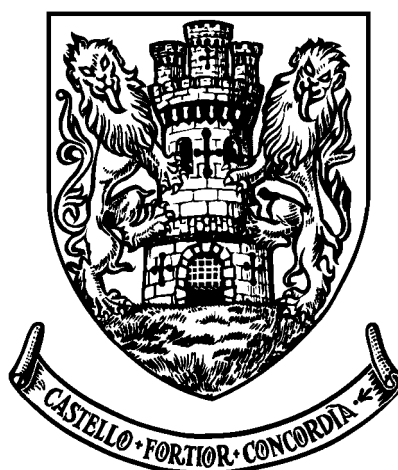


# NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



## COUNCIL

Monday, 14 September 2020

**YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM – [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/NORTHAMPTONBCTV](https://www.youtube.com/northamptonbctv), ON MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 6:30 PM WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED**

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2. MINUTES.**

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**3. APOLOGIES.**

**4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS**

**6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS**

**8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS**

Councillor Stone to make a statement on “Good governance is a democratic issue”

**9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020**

## **10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET**

## **11. UPDATE ON CARRIED MOTIONS**

If you would like an electronic version of the Carried Motions spreadsheet (Appendix 1) please contact [democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk)

## **12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

i) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Ashraf to second:

“Covid-19 has thrown into relief the need for more, for bigger, for better community hubs.

The pandemic has made already vulnerable households ever more vulnerable. Community groups like Revolution Zero CiC, and Zimwomen with the United African Association, have worked really hard to keep marginalised households fed.

Their success has brought its own pressures. Both organisations need food storage spaces as well as distribution points.

Socially isolated older people need safe spaces where they can engage with each other and carry out activities safely. We need general day centres and specialist day centres, like an African Centre, where the needs of all our communities can be safely met.

Young people need safe spaces where they can engage with each other and carry out activities safely. The need for a youth centre has never been greater.

We need to rethink our relationship with the voluntary sector. We need to see them as the warp and weft of our communities. These are the organisations and the people that are keeping our communities going. They all need premises. We call on the council to work with all these agencies to create a community hub with shared storage and safe meeting spaces.”

ii) Councillor Haque to propose and Councillor Birch to second:

“We are alarmed at the Government’s proposal to give additional development rights to developers. The proposal will bypass the planning system and lead to development that is neither strategic nor of good quality.

The housing crisis and the climate emergency means we need affordable, good quality, energy efficient homes.

We therefore call on the Council to write to Government expressing our concern at their proposal for deregulation.

We further call on the council to take all necessary steps to ensure that where housing is developed on commercial sites under the new regulations, that 35% of the housing is affordable and all are of a quality consistent with our aspiration to provide the best we can.”

iii) Councillor B Markham to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second:

“Council notes:

1. The publication by Government of the White Paper, ‘Planning for the Future’ on 6

August 2020, which sets out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.

2. That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
3. That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to have their say on applications in their communities.
2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as ‘for growth’.
3. Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.

This Council Further Notes:

1. The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals ‘shameful and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes’. RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing.
2. The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association,

We therefore ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of State for Housing & Planning and to our local Members of Parliament expressing our concerns.”

iv) Councillor Hill to propose and Councillor King to second:

“This council supports the Government’s ‘Kickstarter scheme’, helping create jobs for young people in Northampton, putting them at the heart of the town’s economic revival from the Covid-19 pandemic. We call upon local businesses to sign up to providing quality, 6-month, subsidised work placements for those aged 16-24 on Universal Credit, helping give them on the job training and experience to launch them into a career. We cannot allow young people to be left behind as a result of the pandemic, and schemes like this will be vital for creating jobs and giving young people the skills to access them. We encourage local employers to sign up today.”

**13. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.**

NB. There may be an additional urgent item for members’ attention at Full Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. If this is the case, then an appropriate report will be emailed to all members.

George Candler – Chief Executive  
The Guildhall  
Northampton

## **Public Participation**

### **1. Comments and Petitions**

- 1.1 A member of the public (or an accredited representative of a business ratepayer of the Borough) may make a comment or present a petition on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. A comment or presentation of a petition shall be for no more than three minutes. No notice of the nature of the comment to be made or of the petition is required except for the need to register to speak by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

(Public comments and petitions will not be taken at the Annual Council Meeting or other civic or ceremonial meetings.)

#### **NOTES**

- i. *Comments may be on one or more subjects but each person has no longer than three minutes to have their say.*
- ii. *The same person may make a comment and present a petition on different subjects. In such instances that person will have three minutes to make their comment and a separate three minutes to present a petition.*

### **2. Member and Public Questions**

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:
- be submitted in writing and delivered, e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
  - include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.

- 2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

(Questions will not be taken at the Annual Council Meeting or at civic or ceremonial meetings or meetings called to deal with specific items of business.)

#### **NOTES**

*In respect of paragraph 2.1 above, questions may be rejected on certain grounds that are set out on page 4-12 of the Council's Constitution and which may be viewed at [www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download\\_info.php?fileID=1919](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1919) or by seeking advice using the contact details below.*

### 3. Motions

- 3.1 A member of the public may register to speak to a motion under the 'Notices of Motion' item on the agenda. Registration to speak must be made to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the day to the meeting. Speaking to a motion is restricted to three minutes per person.

(The 'Notices of Motion' item will not be taken at the Annual Council meeting or meetings called for civic or ceremonial purposes.)

### 4. General

A member of the public may make a comment, present a petition, ask a question or speak to a motion at the same meeting subject to the restrictions set out above.

### 5. Contacts

Democratic Services: e-mail [democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk)

Tel 01604 837722

Fax 01604 837057

Mail Democratic Services  
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The Guildhall  
St Giles Square  
Northampton NN1 1DE

## MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 20 July 2020 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

**PRESENT:** HIS WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR Councillor Sargeant (in the Chair).

**COUNCILLORS:** Malpas, Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Choudary, Chunga, Davenport, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, Joyce, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, B Markham, M Markham, Marriott, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Kilby-Shaw, Smith, Stone, Walker and Roberts

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

### 2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held 15 June 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

### 3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillor Flavell.

### 4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor invited Council to save the date for his Charity Civic Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021. The Mayor highlighted several notable events that had recently taken place including Srebrenica, which was commemorated online, Northampton's Pride week and the Battle of Northampton at Queen Eleanor's Cross. He announced that online charity fundraising campaigns for the Lowdown were in progress and charity pots would be placed in local businesses. On Sunday 26 July 2020, the Mayor would be celebrating Liberia's Independence Day online. He reminisced on last year's wonderful event and shared that he was looking forward to this year's celebration on Sunday.

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

The Mayor announced that three members of the public had registered to speak. Jayne West requested to speak before Motion ii was debated, and Ruth Hemmingway requested to speak before Motion iv was debated.

At the Mayor's invitation, Keith Buckby addressed Council and announced that an open letter from the Northampton Town Football Club Supporter's Trust had been submitted to the Council this week.

## **6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Mayor advised that thirteen questions had been received from Councillors and that the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution. Questions and answers were given as tabled unless where stated, supplementary questions were asked as detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 9, Councillor Hadland confirmed that the Leader had regular contact with the Northampton Town Football Club Supporters Trust.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 13, Councillor Hibbert confirmed he was aware of the micro-home scheme in Cambridge and explained that NBC was looking into a range of housing projects.

## **7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS**

Councillor Nunn presented his report as Leader and highlighted that there were no current plans for colleagues or members to return to the Guildhall, and home working was going well. Support for businesses continued to be issued in the form of grants with over £32.81m paid to local businesses in Northampton. The Leader explained as a Board Member of the Town Centre BID, he had been attending regular meetings and this focussed on reopening local businesses. He thanked the licensing department for their support and guidance. In terms of Future Northants activity, he updated Council that the current focus was working towards ensuring that West Northants would be 'Safe & Legal Plus' for vesting day on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. In answer to a question regarding the condition of the local economy due to Covid-19, the Leader responded that no forecasting was currently available, and that the economy is what we make it, so we need to all work together to bounce back from the pandemic. In answer to a question regarding the environment and promotion of walking and cycling, the Leader responded that active travel money was available for encouraging walking and cycling and NBC had asked the county council to change Weedon Road to a 24-hour bus and cycle lane. In response to a question regarding the pursuit of residents for Council tax payments and the use of bailiffs, the Leader responded that Councillor Eldred would have more information on this matter, and the Council were keen for payments to be made so that services would continue to be delivered.

Councillor Larratt presented his report as Deputy Leader and reiterated his thanks to Democratic Services who have successfully facilitated the transition to remote meetings, and colleagues at NBC for their hard work. In terms of the streetlight project, he was pleased to see the Racecourse with the new lights installed. In response to a question on a vetting process for market traders, the Deputy Leader confirmed there was a process and details could be confirmed by the market manager. In answer to a question on the reopening of the coroner's court, the Deputy Leader responded that this was a responsibility of Northamptonshire County Council. In response to a question on a briefing session to be arranged for members on the future plans for rail, the Deputy Leader confirmed he was happy to agree to a briefing in the future.

Councillor Hadland, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise, presented his report and explained that in terms of the community asset transfers, Parish

Councils continued the due diligence process. He explained that two SEMLEP projects had been brought forward and he commended staff issuing business grants for their hard work. In response to a question regarding the asset transfers and changes to council tax, Councillor Hadland responded that council tax may decrease, but Parish Council's may increase council tax so it may remain the same to cover costs as land continues to be maintained. In answer to a question regarding the development of the Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub and if consultations would include those in the Eastern district, Councillor Hadland confirmed that it would include them.

Councillor Hallam, the Cabinet Member for Environment, presented his report and highlighted the error on page 39 with the table of statistics. He announced the deep cleanse programme was still underway and had received positive feedback from residents. In answer to a question regarding statistics, Councillor Hallam confirmed that these could be found within Councillor Larratt's report. In terms of fly tipping a trial was being investigated offering CCTV in volunteer residents' homes to catch perpetrators. In answer to a question regarding maintenance of street furniture and the cleaning of refuse lorries, Councillor Hallam confirmed a full sanitisation regime was in place and he would take forward points on Councillor Terry Wire's bench. He confirmed that street furniture had been recently replaced on Abington Street. The deep cleanse would be taking place on Adelaide Street in Semilong this week. In response to a question on the bins by Blackthorn School, Councillor Hallam confirmed that he did remember the walkabout and would follow up the matter.

## **8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS**

Councillor G Eales delivered his statement on "A Recovery Plan for Northampton – Clean, Safe and Green." He expressed that the Covid-19 pandemic had highlighted inequalities in society and exposed those from the poorest backgrounds. He stressed the need for a recovery plan and contingency plan, given the worldwide pandemic, and likelihood of a worldwide depression. He shared his concerns for those out of employment and feared that mass unemployment would become the norm. He hoped that a generation of employment and creation of new jobs would become available to support local people. He expressed the need for the Cobblers stand to be completed, and recreational activities after the pandemic. He reiterated the need for a contingency plan, as a second-wave pandemic could occur.

In response to Councillor G Eales' statement, the Leader echoed his concerns and explained it was an important issue that would require joint party working. He explained he was committed to the local living wage and community resilience would continue to be available to support the most vulnerable. He confirmed the stand would be built, and SEMLEP strategic planning was underway and the Northants economic cell would continue to monitor the local economy.

## **9. MEMBER/OFFICER PROTOCOL**

At the Mayor's invitation, Councillor Nunn proposed the report as recommended by the Standards Committee.

Councillor Larratt seconded the report.



**RESOLVED:**

That full Council noted and thanked the Standards Committee and relevant officers for their work on the Protocol on Member/Officer relations.

That full Council considered the comments of the Standards Committee on the draft Protocol on Member / Officer relations, subject to any additions Members may consider appropriate.

That full Council approved the Member/Officer Relations Protocol attached as Appendix one for adoption into the Council's Constitution and delegates the power to the Monitoring Officer to incorporate the changes into the constitution.

**10. CHANGE TO COMMITTEE PLACES**

Councillor Patel proposed the report which sought Council's approval for Councillor Parekh to replace Councillor Hibbert on the Audit Committee.

Councillor Oldham seconded the report.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Parekh replaces Councillor Hibbert on the Audit Committee.

**11. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Stone seconded.

“Predictions are there is going to be a spike in evictions this Autumn following the Covid-19 crisis moratorium on evictions and the movement of people. Our social lettings agency has an ever more important role to mitigate against this happening. We call on the Council to invest to save by renting or buying up houses to let in the private sector where tenants or landlords are defaulting.”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Cali, Choudary, Davenport, Duffy, Eales G, Eales T, Haque, Joyce, Markham B, Marriott, Meredith, Russell, Roberts, Smith and Stone.

There voted against the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Bottwood, Eldred, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, Markham M, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Shaw and Walker.

There abstained: Councillors Chunga and Sargeant.

The motion was lost.

Jayne West addressed Council and expressed both her own and residents' concerns regarding cleanliness in Northampton. Ms West stressed that fly tipping in Northampton was a long-standing issue, which affected residents' wellbeing, community pride and potential economic investment.

Councillor Russell proposed and Councillor Ashraf seconded the motion.

“Since lockdown began on 26 March, the borough of Northampton has been overwhelmed with illegal dumping and fly tipping, filling our streets and any available vacant area with evil smelling and unsightly rubbish. Our residents pay their ever-increasing council tax and find themselves facing the most appalling situations. We call on the Council to set up a multi-agency team to track down perpetrators and ensure the appropriate action is taken:

- against criminal and illegal operators who knowingly rob their customers by charging for the removal of rubbish, which is later dumped in our streets;
- against landlords who dump household waste on pavements;
- against and being seen to impose hefty fines on social groups and partygoers who leave piles of used food containers and bottles on our parks;
- to actively support tenants and residents who want to use the recycling depots but for whatever reason are unable to, and;
- to work with the University to offer a collection service to student landlords.”

Council debated the motion.

The altered motion was carried.

Councillor King proposed and Councillor Nunn seconded the motion.

“This Council recognises the importance of Northampton’s arts and cultural sector as the ‘soul’ of Northampton and will work with our Conservative MPs and central government to access Northampton’s portion of the record-breaking national support package, the biggest ever one-off investment in UK culture. This will not only help to secure local jobs, but also mean that our iconic venues can weather the storm created by coronavirus and come back stronger, and continue to be there for local residents and future generations to enjoy. This council will work tirelessly to ensure that this sector emerges from this crisis by continuing to invest in the work of our Heritage, Culture and Communities team in order to provide the support required.”

Council debated the motion.

The altered motion was carried.

At the Mayor’s invitation, Ruth Hemmingway addressed Council as a resident of Abington. She expressed that she was shocked to see this motion and to see the Council would be supporting the development of the North-West Relief Road and Orbital Road. She suggested that alternative greener methods of transport be explored, given that the Covid-19 pandemic had seen an increase in home-working as well as walking and cycling.

Councillor Birch proposed and Councillor Joyce seconded the amendment to the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the altered motion: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Chunga, Duffy, Eales G, Eales T, Haque, Joyce, Markham B, Marriott, Meredith, Russell, Roberts, Smith and Stone.

There voted against the altered motion: Councillors Aziz, Bottwood, Davenport, Eldred, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, Markham M, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Walker.

There abstained: Councillors Cali and Sargeant.

The altered motion was lost.

Councillor Larratt proposed and Councillor Aziz seconded the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the altered motion: Councillors Aziz, Bottwood, Eldred, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, Markham M, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Walker.

There voted against the altered motion: Councillor Beardsworth.

There abstained: Councillors Ashraf, Birch, Choudary, Chunga, Duffy, Eales G, Eales T, Haque, Joyce, Markham B, Marriott, Meredith, Russell, Roberts, Sargeant, Shaw and Stone.

The motion was carried.

**12. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.**

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 9:38 pm

**Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

**Question 1**

**Cllr. Beardsworth to Cllr. Hadland**

In response to a question on 20<sup>th</sup> January you stated

*“ replacing coach facilities on Victoria street are a priority and discussions are taking place as part of the Future High Street Fund bid....”*

Can the cabinet member for regeneration update members as to the current situation regarding promised improvements to coach facilities in Northampton?

If improving facilities is indeed a priority, will there be an “oven ready” plan or at least a wish list which the West Northamptonshire Unitary can take over when they assume responsibility for transport and environmental issues in only 7 months time?

**Response**

Replacing the coach facilities on Victoria Street remains a priority and work continues to progress this.

Given the limited funds available and restrictions on how the funds could be spent through the Future High Street Fund this scheme did not make it through to the final submission.

Replacement facilities are now being progressed through our work on the Towns Fund as well as plans for the enabling works through Local Pinch Point Funding. The latter is a Highways fund where we are working closely with NCC with the shared goal of improving access arrangements around the Greyfriars area.

Through this joined up working with NCC and through the project’s inclusion within the Town Investment Plan (the investment document that underpins our future Towns Fund submission) we will be ensuring that this remains a priority for the town in years to come.

**Cllr T Hadland**  
**Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Enterprise**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 2**

#### **Cllr. Meredith to Cllr. Hallam**

More than a year ago the council carried out a survey of trees across former Development Corporation Estates. Much of the work to overgrown or in appropriately situated trees was never carried out.

In view of the increasing frequency of low pressure storms and high winds can the Cabinet Member for the Environment assure residents that the delayed programme will be restarted over the Autumn / Winter period?

#### **Response**

Veolia, through their sub contractor, Idverde, continue to survey trees across the whole of Northampton Borough and carry out works where necessary, this is in conjunction with any planned maintenance, if Cllr Meredith would like to provide specific areas of concerns or wish to meet to discuss these concerns further, the team would be happy to do this, either virtually or if appropriate, on site.

**Cllr M Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

### Question 3

#### From Cllr. Meredith to Councillor Nunn

Northamptonshire County Council and a partner have recently announced a 12 month trial for providing E-scooters at various locations around the town.

Whilst these scooters can provide a sustainable and pollution means of getting around, does the leader share my concerns about the use of the scooters in areas shared with older, visually impaired or wheel chair users?

Will there be extra patrols to give advise or enforce regulations to keep pedestrians safe in places such as, the pedestrian part of Abington Street or pavements in Wellingborough and Kettering Road?

#### Response

Like Cllr Meredith, I recognise the value of undertaking a 12 month trial, which supports our work towards Northampton becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. In addition, I would always want to see Northampton included in a list of towns and cities for schemes which bring investment for new initiatives, as the E-scooter scheme does.

However, a number of issues were experienced when this scheme was first introduced recently, including them being used in pedestrian areas as the question suggests, and various other forms of miss-use. I can advise that the Borough Council is in very active dialogue with the County Council regarding ways in which the scheme can ensure the safety of all residents, and this includes the fact that Police Officers, and our own Wardens and Rangers have been fully briefed on the rules around the use of the E-scooters, enabling them to enforce / guide accordingly, and for our part, the council has been able to ensure that we have had a greater presence of our own staff in the town centre and key areas, particularly over the weekend.

**Cllr J Nunn**  
**Leader of the Council.**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 4**

#### **Cllr. Ashraf to Cllr. Hallam**

Can this council start thinking about introducing water refill stations and empty bottle deposit scheme?

#### **Response**

The Environmental Services team continue to follow the reverse vending machines initiative and Deposit Return Schemes are featured in the new Environment Bill, the Bill would give the powers to implement a DRS.

This does not mean that a DRS is certain, the Bill just enables one to be implemented if the Government decides they wish to go ahead with one. However, In response to written parliamentary questions, Defra recently confirmed that it will undertake the second of consultation on DRS. More recently, in Parliament, an early day motion for an 'all-in' DRS has been introduced by Ben Lake MP and supported by various parliamentarians. The motion is calling on the Government to introduce an all-in scheme in 2023 and incorporating as wide a selection of materials as possible.

**Cllr M Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

### Question 5

#### **Cllr. Ashraf to Cllr. Hallam**

Can this council work closely with schools etc to send out a strong message to people by campaigning about littering? The problem isn't the type of plastic, paper or cardboard, but how people dispose of them and that is the key issue here. We need to get everyone involved in this town wide campaign, if it's going to work.

#### **Response**

NBC, through its membership of the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership works within schools in the borough on waste and litter issues. There is a dedicated waste education officer, whose role it is to visit schools and deliver assemblies, workshops and lessons all about waste, recycling, fly-tipping and littering. Sessions are tailored to what the school has requested or alternatively, if the council is focussing on a particular issue, this can be highlighted. All sessions are related to the waste and cleansing services that operate in that area. In addition to this, the partnership also has a waste education bus, which can visit schools for memorable, interactive lessons on board.

However, due to the global pandemic, we have been unable to visit schools to carry out these sessions since March. Instead there is a wealth of education information on our website [www.northamptonshirerecycles.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshirerecycles.co.uk) and plenty on social media. We hope to be back teaching in schools as soon as it's safe to do so.

*NBC Neighbourhood Wardens visit our local primary schools to deliver a programme called Junior Wardens this is a 6 week programme focussing on lots of issues with one session focussing on the environment, during this session we take the children out into the local community to conduct a litter pick, we discuss with the children the issues of littering/flytipping and how this effects the environment, we also discuss the benefits of recycling.*

*The neighbourhood Wardens also work with local communities to assist them with community litter picks and community events where we promote the importance of recycling and the effects littering and fly tipping have on the community.*

**Cllr M Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**



## Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

### Question 6

#### Cllr. Ashraf to Cllr King

Will this council collate information, stories how communities and people have coped during the covid19 pandemic as lessons learned?

#### Response

A Covid-19 lessons learned log was created fairly early on in the pandemic. This log includes the following information:

- Description of the lesson learned
- Whether it was a success or issue
- The impact that the success or issue had
- The actual lesson learned
- Any actions required
- Opportunities for new ways of working

Contributions to the log were received from members of the Strategic Command Group (SCG), the Tactical Command Group (TCG) and the wider management team within the Council.

The lessons learned that have been captured include those that had a direct impact on the way in which the Council mobilised itself to deal with the pandemic, as well as operational issues and successes. As a number of officers from the SCG and TCG were also part of the county wide cells that were established to deal with the pandemic e.g. the Community Resilience Cell, therefore the lessons learned log is wide ranging.

We are also sharing our learning with other local authorities on an ongoing basis. A couple of days ago we provided information to colleagues in Norfolk about actions taken to deal with the Greencore situation.

Northampton is fortunate in having a strong, well established community engagement network. The past five months have impelled our community and voluntary sector, local businesses and faith groups. Many effective partnerships have emerged at neighbourhood level, which will last longer than covid-19. A fundamental part of the operation and success of the community resilience work has been a result of the community and voluntary sector, the strength of its existence and emergence in the town has been tremendous.

More than 650 volunteers signed up to support our most vulnerable residents in Northampton –these volunteers have been and continue to be matched up by the team with existing community and voluntary groups (127 that have registered with the hub). We regularly ask and they share their experiences which we have collated. These are being fed through and included through various communication channels, networks and social media.

