



Town Centre Operations

The lift refurbishment works to two lifts in the Mayorhold MSCP are complete and lifts have been reopened to the public. The refurbishment works to the four lifts in St Johns MSCP are progressing on programme should be completed before Christmas.

The daily ticket parking figures for the April – September showed 1,212,405 visitors using the council's car parks which is an increase of 21% in comparison with the same period in 2018.

The overall footfall figures for the January – September 2019 period for the town centre is 1,115,523 which is a fall of 1,490,328 (-11%) in comparison with the same period in 2018.

The footfall figures for September 2019 across the town centre is 102,1312 which is fall of 15% in comparison with the same period in 2018.

Economic Growth and Regeneration

- Work continues to develop the Business Case for the next stage of the Future High Street Fund submission. A draft is required to be submitted in January 2020 with the final business case submission required in April 2020. Designs for the projects to be included within the bid are progressing with consultation on a number of these proposals. The previous dates were November and February and these revised dates are very welcome in view of the work involved.
- Work on a new Masterplan setting the vision for the transformation of Northampton Town Centre has now been completed. Its creation and development has been overseen by Northampton Forward and it went to Cabinet for consideration 16 October. The masterplan will form a major strand of the Councils Corporate Plan, be used as a consideration for future planning applications and will inform emerging planning policy.
- It was announced in September that Northampton has been selected as one of the towns to receive up to £25m from the governments Towns Fund. The fund will be focused on improved transport, culture, skills and broadband connectivity aimed at improving the economic growth prospects of towns. We are currently awaiting further guidance before developing our submission into this fund.
- The Vulcan Works project continues to progress with the careful refurbishment of the listed buildings and new build extensions to the site. A report on the procurement of an operator for the centre will be taken to Cabinet in November in order to get an operator appointed in the spring of 2020.

- Work on Upton Country Park Phase 2 continues with the major elements of earthworks and hard landscaping all to be completed by the end of October. This project continues on time and within budget.
- The delivery of the Museum continues with the main build now entering into its final stages, the work on the interior is due to start imminently.

Asset Management

- The Restoration of Billing Brook Lakes to create new wetland habitats, reed beds and islands for wildlife is underway. The project, in partnership with Growing Together, the Environment Agency, the National Lottery Community Fund and the Mick George Community Fund, is progressing on time and to budget. It is scheduled to complete by December 2019
- Emergency works were required to the Califormiers at Mounts baths with these needing to be replaced. Work on this is currently underway and the project is progressing well and on schedule. It is expected to be complete before the New Year.
- Plans for the extension of the Rectory Farm Community Centre have been approved and a contractor has been appointed to undertake the works. Work is scheduled to commence in Oct 19 and be complete in Apr 20.
- Following Cabinet approval to improve street lighting owned by NBC across the Borough to LED lighting we have now concluded contract discussions with the contractor for this work. This project will reduce carbon emissions and improve public safety. Work is expected to commence in December and take around 6 months to complete
- Emergency works to replace the sprinklers in the Royal and Derngate is now complete.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning