



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Please find enclosed the agenda and supporting papers for **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **Thursday, 25 April 2013**

Time: **6:00 pm**

Place: **The Jeffrey Room, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE.**

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, telephone 01604 837408 (direct dial), email ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor Les Marriott
Deputy-Chair	Councillor Matthew Lynch
Committee Members	Councillor Tony Ansell Councillor Michael Ford Councillor Brendan Glynane Councillor Elizabeth Gowen Councillor Jamie Lane Councillor Phil Larratt Councillor Lee Mason Councillor Beverley-Anne Mennell Councillor Nilesh Ramesh Parekh Councillor Suresh Patel Councillor Brian W Sargeant Councillor Danielle Stone

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
10 June 2013 6:00 pm 9 September 2013 6:00pm 11 November 2013 6:00pm	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitution.
2	Minutes	1 - 12	Members to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31 st January 2013.
3	Deputations/Public Addresses		<p>The Chair to note public address requests.</p> <p>The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.</p>
4	Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
5 6:05 pm 20 mins	Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Performance	13 - 16	The Chair of the CSP to provide a progress report on the levels of performance.
6 6:25 pm 10 mins	Performance Monitoring Report		Members to review the Performance Monitoring Report (copy to follow)
7 6:35 pm 15 mins	O&S Work Programme 2013/2014	17 - 20	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the Work Programme for 2013/2014.

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

8 6:50 pm 10 mins	Self-Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny 2012	21 - 76	The Committee to consider the report of the self-evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny 2012.
9 7:00 pm	Scrutiny Panels		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a progress report from the three Scrutiny Panels.
9 (a) 7:00 pm 15 mins	Scrutiny Panel 1 - Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety	77 - 165	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the final report from Scrutiny Panel 1 prior to submission to Cabinet.
9 (b)	Scrutiny Panel 2- Retail Experience.	166	In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol this item is for the Committee's information with no discussion.
9 (c)	Scrutiny Panel 3- Infrastructure requirements and Section 106 Agreements	167	In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol this item is for the Committee's information with no discussion.
9 (d) 7:15 pm 5 mins	LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry	168 - 176	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the report of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry.
10 7:20 pm 5 mins	Care and Quality Commission (CQC) and Centre for Public Scrutiny(CfPS)district working project	177 - 178	The Committee to note the briefing note detailing the CQC and CfPS district working project.
11	Report back from NBC's representative to NCC's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee	179 - 180	The Committee to note an update from Councillor Danielle Stone on the work of NCC's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.
12 7:25 pm	Potential future pre decision scrutiny.	181	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any potential issues for future pre decision scrutiny.
13	Urgent Items		This issue is for business that by reasons of the special circumstances to be specified, the Chair is of the opinion is of sufficient urgency to consider. Members or Officers that wish to raise urgent items are to inform the Chair in advance.

Agenda Item 2

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 31 January 2013

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Les Marriott (Chair), Councillors Matt Lynch (Vice Chair), Councillors Tony Ansell, Mick Ford, Brendan Glynane, Elizabeth Gowen, Phil Larratt, Beverley Mennell, Brian Sargeant, Danielle Stone and Winston Strachan (substituting for Councillor Lee Mason)

Witnesses	Councillor David Mackintosh	Leader of the Council - Item 5
	Councillor Mary Markham	Cabinet Member for Housing- Items 5 and 6
	Councillor Brandon Eldred	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement- Items 5 and 8
	Councillor Alan Bottwood	Cabinet Member for Finance- Items 5 and 9

Officers	David Kennedy	Chief Executive
	Isabell Procter	Director of Resources
	Julie Seddon	Director of Customers and Cultural Services
	Lesley Wearing	Director of Housing
	Catherine Wilson	Head of Business Change
	Tim Ansell	Housing Services Manager
	Tracy Tiff	Scrutiny Officer
	Joanne Birkin	Democratic Services Officer

Observers	Rebecca Smith	Assistant Head of Finance
	Chris Cavanagh	Head of Regeneration and Development
	Gary Youens	Political Assistant
	Claire Young	HR

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received by Councillors Jamie Lane, Suresh Patel, Nilesh Parekh and Lee Mason, Councillor Winston Strachan substituting for Councillor Mason.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

5. DRAFT BUDGET 2013-2016

The Committee considered a report on the Council Wide Draft Budget 2013-14.

The Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group met on 9 January 2013 and identified the following budget proposals that it wished to scrutinise further.

The items were:-

- Savings Arising from Changes to Terms and Conditions (General Fund)
- Savings from moving services into LGSS Conditions (General Fund)
- Raising sponsorship to offset cost of NBC events Conditions (General Fund)
- Dealing with Welfare Reform and the Impact on Rent Income Collection Conditions (General Fund)(HRA)

Savings Arising from Changes to Terms and Conditions (General Fund)

Councillor Mackintosh as the Cabinet member with responsibility for changes to terms and conditions and Councillor Bottwood as Finance Cabinet Member addressed the Committee to discuss this Budget proposal. The main points of discussion were as follows:-

It was explained that this matter impacted on both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Accounts.

Members asked if the proposals had had an effect on staff morale and what feedback had been received during the consultation process. It was felt that there had been an impact on staff morale but that it needed to be taken in the context of the current difficult economic climate. Staff realised that there were several additional pressures on the amount of money available to deliver services which also had to change rapidly to encompass major new legislation.

It was explained that the whole consultation process had started in October last year. The main focus:

- Essential Car User Allowances – Removal of the essential car user allowance and replace with a casual car user allowance.
- Professional Fees
- Charging Staff for car parking.

At the same time employees were also asked if they wished to put themselves forward for voluntary redundancy or early retirement.

There were 22 people interested in voluntary redundancy 19 of those were in services which were to be subject to reorganisation. Therefore 3 people were agreed for voluntary redundancy release. The release of those concerned had been agreed by their managers and a Panel which looked at the impact that their leaving might have on the service.

Members questioned whether these changes could be implemented if they were part of employees' contract. They were advised that changes in the contracts were introduced as part of the pay and grading exercise and introduced a condition that non contractual conditions such as essential car users allowance could be changed if three months' notice was given.

The combined savings achieved from the agreed voluntary redundancies and the removal of the essential car user allowance was sufficient to achieve the required salary savings for this year. It was therefore decided to give 12 months' notice that the other proposals i.e. to remove payment of professional fees and the introduction of staff car parking charges would be introduced in 2014.

Members were advised that the Trade Unions had not agreed to the changes and had stated that they intended to hold a ballot of their members.

Members asked whether alternatives to essential car use had been considered and were advised that car-pooling had been investigated but that it was not viable for the Council to introduce. This may change in the future if a scheme was introduced as part of any future partnership agreements.

Members also queried how the staff car parking fees would be determined. Consultation had been based on a percentage of salary scheme, but feedback received from staff had been divided between preferring that or a flat rate fee scheme. Members also queried whether they would be included. They were advised that during consultation it had become obvious that there were many different elements that needed to be considered before the scheme was introduced and this was one of the reasons that it had been deferred for a year.

Savings from moving services into LGSS Conditions (General Fund)

Councillor Bottwood addressed the Committee to discuss this Budget proposal. The main points of discussion were as follows:-

The principle to take part in negotiations with Northamptonshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Council was agreed by Cabinet last year. Detailed arrangements are now being considered.

There have been several project teams looking at various elements of the proposal and the current focus is maintaining levels of service when services transfer over to Local Government Shared Service (LGSS) Draft Service Level agreements are being considered and will be reviewed by Management Team in the next week. Services were in the process of making preparations to ensure that when the changeover happened there would be no detrimental change in the service delivered to the customers.

Members queried where the setting up costs were coming from and whether the £415,000 anticipated savings in the first year took these into account. They were advised that the setting up costs were being found from an improvement reserve. It was confirmed that the £415,000 was an estimate at a point in time and would be recalculated at the negotiation

phase, taking into consideration issues such as where staff were based, office accommodation etc.

Members also asked whether the project was still on course to deliver those savings. David Kennedy, Chief Executive, confirmed that a timetable was being worked to and the initial proposed start date was 1 April 2013, but it was acknowledged that there could be a delay to 1 May or 1 June 2013. If there was a delay there would obviously be a corresponding reduction in the amount of savings achieved this year. Members were advised that there would be a review of all budget options undertaken by the Director of Resources before the final budget consideration and if necessary figures would be revised at that stage.

The financing of local government is undergoing rapid change and it was increasingly important to ensure that services were being provided at the best possible cost and that involves more effective partnership working under agreements such as LGSS.

Members questioned whether the aim was to simply to provide services at the same level, but were advised that this was a starting point and that it was hoped that by working in partnership then improvements would be made and there would be an increase in the quality of service over time. There were some services that the Borough Council currently excels at and the aim is that by working together the other partners will adapt best practice and their services will improve. In a similar way other partners' areas of expertise would influence Borough Council services.

With regard to risk, there will always be an element of risk when undertaking such a high level change process; however members were assured that the various project boards were continually undertaking reviews to risk levels.

Members were reminded that there has been an LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry which has been looking at the details of the agreements as they have become clear. All Members have been invited to attend those meetings

Members were advised that the details of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry were available on the Intranet.

Raising sponsorship to offset cost of NBC events Conditions (General Fund)

Councillor Eldred, Cabinet member for Community Engagement addressed the Committee to discuss this Budget proposal.

The main points of discussion were as follows:-

The aim of this budget proposal was to obtain sponsorship from local businesses for events .This began at Christmas when a local car company sponsored a Christmas tree in the Market Square. The ultimate aim would be to create enough sponsorship to make the Events Team self-funding and generate income which could then be used to provide further events.

The budget contribution for the first year was set at £5,000 but the second year is £70,000. Members queried whether this was achievable and whether someone had been specifically employed to seek company sponsorship for events. No specific staff had been taken on, there had been a sponsorship and promotion pack created last year which would be used. It was felt that the initial £5,000 was cautious and that there would be a lot of opportunities for sponsorship associated with the Northampton Alive event at Delapre Abbey. The tickets for Northampton Alive were selling well and it was hoped that if that proved a success in its first year then it would build a reputation and it would be easier to attract sponsorship in the future. It was emphasised that it was intended to obtain sponsorship for other events and hopefully grow the whole events programme.

Members queried whether costs for cleaning up and reinstatement after events like those at Delapre Abbey had been taken into account. It was emphasised that the Delapre Abbey event was being run by professional organisation and that these issues would be dealt with.

There was some discussion around whether the proposed level of savings was achievable. It was accepted that it is a difficult economic climate and it may be harder to find companies who are willing to sponsor events if their advertising budgets have been cut. It remained to be seen if the proposals for this year were achieved which could give some indication. Projected levels for the first year were low and if necessary figures for future years would need to be reviewed in the light of the most up to date information.

The Chair suggested that it would be a useful role for the overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor, in 12 months' time, whether the income generation of £70,000 could be achieved. The Committee agreed that this would be an important issue for it to scrutinise.

It was requested that data on the overall costs of events be forwarded to the Committee for its information.

AGREED: The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in a years' time to discuss how successful the raising of sponsorship had been.

Dealing with Welfare Reform and the Impact on Rent Income Collection Conditions (General Fund) (HRA)

Councillor Markham, Cabinet Member for Housing, addressed the Committee to discuss this Budget proposal.

The main points of discussion were as follows:-

This was another item which had an impact on both the Housing Revenue Account and the General Fund.

The Welfare Reform Act will be introduced in April 2013 and Universal Credit will be introduced in October. The proposed budget was to provide an additional 2 or 3 members of staff on 2 year fixed term contracts. They will be available to provide advice and assistance on all aspects of the welfare reform changes as they impact on Council housing tenants.

There has already been a considerable amount of work done identifying 1,200 tenants who have been identified as being affected by the Welfare Reform changes.(70- 80 families who may be affected by the Welfare Reform Cap). It was confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be provided with more details on this data.

It was highlighted that the Council had communicated with people that it felt would be affected and was aiming to help prevent them from getting into difficulties. Existing housing staff have been contacting tenants, initial attempts at contact have been made by phone, including calls at evenings and weekends to talk to tenants and make sure that they are aware of the changes and how they might affect them and discuss their preparedness. If tenants cannot be contacted by phone then they will be written to, inviting them to come and discuss the changes with housing officers. Some tenants are aware of changes and are trying to make provision; others are unwilling or possibly in denial about what it means to them.

It was acknowledged that it was not just Council tenants that will be affected and that there were also other factors such as changes in local Council Tax benefit which will cause problems to some people. The aim is to try and prevent as many people as possible from falling into debt. Tenants would also be signposted to other agencies for help with budget management etc. If however they do fall behind in their rent payments then action will be taken to clear arrears and ultimately eviction action would be started.

Members welcomed the efforts being made by the Housing Staff but expressed concern there would still be many people adversely affected who would still not come and discuss their problems until they found themselves in difficulties and then the additional staff provided would not prove adequate. Out of those currently contacted 221 have acknowledged the problem and were taking actions, others said they would deal with it when it happened or did not actually accept that it was happening.

Members expressed concern that the other agencies might be unable to cope with resulting demand, as they too were under financial constraints. Members were advised that the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Chief Executive were aware of this problem and were meeting with other agencies next week.

Members also felt that there was a very real danger that some people would simply be unable to cope. There may also be issues regarding the fact that many people have had housing benefit paid directly to their landlords and never had to budget and pay rent directly. The Committee was informed that in some cases it may be possible for payments to be made directly.

It was likely that Members would also find themselves having to deal with an increased case load as people became affected by the changes and turned to Members for help. A Member briefing session on Welfare Reform changes is being held on 19 February.

Members asked what would happen to those people who were unable to meet their rent commitments. In very extreme cases then there may be some provision to help those people who are very vulnerable. In appropriate cases then action will be taken to obtain possession.

AGREED: The Cabinet Member for Housing be asked to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in six months' time to give an update on the impact of the new Policies.

6. HOUSING CONSULTATIONS FEEDBACK- TENANCY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Markham, Cabinet Member for Housing, Lesley Wearing, Director of Housing and Tim Ansell, Housing Services Manager attended the Committee to provide an update on the Consultation Feedback on the Tenancy Engagement Strategy.

The main points of the discussion were as follows:-

The Council has a good record of tenant engagement. The new engagement strategy builds on ensuring that the tenants are involved in the decision making process and the development of service improvement. All the feedback on the proposed strategy has been very positive and the consultation meetings have been very well attended.

The new Strategy introduces tenant scrutiny panels which will be examining specific areas of service. Those service areas being the ones that were identified through the tenancy agreement process. The chairs of these tenant scrutiny panels will form a Scrutiny Board.

The themes of the five boards will be:-

- Home- including repair issues
- Solutions – Considering choice based letting process
- Neighbourhoods- Communal Areas, estates, Anti-Social behaviour
- Involvement and Empowerment- Customer Service
- Strategy- Performance targets and value for money.

There will be support and training provided for tenants who wish to serve on panels. In March Housing will be holding a recruitment day looking for scrutiny panel members, mystery shoppers, volunteers for estate walkabouts etc. Training will then be tailored to need.

It was emphasised that this engagement would be in addition to existing processes.

Members were pleased to see that the proposals had been supported by tenants and hoped that the tenant panels might be able to join in with scrutiny done by the Committee. They considered that the tenants' panels might be able to identify work for a potential

Scrutiny Review, and felt that it would be useful if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received updates on their progress.

AGREED:

1. The Cabinet Member for Housing be invited to the Committee in six months' time to give an update on the progress of the implementation on the tenants' engagement strategy.
2. Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive regular updates from the Housing Scrutiny Panels.

7. CABINET'S RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS

(A) CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Committee received the Cabinet response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Report on Customer Services.

The recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Customer Services were all accepted.

AGREED:

1. The report detailing Cabinet's response be noted.
2. The report be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Monitoring Work Programme 2013/14.
3. The Cabinet member be invited to attend the Committee in six months' time to provide a progress report on the accepted recommendations.

(B) HATE CRIME

The Committee received the Cabinet response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Report on Hate Crime.

The recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Hate Crime were all accepted.

The report included a recommendation that a Councillor Hate Crime Reporting Champion be elected and Councillor Matt Lynch has been elected to this position. Members asked if they could receive an update detailing the proposed work programme and reporting process for the Councillor Champion.

AGREED:

1. The report detailing Cabinet's response be noted.
2. The report be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Monitoring Work Programme 2013/14.
3. The Cabinet member and the Councillor Hate Crime Reporting Champion be invited to attend the Committee in six months' time to provide a progress report on the accepted recommendations.

8. MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS

(A) COMMUNITY CENTRES.

Councillor Brandon Eldred, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities attended the meeting to provide an update on the accepted recommendations of the report.

The main points of the discussion were as follows:-

Of 21 Community Centres, the transfer of 19 had been agreed. There are just two at Parklands and Weston Flavell that are outstanding. Parklands had now submitted a Business Plan. There were issues regarding Western Flavell and agreements held by the County Council which were being resolved.

With regard to Western Flavell Members raised concern that the Community Centre user groups did not feel that they had been properly consulted over the potential change in Management. It was also commented that it did not appear to be part of the normal process to inform the local councillor when these changes were brought forwarded.

Members asked whether all opportunities were being taken to support the new management groups by using the Community Centres for Council business. It was pointed out that the Council would now be subject to hire charges and would no longer have any kind of priority over booking.

The transfer of the management of all of the Community Centres to local management groups was seen as best practice and there is starting to be some very positive feedback from communities with regard to the changes. There had been some instances where groups had not been happy with the groups chosen to run the centres, but on the whole these had been resolved. The project had also been nominated for a national award.

Members queried whether the creation of new parish councils might affect the future of some community centres. This would depend on whether the Parish Councils wish to be involved in running local Community Centres and would have to be considered between any new Parish Council as they were formed and any current management committee.

Members also asked whether it would be possible to be advised of the types of activities that are being held at the Community Centres and whether they are being self-sufficient.

AGREED: The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement be invited to the Committee in a year's time to give an update on how the Community Centres are being run, whether they are achieving self-sufficiency and whether they are providing a full range of activities for the local communities.

9. COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR.

Councillor Brandon Eldred, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and the Director of Customers and Communities attended the meeting to provide an update on the accepted recommendations of the report.

The main points of the discussion were as follows:-

In the current economic climate it is vital that any grants given achieve the maximum impact. Therefore the grant process is currently being reviewed. In particular looking at the way in which the large grants can be geared to make the most impact.

Members commented that the County Council have moved to a system whereby the making of a grant is done via awarding a contract. This was being considered by the Borough Council but it was considered that it was still vitally important to ensure that there was still a system which would allow smaller organisations to be able to access grants without the process being too bureaucratic. There was concern that the voluntary and community sector have already seen their caseloads increase and that the forthcoming welfare reform changes will put them under even more strain.

AGREED: The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement be invited to attend Committee in a year's time to provide an update on how the grants process is working.

10. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Finance attended the Committee. Committee considered the performance monitoring report to December 2012.

The main points of the discussion were as follows:-

Performance Indicators are constantly being monitored and reporting is done on an exception basis i.e. those items which are not meeting their current targets.

The figures received by Committee are usually at least a month out of date by the time that they receive them but there is little that can be done as figures need to be collected retrospectively.

Members asked whether there was an automatic trigger point at which an item showing red became an unacceptable risk. They were advised that the indicators are constantly monitored by officers and they will be taking action.

Committee members were asked whether there were any areas that they wished to see indicators on. Members responded that there was a new responsibility on the Council for peoples' well-being and that measures needed to be found for that.

Members considered that it would be important to concentrate on Performance Indicators which could be affected by the Welfare Reform changes and ensure that they were

promptly dealt with. In particular they considered that this would affect the rent collection and rent arrears figures- H1 12 and H1 13.

Members also noted that the trends for car crime and cleanliness of open spaces and parks seemed to be showing downward trends.

AGREED

1. A report be made to the next meeting of the Committee on Performance Indicators H1 12 and H1 13 to establish a base line against which to measure the impact of Welfare Reforms.
2. A report be made to the next meeting of the Committee on the Performance trends for car crime and cleanliness of open spaces and parks.

11. SCRUTINY PANELS

(A) SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME, VIOLENT CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Committee noted the report on the progress of the Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Scrutiny Panel.

(B) SCRUTINY PANEL 2- RETAIL EXPERIENCE.

The Committee noted the report on the progress of the Retail Experience Scrutiny Panel.

(C) SCRUTINY PANEL 3- INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

The Committee noted the report on the progress of the Infrastructure requirements and Section 106 Agreements Scrutiny Panel.

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES (LGSS) SCRUTINY INQUIRY

The Chairman gave the Committee an update on the progress of the Local Government Shared Services Scrutiny Inquiry.

The Inquiry has been meeting fortnightly and has been looking at each of the affected services in turn. It was the intention of the Inquiry to cover all of the service areas before the LGSS is approved by Council in March, although this date may be delayed. The last meeting considered ICT and the next will look at Revenues and Benefits and Human Resources.

The Inquiry has also been receiving a management overview of the progression of discussions on all the aspects of transition.

13. REPORT BACK FROM NBC'S REPRESENTATIVE TO NCC'S HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Danielle Stone provided a briefing note on the Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Committee.

The main points of her update were:-

On a visit to Northampton General Hospital Members had been informed that of 650 beds, 150 were blocked because of needing to arrange adaptations or care for the patients in order for them to be released. Members were informed that there was a very good scheme which provided some beds in a care home environment whilst provisions were being made, however this was limited in its scope.

They were also informed that the health care commissioners were looking at payment by results schemes.

AGREED: That the update be noted.

14. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY

No items were identified.

15. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 8:35 pm

Agenda Item 5 Northampton Borough Council Overview and

Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2013

Crime & Disorder, Overview & Scrutiny

Summary

On the 3 February 2011 it was agreed that as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee role, that in meeting their responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, a bi annual report from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) would be provided. The report would focus on the levels of CSP performance and whether crime has increased in the light of reduced resources, and if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. The report was to advise the Committee of work undertaken, thereby informing Overview and Scrutiny of further review or scrutiny that may be required.

Community Safety Partnership – Performance Overview

Following a number of years of impressive performance by the partnership and some significant reductions in crime, the partnership started to see some reductions in performance, achieving some, but not all of the 2011/12 targets. With financial pressures and dwindling resources for partner organisations and the general public, reducing crime and improving public safety is an increasingly challenging task.

Performance overall was mixed in 2011/12, achieving good reductions in some crime types but reduced performance in others. The partnership achieved substantial reductions in domestic burglary, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour and drug offences. However, other acquisitive crime, vehicle crime in particular, has seen an increase and violent offences have not seen a reduction. This was reflected in our partnership priorities for 2012/13.

Actual Performance – April 2012 to September 2012

The first part of 2012/13 saw mixed results for the Partnership where there were continuing reductions in anti-social behaviour, violent crime and robbery.

The rolling 12 month total for overall crime reduced by 2.5%. This was primarily due to strong performance in tackling violence and low level theft. As at 31/09/2012 there was a 4.6% reduction in violent crime.

In respect of Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) the partnership was under-performing due to a significant spike in burglary dwelling during September. Vehicle crime also

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

continues to be a concern due to considerable increases in theft from vehicles. However, it is important to note that vehicle crime levels still remain significantly lower than 2009/10. The Community Safety Partnership has identified the priority locations for focussed partnership work for 2012/13, and this work continues to take place.

The partnership continues to see good reductions in recorded anti-social behaviour issues, but perception is increasing. One of the reasons for the increase in people's perception could be attributed to the changes that have been adopted in undertaking the survey, and also increased media interest due to proposed legislative changes.

Domestic abuse continues to be a key focus and an increase in first time victims reporting has already been achieved.

Crime Type	2011/12 Baseline	2012/13 Target Reduction	Half Year performance
Serious Acquisitive Crime	3489 recorded crimes	5%	3693 crimes 5.8% increase
Vehicle Crime	1982 recorded crimes	5%	2128 crimes 7.4% increase
ASB Incidents	14926 recorded incidents	10%	13681 incidents 8.3% reduction
Anti-social behaviour	8.6% residents perceive ASB as problem	Reduce	9.8% residents perceive ASB as problem
Domestic Abuse – Increase in 1 st time victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Increase	2.1% decrease
Domestic Abuse – reduction in repeat victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Reduction	1% increase
Violent Crime	4293 recorded crimes	3.5%	4097 crimes 4.6% reduction

Performance - September 2012 to March 2013

The second part of 2012/13 continued to see mixed results for the Partnership. Overall crime has reduced by 2.2% from the baseline, a slight decrease on the half year performance. There are continuing reductions in anti-social behaviour, violent crime and robbery. Vehicle crime and burglary continues on an upward trend.

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

Crime Type	2011/12 Baseline	2012/13 Target Reduction	Year Performance (Sept –March)
Serious Acquisitive Crime	3489 recorded crimes	5%	4092 crimes 17.3% increase
Vehicle Crime	1982 recorded crimes	5%	2261 crimes 14.1% increase
ASB Incidents	14926 recorded incidents	10%	13237 11.3% reduction
Anti-social behaviour	8.6% residents perceive ASB as problem	Reduce	10.6% residents perceive ASB as problem
Domestic Abuse – Increase in 1 st time victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Increase	0.4% decrease
Domestic Abuse – reduction in repeat victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Reduction	0.4% increase
Violent Crime	4293 recorded crimes	3.5%	4097 crimes 8.5% reduction

Specific pieces of work that took place during 2012/13 are:

- Priority location work in relation to serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main area for focus areas are Spencer, part of St James and Spring Boroughs. A total of 449 properties received improved security measures to their home.
- Priority location work for violent crime.
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse being provided. 82 victims received security improvements to their home, and Sanctuary work on 6 properties was undertaken.
- Killing with Kindness campaign continues, with 3 awareness raising events taking place and encouraging people to donate to local charities who provide support for this vulnerable group.
- Awareness raising around domestic abuse continues with poster campaigns that coincided with the Football European Championships and Olympics. A further campaign covering the Christmas period which included the production of awareness leaflets in 8 different languages.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continue with 6 Orders being secured this year, along with 1 Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction and 3 Interim Criminal ABSO's.
- Change of Scene project for 13-19 year olds continues in Northampton East.
- Junior Warden schemes have been established in four further areas – Spencer, Lings, Kingsthorpe & Eastfield.
- Third year of Best Bar None, over 30 licensed premises took part.
- 'Jam in the Hood' youth intervention programmes took place in Northampton East and Delapre/Far Cotton and Spencer.
- Service Six undertook youth outreach sessions in hotspot locations across Northampton by Service Six
- Development and piloting of a domestic abuse support programme, working

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

with the family, specifically the victim and perpetrator was undertaken

- In depth domestic abuse training has taken place for 40 key partnership frontline workers in Northampton, with a further 20 to receive training in May 2013.
- Street Football & Basketball programme held in identified hot spot locations across the town in response
- Voluntary agreement drawn up with Public Fundraising Regulatory Association to manage the activity of Face to Face fundraisers in Northampton town centre

Priorities for 2013/14

Each year Community Safety Partnerships are required to carry out a strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour in the local area and to consult local communities on the proposed partnership priorities for the coming year. The Partnership Strategic Assessment is developed by a range of agencies using information and data from a variety of sources, including existing local research, consultation and analysis. It looks at specific crime and community safety issues.

Through this process the following 4 priorities have been identified for 2013/14:

- Serious Acquisitive Crime
- Violent Crime (Night-time Economy, Domestic Abuse & Young People)
- Anti-Social behaviour
- Drugs & Alcohol

Conclusion

The Community Safety Partnership is continuing to see mixed results against the targets it has set. Despite improvements in performance for both violent crime and Anti-social Behaviour incidents, they remain as priorities for 2013/14. The main area of concern continues to be Serious Acquisitive Crime and partnership work will continue in addressing this.

Brief Author: Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Partnership Manager on behalf of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, April 2013

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2013

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/2014

1 Background

- 1.1 Four annual Overview and Scrutiny work programming events have been held. This year's event was held on Wednesday, 27 March 2013.

2 Work Programme Event

- 2.1 Prior to the event a pack was issued to all Councillors containing relevant background information.
- 2.2 The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee opened this event. Three Directors attended providing assistance to Councillors when putting forward issues for suggestion for review.
- 2.3 Cabinet Members informed the event of their priorities and objectives for the year, which helped to inform suggestions for future Scrutiny Review.
- 2.4 Anyone who has previously been involved in Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton and members of the public who had expressed a view to be part of any consultation processes undertaken were contacted and asked to suggest issues for inclusion onto the Overview and Scrutiny work programme. Copies of the suggestion form were widely circulated and the press promoted the event asking the public to complete these forms.
- 2.5 The Centre for Public Scrutiny has acknowledged the importance of this form, commenting on its content.

Northampton Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny

3 Suggested Reviews for inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/2014

- 3.1 Contained at Appendix A are details of the suggested issues for review for the next Municipal year.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prioritises the suggested issues from the work-programming event, as attached at Appendix A and formally agrees the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2013/2014.

Brief Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Leslie Marriott, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 March 2013

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2013

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14

Suggested Scrutiny Reviews for 2013/14

The Workshop, in two separate groups, proposed the following future Scrutiny Reviews.

(Three Scrutiny Panels (Reviews) operate at any one time)

Group 1

Lead Councillor: Councillor Elizabeth Gowen

Councillors Mick Ford, Jamie Lane, Lee Mason, Jonathan Nunn and Suresh Patel

Suggested issues:

Title: Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (including HMOs)

Suggested purpose: To investigate the regulation and management of private letting

Title: West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC)

Suggested purpose: To ensure the smooth transition from WNDC to Northampton Borough Council

Title: Improving the town's parks

Suggested purpose: To evaluate community engagement for the improvement of parks and green spaces.

Title: Responding to the Welfare Reform Act

Suggested purpose: To evaluate the effect of the Welfare Reform Act on the public and Council employees.

Group 2

Lead Councillor: Councillor Danielle Stone

Councillors Tony Ansell, Beverley Mennell, Nilesh Parekh, Brian Sargeant

Suggested Issues

Title: Welfare Reform Act

Suggested purpose: To evaluate the impact of the Welfare Reform Act on residents. To evaluate the number of homeless people, people living in bed and breakfast accommodation and housing evictions. To monitor the effect of the Welfare Reform Act on the Council's One Stop Shop.

Title: Management of the Private Rental Sector, including HMOs

Suggested purpose: To develop consultation regarding the possible licensing scheme for private landlords.

Title: Transition of West Northants Development Corporation (WNDC)

Suggested purpose: To evaluate how project momentum can be ensured, post 2014.

Title: Improvement to Parks

Suggested purpose: To evaluate the plans for improving the town's parks and open spaces.

Title: Health and Wellbeing

Suggested purpose: To evaluate the Council's new responsibilities and those of the partnerships that deliver this agenda.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee



Evaluation of OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 2012

Index

Chair's Foreword	2
Executive Summary	4
Final Report including recommendations	12

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Peer Review Report (Rugby Borough Council)
- Appendix B - Peer Review Report (Broxtowe Borough Council)
- Appendix C - Comparison – Northampton Borough Council v Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Good Practice Scrutiny Reviews
- Appendix D - CfPS self-evaluation findings
- Appendix E - Findings of Councillor Survey

Foreword

Following on from the evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny that was undertaken in 2008, Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton has been noted for a number of its processes and procedures as best practice. It was felt that there was a need for a further evaluation to be carried out in 2012 to set the basis for the production of an Excellence Plan for Overview and Scrutiny.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)'s self-evaluation framework "Accountability works for you" was used to gather the majority of the relevant information. It is designed to be proportionate, relevant and focus on culture and attitudes, rather than process. It is based on robust evidence about the way that accountability, transparency and involvement should work in public services, and is sufficiently flexible to apply to any body delivering a public service.

The framework led us through some straightforward steps, posing questions that were aimed to help us and the peer reviewers to tease out some of the most significant challenges, and focus on achievable ways to further develop.

Questions from the framework were completed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with the Scrutiny Officer. Strengths and achievements were highlighted, as were some priorities for development planning.

As part of the evaluation process, the Scrutiny Teams of two Local Authorities (Rugby Borough Council and Broxtowe Borough Council) undertook separate Peer Reviews of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Northampton Borough Council. Both recognised the many strengths of the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton and also suggested some areas which could be developed.

A number of Councillors also completed a short questionnaire about the Overview and Scrutiny process, the results are contained within the report.

A comparison of Northampton Borough Council's Scrutiny Review process was carried out with three other Authorities who had either won or been shortlisted for a CfPS Good Scrutiny Award 2012.

I would like to thank all those people acknowledged below who gave up their time and contributed to this important Review that will lead to the production of an Excellence Plan for Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton.



