the Environment Agency and English Nature,
- 2.4 The revised timetable envisages that key elements of the evidence base will be completed by mid-June 2010, which will allow three Pre-Submission Development Plan Documents to be published for consultation in October 2010. These DPDs are the Joint Core Strategy, the West Northamptonshire Developer Contributions DPD and the CAAP. A copy of the LDS revised timetable is attached as Appendix
- 2.5 The revised LDS has been submitted to GOEM and discussions are proceeding at the time of writing.
- Cabinet will be receiving the Minutes of the WNJSPC at it's meeting on 20th January and a further report on the CAAP on 10th February.

Agenda Item 9

Appendices

2



Item No.

9

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Central Area Action Plan – Emerging Strategy
	Consultation Feedback and Next Steps

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date: 4th November 2009

Key Decision: NO

Listed on Forward Plan: YES

Within Policy: NO

Policy Document: YES

Directorate: Planning and Regeneration

Accountable Cabinet Member: Councillor Richard Church

Ward(s) Castle, Far Cotton, St Crispin

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To give an overview of the response to consultation on the Central Area Action Plan Emerging Strategy, and any associated implications for the content of the Pre-Submission Draft of the Action Plan.
- 1.2 To provide an update on progress for key parts of the 'evidence base' to support the Central Area Action Plan and the Core Strategy and apprise Cabinet of reasons for the delay in the production of the Pre-Submission Document.
- 1.3 To consider the timetable for progressing the Central Area Action Plan to enable a request to be made to the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee in revising the Local Development Scheme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the responses to the consultation outlined on the Central Area Action Plan Emerging Strategy.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve a delay in the timing of issuing the Central Area Action Plan Pre-Submission Draft document for consultation from that identified in the current Local Development Scheme.
- 2.3 To work with West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit and Government Office for the East Midlands to agree a realistic timetable for the production of the Central Area Action Plan and for this to be incorporated into a revised Local Development Scheme for West Northamptonshire.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Council is committed to produce the Central Area Action Plan for Northampton in accordance with the timetable set out within the adopted Local Development Scheme (November 2008). In association with the East Midlands Regional Plan and the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, this Area Action Plan will form the Development Plan that sets out the strategy and policies that will be used to inform decisions on planning applications within central Northampton.
- 3.1.2 Consultation took place on a Central Area Action Plan Issues and Options document in October and November 2007. This consultation, in association with additional work particularly with partners, resulted in some significant changes to the Central Area Action Plan, not least substantial amendments to the boundary of the area it covered.
- 3.1.3 In 2008 there were changes to national legislation regarding Development Plan Documents through the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. This removed the need to undertake a Preferred Options stage of consultation on Development Plan Documents. However, due to the substantial changes proposed for the Action Plan, together with the time that had elapsed since the previous consultation, the Council considered it appropriate to issue an Emerging Strategy for consultation. Cabinet approved this document on 15th July 2009. The consultation period was from 7th August until 18th September 2009.
- 3.1.4 The next stage in the production of the Area Action Plan is the Pre-Submission Document; this is a statutory requirement of the 2008 Regulations. At this stage, the expectation is that the Area Action Plan should be 'almost there' in terms of its content. The emphasis within national guidance is that there should have been a significant amount of 'front loading' of consultation and testing of the Area Action Plan before it reaches this statutory stage. Although there might be the potential for some change between Pre-Submission and the next stage of Submission to the Secretary of State, it should not be substantial.

3.2 Consultation process

- 3.2.1 Press releases and work by the Communications Team ensured that there was extensive coverage of the Emerging Strategy document within the local media. There were large positive features within the Chronicle and Echo and the Herald and Post, together with items on local radio. The Planning Policy Team has a Local Development Framework database (around 700), which includes among others: individuals who have expressed an interest to be kept informed about the progress of the Central Area Action Plan; statutory consultees and agencies, residents associations and parish councils, local businesses, community centres and local libraries. Entries on the database were informed about the start of the consultation and were sent either links to the consultation documents or provided with copies of leaflets, CD's or the detailed consultation document. The document was available via the Local Development Framework Teams consultation portal where responses could be made electronically or the documents downloaded, filled in and sent by post or electronically.
- 3.2.2 The full suite of consultation documents, including the detailed consultation document and questionnaire, Summary Leaflet (containing a questionnaire), CD's containing all the documents were available in libraries within and adjoining the Borough, the One Stop Shop and Cliftonville House. A permanent exhibition was available in the Planning Reception at Cliftonville House and at the Guildhall.
- 3.2.3 Within the boundary proposed of the Emerging Strategy for the Central Area Action Plan there is a large residential population in Spring Boroughs. Local residents in this area received a copy of the Summary Leaflet via the post.
- 3.2.4 Staffed public exhibitions were held at the Market Square (3 days), Weston Favell Shopping Centre (2 days) and Kingsthorpe Library (2 days). Posters, advertising the exhibitions, were provided at key consultee access points, namely community centres, libraries and residents associations and parish councils within the Borough. Visitors to the exhibitions could talk to staff from Planning and Regeneration about the many emerging plans for Northampton. Respondents were able to either fill in a detailed paper or on-line questionnaire, a shorter paper questionnaire or prepare their own response.

3.3 Consultation Responses

- 3.3.1 In total there were 230 people or organisations that responded to the consultation. However many people visited the exhibitions which were held, particularly in the Market Square.
- 3.3.2 The response to the Issues and Options consultation was a little disappointing given the numbers of people attending the exhibitions and the number of Summary Leaflets that were distributed approximately 5,000. Several of the Area Action Plan exhibitions were held in association with those done by the Joint Planning Unit for the West Northamptonshire Emergent Joint Core Strategy. There may be a large number of responses made to the Joint Core Strategy consultation that raises issues related to the Central Area; this will become more apparent as consultation responses are processed by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. Depending on the amount of time it takes the Joint Planning Unit to complete the processing of their responses, there may be the opportunity for responses related to the Central Area to be used by the Council to inform the Area Action Plan.

- 3.3.3 The majority of responses to the Area Action Plan were made on the short questionnaire contained within the Summary Leaflet; other responses came in via the long printed questionnaire which accompanies the detailed consultation document, letters, e-mails and via the consultation portal. Although the number of responses was limited, there have been some quite detailed ones submitted. At the point of producing this Cabinet Paper the responses have not yet been fully processed and therefore the results do not reflect all of the responses received.
- 3.3.4 However, the Summary Leaflet responses have been processed and the output from the quantitative element of the Summary Leaflet is referred to in the following sections with more detail being provided in Appendix 1 for reference. A short high-level summary has been made of responses received from Statutory consultees in Appendix 2. This is not a comprehensive summary but rather looks to identify key points for consideration in terms of support or omissions for the content of the Action Plan.
- 3.3.5 Overall, the response to the Emerging Strategy has been favourable. Certainly the general impression gained from feedback at the exhibitions is that there is very much a need for the Area Action Plan and that it is moving in the right direction. The following statistics are from an analysis of the Summary Leaflet feedback only. Analysis must still be carried out on the remainder of the responses. A fuller report on the consultation process, the comments made and how the Council has sought to address them in taking forward the Plan will be made in due course. This report will then be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the evidence base for the Area Action Plan when it is complete.

The Vision and Strategic Objectives

3.3.6 Overall 78% strongly agreed or agreed with the overall emerging plan. There was support for the vision (81% agree or strongly agree) and the strategic objectives (77% agree or strongly agree).

Retailing

3.3.7 In terms of the locations identified for additional retailing 72% supported the areas shown. In terms of priorities for improving shopping the majority thought that more specialist shops were required and that they would use them if they were there (56%). When asked about priorities for shopping respondents felt that improved restaurants, cafes and sandwich bars and the Market Square as a restaurant quarter and better lifestyle shops were priorities.

Movement

3.3.8 There was a high level of support for there to be more pedestrian priority around the centre (73%). The proposal for a new public transport link to the south of the centre also had a high level of support (70 %) However, the idea of having buses running along Abington Street for either part or the whole of its length was not supported by 54% of respondents with the remainder either 'yes' or 'maybe'.

Waterside

3.3.9 Opening up and making use of the Waterside was a key theme that people who attended the exhibitions were very supportive of and regarded as an area

which could be very beneficial for the town as a whole. Nearly 80% of respondents supported the development of the waterside for leisure uses.

Employment

3.3.10 There was support for the locations that have been identified for additional employment uses 78% of respondents supported the locations identified for creating workplaces.

3.4 Comments from Statutory consultees that might identify potential areas of concern

- 3.4.1 Ideally the Plan will go to the submission stage with the full support of the Statutory consultees and others. Objections from Statutory consultees, although not necessarily terminal to progress of a Plan, certainly can make it difficult to get through the examination process and be regarded as sound.
- 3.4.2 Comments from most of the Statutory consultees have been positive. However, the Highways Agency has identified what it considers to be an absence of capacity assessments of the highway network and a transport evidence base to underpin the Plan.
- 3.4.3 The Environment Agency has stated that the supporting evidence base requires substantial improvement to address primary soundness concerns on certain aspects. The Agency are likely to object to allocation of development in Flood Zones 2 and 3 (up to a 1 in 100 year probability) unless fully informed and supported by an exception approach to site selection informed by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Strategy.
- 3.4.4 These issues will be satisfactorily resolved through the provision of the requisite level of evidence and continued dialogue with these agencies on these matters. Further detail on the work ongoing on the evidence base for these two areas is discussed below.

3.5 Evidence Base

- 3.5.1 In taking forward the Central Area Action Plan a substantial amount of work has been undertaken in ensuring that the approach is sound. Key to this is that it is informed by an appropriate level of evidence. This has involved research such as: technical reports, e.g. retail capacity studies and the town centre health check; master planning and development frameworks prepared by consultants; and detailed discussions with site owners / developers, e.g. Legal and General; work with delivery partners such as Northamptonshire County Council, West Northamptonshire Development Corporation and Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited; and the results of consultation feedback. Some of this technical work has been commissioned jointly with partners, or undertaken by other agencies with a view to feeding into the Plan's production.
- 3.5.2 A fundamental part of the planning process is that evidence should be gathered early in the process and used to help make informed choices on the strategy and policies within the Area Action Plan, rather than these choices being made and evidence gathered to justify them. Clearly it's unlikely that at any one time all the appropriate evidence will be gathered prior to substantial progress in the development of the Plan occurring. There has to be some pragmatism and flexibility around the timing of evidence and advice has been taken from Counsel on this matter.

3.5.3 In seeking to move towards the Pre-submission document there will be a need for more dialogue with all manner of stakeholders to clarify points and seek support for what is being proposed. There could also be some focussed consultation with stakeholders on certain issues, for example the extent of the primary and secondary retail frontages.

Transportation

- 3.5.4 With regards to lack of evidence there is one area where despite best endeavours there is still a deficiency of technical evidence, which is likely to have substantial consequences on the 'soundness' of the Area Action Plan. This is work on transportation. In particular transport modelling has not been of a sufficiently robust standard to take into account the significant challenges of accommodating the amount of development identified in association with the growth agenda. Therefore, at a strategic level there is no clear understanding of the transportation impact from the amounts of development proposed in West Northamptonshire, at the lower level of the Central Area as a whole, or for individual development areas within the Central Area. This also has substantial implications for the infrastructure schedule in terms of items required, their likely cost and the timing of delivery.
- 3.5.5 Work has progressed on modelling; however it is not yet at a standard where it can be used to make reasonably informed decisions of the type that need to be taken for the Central Area Action Plan to progress to the Pre-Submission Draft stage. It is anticipated that preliminary modelling work of sufficient standard will be ready towards the end of December 2009. The full model is likely to be available for more detailed analysis and site specific work towards mid 2010. Whilst the model may be ready for preliminary work in December, there will be a lag time between it being available, consideration of its outputs and any consequent changes made to the Area Action Plan.
- 3.5.6 In addition, following on from comments made by the Highways Agency, there will be a need to revisit the Car Parking Strategy for the Central Area. Consultants have undertaken a review of car parks and made recommendations on a car parking strategy for the town centre. However, the report needs more work to make it more robust.
- 3.5.7 Further related to transportation is a Rail Freight Study which has been commissioned by WNDC and Network Rail as a consequence of the redevelopment of Ransome Road sidings. The work on this has also slipped, but it should be ready by the end of November 2009. This has important consequences for the Central Area, in particular the potential future of the stretch of the former Northampton to Bedford railway which still has a safeguarded corridor from the Castle Station to Brackmills. Whilst a decision on the future of this stretch of railway is not imminent, this study will go some way to deciding whether it is appropriate for that safeguarded line to be retained. The decision on this has substantial implications for the potential public transport link identified in the Emerging Strategy, the form and capacity of development at the Avon / Nunn Mills and Ransome Road sites and associated infrastructure requirements.

Flood Risk

3.5.8 An additional piece of work that is important which has also been delayed beyond its anticipated production timescale is the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 for Northampton. This has been affected by delays in the

availability of an updated breach model developed by Halcrow for the Environment Agency. It will be finished by the end of November 2009. When it has been completed further detailed work can start on assessing the appropriateness of areas that have been identified within the Emerging Strategy for development and the uses that may be appropriate. Given the Environment Agency's position as highlighted above, this work will have to be done before the document can proceed to Pre-Submission consultation stage.