The museum is collecting material and commissioning a number of artists to capture this unique moment in history. This will build an archive of material for the collections and an exhibition is in development, which will reflect the reactions, creations and commemorations of the Northants community, alongside recording any long-term changes to society.

The exhibition will be a space for the people of Northampton to discuss their experiences, both good and bad, during Covid-19, celebrate the good things created by the crisis, to thank all the people who cared for the sick and memorialise those that have died during the pandemic.

Material is being collected that reflects four broad themes

### **Stay at Home**

How have people responded to lockdown. An example would be Rainbows/ Children's drawings in windows, though there are a myriad of other responses and activities to be collected and included.

### **NHS and key workers**

Stories of How NGH/carers carried on to save lives and how key workers such as delivery drivers, postal staff, community support workers, refuse collectors, shop staff, the food industry have adapted how they work and continued to provide vital services to keep the country going.

### **Not Business as Usual**

How Northamptonshire companies tuned their skills to help with COVID 19/ people were furloughed/ music/ art that came out of the crisis. How or if life has changed after the crisis (however this will need to take into account that project has a completion date).

### **Saving Lives**

Local and national government posters, letters and flyers, public information films and public information films and artworks made by individuals. It is anticipated that we may include the topic In Memoriam under this theme, remembering all those that have lost their lives to Covid-19, however this will very much be dependent on the feedback we receive from the public during the project.

**Cllr A King**

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

### Question 7

#### Cllr Smith to Cllr Hibbert

HiMOs have been shown to be a high risk in the transmission of Covid-19. What steps are the Borough taking to minimise the risk?

#### Response

Since the COVID-19 lockdown, the Housing Enforcement Team has been providing landlords and tenants with advice and guidance on the impacts of Coronavirus and the action that can be taken to minimise the risk of infection and prevent the spread of the virus, especially in shared housing.

The Housing Enforcement Team has sent information to the landlords and tenants of all known HMOs in the borough, and to everyone who attends Northampton's Landlord Forum. It has also responded to individual enquiries from landlords and tenants, and provided detailed advice and information on the Council's website:

<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200312/landlords/2522/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities/3>

Landlords and tenants have been advised on the action that needs to be taken if someone in shared accommodation is required to self-isolate. They are also encouraged to continue monitoring the Government's website for up-to-date guidance and information on COVID-19 and private rented housing:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?utm\\_source=3f5d6b00-cdcd-4d01-981e-438c90d66133&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?utm_source=3f5d6b00-cdcd-4d01-981e-438c90d66133&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

**Cllr S Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 8**

#### **Cllr. Smith to Cllr Hibbert**

Women with No Recourse to Public Funds who have children are being placed by the County in our communities in HMOs. There are safeguarding issues here. And there are health risks. What are we doing to support these families and to support their children?

#### **Response**

The Council's Director of Housing & Wellbeing has spoken to Northamptonshire County Council's Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting who has confirmed that the County Council is not placing NRPF households with children in HMOs.

**Cllr S Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

### Question 9

#### Cllr. Smith to Cllr Hibbert

What help will be offered to 'private renters when evictions begin in September? How are we supporting survivors of domestic violence fleeing their homes but without finances to pay for a deposit?

#### Response

Last month, the Government extended its ban on evictions until 20 September 2020.

It also introduced new legislation requiring the majority of landlords to provide their tenants with at least 6 months' notice prior to seeking possession through the courts if they serve notice on or after 29 August 2020.

Notices that were served on or before 28 August 2020 are not affected by these changes, and must be for a period of at least 3 months.

Although the 6 months' notice requirement will apply to most new notices served on or after 29 August 2020 – including section 21 ('no fault') evictions and rent arrears of not more than 6 months – only 4 weeks' notice will be required in serious cases involving anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse or more than 6 months' rent arrears.

New court rules will come into force on 20 September 2020, requiring landlords to set out in their possession claim any relevant information about their tenant's circumstances, including information on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. If this information is not provided, judges will be allowed to adjourn proceedings.

#### Help and support for private tenants

The Council's Housing Advice & Options Team will continue to provide private tenants with expert advice on their housing rights, the validity of the notice they have received, and the range of housing options available to them.

The Housing Advisers will always try to prevent homelessness by negotiating with the landlord and finding a solution for any tenancy-related problems that have caused them to serve notice on their tenant and, where this is not possible, the Advisers will try to persuade the landlord to allow the tenant to remain in the accommodation for long enough to secure alternative accommodation.

Where a tenant has accrued rent arrears through no fault of their own or they need to move home and are unable to raise the deposit or rent-in-advance, a solution may be possible by the tenant applying for financial assistance through the Housing Advice & Options Team's Tenancy Sustainment Fund.

Continued/...

## Help for people fleeing domestic abuse

The Council's priority is to ensure that the victims of domestic abuse are able to remain safely in their home where it is their choice, and where it is safe to do so.

Where a perpetrator remains in the home and they continue to pose a risk to the person(s) they have been violent or abusive to, the Council will inform the victim of their legal options, including injunctions that order the perpetrator not to molest the victim(s) or not to live in the home or enter the surrounding area.

If the Council is the landlord, it will consider the scope for evicting the perpetrator and allowing the victim to remain in their home. However, where there is a probability of violence if the victim remains in their accommodation, the Council would not expect them to remain in, or return to, the accommodation until it is safe to do so. Temporary accommodation may be provided whilst action is taken to exclude or to arrest and detain a perpetrator.

Where a person is fleeing domestic abuse and requires financial assistance to secure alternative private rented accommodation, they may receive assistance through the Housing Advice & Options Team's Tenancy Sustainment Fund.

**Cllr S Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 10**

#### **Cllr. Duffy to Cllr Hadland**

Please can you update the members on what is happening with the NBC valuations of the local shops in the eastern district? When are they going up for sale?

#### **Response**

The valuations are complete, negotiations have commenced between the Council and the tenants to progress the sale(s).

**Cllr T Hadland**  
**Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Enterprise**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 11**

#### **Cllr. Duffy to Cllr Hibbert**

When is NPH going to begin the regeneration of Southfields?

#### **Response**

The work has already begun – it began in July 2020. The scaffolding is in place and the works are progressing very well

The neighbourhood improvements being undertaken in Southfields include external works to the houses and flats (windows, roofline works, etc), internal works to the communal areas in the blocks of flats, and landscaping and environmental works.

The work will also include the creation of a communal garden within the Southfields allotments for those living in council owned flats who have limited garden space.

NPH has confirmed that, as long as there is no second ‘wave’ of COVID-19, the Southfields programme is on track for completion during the current financial year.

If you would like NPH to accompany you on a tour of the Southfields sites, please let me know and I will be happy to arrange it.

**Cllr S Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing**



## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 6**

#### **Cllr. Duffy to Cllr King**

Why is NBC being so slow to enact or put into effect recommendations from the Thorplands community resilience meetings to make Thorplands a safer place to live, e.g. installation of CCTV by shop?

#### **Response**

A multi-agency steering group, including community safety officers, the neighbourhood warden, the police, youth agencies, NCC, NPH, the ward Councillor and local community and voluntary groups, has been set up to look at the community safety issues in Thorplands, the first meeting was held during the last week of July and the second meeting just 2 weeks ago. Several actions have been agreed and are being followed up by partners, following consultation via a survey and two local engagement events, that have been developed and taken place, since the first meeting. An environmental visual audit of the area has also been carried out with the Crime Prevention Officer, detailing a series of environmental recommendations, this has led to a coordinated plan for fly tipping and rubbish with NPH and Veolia.

Funding has been identified and an application is being progressed, for youth work and basketball sessions to run from October – March. The anti-social behaviour team are working with the police to look at tackling individuals who are causing anti-social behaviour and a letter drop to every resident is being arranged to communicate the support that is available and highlighting reporting mechanisms.

With regards to CCTV, the Council is working in partnership with Northampton Partnership Homes on the current housing development in and around the Thorplands shopping area including CCTV and once the building works are completed the existing CCTV will be operational and any additional requirements will be assessed at that time.

#### **Cllr A King**

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement**

## **Questions for Full Council Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

### **Question 13**

#### **Norman Adams to Cllr Hibbert**

Can you give assurance that ANY rents (including service charges) will not in any year exceed the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate?

#### **Response**

No. Whilst the Council will seek to set rents at the lowest level possible and uses LHA as a guide to the maximum it would wish to charge in respect of rent, it cannot commit at this time to never exceeding the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate.

The LHA rate is set by the Valuation Office Agency Rent Officers in accordance with Government guidance and legislation. If the LHA rate is frozen, for example, this may constrain future house building where charging a higher rent may make the difference between building council homes and not building them.

**Cllr S Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing**



## Cabinet Member Report for Leader of the Council

### Northampton Borough Council

14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Since my last report to Council I have continued to work with the Cabinet, Members, the Chief Executive and Officers across all areas of the Council albeit once again virtually, in light of the ongoing Government guidance to work from home wherever possible. Many of these activities and issues are referred to in Cabinet colleagues' reports.

#### **Covid-19**

It has been an incredibly busy period of activity since my last update for Council in July. From the end of July, the local outbreak was becoming apparent - initially across a couple of wards within the Northampton Borough area, but that then was overtaken by the outbreak at Greencore, a key employer at Moulton Park. As a result, and with the Government's focus now on managing outbreaks at a local level and for the Leader of the Local Authority to be front and centre of engagement with the local community, I found myself involved in the weekly press conferences which began at the end of July and have proved to be an extremely effective way of keeping the town up to date with our situation and the latest guidance, and at the height of the Greencore media interest in August, we had over 60 people on the Zoom media briefing. It was important to take every opportunity available to alert local people to the risks and to the guidance for staying safe, but also to reassure that all the right actions were being taken to reduce infection rates, and so this level of media interest led to opportunities to do this through radio and TV interviews which included BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio Northampton, Inspiration FM, Heart Radio/LBC, ITV, Sky's Good Morning, BBC national TV News, BBC Look East and also on Channel S, an Asian Network Channel, which was particularly useful for us to get some of the key messages across to some specific communities within the Borough. I am grateful to Cllr. Haque for arranging the visit by Channel S to Northampton.

In terms of the local outbreak, this has been managed through a Strategic Command Group which I have therefore ensured that I attended regularly, to ensure that I am fully up to speed with all of the key data and activities that are taking place in relation to what is happening in Northampton.

As I write this report, I am pleased to say - although there is no room to be complacent - that Northampton's figures are diminishing, but because of the outbreak in Greencore, we are understandably still an area of government intervention, although that is still specifically aimed at the self-isolation of Greencore employees until the 5<sup>th</sup> September. I think it is important to stress the excellent work that is being undertaken by our staff, perhaps particularly by Ruth Austen and her team, Vicki Rockall and her teams and Town Centre Management and Wardens who have all gone above and beyond to ensure that we manage these local outbreaks in both a rapid and a proactive fashion.

Linked to this, I have also (again because of the focus around local outbreaks being managed locally) been a regular attendee at the Oversight & Engagement Board, which is chaired by Cllr Ian Morris (NCC) which takes place weekly, where we understand from the Director of Public Health (Lucy Wightman) and a range of other specialist Officers, activities not just within Northampton but across the County and wider Subregion, and how we are managing activity. These meetings are streamed on YouTube as well.

The economic recovery of the town is crucially important, and the Eat Out to Help Out scheme has helped to encourage people back to the food and beverage industry across the Borough. Feedback from the fifty four town centre venues that participated in the scheme is that it was a success for them. I am also continuing to attend the weekly Town Centre Task Force meetings, coordinated by the BID, to ensure that we not only maintain and promote the Covid safe guidelines, but also look at further ways to <sup>22</sup>drive footfall back into the Town Centre.

Most recently I have been pleased to work alongside Cllr. Stone in the development of videos by young people, in which Northampton Association of Youth Clubs facilitated a socially distanced workshop, held outside in the Guildhall courtyard, which enabled around twenty young people to discuss the risks and important guidance to be followed to stay safe. From this, videos have been produced for social media, which will be posted through our media channels and also by the young people themselves. Given the age range and the many cultural communities represented by the young people involved, it is hoped that these messages will reach many important parts of the town's community.

### **Future Northants Activity**

With less than 7 months before Vesting Day, work around both the Future Northants programme and the more formal Executive and Council meetings continues at a pace.

The Exec meetings alongside the West Northants Shadow Authority meetings continue via Zoom and have taken place in July and August. There have also been similar monthly meetings of the Joint Implementation Executive, which continue on a monthly basis. The focus has been around the development of the Blueprint, which you will all have seen, and which is now starting to take shape in terms of the key functions which will be present within the new West Northants Council. Further work and meetings continue on the Blueprint, which will be formally signed off at the West Northants Shadow Authority Executive in September, but before then there will be an opportunity for all members to attend a briefing session to understand the detail and ask questions.

July and August were also busy in terms of the preparations for the Senior Recruitment of the three statutory officers for West Northants Council, firstly beginning with some interview panel training which I attended, which was then closely followed by the recruitment of the Chief Executive for West Northants Council, including both the long-listing and short-listing meetings and then the 2 day interviews themselves.

Earlier this month I was involved in the recruitment of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) for West Northants and that role alongside the S151 Officer will be formally ratified at the next West Northants Shadow Authority Council meeting in September, completing the 3 key Statutory roles for the new Council.

The work around the Task & Finish Groups continues and as Chair of the Communications & Engagement Group, we have met twice in July and once in August to progress the development of the visual identity (logo and branding) of the new West Northants Council. Some of you may now have seen the three shortlisted designs which we are now testing through a public survey with residents across West Northants, as well as Elected Members and staff, in order that we can finalise this by the autumn.

My work on the Vision & Values Task & Finish Group, chaired by Ian McCord, continues and again we hope to test some of the thinking behind that with residents, partners and staff as well as Elected Members in the coming weeks. My view is that the culture within the new council will be a highly significant factor in its level of success, as will its ability to demonstrate values of putting residents and customers first.

Outside of these formal meetings, there continues to be a range of meetings linked to the further development of the West Northants Council. I was pleased that the Leader, Cllr Ian McCord, and I were able to meet with Danny Moody of NCALC to ensure that Town and Parish Councils retain a prominent part within the wider partnership arena across the West Northants area from April 2021.

### **Economic Growth**

Although we have just gone through the summer months, activity within the Economic Growth arena continues at a rapid pace and the Northampton Forward Board continues to meet as it looks to develop the Town Investment Plan as part of the wider Towns Fund that I have referenced within previous reports here at Council. We have had presentations from Grant Thornton who are working with us on the development of the Investment Plan and have just launched a public consultation on the proposed areas for investment, to support our Town Investment Plan which we are required to submit by the end of October.

### **Sub-regional Activities**

My involvement in both the Arc Leaders Group and East Midlands Councils continue and I have been pleased to attend various meetings in July, August and September both on behalf of Northampton and the wider West Northants Authority.

As I have mentioned before, it is particularly important that we have a seat at these sub-regional meetings to ensure that future opportunities are grasped when they come along, but also so that we can take best practice and learning back to Northampton to ensure that we continue with our ambitious growth plans across the town.

### **Other Activities**

Following Council back in July, and representation made by Northampton Town Football Supporters Trust, I am pleased to say that myself alongside the Chief Executive met with representatives from the Football Supports Trust in August to hear from them and their views in relation to ensuring activities in and around the Football Club continue to thrive, we will be meeting with the Football Club shortly.

I was also pleased to attend a virtual Federation of Small Businesses networking event, in which I was able to update them on how any local outbreak would manifest itself in terms of management at a local level and any potential impact that may have on local businesses, should we go into a potential lockdown scenario. I was also glad to be able to thank the FSB for their help during the administration of the covid business grants, when they assisted businesses to provide the necessary evidence to support their grant applications.

Civic events during the past few months have all mainly been marked online; something which NBC colleagues and the others involved in them have adapted to incredibly well, and VJ Day was marked in the same way. For my part, it was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of the council as part of this event.

**Cllr Jonathan Nunn**  
**Leader of the Council**

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have continued to play an active role in the establishment of a Unitary Council for West Northamptonshire and the transition to it as a member of the Shadow Executive and as Chair of two Task & Finish Groups – Civic Matters and Equalities. However, I'm continuing to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council. I can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

### **Market**

Foot fall on the market remains approximately 35% down on pre Covid levels creating a tough trading environment for our market traders. Throughout July and August, traders were offered a concession on their rents to enable them to choose whether to trade during these uncertain times, which has helped in the slow recovery of the town. To further support our traders, we have also decided to reduce Saturday's market rents by nearly 50% until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

### **Councillor Development / Democratic Services**

Meetings are continuing to be held virtually over Zoom and are still working very well; they are continuing to attract public interest. My thanks to our Democratic Services staff for facilitating these so successfully.

The Democratic and Member Services Manager was involved in the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) zoom event that celebrated 20 years of Scrutiny at the end of July 2020. There was a Panel of just four that had been invited to speak about how scrutiny had evolved since its inception. The Panel comprised:

- Director of Research, CfPS;
- Chair, Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO);
- Democratic and Member Services Manager, Northampton Borough Council;
- A Scrutiny Councillor from Sheffield City Council.

Around 60 other attendees observed the Panel in discussion and then posed several questions to the Panel. Public participation and the work programming process at Northampton received a lot of interest. A recording of the event has been published on the CfPS website.

The Mayor has continued to attend events virtually, attending very few socially distanced outside engagements. VJ Day was a great success and the event was published on the Mayor's Facebook account, and the Council's YouTube account.

Member briefings are continuing with them being held remotely. An external provider hosted a training event on 21<sup>st</sup> July regarding Member involvement in the pre-planning application process. A remote briefing session for Members on Planning Legislation is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> September and further sessions will be programmed as required.

A presentation / briefing session will shortly be arranged for all Members regarding the Service Blueprint for West Northamptonshire Council.

### **Legal Services**

The Litigation and Licensing team has continued to assist with and advise remote licensing committees, including working with the Licensing Unit to bring forward a report concerning the creation of the new Pavement License scheme and the delegations to officers necessary to implement and enforce it.

The Legal team has also started criminal proceedings in the Magistrates' Court in relation to a rogue HMO landlord and two others for a combined total of 182 offences in respect of 8 unlicensed HMO properties, although the Court has not given NBC a hearing date yet.

### **Electoral Services**

The electoral services team have been involved in the introduction of the reformed electoral register canvass this year. The reformed canvass required a national data match to determine to what extent we canvass properties this year. Where all residents at a property match, we are just required to send 1 letter to each household informing them who is registered. Where 1 or more person in the property does not match, we are required to canvass as before. We have completed our data match for this year's canvass and just 30% of properties needed to undergo the full canvass. We currently only have 18,555 properties left who need to respond to the canvass this year. This compares to 44,905 properties that were outstanding at the same stage last year.

As part of the reformed canvass we are now able to canvass using email and telephone in order to reduce costs. We have recently sent emails to properties who did not respond to the first form and we are receiving responses. We will be conducting our first telephone canvass at the end of September.

### **Street Lighting**

The project is now forecast to finish in November although there will be ongoing remedial actions continuing post project to tie up loose ends such as lighting in the Gallery pub car park which has been reported as insufficient. Work at St Crispin's will be undertaken once estates have confirmed land ownership and established maintenance responsibilities for hedges etc. The project is still within the original budget.

### **Rail Issues**

Public consultation on the England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Transport Strategy continues. In the background evidence supporting the Strategy is a Phase One of the Passenger Rail Study for the Heartland. This is a baseline assessment of the current rail network. Northampton is a Case Study in the baseline study. The study highlights the fact that Northampton has a relatively sparse rail service, being effectively at the ends of commuter services to London and Birmingham that make frequent stops, with relatively poor connectivity to other parts of the Heartland served by other railways, making road travel more attractive and competitive. Consultation on the Transport Strategy closes on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020. It is intended that the Council will submit representations in response to this consultation.

### **Flooding**

At the time of writing, I'm still asking for the Watercourse Survey documents to be published.

The survey documents are currently with the Head of Economic Growth and Regeneration who is in discussion with the grounds maintenance team regarding a maintenance regime moving forward.

### **Governance Review**

A meeting of the Cross-Party Working Group is scheduled to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and the agenda has been published.

**Councillor Phil Larratt**  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**



## Cabinet Member Report for Planning

### Northampton Borough Council

14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

#### Planning Policy

Public consultation on the revised Submission Draft of the Local Plan Part 2, Policies Map and Sustainability Appraisal concluded at 5pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Officers are now going through the comments received.

#### Heritage

The team has continued to deal with all Development Management consultations relating to heritage and trees to time. All applications relating to Tree Preservation Orders and Trees in Conservation Areas have also been dealt with to time.

Work on the local list continues to be progressed.

#### Planning (Development Management)

- Planning application N/2020/0399 for the redevelopment of the site to provide new 56 bed care home (Class C2) for the elderly with associated parking at 486-492 Kettering Road was approved by the Planning Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- S73 application N/2019/1277 for the variation of planning conditions to planning permission (N/2012/0909) for proposed residential development of 139 dwellings at development land, Lancaster Way, was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 28 July 2020, subject to the finalisation of a S106 agreement to secure planning obligations.
- S73 application N/2020/0458 for the variation of planning conditions to planning permission N/2018/0277 for the development of a distribution centre (Use Class B8) at Milton Ham Farm was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 28 July 2020, subject to the finalisation of a S106 agreement to secure planning obligations.
- Planning application N/2019/0755 for the conversion and extension of Belgrave House, Greyfriars to create 122 no. apartments was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 28 July 2020, subject to the finalisation of a S106 agreement to secure planning obligations.
- Planning application N/2020/0549 for new two storey extension to Critical Care Dept, realigned private road, rearranged parking layout and hard and soft landscaping improvements at Northampton General Hospital was approved on 14 August 2020.
- 100% performance for major and minor applications and 96.15% for other applications for July 2020.

#### Building Control

- Received 32 Full plan application between June and July 2020.
- Received 88 Building Notices between June and July 2020.
- Received 20 Regularisation applications between June and July 2020.
- Received and actioned 2 Dangerous Structures reports between June and July 2020.



- Received 163 notifications for the commencement of work between June and July 2020
- Issued 81 completion certificates between June and July 2020
- Carried out 699 inspections (including some virtual inspections) between June and July 2020.
- 100% of inspections booked on the same day have been carried out (including some virtual inspections) between June and July 2020.

## **Land Charges**

We have a standard KPI which we are not required to report on to return local search within 10 working days, which we have met returning searches in 2-3 working days.

We make daily updates to the LLPG (local land and property gazetteer) which feeds into all property data bases within NBC and externally to Police, Fire service etc. this is reported on monthly by a central hub. We currently have a rating of ANS (achieving national standard ) which reflects the fact we have some property data to update following the addition of new criteria in April 2020.