Councillor Les Marriott
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Acknowledgements to all those who took part in the Review: -

- Councillor Matt Lynch, Deputy Chair, who provided information for inclusion in the self-evaluation form
- Councillors for taking the time to complete the short questionnaire and for meeting with the peer reviewers
- Paul Ansell and Debbie Dawson, Scrutiny Officers, Rugby Borough Council for carrying out a peer review of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Northampton
- Councillors Jane Patrick and Brian Wombell and Jeremy Ward, Scrutiny Officer, Broxtowe Borough Council for carrying out a peer review of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Northampton

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In 2008 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee instructed the Overview and Scrutiny Team to undertake an evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Northampton Borough Council (NBC) using the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) self-evaluation framework. The findings from the self-evaluation were used as the basis of developing an Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan.
- 1.2 It was agreed that the self-evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) function at Northampton be repeated in 2012, the aim of which is to produce an Excellence Plan for O&S building upon the good practice that has been previously recognised.
- 1.3 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to provide a mechanism for Scrutiny Members to:
 - Demonstrate the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton
 - To identify areas and means for further developing Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council
 - To provide objectivity by identifying evidence from the questions posed in the framework
 - To highlight any potential barriers to improvement
- 1.4 A significant amount of evidence gathered from various sources, details of which are contained in the report:-
- 1.5 The Chair and Vice Chair of the of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee completed the self-evaluation framework form based on the following key areas:
 - Work Programme
 - Work of the Panels/Evidence gathering
 - Outcomes and Impact
 - Accountability role
- 1.6 Councillors were sent a short questionnaire, comprising six main questions regarding the Overview and Scrutiny process at NBC.

- 1.7 The Scrutiny Teams of two Local Authorities were approached regarding undertaking a peer review of the Overview and Scrutiny Function at Northampton Borough Council. The Scrutiny Officer and two Scrutiny Chairs, Broxtowe Borough Council and the Scrutiny Officers, Rugby Borough Council, undertook separate peer reviews
- 1.8 The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, NBC, carried out a comparison of Northampton Borough Council's Scrutiny function with that of other districts as suggested by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). The CfPS directed the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to the Good Scrutiny Award Winners and a sample of shortlisted nominations for 2012.

KEY FINDINGS

- 2 After all the evidence was gathered, the following key findings in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton were drawn: -

2.1 CfPS's Accountability Works for You" Framework

2.1.1 Achievements:-

- Good relationship between Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.
- Overview and Scrutiny has a vigorous monitoring work programme. It ensures all accepted recommendations are implemented before the report is signed off from the monitoring work programme.
- Cabinet Members attend Overview and Scrutiny meetings, as appropriate, and provide feedback to Overview and Scrutiny when monitoring the accepted recommendations in its Review reports takes place via the formal monitoring process.
- The call-in procedure is used sparingly.
- Scrutiny Panels are non-partisan and focus on the issue being reviewed. They are working effectively with some good issue-based Reviews.

- There are examples where changes for the public have been made as a result of the work of O&S.
- Overview and Scrutiny sets its own work programme and involves Cabinet and the public in influencing suggestions.
- Good working relationship with partners and key Agencies and O&S makes good use of external witnesses and experts.
- Good scrutiny performance monitoring which has led to recommendations being made.
- Comprehensive O&S webpage (www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny)
- Public attendance and speaking is welcomed at every Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Panel meeting.
- There has been good press coverage of Scrutiny at Northampton, including promotion of an invitation to suggest a potential review, the work programme and the innovative Paperless Committees Trial.
- Aspects of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton continue to be noted as best practice.
- Scrutiny is generally of a consensus nature and it is rare for a vote to be used.

2.1.2 Challenges:-

- On occasions, during early evidence gathering, the Panel may go outside its scope but the compilation of the core questions to be put to key witnesses brings focus back.
- On occasions, specialist Officers may provide too much direction into the scope of the Review.
- More use of the pre-decision scrutiny role.

2.1.3 Suggested changes:-

- The Leader of the Council should be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, mid-year, to provide an update on Cabinet's priorities, this will follow on from Cabinet's attendance at the annual Work Programme event. This will assist in strengthening the pre-decision scrutiny process.
- Upon publication of the Executive Business List, The Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of the Chair of O&S, contacts all members of the O&S Committee asking them to forward any items that it feels would warrant pre-decision scrutiny.
- The evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny continues to be carried out every two years.

- An Excellence Plan for Overview and Scrutiny to be introduced following the evaluation.

2.2 Peer Review – Rugby Borough Council

2.2.1 Achievements

- The three-panel arrangement is working better than the former arrangement.
- There is evidence that all non-executive members are able to be directly involved in Overview and Scrutiny work and that many are engaged in a positive way.
- There is cross-party working with no whips.
- Extensive use of external witnesses with robust and effective questioning.
- Panel meetings' work is planned by the chairman and vice-chairman, who both meet with the Scrutiny Officer.
- Having vice-chairmen is seen as a positive way of avoiding too much onus being placed on the chairman to steer the panel.
- There is a constructive relationship between Overview and Scrutiny and the Cabinet and that Cabinet members help to inform the development of the work programme.
- There is some evidence of influencing decisions before they are made by Cabinet (the Independent Living review being an example of this).
- Good budget scrutiny process.
- The Scrutiny officers were impressed by the paperless Committees' initiative being piloted by overview and scrutiny and the positive way in which members are embracing it. This seems to them to reflect the innovative and forward-looking attitude they often encountered during their visit.
- Overview and Scrutiny has moved on considerably since the Scrutiny Officers' visit in 2008, and there have been a number of achievements of which members are justifiably proud.

2.2.2 Challenges:-

- The Reviews are wide-ranging and this means there is a danger of lack of focus.
- Even with the scopes of these reviews being drawn as widely as they are, there is still pressure from some members to stretch their brief even further or to be distracted by side issues. There is, however, evidence that the Scrutiny Officer performs a valuable role in keeping reviews on track.

- New members seem to find the concept of scrutiny hard to grasp at the induction stage.
- More could be done to demonstrate the value and impact of overview and scrutiny review work.
- The Scrutiny Officers found it difficult to form a clear picture of systems and procedures for pre-decision scrutiny and engagement with Cabinet in general. However, we appreciate that this is an aspect of overview and scrutiny that is challenging for all local authorities.

2.2.3 Suggested Changes:-

- The adoption of a clear Action Plan at the end of each Review and the subsequent periodic monitoring of that Plan by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to guarantee that tangible outcomes are delivered.
- More robust pre-decision scrutiny processes.

2.3 Peer Review – Broxtowe Borough Council

2.3.1 Achievements:-

- Pre-decision Scrutiny works well.
- Scrutiny adds value to the role of Councillors.
- Scrutiny recognised as independent.
- Wide ranging Reviews.
- It is an education for Councillors on the workings of the Council and partnership working.
- A feeling of ownership of Scrutiny reviews - Members feel engaged by a review at Northampton.
- The understanding of the source of subjects displays not only knowledge of the system but also engenders a feeling of ownership of Scrutiny reviews. This is vital if members are to feel engaged by a review. This is displayed here.
- Scrutiny is apolitical.
- Scrutiny is transparent.
- All Reviews work to the same rules and procedures however there is leeway for Chairs to work in different ways.
- No whipping.
- Good guidance is provided by the Scrutiny Officer.
- Members of the public are engaged and encouraged.
- Well organised work programming setting event.

- Positive culture towards scrutiny.
- Excellent standard of Review reports.

Challenges:-

- Confusion amongst members over the role of Scrutiny.
- Some Councillors need a better understanding of the system..
- Questions over whether the most able people were chairs and vice chairs
- Some Members aren't interested.
- Scrutiny needs an equal footing.
- Not all Councillors are clear of the robust monitoring system that Overview and Scrutiny has in place.
- Need to measure outcomes of a Scrutiny Review.

Suggested Changes:-

- Each Scrutiny Panel to be informed of the monitoring process of accepted recommendations contained in Review reports at the scoping meeting.
- The adoption of a clear Action Plan at the end of each Review and the subsequent periodic monitoring of that Plan by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to guarantee that tangible outcomes are delivered.

2.4 Scrutiny at Northampton v CfPS good practice scrutiny districts in the way that Reviews are undertaken

2.4.1 Achievements

- Overview and Scrutiny has used innovative methods to conduct reviews previously.
- Good partnership working.
- A number of Reviews have made a real difference.

2.4.2 Challenges:-

- Partners are not normally involved at the scoping stage of a Review.

2.4.3 Suggested Changes:-

- Although O&S at Northampton has previously used the Appreciative Inquiry to conducting a Review, consideration should be given to using this method, as appropriate, for a forthcoming Review, using the 5-D mode.
- For appropriate Reviews, partners should be involved at the scoping stages.

2.5 Member Survey

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent engagement between Overview and Scrutiny and external Agencies • Overview and Scrutiny fulfils its role of holding Cabinet to account very well • Overview and Scrutiny and its three Panels support improvement to Council services very well • The Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfils its policy and development role very well • The majority of Councillors are very satisfied with the contribution they are able to make to their role and feel very well supported in this role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny does not always influence Cabinet
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint scrutiny with other Agencies and organisations • A Councillor felt he was not satisfied with the contribution he is able to make to his role because he is relatively newly elected and the more experienced he becomes, the more of a contribution he will be able to make 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Councillor felt he was not satisfied with the contribution he is able to make to his role

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the findings contained in this report be used to produce an Overview and Scrutiny Excellence Plan building upon the good practice undertaken by Overview & Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council.
- 3.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Excellence Plan could then be used to: -
 - Encourage involvement in the process of those being scrutinised
 - Communicate the potential of Scrutiny to local communities
 - Build confidence of those undertaking Scrutiny activities

Northampton Borough Council

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Northampton Borough Council

1. Purpose

- 1.1 In 2008 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee instructed the Overview and Scrutiny Team to undertake an evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Northampton Borough Council (NBC) using the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) self-evaluation framework. The findings from the self-evaluation were used as the basis of developing an Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan.
- 1.2 It was agreed that the self-evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) function at Northampton be repeated in 2012, the aim of which is to produce an Excellence Plan for O&S building upon the good practice that has been previously recognised.

2. Context and Background

- 2.1 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should be: -
 - Cross-party working and non-partisan
 - Independent from the Executive
 - Member led, not officer driven
 - Evidence-based and evaluated
 - Engaging the public and reflecting the interests and concerns of local people
 - Making an impact by offering robust recommendations that lead to action by the Council's Cabinet, Council or external Agencies
- 2.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is a national organisation, that was established to promote the value of Overview and Scrutiny in modern and effective Local Government. The CfPS aims to do this through a number of measures, including the production of guidance, advice on best practice and the promotion of information sharing.

- 2.3 The CfPS reports that public scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that government remains effective and accountable. Public scrutiny can be defined as the activity by one elected or appointed organisation, or office, examining and monitoring all, or part of, the activity of a public sector body with the aim of improving the quality of public services. A public sector body is one that carries out public functions or spends public money. Scrutiny ensures that executives are held accountable for their decisions, that their decision-making process is clear and accessible to the public and there are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve public policy.
- 2.4 The CfPS goes on to say that public scrutiny is now moving into another era with community-led scrutiny of local decisions. This is where the public's involvement in challenging local authorities and public service providers on public service improvement and delivery is actively sought by elected representatives (such as MPs or Councillors) or appointed non-executives on governing bodies (such as school governors or non-executive directors of hospital trusts). Constructive and ongoing engagement with stakeholders, from experts to the general public, helps to achieve genuine accountability for the use of public resources.
- 2.5 The CfPS acknowledges that public scrutiny provides a unique perspective on how well public services are being delivered and how they could be improved, from the point of view of those receiving and using those services. This section contains information on the range of bodies engaged in public scrutiny and includes bodies that scrutinise executive government at the central, devolved and local government levels as well as those that inspect and scrutinise distinct public policy areas: criminal justice, education, health and social care, housing and regeneration, public transport and public utilities.
- 2.6 Recognising that each Local Authority carries out its Overview and Scrutiny function in a different way, and there being no objective measure by which its success can be assessed, the CfPS developed its self-evaluation framework. The CfPS recently built upon this framework and devised its "Accountability Works for you" framework.
- 2.7 The CfPS reports that "Accountability Works for You" is a focused and proportionate way to improve the way organisations make

decisions, and how they can respond to and plan for transformation and change

2.8 The CfPS has applied the learning from its "Accountability Works" research to the creation of a new and straightforward way to evaluate and improve your governance arrangements, and make organisations more responsive to change.

2.9 The CfPS goes on to advise that the "Accountability Works for You" framework is designed to be proportionate, relevant and focus on culture and attitudes, rather than process. It is based on robust evidence about the way that accountability, transparency and involvement should work in public services, and is sufficiently flexible to apply to any body delivering a public service. The framework leads users through some straightforward steps, posing questions that are aimed to help the user and the people who use the services to tease out some of the most significant challenges, and focus on achievable ways to improve.

2.10 The CfPS suggests there are four steps to the process:

Step 1 involves the establishment of a small project group to set out what you want to achieve.

Step 2 is a general, high-level evaluation of your current arrangements for accountability, transparency and involvement.

Step 3 allows you to explore in more detail cross-cutting themes that emerged in Step 2.

Step 4 involves the setting of an action plan and the monitoring of that plan in the future.

2.11 The framework is designed to encourage a "pick and mix" approach, allowing organisations to pick those particular elements of the governance arrangements that the user wants to look at in the most detail, or that are most relevant to the organisation. This enables the organisation to be in control throughout, using the framework as a way to explore how it does

business, not as a formulaic tick-box exercise. It is reported that the framework can be amended and used by any organisation.

2.12 The framework focuses three main themes on:

- Transparency
- Involvement
- Accountability

2.13 The framework is intended to provide a clear picture of how Overview and Scrutiny now operates at Northampton Borough Council and how acknowledged good practice themes can be developed. The findings could then be used to: -

- Communicate the potential of Overview and Scrutiny to local communities
- Encourage involvement in the process of those being scrutinised
- Build confidence of those undertaking scrutiny activities
- Demonstrate Overview and Scrutiny's value to auditors and inspectors

3 Methodology

3.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to provide a mechanism for Scrutiny Members to: -

- Demonstrate the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton
- To identify areas and means for further developing Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council
- To provide objectivity by identifying evidence from the questions posed in the framework
- To highlight any potential barriers to improvement

3.2 Peer Reviews

3.2.1 As part of the self-evaluation process, the Scrutiny Teams of two Local Authorities were approached regarding undertaking a peer review of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Northampton Borough Council.

3.2.2 The Scrutiny Officers, Rugby Borough Council, and the Scrutiny Officer and two Scrutiny Chairs, Broxtowe Borough Council, undertook separate peer reviews.

3.2.3 The Scrutiny Team, Rugby Borough Council, evaluated NBC's Overview and Scrutiny by: -

- Evaluating a number of Overview and Scrutiny documents, such as the Overview and Scrutiny Toolkit, Policy Review reports, agendas, minutes, Overview and Scrutiny Protocols.
- Interviews with: -
 - The Council's Scrutiny Officer
 - Various Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels

3.2.4 The Scrutiny Team, Rugby Borough Council, produced a detailed report highlighting their findings. A copy of which is attached at Appendix A.

3.2.5 The following main findings were reported. The questions focussed on the following subjects that are detailed in the CfPS evaluation framework – "Accountability works for you":

Work programme - development of the programme, the process of choosing reviews and the relevance and importance of the matters now being reviewed

Scrutiny work and evidence gathering - trying to get a feel for whether the three Panels are working well and to establish whether there is clarity about what the reviews are aiming to achieve and whether the work is planned in a systematic and transparent manner

Outcomes and impact – evaluating the extent to which Overview and Scrutiny is making a real difference for local people

Accountability – the relationship between Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny, and the ability of Overview and Scrutiny to influence major decisions and monitor performance

3.2.6 Peer Review Key Findings

Rugby Borough Council

3.2.6.1 The report of the Scrutiny Officers of Rugby Borough Council concluded:

- There is strong evidence that the prime consideration in developing this year's work programme was that it should be based on issues that had been put forward by members of the public, whether as individuals or local groups. It is clear from the members who spoke to us that the workshop and the community consultation worked well. The emphasis in the work programme is on scrutinising topics that are important to local people.
- There is less evidence of a conscious link being made between the matters chosen for scrutiny and corporate priorities but this does not mean that the work programme is in any way running counter to the council's strategic direction.
- There is a general consensus that the three-panel arrangement is working better than the former arrangement where seven reviews were in progress at the same time. There is evidence of that all non-executive members are able to be directly involved in overview and scrutiny work and that many are engaged in a positive way.
- There is cross-party working with no whips.
- The reviews are wide-ranging and this means there is a danger of lack of focus. Even with the scopes of these reviews being drawn as widely as they are, there is still pressure from some members to stretch their brief even further or to be distracted by side issues. There is, however, evidence that the Scrutiny Officer performs a valuable role in keeping reviews on track.
- There is extensive involvement of expert witnesses from outside the council, and co-optees are also appointed. Visits are made to other areas to gather evidence from others' experiences.