3.6 Relationship with the West Northamptonshire Core Strategy and impact on the timing of consultation on the Pre-Submission Central Area Action Plan

- 3.6.1 The timing of the production of the Central Area Action Plan has sought to be complementary to that of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. This has been on the basis of advice from Government Office who has sought to ensure that there is conformity between the various levels of planning policy from national Planning Policy Statements, through Regional Spatial Strategies, Core Strategies and then lower level Development Plan Documents.
- 3.6.2 The West Northamptonshire Core Strategy needs to be confident that the type of centre required making West Northamptonshire a successful place will be delivered within the Central Area Action Plan. For the Area Action Plan there needs to be the confidence that the Joint Core Strategy is sufficiently robust to ensure that the Central Area set out in the Action Plan vision can be delivered. There also needs to be a clear understanding of the policy relationship between the two documents, with the Action Plan not including policies that it would be more suitable to be addressed at a higher level, e.g. sustainability targets.
- 3.6.3 In taking forward the Area Action Plan there now has to be a fundamental question about whether it is appropriate to follow on from the Joint Core Strategy at least in the short term. It has become evident over the last month that the prospect of the Joint Core Strategy being produced to a schedule close to that set out in the Local Development Scheme is unlikely. Government Office has written to the Joint Planning Unit indicating that it is aware of the need to amend the timetable for production of the Joint Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document and inviting the Joint Strategic Planning Committee to do so. Government Office has identified that there is clearly a significant amount of work to do on the evidence base to move it forward to the next stage. The Joint Strategic Planning Committee will need to make decisions on the timing of the stages of the Joint Core Strategy through to adoption in due course.
- 3.6.4 Given the limited production of Development Plans related to Northampton over the last 12 years there is a planning policy vacuum on many issues. It is essential that there is a sufficiently robust planning framework in place for the future prospects of delivering the vision for central Northampton. The Central Area Action Plan will be a fundamental part of that. As a result of anticipated delays in the production of the Joint Core Strategy discussions with Government Office have taken place. These discussions have indicated that there may be flexibility over the timing of the Central Area Action Plan in relation to that of the Joint Core Strategy. It may be that the East Midlands Plan in Policy MKSM SRS Northamptonshire 3 provides a sufficient 'hook' on which to hang the Central Area Action Plan in moving to at least a Pre-

- Submission Document and, depending on timing of the Joint Core Strategy, possibly beyond towards adoption.
- 3.6.5 However, Counsel has advised caution in this respect. Although not ruling out going to Pre-Submission stage in advance of the Joint Core Strategy, Counsel is of the opinion that there needs to be a thorough consideration of whether there is a sufficient strategic basis to enable this to occur. Further discussion with Government Office, the Planning Inspectorate and Counsel needs to take place before any recommendation is made by officers on whether it is appropriate to proceed with the Pre-Submission Area Action Plan in advance of the Pre-Submission version of the Joint Core Strategy.

3.7 Choices (Options)

Changes to the timetable for consultation on the Pre-Submission Central Area Action Plan and potentially later stages towards adoption

- 3.7.1 There are a number of choices available to the Council. It could either:
 - Not amend the timetable;
 - Amend the timetable for the Pre-Submission Document, but not to amend the timetable for later stages
 - Amend the timetable for the Pre-Submission Document, and consider the possibility of the need to amend the timetable for later stages taking into account advice from Government Office, the Planning Inspectorate and Counsel.
- 3.7.2 As outlined in the report, to not amend the timetable for consultation is not considered an option. On the basis of the consultation responses and the gaps identified in the evidence base it would now not be possible to go out to consultation in November 2009. There would be objections from statutory consultees and the gaps in the evidence base are likely to make the Area Action Plan be regarded as unsound by the Secretary of State at Examination. At this stage, it is considered that reviewing the timetable for the Joint Core Strategy and the Central Area Action Plan, as set out in the current Local Development Scheme, is necessary up to the adoption of the two Development Plan Documents. Whilst it is the ambition of the Council to have a robust planning policy for the Central Area in place as soon as possible, there needs to be a clear understanding of the legal position and the risk of taking the Area Action Plan through the Statutory process in advance of those for the Joint Core Strategy.
- 3.7.3 Given the delay in the Pre-Submission timetable for the Area Action Plan it is considered that it's unlikely that a Submission date of June 2010 as set out in the current Local Development Scheme can be achieved. Taking into account the need to fully grasp all of the relevant issues it is considered that Option 3 is pursued with the aim of bringing a Pre-Submission document as soon as is reasonably practicable before Cabinet to seek approval for consultation. The Portfolio Holder will be kept informed of anticipated timetabling vis-à-vis that of the Joint Core Strategy, however it is not envisaged that a Pre-Submission document will be placed before Cabinet prior to February 2010.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

The Central Area Action Plan, along with the Regional Plan and Joint Core Strategy will be the Development Plan containing policies against which proposals for development will primarily be assessed in their determination.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Taking the Central Area Action Plan through to adoption is a resource intensive and expensive process which has been subject to Medium Term Planning for budgets. Resources to progress the work needed to get to Pre-Submission stage have been identified and are currently available. The risk of legal challenge or the Area Action Plan being found unsound is real if suitable precautions are not in place. The Council uses the Planning Advisory Service and Planning Inspectorate pro-forma to identify that appropriate mechanisms are in place to reduce the risks of the Plan being found unsound. It also has a retained 'critical friend' and Counsel to provide appropriate advice. Advice will be sought on the appropriateness of the timing of pursuing the next stages in the adoption of the Area Action Plan in advance of the Joint Core Strategy.

4.3 Legal

See above related to Policy and Resources and Risk.

4.4 Equality

The Pre-Submission Action Plan will be subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment to address issues that have already been highlighted in a screening and scoping report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

A list of external consultees that were invited to comment on the Emerging Strategy is set out in the report and there has been an input from all elements of the Council in the Emerging Strategy and progression towards the Pre-Submission Document.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

The Central Area Action Plan will out the strategic town planning policy for the Central Area. It is consistent with and will assist in delivering all of the Council's corporate priorities.

4.7 Other Implications

None

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 CAAP Issues and Options Consultation Document October 2007
- 5.2 CAAP Emerging Strategy August 2009 5.3 Cabinet Paper 15th July 2009 CAAP Emerging Strategy

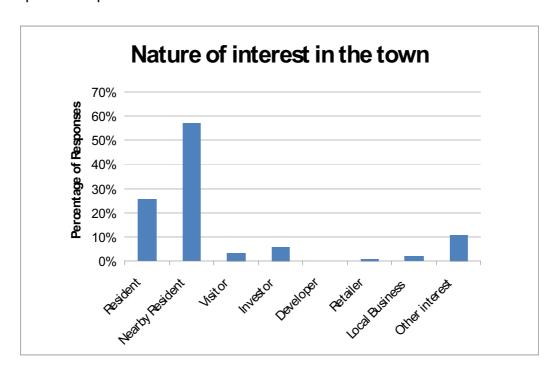
Paul Lewin, Planning Policy and Heritage Manager 01604 838734

4th November 2009 Cabinet Report Appendix 1

Responses to the short questionnaire received as part of the consultation on the Emerging Strategy for the Central Area Action Plan. Consultation Period 7 August – 18 September 2009

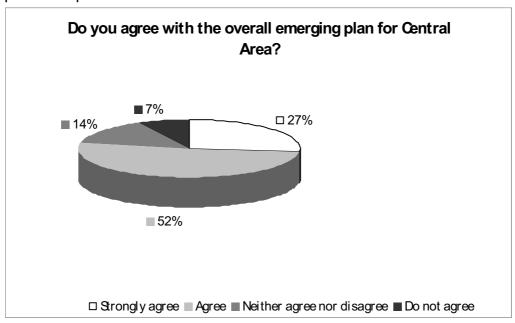
1 Profile of Questionnaire Respondent

1.1 Response to question 1:

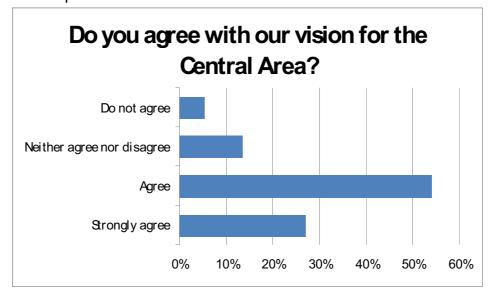


2 Vision and Objectives

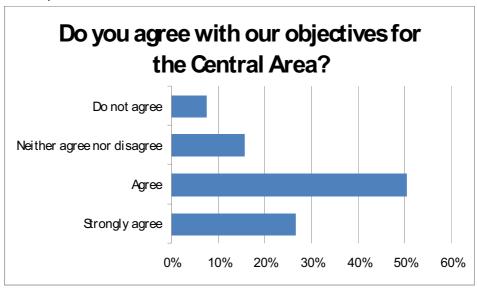
2.1 Response to question 2:



2.2 Response to question 3:

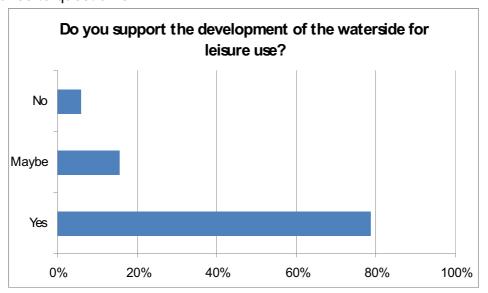


3 Response to question 4:



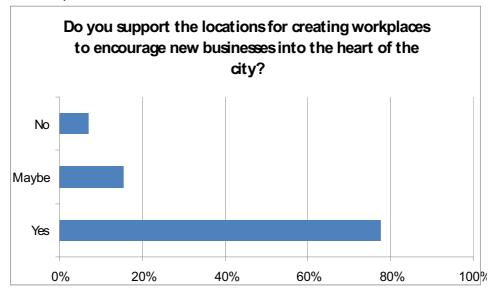
4 Culture, Leisure and Heritage

4.1 Response to question 5:



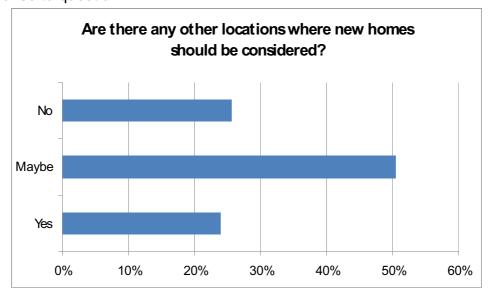
5 Providing Jobs

5.1 Response to question 6:



6 Housing and Community Facilities

6.1 Response to question 7:



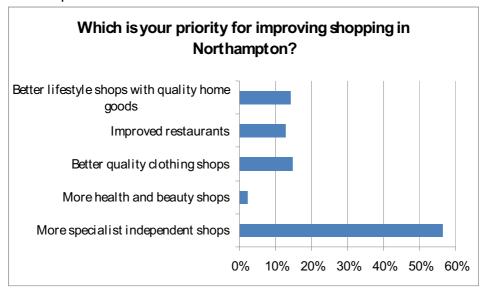
6.2 Other suggestions for locations for new homes:

Specific Locations	 Duston, Kingsthorpe, Dallington, Kings Heath, Hardingstone To the North of Northampton Semilong The Wellingborough Area London Road & Bridge Street Hanraghans Café /wine bar St Peters Way Freeschool St and St Peters Way Whitehill, Eastfield, Poole St (old military and school site) Wootton Fields The length of St Andrews Road Re-develop eastern district around sustainable shopping at Weston Favell
	 Further development on land around Upton The Castle Station site is so big, it could support a substantial residential scheme alongside the transport and employment elements
Wider Area	 At least 25 miles away Other side of M1 junction 15 and 15a Satellite residential zones South Northants Yes villages. We are losing our villages, no post offices, no shops, help them. Lovely villages (scenery) No more factory conversions, new homes outside immediate town centre Additional homes to villages that surround Northampton to boost rural communities East Northampton along the A428 between the A45 - Bedford Rd and Houghton area
Brownfield Sites	Grafton industrial estate - not suitable in location, creating area for crime. Residential more suitable maybe?

	 The former power station. Land behind B&Q DIY Shop Brownfield sites close to / in Central Area x7 - Suggestions being: Kingsthorpe Hollow, old factories, Martins Yard, the councillors are ignoring [these sites] all the time, the old shoe factory in the town centre In derelict industrial property in St Michael's Road x2 St Edmunds hospital site x3 Expense of living centrally - is the big no no! Abington Vale, Middle School old site and other middle schools The garage site on the Wellingborough Road near Weston Favell village etc. Possibly on edge of central area boundary in old Victorian residential zones e.g. converted shoe factories to preserve integrity of these important industrial heritage buildings - notably Hawkins (Overstone Road area)
No more housing	Not needed too many empty properties already
Flooding	I am concerned about the amount of proposed housing in the
3 2 3 3	flood plain

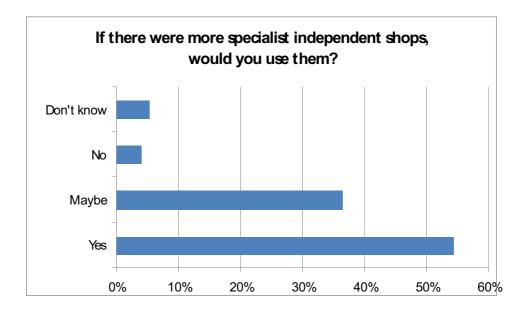
7 Shopping

7.1 Response to question 8:

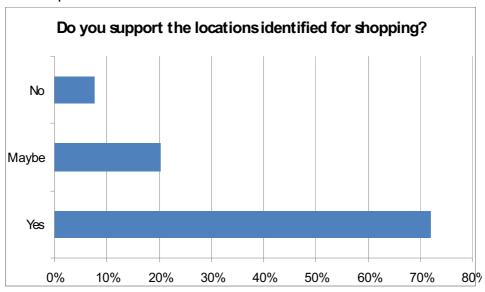


- 7.2 Please note that respondents were asked to tick one priority option, 40 ticked either one more or a combination of options, therefore this needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the feedback. Other comments included:
 - To be able to walk to shops for weekly food and household shop.
 - Affordable rents
 - Lower rents on town centre offices and shops to attract businesses into the centre instead of forcing them away.

7.3 Response to question 9:

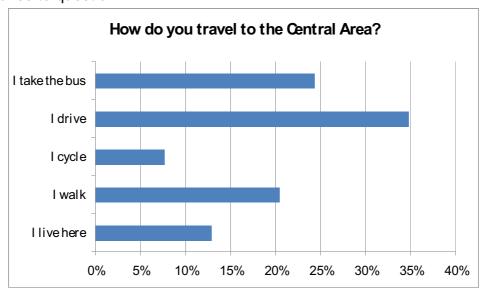


7.4 Response to question 10:

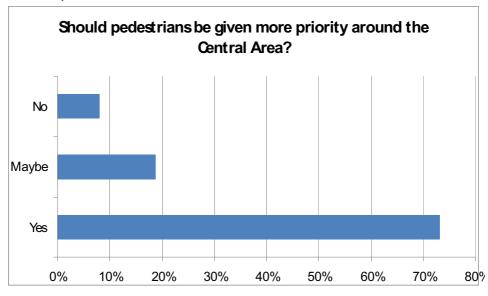


8 Transport and Movement

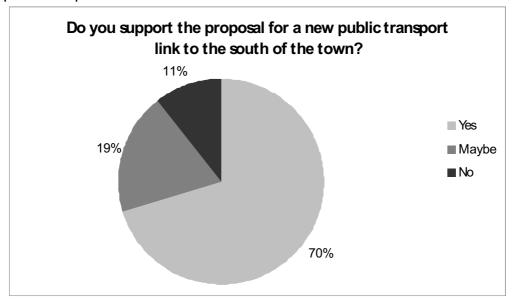
8.1 Response to question 11:



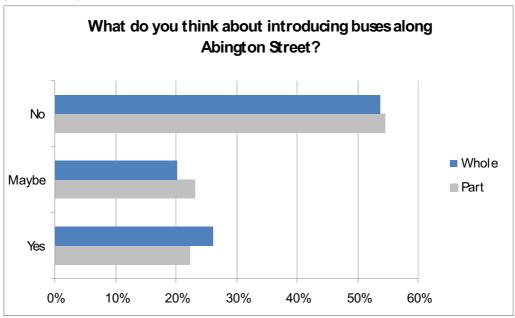
8.2 Response to question 12:



8.3 Response to question14:



8.4 Response to question 15:



9 City Status

9.1 Response to question 16: Question 16 asked respondents 'what else does Northampton Central Area need to reflect its future City status? The following table details the 'issue' areas that the majority of comments fell into. It does not include all the comments made to this question.