The ratings are as below

BNS – Below national standard  
ANS – Achieving national standard  
Bronze  
Silver  
Gold

**Councillor James Hill**  
**Cabinet Member for Planning**

### **Housing Enforcement Team – Inspections and Illegal Evictions**

During a period when the Housing Enforcement Team has had to scale back its programme of inspections, Officers have been busy providing landlords with advice and guidance on the impacts of Coronavirus and dealing with a marked increase in the number of enquiries and service requests relating to illegal eviction activity in the private rented sector.

Working closely with Northamptonshire Police, the Housing Enforcement Team has continued to target properties that are owned by large portfolio landlords and have been identified as properties of interest during the sharing and analysis of information by the partners' Intelligence Officers. These inspections have highlighted the need for formal enforcement action and resulted in a series of improvements to the inspected properties, making them safer for tenants.

### **HMO Licensing**

Northampton's HMO licensing scheme has proved invaluable in helping to prevent, tackle and control the spread of COVID-19 by enabling specific advice and guidance (produced in a variety of languages) to be targeted at the owners and tenants of HMOs in particular areas. It was especially useful when a large number of Greencore employees tested positive for the virus.

Throughout the pandemic, the Housing Enforcement Team has continued to support landlords with the licensing of their HMOs. Following changes to the Government's COVID-19 guidance for landlords and tenants, the team has started to send questionnaires and guidance on the HMO licencing requirements to people suspected of operating a licensable HMO without a licence.

### **Ongoing Support for Rough Sleepers**

In my last report, I explained that the Council has been using one of the University of Northampton's halls of residence to accommodate rough sleepers since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

With the support of the University, it has been agreed that the Council will continue to use the hall of residence, for an additional three months, until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Since the end of March 2020, a total of 162 men and women have been provided with emergency accommodation for at least one night. Of these, 92 (57%) had been sleeping rough for a long time or had been sleeping rough for an extended period on numerous occasions, 39 (24%) had been sleeping rough for only a short period of time and 31 (19%) had never slept rough but were at imminent risk of having to sleep rough.

At present, 15 of the 25 rough sleepers who are being accommodated in the hall of residence are non-UK nationals. This includes 14 Eastern Europeans, most of whom had previously been living in the makeshift shelters and tent encampments on the outskirts of Northampton. If International Lighthouse is able to resolve their immigration status and benefit eligibility issues, this will increase, to more than 30, the number of Eastern Europeans moved on into settled housing.

### **Home Adaptations Team – Disabled Facilities Grants**

Changes to the Government's COVID-19 social distancing guidance have enabled the team to be more proactive in the delivery of the Home Adaptations Service. Officers have been contacting customers whose applications were put on hold during the lockdown in order to progress their applications and ensure that the disabled facilities are provided as soon as practicable.

In July 2020, Cabinet approved a new Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy which refreshes the policy on mandatory disabled facilities grants and makes use of the Regulatory Reform Order to provide additional discretionary housing assistance.

## **Northampton Partnership Homes**

Looking after its staff and the Council's tenants and leaseholders remains NPH's main priority.

### Emergency maintenance and essential compliance and safety works

Despite the current challenges of COVID-19 in Northampton, NPH has returned to a more normal service with non-urgent repairs being undertaken in homes where it is safe to do so. Risk assessments are carried out to ensure that works can be completed safely.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, when all non-urgent works were put on hold, a backlog of more than 2,900 requests built up. This backlog is now being addressed and, although it could take up to six months to complete them all, the backlog of requests has now reduced to 1,461.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, a number of the Council's properties did not comply with the gas safety regulations due to the tenants isolating or COVID-19 being present. NPH has confirmed that the backlog of gas servicing is now complete and it is now at 100% compliance.

All neighbourhood investment works have been resumed following COVID-19.

### Neighbourhoods and housing services

Unfortunately, incidents of anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and fly tipping remain high. Although some of the enforcement measures that are normally used are not possible at the moment, NPH is dealing with reported cases of ASB as quickly as possible and is working closely with the Police to keep the neighbourhoods safe and ensure that serious cases are taken through the Courts as soon as they reopen.

In line with Government instructions, evictions have been put on hold. The ban on evictions has been extended until 20 September 2020 and, except in cases involving ASB or domestic abuse, six months' notice will need to be given for evictions.

The Government has stated that, when possession hearings resume, cases involving ASB and other crimes will be prioritised, along with those where the landlord has not received any rent for more than a year.

Tenancy visits by housing staff have resumed.

### New build development works

Work on all new build sites is now progressing well and the national shortage of certain materials is now abating. This means that NPH is now able to plan and forecast completion of the projects with a higher degree of accuracy.

### Service delivery moving forward

NPH has now completed its new "way of working" plan which acknowledges that COVID-19 is likely to have an impact for a long time and is designed to ensure that residents are provided with the best possible service. The office layout at Westbridge has been changed to assist social distancing, and additional measures have been put in place to protect staff and prevent the spread of the virus. From the middle of September 2020, staff will be returning to work on a rota basis with a mix of home working and office working.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing**

### **Councillor Community Fund**

Since 1 April 2020, a total of £34,274 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards. £16,200 of the total has funded organisations that are directly supporting those most vulnerable in our communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional funding available, £2,000 for each Councillor, to directly support groups/organisations that have suffered loss or have not been able to fund raise as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Nine applications have been supported to the value of £4,250.

### **Northampton Community Resilience Hub**

Total requests for support through the Northampton Community Resilience Hub totals 1,139. We are continuing to see a decline in referrals and averaging between 5-10 new referrals a week.

Breakdown of the figures include:

62% food (collection, parcels, shopping), 27% prescriptions, 6% loneliness, 2% support to get online and 3% other.

Recovery plan is in place with partners, which focuses on mental health, food provision, infrastructure support for the newly formed pop up groups, the capacity of the volunteers and a community place-based pilot.

The Community Safety and Engagement Team have been supporting the community engagement actions, related to the local outbreak, sharing messages across our community engagement networks, on how to self-isolate, car sharing, testing, face coverings and how to keep yourself and others safe. Community leaders have supported in getting these messages translated, in a variety of different languages, which can be accessed via: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/latestcovid19advice>

### **Forums**

International Youth Day celebrated by Youth Forum virtually on Wednesday 12 August and joined by the Mayor, Cllr Brian Sargeant.

**Events** – To provide clarity for event organisers, support government guidance regarding preventing the spread of the virus and minimising the risk of local outbreaks, all events that could potentially attract over 30 participants have been cancelled and will not be permitted for the remainder of the year. Event applications are still coming through, all are being assessed and smaller events granted permission if suitable risk assessments are provided. Examples of events denied permission are:

- Darkness into Light from McCarthy Dixon Foundation. Racecourse (no date given)
- Working Horse Demo from Mavis Wilmhurst. Hunsbury Hill Country Park – 20 September
- Charity Fair from Ioana Mihai. Racecourse – 22 August.

### **Culture & Heritage**

Due to the local Covid-19 situation in Northampton the reopening of Abington Park Museum was delayed from early August to the end of month. A review of safe working practices and procedures for opening the museum in line with government and museum sector guidance has resulted in revised opening hours of Saturday and Sunday due to additional member of staff required to open safely to visitors and staff. The museum has attained the 'We're Good To Go' industry standard and supporting mark, meanings the museum can demonstrate we are adhering to the respective Government and public health guidance, have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and check have the required processes in place.

### **Museum Expansion Project**

The final elements of building and snagging works are almost completed by Wildgoose Construction Ltd. A two-week deep clean of the building was undertaken and exhibition installation has now begun. Installation progress under Covid 19 safe working conditions is being monitored to determine if there is any impact on programme under these new and untested working conditions.

**Customer Services** – In preparation for increased impact on the Contact centre due to increased debt and homelessness, we are planning to increase online contact and with support from Communications we have organised our 'Save time – do it on-line strapline. This has been added to the email signature and our online services have also been promoted on social media and within the messages on the ACD (Automated Call Distribution).



Due to the changing world that we are in we are planning for an increased in anxiety, frustrations and aggression and have arranged refresher training for all frontline staff to cover the following techniques:

- Diffusing conflict/difficult situations
- Best practice when dealing with angry residents
- Defensiveness- how to deal with it
- How best to explain news that you feel will not be received well
- Conflict Management and dealing with difficult situations/customers effectively
- How to respond when dealing with sensitive issues
- Understanding where the customer is coming from

### **Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour**

Community Safety Strategy for 2020-2022, has now been finalised and approved by the Community Safety Partnership – final copy can be viewed at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/download/3447/northampton-community-safety-plan-2020---2022>

£550,000 secured through the Safer Streets Fund, which is a Home Office grant scheme, launched formally in early 2020. An application was submitted for Northampton via the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners Office. The funding will allow us to extend our CCTV network to cover key sites across the area, which stretches from the inner ring road to Northampton School for Boys, between Wellingborough Road and Bedford Road.

It will also allow us to introduce measures on the Bouverie Estate, such as removal of walls to eliminate hiding places, and introduction of fencing around gardens to make them more secure. We will also look to install cycle parking facilities across the area and carry out a campaign of community engagement to increase understanding of home security and engagement with Neighbourhood Watch.

Bike Marking Events - 6 August; between 40-50 bikes marked at Midsummer meadows,

9 August - Bike marking event in Abington Park, 53 bikes marked – also used the opportunity on both occasions to distribute the COVID-19 leaflets – offering advice to the public on how to stay safe.

Partnership Community Engagement days with the Police and Northampton Partnership Homes throughout August – to build community resilience and deliver community safety messages in Thorplands, Ecton Brook, Bellinge and Blackthorn.

PSPO application to be progressed to gate a public highway between Dunster Street and St Michael's Road, where there are high levels of ASB and criminal activity taking place.

Work to start in the coming weeks on the Skate Park at Lings Wood – Contractor now appointed.

There are currently 12 active cases being managed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Managers:

1 x Community Protection Warning has been issued due to persistent targeting of businesses, refusing to leave and being verbally abusive.

1 x gang related Criminal Behaviour Order is in court in September as well as 3 x Serious Crime Prevention Orders which the ASB Case Managers have helped to put together in partnership with the police.

2 x Criminal Behaviour Orders are currently being put together for persistent offenders causing issues in the town centre.

1 x partial closure order application submitted and temporarily granted (in relation to drug dealing, drug taking and ASB) – full hearing to take place in the next few weeks

**Councillor Anna King**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety**



## Cabinet Member Report for Finance

### Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

#### Finance

The Finance Teams (NBC & LGSS/NCC) are reviewing the SoA 2018-19 working papers, prior to the Auditors return in October. They are also finalising the draft Statement of Accounts (SoA) for 2019-20.

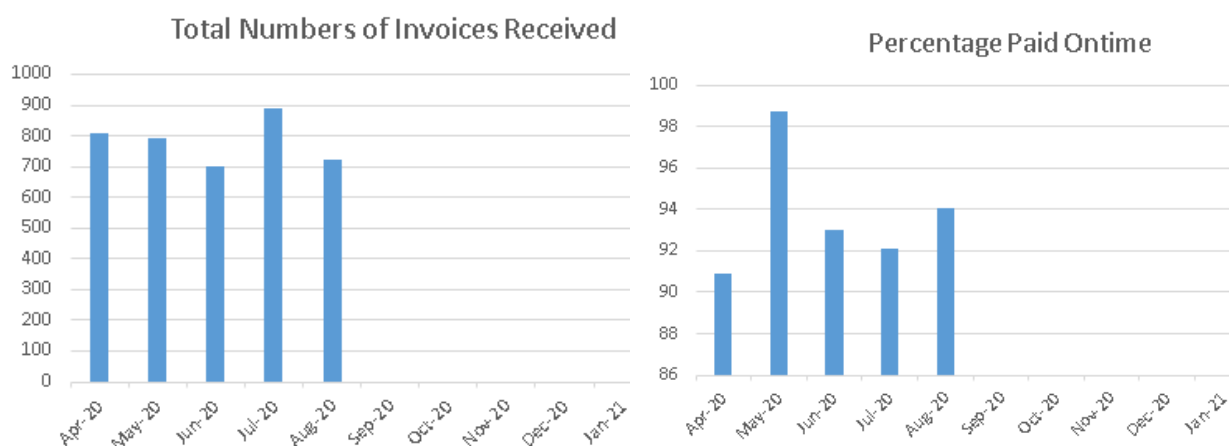
Whilst the Finance Team will not be building a budget for NBC for 2021-22, they will be part of the new West Northants Council resource to construct the first budget for the new council, in respect of the elements that will be moving across from this council.

Cabinet received a additional Finance Monitoring Report in August and the Period 4 report will have been received at Cabinet on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. I am pleased to advise that that report reflects a decrease in the projected year end overspend to below £1M. This may reduce further as we understand better the grant requirements and our ability to claim for loss of fees and charges directly related to Covid19.

We expect to have a more detailed report at Cabinet in October that will outline our costs and pressures relating the pandemic, reflecting the mid-year position and a better understanding of how the remainder of the year might pan out.

NBC currently has £4.271M this is a growth of c£400K from that reported in July, however £1.070M of the aged debt is under 30 days. NBC has, in accordance with Government Guidance not sought to actively pursue debt during the initial three months of the pandemic. Soft reminders have now commenced, with a view to formal actions if required, when the courts open proper.

Although the Accounts Payable/Receivable Team have suffered from reduced resources as a result of the pandemic, they continue to operate a good service and seek to pay invoices on time, despite the complexities of remote working and new processes.



This service area is perhaps one of the most affected within my portfolio in respect of working to support the Covid19 solutions.

Council Tax collection remains volatile, at present the core collection rate has not dropped materially. However, our forecasts suggest that once the furlough schemes come to an end, the phased reduction commencing now, we can anticipate an increase in benefit claims and a reduction in Council Tax payments received.

BEIS Business Grants Schemes have now closed. Final applications within the system are being processed at speed as all final payments must be made by the end of September, the balance of the funds provided will then need to be returned to Government.

I am pleased to advise that our teams, through Scheme One, have distributed c2,700 grants to business in our Borough, with a value of £34M. With Scheme Two (Discretionary Scheme) seeing £1.720M distributed to c260 businesses

This is addition to the £34M of Business Rates relief across the Small Business, Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Nurseries sectors. Cancelling and adjusting all of these bills has consumed more of this service resource.

In respect of collection rates and debt management, the Management Board and service have complied with Government Guidance and sought to actively support those that cannot pay or are having difficulty paying, through moving payments schedules from 10 instalments to 12, signposting to benefits and use of the hardship fund in extreme cases. We are mindful that with the Furlough Scheme being phased out, there may be an increase in job losses leading to an increased activity in benefit claims and a reduction in Council Tax collected. We are also very aware of the risk and impact on Business Rates (National Non-Domestic Rates – NNDR) in the current year and future years.

## **Facilities Management**

The Facilities Team like many businesses, have suffered income loss for bookings etc. With the lockdown easing, there is a revival of enquiries and with some future bookings being taken.

The Guildhall Team managed the first wedding since lock down in the Court Room on Saturday 11th July, this was for 30 people, with social distancing measures in place; everything went well, and the bride and groom were very happy.

NCC Registration Service have also started to perform wedding and civil partnership ceremonies at the Guildhall since 4th July

The Guildhall Team are beginning to receive enquiries for wedding ceremonies, receptions and events for 2021 and beyond and have 2 confirmed wedding ceremonies booked for September 2020 (with COVID restrictions)

The teams continue to work hard to support all services with deep cleaning, installed new security doors in the Guildhall, protective screens in the One Stop Shop, maintaining the full post room service, where scanning documents for electronic use is even more critical than normal.

Post Room dispatched a total of 45,519 items of post



1,088 incoming documents scanned onto EDRMS - Overall scanning accuracy – 100 %

890 incoming Revs and Bens documents indexed in total - Overall indexing accuracy – 100%

3,734 incoming Revs and Bens e-mails indexed

927 planning letters e-mailed in by home workers – printed, enveloped and dispatched by Post Room

582 items of mail usually distributed to departments by Post Room trolley, scanned and e-mailed to departments by Post Room.

### **Wider CFO Team**

The wider teams continue to actively support the wider front-line services in respect of HR matters, Wellbeing, Health & Safety, ICT, Governance, Risk Management, Audit and general financial support.

All CFO teams are actively seeking to support Future Northants, whilst maintaining 'Business As Usual' (BAU) and Covid related challenges.

**Councillor Brandon Eldred**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**

## Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration & Enterprise



Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### ECONOMY AND ASSETS

#### Property Maintenance

- Streetlight project continues to progress well and remains within budget. There is a slight delay to numerous unknown power supplies feeding NBC lights which require more tracing than anticipated.
- Rectory Farm Community Centre has now been completed and handed over to the users. Feedback on the new facility has been very positive.
- Blackthorn Community centre extension has had been delayed due to additional financial checks. This is aimed to be resolved shortly with a start date to follow.
- Abington Museum roof has had recent water ingress, costs to repair have been received including lead replacement along with some roof timbers a quotation process will take place shortly given approximate value of works
- Delapre Lodge Railings – A tender for the repairs to the railings was issued in late July with the responses due to be submitted by the end of August. The responses will then be evaluated ahead of appointing the successful contractor.
- Day to day calls and emails for responsive maintenance have increased since lockdown restrictions were eased with an upturn to around 80% on pre lockdown figures
- Regulatory compliance works continue through our planned maintenance

#### Corporate Assets

- The community asset transfers approved by Cabinet in May for transfer to Billing, Duston, East Hunsbury, Upton and Wootton Parish Councils are progressing.
- Rectory Farm House is being prepared to sell in September at market value, part of the capital receipt reinvested in the local area for the community centre.
- The review of assets continues, Cabinet will consider transfers in September to include a Land adjacent to Wootton Cemetery for transfer to Wootton Parish Council to continue community use, the marketing of Becketts park pavilion in line with the masterplan for the Park for use as a community café, the transfer of a small plot of land in Blackthorn to create a larger pharmacy for the area and one regularisation of a site used for private parking of two vehicles.
- Assets have been asked to consider sites identified for civic use as part of the creation of Northampton Town Council, Kingsthorpe Parish Council and Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council, noting this is still under varying degrees of consultation. It is necessary as part of a new Council formation to

consider where they may be based and a process for reviewing of community, recreational and heritage asset transfer.

- The Community Shop sales are progressing, most of the tenants expressing an interest to buy the shops. The Council valuations are complete and discussions have begun with the tenants.
- As reported by finance in the late May Cabinet, COVID 19 will impact the Council's commercial property income, the estates team are working with tenants to mitigate the loss of income but also to try to ensure a recovery model can be agreed by both parties wherever possible. Tenants are being signposted to the information on funding and encouraged to obtain all the support they can. It is too early to know the full effect of the lockdown but further updates will be provided to Council as this becomes clearer.

### Town Centre

- Footfall across the town centre and market square is increasing slowly however it is still around 40% down on the previous year. This is consistent with the falls in car parking volumes as these are also around 40% less compared to last year.
- The council continues to work with the BID and the County Council over the plans for the opening of the high street and attracting people back into the town. Steps that have been taken to date include:
  - Signage and promotion in the town centre of compliance and guidelines – i.e. wear a face mask and reinforcing of the key messaging. Licensing measures have been eased so working with businesses to take advantage of this.
  - Active travel walking and cycling – creation of additional road space for cyclists and pedestrians, also looking at introducing secure cycle parking and new cycle lanes.
  - Working with partners and the BID to support businesses through supporting their compliance, understanding of the key messaging etc.
- North Gate is fully operational with signage in place in the building and in each bus shelter promoting the mandatory use of face coverings in the station and on buses
- Close working with Public Health teams have been taking place to enable the setting up and smooth running of additional testing facilities in the town centre.

### **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION**

- Towns Fund: Work on the development of a Town Investment Plan (TIP) continues with SWOT analysis presented to Northampton Forward Board in August and a consultation on the long list of projects was launched at the beginning of September. There are three cohorts for submissions in July 2020, October 2020, March 2021, Northampton's TIP will be submitted in the October cohort.

- We still await an announcement about funding from the Future High Street Fund with Government stating that this announcement will be due in the Autumn.
- Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub – Continuum Sport and Leisure in partnership with Hawkins Brown Architects have been appointed and stage 1 of the work is complete. The consultant team have engaged with key stakeholders and will continue do so and are now exploring facility mix options. A wide consultation on the proposals will be launching in early Sept with a virtual room where people can go in and explore different ‘walls’, find out more about the project and leave their anonymous comments and will be going out to consultation. There will also be three surveys, a public survey, leisure centre user survey and a health survey to capture a range of stakeholder’s views.
- Greyfriars – Proposals for the site to be used as a compound for the works the works to Belgrave House have been approved and the site is now in use.
- 24 Guildhall Road – Northampton Borough Council in partnership with NN contemporary has bid successfully for part of the government’s new Getting Building Fund (GBF). The £1.2 million grant will be used to relocate and refurbish space for use by NN Contemporary Art to new Guildhall Road premises in the heart of Northampton’s Cultural Quarter. The project will create a gallery and a series of artists’ workshops for NN, and the rest of the building will be used to house other cultural businesses
- COVID-19: in response to the C-19 pandemic, the Government made several funding streams available to support the business community. Initially, NBC received £37m to issue to local businesses as part of the Small Business Grant and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Fund. The Council have paid out around 98% of this funding to businesses operating from more than 2940 premises in the Borough.
- Northampton Museum and art Gallery – Snagging work continues on site with this aiming to be completed shortly. Once this is complete the fit can commence in full, with this being delayed at the moment due to the delicate nature of some of the displays.
- Vulcan Works Cultural Hub – Work is still progressing well on site with the main buildings now really taking shape which is changing the feel of that area of the town. The entrance way rebuilt in Guildhall Road and replacement bricks now being installed. Timber roof works are well underway in the Victorian Workshops and the Maple boarding is almost complete in Fetter Street. Brickwork and window installation mostly complete and partitioning almost complete on all floors of St Johns block

**CLLR TIM HADLAND**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ENTERPRISE**

### **Environmental Services Contract**

All services are running normally, refuse and recycling are being collected, streets cleansed and grounds maintenance teams are still active. Whilst there is still a slight reduction in workforce due to shielding and isolation as a result of Covid19 Veolia and idverde have managed consistently well. The Partnership Unit and Veolia continue to look at areas for improvement and have recently increased bulky waste slots in line with demand.

The Contracts Manager continues to monitor the services provided and is now able to resume work on long standing projects such as improvements at Westbridge Depot, the refurbishment of the Racecourse basketball courts, upgrading the Towcester Road Cemetery chapel and working with community groups on environmental projects such as replacing street trees.