- New members seem to find the concept of scrutiny hard to grasp at the induction stage. However, the fact that members attend induction sessions is itself a positive sign. It may be that the content of the induction process should be looked at to see whether there is scope for making it easier to understand. Some members believe that they would benefit from some form of mentoring.
- Panel meetings' work is planned by the chairman and vice-chairman, who both meet with the Scrutiny Officer. Having vice-chairmen is seen as a positive way of avoiding too much onus being placed on the chairman to steer the panel.
- There did not appear to be great awareness of the concrete improvements that scrutiny is making and members found it difficult to cite examples of positive outcomes and impact. This may in part be due to the fact that many of the members who spoke to us were quite new councillors.
- The recent Egyptian statue call-in was repeatedly given as the prime example of scrutiny modifying a Cabinet decision and providing a voice for local residents on a matter of community concern.
- The Scrutiny Officers noted that there is a system in place whereby Cabinet members are invited to the O&S Committee to report on progress in implementation of reviews' recommendations. The Scrutiny Officers believe, however, that more could be done to demonstrate the value and impact of overview and scrutiny review work. They suggest that the adoption of a clear action plan at the end of each review – and the subsequent periodic monitoring of that plan by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – would do much to guarantee that tangible outcomes are delivered.
- It is generally felt that there is a constructive relationship between Overview and Scrutiny and the Cabinet and that Cabinet members help to inform the development of the work programme.
- Call-in is used occasionally.

- Performance monitoring takes place quarterly and we found some evidence of robust questioning of Cabinet members on this and other matters.
- During scrutiny of the budget, there is examination of selected topics and Cabinet Members are involved in the discussions.
- There is also some evidence of influencing decisions before they are made by Cabinet (the Independent Living review being an example of this). The Scrutiny Officers found it difficult to form a clear picture of systems and procedures for pre-decision scrutiny and engagement with Cabinet in general. However, they appreciate that this is an aspect of overview and scrutiny that is challenging for all local authorities.
- The Scrutiny Officers were impressed by the paperless committees' initiative being piloted by Overview and Scrutiny and by the positive way in which members are embracing it. This seems to the Scrutiny Officers to reflect the innovative and forward-looking attitude that we often encountered during our visit.

3.3 Broxtowe Borough Council

3.3.1 The Scrutiny Officer, Broxtowe Borough Council, produced a detailed report highlighting their findings. A copy of which is attached at Appendix B.

3.3.2 The Scrutiny Officer and Scrutiny Chairs undertook their mini peer review in a number of ways:

- Evaluating a number of Overview and Scrutiny documents, such as the Overview and Scrutiny Toolkit, Policy Review reports, agendas, minutes, Protocols.
- Assessing the Council's Overview and Scrutiny webpage
- Observing a Scrutiny Panel meeting
- Interviews with: -
 - Various Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel, that included two non-Executives who are not members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.3.3 The questions focussed on the following subjects that are detailed in the CfPS evaluation framework – Accountability works for you:

Efficacy – Does Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council achieve its aims?

Motivation – Do members become less motivated if they don't like a subject? What interests members? How do you keep members motivated? How often do you use external witnesses?

Source of Scrutiny Subjects – How are they generated and selected?

What has gone well with Scrutiny and why?

Panels – Do the different panels have different ways of working? Do they get different results?

Work programme – How do you handle the work programme? Do you feel limited by the system? How do time limits affect reviews? Is there room for prioritising topics?

Do you feel the Council is supportive of Scrutiny? – Officers and members?

Scoping – Who does the scope? Is there any flexibility? Can panels change the scope? Who calls witnesses? How closely do panels prepare for meetings?

Presentation to Cabinet – Are you satisfied with the way reports are presented to Cabinet? Are the outcomes monitored?

Outcomes – What should a good Scrutiny review do? Do the outcomes that are implemented add value to Cabinet's decisions?

3.3.4 The following key findings from Broxtowe Borough Council's report are detailed below:

- Councillors were generally happy with the way Scrutiny works, but there was a discrepancy between those who were in favour and those who weren't.
- Some Councillors were motivated by Scrutiny whilst others felt de-motivated.

- The understanding of the source of subjects displays not only knowledge of the system but also engenders a feeling of ownership of Scrutiny reviews. This is vital if members are to feel engaged by a review. This is displayed here.
- The discrepancy of support between Cabinet and Scrutiny may suggest that backbenchers would like to be as valued as their Cabinet counterparts.
- Positive comments suggested that councillors and members of the public are engaged by the process.
- The Scrutiny Officer, Broxtowe Borough Council, felt it was also heartening to hear that Scrutiny is viewed as apolitical by members.
- Councillors are happy with the organisation of the annual work programming system which is well run.
- There was resounding support for the work of the Scrutiny Officer with numerous suggestions for further resources to strengthen the position of Scrutiny within the Council.
- It was heartening to hear of support from Heads of Service. This suggests a positive culture from all areas of the Council.
- Good proportion of co-opted members.
- There is generally discipline to stick to a scope. Some leeway if necessary.
- There is an appreciation of the presentation stage and the method by which Scrutiny reports are handed over and the respect with which they are treated.
- Not all Councillors are clear of the monitoring process of O&S Review reports but generally members were happy with outcomes from the process.
- The meeting observed was well organised. The level of preparation prior to the meeting, questions previously submitted to witnesses etc. was impressive.

3.4 Scrutiny at Northampton v CfPS good practice scrutiny Reviews

3.4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Officer carried out a comparison of Northampton Borough Council's Scrutiny function with that of other districts. The CfPS advises that it is more reticent about holding up Councils as exemplars of "best practice". It feels that there is no one Council that does everything fantastically, and even if there were, the political culture of Councils is so different that certain aspects of their work would not transfer to other Authorities. Instead it suggested that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer looks at examples of excellent Scrutiny work (i.e. a

specific review having significant impacts) and ask what Northampton can do to get there. The CfPS therefore directed the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to the Good Scrutiny Award Winners and a sample of shortlisted nominations for 2012.

3.4.2 Contact was made with:

- Gloucestershire County Council in respect of its Scrutiny work around flood defences
- Bassetlaw District Council in respect of some good health scrutiny work
- Chesterfield District Council, who used “appreciative inquiry” to carry out a review into health inequalities
- Stoke on Trent City Council that looked at Council business services and made recommendations leading to significant financial savings for the Authority

3.4.3 Responses were received from:

- Gloucestershire County Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Chesterfield District Council

3.4.4 A copy of the background data is attached at Appendix C.

3.4.5 From the comparison background data, in respect of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton, the following was recognised: -

Comparator	Northampton Borough Council (NBC)	Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC)	Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)	Bassetlaw District Council
Appreciative Inquiry approach to Scrutiny Reviews	NBC has used and adapted this approach for previous Reviews and details were documented in the CfPS publication “A guide to using Appreciative Inquiry to add value to Overview and Scrutiny”.	CBC used the Appreciative Inquiry approach to conduct its Review “Rother Matters”. This was a very high profile piece of Scrutiny work that followed the Appreciative Inquiry Framework. This Review was shortlisted for an award at the CfPS Good Scrutiny Awards 2012.		
Involve key stakeholders at the Scoping stage	In the main, Panel members, together with NBC Officers, scope a Review	CBC involved all key players in its Review “Rother Matters” from the outset	GCC involved key players from a variety of Agencies in its initial setting the scene meeting of its Review - Severn Estuary	

	<p>However for the Review – Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector, co optees (members of the VCS) were involved at the scoping stage</p>		Shoreline Management”	
Reviews have made a real difference	<p>Scrutiny at NBC has undertaken a number of Reviews that have made a real difference such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Living for Older People • Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy • Community Centres <p>Details of the Review – Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy have featured in a CfPS publication</p> <p>The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel – Independent Living for Older People, gave a presentation on this piece of Scrutiny work to a Health and Wellbeing Forum in 2012</p>	<p>Key example provided by CfPS:</p> <p>“Rother Matters”</p>	<p>Key example provided by CfPS:</p> <p>“Severn Estuary Shoreline Management”</p>	<p>Key example provided by CfPS:</p> <p>The future services at Bassetlaw Hospital</p>
Partnership working	<p>A number of Scrutiny Reviews have involved partnership working including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy • Independent Living for Older People • Hate Crime Reporting • Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector • Contaminated Water Incident 	<p>The Review “Rother Matters” involved partnership working</p>	<p>“Severn Estuary Shoreline Management”</p>	<p>It is reported that from the review firm foundations have been laid for future health scrutiny and joint working with health service providers and commissioners.</p>

3.5 Desktop Research

3.5.1 Desktop research was carried out using the Centre for Public Scrutiny's "Accountability Works for You" framework.

3.5.2 The Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, completed a series of questions based on the followed areas identified in the framework:




- Work Programme
- Work of the Panels – Evidence gathering
- Outcomes and impact
- Accountability role

3.5.3 Comments and observations are reflected in the evaluation findings at Appendix D.




4 Analysis

4.1 From the evaluation framework of the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton, the following was realised:-

4.2 Of the four areas of enquiry:-

69.23% are okay (9) 
30.77% are potential warning areas (4) 
0% is alert areas (0) 

4.3 This was an increase from the findings from the Self Evaluation of O&S undertaken in 2008:

50% are okay (25) 
26% are potential warning areas(13) 
16% are alert areas (8) 

4.4 It is highlighted that it is difficult to carry out a direct comparison as different frameworks were used however it is highlighted that no areas of enquiry for 2012 were denoted as alert areas.

5 Summary of Member Comments – Survey 2012

5.1 All Councillors who attended meetings with the Peer Reviewers were also sent a short questionnaire, comprising six main questions regarding the Overview and Scrutiny process at NBC.

5.2 Eight Councillors completed questionnaires and these were returned anonymously to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer. Some had additional comments made, which are summarised below:

- Scrutiny is active but doesn't always influence the Administration. Scrutiny should have more "teeth."
- The Councillor who advised he was not satisfied with the contribution he is able to make with his role was because he feels he is relatively newly elected.
- Resources for scrutiny are very limited compared to other areas of the Authority, however the work done with these limited resources is, in my opinion, excellent and this is largely due to the Scrutiny Officer and the enthusiasm of its members.

5.3 Detailed at Appendix E are the results of the questionnaires.

6 Key Findings

6.1 After all the evidence was gathered, the following key findings in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton were drawn: -

6.1.1 CfPS's Framework - Accountability Works for You Framework

Findings from the report of the Chair and Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Achievements

- Good relationship between Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny.
- Overview and Scrutiny has a vigorous monitoring work programme. It ensures all accepted recommendations are implemented before the report is signed off from the monitoring work programme.
- Cabinet Members attend Overview and Scrutiny meetings, as appropriate, and provide feedback to Overview and Scrutiny when monitoring the accepted recommendations in its Review reports takes place via the formal monitoring process.
- The call-in procedure is used sparingly.
- Scrutiny Panels are non-partisan and focus on the issue being reviewed. They are working effectively with some good issue-based Reviews.

- There are examples where changes for the public have been made as a result of the work of O&S.
- Overview and Scrutiny sets its own work programme and involves Cabinet and the public in influencing suggestions.
- Good working relationship with partners and key Agencies and O&S makes good use of external witnesses and experts.
- Good scrutiny performance monitoring which has led to recommendations being made.
- Comprehensive O&S webpage (www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny)
- Public attendance and speaking is welcomed at every Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Panel meeting.
- There has been good press coverage of Scrutiny at Northampton, including promotion of an invitation to suggest a potential review, the work programme and the innovative Paperless Committees Trial.
- Aspects of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton continue to be noted as best practice.
- Scrutiny is generally of a consensus nature and it is rare for a vote to be used.

Challenges

- On occasions, during early evidence gathering, the Panel may go outside its scope but the compilation of the core questions to be put to key witnesses brings focus back.
- On occasions, specialist Officers may provide too much direction into the scope of the Review.
- More use of the pre-decision scrutiny role.

Suggested changes

- The Leader of the Council should be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, mid-year, to provide an update on Cabinet's priorities, this will follow on from Cabinet's attendance at the annual Work Programme event. This will assist in strengthening the pre-decision scrutiny process.
- Upon publication of the Executive Business List, The Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of the Chair of O&S, contacts all members of the O&S Committee asking them to forward any items that it feels would warrant pre-decision scrutiny.
- The evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny continues to be carried out every two years.

- An Excellence Plan for Overview and Scrutiny to be introduced following the evaluation.

4.1.2 Peer Review – Rugby Borough Council

Achievements

- The three-panel arrangement is working better than the former arrangement.
- There is evidence that all non-executive members are able to be directly involved in Overview and Scrutiny work and that many are engaged in a positive way.
- There is cross-party working with no whips.
- Extensive use of external witnesses with robust and effective questioning.
- Panel meetings' work is planned by the chairman and vice-chairman, who both meet with the Scrutiny Officer.
- Having vice-chairmen is seen as a positive way of avoiding too much onus being placed on the chairman to steer the panel.
- There is a constructive relationship between Overview and Scrutiny and the Cabinet and that Cabinet members help to inform the development of the work programme.
- There is some evidence of influencing decisions before they are made by Cabinet (the Independent Living review being an example of this).
- Good budget scrutiny process.
- The Scrutiny officers were impressed by the paperless Committees' initiative being piloted by overview and scrutiny and the positive way in which members are embracing it. This seems to them to reflect the innovative and forward-looking attitude they often encountered during their visit.
- Overview and Scrutiny has moved on considerably since the Scrutiny Officers' visit in 2008, and there have been a number of achievements of which members are justifiably proud.

Challenges

- The Reviews are wide-ranging and this means there is a danger of lack of focus.
- Even with the scopes of these reviews being drawn as widely as they are, there is still pressure from some members to stretch their brief even further or to be distracted by side issues. There is,

however, evidence that the Scrutiny Officer performs a valuable role in keeping reviews on track.

- New members seem to find the concept of scrutiny hard to grasp at the induction stage.
- More could be done to demonstrate the value and impact of overview and scrutiny review work.
- The Scrutiny Officers found it difficult to form a clear picture of systems and procedures for pre-decision scrutiny and engagement with Cabinet in general. However, we appreciate that this is an aspect of overview and scrutiny that is challenging for all local authorities.

Suggested Changes

From the report of the Scrutiny Officers, Rugby Borough Council, the following suggested changes have been derived at from the challenges reported:

- The adoption of a clear Action Plan at the end of each Review and the subsequent periodic monitoring of that Plan by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to guarantee that tangible outcomes are delivered.
- More robust pre-decision scrutiny processes.

4.1.3 Peer Review- Broxtowe Borough Council

Achievements

- Pre-decision Scrutiny works well.
- Scrutiny adds value to the role of Councillors.
- Scrutiny recognised as independent.
- Wide ranging Reviews.
- It is an education for Councillors on the workings of the Council and partnership working.
- A feeling of ownership of Scrutiny reviews - Members feel engaged by a review at Northampton.
- The understanding of the source of subjects displays not only knowledge of the system but also engenders a feeling of ownership of Scrutiny reviews. This is vital if members are to feel engaged by a review. This is displayed here.
- Scrutiny is apolitical.
- Scrutiny is transparent.
- All Reviews work to the same rules and procedures however there is leeway for Chairs to work in different ways.
- No whipping.

- Good guidance is provided by the Scrutiny Officer.
- Members of the public are engaged and encouraged.
- Well organised work programming setting event.
- Positive culture towards scrutiny.
- Excellent standard of Review reports.

Challenges

- Confusion amongst members over the role of Scrutiny.
- Some Councillors need a better understanding of the system..
- Questions over whether the most able people were chairs and vice chairs
- Some Members aren't interested.
- Scrutiny needs an equal footing.
- Not all Councillors are clear of the robust monitoring system that Overview and Scrutiny has in place.
- Need to measure outcomes of a Scrutiny Review.