Greenspaces	 Lots of trees and plants or grass areas. X 4, - trees in central shopping areas. Improved access and marketing of Beckets Park as green space to compliment retail development.
Design	 Excellence in Clean, green, safe themes x2 - ecologically responsible Imaginative modern architecture I think if these proposals are delivered to an excellent standard,

	NI (I () 'II () I'' () ' '
	Northampton will fulfil the vision.
	Landmark, architecturally significant buildings (new builds)
	Twenty first century quality architecture
	Less ugly block brick paving!
Maintaining	Maintain and make better use of historic buildings and natural
history	assets x4 - do not demolish, remember market town roots and
	keep a lot of its original stuff, the Market, Fish Market, River
	Nene and parks), preservation and reconstruction
	Respect for its historic buildings and spaces – need to consider
	views into town – All Saints views marred by modern buildings –
	car parks etc.
Public Realm	Good quality street furniture x2 – i.e. including recycling bins
	and plants hanging or otherwise.
	More street art/sculptures by local artists x2 - a 'Diana'
	monument.
	Public seating x2 - with some rain/dry protection.
	Public conveniences that are open!
	Improved public realm, which can be maintained.
Attracting Visitors	It should be able to attract people from outside Northampton
	with something other nearby towns and cities do not have.
	Tourists encouraged to visit.
	Large tourist office, more guided tours, printed town guide
	Better advertising / signage x4 re: What's on in Northampton,
	good quality signs
Cleanliness and	Cleanliness x6 - it is it disgrace to visitors there is litter
Monitoring	everywhere, someone to remove the litter, fly tipping etc
	Plenty of street wardens to keep it looking presentable
General	A cathedral x3
contributions to	Improved national status - examples are recognised national
what makes a	institutes of excellence or sports institutions.
city distinctive	It needs to be distinctive
	I thought it would take an act from Queen to make us a City
	because of Civil War. Didn't we imprison the Charles 1st here?
Reducing pubs	A reduction in pubs and clubs x3
Cultural offer	Types of facilities: a vibrant Art Gallery x3, museum complex
	and more museums and tourist attractions, a new library,
	sculptures, photography etc, theatre tickets at a more
	reasonable price.
	Add culture x2 - to balance the binge drinking perception
	A more up-market feel
Market	Assist the market traders with lower rents to bring the market
	square back to life
	Options for the Market - a farmers market on Saturday when
	working people go shopping, fish and meat market for
	independent stalls
	Vibrant market area x3 - no political interest in what the
	electorate really wants, proper market square
	It was ideal in my youth! Centred around market with small
	specialist shops in arcade.
Type of shops	A starbucks Please!!!!! Maybe two starbucks
71- 2. 2360	

Leisure Offer	 No empty shops Remove / stop - 'Pound' shops, future pubs, bingo halls, amusements arcades More shops x3 - diverse retail offered, clothes shops (higher quality/independent), quality Shops to promote the sale of local produce, perhaps for those who can't afford own premises Food stores - catering for elderly people. Not to be a 'city' – but to retail it's identity as a County Market Town. Lots of restaurants A more balanced leisure offer and major national attraction - footwear industry museum (over and above central museum) -
	 old Hawkins factory perhaps. Things to do or visit informally. Better facilities for mums and kids. Customer focused information café to meet people and have a general chat.
Car Parking	 Adequate and cheap car parks x5 - to encourage people like me from out of town to come into central Northampton, located around perimeter of the Central Area Free car parks More disabled parking along Abington Street around Marks & Spencer A multi storey car park close to station
	 Better parking enforcement like a good city Good road access and free parking
Public Transport and Cycling	 Effective park and ride x2 More pedestrians and cycle routes x2 Better transport x4 - reliable!, reflect a better image of town, no [buses] after 8pm in most areas. A new bus station x2 - needed centrally, not at the railway station Maintain the bus station as is x3 - refurnish it, spend money on it as promised Cheaper public transport to get people out of cars
Pedestrianisation	 Greater use of public parks - please see Milton Keynes Pedestrianisation of town centre x3, whole of town, no cars in bridge street and around All Saints Church, where possible, shopping areas (like Gold Street)
Leisure Offer	 More leisure facilities x2 - to promote a leisure economy, boosting football and improvement of leisure facilities Another decent sized flat open area (other than Market Square) - in summer for new workforce to use, winter ice skating etc. A new state of the art sports centre/leisure centre – a new swimming pool x2 - with chutes/river runs/waves (now Danes Camp is far too busy)
Disagree with City Status	Strongly disagree with "City" description x3 - Northampton must develop a unique identity to differentiate itself from Milton Keynes, more of the same wont work, no benefit to us if it

becomes a city! Only increased taxes
I like Northampton Town
What city status?

10 General Feedback

10.1 Response to question 17: Respondents were also asked 'is there anything you would like to tell us to support your answers', this question elicited quite a lot of qualitative feedback which will be included in the consultation report.

4th November Cabinet Report Appendix 2

CAAP Statutory Consultees Responses

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) Response Summary (considered by Board on 15-09-09) English Heritage (EH)

Network Rail – no comments Government Office for the East Midlands

(GOEM)

Northamptonshire County Council -Policy (NCC)

Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited (NEL)

Homes and Communities Agency (**HCA**) Sport England (**SE**) Disabled Persons Transport Advisory

Committee (**DPTAC**) Highways Agency (**HA**)

Northamptonshire Police (NP)

East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMDA)

Environment Agency (**EA**) Hardingstone Parish Council Little Houghton Parish Council

This paper provides an overview of highlights from statutory consultee's responses to the consultation on the Emerging Strategy to the Central Area Action Plan. It does not provide a comprehensive view of the details contained within the responses but looks to provide a summary of pertinent points in going forward with producing the Action Plan.

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General

WNDC	Need to provide a programme to them identifying the key stages in
WNDC	reaching Submission for their own work programme. Concerns about the development of a Transport Strategy – time short, NCC need to recognise importance and allocate adequate resources.
GOEM	Timing – generally difficult to examine other development plan documents ahead of a core strategy; can do it if housing need or urgently required regeneration package. Need to be set out in a revised LDS to link chain of conformity to RSS rather than JCS.
NCC-Policy	Links between CAAP and JCS. Emphasise the relationship with the WN County and Sub-Region. Be clear about infrastructure needed to raise the status of the town centre, and deliver the development envisaged and the extent to which current deficits will also be addressed. Provide clear guidance on how existing built up areas can profit from an urban renaissance of the Central Area. Don't include details about evidences base and genesis of CAAP. All sites identified should have been subject to robust assessments as to the likelihood of delivery and successful implementation (because of likelihood to incur blight) All sites subject to archaeological assessment
Police	Broad principles of Police for any planning policy document – detailed in response. Have done a town centre audit on behalf of Town Centre Violence Group (Debbie Ferguson has a copy) – needs to be integral to improving the offer
DPTAC	4 principles: accessibility for disabled people is a condition of investment; accessibility for disabled people must be a mainstream activity; users should be involved in determining accessibility; Achieving accessibility or disabled people is the responsibility of the provider.
HA	Safeguard Strategic Road Network – particularly M1 and A45 There are new goals for transport (CAAP contains old ones) contained within Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, Department for Transport, Nov 08. Primarily to support economic growth and combat climate change. Absence of reference to capacity assessments of highway network and a transport evidence base to underpin the CAAP. Statement to accommodate car drivers is inappropriate and doesn't take account of existing travel conditions. The plan should promote a more sustainable approach to addressing commuter trips. By placing emphasis on public transport improvements later in plan it doesn't demonstrate that the development to be delivered will be served by sustainable forms of travel in the short term.
Sport England	Disappointed that benefits of sport having regard to community cohesion and regeneration of the City Centre do not form a more substantial part of CAAP (also raised in Nov 2007).

	04
	Strong emphasis on designing quality places and the promotion of walking
	and cycling is supported.
	National Sports Strategy, 'Game Plan' has been replaced by Sport
	England's Strategy 2008-2011.
	Change 4 Sport, the East Midlands Sports Strategy has been replaced by
	the new national strategy but will not be updated.
EMRA	Clearly and succinctly sets out the emerging strategy proposed to enable the regeneration of Northampton.
	Comments form context of regional principles and not appropriate to comment on individual sites.
	Bring forward retail, office, residential and leisure opportunities and any
	other town centre functions as set out in PPS 6 based on identified need.
	Plans to encourage re-use of vacant land and buildings within urban areas
	accords with Policy 17 and Policy 3 which sets out sequential approach to
	development focussed on urban concentration that forms overarching
	framework for location of future development activity.
Environment	Supporting evidence base and policy require substantial improvement to
Agency	address primary soundness concerns on certain aspects. Object on
	grounds of soundness to progression to submission unless fully supported
	and informed by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Water Cycle Strategies.
	Object to allocation of development within Flood Zones 2 and 3.
	Anglian Water Services Ltd should be consulted and requested to
	demonstrate that sewerage and sewage disposal systems serving the
	CAAP will have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional flows
	generated as a result of development, without causing pollution or flooding.
	New development to Flood Zone 1 (sequential test).
Environment	Willing to be involved in assessment against sustainability criteria of site
Agency	specific proposals received during the consultation.
/ tgorioy	No mention of how developments are likely to impact on species inhabiting
	the area as a result of increased activity / disturbance, e.g. bats.
	References to Bats and Lighting in the UK.
Environment	Needs to be more engagement with the Environment Agency. Meet at
Agency	earliest opportunity.
Little	We do not agree with the overall Emerging Plan for the Central Area but
Houghton	would like to see the inner area of Northampton regenerated.
Parish	Technology and scientific research will have moved on dramatically by
Council	, ,
Council	2026 - how can we predict that people will still want or need the same
	things as today?

2 Vision

MAIDO	Francisco di città 100 mattadado do tata di cita de la companya
WNDC	Ensure aligned with JCS – particularly strategic issues such as transport,
	employment provision, retail and residential.
English	Broadly support.
Heritage	Plan needs to be underpinned by an understanding of the historic
	environment, archaeology, morphology and buildings.
GOEM	Support
NCC-Policy	Set out spatial priorities but not go into too much detail about individual
	proposals
	Define distinction between central area and town centre
	Comprise a structure that places strategic and topic based policy matters
	first, with detailed proposals for sites set out afterwards.
	Schools sites required for Nunn Mills and Ransome Road, other new
	housing will create pressures on already pressured system.
NEL	Support.
	Align with JCS.
	Consider regional centre for leisure, retail and other employment uses.
	Note that delivery of successful Central Area will play key role in delivering
	job growth.
Police	Lack of consideration of 'safe and secure' in vision and needs to be rolled
	out throughout the document with details of how it will be delivered.
HCA	No mention of sustainability, energy efficiency, high quality design and
	public realm – doing so would strengthen the vision.
HA	Support general direction.
EMRA	Strong accord with RSS and 11 Core Regional objectives in Policy 1
EA	Include key messages in the vision to highlight commitment to adapting
	and mitigating against climate change.
	Promote the use of SUDS
	1 Tofficte the use of SODS

3 Strategic Objectives

English Heritage	Don't support PPS1, 3, 15 – full assessment of individual sites should underpin further policy and development control decisions. Welcome clear definition of tall buildings – agree accords with CABE/EH guidance.
NCC-Policy	Objectives must link to and cascade from JCS
Police	Support.
	Encourage engagement with the force through the Crime Prevention Design
	Advisors to ensure that issues of providing safe environments are included.
HCA	Support
HA	Support general direction
Sport	Should include ability to maximise the opportunities for and the benefits of
England	sport in the community and to integrate future developments with the
	existing community – Shaping Places through Sport emphasise this opportunity.
EMRA	Strong accord with RSS and 11 Core Regional objectives in Policy 1
Little	Need to enhance the central shopping area of Northampton by encouraging
Houghton	individual shops.
Parish	Due to its central position in the County, its historic ties and wonderful
Council	countryside tourism should be encouraged to provide employment.

3.1 Objective 2

English	No reference to maintaining architectural heritage. Need a specific
Heritage	objective or reword Objective 2: To ensure new design is of the highest
	standard that reflects the rich architectural heritage and adds to the sense
	of place and to ensure that the heritage assets of the area are protected
	and enhanced and continue to contribute to its distinctive character.

3.2 Objective 5

WNDC	Broaden to ensure Transport section includes all forms of transport.
	Needs to cover the impact of car, in addition to public transport, walking.
Little	We support Central area Action Plan on objective 5
Houghton	
Parish	
Council	

3.3 Objective 6

Little	We support Central area Action Plan on objective 6
Houghton	
Parish	
Council	

4 Retail - General

WNDC	Relate convenience and comparison to wider town and JCS, particularly
	convenience provision and balance between Central Area and outside of it.
	Need more evidence for selection of sites (and why above other options)
	and information on deliverability.
	Food retail – must be clearly evidenced and shown to be deliverable within

the timescale of the plan – e.g. do the proposed sites meet the needs of potential occupiers.
·
Extent of it will be important in assessing future retail proposals.
Highlight primary and secondary retail frontages on basis of future role
Support proactive engagement in retail market to attract a high quality offer.
SNEAP identifies potential activities that should be undertaken within
Northamptonshire to further support town centre regeneration and
development.
Short term lease of empty shops to community groups - follows best
practice guidance in DCLG 'Looking after our town centres'.
Additional retailing development required in the centre.
Appropriate to retain retail spend.
Support long term aim of restricting new retail development at retail parks
on edge of urban area.
Support encouraging mixed use development (other than retail) as retail
parks located in less accessible areas than town centre.
Northampton has potential to become one of the Regions highest
performing retail attractions.
To maintain that Northampton City in 2026 will be an area of shopping
excellence is unrealistic. We should be looking at ways to compliment the
shopping experience offered by Milton Keynes. Embrace Northampton as a
market town and build on this.