The teams have also started to prepare for the forthcoming football season, replacing goal posts and starting to mark out pitches. The wardens and rangers continue to monitor compliance with regard to the Covid19 guidelines and advice from Sport England and the Football Association.

The high volume of people using the parks continues to present a number of challenges regarding inappropriate use of facilities including swimming in Delapre lake, illegal encampments, lack of social distancing and a high amount of litter but the council and Veolia have worked together to try and improve the situation by installing additional bin capacity and working with the park rangers to help educate users. To supplement this, a project is in place to install additional signage around play areas and tie in with local media to try and prevent any further misuse of the facilities.

July also saw the launch the annual Envirogrant Scheme which will allow community groups to apply for funding up to a maximum of £1000 each to support their efforts in improving or protecting their local environment.

### **Environmental Services (Direct Services)**

Wardens and Park Rangers working hard to support the response to the Covid 19 situation in Northampton carrying out patrols, public engagement and business interactions. They have been very actively involved in the recent local outbreak, delivering leaflets, answering questions and reassuring members of the public.

### **Environmental Health**

The Food and safety team are heavily involved in the response to the covid 19 situation in Northampton and the Outbreak at Greencore. They also continue to monitor the business premises and their adherence to guidelines and also the night time economy.

The latest Air quality data has been uploaded to the Council's website.

The installation of the electric vehicle charging points is now progressing following a delay due to Covid19.

**Councillor Mike Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

**Council - 14 September 2020**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020</b>
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**Agenda Status: PUBLIC**

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020, as attached at Appendix A.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020.

## **3. Background and Issues**

- 3.1 Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report annually to Council on its workings and make recommendations for further work programmes, and amended working methods if appropriate. Attached at Appendix A is the thirteenth Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council, covering the Municipal year 2019/2020. It aims to provide a succinct summary of the work of the Scrutiny Panels appointed, as well as the main issues scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the course of the year.

## **4. Options**

- 4.1 This report is for information and therefore there are no options for decision.

## **5. Implications (including financial implications)**

### **5.1 Priorities**

- 5.1.1 Effective Overview and Scrutiny arrangements leading to improvements in service design and delivery contribute to achieving the ambition of being a well managed Council where the customer is at the heart of what we do.

## **5.2 Policy Framework**

5.2.1 The work of Overview and Scrutiny plays a major part in the development of the Council's policy framework. This is identified in the Annual Report.

## **5.3 Resources and Risk**

5.3.1 Not applicable.

## **5.4 Legal**

### **5.4.1 Statutory power to undertake the proposals as set out in the report**

5.4.1.1 The duties to undertake Overview and Scrutiny are set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

## **5.5 Equality**

5.5.1 Overview and Scrutiny carries out Community Impact Assessments for its Reviews.

## **5.6 Consultees (Internal and External)**

5.6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/2020 has been consulted on the content of the Annual Report.

## **6. Background Papers**

Key background information: -

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee agendas and minutes
- Overview and Scrutiny Review reports

Report Author and Title: Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager on behalf of Councillor Jamie Lane ,  
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Telephone: : 0300 330 7000



# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020

## A Message from Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Annual Report is a summary of just some of the work Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) has done this year, what has worked well and what issues we need to concentrate more on next year.

It has been another very busy and interesting year for O&S with one in-depth reviews being undertaken and two Working Group undertaking Scrutiny activity:

Food Poverty  
Gangs and Knife Crime  
Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

Due to the unprecedented situation of the Covid19 pandemic, our meetings, like others across Local Government were halted in March 2020 therefore Review work also ceased. We had to quickly bring in a new way of working and remote meetings became the new normal way of hosting a Committee meeting. My Committee started meeting remotely again in June 2020, with the Review work commencing again in July. Reviews will therefore not report their findings until the autumn at the earliest. I would like to invite you to observe a meeting of our Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Panels but watching it on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/northamptonbcTV> or you can still address a meeting by registering to speak with the [Democratic and Member Services Manager](#).

I have continued to promote the good work of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton wider. I am delighted that again this year, the Centre for Public Scrutiny has again noted Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council as examples of good practice. It will be publishing in its 2020 edition of Scrutiny Frontiers information about our comprehensive Work Programming event and one of our in-depth Scrutiny Reviews – Homelessness.

Overview and Scrutiny work continues to be member-led and evidence-based. It is fundamental that the work of scrutiny adds value and improvement and I will very much look forward to presenting the outcome of 2019/2020 review work to Cabinet.

Once again, we asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny reviews. Yet again the public forwarded a number of suggestions for scrutiny and I would like to emphasis that Overview and Scrutiny values and encourages the input of the public into its Work Programming. Non- Executives carefully considered the suggestions at a workshop held in March 2020. From these suggestions, Cabinet's priorities for the year and ideas put forward by Councillors, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its June 2020 meeting, approved items that it would like to consider during 2020/2021.

The Committee scrutinised the Council's budget proposals by delegating work to its Reporting and Monitoring Working Group who identified four budget proposals for the Committee to scrutinise in-depth. This Working Group will continue to meet during the Municipal year 2020/2021. I highlight that this is a process that has previously been noted as best practice. The Committee, at its meeting in July 2020, is scheduled to undertake some budget Scrutiny, in addition to the work of the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group.

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported Scrutiny over the past year. I would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported Scrutiny over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank my colleagues who chaired the Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups last year.

Overview and Scrutiny welcomes and encourages members of the public who live or work in the borough to get involved in Scrutiny. If you have any suggestions for the work of scrutiny we would welcome your comments by post or [email](#). For more information about scrutiny and to view current and past reports, please visit our website at [www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny).

Instead of a complete commentary of all that O&S has achieved over the year this Annual Report provides a summary of the key highlights of the work O&S has been engaged in during 2019/2020. I hope it reflects what I feel has been a very important year in Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton. I do hope that you find this report informative and interesting.



**Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020

## Achievements

### How was this impact made during 2019 – 2020 ?

The Scrutiny Panels carry out in-depth Scrutiny reviews, whilst the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee concentrates on strategic issues, including holding the Cabinet to account, performance management and scrutiny of crime and disorder. This structure attracts increased public participation and the involvement of non-Executives in Scrutiny reviews.

### Involvement of Non- Executives (not Scrutiny Members) in Overview and Scrutiny

The O&S structure enables non-Executives, who are not members of the O&S Committee, to be fully involved in the O&S process.

Both the Scrutiny Panel and the Working Group, this year had non-Executive Councillors who were not O&S Councillors as members. Membership for the Scrutiny Panels closed quickly as they reached maximum capacity ; this enabled the option of appointing a co-optee.

**Key Example:** The Scrutiny Panel that investigated Food Poverty was made up of five non-Executives, of which one was not O&S Councillors, demonstrating involvement of non-Executives in the O&S process. Two experts were also co-opted to the Scrutiny Panel.

### Co Optees to Scrutiny Panels

The of the Scrutiny Panel this year benefitted from the expertise and knowledge of a co optee. Paul Foster of Emmanuel Church and Clive Ireson of the Northamptonshire Community Foundation were valued co-optees

*It was really enlightening being part of the part of the food poverty scrutiny committee.*

*It was interesting to hear the different groups sharing with views on local issues close to my heart.*

*I hope the outcomes of the panel are taken up to help those in Northampton in poverty.*

**Paul Foster**  
**Emmanuel Church**

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020

*It has been really important to represent the Food Poverty Network on the Food Poverty Scrutiny Panel. I am optimistic if all - statutory and voluntary sectors work together food poverty can be eradicated from Northampton. Hopefully this report will play a part in that ambition.*

**Clive Ireston**  
**Development Manager**  
**Spring Family Centre**

## **Crime and Disorder Scrutiny**

**Key Example:** Crime and Disorder Scrutiny is an example of excellent working relationships between non-Executives and partners.

The scrutiny of crime and disorder was formalised in 2010, putting in place clear working arrangements between the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Committee. An annual report from the CSP informs the O&S Committee of work undertaken; non-Executives decide whether further review or scrutiny is required. This report focuses on the levels of performance in the light of reduced resources, if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. This demonstrates excellent working relationships between non-Executives and partners.

*Overview and Scrutiny acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee, its purpose is to review the work of the Community Safety Partnership, including the delivery of the strategy and associated action plans. The work of the Committee adds great value to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership, whose primary focus is to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour to make Northampton a safer place to work, visit and live.*

**Vicki Rockall**  
**Community Safety and Engagement Manager**

The O&S Committee has also looked at:

Gangs and Knife Crime through a Scrutiny Working Group

## **Performance Management Scrutiny**

A process enabling the Committee to identify key performance measures earlier on was introduced in 2013/14. The Committee informs the Chair prior to a meeting of the O&S Committee of performance measures that it feels warrant future scrutiny.

The scrutiny of specifically identified measures is included on the agenda of meetings of the O&S Committee. This results in measures being reviewed on an exception basis with relevant Cabinet Members being called to present information to the Committee. Cabinet Members are scrutinised on performance, the causes of underperformance and the corrective actions being taken. Active

## *Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020*

debate is undertaken and support and challenge is offered to the recommendations being made to deliver service improvements.

**Key examples:** Performance management scrutiny of:-

- HML01 – Total number of households living in temporary accommodation
- HM008 - Number of HMOs with an additional licence
- ESCO2 - Percentage of household waste recycled and composted
- ESCO9 - Percentage of fly tipping incidents removed within two working days of notification
  - PP22 – Percentage of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles inspected which comply with regulations

### **Critical Friend to Cabinet**

#### **Call-In**

At Northampton call-in is used sparingly. During 2019/2020 there were no Call-In Hearings.

### **Influencing Policy Development**

Two in-depth Scrutiny reviews and one comprehensive Scrutiny activity was undertaken during 2019/2020: These reviews are still evidence gathering as review work was halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic:

Food Poverty

Gangs and Knife Crime

Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

Review work of 2018/2019 has received Cabinet's response. Almost all of the recommendations were accepted, which highlights that Overview and Scrutiny is continuing to make significant influence of Council policy, both in terms of holding the Cabinet to account and contributing to policy development, and the well-being of the citizens of Northampton.

### **Raising the profile of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton**

The profile of O&S has continued to be raised with a number of important and successful reviews carried out during 2019/2020. O&S is keen to keep this up and invites suggestions for the work programme from various partners, Agencies and members of the public.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny will be highlighting again the work of O&S at Northampton in its publication of Scrutiny Frontiers that will be published later this year.

## *Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020*

The Scrutiny review process at Northampton is widely recognised both within the Council and amongst the citizens of Northampton which is demonstrated by their attendance and interest in the O&S Committee and its Review work.

The O&S Work Programme received extensive press coverage, locally, which just under 30 individuals responded to, suggesting over 40 ideas for future Scrutiny review.

### **Paperless Overview and Scrutiny**

As reported in the last five year's Annual Reports, the innovation attracted national interest. External interest in the innovation has again continued this year, with a number of enquiries regarding the success of the paperless Committee. However, due to the unprecedented situation of Covid-19, paperless meetings have halted as Councillors require their ICT equipment to view and take part in remote meetings, however, as soon as meetings can revert back to being face to face, I will be re-inducing paperless meetings for Overview and Scrutiny.

### **Public engagement within the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton**

O&S has included various issues referred to it from the public onto its Work Programme. The details below provide key points of how O&S work has reflected the concerns of service users.

Key example:

Food Poverty

#### **Key Example of review work during 2019/2020:**

#### **Food Poverty**

This review is still evidence gathering and it will report its findings in the autumn 2020.

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was:

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020

## Key Lines of Enquiry

- What are the impacts of food poverty?
- How widespread is food poverty in the borough?
- What strategic approaches are in existence to tackle food poverty?
- What approaches are in existence to reduce people's dependency on food aid, such as Food Banks?
- To receive an understanding of how food poverty is addressed
- To evaluate how the Borough Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond to food poverty
- To identify the specific issues relating to food poverty
- To identify the existence and impact of "holiday hunger"
- To identify how food poverty differs across the borough of Northampton and the reasons for this

*The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with one non-Executive who is not a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Panel benefitted from the expertise of two co-optees – Paul Foster of the Emmanuel Church and Clive Ireston of the Northamptonshire Community Foundation. The Scrutiny Panel received both written and spoken evidence from a wide variety of expert advisors. Desktop research was carried out by the Democratic and Member Services Manager. Representatives undertook site visits to a variety of Food Banks and the Northamptonshire Community Foundation, of which produced a wealth of information that informed the evidence base of this high profile Scrutiny review. The Scrutiny Panel was very impressed by the facilities offered by Community Groups and recognised the need for joined up working. Following the collation of the evidence, the Scrutiny Panel will draw various conclusions and recommendations that will be contained in the report. The Review commenced in June 2020 and is expected to conclude in the autumn 2020.*

**Councillor Dennis Meredith**  
**Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Food Poverty**

## Co-Opted Members

This year, the Scrutiny process chose to engage the expertise and knowledge of co-optees in its review process for all of its in-depth reviews. It also fully utilised expert advisors in the witness evidence process. Further details are contained at page 2 of this Annual Report.

## Review work 2019/2020

O&S at Northampton has again undertaken some excellent review work again this year.

The best practice Scrutiny review work has continued to be built upon. Over the last year, Scrutiny reviews have attracted interest from both external organisations and the public.

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton continues to be Councillor-led and focuses on the major issues affecting the town. It has therefore carried out some very high profile reviews this year, the

## *Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020*

impact of which will be reported in next year's O&S Annual Report:

### **Scrutiny Panels**

The Scrutiny Panels obtain information to inform the Review through a variety of methods, including:

- Research and briefings commissioned from officers
- Select committee-style meetings with external experts and relevant officers
- Informal interviews
- Site visits
- Surveys

Some meetings of the Scrutiny Panels are often held in a 'Select Committee' format, with the Scrutiny Panels seeking evidence through a question and answer session with senior officers, Cabinet Members, external experts, representatives of interested groups or members of the public who have relevant experience.

### **Food Poverty**

Please refer to page 5 for a precis of this review.

### **Gangs and Knife Crime**

As with the Food Poverty Scrutiny Panel, the work of this Working Group was halted due to the Covid-19 pandemic; but meetings will resume in July 2020 and evidence gathering will continue.

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was:

- To investigate how Northampton Borough Council (NBC) can play an active role in tackling knife crime and gangs in Northampton

#### **Key lines of Inquiry:**

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations, and the Police to address these issues
- Whether there are links between knife crime, gangs other issues
- How Agencies can work with Community to reduce and respond to
- How young people can be engaged with in preventing knife crime and gangs
- To raise awareness of knife crime and gangs in Northampton
- Whether there are any common factors that lead to involvement in Gangs
- To explore best practice elsewhere in identifying and providing support to victims of knife crime and gangs
- To understand what NBC is doing outside the Scrutiny process in relation to knife crime and gangs

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020

*A comprehensive review commenced in June 2019 and will conclude in the autumn 2020. A wealth of background data and information was received by the Scrutiny Working Group and a series of interviews with a number of key expert advisors were held. A number of organisations and community groups provided written information. Informative site visits also took place, for example to a local Boxing Club. Desktop research was undertaken by the Democratic and Member Services Manager, the findings of which will inform the review. Information gathering was very important to this review so that the Scrutiny Panel could map what is taking place and who is involved in the activities. This will enable the Working Group to devise its recommendations that will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then Cabinet later this year. As part of the monitoring regime, Overview and Scrutiny will review this report six months after Cabinet has received it. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this in-depth piece of work.*

**Councillor Graham Walker, Chair  
O&S Gangs and Knife Crime Working Group**

**O&S Working Group** - Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

The objective of this Working Group was to evaluate the effectiveness of Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council against the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

The Working Group met once, and early evidence has highlighted the success of the Protocols and ways of Overview and Scrutiny working at Northampton Borough Council, but the Working will convene again and formalise its report.

**How has the work of the Scrutiny Panels made a difference to the Council and our residents?**

Accepted recommendations from previous Scrutiny reviews, undertaken during the previous year, will be monitored by the O&S Committee.

**Key examples**

**Scrutiny Panel 1 - Homelessness and Rough Sleepers**

The objectives of this Scrutiny Panel was to review ways in which the Council and its partners engage with rough sleepers and long term homeless individuals, consider the best way in which



## *Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020*

'Housing First' can be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough, and understand the nature and extent of 'hidden homelessness' and how it can best be addressed.

### **Key Lines of Enquiry**

- To gain an understanding of how and why people become homeless
- To gain an understanding of the causes and extent of rough sleeping in the borough, the impact that rough sleeping has on the health, safety and life expectancy of people who are sleeping rough, and the implications for safeguarding and community safety.
- To gain an understanding of the work that is currently being undertaken by Northampton Borough Council (NBC), local groups, organisations and voluntary services to engage with rough sleepers
- To consider the effectiveness of the action that is being taken (by NBC and local groups, services and organisations) to help people who are sleeping rough to come off the streets.
- To gain an understanding of the 'Housing First' model and consider how best it could be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough.
- To gain an understanding of the nature and extent of 'hidden homelessness' in the borough, including the profile of the people affected and what contact (if any) they have had with NBC, Northampton Partnership Homes or local advice agencies.
- To explore various ways of connecting with, and engaging with, harder to reach groups
- To gain an understanding of the specific needs and assistance provided for young people, between the age of 16-25, including care leavers.
- To gain an understanding of the specific needs and assistance provided for ex-Offenders
- To understand how data, statistics and demographics are gathered and used to meet the needs of rough sleepers, men and women, who are homeless

The recommendations were around:

Additional bed spaces for homeless women in the borough  
Housing solutions  
Refresh of the Rough Sleepers' Strategy  
Plan for strengthening equal relationships and partnership working  
Social Media Strategy  
Multi-Agency Publicity Campaign

The report was be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2019/2020.

### **Impact of the Move of the University**

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review the impact on the town and local areas; including student accommodation, concentrating on:

## *Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020*

- To understand the work currently being undertaken by the University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners regarding the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the challenges, including all areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the implications of the move of the University

Recommendations were around:

Communication  
Traffic flow  
Impact on the town  
Community

Overview will monitor the effectiveness of these recommendations as part of its monitoring regime.

### **Northampton Post Unitary**

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was to look at Northampton, (being mindful of the potential Unitary Authority), giving particular consideration to how civic pride and ceremonies can be protected

### **Key Lines of Enquiry**

- To gain an understanding and overview of the civic pride, events and ceremonies (compiling a formal list) that currently take place within the Borough of Northampton
- To gain an understanding of how Northampton's civic events and ceremonies are marketed
- To understand the role of the Mayor of Northampton
- To understand the roles of both the previous Northampton Borough Council and other partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough
- To consider how the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority

The recommendations were around:

- Retaining the Mayor of Northampton
- The creation of a Civic Quarter
- The location of a possible Town Council
- Protection of Civic Pride
- Civic events

## *Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020*

Overview and Scrutiny will monitor the effectiveness of the accepted recommendation this Municipal year.

Other reviews that were undertaken during 2018/19:

- Northampton Post Unitary
- O&S Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny Reports

### **Budget Scrutiny**

Each year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sets up the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group to:

- To review the budget proposal.
- To consider the Council's medium term financial plans.
- To recommend a short list to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for detailed consideration.
- To consider suggestions from the public and other Councillors for items to be included in the short list for scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny finds it helpful for a small Working Group of Councillors to take a brief overview of all the budget proposals and bring a small selection to the Committee for detailed scrutiny.

This year the Working Group comprised five Councillors from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in January 2020, undertook budget scrutiny of the following issues:

- HRA Saving Option or Budget Risk
- Housing – Temporary accommodation and income streams
- Unitary - budget of £2.4 m  
Staff and resources – capacity and sustainability
- EAC – Maintenance budgets for example the Mayorhold Car park and the Guildhall and NBC assets
- electric boiler replacement programme for HRA, or potential insulations grants for private home
- Councillor empowerment fund and the proposed reduction from £3,000 per Councillor to £2,000

# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020

## Looking ahead

The Work Programme for 2020/2021 was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the spring 2020 and work will commence from July 2020. All work will need to be completed by early 2021.

Details of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/2021 will be published on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#) as soon as it is finalised.

## What are our Challenges for 2020/2021?

- To have completed the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and effective monitoring by early 2021.
- To build on Overview and Scrutiny's achievements by setting stretching targets to broaden our impact. An example would be to ensure the Committee continues to undertake pre-decision scrutiny activities.
- To ensure that Overview and Scrutiny continues to make a positive contribution to the development of policy and the continuous improvement of the Council's operations.
- To continue to ensure the O&S work programme reflects concerns of service users, community and public – ensuring that a wide range of organisations, partners and the public are consulted with for suggestions for scrutiny review and then on the actual work programme.
- To ensure O&S is able to respond effectively to legislative requirements, such as the new powers, for example, wider powers to influence policy and public service delivery in their area – for example investigated issues beyond its traditional remit but affect local people.
- To continue to ensure O&S works with the community and key partners to respond to concerns. We often do this by involving the community and key partners as witnesses or co-optees to our Scrutiny review process.
- To continue to ensure that the work of O&S has a positive effect on decision-makers and provide evidence that it has made a real difference.
- To continue to increase public participation in O&S at Northampton by increased public suggestions for scrutiny review and increased attendance at O&S Committee and Panel meetings during 2020/2021

## Glossary of Terms

### **Call-In**

The process by which the O&S Committee considers whether a decision is properly taken or is the right decision.

### **Cabinet (Executive)**

The Executive body responsible for the day-to-day running of the Council and the development of policy. Cabinet Members have portfolios or areas of responsibility (e.g. Housing) for which they take executive decisions.

### **Councillor (Member)**

An elected local representative on the Council, a Councillor represents the interests of the people who live in their ward and Northampton as a whole

### **Pre-decision Scrutiny:**

O&S may inform Executive decisions on topics on the Forward Plan by making evidence based recommendations or advice prior to formal decision by the Executive.

### **Review**

A study led by Scrutiny Councillors on a current issue, selected by the Committee. It aims to identify areas of good as well as poor practice, compare performance with other Councils' countrywide, and challenge existing practice where relevant.

The review will lead to recommendations for improvements to relevant Cabinet Members as well as outside agencies, such as health trusts. While these are not obliged to support the recommendations, effective consultation has been proven to lead to consensus and to Cabinet support for reviews undertaken.

## *Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020*

### **Contact details for more information**

Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager, is always very happy to speak to local people about the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. If you have any comments or queries, or would like to suggest areas which may be appropriate topics for future work, you can speak to her by calling 0300 330 7000 or by [email](#).