Suggested Changes

From the findings of report of the Scrutiny Officer, Broxtowe Borough Council, the following suggested changes are proposed:

- Each Scrutiny Panel to be informed of the monitoring process of accepted recommendations contained in Review reports at the scoping meeting.
- The adoption of a clear Action Plan at the end of each Review and the subsequent periodic monitoring of that Plan by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to guarantee that tangible outcomes are delivered.

4.1.4 Scrutiny at Northampton v CfPS good practice scrutiny districts in the way that Reviews are undertaken

Achievements

- Overview and Scrutiny has used innovative methods to conduct reviews previously.
- Good partnership working.
- A number of Reviews have made a real difference.

Challenges

- Partners are not normally involved at the scoping stage of a Review.

Suggested Changes

- Although O&S at Northampton has previously used the Appreciative Inquiry to conducting a Review, consideration should be given to using this method, as appropriate, for a forthcoming Review, using the 5-D mode.
- For appropriate Reviews, partners should be involved at the scoping stages.

4.1.4 Member Survey

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent engagement between Overview and Scrutiny and external Agencies • Overview and Scrutiny fulfils its role of holding Cabinet to account very well • Overview and Scrutiny and its three Panels support improvement to Council services very well • The Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfils its policy and development role very well • The majority of Councillors are very satisfied with the contribution they are able to make to their role and feel very well supported in this role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny does not always influence Cabinet
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint scrutiny with other Agencies and organisations • A Councillor felt he was not satisfied with the contribution he is able to make to his role because he is relatively newly elected and the more experienced he becomes, the more of a contribution he will be able to make 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Councillor felt he was not satisfied with the contribution he is able to make to his role

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the findings contained in this report be used to produce an Overview and Scrutiny Excellence Plan building upon the good practice undertaken by Overview & Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council.
- 6.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Excellence Plan could then be used to: -
- Encourage involvement in the process of those being scrutinised
 - Communicate the potential of Scrutiny to local communities
 - Build confidence of those undertaking Scrutiny activities

Appendices

Peer Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council

17 October 2012

Carried out by Paul Ansell and Debbie Dawson, Scrutiny Officers at Rugby Borough Council.

METHODOLOGY

For reasons entirely of our own, we were only able to spend part of one day at Northampton, so we had to be selective in the aspects of overview and scrutiny that we evaluated. We chose aspects that not only seemed to be important but also about which it was not so easy to gather evidence from other sources. They tended to be about how well things are working in practice rather than about what the formal procedures are.

We had discussions with six non-executive councillors, focusing on the following subjects, which we took from the CfPS evaluation framework *Accountability Works for You*:

Work programme – development of the programme, the process of choosing reviews and the relevance and importance of the matters now being reviewed

Scrutiny work and evidence gathering – trying to get a feel for whether the three panels are working well and to establish whether there is clarity about what the reviews are aiming to achieve and whether the work is planned in a systematic and transparent manner

Outcomes and impact – evaluating the extent to which overview and scrutiny is making a real difference for local people

Accountability – the relationship between Cabinet and overview and scrutiny, and the ability of overview and scrutiny to influence major decisions and monitor performance

WORK PROGRAMME

There is strong evidence that the prime consideration in developing this year's work programme was that it should be based on issues that had been put forward by members of the public, whether as individuals or local groups. It is clear from the members who spoke to us that the workshop and the community consultation worked well. The emphasis in the work programme is on scrutinising topics that are important to local people.

There is less evidence of a conscious link being made between the matters chosen for scrutiny and corporate priorities but this does not mean that the work programme is in any way running counter to the council's strategic direction.

Members spoke highly of the support from officers in the work programming process.

SCRUTINY WORK AND EVIDENCE GATHERING

There is a general consensus that the three-panel arrangement is working better than the former arrangement where seven reviews were in progress at the same time. There is evidence of that all non-executive members are able to be directly involved in overview and scrutiny work and that many are engaged in a positive way. A number of members take personal responsibility for review work by gathering evidence from a range of sources (eg visits, conferences and community contacts) and reporting back to the panel. There is cross-party working with no whips.

The reviews are wide-ranging and this means there is a danger of lack of focus. Even with the scopes of these reviews being drawn as widely as they are, there is still pressure from some members to stretch their brief even further or to be distracted by side issues. There is, however, evidence that the Scrutiny Officer performs a valuable role in keeping reviews on track.

There is extensive involvement of expert witnesses from outside the council, and co-optees are also appointed. There is some evidence of robust and effective questioning of witnesses. Visits are made to other areas to gather evidence from others' experiences.

New members seem to find the concept of scrutiny hard to grasp at the induction stage. However, the fact that members attend induction sessions is itself a positive sign. It may be that the content of the induction process should be looked at to see whether there is scope for making it easier to understand. Some members believe that they would benefit from some form of mentoring.

Panel meetings' work is planned by the chairman and vice-chairman, who both meet with the Scrutiny Officer. Having vice-chairmen is seen as a positive way of avoiding too much onus being placed on the chairman to steer the panel.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

A range of opinion was expressed about the actual impact on the lives of people in Northampton.

There did not appear to be great awareness of the concrete improvements that scrutiny is making and members found it difficult to cite examples of positive outcomes and impact. This may in part be due to the fact that many of the members who spoke to us were quite new councillors.

The recent Egyptian statue call-in was repeatedly given as the prime example of scrutiny modifying a Cabinet decision and providing a voice for local residents on a matter of community concern.

We note that there is a system in place whereby Cabinet members are invited to the O&S Committee to report on progress in implementation of reviews' recommendations. We believe, however, that more could be done to demonstrate

the value and impact of overview and scrutiny review work. We suggest that the adoption of a clear action plan at the end of each review – and the subsequent periodic monitoring of that plan by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – would do much to guarantee that tangible outcomes are delivered.

ACCOUNTABILITY

It is generally felt that there is a constructive relationship between overview and scrutiny and the Cabinet and that Cabinet members help to inform the development of the work programme.

Call-in is used occasionally.

Performance monitoring takes place quarterly and we found some evidence of robust questioning of Cabinet members on this and other matters.

During scrutiny of the budget, there is examination of selected topics and portfolio holders are involved in the discussions.

There is also some evidence of influencing decisions before they are made by Cabinet (the Independent Living review being an example of this). We found it difficult to form a clear picture of systems and procedures for pre-decision scrutiny and engagement with Cabinet in general. However, we appreciate that this is an aspect of overview and scrutiny that is challenging for all local authorities.

CONCLUSION

It must be stressed that this report is not judgemental. It is for the council to shape its scrutiny in a way that it considers best serves local needs.

We would like to thank the members for their active and enthusiastic participation in our discussions. It is clear that overview and scrutiny has moved on considerably since our visit in 2008, and that there have been a number of achievements of which members are justifiably proud.

We would add that we were impressed by the paperless committees initiative being piloted by overview and scrutiny and by the positive way in which members are embracing it. This seems to us to reflect the innovative and forward-looking attitude that we often encountered during our visit.

Peer Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council

26 November 2012

Undertaken by representatives from Broxtowe Borough Council:

- Jeremy Ward – Scrutiny/Democratic Services Officer
- Councillor Brian Wombwell – Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Janet Patrick – Chair of the People and Places Examination and Inquiry Group, member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

METHODOLOGY

Prior to the discussions we met to consider which questions would be suitable. It was decided to ask the same question of each councillor, following this, answers could be compared. However, in practice it was clear that some questions either 'didn't work' or following several consistent answers it was clear that other areas lines of questioning should be followed. Therefore, the later questions were modified in situ.

The discussions with seven non-executive councillors, focused on the following subjects, were influenced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny's evaluation framework *Accountability Works for You*:

Efficacy – Does Scrutiny at Northampton Borough Council achieve its aims?

Motivation – Do members become less motivated if they don't like a subject? What is that interests members? How do you keep members motivated? How often do you use external witnesses?

Source of Scrutiny Subjects – How are they generated and selected?

What has gone well with Scrutiny and why?

Panels – Do the different panels have different ways of working? Do they get different results?

Work programme – How do you handle the work programme? Do you feel limited by the system? How do time limits affect reviews? Is there room for prioritising topics?

Do you feel the Council is supportive of Scrutiny? – Officers and members?

Scoping – Who does the scope? Is there any flexibility? Can panels change the scope? Who calls witnesses? How closely do panels prepare for meetings?

Presentation to Cabinet – Are you satisfied with the way reports are presented to Cabinet? Are the outcomes monitored?

Outcomes – What should a good Scrutiny review do? Do the outcomes that are implemented add value to Cabinet’s decisions?

EFFICACY

Comments/observations:

- Confusion amongst members over the role of Scrutiny
- Questions over whether the most able people were chairs and vice chairs
- ‘We have no powers – Cabinet has all of the power’
- Pre-decision Scrutiny works well
- Scrutiny adds value to the role of councillors
- It is an education for councillors on the workings of the Council and partnership working

Conclusions:

Councillors were generally happy with the way Scrutiny works, although there was a discrepancy between those who were in favour and those who weren’t. It was interesting to note how strong the divided opinions were, almost as though those speaking were from completely different councils.

MOTIVATION

Comments/observations:

- Seen as independent and ‘free of dogma’
- Members are never whipped
- Some members aren’t interested

Conclusions:

Again (and this will become a pattern), some councillors were motivated by Scrutiny while others felt de-motivated. There were strongly divided opinions. This is exactly the same at Broxtowe. I don’t think there is any merit in concentrating on those with vehemently negative opinions that do not offer constructive criticism.

SOURCE OF SCRUTINY SUBJECTS

Comments/observations:

- Wide range of subjects that are covered really well
- There is discipline within scoping
- Understanding of how they are generated

Conclusions:

The understanding of the source of subjects displays not only knowledge of the system but also engenders a feeling of ownership of Scrutiny reviews. This is vital if members are to feel engaged by a review. This is displayed here.

WHAT HAS GONE WELL WITH SCRUTINY AND WHY, ALSO WHAT HAVE YOU STRUGGLED WITH?

Comments/observations:

- Scrutiny is the poor relation to Cabinet
- There is a discrepancy of support between Cabinet and Scrutiny
- Scrutiny needs an equal footing
- Less committed councillors are in Scrutiny
- Committee system would be better as councillors are more engaged and involved
- Can be exceptionally useful – it's a golden opportunity
- It is apolitical
- Members of the public are engaged and encouraged
- Can find out all of the Council's business and gain in-depth knowledge about many subjects
- Some councillors don't take it seriously
- It would work better if councillors had a better understanding of the system
- Public take interest
- The website is informative

Conclusions:

Once again, this questioning invoked positive and negative answers. The aim of the question was to elicit remarks that would promote good practice and discover areas for improvement. However, some councillors took the opportunity to repeat observations mentioned previously. It is worth noting the discrepancy of support between Cabinet and Scrutiny may suggest that backbenchers would like to be as valued as their Cabinet counterparts. Positive comments suggested that councillors and members of the public are engaged by the process. It was also heartening to hear that Scrutiny is viewed as apolitical by members.

PANELS

Comments/observations:

- Panels don't meet regularly enough – momentum is lost
- Good transparency – happy with the way it is done
- Evening meetings mean there is limited time
- All work to the same rules but chairs work in different ways
- The Scrutiny Officer provides good guidance

Conclusions:

It was interesting and unexpected to hear an advocate for more meetings, although more expected to hear that chairs shape their own panels (the indisputable law of Scrutiny).

WORK PROGRAMME

Comments/observations:

- Only constraint through work programme is on the Scrutiny Officer
- Outstanding issues carry over to the new committee year
- Good provision for flexibility if necessary

Conclusions:

Questions were asked on the annual work programme as it is integral to the way councillors form views on the running of Scrutiny. There was little comment which would suggest that councillors were happy with the organisation of the system which is well run.

DO YOU FEEL THE COUNCIL IS SUPPORTIVE OF SCRUTINY?

Comments/observations:

- The Scrutiny Officer is extremely good, objective
- "The Scrutiny Officer is brilliant!"
- There is a need more Scrutiny officers
- Needs to be given an equal status, more clout, more officers
- Training programme is structured but not well supported
- More resources to support the Scrutiny Officer would mean more time to commit to each individual review
- There is independence in the culture of Scrutiny
- There is no interference from officers or the executive
- More resources are necessary
- There is a sense that members are doing good work which helps the Council and is taken seriously by Cabinet
- It is important there is more financial support for Scrutiny. It does not need to be in isolation from the rest of the Council
- Heads of Service attend as appropriate
- Support depends on aims
- Members support Scrutiny as it is an opportunity to influence even if not in a position of power
- Portfolio Holders are invited at different stages of a review. They input but not influence

Conclusions:

There was resounding support for the work of the Scrutiny Officer with numerous suggestions for further resources to strengthen the position of Scrutiny within the Council. It was heartening to hear of support from Heads of Service. This suggests a positive culture from all areas of the Council.

SCOPING

Comments/observations:

- We look for measurable outcomes
- Chairs and members both call the witnesses.
- Good proportion of co-opted members
- There is generally discipline to stick to a scope. Some leeway if necessary

Conclusions:

As referred to previously, attitudes to scoping also show engagement and ownership of the process. There were no dissenting voices during questions on the scope of topics.

PRESENTATION TO CABINET

Comments/observations:

- The standard of the reports was excellent and appreciated by councillors
- Clear understanding of the way reports are presented to Cabinet in addition to expectations placed on Cabinet to respond and the monitoring of recommendations
- No sense of ownership with reports
- There is monitoring of recommendations but you have to find it
- Important to ensure monitoring takes place as it ensures recommendations are being implemented

Conclusions:

This section provided differences in answers that could have been predicted from councillors who whether either in favour of Scrutiny or against. The majority of answers indicate there is an appreciation of the presentation stage and the method by which reports are handed over and the respect with which they are treated.

OUTCOMES

Comments/observations:

- Scrutiny should have the right of sanction

- Government does not give Scrutiny enough powers
- Recommendations are not dealt with seriously enough
- Monitored well. Cabinet members are questioned at OSC meetings, along with lead officers
- Outcomes are decided on at the beginning. It is necessary that they are always measurable
- Outcomes are not measurable

Conclusions:

The final stage of the process considered was to consider the monitoring process as this gives councillors a retained sense of ownership. Again, there was some confusion, but generally members were happy with outcomes from the process.

MEETING

- Although we were only able to stay for an hour of the meeting it was obvious that the meeting was well organised. The level of preparation prior to the meeting, questions previously submitted to witnesses etc, was impressive.

Comparison against the Review process of other Local Authorities noted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny as good examples

Background data

This comparison data is based on the Review reports submitted by the Local Authorities to the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Good Scrutiny Awards 2012, or other information, and does not compare against the Scrutiny process as a whole:

Chesterfield Borough Council

Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) used the Appreciative Inquiry method for carrying out its Review – “Rother Matters”.

Appreciative Inquiry is a technique that aims to uncover the best things about the organisation, team, community or project being investigated. It is reported as being a positive tool, and is used frequently in an organisational change environment and in community development. It is noted as becoming an increasingly popular scrutiny tool.

CBC used the 5-D model:

To define Positive focus of the Inquiry

To discover Appreciating the valuing and best of what already exists

To dream Create a vision of what might be

To design Using information/stories gathered to work out what things should be like

To deliver Innovating – best ways of ‘doing’ in the future

A Panel was formed comprising Councillors and key players. This Panel moved the actions of the project forward, with actions being divided between all members, not just Scrutiny Councillors. The Panel agreed at its scoping meeting what needed to be achieved and the relevant actions. It appointed a Planning Group that also held meetings but not as many as that of the Panel.

A bid was put in for support from a Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) advisor to support the work and some of this funding was used for providing training to the Planning Group on the appreciative inquiry approach.

Overview and Scrutiny relaxed the way it usually works, and who it works with, which fitted the appreciative inquiry technique.

The Panel operated flexibly with a proactive focus to achieve the outcome together, as opposed to having a holding to account focus. This approached enhanced Scrutiny's policy development role.

The Panel did not call witnesses to its meetings.

The focus of the work of the Panel was to work together to make improvements. As part of the evidence gathering process, a simple survey was compiled and distributed amongst the community for completion. The survey focussed on the positive questions, with evidence requested on what is working well, good experiences and good feelings. There were no questions posed in respect of any problems or potential problems.

The Planning Group went out to the community and conducted face to face interviews.

An event was held, linking to a system approach, bringing the community together.

The reported benefits of this appreciative inquiry are:

- Focus on the positive aspects – which ensured all wanted to work together to achieve the same outcomes – positive psychology
- All key players showed energy for the Review
- No reactive backward looking
- A presentation on the outcomes of the Appreciative Inquiry was given to all Councillors at CBC

Gloucestershire County Council

The Scrutiny Officer, Gloucestershire County Council, provided a copy of the "Scrutiny in Gloucestershire Annual Report 2011-2012 – Making a difference". From this, details of its Review "Severn Estuary Shoreline Management" were obtained.

A Scrutiny Task Group was set up to look at the Environment Agency's proposals to manage flood risk on the Severn Estuary. A wide range of stakeholders were invited to give their views, including community groups. The result of the Review being that the Environment Agency adopted a new approach in working closely with local communities.

The role of the Task Group was to contribute to the Environment Agency's emerging plans for managing flood risk on the Severn Estuary. The Group also considered critical infrastructure issues. An initial scene setting meeting was held and included representatives:

Parish Councils in the affected area

Environment Agency
Natural England
Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board
National Farmers Union
Stroud District Council
Gloucester City Council

Bassetlaw District Council

Bassetlaw DC (BDC) undertook a Review “The Future of Services at Bassetlaw Hospital”.

It reports this Review was carried out at a time of unprecedented change within the NHS. The role of the Panel was to find out what plans were in place of service delivery at Bassetlaw Hospital, how decisions about service delivery were being made/communicated and how new commissioning arrangements might affect the future sustainability of the service. The Panel focused on ensuring that the best possible range of services that could be delivered safely was offered at Bassetlaw Hospital.




It is reported that the Review was timely in that it enabled the Panel to access the facts and plans to make sure they were communicated clearly to the public. There had been a media article about the future of service delivery at Bassetlaw Hospital. Communities were concerned about the possible loss of services or proposed changes to services that they felt were unsafe. Patients’ experiences were highlighted and addressed in the report.





There was positive outcomes and change from this Review, including:

- Clarity in communication from Bassetlaw Hospital
- More pro-active marketing of hospital services
- Cultural change
- Services changes
- Patient experience
- Marketing the hospital to junior doctors

Overview and Scrutiny – Self-Evaluation process

completed by: Councillor Les Marriott (Chair)
 Councillor Matt Lynch (Vice Chair)
 Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

Key Line of Enquiry	Evidence base
<p>Work Programme</p> <p>Process of developing the work programme</p> <p>Assessing the merit of different suggestions</p> <p>Topics for Panels (for example, community interest, strategic priorities)</p>	<p> Suggestions from the public for Scrutiny Review has increased. Over thirty suggestions were received in 2011/2012. The work programme for 2011/2012 was influenced totally by public suggestions.</p> <p> The work programming event is open to all non Executives and Cabinet address the event informing of its priorities for the year. The work programming event breaks into Groups that then prioritise potential reviews, based on Cabinet’s priorities, public suggestions, suggestions put forward by the O&S Committee and Councillors individual thoughts. Directors, or Heads of Service, circulate amongst the Groups offering comment on the suggestions. Each Group puts forward around four suggestions and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting prioritises the suggestions to form its work programme for the following year.</p> <p>Cabinet informs the work programming event of its priorities for the year.</p> <p> A survey is sent to all those previously involved, or who attended a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny asking for suggestions for future Scrutiny review. The press promote the request for public suggestions and questionnaires are on display in the One Stop Shop and various community venues. The scrutiny webpage also promotes the request for ideas for future scrutiny.</p>

<p>Work of the Panels/Evidence gathering</p> <p>Work of the three Panels</p>	<p> The Chair and Vice Chair felt that the three Scrutiny Panels were working effectively and well. Alongside the three Panels there is often a Scrutiny Inquiry (working group) that looks at issues currently being undertaken by the Council such as the LGSS scrutiny inquiry. The budget and reporting monitoring working group convenes to investigate issues on the draft budget that it feels require scrutiny input.</p> <p> Each Panel sets its scope (terms of reference) that is approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before the Panel commences its work. The purpose and required outcomes are agreed and stated. The Chair and Vice Chair felt that, on occasions during early evidence gathering, the Panel may go outside its scope however the compilation of the core questions to be put to key witnesses brings focus back. The Chair and Vice Chair further felt that, on occasions, specialist Officers may provide too much direction into the scope of the Review.</p>
<p>Planning the work of the Panels</p>	<p> The scope is set, as detailed above. The Panels then receive a lot of evidence, both desktop research and interviews with key experts. The schedule of hearing from key experts is planned. The scope states a start and estimated finish time for the work of the Panel which assists in keeping the work focused to the terms of reference.</p>
<p>Outcomes and Impact</p> <p>Changes as a result of the work of O&S for the public</p>	<p> The Chair and Vice Chair acknowledged that a number of previous Scrutiny Reviews such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheltered Housing and Housing Options for Older People

<p>Has the work of O&S made a difference, (including monitoring of recommendations)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Empowerment Fund • Independent Living Strategy <p>Have made changes for the public as a result of the work of O&S.</p> <p>The current work programme 2012/2013 comprises three in depth reviews, all of which were put forward by the public, in particular the following have real potential to make a difference to the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail experience • Serious Acquisitive Crime, violent crime and community safety <p>Overview and Scrutiny has a vigorous monitoring work programme and it ensures all accepted recommendations are implemented before the report is signed off from the work programme. The relevant Cabinet Member and Head of Service are asked to attend and provide updates on the progress of the accepted recommendation and this continues at intervals until all recommendations are implemented.</p>
<p>Accountability role</p> <p>Relationship between Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny</p> <p>How is the Executive held to account</p>	<p>The Chair and Vice Chair felt that the relationship between Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny is very good – for example Cabinet attend the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming event and provide input by apprising of its priorities for the year. Cabinet attend meetings of the O&S Committee and its three Panels when requested.</p> <p>At Northampton call-in is used sparingly and during 2010/2011, the facility was not used at all. A call in was held in September 2012 about the disposal of a museum artefact where the check and balance arm of Scrutiny were tested.</p>



The Chair and Vice Chair felt the Local Government Scrutiny Inquiry could have been involved at an earlier stage to fulfil its pre decision scrutiny role. The Chair and Vice Chair felt the pre decision role of Scrutiny could be used more.



Monitoring the overall performance of the Council

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes performance management scrutiny by investigating the performance monitoring reports, identifying any performance indicators that it feels warrant further investigation. The Cabinet Member and relevant Head of Service attend a meeting of the Committee and provide further details. Performance management scrutiny had previously led to recommendations being implemented.

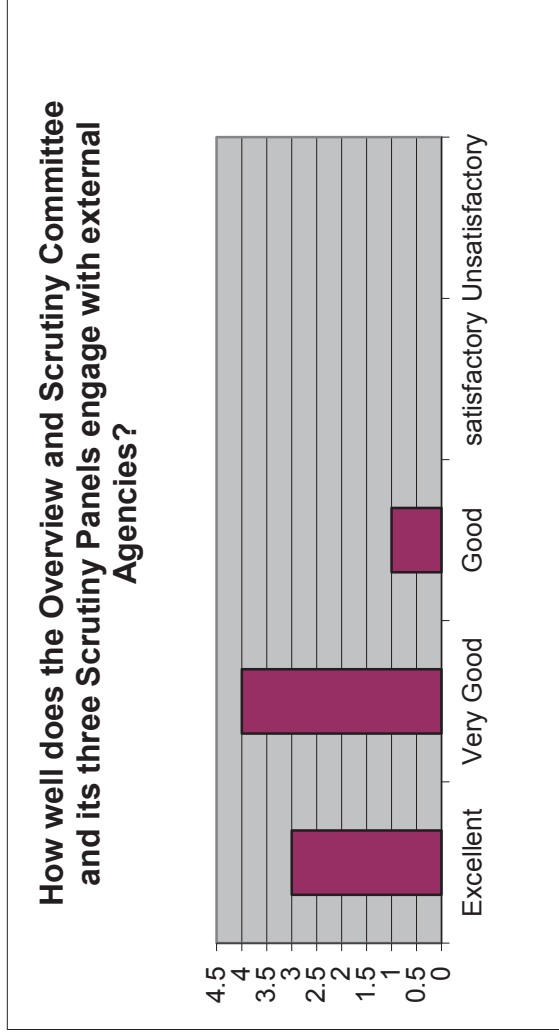


The Chair and Vice Chair felt that, on occasions, the monitoring of accepted recommendations contained within and Overview and Scrutiny report can be limited. The example they provided was in respect of Neighbourhood Model.

How well does the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its three Scrutiny Panels engage with external Agencies?

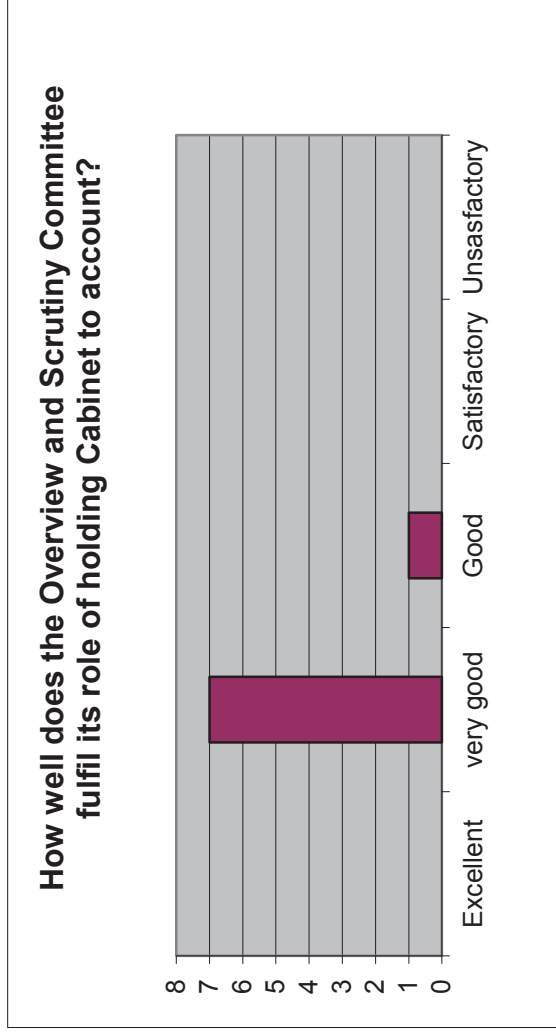


Excellent 3
 Very Good 4
 Good 1
 satisfactory 0
 Unsatisfactory 0



How well does the Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfil its role of holding Cabinet to account? 🇬🇧

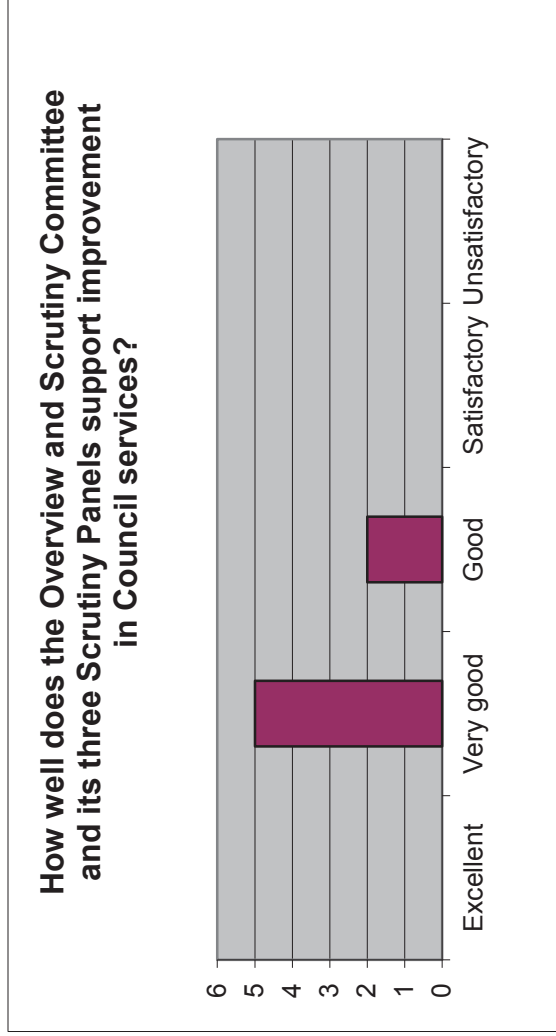
Excellent 0
 very good 7
 Good 1
 Satisfactory 0
 Unsatisfactory 0



Additional comments: Scrutiny is active but doesn't always influence the Administration. Scrutiny should have more "teeth."

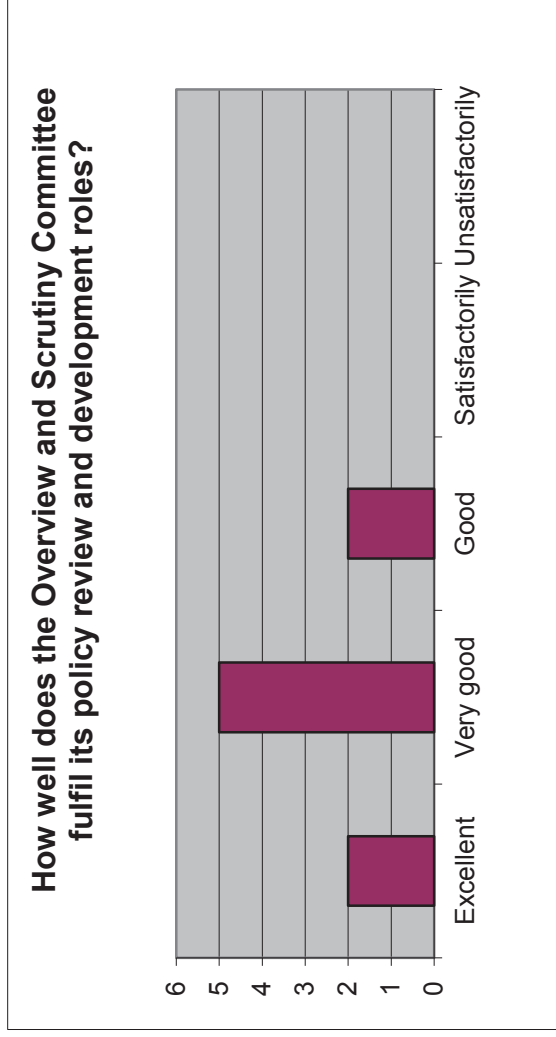
How well does the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its three Scrutiny Panels support improvement in Council services? 

- Excellent 0
- Very good 5
- Good 2
- Satisfactory 0
- Unsatisfactory 0
- Unanswered 1



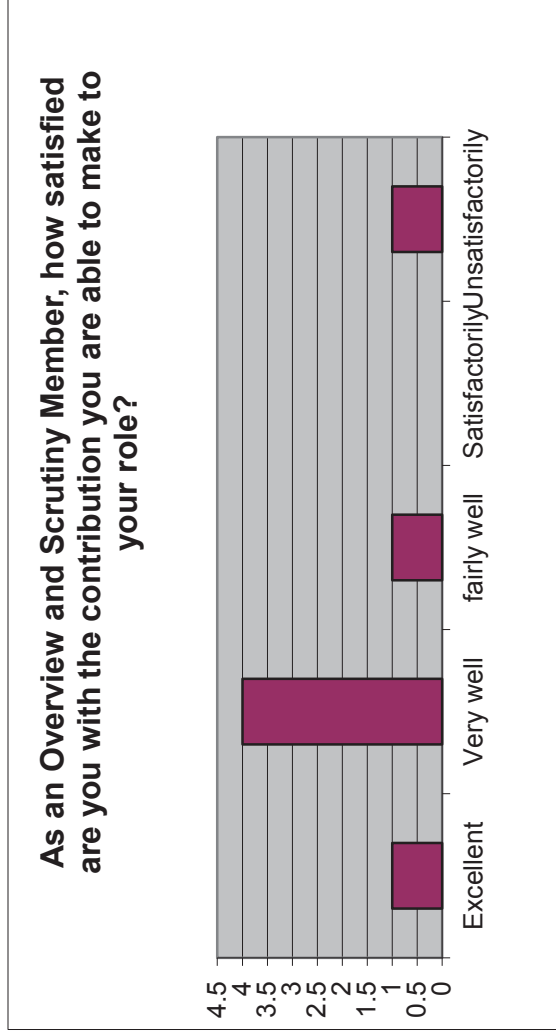
How well does the Overview and Scrutiny Committee fulfil its policy review and development role? 🇬🇧

Excellent 2
 Very good 5
 Good 2
 Satisfactorily 0
 Unsatisfactorily 0



As an Overview and Scrutiny Member, how satisfied are you with the contribution you are able to make to your role? 