4.1 Nene Valley / St James

English Heritage	Nene Valley / St James mixed use – agree
Police	Any alterations must build on existing crime prevention in this area (was high crime 10 years ago). Support more mixed use.
HCA	Needs to be supported by additional local community facilities.

4.2 North Abington Street / Horse Market / College Street

English	North of Abington Street – upgrade frontage, not suitable for supermarket.
Heritage	Could develop more sensitive mixed use.
	College Street and Horse Market – carefully integrate Grade II church
Police	Strongly agree with issues retail strategy identified. Support two locations
	identified for retail.
EA	Both lie in secondary aquifers so potential for land contamination from existing site use and design of foul and surface water drainage is Environment Agency priority.
	Early liaison with Northampton Borough Council, Environment Agency and developers when dealing with land that may give rise or already be affected by contamination.

4.3 Retail through Intervention

English	Support.
Heritage	Need to address shop fronts and public realm.
	Seek mechanisms for reuse of historic buildings, e.g. uses for upper floors.
	Support shop front work. Did attempt to advise officers. Still willing to
	advise as very feasible if Council wishes to pursue.

Police	Shop fronts of high quality, lighting, management and maintenance of the
	town all contribute to ensuring decline is halted.
Police	Engage the Force's Crime Prevention Design Advisors.
	A policy that outlines the guidelines that need to be adhered to for any shop front.
HCA	Selective letting with improved contract terms - could encourage smaller independent traders. Specific retail uses could be targeted. Willing to provide further input in relation to retail and lettings strategy which is being formulated.

4.4 High Quality Retailing

English	Support.
Heritage	Potential St George's Row, Mercers Row, Market Square and Bridge Street
	for smaller independent retailers.
	Abington Street and Drapery have potential for larger commercial units.

4.5 Primary and Secondary Frontages

Police	Appropriate - need further detail on the levels of different uses that are
	acceptable along each frontage.

5 Town Centre Boundary

WNDC	Boundary in relation to retail – re-examine, not clear why extends around Castle Station or why encompasses the mainly residential areas at the end of Derngate.
NEL	Boundary appropriate including station.
	Consider role of St James and Nene Retail parks within centre, may be
	possible to better align with centre.
Police	Appropriate. Possibility Force may relocate from Campbell Square should
	include in the boundary. For the site to become vacant the Courts would
	need to be relocated.
HCA	Support, but boundary needs to accord with Ransome Road masterplan.
Sport	Boundary should include Nene Whitewater site to strengthen activity along
England	river back to Becket's Park.

6 Office Developments

WNDC	Support locations Emphasis need for further information re quantum of employment floor space and how links to JCS. Need to demonstrate that the sites put forward are deliverable and provide
	an indication of the expected levels of employment supply.
English Heritage	Important office developments don't have adverse effect on the attractive characteristics of the town.
	Sorting office identified as suitable for tall buildings in Appendix B but Paragraph 3.79 indicates any building over 4 storeys is considered tall. Need design brief for site.

7 Creative Industries

English The Mounts needs a strategy for conservation and promotion	າ of the	9
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Heritage	remaining built boot and shoe heritage.
	St Michaels Road has potential for creative industries – close to town centre
	and adjacent to educational establishments.
Little	Graduates will not see Northampton as an easy option. Northampton will
Houghton	have to compete with London, Birmingham, Oxford and Cambridge. There
Parish	is no mention of upgrading Northampton's rail links in the Central Area plan
Council	2009.

8 Avon / Nunn Mills / Ransome Road

NEL	Avon / Nunn Mills / Waterside / Castle Station are strongly supported.
	Royal Mail could be released for alternative uses. Cliftonville, Billing Road and York Road retained for B use employment and not released for other
	uses.
EA	Should be informed by Level 2 SFRA once complete and sequential and
	exception tests.

9 Broadening the Appeal of the Market Square

English	Not formally consulted on the emerging proposals for the Market Square.
Heritage	Historical research and character analysis should underpin any decisions
	on its future.
NEL	Primary and secondary frontages should be highlighted on the basis of
	their future role.
Hardingstone	Public houses with outdoor seating for eating. Remove the betting
Parish	shops/employment agencies.
Council	

10 Areas for Residential Development

WNDC	Support locations Need to identify capacity for these sites in relation to quantum's identified in JCS
Police	Appropriate. All new houses built to secured by Design standards. Welcome SPD for Spring Boroughs.
HCA	Welcome further references to community engagement throughout the CAAP.
Sport England	Sport can lead regeneration by engaging communities in the improvement of their area, creating employment and training opportunities – may be particularly relevant in Spring Boroughs. In developing 2,000 dwellings use Open Space, Sport and Recreation Report findings. Provision of sports facilities could help to integrate the proposed residential population with the existing. Household survey in OSSR report identified a short fall in Synthetic Sports Pitches, Multi Use Games Areas and Tennis Courts. Access to outdoor facilities by public transport is a concern. Shortfall across the Borough of 20 Sports Halls; and a single 4 lane, 25m, pool. Provision of fitness suites is about right.
EA	Spring Boroughs - Suitability informed by both Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Sequential and exception tests as defined in PPS25.

11 Leisure and Recreation

Sport	Green edge to river side to allow for quality walking, cycling and informal
England	recreation, and wildlife corridor.
	Direct link between town centre, Waterside and Beckets Park and Delapre
	Park and Lake.
	Opportunity to include significantly more Delapre Lake frontage within development area.
	Lake has good potential to meet future sport and active recreation needs –
	and other leisure developments related to lake.
	Sport can benefit evening economy and provide facilities to enhance the city
	living, e.g. use of upper floors or retail premises.
WNDC	Support locations and note consistent with master planning work.
	Waterside and Avon Nunn Mills sites – fully integral to expanded City and
	therefore suitable for a full range of leisure and cultural facilities.
	Area south of Southbridge – potential for facility of regional or national
	importance marking the gateway.
English	Support
Heritage	
HCA	Strongly supported
NEL	Support linkages between Becket's Park and Midsummer Meadow.
	High quality developments are essential for the area and supported.
NEL	Mix of B1, B1c or housing alongside leisure facilities – through wider master
	planning activities.
EA	Suitability informed by both Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Strategic Flood
	Risk Assessment and Sequential and exception tests as defined in PPS25.
	Note: drinking establishments are a higher vulnerability classification than
	restaurants. Any developments in Flood Zone 3 need careful consideration

12 Transport - General

WNDC	Stress the critical importance of transport proposals and the need for a
	robust transport strategy identifying how people will access the area - align
	with JCS.
	Any proposals need to be fully tested and modelled.
	Disused rail line – needs to be fully evidenced.
	Routes in and out of the centre for public transport will be required and
	locations for interchanges.
	Conformity with LTP / future spending priorities of NCC.
NCC-Policy	Ensure bus use is provided after bus station demolished.
	Balance the need to reduce the inner ring road against that of providing
	effective road capacity.
HCA	Welcome public transport as opposed to car.
	Introduction of a Green Travel Plan would help promote alternatives.
Sport	Any new road proposals or improvements must not provide a barrier
England	between Delapre Park and Lake. Must be suitable bridges and tunnels, not
	just road crossings.
HA	Expect plan to be supported by an appropriate transport evidence base
	(current problems, preferred land use and transport proposals)
	CAAP needs to demonstrate how the transport measures necessary to

support growth will be delivered – who, how funded and developer contributions where appropriate.

Safeguard the Strategic Road Network.

Concerned about lack of emphasis placed on prioritising sustainable access to the town centre as opposed to car borne visitors.

CAAP doesn't fully recognise the importance of sustainable accessibility.

Disparity between emphasis on sustainable accessibility within the objectives and the actual approach the authority will undertake through the spatial development strategy of the Plan.

Disparity between view to accommodating the needs of those that wish to travel by car 'as long as it does not cause significant congestion' appears at odd with an earlier reference in the plan about Transport Strategy for Growth.

Car parking – assume plan will seek to prioritise the provision to meet the needs of short stay shoppers and visitors = increased turnover of spaces. This isn't apparent in document. Need to clarify position on provision and charging for long stay.

Welcome restriction of long stay spaces and seeking charging for them to be equal or above that of public transport.

12.1 Changing Character of Inner Ring Road

English Heritage	Need a detailed design exercise to establish how modern traffic requirements can be accommodated with objective of re-establishing townscape coherence. Need assessment of character and full understanding of all modes of transport, including pedestrian movement.
NEL	Priority to ease movement between key locations. NEL working with NCC on Unlocking Northampton's Growth Potential Project. Will consider transportation solutions to key developments – essential that as solutions emerge they are considered within the CAAP.
Police	Must consider emergency services access, particularly fire and rescue.
HCA	Support. Improvements to natural surveillance and visibility for pedestrian, with more well lit accessible routes and better public realm would create additional life on the street.

12.2 Pedestrian Movement

English	Principles of shared space need to be look at further as a way of safely
Heritage	integrating traffic with walkers.
	Public transport through Beckets Park – loss of trees and larger junction
	would affect setting of listed buildings and conservation area.
Police	Secured by design standards. Consider emergency vehicles in doing any
	pedestrianisation.
EMRA	Can't find any specific reference to making provision for and encouraging
	cycling access.

12.3 Castle Station

Sport	Better opportunity could be included to strengthen direct links from station
England	to Victoria Park and the open spaces on both sides of Westbridge.
	High quality walking and cycling direct links to the disused railway line.

12

12.4 Abington Street

English	Support re-examination of pedestrianisation and look at shared space.
Heritage	

12.5 Sheep Street

English	Welcome proposals to look at broken section and removal of subways.
Heritage	Need to look at linkages in this area especially if traffic re-routed.
	Pedestrians need access to the Mounts.

12.6 Plough Junction

English	Welcome early discussions.
Heritage	

13 Climate Change

WNDC	Remove unless specific guidance relating to Central Area is provided – covered in Central Government and RSS8.
English	Support.
Heritage	Opportunity to cover historic buildings but needs to reflect special
	character.
	English Heritage has produced a range of documents.
GOEM	Support policies relating to reducing green house gases and increasing sustainability in built environment in new and existing developments.
Police	Guidance document appropriate.
HCA	Use of more sustainable forms of energy is strongly supported – suggest a guidance document for developers.
	In relation to specific reference to CHP in 4.16 it should be the most
	appropriate technical solution should be sought at the time of development.
EMRA	Keen to promote a holistic approach to more sustainable development
EA	Include reference to reducing or adapting for flood risk in relation to climate change.
	Support guidance document.
	Consider East Midlands Strategy (2002) key objectives with regards to promoting good environmental quality for development.
	Further consider flood risk in context of climate change and how the River Nene Corridor could be optimised through basing the plan on robust evidence base and a positive strategy.
	ovidence bace and a positive endlogy.

14 Flood Risk

EA	Support inclusion of Flood Risk sections (Para 3.73-3.75)
EA	Water Resources Act 1991 and Land Drainage Byelaws 1981 mean formal EA consent is required irrespective of T&C Planning Act approvals / permissions for any works or structures, in, under, over or within 9.0 metres of the top bank of the Slade Brook designated a 'main river'.

15 Regents Square

English to	0		
English	Support		
	Cappoit		
I lowitowo			
∣ Heritage			
ilontago			

13

16 Abington Square

English	Not pedestrian friendly.
Heritage	Some buildings poor but 2 listed buildings in middle of the traffic.
Police	Use of empty units by community groups.
	Ongoing management and maintenance – street cleaning.

17 St John's / Angel Street / Bridge Street

Police	Lack of active frontages. Need to improve lighting.
	Evening economy is good but need to consider appropriate uses are
	located together.
	Engagement with the Force is crucial.

18 Built and Natural Environment

WNDC	Design Guidance – continue to support. Gateways on Bedford Road and Bridge Street are relocated away from inner ring road to reflect future expansion.
GOEM	Emphasise good design though specific policy on how design will contribute to the successful implementation of the Plan.

19 Heritage

English	Opportunity to set down clear strategy for management of historic
Heritage	environment. Proposals to extend boundaries of conservation areas,
	Conservation Management Plans, commitment to shop frontages / control
	advertising and Article 4. Measures to maintain / restore / reuse buildings.
	Major interventions to junctions should benefit the historic environment.

20 Site Specific Policies and Masterplans

WNDC	Support approach and agree with developing detailed masterplans once CAAP adopted.
English Heritage	Support masterplans but not in isolation.
GOEM	Masterplans don't need to go in LDS but should contain no matter that ought to be subject to examination.
Police	Sensible. Clear policy on bin storage – presence of bins adds to sense of uncared for and can lead to anti social behaviour.
HA	Need to embed opportunities to maximise sustainable travel in individual development sites.
HCA	Supported. Should be adopted by NBC. In prime sites the introduction of Design Codes. Difficult to generalise. Some instances Supplementary Planning Documents others will warrant Design Codes or Enquiry by Design.

21 Waterside

English	Retain gas offices.
Liigiisii	Trotain gas onices.

Haritaga	Can holder adjacent to roundahout imaginative actives:
Heritage	Gas holder adjacent to roundabout – imaginative gateway? Support leisure.
	• •
Dallas	Includes registered battlefield - opportunities for interpretation.
Police	Needs active frontages – failing of much of recent developments in
	waterside.
	Care in introducing an evening economy so that safety issues are
	addressed.
	Lighting areas of park where use occurs is encouraged but where no use
	then no lighting.
Sport	Landmark building welcomed but recommended that also include sport in
England	line with opportunities researched as background to the Waterside
	Masterplanning exercise.
	Welcome improved pedestrian and cycle access along watercourses
	including the missing link around the southern most gas holder.
	Also include entry and exit points for canoes and adventurous outdoor
	sport.
	Para 4.21 The Waterside proposals and Becket's Park are supported in
	principle as recreational and sports facilities in or close to town centres can
	provide additional attractions that can support the viability of centres.
HCA	Welcomed but need sustainable transport solutions.
Environment	Suitability informed by both Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Strategic Flood
Agency	Risk Assessment and Sequential and exception tests as defined in PPS25.
Environment	Support proposals to open up riverside area to appropriate land uses.
Agency	Welcome opportunity to identify areas where land could be opened up to
	'make space for water' and potentially reduce flood risk, as well as
	providing biodiversity and recreational benefits.
Environment	Need clear commitment to assessment and strategy for compensation of
Agency	lost habitat and intensification of human activities.
	Piecemeal provision of green spaces / infrastructure should be avoided and
	should be planned for strategically.