You can view recent agendas and minutes on the Council's website at [www.northampton.gov.uk](http://www.northampton.gov.uk) or by contacting [Democratic Services](#)

Overview and Scrutiny has its own dedicated website within the Council's website. The current work of Overview and Scrutiny and the reports already published are available on this site. The address is [www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

### **Suggest an item for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate?**

Do you have any suggestions for issues for inclusion onto the Overview and Scrutiny future Work Programme? If so please complete the form overleaf and return to: -

Democratic and Member Services  
Northampton Borough Council  
The Guildhall  
St Giles Square  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](#)

## Suggest an item for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate

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Do you have any suggestions for issues for inclusion onto the Overview and Scrutiny future Work Programme? If so please complete the form opposite and return to: -

Democratic and Member Services  
Northampton Borough Council  
The Guildhall  
St Giles Square  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](#)

Just as Overview and Scrutiny has considerable influence when used in the right way, there are times when other procedures are more appropriate.

Overview and Scrutiny cannot help in the following areas:

Individual complaints about specific issues - these should be taken up through Northampton Borough Council's Customer Care Procedure.

Proper accounting for money of the Council - this is the responsibility of the Audit Committee - for information, contact 01604 837722

The conduct or behaviour of a councillor or officer - this is the responsibility of the Standards Committee - for information, contact 01604 837408.

It cannot be guaranteed that items raised in this way will actually be considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

### **Suggested Issue for Overview and Scrutiny**

Name:

Email:

Telephone

**Issues suggested for inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

## Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/2020

If English is not your first language and you need help in translating this document please contact Tracy Tiff on 01604 837408.

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**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# COUNCIL

## 14 September 2020

**Agenda Status: PUBLIC**

**Directorate: Management Board**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme Budget</b>
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### 1. Purpose

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1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- To agree an additional £50M of HRA capital programme expenditure funded through borrowing.

### 2. Recommendations

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2.1 That Council approve:

- a) Approve an additional £50M of HRA capital programme expenditure funded through borrowing, for the acquisition of blocks of homes as element of delivering affordable homes on major developments, land and /or existing properties.
- b) That Cabinet be authorised to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes, subject to a business case, the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council.

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background

##### Housing Revenue Account

3.1.1 The HRA is a ring-fenced account that represents the costs of holding the Council housing stock. There are strict rules surrounding the costs and income that can be charged to this account. Much of the income and expenditure is dictated by legislation and regulation leaving the Council with direct control over a limited number of these budgets.

## **Developments in Housing Finance.**

- 3.1.4 Since the introduction of self-financing in 2012 there have been a host of government policy initiatives that have impacted upon housing finances. Some of the financially more significant ones are:
- the legislative backed 1 % rent reductions for 4 years from 1 April 2016;
  - the encouraging of right to buy (RTB) by increasing RTB discounts,
  - the introduction of Universal Credit and Benefit Cap; and.
  - rent increases from 2020/21 capped at CPI plus 1% for 5 years.
- 3.1.5 In addition to this the Autumn 2018 Budget announced the removal of the HRA Debt Cap and the introduction of prudential borrowing which gives Council more scope to pursue new build programmes to deliver much needed new housing within the Borough.

## **3.2 Decision Details**

### **HRA Budget 2020/21**

- 3.2.1 During 2019/20 Council approved an increase to the HRA capital programme expenditure by an initial £25M for the acquisition of blocks of homes as element of delivering affordable homes on major developments.
- 3.2.2 Council also authorised Cabinet to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes, subject to a business case, the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council
- 3.2.3 Following this Council delegation, Cabinet have approved the following expenditure on schemes to be funded by the initial £25m approval:
- Riverside House
  - Beaumont House
  - Belgrave House
  - Buyback & Spot Purchases
- 3.2.4 The Council approved the 2020/21 HRA Budget on 24 February 2020 and further work has been undertaken on the 30 Year HRA Business plan since then, resulting in a proposal to increase the HRA capital programme by a further £50M funded through borrowing.

### **Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme**

- 3.2.5 Capital expenditure is essential for the Housing Revenue Account to maintain and improve the Council's housing stock as well as deliver new council housing. The HRA is an asset driven service and as such the capital programme plays a key part in the delivery of the HRA service.
- 3.2.6 The HRA Capital Programme has been developed within the context of the 30 year Business Plan and the existing Asset Management Plan. Regular reviews of the HRA business plan are undertaken which may lead to changes being brought back to Cabinet from time to time.
- 3.2.7 The capital programme has seen significant increases to the New Build programme over the last couple of years, reflecting the removal of the HRA Debt Cap from October 2018 and the ability to prudentially borrow within the HRA. The proposed additional £50M is to ensure that the Council is best placed to

enable it to be agile in taking advantage of opportunities to acquire blocks of homes from developers as part of their planning objectives to deliver affordable homes as and when they occur to enable it to better address the shortage of housing in the Borough.

- 3.2.8 The medium term plan currently shows continued investment in the new build programme over the next 5 years. This additional borrowing will help the Council, working closely with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) and/or other developers to increase the new build programme for delivering new social and affordable homes over the coming years.

Opportunities to acquire new affordable housing

- 3.2.9 Homes England schemes and developer-led schemes require the provision of affordable housing. Developers often invite Registered Providers to bid for the affordable housing and, typically, this will sell for 50% - 60% of the market value. There are also opportunities to acquire homes off plan from developers, along with land/site acquisition to develop for HRA homes.
- 3.2.10 As Northampton Borough Council is a Registered Provider, NPH on their behalf are actively monitoring such opportunities. However, the timescales are often very short and Registered Providers are usually required to provide confirmation, when they submit their expression of interest, that funds are available (or will be) to complete the purchase.
- 3.2.11 Although each scheme will require its own business case to demonstrate due diligence and value for money, there is a need to obtain Council approval to increase the HRA borrowing and expenditure envelope to make the most of these opportunities to acquire new affordable housing.

**HRA Capital Programme and Funding 2020-21**

- 3.2.12 The table below shows a summary of the Capital programme and includes the proposed additional £50M expenditure and borrowing for 2020-21. Please note the table below does not include carry forward budget from 2019/20.
- 3.2.13 The HRA capital programme for 2020/21 and beyond will be refined in conjunction with NPH, in line with the updated Asset Management Plan, and the HRA Business Plan review.

	<b>Approved 2020-21 £000s</b>	<b>Proposed Additional 2020-21 £000s</b>	<b>Revised 2020-21 £000s</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
External Improvements	9,300	0	9,300
Internal Works	4,600	0	4,600
Environmental Improvements	3,000	0	3,000
Structural Works and Compliance	600	0	600
Disabled Adaptations	650	0	650
IT Development	300	0	300

New Build Programme/Major Projects	20,900	50,000	70,900
Buybacks and Spot Purchases	500	0	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,850</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>89,850</b>

<b>FINANCING:</b>			
Major Repairs	12,000	0	12,000
Reserve/Depreciation			
Capital Receipts - RTB (excl 1-4-1)	2,845	0	2,845
Capital Receipts - RTB 1-4-1 Receipts	4,893	0	4,893
Revenue/Earmarked Reserve	6,891	0	6,891
Borrowing / CFR	13,221	50,000	63,221
<b>Total Financing - HRA</b>	<b>39,850</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>89,850</b>

#### 4. Implications (including financial implications)

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##### 4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 The revenue and capital budgets are set in support of the Council's priorities.
- 4.1.2 The HRA Revenue Budget is set in the overall context of the HRA 30 year business plan and the Council's Asset Management Plan.
- 4.1.3 The Capital Programme for the HRA is set in the context of the Council's Capital Strategy.

##### 4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 One of the ways to reduce the pressure of homelessness and temporary accommodation is to increase the supply of affordable housing. The Council is already supporting and financing increases in the HRA stock through a programme of NPH developments. However, there are wider opportunities to acquire a significant number of new HRA council homes:
- by purchasing properties 'off plan' through developer / Homes England schemes.
  - acquisition of targeted existing properties (extension of the Right To Buy – buyback scheme)
  - purchasing land/sites to develop
  - purchase of blocks of homes from developers.
- 4.2.2 As such acquisitions are likely to be of a large scale and require substantial investment, there is a need to gain Council approval to increase the HRA borrowing envelope to progress such schemes. The proposal is to seek approval for a supplementary budget request by Council to increase the permitted HRA borrowing and expenditure by up to £50M should such opportunities arise.
- 4.2.3 There will be associated increase in revenue costs and revenue income, from rents that will be appraised based on a specific scheme basis to ensure that the HRA remains in a sustainable financial position. Cabinet will receive a full and

formal business case before the Council commits any actual funds to the purchase of the affordable housing.

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced budget each year, bearing in mind its fiduciary duties to the taxpayer, and the HRA is not allowed to go into deficit by law. In exercising these duties the Council must comply with various legislation and administrative duties.

### **4.4 Equality**

4.4.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires the Council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out its activities. Failure to comply with this duty would be challengeable in the courts.

4.4.2 Equality and diversity were considered as part of the medium term planning options submitted. There are no adverse impacts at this stage but will be considered in accordance with the Council policy when appropriate.

### **4.5 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

The creation of new Council owned homes for rent is a key corporate priority.

### **4.6 Other Implications**

There are none specifically.

## **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 The following papers reflect the background to this report

- Council HRA Budget report 24 February 2020.
- Cabinet Budget Monitoring Report 19 August 2020.
- Audit Committee 24 August 2020.

**Stuart McGregor, Chief Finance Officer**  
**George Candler, Chief Executive**

Appendices: 1



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# COUNCIL

## 14 September 2020

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate:** Borough Secretary and  
Monitoring Officer

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Update on Carried Motions</b>
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### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 To receive, and note, the update on Carried Motions from April 2018 to date, as attached at Appendix A.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 That Council notes the update on Carried Motions.
- 2.2 That a further update is brought to full Council at its meeting on 8 March 2021.

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 Full Council, at its meeting on 16 September 2019, received the update on carried motions. This document has been updated and is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Officers have continued to undertake an information gathering exercise to assess the current status of Motions that have been passed and what has been completed or is in the process of being completed for each Service Area.
- 3.1.3 Information contained within the appendix of the report provides details of the number of motions submitted, those currently outstanding, those that are in progress and those that have been completed.

- 3.1.4 A number of the motions are marked as 'ongoing' due to the complexities of work that is required to complete some of the motions, it is reasonable for several motions to be 'in progress' for a period of time whilst officers carry out work prior to completion which can also involve partnership agencies. Furthermore, some motions request continual support for certain projects and as such, are inevitably regarded as ongoing. Officers have included in the action column of the document details of work that has taken place and how the motion is being actioned.
- 3.1.5 There are examples contained within Appendix A of motions that cannot be completed due to the change in circumstance of the Council following the agreement of the proposed Unitary Council.
- 3.1.6 Should Members wish to have further information on individual motions, a narrative will be provided with additional information that cannot practically be reported on the published table of motions by contacting Democratic Services who will endeavour to gather relevant information on each motion.
- 3.1.7 A further report will be submitted to Council in March 2021 updating Council on the six-month progress since this meeting and on further progress of motions submitted and carried at future Council meetings.

## 3.2 **Decision details**

- 3.2.1 Full Council is to note the update on carried motions and consider receiving a further update at its meeting in March 2021.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 There are no policy implications arising directly from this report, however some motions affect wider Council Policy.
- 4.1.2 Notices of Motion are a substantive agenda item of each meeting of full Council.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 There are no direct resource implications arising directly from this report however some motions affect wider Council resources and Officer time.

### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Council has a responsibility to debate Notices of Motions submitted to meetings of full Council. Each motion may have its own legal implications but for the purposes of this report there are no specific legal implications.

### **4.4 Equality**

- 4.4.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising directly from this report.

### **4.5 Other Implications**

- 4.5.1 There are none.

## **5. Background Papers**

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- 5.1 Agendas and minutes of meetings of full Council from April 2018 onwards in relation to the carried motions.

**Francis Fernandes**  
**Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer**  
**0300 330 7000**



**Carried Motions - COMPLETED**  
**Meeting date: 22nd January 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
1	<p>This council recognises the important role played by our Private Sector Housing Service which provides the following,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licences houses in multiple occupation (HIMOs)</li> <li>• Enforces legislation tackling rogue landlords</li> <li>• Investigates suspected incidences of abuse whether from Landlords or tenants</li> </ul> <p>This Council notes that our town's private rented sector is sometimes used to support criminal activity, including money laundering, sexual exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery. Additionally, the profits that can be made from HIMOs, have encouraged criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords to break the law. In order to tackle these issues, our Private Sector Housing Service needs more resources.</p> <p>This council welcomes the fact that on 17th January 2018, the Administration took to Cabinet, and approved, a report that enables this Council to impose civil penalties of up to £30,000 per offence on law-breaking landlords. A business case for utilising the penalty income collected to expand the Housing Enforcement team, initially by eight additional officers, and subject to due diligence and an updated business case, a further five officers, thirteen officers in total, was also approved and is welcomed by this Council.</p>	<b>Director of Housing and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Cllr Stephen Hibbert</b>	<p>The Council completed the recruitment of the Housing Enforcement Manager, 6 Housing Enforcement Officers, 2 Intelligence Officers and a Tenancy Relations Officer in April 2018.</p> <p>The Housing Enforcement Team consolidated its working relationship with Northamptonshire Police by providing advice and training in relation to its work and powers, by working together to support the sharing of intelligence and resources and by carrying out joint enforcement operations with the Police, Fire &amp; Rescue Service and Immigration Services.</p> <p>The Housing Enforcement Team is now imposing civil penalties as an alternative to criminal prosecutions.</p> <p>In December 2019, the Council made a successful bid to the MHCLG for an Enforcement and Innovation Grant of £196k to fund a Special Operations Unit, for three months, to target some of the biggest and worst criminal landlords in Northampton.</p>
4	<p>The administration has always been committed to enhancing and promoting the heritage of our town.</p> <p>Never was this more clearly demonstrated than with the opening of Delapre Abbey to the public next weekend for the first time in 900 years after a multi-million pound restoration programme.</p> <p>The Abbey takes its place as a jewel in the crown of our historic town, a fitting tribute to all those organisations and individuals who have supported the project.</p> <p>The administration has maintained its commitment as difficulties arose and were overcome, creating and working with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust to ensure that we have something to make us all proud.</p> <p>This Council congratulates and thanks everyone who has been involved, and wished the Trust and its volunteers every good wish for an exciting and successful future</p>	<b>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</b>	<b>Councillor Anna King</b>	The trust and volunteers have been thanked
5	<p>This Council recognises that our town has been let down by the current Environmental Services provider. According to the biggest and most successful consultation that this Council has ever undertaken, a higher quality of cleanliness delivering cleaner streets and a cleaner environment, and quality grounds maintenance are top priorities for residents of our Borough.</p> <p>This Council is therefore delighted that our new contractor won the bid primarily due to the quality of service it was offering. This Council is making a significant additional investment in this contract and looks forward to working with Veolia to raise the standard of cleanliness and grounds maintenance right across Northampton – something that our town has long been crying out for.</p> <p>This Council also very much welcomes the new Enforcement Contract and the zero tolerance approach to littering and fly-tipping. We call on our enforcement provider to continue to strenuously enforce legislation with regard to littering and fly-tipping, especially through using fixed penalty notices for those people who litter our streets.</p> <p>With the help, hard work, and commitment of our community volunteers, this Council will continue to provide local communities with clean, well maintained and safe open spaces. Council therefore proudly commits to provide continued support to community groups, initiatives and projects, including Residents Associations, Parish Council's, Summer Bloom, Green Flag and Friends of Parks Groups.</p>	<b>Director of Customers and Communities</b>	<b>Cllr Mike Hallam</b>	<p>Some 325 new vehicles and items of equipment rolled out of the depot on day one of the new contract and within days an improved level of service was experienced over that provided by the previous contractors, refuse and recycling, parks and green areas were immediately improved and street litter cleared in a seamless fashion.</p> <p>In September, 70,000 wheeled bins were delivered to relevant households and a new 'all in one' recycling service was implemented and Saturday collections were abolished (apart from catching up after Christmas Day).</p> <p>In April, a trial to replace recycling boxes with single use recycling sacks commenced for 1,000 properties in Far Cotton – the basis of this trial was to reduce qualitative issues such as box return, street cleansing and to improve the recycling rate in the area – feedback received so far has been very positive and the objectives have been met. Plans are in place to roll the trial out to other areas.</p> <p>The cost of the bulky waste collection service was reduced from £25 to £15 for a trial period from 1st April along with a near a 50% increase in the availability of booking slots. This reduction in charge will continue for the rest of the financial year whilst the success of the initiative is evaluated. The additional cost associated with the reduction in charge is being funded through the income from successful enforcement.</p>

**Meeting date: 23rd January 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
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2	<p>There is national concern about keeping our communities safe and the concern is widespread in Northampton. We are seeing alarming rates of crime, with increases in violent crime, sexual crime, trafficking, vehicle thefts, burglary and drug related crime. We are particularly concerned that young children and young people are being exploited and sometimes also drawn into crime. We have a duty of care to our citizens and we must do all we can to keep them safe. This Council will therefore take the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to work with the Police to receive regular performance information from the Police that drives our activity, supports our multi-agency approach and enables this Council to have a good understanding of the crime and antisocial behaviour issues in the town.</li> <li>- Actively contribute to and support the Community Safety Partnership, which includes the Police and Police Crime Commissioner's Office, and the three – year community safety strategy, including the following identified priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce Crime</li> <li>• Reduce ASB and Hate Crime</li> <li>• Support Vulnerable People</li> <li>• Build Stronger and Resilient Communities</li> <li>• Safety in the Night-Time Economy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The full strategy can be found at <a href="https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/10006/nrsp-2017-2020">https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/10006/nrsp-2017-2020</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support the Government and the Home Secretary in delivering the new Serious Violence Strategy, including improving policing and visible policing, to break the deadly cycle of violence that devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities.</li> </ul>	Head of Housing and Wellbeing	Cllr Anna King	<p>See below re knife crime and youth violence activity</p> <p>Four gang specific injunctions being developed</p> <p>'Nights Out' campaign continued</p> <p>Working with the University, to introduce safety messages amongst the students, including the 'safer routes home' initiative</p> <p>Taxi Marshall scheme being piloted</p> <p>Delivering partnership activity days in priority areas</p> <p>Additional police resource funded to work in the Town Centre during peak ASB and Youth Violence times over the Summer and Christmas period.</p>
3	<p>Northampton Borough Council calls for the continued support of our local market and market traders. Consequently, this Council is proud that our market participates in the Love Your Local Market campaign organised by the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA).</p> <p>Love Your Local Market is an international initiative and the UK's largest annual celebration to promote retail and wholesale markets across the country.</p> <p>To coincide with this year's initiative, and together with the Northampton Town Centre BID, the Council is organising workshops, street entertainment and other activities. This Council is delighted to be able to contribute to celebrating our town's history, innovation, experience, entrepreneurship, food and culture in a festival of market activities and events running from 17th to 31st May, and urges the public to support these events and our town's market offer</p>	Head of Customer and Cultural Services	Councillor Phil Larratt	<p>Love Your Local Market was celebrated in conjunction with Pride on the market square.</p> <p>Also as part of the LYLM initiative the market offered free stalls to traders wanting to try market trading for the first time</p>
4	<p>Northampton Borough Council welcomes the Government's Serious Violence Strategy launched this week by the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd. The strategy stresses the importance of early intervention to tackle the root causes of serious violence and steer young people away from crime in the first place, while ensuring the police continue to have the tools and support they need to tackle violent crime.</p> <p>This Council has recognised the great importance of engaging with our young people early to help prevent them from being drawn into crime.</p> <p>This motion, therefore, calls for support of this Council's collaborative work with the Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Youth Offending Service, University and Free to Talk in developing a training and awareness package that will be offered to schools, during our school's event in October, youth clubs and youth groups. The package will include a video, drama production and training, as well as educational awareness packs</p>	Head of Customer and Cultural Services	Cllr Anna King	<p>Trusted relationships funding from the Home Office - £800k over 4 years (youth work in three established areas in the Borough.</p> <p>Delivering community safety awareness messages to year 6 students in 12 of our priority primary schools – youth conference held at the Deco.</p> <p>Knife crime awareness programme delivered to teachers and students in 11 of our secondary schools and both colleges in Northampton</p>

**Meeting date: 4th June 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
1	<p>The letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities &amp; Local Government regarding submission for unitary authorities stated that they wanted "locally led proposals for establishing unitary authorities across the county which will be right for communities and people they serve.</p> <p>This Council acknowledges these requirements and will try and fulfil them on behalf of the residents in the Borough of Northampton. It is essential that Residents participate in the formal, county-wide consultation, because this will ensure that their views are taken into account, and this council will encourage them to do that.</p> <p>To achieve this end the Council commits to undertake consultation with local residents to explain the changes that are being proposed and to seek resident's views on the key issues and requirements of a new unitary council to serve Northampton residents</p> <p>This is the most important decision regarding local government reorganisation since 1974 and all Councillor should make their best effort to help with the consultation so that the Ministry of Housing, Communities &amp; Local Governments call for proposals is delivered.</p>	Chief Executive	Cllr Jonathan Nunn	<p>Countywide consultation undertaken in the summer 2018 with over 6000 responses.</p> <p>A separate Northampton specific consultation was also undertaken and the outcomes of this both informed the community governance review on the establishment of a new town council and the name of the new unitary council for the West.</p>