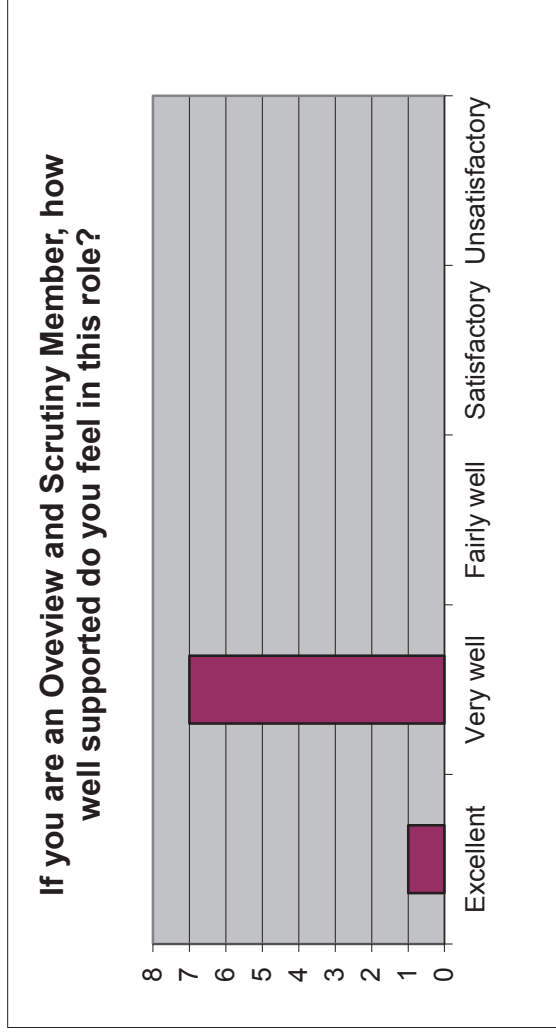
Excellent 1
 Very well 4
 fairly well 1
 Satisfactorily 0
 Unsatisfactorily 1



NB the Councillor who advised he was not satisfied with the contribution he is able to make with his role was due to the fact that he feels he is relatively newly elected and the more experienced he becomes, the more of a contribution he will be able to make

If you are an Overview and Scrutiny Member, how well supported do you feel in this role? 🇬🇧

Excellent 1
 Very well 7
 Fairly well 0
 Satisfactory 0
 Unsatisfactory 0



Additional comments received:

Resources for scrutiny are very limited compared to other areas of the Authority, however, the work done with these limited resources is, in my opinion excellent and this is largely due to the Scrutiny Officer and the enthusiasm of its members

Overview & Scrutiny Committee



SCRUTINY PANEL
**Serious acquisitive crime,
violent crime and community safety**
April 2013

Index

Chair's Foreword	2
Executive Summary	4
Final Report including recommendations	12

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Scope of the Review
Appendix B	Performance Overview – Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime
Appendix C	Population Demographics
Appendix D	Breakdown of Violence Offences in Northampton by Location
Appendix E	Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime Problem Profile
Appendix F	Northampton Population Ethnicity by country of birth
Appendix G	Core questions

Foreword

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was:

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

This has been a most interesting scrutiny Review, highlighting as it has the complex factors behind crime. The trends are worrying. The evidence from our expert witnesses shows clearly two things:

1. Information to the community from the community safety partnership is key to creating an understanding of the facts rather than the myths. It is also key in creating an understanding of how we can all take measures to reduce opportunities for crime, how to report crime, and how to work with preventative and enforcement agencies.
2. Partnership working came out from the evidence as absolutely essential to the maintenance of good community relations, for effective preventative measures and for good policing. We all have a part to play in keeping our neighbourhoods safe and pleasant to live in.

I have learned a great deal from this process and I look forward to the recommendations being taken up for debate and consideration.

The Review took place between July 2012 and April 2013.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in this piece of work.



Councillor Danielle Stone

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety

Acknowledgements to all those who took part in the Review: -

- Councillors David Palethorpe (Vice Chair); Councillors Mick Ford, Brendan Glynane, Dennis Meredith and Brian Sargeant, together with co-opted members Chief Inspector Max Williams, Northants Police, Sharon Henley, Northants Police and Neil Bartholomey, Chair, PubWatch, who sat with me on this Review
- Adam Simmonds, Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire for providing information to inform the Panel's Review
- Councillor David Mackintosh, Leader of the Council, for providing a response to the Scrutiny Panel's core questions
- Sharon Henley and Laura Jones for leading on the site visits that the Panel undertook as part of its evidence gathering process
- Julie Seddon, Chair, Northampton CSP, Lesley Wearing, Director of Housing, NBC, Ruth Austen, Environmental Health Manager, NBC, Laura Jones, Acting Deputy Head of Community Safety, Northants Police, Denise Meylan, Director of Offender Management, Northants Probation Service, Lucy Westley, Sunflower Centre Service Manager, Hassan Shah, Northamptonshire Pakistani Welfare Trust, Northampton Youth Forum, Olufunke Adedeji Consultant in Public Health, Health Protection NHS, Northamptonshire, Christine Thompson, Service Delivery Manager, Northampton Victim Support and John Farrell, Asset Director, Enterprise Management Services for providing comprehensive responses to the core questions of the Panel
- Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Manager, for her support to this Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Review was to:

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed at its work programming event in March 2012 agreed to include a review of serious acquisitive crime, violent crime and community safety. These were issues that had been identified by a number of members of the public as key concerns. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in May 2012 and concluded in April 2013.

A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising Councillor Danielle Stone (Chair); Councillor David Palethorpe (Vice Chair); Councillors Mick Ford, Brendan Glynane, Christopher Malpas, Dennis Meredith, Brian Sargeant and Chief Inspector Max Williams, Northants Police, Sharon Henley, Northants Police, and Neil Bartholomey, Chair, Northampton PubWatch, (Co-Optees).

The Scrutiny Panel established that the following needed to be investigated and linked to the realisation of the Council's corporate priorities:

- Context:
 - Local statistics
 - Demographics – local and national
- Baseline data:
 - National crime statistics
 - Local crime statistics
 - Synopsis of various research documents and other published documents
 - Evidence from expert internal witnesses
 - Evidence from expert external witnesses
 - Evidence from ward Councillors
 - Site Visits

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities - Corporate Priority 2 - Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods, creating an attractive, clean and safe environment.

CONCLUSIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

A significant amount of evidence was heard, details of which are contained in the report. After gathering evidence the Scrutiny Panel established that: -

- 5.1.1 The Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that this Review should concentrate on wider issues and that if initial figures indicated that the domestic abuse was disproportionately high it would be relevant for a future Scrutiny Review to be undertaken on interpersonal violence. The Scrutiny Panel felt that the remit of this Review could include how improved education on domestic violence issues could be provided for the non-British White population.
- 5.1.2 The Scrutiny Panel felt that it would be useful for ward Councillors to have regularly updated information on the demographics of their areas. It was however noted that this information is available on the Northamptonshire Observatory and that a permanent link is detailed within each edition of the monthly Councillor E-Newsletter, (Councillor Connect).
- 5.1.3 From the evidence provided in the statistical data there is evidence that there has been an increase in Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC), especially vehicle crime which impacts negatively upon the residents of the town.
- 5.1.4 It was concluded that it would be useful for all Councillors to be informed of when initiatives are being undertaken in their wards by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 5.1.5 It was concluded that target hardening of properties in hotspot locations was effective in reducing burglary.
- 5.1.6 The need for a representative from Housing Services, Northampton Borough Council, to be a member of the Community Safety Partnership was emphasised. It was highlighted that access to safe and adequate housing is an essential element in building positive community cohesion and discouraging crime. The Scrutiny Panel further agreed that there is a need for all service areas involved in community safety activity to attend meetings of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 5.1.7 The Scrutiny Panel welcomed that training will be provided to all Community Safety Partnership members who work on the frontline. It felt, however, that awareness training on domestic abuse should be made available for Councillors.
- 5.1.8 It was recognised that when training correct use of terminology should be emphasised.
- 5.1.9 The value of whole family interventions be emphasised and that such cases require multi-Agency intervention, including Policing, education, profiling, training and support.
- 5.1.10 It was welcomed that the CSP is currently undertaking work endeavouring to engage

with Eastern/Central Europeans. Those who are economic migrants do not appear to be engaged with any community, simply being here to work. Data is showing this ethnic group as being of being vulnerable to crime either as a perpetrator or a victim. The numbers involved/affected are disproportionately higher than the population figures.

- 5.1.11 It is a statutory requirement that Accident and Emergency data is provided to the Community Safety Partnership and it was felt that data should be provided on a more regular basis.
- 5.1.12 The Scrutiny Panel noted that there appears to be a gap between Public Health and Housing Services but realised that steps were in place to address this.
- 5.1.13 The Scrutiny Panel conveyed concerns that it appeared that Neighbourhood Wardens are being expected to take on a much wider role. Whilst they have received some training the Scrutiny Panel felt that they are not crime prevention professionals and should not be giving advice on that basis. The role of the Wardens should be about working with partner Agencies and signposting the public to the correct service and not actually solving crime issues directly.
- 5.1.14 It was acknowledged that Neighbourhood Wardens sit on a number of Partnership sub groups and feed into action plans and the overarching process.
- 5.1.15 It was generally felt that members of the public will often speak to Neighbourhood Wardens when they would otherwise be reluctant to engage with the Police. Neighbourhood Wardens are in regular contact with an area and are generally trusted.
- 5.1.16 Further to the site visits undertaken by the Panel it was felt that disused property needs to be secured so that it does not become a target for vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Such sites should be protected or screened. It would be beneficial for best practice advice to be sought from the relevant department within Northampton Borough Council.
- 5.1.17 The evidence gathered from the site visits concluded that there are issues in areas where fencing has been erected in order to try and solve problems. These had not been maintained or panels had been removed to allow easier routes through. This highlighted the need for ensuring that on-going maintenance is identified prior to any schemes being undertaken.
- 5.1.18 The evidence gathered highlighted that there is a need to reduce the impact of the “broken window syndrome” on members of the community; such issues are identified through Environmental Audits produced by Crime Prevention Officers for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). It was felt that a possible improvement is an enhanced, responsive maintenance service in “hotspot” areas.
- 5.1.19 Vice and drug issues appear to be prominent in some areas of the town and the ‘broken window syndrome’ appears to be the forerunner to crime.
- 5.1.20 The Scrutiny Panel felt that the unused open spaces should be utilised to create public use with a view to reducing the “broken window syndrome.”

- 5.1.21 The Scrutiny Panel highlighted the importance of educating residents in security so the purpose of security measures are understood and used. Examples such as locking doors, windows and gates, securing vehicles and the removal of visible property.
- 5.1.22 Lack of maintenance management in areas is an issue, for example:
- Access controlled car park not working
 - Lack of maintenance to fencing
 - Littering
- Landscaping maintenance issues
- 5.1.23 The development of a Neighbourhood Forum for the Spring Boroughs area is currently taking place. There is a need for it to comprise at least 21 individuals who either work or reside in the area. The Scrutiny Panel felt it would be useful for at least one individual from each of the houses (block of flats) to be elected to the Forum.
- 5.1.24 The Scrutiny Panel agreed that there is a need to understand NBC's maintenance programme for housing stock and estates, including communal doors, garage blocks, street cleansing, and grounds maintenance. For example - when repairs are undertaken there is a need for them to be made, not only to the front access communal doors but also to the rear.
- 5.1.25 The Panel welcomed the trial of the Intensive Community Engagement programme that is currently taking place in the South West Sector of the Northampton. Part of the programme includes 'Rich Picturing', where the community is asked to draw pictures of their neighbourhood currently, and also what they would like it to look like. These pictures can reveal issues that the Police are unaware of. Matters that are not considered to be within the Police's remit will be passed to the relevant Agency. The Panel considered this initiative would help to engage with the community and identify problems and the ward Councillors could be a long term strategic link.
- 5.1.26 It was emphasised that in certain areas, the completion of a CASPAR project had been very positive but no further support was provided to the community following completion of the project. The Scrutiny Panel felt that an exit strategy should always be put in place, ensuring a level of support and on-going maintenance if required.
- 5.1.27 The Scrutiny Panel was disappointed that, due to the lack of current projects such as CASPAR in Spring Boroughs, coupled with the current economic climate and lack of officer presence, that the area had begun to deteriorate.
- 5.1.28 The previous benefits of a Community Group undertaking gardening activities in the Pocket Park on Spring Boroughs were realised.
- 5.1.29 The Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that it would be beneficial to encourage Residents Associations and Community Forums to use open space facilities which in turn would assist in developing community spirit.
- 5.1.30 Collection of alcohol related incidents data is carried out in Accident and Emergency (A&E). The value of this is limited because the data is not shared in a timely manner.
- 5.1.31 The Panel recognised that, on occasions, victims of domestic abuse presenting at

A&E are not referred to supporting Agencies.

- 5.1.32 The Scrutiny Panel realised that a lot of anti-social behaviour is connected to litter and environmental problems. There needs to be a process for the information flow to Enterprise Management Services (EMS) be stronger and with faster responses.
- 5.1.33 The Scrutiny Panel noted that work is underway to ascertain whether the large number of fly tipping incidents relate to problems which people have with access to home waste and recycling centres. There are problems with shared areas at housing complexes and in private alleyways. These areas can cause a series of problems and a solution needs to be implemented to ensure that issues are dealt with quickly when reported.
- 5.1.34 EMS provides schedules to the Council detailing work that is being undertaken in each area. The Scrutiny Panel felt it would be useful for this information to be disseminated to all Council departments.
- 5.1.35 The Scrutiny Panel concluded that working with partners and other Agencies is vital in providing a holistic approach to making improvements.
- 5.1.36 Significant progress has been made regarding the issues surrounding people attending pubs and clubs in the town centre area. The introduction of Night Watch, which includes the traffic light system and the banning of some key violent offenders from the town centre, has created a positive effect, was welcomed.
- 5.1.37 Good communication between door staff and the Police was recognised.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The above overall findings have formed the basis for the following recommendations:-

- 6.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was:
- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
 - To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
 - To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
 - To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

Scrutiny Panel 1 recommends to Cabinet that:

Northampton Borough Council (NBC)

- 6.1.1 A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening for properties that are located within hot spot areas.
- 6.1.2 Northampton Borough Council ensures active engagement with the Troubled Families Agenda.
- 6.1.3 Prior to any physical works being undertaken, consideration to long-term maintenance is given and resources identified.
- 6.1.4 Councillors are issued with regular updated information on the demographics of their wards.

Housing

- 6.1.5 Obsolete signs in place around the Council's housing stock are removed and all relevant signage is in situ and is clearly visible.
- 6.1.6 An enhanced and responsive maintenance service is implemented in "hotspot" areas.
- 6.1.7 A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening on Council properties that are located within hot spot areas.

Planning/Regeneration

- 6.1.8 It is ensured that when land or buildings is transferred, it is stipulated that the land must be cleared and properly secured.
- 6.1.9 Consideration is given to utilising unused open spaces in residential areas across the town for public use.
- 6.1.10 Planning continues to work with and seek advice and guidance from the Police Architectural Liaison Officer to ensure new developments meet 'Design out Crime' standards.

Neighbourhood Wardens

- 6.1.11 Clarification is given on the role of the Neighbourhood Wardens. This information is disseminated to ward Councillors.
- 6.1.12 Neighbourhood Wardens undertake annual refresher training on crime prevention matters.
- 6.1.13 An on-going professional training and development plan, with specific focus on crime prevention and community safety, for Neighbourhood Wardens is produced and implemented

Partners and Agencies

- 6.1.14 Following completion of projects in hotspot locations, an exit plan is developed outlining support and maintenance post project, in order that the positive results are maintained.
- 6.1.15 On-going maintenance budgets are included with any environmental improvements such as fencing.
- 6.1.16 A directory for young people is developed that provides information on services and facilities available to young people.
- 6.1.17 There is timelier sharing of data from Accident and Emergency with the Community Safety Partnership. This means weekly highlight reports and full details on a monthly basis.
- 6.1.18 A mechanism is introduced to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board can provide information and feedback to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 6.1.19 Membership of the CSP be revisited to ensure that it includes all relevant Agencies and service areas, including the Voluntary Sector.
- 6.1.20 When training/education around crime prevention issues is undertaken, consideration is always be given to the audience and the trainer is mindful to use appropriate language that is universally understood.
- 6.1.21 Information systems between the Police and local Councillors are reviewed and further developed.
- 6.1.22 Support is given to the Intensive Community Engagement programme hosted by Northamptonshire Police.
- 6.1.23 Formal links between Enterprise Management Services (EMS) and Northampton Borough Council are developed around situational crime to ensure faster information sharing and faster responses to dealing with service issues, therefore resulting in a positive outcome for the community.