22 Becket's Park

Sport	Canoe launching area needed to support and link to Whitewater Centre
England	downstream. Should be on north back of the river, immediately
	downstream of the wider, and directly accessible (including for minibuses
	and canoe trailers)
Environment	Suitability informed by both Water Cycle Study and Level 2 Strategic Flood
Agency	Risk Assessment and Sequential and exception tests as defined in PPS25.
Environment	Welcome promotion of enhancements to rivers and canals for canoeing
Agency	and other recreational and improved access.

23 Green Infrastructure

WNDC	Needs more prominent role to build upon existing natural assets,
	particularly River Nene Corridor.
	Need to reference work of River Nene Regional Park.
NEL	Linkages to Waterside welcomed. Further work in Midsummer Meadow –
	lighting provision, signage, interpretation and physical improvements to
	security and visibility.
NEL	Extend links to Nene River Centre, the Lakes and Rushmere Road.
HCA	Sufficient linkages to green space.

Sport	Welcomed.
England	Once Becket's Park area is established then additional leisure including chandlery and water sports equipment retail at the Lake as well as limited waterside cafes / restaurants / pubs would strengthen area as destination. A cafe / restaurant would strengthen the site as a destination and activity along the river. Opportunities to offer a return route on the south bank of the river should be capsidered.
	A cafe / restaurant would strengthen the site as a destination and activity along the river.

24 Regeneration Development Principles

WNDC	WNDC continue to provide specific guidance.
English	Support approach to development sites.
Heritage	Needs to be clearer idea of purpose of landmark buildings
Police	May need to look again at phasing of Spring Boroughs – high priority.
	Would not want to see regeneration of Spring Boroughs completed until
	after the redevelopment of Castle Station as any delays in regeneration of
	the estate will lead to the station continuing to be divorced from the rest of
	the town centre by an area of high deprivation.
EMRA	Policy 2 of RSS and Policy 25 reference point in matters to take into
	account when considering design of new development proposals.

25 Grosvenor Centre

English	Opportunity to recreate streets.
Heritage	Support priorities for pedestrian connectivity.
	Concerned Council seeking to agree floor space without knowing the design.
	Not being involved in pre-app discussions.
Police	Must ensure transmission system under which all emergency services
	communicate is maintained within the expanded centre.
	Support active frontages and removal of subways.

26 Monitoring

English	Framework should establish measure of success of delivery plan with
Heritage	regard to historic environment, e.g. number of shop fronts improved.

27 Delivery

GOEM	More detail required on what, where, when, who, how will be needed, particularly in the first phase.
Hardingston e Parish Council	Where is the money to pay for all the development? Will other areas suffer?

28 Relationship to Saved Local Plan Policies

GOEM	Where a DPD contains a policy which is intended to supersede another
	policy, it must state that fact and identify the superseded policy.

29 Water Efficiency

EA	Welcome references to Code for Sustainable Homes.	Minimum code level
	3 or 4 mandatory.	

Every	opportunity	should	be	taken	to	build	water	efficiency	into	new
develo	pments and	innovativ	ve a	pproacl	hes	should	d be en	couraged.		

30 Other matters

Police	No mention of management or maintenance once regenerated. Consider public toilets and their management. Encourage developers, architects and local planning authorities to install sprinklers.
HCA	Page 54, Para 4.18 line 3 – should be 'it is' not 'are'.
Hardingstone	Nothing has been mentioned about medical improvements or schools.
Parish	With increased population should come more doctors, dentist and another
Council	hospital. More schools will be needed.

Northamptonshire LDS timetable						20	10											20	 11											20	12					
9.12.09	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
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KEY

Development Plan Documents C- Commencement of preparation

Agenda Item 8

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety & Engagement

25 January 2010

Briefing Note – NBC Regulatory interaction with WNDC

1 Background

1.1 At the October meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Committee received Cabinet's response to its Report – Partnership working with WNDC – NBC and asked for Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection to provide details in respect of recommendation 21) That WNDC provides feedback on the Environmental Health consultancy work currently being undertaken by NBC.

2 History of service

- 2.1 Since April 2007 the Regulatory Services section of NBC has provided professional advice to WNDC on a range of environmental related issues. This work includes the provision of pre-application advise to applicants and colleagues from WNDC and the provision of comments on information submitted in support of applications for the discharge of planning conditions.
- 2.2 The work encompasses issues including contaminated land, noise, air quality and air pollution.
- 2.3 The work is currently funded by the repayment of a budget deficit owed to WNDC for planning fees previously received by NBC. This funding is running out and officer level discussions are planned with WNDC to discuss the arrangements for future funding.

www.northamptoln.gov.uk/scrutiny
Call 01604 837046 or 01604 837408
E-mail: scrutiny@northampton.gov.uk

3. Current situation

- 3.1 Previous submissions to O & S 1 highlighted the absence of a service level agreement for the provision of this consultancy service. This is still the case. There has been an improvement in the level of direct liaison between officers with more joint meetings taking place. This is particularly useful when dealing with technically complex issues like land contamination.
- 3.2 For example in summer 2009 officers from NBC, WNDC and the Environment Agency met with the developers of the former Timken site and their consultants to discuss the progress of contamination remediation works and the information required to discharge the relevant planning conditions. Having reached agreement on the level of information required the developer was then able to ensure that the correct details were provided to the relevant officers and this was swiftly assessed and the conditions discharged.
- 3.3A request has been made to WNDC to set up a meeting to discuss the future of the service and the arrangements to be made for funding should the service continue.
- 3.4 In determining the future of the provision of this service, a cost benefit analysis will be carried out. There are benefits from ensuring that issues within the regulatory services remit are given appropriate consideration at the planning stage. Ensuring that satisfactory information is obtained at an early stage can often prevent the need for enforcement action for example in the installation of new plant and equipment where noise problems can be prevented. However the officer time involved in the provision of this service is time that cannot be used to carry out other work and in the current situation of limited capacity the work must be appropriately funded.

Brief Author: Ruth Austen Senior Environmental Health Officer

30.12.2009

Agenda Item 9 Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety & Engagement 25th January 2010

Briefing Note – Byelaw for Good Rule and Government

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To brief Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on the proposed new Byelaw for Good Rule and Government for the Borough of Northampton.

2. Background

- 2.1 During the work of Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership's Town Centre Task Group it became apparent that the police and wardens were unsure of what byelaws were in force for Northampton. After further investigation it became evident that they were outdated and most of the byelaws could no longer be enforced as they have either been superseded by other legislation or are no longer considered criminal offences.
- 2.2 A byelaw is a rule that generally requires something to be done, or not done, in a particular location where express powers to address the issue do not already exist in national legislation. They are accompanied by a sanction or penalty for non-observance. Byelaws have the force of law within the areas to which they apply but they are subsidiary to national laws and cannot over-ride them.
- 2.3 Section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables district and borough councils to make byelaws for the good rule and government of the whole or any part of the district or borough and for the prevention and suppression of nuisances.

- 2.4 Byelaws cannot be made under this section if provision for the purpose in question is made, or may be made, under any other enactment. Byelaws should not therefore be made under section 235 where general or local legislation addresses the problem or in respect of any area where another byelaw-making power is available. Before making byelaws, local authorities should consult the appropriate government department about any existing general legislation. This has been done.
- 2.5 Many of the activities regulated by byelaws made under section 235 are not in themselves a danger or nuisance, but may be if conducted in certain areas or in a particularly hazardous or annoying manner. Consequently, local authorities do not have the power under section 235 to make byelaws to prohibit activities such as skateboarding or riding throughout their area. However, it may be appropriate to ban these activities in certain places where it causes a particular danger or nuisance, or to regulate the manner in which those activities can be conducted.
- 2.6 Byelaws should not be adopted en bloc, but only as genuinely required to address an existing problem.
- 2.7 The process for making byelaws has recently been changed and consequently certain byelaws, including this one, can now be made, signed and sealed by a local authority without scrutiny by central Government. However, the guidance and regulations, which had been expected to be published before Christmas, are still not available. The pre-consultation stage, as detailed below, has already been carried out under close supervision of Communities and Local Government. However, the non availability of the guidance has caused a delay in requesting permission from Cabinet/Full Council to take the draft byelaw out to the public consultation stage.
- 2.8 The reason for the change in process, is to make byelaws less bureaucratic to establish, easier to understand and easier to enforce in an effective way.

3. Pre-consultation

3.1 The model byelaw was sent out for consultation to interested parties throughout the borough in order to establish which items should remain and, where necessary, which areas need defining in order to come up with the attached draft (Appendix 1).

Internal NBC Consultees

Director of Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership Street Scene Parks and Open Spaces Community Safety Anti Social Behaviour Unit Town Centre Operations

Regulated Services including EH Officers and Wardens

CCTV

Neighbourhood Coordinators

Leader of the Council

Portfolio holder for the environment

Portfolio holder for communities

Labour Group Leader

Conservative Group Leader

External Consultees

Northamptonshire Police – sector inspectors, SCTs, Community Safety Sergeant

Parish Councils

Northamptonshire County Council

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue

Northampton Retail Crime Initiative

ComPaSS

Pubwatch

Portfolio holder for Customers and Communities, Northamptonshire County

Probation Service

Town Centre Partnership

- 3.2 Most of the byelaws were agreed without comment. The banning of skateboarding in certain areas was agreed whilst acknowledging that a dedicated resource was needed in the town centre area.
- 3.3 The playing of games to the annoyance of residents was the most commented on byelaw. Concerns were raised that it may be enforced too rigorously, or games banned completely. This is not the object of the byelaw and steps will be taken to ensure it is enforced uniformly across the borough, and only when completely necessary.

4. Issues

- 4.1 The byelaw will provide an additional tool to police and wardens to tackle the more minor types of nuisance and anti-social behaviour that residents are concerned about. This may initially increase workload of the Wardens and Police as they will be issuing Fixed Penalty Notices, but once established it should prevent people from re-offending.
- 4.2 The banning of skateboarding in certain key areas may be controversial due to the lack of dedicated resource. However, the areas where it is proposed to introduce a ban are due to issues of safety for the skateboarders themselves as well as the general public. The wording of the byelaw reserves the right of the landowner to give permission for skateboarding so organised events on these areas could be held in the future if required.

5. Public consultation

- 5.1 Once the new regulations and guidance are available the draft byelaw will be taken to Cabinet/Full Council to request permission to proceed to the public consultation stage.
- 5.2 The draft byelaw will be published in the local press and held for inspection at the Guildhall along with results of the pre-consultation. The minimum time for the public consultation is 28 days. A representative will attend all NBC lead public meetings during the public consultation period in order to answer any questions.
- 5.3 If no major objections to the byelaw are raised, and it is agreed by Cabinet and Full Council, the byelaw can be signed and sealed by Northampton Borough Council. This has to be done within 6 months from the final date of the public consultation period. A further notice will then be published in the local press informing the public that the order has been made and of the date on which it will become operational. Minor amendments can be made to the byelaw prior to sealing, but if any major amendments are required there will need to be a further consultation period.

6. How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

The proposals in this report support the NBC Corporate Priorities to 'achieve safer, cleaner, greener, communities' and to 'strengthen our commitment to partnership working and community engagement for better outcomes'. They also are in line with our Service Objectives to help our communities to become safer by 'reducing the fear of crime and reducing anti-social behaviour' and supports LAA outcome SSC2B to 'build respect, reduce the fear of crime and the impact of anti-social behaviour'.

The proposals also fully support the aims and objectives contained within the Northampton Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2008-2011.

7 Other Implications

7.1 Monitoring

The management of the project is being monitored by the Community Safety Department and the Town Centre Manager. Once the Byelaw is made, the effectiveness of the Byelaw will be monitored by the partner organisations under the direction of the Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership.

7.2 Enforcement

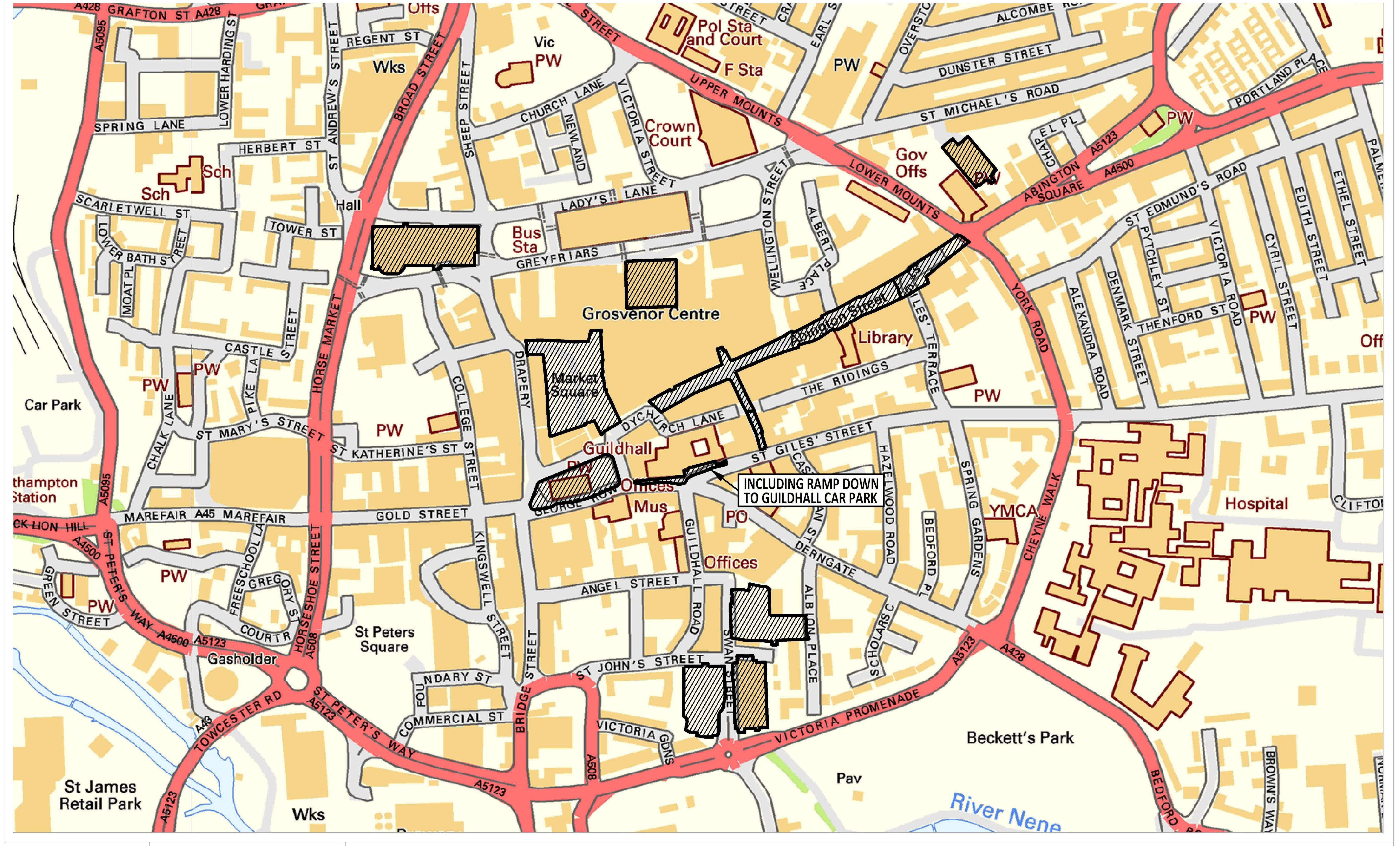
An enforcement policy is currently being drawn up, issuing of Fixed penalty notices and the appeals procedure will follow existing procedures. Any resultant income will be ring-fenced for legal costs with the remaining being spent on projects to benefit the local community.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Model byelaws set 8 'Byelaws for Good Rule and Government' The Department for Communities and Local Government.
- 8.2 Model Byelaw 8: Guidance Notes The Department for Communities and Local Government.
- 8.3 Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power. Government Response to the Making and Enforcement of Byelaws, October 2009.

Brief Author: Debbie MacColl

January 2010





Name: M.Dunne

Date: 9th December 2009

Scale: 1:6000 @ A4

Dept: GIS Development Unit

Project: Byelaw Map

Title

Skateboard Prohibited Areas (hatched in black)

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MODEL BYELAWS - SET 8

BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON BYELAWS FOR GOOD RULE AND GOVERNMENT

ARRANGEMENT OF BYELAWS

- 1. General interpretation
- 2. Application
- 3. Skateboarding etc [to prohibit skateboarding in designated areas]
- 4. Skateboarding etc [to prohibit dangerous or nuisance skateboarding on footpaths and roads]
- 5. Fairground attractions causing obstruction to traffic
- 6. Dangerous games near highways
- 7. Playing games on highways to the annoyance of local residents
- 8. Touting
- 9. Urinating, etc
- 10. Interference with road warning equipment
- 11. Interference with life saving equipment
- 12. Penalty
- 13. Revocation

SCHEDULE [1]

Byelaws made under section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972 by Northampton Borough Council for the good rule and government of the Borough of Northampton and for the prevention and suppression of nuisances.

General interpretation

1. In these byelaws:

"carriageway" means a way constituting or comprised in a highway, being a way (other than a cycle track) over which the public have a right of way for the passage of vehicles;

"the Council" means Northampton Borough Council;

"designated areas" means those areas designated in byelaw 3 to these byelaws;

"footway" means a way comprised in a highway which also comprises a carriageway, being a way over which the public have a right of way on foot only;

"highway" means the whole or a part of a highway other than a ferry or waterway;

"self-propelled vehicle" means a vehicle other than a cycle, wheelchair or pram which is propelled by the weight or force of one or more persons skating, sliding or riding on the vehicle or by one or more other persons pulling or pushing the vehicle;

Application

- 2. (1) These byelaws shall apply throughout the Borough of Northampton except as set out in byelaw2(2).
 - (2) Byelaw 3 applies to the areas of Borough of Northampton designated in Schedule 1 and shown hatched in black on the plan attached to these byelaws.

Skateboarding etc

- 3. No person shall skate, slide or ride on rollers, skateboards or other self-propelled vehicles in the designated areas except where authorised to do so by the owner of the land.
- 4. Outside the designated areas, no person shall skate, slide or ride on rollers, skateboards or other self-propelled vehicles on any footway or carriageway in such a manner as to cause danger or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to other persons using the footway or carriageway.

Fairground attractions causing obstruction to traffic

5. (1) No person shall operate a fairground attraction—

- (a) in any public place; or
- (b) on any land adjoining a street or public place,

so as to cause obstruction or danger to the traffic in that street or public place.

(2) "Fairground attraction" means a shooting gallery, swing-board, roundabout, or other structure which is installed, erected or operated for the entertainment of the public.

Dangerous games near highways

- 6. No person shall play football or any other game on land adjacent to a highway in a manner likely:
 - (a) to cause obstruction to traffic; or
 - (b) to cause danger or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any person on the highway.

Playing games on highways to the annoyance of local residents

7. No person shall play football or any other game on a highway or on land adjacent to a highway in such a manner as to give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any person living nearby.

Touting

- 8. No person shall in any street or public place—
 - (a) advertise or solicit custom for any service; or
 - (b) seek to gather information for use in the supply of goods or services.

in such a manner as to cause obstruction or give reasonable grounds for annoyance to any person in that street or public place.

Urinating etc

9. No person shall urinate or defecate in any street or public place.

Interference with road warning equipment

10. No person shall without lawful authority move or tamper with any lamp, reflector or other equipment used for giving warning of, or lighting, any obstruction, excavation or other danger in any road.

Interference with life saving equipment

11. Except in case of emergency, no person shall remove, displace or otherwise interfere with any life saving equipment placed by the Council or any other competent authority in any street or public place.

Penalty

12. Any person offending against these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 2 on the Standard Scale. Alternatively he may be given a notice offering him the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty.

Revocation

13. The byelaws relating to Good Rule and Government which were made by the Borough of Northampton on the 4th day of August 1989 and were confirmed by the Secretary of State on the 20th day of November 1989 and the byelaw relating to Urinating etc in a Public Place made by the Borough of Northampton on the 6th day of August 1997 and confirmed by the Secretary of State on the 16th day of October 1997 are revoked.



SCHEDULE [1]

The designated	areas are:
----------------	------------

Abington Street From its junction with Abington Square/

York Road/Lower Mounts to the east side of its junction with Dychurch Lane.

Fish Street From its junction with St Giles Street to

its junction with Abington Street.

Market Square From the junction with The Drapery,

including The Parade, to the junctions with Drum Lane, Conduit Lane and

Abington Street/Dychurch Lane.

The All Saints Area

The All Saints 'island' that is contained within the area bordered by The

Drapery, Mercers Row, Woodhill and

George Row.

The Guildhall From entrance to Guildhall car park on

St Giles Street, including the whole of the entrance/exit ramp to the car park, along the complete frontage of the Guildhall to its juncture with no 2 St Giles Square, including the pavement area, all Guildhall steps and disabled

access ramp.

Mayorhold Multi Storey Car park

St Michaels Multi Storey Car park

Grosvenor Centre Multi Storey Car Park

St Johns Multi Storey Car park

St Johns Open Car Park

Albion Place Car Park

An additional byelaw which could be included, if it was evidenced that it was required, is 'climbing upon and hanging from bridges as follows' -

- (1) No person shall without reasonable excuse -
 - (a) climb upon or hang from any bridge to which this byelaw applies; or
 - (b) aid, abet, counsel or procure such an act by another.
- (2) "Bridge" includes any abutment, embankment, retaining wall or other work supporting or protecting the bridge.

If this is a problem in your area and you are prepared to provide evidence, please contact Community Safety Department, Northampton Borough Council, The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE.



Overview and Scrutiny 1 General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-13

1 Purpose

- 1.1 At its meeting on 6 January 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny 3 Task and Finish Reporting and Monitoring were due to review the 2010 to 2013 budget proposals with a view to recommending that Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 consider some specific items and make recommendations to Cabinet on these if there are any points the Committee wishes to raise.
- 1.2 Unfortunately that meeting was cancelled due to the weather. Instead a selection of options relating to areas under the remit of Overview and Scrutiny 1 that may be of interest for review are attached at Annex 1 for consideration. The remaining proposals that fall under the remit of Overview and Scrutiny 1 are attached at Annex 2 for information.

2 Issues and Choices

- 2.1 Following the positive feedback on last years new way of reviewing the budget proposals at Overview and Scrutiny a similar approach is being taken this year.
- 2.2 Service Managers responsible for the areas referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been invited to the Overview and Scrutiny meeting so that they can provide any relevant information the Committee members may require.
- 2.3 The Committee are invited to consider the proposals referred to them and to make constructive recommendations to Cabinet, should they wish to do so. These recommendations will be considered by Cabinet in February 2010 and will form part of an annex of the final Budget report presenting the recommendations of all three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, which will be considered by Cabinet and Council also in February 2010.

3 Background Papers

3.1 Cabinet 16 December 2009 – Council Wide Budget 2010-13.

Isabell Procter, Director of Finance and Support, 01604 838757 Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance, 01604 837194 Rebecca Smith, Assistant Head of Finance, 01604 838046

2010/11 - 2012/13 General Fund Revenue Budget Build

MTP Savings Options

Directorate	Division	Reference	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Description
			£	£	£	

MTP Savings Options						
Director of Planning &	Head Of Regeneration And	MTPS34&35	(83,843)	(84,586)	(84,896)	Restructure of Regeneration Department
Regeneration	Development					

Agenda Item 12

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY- MONITORING WORK 2009/2010

COMPLETED REPORTS AND MONITORING STATUS

Cabinet meeting that received the Overview and Scrutiny Review report	Title of report	Parent Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring Activity
27 March 2006 (Full Council)	Review of the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Planning Committee meetings at Northampton Borough Council	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (O&S3) *It was agreed at O&S Management Committee on 11 November that O&S 3 would lead on this	The previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitored the implementation of the recommendations and the Portfolio Holder provided comprehensive responses. It was felt however that there was the need to revisit the recommendations to ascertain whether any are outstanding. Monitored at the meeting of O&S 3 – 30 April 2009 – No further monitoring.

8 May 2006	To review homelessness in Northamptonshire as a whole system	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (O&S2)	The previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitored the implementation of the recommendations in December 2006 and asked for the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Manager to report on progress in six months. O&S 2 was due to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its October 2007 meeting. Monitored at meeting held on 9 October 2008 No further monitoring.
3 July 2006	To review the way the Council consults and involves its citizens to evaluation how robust mechanisms are and to suggest areas for improvement	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S1)	The previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitored the implementation of the recommendations in December 2006 and asked for the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Manager to report on progress in six months. O&S 2 was due to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its September 2007 meeting. Monitored at the meeting held on 24 June 2009 No further monitoring.

4 December 2006	To review whether the Council has a Tree Policy in place in order to achieve a consistent Urban Landscape Management Policy within the Council	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (O&S2)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 was due to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its October 2007 meeting Monitored at the meeting on 2 July 2009. No further monitoring.
16 October 2006	To investigate the proposed water charges for allotment holders within the borough	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (O&S2)	The previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitored the progress of the implementation of the recommendations in March 2007 and it was requested that the Portfolio Holder and Corporate Manager attend a further meeting of Overview and Scrutiny in June 2008** to report on the progress of any outstanding recommendations. ** The Task and Finish Group recommended that all recommendations be implemented by June 2008. Monitored at the meeting on 2 July 2009. No further monitoring.
2 July 2007	Leisure Services To review the objectives of the Service, to review the extent to which the Service meetings these objectives and to review whether the service provides value for money	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S1)	O&S 1 was scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on 31 January 2008 Need to review the status of the implementation of the recommendations at a future meeting of O&S 1 Monitored at the meeting held on 3 February 2009. No further monitoring.

2 July 2007	Abandoned cars To review poor performance indicators on the collection of abandoned cars and to review the new legislation, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment 2005.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (O&S2)	O&S 2 was scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on 31 January 2008 Monitored at the meeting on 2 July 2009 No further monitoring. O&S 1 was scheduled to monitor the implementation
2 July 2007	To add value to the Dispersal Order process	Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S1)	of the recommendations at its meeting on 14 January 2008 Need to review the status of the implementation of the recommendations at a future meeting of O&S 1 Monitored at the meeting on 1 April 2009 No further monitoring.
2 July 2007	Rough Sleepers To further develop the multi Agency approach to rough sleepers and to reduce/eliminate rough sleeping in Northampton	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (O&S 2)	O&S 2 was scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on 31 January 2008 Monitored at the meeting held on 9 October 2008. No further monitoring.
25 September 2007	Voluntary Sector Funding/Partnerships	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S 1)	O&S 1 was scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on 13 March 2008 Monitored at the meeting held on 24 June 2009 No further monitoring.

25 September 2007	Community Engagement	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S 1)	O&S 1 was scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on 13 March 2008 Need to review the status of the implementation of the recommendations at a future meeting of O&S 1 Monitored at the meeting held on 24 June 2009 No further monitoring.
7 April 2008	Historic Buildings/Regeneration Opportunities	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S 1)	O&S 1 is scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on 27 November 2008. Monitored at the meeting on 12 October 2009.
14 July 2008	Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S 1)	O&S 1 is scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on 25 January 2010
14 July 2008	County Council Schools Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and the loss of school playing fields	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S 1)	O&S 1 received an update at its meeting on 12 October 2009.
25 February 2009	West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC) and Partnership working with Northampton Borough Council (NBC)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (O&S 1)	O&S 1 is scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on TBA

26 November 2008	Billing Waste Water	Overview and Scrutiny Committee2	O&S 2 is scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on TBA
	Monitoring and Budget Programme	(O&S 2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (O&S 3)	
26 November 2008	Contaminated Water	Overview and Scrutiny Committee2 (O&S 2)	O&S 2 is scheduled to monitor the implementation of the recommendations at its meeting on TBA

Extract: Overview and Scrutiny Councillor Call for Action Working Party Report

2 Resolutions and Recommendations

This Working Party recommends that Overview and Scrutiny Committee One

1. Receives this report, comments on it and agrees that subject to amendments, the report be forwarded to Cabinet.

It is proposed that Overview and Scrutiny Committee One Recommends to Cabinet:

- 1. That the draft procedure and guidelines for the Councillor Call for Action at Appendix A be adopted for implementation as a Pilot scheme.
- 2. That following the Pilot any further revisions are made to the scheme and brought back for final approval.
- 3. That should the relevant legislation come into force during the Pilot that the Policy and Governance Manager is authorised (a) to make any minor modifications that may be required once guidance has been issued and (b) to recommend to Council the necessary amendments the council's constitution.
- 4. That cabinet makes available sufficient resources to set up and test a Pilot Councilor Call for Action process (including support for publicity, training and team briefing where applicable)
- 5. That in relation to the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act, further consideration be given to (a) the external scrutiny of LAA partners' delivery of local improvement targets and (b) scrutiny of crime and disorder matters, together with the overview and scrutiny committee structure most appropriate to exercising these powers (c) The handling of Local Petitions as defined in the LGPIH Act within Northampton Borough Council.
- 6. That the additional scrutiny powers contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 be included in the council's constitution once brought into force.