	<p><b>2</b> Obesity in Childhood is a growing problem. There are many causes of obesity. One is an issue that can be addressed by planning conditions. Tower Hamlets and other Local Authorities are leading the way by not allowing fast food outlets within a 400 metre radius of schools. Some authorities are additionally providing healthy food awards for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices.</p> <p>This council therefore commits to proposing, through the local plan process, a policy that there will be no new fast food outlets that fall within a 400 metre radius of schools.</p> <p>We will additionally consider creating a healthy food award for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices.</p>	<p><b>Director of Planning and Sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>Clr James Hill</b></p>	<p>Introducing a policy was considered as part of the drafting of the emerging Local Plan Part 2, which included an assessment of the impact of similar policies elsewhere. This concluded that, without an objectively assessed evidence base to demonstrate the direct link of takeaways near schools to childhood obesity, such a policy would conflict with the National Planning Policy Frameworks requirements to plan positively and support economic development. On that basis, a blanket exclusion approach would not be positive, justified, effective or consistent.</p> <p>It is also noted that a neighbouring authority which had proposed such a policy as part of its Local Plan Part 2 has had to recommend that the policy be removed for the same reasons. In light of this, the basis of the emerging NBC plan has been to plan positively for healthy communities by encouraging sustainable communities which promote safe and healthy activity. In addition, the emerging West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan offers the opportunity to undertake an objective health impact assessment with neighbouring authorities and health professionals to understand whether a direct link can be established in order to justify a future policy</p>
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**Meeting date: 9th July 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
1	<p>Whatever the boundaries of the new Unitary Councils, for Northamptonshire, those councils will take on responsibility for the care of older people in our community, from 2020.</p> <p>A recent study estimated that 35% of inpatients in local hospitals were there simply waiting for suitable after care to be available (so called Bed Blocking).</p> <p>This council asks scrutiny, working with NCC scrutiny and partners, particularly health service partners, to carry out investigation into Adult Social Care facilities in the area to identify future demand patterns, in order that the new Unitary Council is able to better plan for the needs of older people in the future.</p>	<p><b>Chief Executive</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Phil Larratt</b></p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny meeting group specifically looking at this.</p> <p>Results will be reported back to Cabinet at its conclusion</p> <p>This work has now concluded. Final report to O+S 10/06/19 – Cabinet in July 19</p>
4	<p>This motion calls for the Council to continue to a commitment to support mental health awareness and support to the Government's Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.</p> <p>The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across local authorities, the NHS, public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations and others.</p> <p>This Council is proud to actively support the campaign to make Northampton a 'happy town', including the launch of Northampton's first 'Happy Cafe' in June. 'Happy Cafes' are being set up by supporters of the Action for Happiness movement in local communities, as a friendly and welcoming place to meet others with a shared interest in promoting happiness and well-being.</p> <p>As well as the 'Happy Cafe' launch, there was also a celebration of the publication of '50 Ways to Feel Happy', a new illustrated children's book which helps children build skills and develop healthy habits for their daily lives, promoting resilience, wellbeing, self-confidence and emotional stability.</p> <p>This motion calls on the Council to further promote a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health, including supporting community based initiatives, for example, community choirs and health walks, which makes a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society.</p>	<p><b>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Anna King</b></p>	<p>Mental Health Concordat signed.</p> <p>Support being given to reinvigorate the Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum</p> <p>Supporting David Smart to deliver the GREAT DREAM in Northampton 'rolling out the 10 key ways to make people happier in Northampton.</p> <p>Funding offered through NBC's grants programmes for the 'Happy Hood' project and counselling services.</p>

**Meeting date: 10th Spetember 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
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1	<p>This Council notes that graffiti is an unwelcome sight in most towns and cities across the country. A town is often judged by how it responds to graffiti, particularly that of a racist or offensive nature. Council notes that there has previously been a robust informal policy and stance adopted regarding this, but now resolves to:</p> <p>a) Adopt a formal policy for the removal of graffiti in a quality manor, free of charge on private property where the appropriate permission has been provided in writing by the property owner;</p> <p>b) Prioritize and immediately tackle instances of racist or offensive graffiti;</p> <p>c) Continue the commitment to do all it can to remove graffiti in the town, including working closely with the police across the borough, Northampton Town Centre BID, Network Rail, and owners of other affected properties, to try and catch offenders;</p> <p>d) Relaunch the "name the tag" campaign and actively promote it within the Youth Forum and youth groups across the town;</p> <p>e) Urge people to report offenders and the location of graffiti on both public and private property when they see it, so it can be removed.</p>	<p><b>Director of Customers and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Mike Hallam</b></p>	<p>Utilising projects to establish local ownership. i.e. St David's youth graffiti project and NorFAMton</p> <p>Removal of offensive and racist graffiti is included in the environmental service contract</p>
5	<p>This Council recognises the concerns of residents and Parish Councils in areas where management companies are responsible for open space and other amenities. Council resolves to support residents and Parish Councils in resolving their concerns.</p> <p>This Council also resolves to make it clear that, it too, has significant concerns regarding the establishment of management companies to manage open space and other facilities on new housing developments in the borough of Northampton, rather than them being formally adopted.</p> <p>While resisting management companies, this Council will encourage developers to consider all the alternatives available for managing the facilities on new developments in the borough and Northampton growth area, including seeking for developments to be adopted with sufficient resources to ensure that the maintenance of these pieces of land is fully funded.</p>	<p><b>Director of Planning and Sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>Clr James Hill</b></p>	<p>Planning applicants proposing areas of open space and drainage which could be run by Management Companies are being challenged about the management of these spaces as part of the planning application determination process.</p>
6	<p>This Council notes the Government's aims in encouraging a modal shift of freight from road to rail, which is a key aspect of its transport policy, and recognise that with effective implementation this modal shift can result in a reduction of carbon emissions, shorter and more efficient journeys, and fewer road casualties.</p> <p>This Council further notes that the delivery of a national network of Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges (SRFIs) forms a key part of recognising this aim, and the criteria for these are set out in the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy Guidance documents.</p> <p>This Council also notes that the NPSNN is clear that there is a need for an expanded network of large SRFIs across the regions to accommodate the long-term growth in rail freight, and that new rail freight interchanges, especially in areas poorly served by such facilities at present, are likely to attract substantial business, generally new to rail. However, the NPSNN also states that existing operational SRFIs and other intermodal RFIs are situated predominantly in the Midlands and the North, and that SRFI capacity needs to be provided at a wide range of locations, to provide the flexibility needed to match the changing demands of the market.</p> <p>This Council believes that, as there is already around 39m sq. ft of SRFI-related warehousing either under construction or being proposed in the East Midlands alone, not including the existing SRFI warehousing capacity already present nor other SRFIs in the wider Midlands region, it is unclear whether the proposed local developments, Rail Central and Northampton Gateway, are compliant with the NPSNN.</p> <p>This Council, therefore, resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask for an urgent review of the NPSNN, and all other associated policy guidance, to ensure that SRFI capacity is deployed as a national network across the country, rather than being built in areas where developers have pre-existing land options</p>	<p><b>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Tim Hadland</b></p>	<p>A letter to the Secretary of State was written about this matter.</p>

**Meeting date: 5th November 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
1	<p>The Council recognises that in 18 months' time that responsibility for the regeneration of Northampton Town Centre will pass to the newly formed Unitary Authority.</p> <p>The Council also recognises that delays implementing regeneration projects in Northampton may occur if the new authority does not have a clear understanding of the stakeholders' vision for Northampton.</p> <p>Building on the good work of the Business Improvement District and its recent consultation, as well as the work of others, this council agrees to set up a cross party working group, working with a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties to produce a "Peoples Plan for Northampton" to enable the new Unitary Council to prioritise projects in its first year. This Council requests that the working group produces its report by September 2019.</p>	<p><b>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Tim Hadland</b></p>	<p>Northampton Forward, a group made up of leading representatives from NBC, NCC, SEMLEP, UoN, Royal and Derrigate, Northampton Town Centre BID, Northamptonshire Chamber, Northants Police, Legal and General, and Trickers was set up in January to guide the work being undertaken to regenerate Northampton Town Centre. A cross Party Group has been formed which forms a sub group of Northampton Forward in order to feed in to the plans and allow for a wide range of views to be considered as the programme develops.</p>

3	<p>The technological advancements of recent decades have much in common with the effects of the Industrial Revolution in the latter part of the 18th century. Specifically, both movements accelerated the displacement of workers by machines that could perform tasks faster, more accurately and 24/7. While technology enables business owners to reduce overhead by downsizing their workforce, individuals whose skill sets are now obsolete have limited options for employment if their current jobs are eliminated.</p> <p>Given that Northampton has a large proportion of warehousing and transport as its employment base, both of which face the introduction of new technology and automation in the near and medium future, this equates to at least 37% of workers in fear of their job.</p> <p>Working in partnership with other appropriate bodies such as local colleges, the University of Northampton, and relevant industry training bodies and organisations, the council will start to prepare and identify the finances to allow for upskilling of workers. The partnership will assist with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training through employers and other agencies</li> <li>• Planning for the future to deal with the implications of new technology as it is introduced.</li> <li>• Organising a Symposium on the future of employment and the local economy with the university and employers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Director of Customers and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Mike Hallam</b></p>	<p>At present any structural changes to the logistics sector that will result in job losses following the introduction of autonomous vehicles are a significant number of years away. Given this it is too early to start making preparations. We will continue to keep this under review as the technology develops.</p>
6	<p>There is an increasing number of reports received by Northampton Borough Council (NBC) regarding abandoned shopping trolleys. These are often abandoned in roads, on walkways and in parks, where they have the potential to cause accidents and are an eye sore within the community.</p> <p>Although many of local supermarkets try to take effective action to prevent the abandonment of shopping trolleys, it is too often the case that they do not act quickly enough on reports received.</p> <p>This Council, therefore, resolves to investigate whether it ought to use legal powers available to it to more effectively tackle the problem by charging supermarkets a fee for each trolley collected by NBC. This set charge would be solely to recover the cost of collecting a shopping trolley that is found by an NBC authorised officer on 'any land in the open air' (including watercourses), and that appears to them to be abandoned. The Council would have to comply with certain statutory procedures in order to set up such a scheme, including a requirement to consult with supermarkets and other shops which offer the use of shopping trolleys to the public. This Council notes that officers will commence the necessary preparatory work with a view to preparing a report for the Executive so that it may make a decision as to whether or not to introduce such a charge throughout the entire Borough and, if so, what amount that charge should be set at.</p> <p>Abandoned trolleys are a real nuisance and NBC is hoping that if such a scheme is created, rather than paying fees, supermarkets will take more responsibility for collecting their trolleys and, consequently, help reduce the number of such incidents.</p>	<p><b>Director of Customers and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Mike Hallam</b></p>	<p>Following a period of public consultation, on 16 January 2019, Cabinet resolved that Schedule 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 shall be applied to the whole of Northampton. This resolution allows the Council to collect abandoned shopping trolleys and to charge their owners for their return. This resolution comes into effect on 1 May 2019. Arrangements to deliver this service are being put into effect.</p>

**Meeting date: 10th December 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
3	<p>Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (formerly women's aid) do valuable work to support victims of domestic abuse. They currently run 5 refuges with 21 beds, which will not be funded from April 2019. Partner organisation Eve is at risk of losing 13 beds. NDAS have launched a fundraising campaign to raise £100k by March to keep the refuges open for 12 months. Losing these refuges will mean that the responsibility of helping these victims out of abusive homes will fall onto NBC.</p> <p>We therefore call upon this council to not only recognise NDAS for the service they have been providing to domestic abuse victims but to give some much needed financial assistance.</p>	<p><b>Director of Housing and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Anna King</b></p>	<p>Supporting the working group to establish a countywide domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy</p> <p>Funding provided for NDAS - £20k per annum. Funding provided for Northampton Rape Crisis and the Sunflower Centre, more than £30k</p> <p>16 Days of activism delivered.</p> <p>Officers contributed to, and supported the development of Northamptonshire's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy and was the Lead Authority in Northamptonshire's successful bid for MHCLG funding of £510,862 for 2020/21, (comprising £24,000 to accommodate victims with No Recourse to Public Funds and £486,862 for staffing) to set up a Safe Accommodation Pathway in Northamptonshire.</p>
4	<p>This Council recognises the value of openness and transparency in communicating with the public about air quality and the steps that it is making to monitor and to reduce air pollution.</p> <p>This Council notes that other authorities, such as Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Council, make effective use of corporate websites to share information about air quality monitoring in an accessible way, including regular monthly publication of raw data from air quality monitoring tubes.</p> <p>Northampton Borough Council resolves to review the accessibility, frequency of update and timeliness of the air quality data and activity published on its own website in order to match the openness and transparency achieved by other local authorities.</p> <p>This Council also notes that it is important that members of the public understand that the raw data can only be properly analysed and trends assessed after a 12 month period to take account of any seasonality or specific in-month events that might skew the data such as road traffic closure.</p> <p>Council also notes that this is a highly complex and technical area of work and resolves to work openly with all those with appropriate expertise in this area.</p>	<p><b>Director of Customers and Communities</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Mike Hallam</b></p>	<p>Monthly air quality monitoring results are now reported on the Council's website.</p> <p>With effect from April 2019 the relevant webpages are being redesigned to a similar format to the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk site and data from previous years will be displayed together with current results.</p>

**Meeting date: 14th January 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
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1	<p>Northampton Borough council is committed to being the best employer we can be and to set the standard for other local employers.</p> <p>It can be hard to balance the demands of modern life and needs of family with those of an employer but it's in everyone's interests to get the balance right, and Northampton residents deserve to be served by council staff that feel valued and engaged with their work, and therefore provide the best service they can.</p> <p>We therefore continually refresh our employment procedures, and these include the existing policies that the council has on Parental Leave and Paternity Leave, and our Career Break Policy that is currently supporting staff including one employee who's long-term serious illness would otherwise have meant them having reduced pay, but who is still receiving full pay consistent with our commitment to the TUC 'Dying to Work' charter.</p> <p>The council also operates family-friendly working, which (whilst never losing sight of the service to be provided to residents) not only allows parental leave and flexible working arrangements, but flexible working, part-time, job sharing, working school hours, and staggering time.</p> <p>Working from home is part of modern work patterns, and this is allowed, with a review currently under way to ensure that this, and flexible working, is clearly defined." As an employer we are keen to help staff find the right work/life balance because we want them to be productive and focused on work, getting the best possible outcome for our service users, and council reaffirms its commitment to this.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	Clr Brandon Eldred	<p>CMB continually review NBC policies.</p> <p>The policy relating to Flexible working, Home working etc is currently under a further review (17/72019).</p> <p>The Governance &amp; Risk Manager is working with the HR Manager to form a small working group of managers to assist with a review of NBC HR policies.</p> <p>All material changes to policies impacting on staff, go through the MTUCM (NBC Management and Trade Union Committee Meeting).</p>
3	<p>This Council recognises the importance of retaining good members of staff over the next 15 months to ensure that skilled staff are available to transfer to a new Unitary authority to continue to provide good local government services to the residents of Northampton.</p> <p>The Council has HR policies and procedures in place, which of course need to be understood and adhered to, in order to achieve the goal of retaining good members of staff.</p> <p>The Council recognises that there will always be staff who choose to move on, but during the past 18 months, in order to make NBC an attractive place for good staff to work, has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced the standard work hours from 40 to 37, to be competitive with other employers, with part-time staff reducing their by the same percentage if they chose to.</li> <li>• Removed the no pay for the first day of sickness</li> <li>• Improved various HR policies</li> <li>• Used the discretions policy on sick pay to honour commitments under the TUC 'Dying to work' charter</li> <li>• Anticipates a likely 2% pay award for 2019/20</li> <li>• Enhanced staff discounts and benefits arrangements</li> <li>• Maximised the use of apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy</li> <li>• Transferred a significant proportion of the interim contract staff to more permanent types of fixed contract arrangements</li> <li>• Recruited a Learning and Development Manager to support personal development</li> <li>• Brought the HR service back in-house to be closer to the employees that it supports</li> </ul> <p>Council thanks its hard working staff for their dedication to supporting the town and serving its residents, and reaffirms its commitment to ensure that NBC is an attractive place for good staff to work.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	Clr Brandon Eldred	<p>CMB continually review NBC policies.</p> <p>CMB is aware of the need to use all policies available to ensure the retention and motivation of staff during the transition period to formation of the Unitary Councils</p>
4	<p>Northampton has a strong and proud history of manufacturing, including its boot and shoe trade and heavy to medium engineering.</p> <p>Despite the demise of such important companies such as British Timken, Express lifts, Northampton Machinery Co, RHP Bearings and Plessy, we do still have centres of excellence with Cosworth, AMG Powertrain, Churches shoes, Trickers and many others.</p> <p>This Council is already very pleased to buy products and services from many local companies, and as part of continually seeking to get best value for the local taxpayer, is keen to work with more local companies and employers.</p> <p>There are now two national campaigns to promote manufacturing, the GMB Union "Making it" and "The Made in Britain" which is run for manufacturers.</p> <p>This Council therefore recognises both of these campaigns, and agrees to promote their membership to local companies, along with continuing to encourage potential manufacturers to site within the town. The Council will, wherever possible and cost effective, use local suppliers to support the local economy.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	Clr Brandon Eldred	<p>NBC has had for some years a policy and practice to seek to procure services locally, within the legal constraints of the EU rules and the requirement for Value for Money.</p> <p>LGSS Procurement have been reminded of the need to include local suppliers wherever possible and practical.</p>
5	<p>The Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review with the intention of establishing two tiers of local government across Northampton when the new unitary arrangements come into force.</p> <p>This will constitute a major change to the way that services are delivered to local communities and the level of council tax that households are expected to pay in the currently unparished areas of the Borough.</p> <p>This Council therefore expects that in any literature provided to the public, setting out proposed new Parish / Town Council arrangements, will detail the options for service delivery by the new councils and give an indication as to the initial precept / council tax that will be levied, while recognising that going forward this will be a matter for the elected members of the new councils.</p>	Borough Secretary	Clr Phil Larratt	<p>Borough Secretary – Discussion already begun with Opinion Research Services (ORS) as to format and method of 2nd stage of consultation which will be needed when finalised to be approved by cross party working group. This will include information on likely services to be delivered by new town council and the financial effects/precept etc. as necessary information to public.</p>

6	<p>The Disability Confident scheme, run by the national government, promotes a disability-inclusive culture among employers across the UK.</p> <p>The scheme helps employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• draw from the widest possible pool of talent</li> <li>• secure high quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working</li> <li>• improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating that all employees are treated fairly.</li> </ul> <p>Disability Confident employers are changing behaviour and cultures within their organisations, networks and communities. Northampton Borough Council is serious about equal opportunities and proud of its proven track record of being an Equal Opportunity employer and, as such, it already carries out numerous actions to make a difference for disabled people. Nevertheless, we are aware this is only a part of a much broader journey.</p> <p>Therefore, this motion calls on the Council to commit to signing up as Disability Confident Committed and taking the necessary steps to become a Disability Confident Employer, playing an active role in changing attitudes for the better.</p> <p>Under the Disability Confident scheme, this Council will further commit to carry on learning and strengthening the networks it will need to continue to improve its offer to existing and future disabled employees.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	Clr Jonathan Nunn	NBC renewed its membership of the previous two tick scheme, now known as Disability Confident on 11 January 2019
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**Meeting date: 11th March 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
4	<p>In September 2018 this Council expressed its concern about the number of housing developments that were failing to deliver open spaces and other amenities to adoption standards and transfer them to the relevant local authority but instead were establishing management companies to manage and maintain them with no democratic oversight or accountability.</p> <p>In order to protect residents from uncontrolled charges and poor levels of service this Council would like to see all open spaces and other amenities provided by developers built to the standard required by local authorities for adoption, and calls upon Planning Officers to do all that they can to achieve this in their negotiations with developers.</p> <p>This Council wishes to make it clear that it will aim for open space land on new residential developments to be transferred into the Council's ownership.</p> <p>Furthermore, this Council also calls on other public bodies, when offering their land for sale for potential residential development to make it a condition of sale that the relevant local authority retains ownership of the open space within the proposed development.</p> <p>Additionally, this Council will fully research the problems and issues that residents, Residents Associations, and Parish Councils have with management companies in Northampton and resolves to write to the Secretary of State expressing them as well as the views of the Council. Furthermore, this Council will work with the Local Government Association to lobby the Government for legislation to address the issue of Management Companies with a view to protecting residents from unreasonable maintenance charges, giving them the right to challenge such charges, as well as providing communities, including Town and Parish Councils, the opportunity to take on the role and responsibilities of the management companies.</p>	Director of Planning and Sustainability	Clr James Hill	<p>Planning applicants proposing areas of open space and drainage which could be run by Management Companies are being challenged about the management of these spaces as part of the planning application determination process.</p> <p>Northamptonshire County Council has proposed a motion regarding the management arrangements of open space and drainage.</p> <p>Parish Councils and Residents Associations are to be approached* for evidence on the nature and scale of the issue faced by residents.</p> <p>*RAs have now been approached – results are currently being co-ordinated</p>

**Meeting date: 22nd July 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
1	<p>This Council recognises that the rapid growth of Hybrid and Electric vehicles.</p> <p>Council welcomes the recent news that it has been awarded a grant to put 2x new Rapid Charging Points in its Town Centre car parks to add to the network of points we already have in the Borough.</p> <p>Council also recognizes the contribution of the private sector in ensuring that Northampton already has a substantially larger network of points available compared to similar towns nearby. Council welcomes the work of companies such as Nationwide in providing an extensive network of points in the town for its employees and welcomes a recent announcement by BP that it intends to deploy publically available charging points at many of its forecourt sites.</p> <p>Council agrees to work with companies seeking to deploy such technology and to work with Northamptonshire County Council as the Highways Authority to aim to increase the amount of Rapid Charging Points available to the general public in Northampton</p>	Director of Customers and Communities	Clr Mike Hallam	<p>Update Feb 2020</p> <p>Contract for the installation of 4 pairs of rapid chargers in Council car parks has been let. Work is progressing and installation should be complete during March 2020. Official launch is provisionally scheduled for 25 March.</p> <p>Northamptonshire County Council are currently consulting on possible sites for the installation of on- street charging around the town.</p> <p>Work will be progressed to bring forward other opportunities for further installations on Council owned land</p>

**Meeting date: 16th September 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
1	<p>We are concerned that the borough council, local organisations and residents are, generally speaking, using non-renewable energy suppliers, incurring high bills, and using up precious resources.</p> <p>We agree that a Big Switch to a green energy company would be much better for the environment and help reduce bills.</p> <p>Noting that the value of a new contract to provide energy to this Council will be in excess of £0.5M per annum, Council notes that this will require a full procurement exercise to be undertaken, and that such an exercise will take up to 18 months, by which time the Council will no longer exist. Northampton Borough Council therefore resolves to propose to the future Unitary Council that it makes the big switch to a green energy company, lead from the front and show its commitment to renewable future.</p> <p>While this Council can only operate within its own scope of control and influence, it resolves that as a key place leader, it commits to searching for best ways to encourage and work with local organisations, residents and businesses across the borough to see how they can make a difference to the environment through all relevant technologies, including options to switch to green energy companies. Therefore, this Council resolves to ask the Air Quality and Management Change Working Group to pursue this.</p>	Director of Customers and Communities	Cllr Mike Hallam	Update Feb 2020 This work will be taken forward as part of the development of the Carbon Neutral Northampton programme
4	<p>This Council discussed and declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on the 3rd June 2019.</p> <p>Council notes that over the August Bank Holiday weekend DEFRA declared at their Northampton Monitoring Station the Highest Pollution figures across the country had been recorded. These pollution figures relate to ozone, which is a secondary pollutant produced by the action of sunlight on other pollution sources. The pollution is transboundary and generally affected by the high temperatures such as those experienced over the Bank Holiday weekend.</p> <p>This is therefore addressed at a national rather than a local level and they are not likely to be directly attributable to pollution levels in Northampton.</p> <p>This Council notes, that it is possible to publish a draft report on "the adjusted Air Quality Readings for 2018", which figures can be used to initiate further actions to continue to work hard to protect the health of Northampton residents, the content has not yet been approved by DEFRA and would, therefore, likely be subject to comments and amendments in due course. Council therefore agrees to share with all Group Leaders and the next meeting of the Climate Change Forum – if the full report has not been received back by DEFRA.</p> <p>The timescales for 2020, including the projected publishing time for 2019 adjusted Air Quality Figures to be at the end of June, are likely to be similar to this year's, as DEFRA's work load has been highly impacted by and dependent on external factors. Council therefore agrees in future years to share a draft report with Group Leaders and the Climate Change Forum prior to the publication of the finalised DEFRA report.</p>	Director of Customers and Communities	Cllr Tim Hadland	Update Feb 2020 Air quality results for 2019 were been published on the Council website in February, see <a href="https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/11796/nitrogen-dioxide-results-raw-data--full-year-2019">https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/11796/nitrogen-dioxide-results-raw-data--full-year-2019</a>  The annual status review will be submitted to DEFRA before the end of June deadline, the draft report will be shared with the climate change forum and the report published as soon as it is ratified
6	<p>The County Council is responsible for on street parking charges in the Town Centre and the Borough Council is responsible for the parking charges in the car parks that it operates.</p> <p>This Council believes that Car Parking charges are a factor in the vitality and prosperity of the Town Centre.</p> <p>The County Council has initiated consultation with the Public and Stakeholders regarding the increases that it is proposing.</p> <p>This council agrees that it wishes to express concern and opposition to the proposed increases as it believes that it will have a detrimental effect on the Town Centre economy at a time when this council is trying to address the downturn in footfall and look for ways of investing in the Town Centre in support of its long term prosperity.</p> <p>This council urges the County Council to confirm that, before implementing any changes to its on street parking charges, it will work with NBC to develop a set of objectives and priorities towards a full parking strategy, reflecting the views of residents and businesses, to ensure that parking charges across the town centre fairly reflect their needs and the needs of the town.</p>	Director of Customers and Communities	Cllr Tim Hadland	Update Feb 2020 The County Council have placed on hold their proposed changes to their on-street parking fees.