The Championing a Request Checklist.

 Research has shown that an apology, explanation or an assurance that a problem will not be repeated can help to address concerns. Some community concerns can be satisfied by public explanation and do not require service change or a scrutiny review.

2. Resolving an issue.

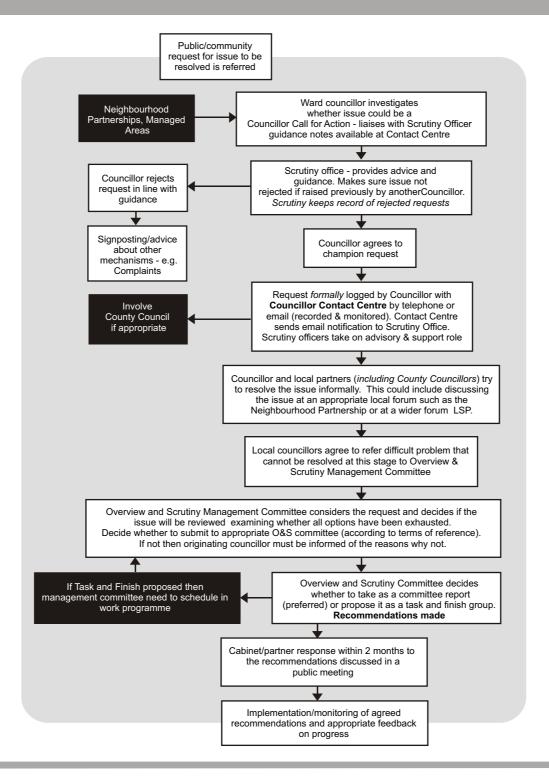
Once you have agreed to champion a CCfA you will be aware of a variety of ways in which you might seek to resolve a concern including:

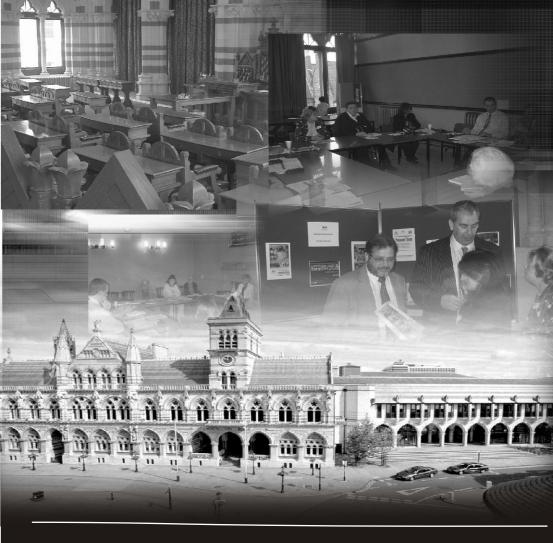
- Discussing the issue with officers from relevant council service or agency.
- Facilitating an informal discussion at an appropriate local forum such as an area committee
- Raising the issue with locality based arrangements such as the Neighbourhood Management Board.
- Formally raising the issue with partnerships or partner agencies such as the Police or Primary Care Trust, Safer Communities partnership or Sports and Recreation Partnership.

The Referring to Scrutiny Checklist.

1. The issue is persistent and unresolved by ward councillor(s)

When you feel you have done everything within your power to remedy a community concern, you have exhausted all mechanisms and have tried to resolve the problem(s) with the aid of other agencies and partnerships, but have been unsuccessful in finding an adequate solution. Then you are able to refer the issues(s) to scrutiny, but this should always be a last resort.





CCFA

Councillor call for action

Draft v2 Councillor Call for Action Process March 3 2008



What is a Councillor Call for Action?

Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) is a process that puts you as local councillors at the forefront of dealing with issues of concern in your local communities. It gives you a central role in calling to account the work of council services and other agencies at a local level. When concerns are identified (either as a result of information from individuals, community groups or your own observations),

Councillors should be able to trigger a response from service providers and help ensure the concerns are dealt with. **As a last resort**, when a problem cannot be solved, the CCfA can enable you to trigger a local scrutiny review.

What distinguishes the CCfA from a more general request for scrutiny is:

- The focus of the CCfA is on <u>neighbourhood</u> or <u>locality</u> issues and specifically the <u>quality</u> of public service provision at a locality level.
- The CCfA represents a genuine local <u>community</u> concern (based on local councillors judgements) and
- It is a <u>persistent</u> problem which the local councillor has been <u>unable to resolve</u> through local action and discussion with the cabinet or relevant services and agencies.
 When introduced as a legal requirement (expected April 2008), councillors will be under a <u>legal duty</u> to consider requests from members of the public on certain issues.
- There is an expectation that the <u>scrutiny reviews</u> will be 'short and sharp', focused reviews - it is important that the public see this as a responsive and un-bureaucratic process which delivers tangible outcomes.

It is up to councillors to use this guidance to decide:

- Which issues to take forward as CCfAs and champion and which ones should be rejected
- Reject if it is any of the following:
 - An individual complaint
 - An issue relating to a 'quasi-judicial' matter like planning or licensing
 - An individuals own personal agenda, not of genuine local concern

The CCfA, alongside proposals which will require a much wider range of agencies to formally co-operate with scrutiny in the future, is intended to provide greater emphasis to the vital work undertaken by you in your communities as community advocates and champions, and to further increase the accountability of public service providers to local communities.

What the Councillor Call for Action is not

The Council has always emphasised that scrutiny is not appropriate for dealing with individual complaints. The council and partner agencies have well established complaints mechanisms for this purpose. In responding to public requests for CCfA, local councillors will need to make a judgement about whether the issue is a potential CCfA or should be dealt with in another way.

The Initial Issue Councillor Checklist

Are the concerns individual complaints?
 Scrutiny is not appropriate for individual complaints. If it is a complaint of this nature, advice can be given about the Northampton Corporate Complaints procedure.

2. Do the concerns relate to individual 'quasi judicial' decisions (e.g. planning licensing) or to council and non domestic rates?

Scrutiny is not appropriate for dealing with these kinds of concerns as they are subject to their own statutory appeals process. However, patterns of issues may be appropriate to consider as a concern under CCfA e.g. community concerns about the proliferation of licensed premises in a local neighbourhood.

3. Are the concerns to do with the quality of public service provision at a local level?

Councillor Call for Action not only looks at issues of concern relating to council services, but also issues relating to other public services and service areas, such as: concerns about anti-social behaviour, community safety, health services and issues relating to local schools.

The Genuine Local Community Concern Checklist

1. Is the focus of concern on a neighbourhood or locality issue?

Councillor Call for Action focuses on neighbourhood or locality issues, where you as ward councillors can help resolve issues of concern in your wards. If the concern is of a more general nature e.g. about policy across Northampton

2. Is the issue a genuine local concern?

You will want to be sure that the concerns in your ward are genuine and not just an individual 'hobby horse.' Finding out the views of other community members will help clarify this.



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 PARTNERSHIPS, REGENERATION, COMMUNITY SAFETY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT-

25TH JANUARY 2010

BRIEFING NOTE:

COMMUNITY CENTRES TASK AND FINISH GROUP - PROGRESS REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since the last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1, the Overview and Scrutiny Community Centres Appreciative Inquiry has become a Task and Finish Group. At the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group, Councillors agreed the scope of the Review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee's approval.

2 UPDATE

Author:

- 2.1 The Task and Finish Group has embarked upon its evidence gathering process, receiving facts from the Portfolio Holder for Communities. The Task and Finish Group also undertook a tour of the Community Centres within the borough, received background data and the findings of desktop research. At its next meeting, scheduled for late February 2010, the Task and Finish Group will hear evidence from expert witnesses.
- 2.2 It is envisaged that the Task and Finish Group will conclude its Review by April 2010.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement) be asked to approve the scope of the Community Centres Task and Finish Group, as attached at Appendix A.

Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Portia Wilson, Chair, Community Centres Cost of Consultants Task and Finish Group

18 December 2009



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

COMMUNITY CENTRES TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

To support the development of policy in relation to:-

- the provision of premises for community use, and
- the role of Northampton Borough Council in such provision
- to monitor any budget proposals in relation to community centres

2. Outcomes Required

Recommendations on policy which will:-

- meet community needs
- identify gaps in provision for those needs
- raise the profile of community centre resources

3. Information Required

- List of all premises currently available (or potentially available) for community use, including NBC community centres, community rooms, school facilities, premises owned and/or run by community organisations and faith groups, etc.
- 2. For the above, location, ownership, patterns of use, charging regime, accessibility, condition and similar
- 3. Costs and income for centres
- 4. Current NBC policy, whether explicit or implicit
- 5. Good practice adopted elsewhere

4. Format of Information

- 1.-3. Tabulated data for each centre/premise
- 4. Information from Portfolio Holder and Head of Service
- 5. Narrative description of other Council's policy approaches

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- 1, 2 Local knowledge of councillors, neighbourhood co-ordinators and wardens, housing staff, Participation Team Leader, Asset Management
- 3 Information from Participation Team Leader, Asset Management
- 4 Interview with Portfolio Holder and Head of Service
- 5 Research on-line by members of the group, Scrutiny Officer etc

6. Co-Options to the Review

None proposed at this stage

7 Equality Impact Screening Assessment

 An Equality Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review.

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

October to February 2010

19 October 2009 Scoping Meeting

November 2009 Evidence gathering

The Community Centres Appreciative Inquiry will become a Task and Finish Group from December 2009 to April 2010:

3 December 2009 Evidence gathering 7 January 2010 Evidence gathering

• 22 February 2010 Finalise Chair's report/further evidence gathering if

needed

• 26 April 2010 Meeting scheduled **if required** to finalise Chair's

report

Various site visits will be programmed during this period if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

7. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Thomas Hall, Head of Policy and Community

Engagement

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, to join when the Group

becomes a Task and Finish Group in December 2009

8. Resources and Budgets

Thomas Hall, Head of Policy and Community Engagement, to provide internal advice.

10 Final report presented by:

Completed by 22 February 2010. Presented by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and then to Cabinet.

11 Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (September/October 2010)

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY- WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

In Depth On Going Policy Reviews

Topic Area	Rationale for Review	Parent Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Lead Councillor	Suggested Timescale
Community Centres – Review and Strategy	To investigate the Community Centres Review	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1	Councillor Portia Wilson	From: December 2009 To: April 2010

		ICE REPORT: November 2009 - Overview & , Regeneration & Community Safety & Enga		Committe	e 1										KEY TO STATUS COLOURING KEY TO QUARTILE COLOURING				KEYS			
	RENT STATUS		•												GREEN:				~	Interim figures yet to be	validated	
G	6	66.7%	(A)	0	0.0%		B	2	22.2%		NO DATA	1	11.1%		Overall performance on or exceeding Top or Upper Median Quartile	target				1		
		TREND & QUARTER ON QUARTER TREND													AMBER:							
↑	4	44.4%	(:) 1	11.1%	_	\	2	22.2%		NO DATA	2	22.2%		Overall performance within range stat Lower Median Quartile	ted in "Target Tolerances" column*						
YEAR	R ON YEAR TRI	END													RED:							
↑	4	44.4%	() 0	0.0%		+	3	33.3%		NO DATA	2	22.2%		Overall performance outside the state Bottom Quartile	ed "Target Tolerances"						
Plea	ase contact	Dale Robertson Ext 7110, if you require further inform	nation or sup	pport											1							
	ID	NAME	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	OVERALL PERFORMANCE TO DATE	ANNUAL TARGET	CURRENT PROFILED TARGET [if any]	TARGET TOLERANCES	PERFORMANCE AGAINST LAST REPORTING PERIOD	OVERALL PERFORMANCE AGAINST SAME TIME LAST YEAR		NBC 07/08 OUTTURN & QUARTILE POSITION
	ning [Sue Bri						<u> </u>	4		<u> </u>	0		<u> </u>	0	No data	1						
	NI 157a LM	Percentage of "large scale major" planning applications determined within 13 weeks	No applications	No applications	No applications	No applications	No applications	No application	No applications	No applications					No applications	0%		5%	No comparable data	First full year of reporting - No comparable data	100%	No comparable data
↑	NI 157a SM	Percentage of "small scale major" planning applications determined within 13 weeks	100	No applications	No applications	No applications	100	No application	No applications	No applications					100%	60.00%		5%	No comparable data	First full year of reporting - No comparable data	54.55%	No comparable data
↑	NI 157b (previously B	Percentage of "minor" planning applications determined within 8 weeks	100	100	94.74	88.89	86.67	100	65.00	100					90.16%	65.00%		2% points	1	↓ 95.21%	92.19% Top	BV109b 87.42% Top
↑	NI 157c (previously B	Percentage of "other" planning applications determined within 8 weeks	100	87.80	98.53	89.04	94.00	98.46	96.00	94.03					94.93%	80.00%		2% points	Ų.	↓ 95.40%	95.70% Top	BV109c 95.21% Top
↑	LI 541 (Previously P	The number of decisions delegated to officers as a percentage of all decisions	100	100	96.55	97.80	100	97.47	92.86	98.70					97.82%	90.00%		2% points	1	↑ 96.53%	96.07% Top	94.77% Top
Publ	lic Protection	[Steve Elsey]					<u> </u>	2		A	0		B	2	No data	0						
Mon	thly Indicator	S	_																			
+	BV 126	Domestic burglaries per year per 1,000 households in local authority area	1.7	1.8	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1					10.9	15.0	10.0	5%	↑	1 13.0	20.7 Bottom	20.9 Bottom
1	BV 127a	Violent crime per year, per 1,000 population	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.0	1.8	1.9					16.8	22.9	15.3	5%	↓	↓ 15.6	23.6 Bottom	26.8 Bottom
1	BV 127b	Robberies per year, per 1,000 population	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1					1.4	2.7	1.8	5%	↔	↑ 1.7	2.5 Bottom	2.7 Bottom
1	BV 128	The number of vehicle crimes per year, per 1,000 population in the local authority area	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.1					8.3	14.8	9.9	5%	↑	10.1	13.9 Bottom	16.2 Bottom



FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2010 TO 31 MAY 2010

What is a Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan is a list of the key decisions, which are due to be taken, by the Cabinet during the period covered by the Plan. The Council has a Statutory duty to prepare a Forward Plan. The Plan is updated monthly and is available to the public 14 days before the beginning of each month. It covers a 4-month rolling period. It can be accessed from the One Stop Shop and/or the Council website www.northampton.gov.uk.