**Meeting date: 4th November 2019**

2	<p>This council notes with dismay the recent 1% increase in interest for loans from the Public Works Loan Board. This comes at a time when all councils, including NBC, were looking to increase their building of social housing in order to address the housing crisis.</p> <p>The 1% increases the risks attached to regeneration and development and creates the need for revision of existing plans and business cases. We note this has led to, for example, a delay in borrowing for the Berkeley house rebuild.</p> <p>We therefore call on the council to join with the LGA to make representation to the government to have this decision reversed.</p>	Chief Finance Officer	Cllr Brandon Eldred	UPDATE July 2020 There was no delay to the Berkeley House Rebuild as a result of PWLB moving.  NBC has with all Councils lobbied in respect of the rates for house building and the Government / Treasury are currently consulting on the use of PWLB and more favourable rates for Home Building  We anticipate taking advantage of a new lower rate for home building to further expand our HRA housing stock.
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**Meeting date: 20th January 2020**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
4	<p>We encourage the celebration of religious, cultural, and historical occasions, of which fireworks can be an integral part, but we discourage public nuisance. Unsocial hours, and prolonging periods over which fireworks are used, can cause anxiety to many people and to their pets. We believe in keeping our town and its residents safe, for them to be able to enjoy a peaceful life, whilst ensuring that their health and wellbeing is maintained.</p> <p>Well promoted and supervised, public firework events are one way in which fireworks can be enjoyed safely and responsibly, such as the council's bonfire night which 10,000 attended and enjoyed last year.</p> <p>This Council resolves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to request all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people</li> <li>• to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks</li> <li>• Well-meaning celebration can become public nuisance</li> </ul>	Director of Customers and Communities	Clr Brandon Eldred	<p>Update Feb 2020</p> <p>The Borough will contact any / all event organisers whose event plans includes a 'fireworks display' and request they advertise the details of their displays so resident's, stables, farms and other interested parties are made aware. The Borough will actively raise public awareness of the impact fireworks displays have on animal welfare and vulnerable people</p>

**Meeting Date: 15th June 2020**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
1	<p>Over the last three months Council staff have worked hard with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to meet increased demand for services and in particular to give support to the vulnerable and families in most need..</p> <p>There will come a time when we will need to review what has gone well and what could have been done better but I believe now is the time for us as, elected representatives to say thank you to everyone at NBC and to our contractors and partners, for the job they do on behalf of our community.</p> <p>Mr Mayor may I ask if you will lead us as we show our appreciation in the usual way.</p>	N/A	N/A	NO ACTION REQUIRED

**Meeting date: 20th July 2020**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions
4	<p>This Council notes the decision of the Planning Committee not to object in principle to the County Councils application to develop the North West Relief Road. (N/2019/0840). It has been the policy of this Council to support the development and delivery of the Northern Orbital Road as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>This Council notes the comments of the Planning Committee with regard to the provision of the Northern Orbital Road. This Council confirms its position requiring that the Northern Orbital Road be developed and delivered as a matter of urgency to support the North West Relief Road, and that this be communicated to NCC</p>	Director of Planning and Sustainability	Clr James Hill	Update Sept 2020; the Borough Council has confirmed its support for the Northern Orbital Road.

**Meeting date: 12th March 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
2	This council recognises that more can be done to encourage recycling. To this end, and working with our new Environmental Services Contractor, this Council resolves to investigate and recommend innovative models for the recycling of cans and bottles that can be available in locations across the Borough. In doing so this Council recognises that young people are encouraged to collect and recycle cans and bottles for a small remuneration. The model recommended should educate, entertain and encourage the process of recycling.	Head of Customers and Cultural Services	Cllr Mike Hallam	<p>NBC Environmental Services team are currently working with Veolia on reducing waste to landfill and improving the recycling rate across the borough. First steps towards this was to introduce the blue lidded bin recycling 'all in one' scheme in autumn 2018 and we have also introduced a single use sack trial in Far Cotton to both improve recycling rates and street cleansing standards. Although in its infancy, Veolia are trialling reverse vending machines at two London locations, the first machine is at Kings Cross ans accepts plastic bottles and aluminium cans – users are rewarded with vouchers for a local restaurant. The second is in Veolia's offices and for every bottle and coffee cup recycled, the company donates 5p to charity. The ES team will continue to monitor these innovations and seek to adopt them as soon as operationally possible.</p> <p>UPDATE: We are working with Veolia for the transfer approx. 3000 properties from sacks to wheelie bins. We hope this will encourage residents more to recycle, as the wheelie bins will be able to contain the recycling, rather than the open boxes which do not contain the recycling. This will be rolled out in October. Properties included will be notified of the change.</p> <p>October update: Sacks to bins project is ongoing with blue lidded bin deliveries scheduled for October, we continue to observe the success of reverse vending machines.</p> <p>Update February 2020 Whilst the ES team continue to follow the reverse vending machines initiative, Deposit Return Schemes are featured in the new Environment Bill, the Bill gives the powers to implement a DRS. It does not mean that a DRS is certain, the Bill just enables one to be implemented if the Government decide they wish to go ahead with one. However, there was a commitment in the Conservative election manifesto to introduce a DRS and initial stakeholder meetings indicate that the intention is to introduce one, in England at least. Once implemented, more opportunities will present themselves for encouraging young people to collect and recycle cans and bottles for a small remuneration.</p> <p>Update August 2020 In response to written parliamentary questions, Defra recently confirmed that it will undertake the second of consultation on DRS. In Parliament, an early day motion for an 'all-in' DRS has been introduced by Ben Lake MP and supported by various parliamentarians. The motion is calling on the Government to introduce an all-in scheme in 2023 and incorporating as wide a selection of materials as possible.</p>	Ongoing

**Meeting date: 23rd April 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
1	<p>This Council notes the success of the night shelter in tackling rough sleeping in Northampton.</p> <p>We are aware that concerns remain with rough sleeping and hidden homelessness, and we are aware that women in this situation are particularly vulnerable. This Council therefore commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully implementing "TOGETHER we change lives", the borough's 10-point multi-agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton;</li> <li>• Exploring the options for establishing a permanent emergency nightshelter that has the capacity and facilities to provide men and women with shelter and support;</li> <li>• Persuading local groups and services to do everything they can to help and encourage people to engage with local services and accept the help that they need in order to come off the streets and rebuild their lives;</li> <li>• Considering the role that 'Housing First' can play in reducing rough sleeping in the borough;</li> <li>• Working with partners to establish the true extent of hidden homelessness in Northampton and the way in which people with protected characteristics, physical and mental disability, addiction, forensic history and immigration are affected by hidden homelessness; and</li> <li>• Ensuring that everyone who is homeless is provided with a personal housing plan, and that the homelessness service is a two-way process with service users fully consulted and involved with the provision of the services they use.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Stephen Hibbert</b></p>	<p>'TOGETHER we change lives' has provided the foundations for the way in which rough sleeping in the borough is tackled. This Strategy is being revisited at a multi-agency workshop in July 2019.</p> <p>Since the publication of the Strategy, the Council has secured Government rough sleeping funding of £480k in 2019/20 and has agreed to invest in the expansion and reorganisation of the Housing Options &amp; Advice Service which will include the establishment of a Single Homelessness Pathway Service.</p> <p>The extra government funding has enabled the Council to fund a total of 11 additional staff, including a Rough Sleepers Co-ordinator, extra Street Outreach Workers, a Mental Health Outreach Worker and a team of Rough Sleeper Navigators.</p> <p>The search for suitable premises for a larger Nightshelter was put on hold while efforts were being made to address tensions between local agencies, including the Council. These have now been addressed and a raft of improvements (including the establishment of a multi-agency Single Homelessness Forum that is being established in September 2019) are planned.</p> <p>'Hidden homelessness' and 'Housing First' featured in a 2019/20 Overview &amp; Scrutiny Review of Rough Sleeping and Homelessness. All homeless people have been provided with personalised housing plans since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in April 2018.</p> <p>A draft Homelessness &amp; Rough Sleeping Strategy was published in February 2020 and government funding has been secured to continue with, and expand, the services provided for rough sleepers in 2020/21. <b>Northampton's Homelessness &amp; Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-23 was approved by the Cabinet on 20 May 2020. Since the COVID-19 lockdown at the end of March 2020, the Council and its partners have accommodated and supported more than 160 rough sleepers and former rough sleepers in two hotels and one of the University's halls of residence. By the end of August 2020, they had helped more than 100 of them to move into settled housing</b></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

**Meeting date: 9th July 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
2	<p>Our town is famous for the boot and shoe industry and for leather works. The Central Museum hosts our famous shoe collection and the town has in trust the National Leather Collection, currently located in the Grosvenor Centre.</p> <p>We note recent announcements of retail and other High Street closures and the Northampton Chronicle's current Town Centre campaign. We know as a council that we need to support the regeneration of our town, increase footfall and to stimulate tourism. Leather goods manufacturers and our world renowned shoe makers can play a key role in this.</p> <p>This council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>Invite interest from shoe manufacturers and leather goods producers around the county and possibly beyond to be included in a retail shoe and leather goods outlet in Northampton Town Centre. This plan could see the development of one of the vacant sites in the middle of town become a show case for the sale of shoes and leather goods from our world class manufacturers. The vision being that the demand for our high quality shoes &amp; leather goods, will contribute to making Northampton Town Centre an attraction for visitors into the town. This will aid regeneration and increase footfall.</p> <p>To make this offer work and make it viable for the businesses concerned, this council will work with them and make whatever concessionary offers are within its gift for a defined period and play an active role in the delivery of what will be a mutual heritage and commercial concern.</p> <p>This council will seek to include the BID and the University of Northampton in playing an active role in this initiative.</p>	<p><b>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Tim Hadland</b></p>	<p>The Council, working with the BID, has had engagement with leading local shoe manufactures over this proposal and seeking to identify and investigate a potential site.</p> <p>This will be problematic for the manufacturers as given the strong independent brands they have developed and the issues with how a store could operate.</p> <p>The council are continuing to hold talks to look at if this is achievable.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
79	<p>3 There are four community libraries in the town that are under threat of closure.</p> <p>This council recognises the value of libraries as community hubs. This council, therefore, resolves to work with the friends of the libraries to facilitate the libraries remain open for community use.</p>	<p><b>Director of Housing and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Anna King</b></p>	<p>Support has been offered via the Community Safety &amp; Engagement Team, to St James Community Centre and offers to facilitate meetings to help support others, including Far Cotton who have been expressed.</p> <p>Update June 2020 - Support for Far Cotton is being revisited, a meeting is due to take place this week to look again at what support may be able to be put in place.</p> <p>Update August 2020 - Northampton Borough Council continues to work with colleagues at Northamptonshire County Council to ensure that the Friends Groups are supported, to keep the libraries open for use by our communities. The Friends groups have been made aware of our grants and the infrastructure support that is available through Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire. Some of the Friends Groups have accessed our grants and the support, which continues to be offered.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

**Meeting date: 5th November 2018**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
2	<p>The council notes that in spite of the fact that two firms of consultants have been appointed to produce a development scheme without success, the site of the former Greyfriars Bus Station has stood empty since March 2015 and adds to the sense of decline in Northampton Town Centre.</p> <p>The council notes the appointment of a new consultant to produce a development scheme and calls on the administration to ask this consultant to draw up options for the site to be brought into a temporary use as a matter of urgency for the public benefit. While accepting that this is an interim measure pending the long-term development of the Greyfriars site, whatever happens in the short term must not be to the detriment of a long term permanent development</p>	<b>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</b>	<b>Clr Tim Hadland</b>	<p>A meanwhile use (temporary use) strategy for the site will begin to be develop in September 2019. This needed to wait until a full site appraisal could be undertaken to assess when the site is likely to come forwards in order to establish how long the temporary uses would likely need to be for.</p> <p><b>June 2020:</b> The Greyfriars site is to be used in large part for a site compound by NPH while the works to Belgrave House take place. This site compound is likely to be required for at least 12 months while the refurbishment of the building takes place.</p>	Ongoing
4	<p>We note with concern the effects of holding commercial events on our town parks resulting in damage to the grass and terrain. The damage to the parkland is taking months to repair and meanwhile our residents are not able to enjoy the full use of these public open spaces.</p> <p>This Council resolves to introduce a legally binding contract with commercial hirers, including fairs, to ensure the full restoration of the site and land impacted upon by the event, at the expense of the hirer, requiring a deposit to cover the likely cost of this work should it be deemed necessary.</p> <p>Council also resolves to liaise through Park Management Committee's regarding events in individual parks. As we move towards Unitary status parishes may wish to take on the responsibility of their parks and these issues need to be regularised.</p>	<b>Director of Customers and Communities</b>	<b>Clr Mike Hallam</b>	<p>Any damage caused by events is recharged to the organisers and to date, there have been no issues.</p> <p>Update Feb 2020 The Council's Events Terms &amp; Conditions point 7 states: The hirer will take all reasonably practicable steps to avoid damage to carriageways, footways, verges, grassed areas, trees, shrubs, flowers, fences, fixtures and equipment, and will make good all damage or loss caused to the Council's land or property as described, to the Council's satisfaction. Reinstatement costs will be forwarded to the event organiser for payment. Large-scale events may be required to pay a bond to NBC prior to the event taking place. This will be agreed with the organiser pre-event</p> <p>Update August 2020 All large scale events cancelled due to Covid 19. All amendments to the Terms and Conditions will be subject to ongoing review on resumption of events to ensure the Council is protected in the event of damage caused by events held on its land</p>	Ongoing
8	<p>Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities.</p> <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Acknowledge the importance of tackling anti-Semitism in all its forms, to support the growing Jewish community in our town and across the county.</li> <li>2) Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism in all its manifestations</li> <li>3) Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism.</li> <li>4) Asks the Executive to look to adopt similarly agreed definitions to confront and challenge all forms of racism and discrimination that exist within our society.</li> </ol>	<b>Director of Housing and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Clr Anna King</b>	<p>The Council utilises national days such as Holocaust Memorial Day and Srebrenica to bring communities together, to learn about the past, in order to positively shape the future—to celebrate difference and promote understanding. HMD was commemorated on 28 January and Srebrenica will be commemorated on 11 July.</p> <p>Northants Police work towards the definition, that is recommended by the Royal College of Policing.</p> <p>Update June 2020 - A hate crime or incident is any offence perceived by the victim or any other person, whether a witness, friend or family member, as being motivated by prejudice or hate. A hate incident becomes a hate crime when the offence breaks the law. Reasons for the crime can be based on: Race, ethnicity or nationality Religion, faith or belief Sexual orientation Disability and learning difficulties Transgender identity Gender based hostility Individual characteristic that makes someone appear different, e.g. alternative lifestyle, culture, physical appearance.</p> <p>22 June 2020 - Virtual event held for Windrush 11 July 2020 - Plans to commemorate Srebrenica virtually Continue to develop the Diverse Communities Forum. Engaging with the BLM protest organisers and also the 'togetherness group'.</p>	Ongoing
7	<p>There has been a growing understanding of the positive impact that taking part in the arts can have on health and wellbeing. By supplementing medicine and care, the arts can improve the health of people who experience mental or physical health problems. The arts can improve healthcare environments and benefit staff retention and professional development.</p> <p>There are many case studies and a wealth of evidence in Creative Health report, conducted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, to support three key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The arts can help keep us well, aid in our recovery and support longer lives better lived.</li> <li>• The arts can help meet major challenges facing health and social care: ageing, long term conditions, loneliness and mental health.</li> <li>• The arts can help save money in the health service and social care.</li> </ul> <p>Northampton Borough Council (NBC) expresses its strong support for the report's ten recommendations to increase awareness of how engaging in the arts can bring benefits to health and wellbeing.</p> <p>This Council notes the recommendation 3 of the report, which encourages all local authorities to designate an individual to take cross-sector responsibility for arts, health and wellbeing.</p>	<b>Director of Housing and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Clr Anna King</b>	<p>Northampton Museums and Art Gallery (N MAG) will seek to align its planning and programming with Northampton becoming a Dementia Friendly Town. It will feature as a key new area of work for N MAG to explore and implement. People living with dementia will become an area of focus for the museum service and we will seek to provide activities for those living with dementia and their carers through our existing core offer and developing bespoke activities in conjunction with partners. N MAG has been running a monthly Dementia Café as a pilot scheme and is looking at how activities for people living with dementia can be further developed and integrated into our public programme will rolling this out on a larger scale on the opening of the new museum.</p> <p>This ethos will be developed further to consider how museum exhibitions, events and its collections and contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals and the aims and objectives of public health bodies and initiatives.</p>	Ongoing

**Meeting date: 11th March 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
1	<p>This Council believes that to maintain a connection between communities in Northampton and a remoter Unitary Council that the new body needs to embrace Neighbourhood working supported by delegated budgets.</p> <p>The Council calls on NBC representatives on the Shadow Authority to promote the concept of Neighbourhood working to enable residents and local stakeholders to work with service providers and drive improvements in their local area.</p>	Chief Executive	Cllr Jonathan Nunn	<p>Programme Plan has been established with key thematic work streams. This element (Neighbourhood Working) will be considered in Phase 2 of the work programme (Spring 2019 – Winter 2019)</p> <p>UPDATE Feb 2020: This work sits in the Community and Leisure workstream and is now factored into the design element of the Future Northants activity.</p> <p>UPDATE: June 2020: This has been discussed informally with members on the West Northants Shadow Executive and will be considered as part of the Governance Task &amp; Finsish Group.</p> <p>UPDATE SEPT 2020: Locality working and the wider consideration of Area Boards is part of the West Northants Shadow Authority Overview and Scrutiny programme and will be considered this autumn/winter.</p>	Ongoing
3	<p>In preparation for the transition to Unitary we call upon NBC to produce a Sports Strategy for the people of Northampton that draws on the Sports Strategy for West Northamptonshire of 2009.</p> <p>The purpose of this strategy, as well as reviewing current facilities, would be to identify gaps, reflect current user preferences and requirements.</p> <p>Only by doing this can we protect the assets in Northampton for the people of the town.</p>	Director of Customers and Communities	Cllr Anna King	<p>The Head of Customers and Communities is liaising with Northampton Leisure Trust in relation to developing a wider health and wellbeing strategy which will include sport in preparation for unitary</p> <p>UPDATE: In January 2008 Syzygy Leisure was commissioned by Daventry District Council, on behalf of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit to undertake the development of a Sports Facilities Strategy for West Northamptonshire.</p> <p>A number of strategic documents, i.e. national policy documents, regional policy documents, county policy documents and the plans of Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council helped frame the Sports Facilities Strategy.</p> <p>Thirty Governing Bodies of Sport were approached to ascertain their needs. These needs were then considered against the facilities available across the West Northamptonshire area and a number of issues were identified, some specifically in Northampton.</p> <p>The report then looked at the needs and demands of the sports facilities across West Northamptonshire. Again, a number of issues were identified, some specifically in Northampton.</p> <p>The report also looked at future requirements for the West Northamptonshire area, and outlined the conclusions and action plans. The report identified a number of new facilities that were required to meet the growth in the West Northamptonshire area as well as identify where there was insufficient provision to meet demand at that time. The report also identified that there is an overall need to ensure that where facilities exist that their access for community use is maximised.</p> <p>The Sports Facilities Strategy for West Northamptonshire (2009) has helped shape the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) which sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the whole of the area covered by Northampton Borough, Daventry District and South Northamptonshire District councils for the plan period up to 2029.</p> <p>An assessment of the current supply and demand, future requirements and recommendations was undertaken in the development of the West Northamptonshire Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategies for Northampton Borough dated 2017/18. These strategies will be used to inform the development of the Local Plan Part 2.</p> <p>In preparation for the transition to Unitary we need to ensure that we deliver and build on the strategies already produced for West Northamptonshire and jointly maximise any opportunities to increase participation in sport and physical activities, e.g. taking advantage of any funding available, joining in with national sports initiatives and building upon the work of Northamptonshire Sport.</p> <p>Together we need to put healthy living at the heart of our communities and support each other to deliver this.</p> <p>Update Feb 2020 Ian Redfern, Managing Director, NLT, and Councillor Phil Larratt, Deputy Leader of the Council, presented a written briefing note to the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee on 9th January 2020. See Agenda &amp; Minutes of this meeting</p> <p>Update July 20 The closure of the Leisure Centres and Furlough of staff as a result of Covid19 has impacted on the progress made. The development of a strategy is part of the Culture and Leisure Workstream for the West Northamptonshire Unitary Council and this will be progressed alongside Northamptonshire Sport input too. John Fletcher, MD of Northampton Leisure Trust is involved in the workstream as is the Culture as is the Cultural Services Manager and Direct Services Manager responsible for Parks and Open Spaces.</p>	Ongoing

**Meeting date: 3rd June 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
2	<p>This Council recognises the strength of public opinion recently expressed in London and Northampton to address the issue of climate change and the need to address carbon reduction to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations. The council also notes that the UK parliament has declared a Climate Emergency.</p> <p>The Council therefore declares "a Climate Emergency" in Northampton and commits to a target of making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>The Council requests a report to the Council at the beginning of 2020 setting out the action that has been taken in respect to this motion and detailing how progressing this objective has been communicated to and integrated within the start up plans of the West Northamptonshire Unitary Council.</p>	<p><b>Director of Planning and Sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Mike Hallam</b></p>	<p>An approach to Energy Use within the Borough is being drafted.</p> <p>June 2020: The Council is continuing to develop a Carbon Neutral approach whilst also working with neighbouring and partner Councils to develop a common agenda. The Climate Change forum meets regularly, and is helping to identify key areas for activity. The Council is also represented on the emerging West Northamptonshire Environment task and finish group which is currently establishing its scope. Sept 2020; Work is ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
82 3	<p>All parties within this council acknowledge the urgency of dealing with climate change. We need cross party agreement to develop strategies for a greener, more sustainable society in Northampton. A green revolution is required.</p> <p>Working with partners we will seek to implement the following actions, which we strongly believe will benefit Northampton in leading an eco-friendly Britain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A ban on single-use plastics within school environments. Schools across Northampton produce a huge amount of plastic waste each week</li> <li>• Northampton schools would benefit from educating their students on eco issues through school schemes, where programs could be set up in order to teach students how to stay green in lessons, such as Personal, Social, Health and Economic education or by holding educational assemblies with influential speakers.</li> <li>• To help further reduce the damaging effects of plastic littering, the council should support and work closely with schemes operated by companies like TerraCycle who turn many unrecyclable plastics (such as crisp packets and wrappers) into outdoor furniture.</li> <li>• To explore with Local businesses and partners options for an eco-rewards scheme that would allow individuals and groups to gain something back from recycling.</li> <li>• Northampton Borough Council to commit to reducing carbon emissions, both as an organisation and as the local planning authority and resolve to go further than the UK100 Agreement. To act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net-zero carbon by 2030, thus use the planning process to encourage developers to consider low carbon developments.</li> </ul> <p>Joining many councils who have already done the same, NBC declares "a Climate Emergency" in Northampton and commits to a target, in line with the above actions, of making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>The Council requests a production of a baseline report to be submitted to the council in the beginning of 2020 setting out the action that has been taken in respect to this motion. This Council also resolves to work with other local authorities ahead of Unitary to use the baseline report as the basis on which to develop an action plan which could be adopted by the new Council.</p>	<p><b>Director of Planning and Sustainability</b></p>	<p><b>Clr Mike Hallam</b></p>	<p>An approach to Energy Use within the Borough is being drafted.</p> <p>June 2020: The Council is continuing to develop a Carbon Neutral approach whilst also working with neighbouring and partner Councils to develop a common agenda. The Climate Change forum meets regularly, and is helping to identify key areas for activity. The Council is also represented on the emerging West Northamptonshire Environment task and finish group which is currently establishing its scope. Sept 2020; Work is ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

**Meeting date: 17th June 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
4	<p>This Council recognises the contribution made to the town by the voluntary sector. They will bring local intelligence, energy, commitment and resources to our localities. We therefore agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include the voluntary sector in our forward plans;</li> <li>• To ensure robust partnerships are in place as we go into the new Unitary Authority;</li> <li>• To work with Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire to provide the Northampton voluntary sector with sound funding and business advice; and</li> <li>• To work with VIN and CVS to develop back room services for the voluntary sector.</li> </ul>	Community Safety & Engagement Manager	Clr Anna King	<p>The community and voluntary sector are engaged across our work streams and we continue to grant Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire to provide sound funding and business advice to all our community and voluntary groups in the Town. VIN are engaged in the Future Northants workstreams and working with the sector in preparation for the new ways of working as we move towards unitary.</p> <p>Update June 2020 - The community and voluntary sector have been absolutely key to the community resilience hub work that has taken place over the past 14 weeks, in our response to support those most vulnerable within our communities. We are working with the community and voluntary sector, particularly the local infrastructure organisations, including VIN, Northampton Community Foundation and ACRE on a recovery plan.</p>	Ongoing



Meeting date: 22nd July 2019

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
3	<p>At the council meeting on the 3rd June there was unanimous cross party support for action to be taken to address the "climate emergency".</p> <p>Making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030 must be accompanied by conserving and enhancing biodiversity across Northampton and managing its green infrastructure.</p> <p>This council adopted a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning document in May 2015 and this will influence new developments but will not affect the general conservation and enhancement of the existing environmental infrastructure that is vital to reducing Northampton's carbon footprint.</p> <p>In August 2011 under the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs issued a report entitled:- BIODIVERSITY 2020 : A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services. The mission for this strategy was to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.</p> <p>The council requests that, and following on from the cross party meeting on 18th June, a report be presented to this Council, setting out how we have responded to the Biodiversity 2020 challenge highlighting those areas that still need to be addressed and actions that need to be considered when preparing the 2020/21 budget.</p>	<b>Director of Planning and Sustainability</b>	<b>Clr Mike Hallam</b>	<p>The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study, completed in 2018, commissioned as part of the Local Plan Part 2 evidence base makes reference to Biodiversity 2020 and includes assessments of ecosystem services provided at each open space.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Plan for Northampton seeks to enhance existing areas of priority habitat, increasing opportunities for wildlife to move around the landscape by way of "stepping stones" and "corridors". This approach is to be articulated through Local Plan Part 2 policy.</p> <p>The Council is a partner in the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) which seeks to re-create and reconnect natural areas along the Nene and its tributaries from Daventry to Peterborough. This area includes the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area, for which the Council has adopted a joint Supplementary Planning Document. Taking this into account, we have worked closely with the County Council's Ecology Officer in the preparation of the Local Plan Part 2 and also in the determination of planning applications.</p> <p>The Council has recently started working with partner councils in the NIA in securing a tool for habitat opportunity mapping, which will identify potential areas for the expansion of key habitats including broadleaved and mixed woodland, semi-natural grassland and wetlands. This will assist decision-making for planning applications because it will, among other things, map opportunities to enhance biodiversity and deal with air pollution, surface water runoff and soil erosion.</p> <p>The Beds, Cambs and Northants Wildlife Trust continues to manage Local Nature Reserves in Northampton under a Service Level Agreement with the Council.</p> <p>In putting together the Local Plan Part 2, taking account of the evidence commissioned above, the Council is taking a strategic approach to planning for nature within and across local areas. The Council will continue to secure planning obligations associated with the protection and enhancement of natural networks. Sept 2020, the Local Plan part 2 is out for consultation.</p>	Ongoing
84	<p>Air Quality Policy 2 of The Northampton Low Emissions Strategy states: "We will aim to reduce the vehicle emissions that have a harmful effect on air quality, by increasing the attractiveness of low polluting alternatives to the private car and encouraging modal shift."</p> <p>Air Quality Policy no 6 states: "We will work with operators and Government to seek the introduction of buses fuelled by alternative fuel sources in Northamptonshire."</p> <p>Other Local Authorities with similar policies have imposed target dates to ensure the introduction of alternative fuelled buses in their areas. Northampton does not have such a target and as a result we are getting older more polluting vehicles that other areas have banned.</p> <p>We therefore call on NBC to work with public transport operators, Northamptonshire County Council and Michael Ellis MP, ( Minister of State, Department of Transport, ) to take urgent action to :-</p> <p>1: Ban all diesel buses that do not meet EURO 5 Emissions standards or higher, from scheduled bus and coach services, in Northampton by 1st April 2023.</p> <p>2: To ensure that buses and coaches that do not meet EURO 6 standards are withdrawn from scheduled service routes by 1st April 2025.</p> <p>3: Produce a public transport plan for the Northampton Travel to Work Area that will enable the councils and successor authorities to secure funding for a Low and Ultra-Low Emissions Public Transport Infrastructures. With the aim of getting rid of diesel powered buses from Northampton and the county by 1st January 2030.</p> <p>4: In addition, we call on NBC to campaign to stop cars and buses idling, enforcing this with Fixed penalties under The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) Regulations 2002</p>	<b>Director of Customers and Communities</b>	<b>Clr Mike Hallam</b>	<p>Update Feb 2020 Discussions are ongoing with partner agencies about possible opportunities for the development of electric bus networks.</p> <p>Additional work to reduce vehicle emissions including an evaluation of the practicality of using the fixed penalty regime to target vehicle idling will be undertaken as part of the air quality action planning that will take place once the new town centre air quality management area has been declared.</p> <p>Update June 2020 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it has not been possible to progress the actions as previously anticipated. It is anticipated that plans being developed to encourage active travel in Northampton will deliver positive outcomes in this area.</p>	Ongoing
5	<p>The council is currently consulting on Part 2 of the Local Plan with the view of submitting the draft for public inspection in 2020.</p> <p>The draft plan has introduced a more detailed categorisation of open space which differentiates between Parks and Gardens and Amenity Green Space.</p> <p>Many well-known parks have been categorised as Amenity Green Spaces (AGS) which is defined as Informal recreation and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work.</p> <p>The council is concerned that the public would not recognise their local park as complying with this definition and requests that consideration is given to all open spaces, with play equipment supplied and maintained by this council, be classified as Parks and Gardens and not as Amenity Green Spaces.</p>	<b>Director of Planning and Sustainability</b>	<b>Clr James Hill</b>	<p>This will be addressed in the Local Plan part 2 Sep 20 - this matter has been considered in light of national guidance and is covered in the Local Plan Part 2 which is currently out for consult</p>	Ongoing
6	<p>This Council recognises that poverty, as an issue in the county, has a major impact on the life chances of our citizens. We have 18,000 plus children living in poverty. We are seeing an increasing number of our elderly, vulnerable residents living in poverty.</p> <p>We will therefore, working with partners and services, develop an anti-poverty strategy that will: - seek to prevent people and families becoming poor; - support people and families with appropriate measures when they are poor, and; - support people to maximise their income to get them, and the following generation, out of poverty.</p> <p>This strategy will be offered to the new Unitary Authority as a working document.</p>	<b>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Clr Anna King</b>	<p>There is currently an overview and scrutiny panel looking at Food Poverty within the Town. The evidence being gathered during this process may help to support any potential future strategy that may be devised as an outcome/recommendation of this process. The work of the panel will also be fed into the Housing and Revenue and Benefits Future Northants workstreams who are looking at Poverty as a whole.</p>	Ongoing

**Meeting date: 16th September 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
2	<p>Council notes the excellent work of the "Save our Street Trees" Group in Far Cotton and the work they have done in bringing both NBC and NCC together with the Woodland Trust to look at a trial project for re-instating street trees in Northampton.</p> <p>Council notes the work of the former Mayor of London Boris Johnson in re-instating 20,000 of street trees to our Capital during his time as the Mayor and the benefit that can give to the wider environment and efforts to combat climate change. He also delivered his pledge to create 100 rejuvenated spaces as part of his pocket parks programme in 26 London boroughs, with more than 25 hectares of community land across the capital having been converted into new enhanced green areas.</p> <p>Northampton Borough Council calls for a transformation of underused urban spaces across our town. Trees deliver huge benefits such as cleaning the air and storing carbon. To ensure future generations receive these benefits and Northampton grows sustainably, we all need to protect existing trees and plant new trees.</p> <p>Therefore, this Council requests on the initial work to form a joint plan for wider scale re-instatement of street trees as part of the move to Unitary.</p>	<b>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</b>	<b>Cllr Tim Hadland</b>	As part of the vision to transform Northampton town centre trees form an important part of this. As designs are developed the council will look at how these opportunities can be maximised.	Ongoing

**Meeting date: 4th November 2019**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
1	<p>7 in 10 young people have experienced cyberbullying. 26% of young people who have been cyberbullied report feeling suicidal.</p> <p>Whether you are in the public eye or not, you cannot get away from social media and it is ruining a lot of people's lives.</p> <p>Building on the excellent BBC's documentary 'Odd One Out', featuring Little Mix star Jesy Nelson, this Council believes that there is a real need to talk more about cyberbullying, how this is making us feel and how to tackle it.</p> <p>NBC is proud to say that we held a primary school event on 16th October and has two more planned for this academic year 2019-20: 11th February and 5th June 2020, all focussing on various community safety messages, including online safety.</p> <p>Based on the feedback from the young people, the Council has this year also added the topic of cyberbullying and 540 year six's will have attended the events and received this informal education.</p> <p>This Council further commits to launching its secondary school programme covering cyberbullying, with the first one taking place on 24th November at Weston Favell secondary and this being rolled out to Northampton International Academy and other secondary schools before the end of the academic year.</p> <p>We live in a social media obsessed world and people say things without realising the devastating effect on young lives and families. This Council is fully committed to leading the way in showing that bullying is not ok.</p> <p>Lowdown offer free counselling and advice to young people aged 12-25yrs across Northampton. The following link provides information and guidance for young people facing these issues <a href="http://thelowdown.info/issues/cyberbullying/">http://thelowdown.info/issues/cyberbullying/</a></p>	Community Safety & Engagement Manager	Clr Anna King	<p>Four primary school community safety events have been held at the Deco in the last 18 months. We have engaged 16 of our priority primary schools, more than 650 year 6 students, attended during the day to learn more from our experts, through workshops, theatre performances and films about important issues such as knife crime, gangs, online safety, cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation, railway safety, hate crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>We also held our first secondary school's community safety awareness raising event held at the Deco theatre in November 2019 .540 year 8 and 9 students attended from Weston Favell Academy to hear key community safety messages. Expert speakers, performers and presenters covered topics such as healthy relationships, knife and gang crime, personal safety, online safety, grooming, cyber bullying and hate crime.</p> <p>As a result of the success of the first event, we have had expressions of interest from a number of secondary schools and Booth Lane College to deliver the programme.</p> <p>Update June 2020 - Unfortunately we haven't been able to deliver any further school events, the three that we had arranged for the Spring/Summer have been cancelled due to COVID-19.</p> <p>We do have a commitment from a number of schools, primary and secondary and the colleges. We will be looking at the viability to deliver the events virtually/pre-recorded for the new academic year.</p>	Ongoing
86 3	<p>This council congratulates Norwich Council for winning the Stirling Architecture Prize for its recently developed housing estate, Goldsmith Street, comprised of almost 100 'ultra-low-energy homes'</p> <p>This is the first time in the 23-year history of the Stirling prize that it has been awarded to social housing.</p> <p>"A modest masterpiece" is how the RIBA Stirling prize judges described the project, designed by London firm Mikhail Riches with Cathy Hawley, representing "highquality architecture in its purest most environmentally and socially conscious form". The 105 creamy-brick homes are designed to stringent Passivhaus environmental standards, meaning energy costs are around 70% cheaper than average. The walls are highly insulated, and the roofs are cleverly angled at 15 degrees, to ensure each terrace doesn't block sunlight from the homes behind, while letterboxes are built into external porches, rather than the front doors, to reduce any possibility of draughts.</p> <p>Immense thought has gone into every detail – from the perforated brick balconies to the cleverly interlocking staircases in the three-storey flats at the end of each terrace – to ensure that every home has its own front door on the street. The back gardens look on to a planted alley, dotted with communal tables and benches, while parking has been pushed to the edge of the site, freeing up the streets for people, not cars.</p> <p>This year's choice sends a clear message that, despite government cuts, it is eminently possible for brave councils to take the initiative and build environmentally sustainable social housing.</p> <p>We call on NBC to be brave and develop an ambitious long-term sustainable housing plan.</p>	Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Clr Stephen Hibbert	<p>Update July 2020 - We are working closely with Northampton Partnership Homes to ensure that all new council homes are environmentally sustainable. Examples include the new homes planned for the Roof Gardens (resulting from the regeneration of Berkeley House and St Mary's Court) and the Clock House (resulting from the conversion of a redundant office) which are due to be constructed over the next couple of years.</p>	Ongoing

**Meeting date: 20th January 2020**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
2	<p>We note that all the party manifestos promised new money for youth.</p> <p>This council recognises that well-resourced youth work in Northampton will deliver many benefits. It will:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide meaningful and enriching activities for young people;</li> <li>• provide jobs and career pathways for youth workers;</li> <li>• deflect young people from gangs and criminal activity;</li> <li>• enable young people to develop a voice and contribute to the regeneration of the town.</li> </ul> <p>To this end we agree to support the local campaign for a Youth Centre for Northampton.</p> <p>The centre will be multifaceted and provide a focus for developing our understanding of what young people in the town need, for developing youth work, and developing a youth voice for the town.</p> <p>A youth centre, particularly in the town centre, will bring new energy and commitment to the town.</p>	Community Safety & Engagement Manager	Clr Anna King	<p>Youth Provision meeting established to coordinate the activity and youth spaces that are developing in the Town. Bringing partners together to work collaboratively as our youth offer continues to grow and develop.</p> <p>Youth space has been secured in the Town Centre. Support being offered to Free2Talk and partners to develop the space.</p> <p>Update June 2020 - Youth space has been secured in the Town Centre and the lease is currently being signed. Support being offered to Free2Talk and partners to develop the space. We are also exploring other youth spaces in the Town, including the basement areas within MacDonald's in the Drapery and at Weston Favell.</p> <p>We are meeting regularly (and have continued during the past 14 weeks) with youth providers, the objectives of the meetings include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate the development of youth spaces across the Borough to enhance services and avoid duplication of effort.</li> <li>2. Information exchange and opportunities to work in partnership, maximising current resources.</li> <li>3. Organisations attending to provide feedback to and from the youth organisations/groups which they represent.</li> <li>4. Map existing provision to identify current gaps, including activity, times, days etc.</li> <li>5. Promotion of positive activities and local services for young people.</li> <li>6. Identify and develop collaborative projects.</li> <li>7. Identify funding opportunities.</li> </ol> <p>In the last 3 weeks, we have developed a newsletter which details the services that are available for young people across the borough</p>	Ongoing

**Meeting date: 15th June 2020**

Motion no.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
2	<p>The recent resolution at Cabinet to pass the Homelessness Rough Sleeping and Action Plan 2020, represents a huge amount of collaborative work and investigation completed on Homeless in Northampton over the past five years.</p> <p>The resolution also follows a remarkable shift in the challenge of tackling entrenched rough sleeping during the Covid-19 pandemic. The support made available for rough sleepers and NBC's quick and robust response transformed the look and approach to rough sleeping in Northampton. Rough sleepers being offered good quality accommodation in line with the principles of Housing First, excellent communication between different agencies and the placement of organisations where people were living created an environment in which people felt supported and empowered to access help allowing them to move on from rough sleeping.</p> <p>As the situation with Covid-19 evolves and changes, it is vital that the excellent progress in the rough sleeping approach seen during it is not lost and that the new strategy is able to meet its full potential. The Cabinet papers recognise that the continuation of this strategy in its current form requires the continued input of the MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative funding created out of the government's Homelessness Reduction Scheme. It is vital that the government continue to provide this funding, as its loss or reduction would have a detrimental impact on NBC's ability to continue to deliver, develop and grow this strategy.</p> <p>Therefore:</p> <p>This council recognises and applauds the work completed by the NBC Housing Team, its partners from other agencies and the wider voluntary sector, together with the Overview and Scrutiny panels. progressing the new, transformative homelessness strategy.</p> <p>This council resolves to write to the West Northants MPs to ensure that the government continues to fund this vital body of work.</p>	<p><b>Director of Housing/Chief Executive</b></p>		<p>Update - July 2020. Since the Council Meeting on 15 June 2020, the Government has announced a substantial package of funding - its Next Steps Accommodation Programme - to support local authorities in accommodating rough sleepers and then moving them on into settled housing. In August 2020, Northampton will be submitting its bid for funding. At that point, letters signed by George Candler will be sent to the MP's in West Northants, asking them to support the Council's bid for funding.</p>	Ongoing
88 3	<p>That this Council, under, and in pursuance of the powers conferred by virtue of Section 249 Local Government Act, 1972, proposes that the local National Health Service be recommended for admission into the Freedom of the Borough of Northampton, in recognition and appreciation of the outstanding services rendered to the residents of the town during the COVID19 Emergency.</p> <p>This will be done through the immediate establishment of a cross-party working group and a subsequent report recommending how this honour should be granted, followed by a Special Meeting of the Council where it will be voted on.</p>	<p><b>Monitoring Officer</b></p>		<p>UPDATE July 2020: A report will be submitted to the existing Community Governance Review Cross Party Working Group which will make onward recommendations to full council at its meeting on 14th September</p>	Ongoing

Meeting date: 20th July 2020

Motion No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Responsible Cabinet Member	Actions	Status
1	<p>Predictions are there is going to be a spike in evictions this Autumn following the Covid-19 crisis moratorium on evictions and the movement of people. Our social lettings agency has an ever more important role to mitigate against this happening.</p> <p>We call on the Council to invest to save by renting or buying up houses to let in the private sector where tenants or landlords are struggling.</p>	Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Cllr Stephen Hibbert		
2	<p>Council recognises the hard work of the Neighbourhood Warden team in tackling fly-tipping, issuing a record number of enforcement notices and in the engagement work they do with local communities. We call on the Council to set up a multi-agency team including the police to track down perpetrators and ensure the appropriate action is taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- against criminal and illegal operators who knowingly rob their customers by charging for the removal of rubbish, which is later dumped in our streets;</li> <li>- against landlords who dump household waste on pavements;</li> <li>- against and being seen to impose hefty fines on social groups and partygoers who leave piles of used food containers and bottles on our parks;</li> <li>- to actively support tenants and residents who want to use the recycling depots but for whatever reason are unable to, and;</li> <li>- to work with the University to offer a collection service to student landlords.</li> </ul>	Director of Customers and Communities	Cllr Mike Hallam	Update August 2020 A Multi-agency meeting has been arranged for September to progress this action	Ongoing
3	<p>This Council recognises the importance of Northampton's arts and cultural sector as the 'soul' of Northampton and will work with our Conservative MPs and central government to access Northampton's portion of the record-breaking national support package, the biggest ever one-off investment in UK culture. This will not only help to secure local jobs, but also mean that our iconic venues can weather the storm created by coronavirus and come back stronger and continue to be there for local residents and future generations to enjoy. This council will work tirelessly to ensure that this sector emerges from this crisis by continuing to invest in the work of our Heritage, Culture and Communities team in order to provide the support required.</p> <p>We note that it is our function to interfere with our MPs in the interest of our communities and for the protection and development of our Arts infrastructure.</p> <p>We further note that any monies coming forward from Central Government will need to be supported with a strategic plan for the arts to ensure a longer-term future for the arts in the town. We urge Overview and Scrutiny to pursue this with all due speed.</p>	Director of Customers and Communities	Cllr Anna King	Update August 2020 Support and advice has been given to a number of cultural organisations to direct them to and assist with applications for funding. Work towards recruiting a part-time temporary position of Cultural Director to support the development of a Cultural Forum within the Town has recently been restarted following a pause whilst the arts organisations focused on support bids and funding.	Ongoing