What is a Key Decision? 2°

A key decision in the Council's constitution is defined as:

- Any decision in relation to the Executive function* which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of saving which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates. For these purpose the minimum financial threshold will be £50,000;
- Where decisions are not likely to involve significant expenditure or savings but nevertheless are likely to be significant in terms of their effects on communities in two or more wards or electoral divisions; and
- For the purpose of interpretation a decision, which is ancillary or incidental to a Key decision, which had been previously taken by or on behalf of the Council shall not of itself be further deemed to be significant for the purpose of the definition.
- * Executive functions are those, which are the responsibility of the Cabinet as opposed to, for example, regulatory functions, which are the responsibility of the Council's Planning or Licensing Committees.

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Council's constitution, key decisions are taken by

- Cabinet
- The Leader or Deputy Leader (in matters of urgency only)
- Individual officers acting under delegated powers (it is rare for any decision delegated to an officer to be a key decision)

Are only Key Decisions listed in the Forward Plan?

The Council only has a statutory obligation to publish only Key Decisions on the Forward Plan. However, the Council has voluntarily decided to list non-key Cabinet decisions on the Plan as well. In order to clarify matters on the Plan, Key decisions have a \mathcal{P} symbol next to the item.

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The Plan gives information about:

- What key and non-key decisions are coming forward in the next four months (these decisions have a symbol next to them)
- Other non-key Cabinet decisions that are coming forward in the next four months
- Whether the decision will be taken in public or private
- When those key decisions are likely to be made
- Who will make those decisions
- What consultation will be undertaken
- Who you can contact for further information

Who is the Cabinet?

The Members of the Cabinet and their areas of responsibility are:

Councillor Brian Hoare	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Partnership & Improvement	cllr.bhoare@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Paul Varnsverry	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement	cllr.pdvarnsverry@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Sally Beardsworth	Portfolio Holder for Housing	cllr.sbeardsworth@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Richard Church	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration	cllr.rchurch@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Trini Crake	Portfolio Holder for Environment	cllr.tcrake@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Brian Markham	Portfolio Holder for Performance and Support	cllr.bmarkham@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor David Perkins	Portfolio Holder for Finance	cllr.dperkins@northampton.gov.uk

What is the role of Overview and Scrutiny?

The Council has three Overview and Scrutiny Committees namely

Overview and Scrutiny 1 - Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement

Overview and Scrutiny 2 - Housing and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 - Improvement, Performance and Finance

The Committees' role is to contribute to the development of Council policies, to scrutinise decisions of the Cabinet and to consider any matter affecting the area of Northampton or its citizens. Dates of these meetings and other Council meetings can be found at www.northampton.gov.uk

How and who do I contact?

Each entry in the Plan indicates the names of all the relevant people to contact about that particular item. Wherever possible, full contact details are listed in the individual entries in the Forward Plan. They can also be reached via the switchboard (01604) 837837.

For general information about the decision-making process please contact Frazer McGown, Democratic Services Manager at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE Tel: 01604 837101, E-mail: fmcgown@northampton.gov.uk.

Councillor Brian Hoare, Leader of Northampton Borough Council

ြှ− Key Decisio	n	Forwa	rd Plan : 1 l	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made (② = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Response to O & S 2 Recommendations following the Call-In of New Tenants Participation Structure Decision made by Cabinet on 14 October 2009	P To agree the process of forming Tenant Area Partnership Boards	Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	KEY	Borough Solicitor, Section 151 Officer, Portfolio Holder	Draft report	02.02.10 Cllr Beardsworth Lesley Wearing, Director of Housing Iwearing@northampto n.gov.uk
Identification of the Primary Shopping Area and Town Centre as defined in Planning Policy Statement 6 Planning for Town Centres: Proposed for Consultation Purposes	To issue the identified primary shopping area and town centre for consultation purposes.	Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	NON-KEY	Range of stakeholders, including businesses such as retailers, developers and their agents, local councillors, town centre partnership and the general public.	Notification through consultation letter, website and e-mail.	02.02.10 Cllr Church Sue Bridge, Head of Planning sbridge@northampton.g ov.uk
Wootton Conservation Area Re- Appraisal	To adopt the proposed boundary amendments outlined in the document	Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	NON-KEY	Residents of the area, public, external organisations and appropriate officers	Letter, e-mail, leaflet circulated locally and to all properties in the conservation area.	02.02.10 Cllr Church Sue Bridge, Head of Planning sbridge@northampton.g ov.uk

္ကြာ = Key Decisio	on	Forwa	rd Plan : 1	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made ((C = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Award of Build Contract on the Local Authority new Build Schemes	To agree that the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to approve the appointment of the successful tender and agree final terms for the build contracts on the HCA Local Authority New Build Scheme and Bid	Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	KEY	Director of Finance, Borough Solicitor, Portfolio Holder, Director of Housing, Director of Planning and Regeneration.	Copy of the Draft report	02.02.10 Cllr Beardsworth Lesley Wearing, Director of Housing Iwearing@northampto n.gov.uk
Leisure and Sport Strategic Business Review - Facilities Strategy		Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	KEY	Stakeholders	Meetings, discussions etc	02.02.10 Cllr P. D Varnsverry Ian Redfern, Head of Leisure and Culture iredfern@northampton .gov.uk
Approval of the Financial Implications of the Pay and Grading Review	P To approve the budgetary implications of the Pay and Grading Review	Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	KEY	Board, Trade Unions, General Purposes Committee for changes to terms and Conditions	Reports to Board and trade unions, General Purposes Committee 2 February 2010	02.02.10 Cllr Perkins Catherine Wilson, Head of Human Resources cwilson@northampton .gov.uk
Performance Monthly Report - December 2009	To note the current position	Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	NON-KEY	Heads of Service	Meetings with Accountants	02.02.10 Cllr B Markham Dale Robertson, Head of Performance and Improvement drobertson@northampto n.gov.uk

್ಯ್ = Key Decisio	on	Forwa	rd Plan : 1	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made (② = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
The Service and Maintenance of Hard Wired Sheltered Housing Schemes and Private Life Lines	PRIVATE Approval of Contract Procedure/Award	Cabinet	10 Feb 2010	KEY	Council Officers	Draft report	02.02.10 Cllr Beardsworth, Chris Murray, Interim Ind Living Mgr Fran Rodgers, Head of Housing Need and Support frodgers@northampto n.gov.uk
Estate Services Review	P To consider provision of cleaning service, funded by Service Charging	Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	KEY		Copy of draft report	16.02.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton. gov.uk
Amendments to the Scheme for the Recovery of Building Regulation Charges	To approve increases of charges within the scheme	Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	NON-KEY	Portfolio Holder, Director of Planning and Regeneration, Head of Planning, Head of Finance and Legal Services	Management meetings, one-to- ones, briefing notes	16.02.10 Cllr Church Sue Bridge, Head of Planning sbridge@northampton.g ov.uk
Corporate Plan 2010-2013		Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	KEY	Management Board and Members; Residents, partners and stakeholders	Citizen Panel survey and focus groups; on-line survey	16.02.10 Cllr B Markham Dale Robertson, Head of Performance and Improvement drobertson@northamp ton.gov.uk
Prudential Indicators 2010- 2013	PRecommendation of Prudential Indicators 2010 – 2013 to Council for approval	Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	KEY	Management Board, Chief Finance Officer, Head of Finance	Through the call- over process and meetings with the Head of Finance and Chief Finance Officer	16.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk

္ကြာ = Key Decisio	on	Forwa	rd Plan : 1	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made (② = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Capital Programme 2010-2013	PRecommendation of Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2010 – 2013 to Council for approval	Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	KEY	Public, Management Board, Chief Finance Officer, Heads of Service, Project Managers, Portfolio Holders	Through the budget consultation process, call-over process, capital programme build process and Management Board meetings, capital appraisals, meetings with the Head of Finance and Chief Finance Officer.	16.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk
Housing Revenue Account Budget 2010-2013	PRecommendation of Housing Revenue Account Budget 2010-2013 to Council for approval	Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	KEY	Public Overview and Scrutiny, Management Board, Budget Managers, Heads of Service	Through the budget build process and the public consultation process	16.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk
General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-2013	PRecommendation of GF Revenue Budget 2010 – 2013 to Council for approval	Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	KEY	Public, Overview and Scrutiny, Management Board, Budget Managers, heads of Service	Through the budget build process and the public consultation process	16.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk
Treasury Strategy 2010 - 2013	PRecommendation of Treasury Strategy 2010 – 2013 to Council for approval	Cabinet	24 Feb 2010	KEY	Management Board, Chief Finance Officer, Head of Finance, Sector	Through the call- over process, e- mail liaison with Sector, meetings with Head of Finance and Chief Finance Officer	16.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk

್ಲ್ = Key Decisio	n	Forwa	rd Plan : 1	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made (② = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Rent Arrears Incentives	P To approve proposals to offer rent incentives to tenants	Cabinet	3 Mar 2010	KEY		Copy of draft report	23.02.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton. gov.uk
Leisure and Sport Strategic Business Review - Management Options Appraisal	Agree Implementation of the Preferred Management Option	Cabinet	3 Mar 2010	KEY	Stakeholders	Variety of mechanisms	23.02.10 CIIr PD Varnsverry Julie Seddon julieseddon@northam pton.gov.uk
Asset Management Strategy 2010 - 2013		Cabinet	3 Mar 2010	KEY	Partner public sector bodies	By mail, e-mail, telephone and face to face meetings where appropriate.	23.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk
General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring - P9 December 2009	To note the position as at the end of December 2009.	Cabinet	3 Mar 2010	NON-KEY	Budget Managers, Management Board, Portfolio Holder for Finance	Budget Monitoring process and Call Over.	23.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampt on.gov.uk
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Monitoring P9	To note the current position as at the end of period 9	Cabinet	3 Mar 2010	NON-KEY	Budget Managers, Heads of Service, Management Board, Portfolio Holder	Monthly meetings, briefings and call- over	23.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampt on.gov.uk

چک = Key Decisio	on	Forwa	rd Plan : 1	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made (EXPERIMENTAL EXPERTISE (EXPERIMENTAL	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Capital Programme 2009-10 - Position as at end of December/Janu ary	© To note the report for information and approval of any appraisals and variations to the Capital Programme	Cabinet	3 Mar 2010	KEY	Budget Manager, Finance Manager (Treasury and Capital), Corporate Director (Chief Executive), Heads of Service, Portfolio Holder, Section 151 Officer	Monthly monitoring budget meetings with budget holders to provide monitoring figures, review and sign off of capital appraisal forms and variations detailing the project and its relevance and importance to the authority.	23.02.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk
Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Allocations Policy		Cabinet	24 Mar 2010	KEY	Tenants, partners, Portfolio Holder, Borough Solicitor, Chief Executive	Copy of the draft report	16.03.10 Cllr Beardsworth Fran Rodgers, Head of Housing Need and Support frodgers@northampto n.gov.uk
Performance Monthly Report - January 2010	To note the current position	Cabinet	24 Mar 2010	NON-KEY	Heads of Service	Meetings with Accountants	16.03.10 Cllr B Markham Dale Robertson, Head of Performance and Improvement drobertson@northampto n.gov.uk
General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring P10 January 2010	To note the position at the end of January 2010	Cabinet	24 Mar 2010	NON-KEY	Budget Managers, Management Board, Portfolio Holder for Finance	Budget Monitoring process and call over	16.03.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampt on.gov.uk

چې = Key Decisio	n	Forwa	rd Plan : 1	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made (\$\mathcal{P}\$ = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Monitoring - Period 10	To note the current position as at the end of period 10	Cabinet	24 Mar 2010	NON-KEY	Budget Managers, Heads of Service, Management Board, Portfolio Holder	Monthly meetings, briefings and call- over	16.03.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampt on.gov.uk
Capital Programme 2009-10 - Position as at end of January 2010	P To note the report for information and approval of any appraisals and variations to the Capital Programme.	Cabinet	24 Mar 2010	KEY	Budget Manager, Finance Manager (Capital and treasury), Corporate Director (Chief Executive), head of Service, Portfolio Holder, Section 151 Officer	Monthly monitoring meetings with budget holders to provide monitoring figures, review and sign off of capital appraisal forms and variations detailing the project and its relevance and importance to the authority.	16.03.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northamp ton.gov.uk
Update of Byelaw for Good Rule and Government covering the Borough of Northampton		Cabinet	28 Apr 2010	KEY	General Public	Public notice in local press and copy of byelaw available for view at the Guildhall for period of at least one month.	20.04.10 CIIr P D Varnsverry Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection selsey@northampton. gov.uk
Corporate Debt Policy	P To approve the Council's policy towards the collection of debt across Northampton Borough Council	Cabinet	28 Apr 2010	KEY	Internal: Revenues and Benefits, Housing and Finance; External: Third sector welfare agencies	Input to policy from internal departments and external review and comments on draft policy from the third sector	20.04.10 Cllr Perkins Robin Bates rbates@northampton. gov.uk

್ಮ್ = Key Decisio	on	Forwa	rd Plan : 1	February 2	2010 to 31 May 2010		
Subject	Expected Decision to be Made () = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Performance Monthly Report - February 2010	To note the current position	Cabinet	28 Apr 2010	NON-KEY	Heads of Service	Meetings with Accountants	20.04.10 Cllr B Markham Dale Robertson, Head of Performance and Improvement drobertson@northampto
Equalities and Engagement (Forums) Report	P To approve the updates to the Single Equalities Scheme and changes to Forums and equalities governance structures	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Forum co-Chairs, Corporate Equalities Steering Group	Variety of meetings, e-mail and other communications between January and April 2010	11.05.10 Cllr PD Varnsverry Thomas Hall, Head of Policy and Community Engagement thall@northampton.go v.uk