Community Forums

- 6.1.24 Residents Associations, Community Groups and Forums are encouraged to use open spaces which in turn will assist in community development and ownership of their local areas.

Northants Probation Service

- 6.1.25 A programme of works on the priority locations identified by Northampton Borough Council is built into the Community Pay Back Initiative.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire

- 6.1.26 A copy of this report is provided to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire.

Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 6.1.27 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider the inclusion of a Scrutiny Review of Interpersonal Violence in its Work Programme for 2013/2014.
- 6.1.28 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.

Northampton Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny

Report of Scrutiny Panel 1 – Serious Acquisitive Crime, Violent Crime and Community Safety

1 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was:

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
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- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

1.2 A copy of the scope is attached at Appendix A.

2 Context and Background

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed at its work programming event in March 2012 agreed to include a review of serious acquisitive crime, violent crime and community safety. These were issues that had been identified by a number of members of the public as key concerns. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in May 2012 and concluded in April 2013.

2.2 A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising Councillor Danielle Stone (Chair); Councillor David Palethorpe (Vice Chair); Councillors Mick Ford, Brendan Glynane, Christopher Malpas, Dennis Meredith, Brian Sargeant and Chief Inspector Max Williams, Northants Police, Sharon Henley, Northants Police, and Neil Bartholomey, Chair, Northampton PubWatch, (Co-Optees).

2.3 This review links to the Council's corporate priorities - Corporate Priority 2 - Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods, creating an attractive, clean and safe environment.

2.4 The Scrutiny Panel established that the following needed to be investigated and linked to the realisation of the Council's corporate priorities:

- Context:
 - Local statistics
 - Demographics – local and national

- Baseline data:
 - National crime statistics
 - Local crime statistics
- Synopsis of various research documents and other published documents
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from ward Councillors
- Site visits

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

2.5 There are four main types of Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC): -

- Burglary from Dwelling
- Theft from vehicles
- Theft of vehicles
- Robbery

2.6 Since 2008/09 there has been a decline for all four types of serious acquisitive crime. In 2011/12 however, there are increases in all categories apart from burglary of a dwelling.

2.7 Theft from vehicles has increased the largest amount; there had been a particular spike in October/ November 2012. There would be further work done to see if there were any correlations in where a car was parked, type of car etc. There are obviously many factors that could influence this.

2.8 In all areas of crime, statistics can only be based on reported crime.

2.9 Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) are placed in groups of fifteen .The groupings are defined by the Home Office as having enough similar characteristics to allow reasonable comparison of their performance, this is known as the Most Similar Group (MSG).

2.10 Northampton is very much average in its MSG in relation to SAC. In March 2012, the crime figures per thousand population detailed that Northampton was 16.447 against the group figure of 16.451.

2.11 Information on SAC trends showed that vehicle crime, which had been reducing over the last three years, has been increasing. Both thefts from motor vehicles and thefts of motor vehicles have increased by more than 20%. Northampton is below average in relation to domestic burglary at 12.739 as opposed to 14.707, and theft from vehicle at 7 rather than 7.108. It is higher in robbery at 1.772 as opposed to 1.631 and theft of vehicle 2.343 as opposed to 1.856.

2.12 Theft from vehicles had been decreasing but since 2011 it has been showing a continuous increase. Locally there has been an increase in thefts relating to improperly secured vehicles where windows or doors have been left open. There are also cycles which relate to whether criminals known for this type of activity are in custody.

2.13 Figures for violence resulting in injury have remained consistent, whereas violence without injury has increased. Numbers of serious sexual offences have also been increasing. There has been the introduction of “Serenity”, a support centre/ advice centre for women who have suffered sexual assault. This had been in operation for about 18 months, backed by funding from the NHS and the Police. It is felt that the support that they offer could be leading to maintaining the increased level of reported sexual offences.

Census 2011

2.14 The Census data provided to the Scrutiny Panel detailed the estimated proportion of White British population has reduced by 3.8%, but the estimated proportion of White: Other increased from 4.2 % to 6.5%, compared to 2010 estimates. This group is the BME group most likely to be affected by crime, as both the victim and the perpetrator. Most migrants are also in the age group which is most likely to be affected by crime. It is most important to be able to identify who these individuals are and what factors affect their experience of crime. There needs to be an analysis of whether there are other factors that need to be taken into consideration, for example are there language or cultural barriers to be overcome.

2.15 Northampton has a higher than average level of males and females in the 20-40 year age category. This is the category that is statistically more likely to be the victim or perpetrator of a crime.

2.16 With regard to ethnicity, there is a perception that there is a higher proportion of white other nationals, particularly Eastern European, than actually appears to be borne out by the data.

Breakdown of violence by location category

2.17 Violent crime is categorised under three location types by Northamptonshire Police; domestic violence, town centre violence and residual violence, Residual violence tends to make up 40% of all violent crime, whereas domestic and town centre comprise approximately 30%. and this has been consistent over the last three years.

- Residual violence occurs outside of the town centre and includes incidents around schools and educational premises.
- There may still be issues of non-reporting.

2011/12 Performance Data by sector

2.18 The sectors are based on the neighbourhood and policing areas.

2.19 The central area demonstrates an increase in violent crime figures over the summer. Conversely, violent crime figures in the north sector, which houses the university, decreased over the summer.

2.20 There have been significant changes in the provision of night-time entertainment over the last 12 months. The closure of Lava and Ignite has meant that there is no nightclub provision in the St Peters Square area, therefore physical location of clubbers has changed. The closure of Fat Cats and the Balloon Bar on Bridge Street due to a fire in January 2012 has also affected the numbers of people on the streets in that area. Numbers had been reduced a little whilst these bars have been closed.

2.21 Northampton has a higher than average level of males and females in the 20-40 year age category. This is the category that is statistically more likely to be the victim or perpetrator of a crime.

2.22 With regard to ethnicity, there is a perception that there is a higher proportion of white other nationals, particularly Eastern European, than actually appears to be borne out by the data.

3. Evidence Collection

3.1 Evidence was gathered from a variety of sources:

3.2 Background data

- Performance Data by Crime Type
- 2011/12 Performance Data by Crime Type
- 2011/12 Performance Data by Sector
- 2011/12 Hotspot Location Performance Data by Priority Wards
- Most Similar CSP Comparative Performance
- Performance Overview – SAC and Violent Crime (Details at Appendix B)
- Population Demographics:
 - Gender
 - Age
- Ethnicity
- Density (Details at Appendix C)
- Breakdown of Violence Offences in Northampton by Location Type (Details at Appendix D)
- Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime Problem Profile (Details at Appendix E)
- Northampton Population Ethnicity by country of birth. (Details at Appendix F)

3.3 Core Questions

3.3.1 The Scrutiny Panel produced a set of core questions that it put to key witnesses over a series of meetings. (Copy at Appendix G).

3.3.2 Key witnesses provided a response to these core questions at the meetings of the Scrutiny Panel held on 10 October 2012, 26 November, 10 January 2013 and 4 February.

3.3.3 Key points of evidence: -

Leader of the Council, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

- Most of the work in tackling issues in relation to SAC is through the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The Leader of the Council regularly attends meetings of the CSP.
- Work is also carried out by Neighbourhood Wardens, particularly providing advice.
- When specific issues are identified, meetings are held with the relevant ward Councillors and partner Agencies, with the aim of identifying actions.
- The Leader of the Council regularly meets with the Police.
- Rigorous data analysis of reported crimes within areas is produced, which allows “hotspots” to be identified. This, together with information provided by the Neighbourhood Wardens, is used by the Police to help target resources.
- Resources are scarce for all organisations, but by using analysis of data and working in partnership, available resources are used to their maximum potential.
- There are some historical geographical and infrastructure issues that cause difficulties in certain localities. Work has been undertaken in some areas via CASPAR Projects, for example Spring Boroughs. This approach has been rolled out Borough-wide. All projects commence with an environmental audit of the area. Work is currently being undertaken in Spencer and Kings Heath wards.
- The Leader of the Council confirmed that he felt that the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner should include setting the direction of policing in Northamptonshire and bringing Partners together. There also needs to be a further exploration of the use of restorative justice and the wider criminal justice system.

Violent Crime

- Neighbourhood Wardens and the Licensing Team, NBC, work together in early recognition of problems, aiming to prevent escalation.
- The Licensing Team works with partners in inspections and enforcement.
- The Council has an important role in the enablement of data sharing. For example, accident and emergency statistics, helping the Police to identify where Officers need to be deployed.
- The Council is active in awareness campaigns. For example: “Tackle the problem before it kicks off” campaign which focussed on the increase in domestic violence during football tournaments.
- The Council is a partner in work led by Women’s Aid, helping victims of domestic violence to access safe accommodation.

- Alcohol misuse remains at the centre of a number of problems associated with violent crime. People have changed their pattern of behaviour and are coming into the town centre later at night, often after already having consumed alcohol. Since the extension of the licensing hours, the Police no longer deal with problems relating to closing time, but deal with a constant stream of incidents.
- A lot of information is available that enables partners to identify hotspots and target resources as effectively as possible.

Chair, Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

- The Chair of the CSP considered that the Community Safety Partnership was strong. A robust evidence base details the difference it has made, which is further reflected by the retention of its funding.
- There is a good working relationship between Council departments, which are further enhanced in locations such as the office at Fish Street, where several Agencies are in daily contact.
- Currently Housing Services is not represented on the CSP.
- Strong working relationships with Northamptonshire County Council are in existence. There are no conflicting strategies or policies. Resources are maximised.
- Although the Police and Police Crime Commissioner would be acting for the whole of the county, they would need a strong sense of specific issues that related to Northampton town itself.
- In order to be effective at the prevention of violent and serious acquisitive crime, there needs to be more education about the kind of town that Northampton aspires to be, with a stronger sense of positive quality of life issues. How the community feels about the town will help to protect it, particularly if there is a strong positive element.

Director of Housing, Northampton Borough Council, (NBC)

- The Director of Housing, NBC, has two key roles - the provider of Council housing and a wider strategic role overseeing the quality of housing and the provision of housing throughout the Borough.
- Work is carried out on Council housing to ensure that security measures such as locks and doors are fitted to a required safety standard.
- When problems or “hotspots” are identified, for example, the suitability of entrance doors to blocks of flats, they are replaced as part of a rolling programme.
- Advice is received from Crime Prevention Teams on matters such as locks and doors.
- Neighbourhood Wardens are in daily contact with Housing Officers and bring potential problems to attention at an early stage. Neighbourhood Wardens offer advice and assistance to tenants. They also help in running Crime Awareness Campaigns, such as problems relating to cold callers.
- A number of housing policies are currently at the consultation stage.
- The Council's new Tenancy Policy and Agreement will have an impact.
- Northampton Borough Council is taking part in the Chartered Institute of

Housing Cleaner and Safer Estates initiative.

Neighbourhood Wardens, Northampton Borough Council

Serious Acquisitive Crime

- Neighbourhood Wardens undertake the following activities which contribute to addressing issues of serious acquisitive crime:
 - uniformed patrols within their designated areas,
 - acting as a point of contact for the public,
 - relaying intelligence gathered to the Police.

- Neighbourhood Wardens carry out the following activities that assist in the prevention of serious acquisitive crime:
 - uniformed patrols within their designated areas,
 - providing reassurance and basic crime prevention advice to residents,
 - acting as a point of contact to refer enquiries to appropriate partner organisations including the Police,
 - participating in various joint operations with partner organisations e.g. pre-Christmas operations in town centre with police (Op Trojan etc.),
 - practical crime prevention work such as use of anti-climb paint,
 - arranging for overgrown shrubbery to be cut back, joint work in schools including Junior Warden Scheme,
 - some involvement in alley clearance and gating schemes.

- The Neighbourhood Warden's local knowledge and the fact that they provide a visible recognisable presence has a significant reassuring effect.
- In the town centre, Neighbourhood Wardens work together with the Town Centre Rangers who have a strong focus on retail crime prevention.
- The main issues and barriers to successfully addressing serious acquisitive crime (SAC) are reductions in funding and its impact on the resources available in all partner organisations.
- The majority of work above involves working with partner organisations.
- Northampton Borough Council can assist in tackling SAC by allowing Neighbourhood Wardens to continue to work as at present to address the issues. They can also continue the programme of installation of security measures in communal areas of NBC owned residential accommodations, for example, CCTV in lifts in flats and to ensure that suitable lighting is provided to areas of local authority owned land such as housing areas and parks.
- Neighbourhood Wardens consider that the Police and Crime Commissioner can assist in dealing with the issues of SAC by facilitating the coordination of work undertaken by various partners. The aim should be that resources are targeted effectively to allow for prevention work to be undertaken.
- Neighbourhood Wardens suggest that systems for briefing partner organisations are improved to ensure a clear two way flow of information. They further suggest that the systems for dealing with calls via 101 are

improved as Neighbourhood Wardens have received a significant amount of feedback about the length of time it takes for calls to this number to be answered.

Violent crime

- Neighbourhood Wardens consider that the high visibility patrols will have some deterrent effect on violent crime. Some of the intelligence gathered and passed on by Neighbourhood Wardens will relate to violent crime.
- Some of the activities detailed above will also have an impact on the prevention of violent crime; in particular, the frequent presence of a familiar, uniformed officer in an area can act as an effective deterrent to all types of crime.
- Neighbourhood Wardens hope that the long term impact of education schemes such as the Junior Warden scheme will be effective in reducing all types of crime.
- In the town centre, in particular, Neighbourhood Wardens deal with street drinkers and rough sleepers. It is anticipated that some of the actions taken have an impact on preventing violent crime.
- Neighbourhood Wardens feel that lack of funding is the main barrier to successfully addressing violent crime.

Command Support section of the Crime and Justice Command, Northants Police

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

- The Crime Support department's primary role is to tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC). It has a number of elements:
 - Intelligence function
 - Burglary and Autocrime Teams
 - Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
- Robbery is a crime type investigated by the core CID department.
- This investigative and diversion structure supports the District Policing model and vice versa, by default linking into the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Northampton Business Support Group (BSG) plans.
- These departments are working to priorities set by the Police Authority following wide public consultation.
- As well as prevention through detection of crime and reducing re-offending through Integrated Offender Management (IOM), the Force links in with the wider community in terms of preventative strategies via District Safer Community Teams but also its Community Safety Department with crime prevention officers, Neighbourhood Watch and other community networks. All of this work is supported by an overarching Communications Strategy, communicated to media outlets via the Media and Communications department. This includes both day to day preventative messages but also reports upon successes and operational activity in order to strengthen

community confidence.

- In terms of 'reduction of re-offending', IOM works with offenders on release from prison with licence conditions to engage with Probation. They are assessed and their needs are assessed against a number of pathways out of offending which include:

- Accommodation
- Mental and Physical Health
- Education Training and Employment
- Attitudes Thinking and Behaviours
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Finance
- Children and Families

- Various services are provided in order to tackle these aspects in order to divert offenders away from crime.
- Reduction of re-offending in Northampton could be helped if it featured as a Borough priority in support of the Community Safety Strategy linking in with the below strategic structures.
- There appears to be greater mobilisation of Borough resources in other areas outside of Northampton, with prevention of criminality in mind with dynamic mobilisation of staff to support preventative activity.
- Joint Action Groups come together in order to problem solve and activate this resource. This structure does not appear to be in place across Northampton.
- At district level, the District Commander links into the BSG and CSP and ward level engagement is managed by the relevant Sector Inspector and their teams.
- A Reducing Re-offending County Strategy now exists to ensure a joined up approach across all agencies and is built around the need and provision of the 7 pathways as outlined above.
- A County Reducing Re-offending Board (RRB) meets bi monthly as part of the new County Community Safety Coordination Group (CCSCG).
- The Board is chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable and the Northampton Borough Council representative is the Chair of the CSP and the Chief Executive with portfolio leadership relating to accommodation is the Chief Executive of Northampton Borough Council.
- The Command Support section feels that the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner in preventing and tackling SAC and violent crime is directing funding and resources against these aspects as they see fit and in line with their manifesto and mandate.
- The Command Support section feels there is potential for increased sharing of information between departments e.g. Housing in support of protecting the vulnerable and reducing risk of offending

Acting Deputy Head of Community Safety, Northants Police

Violent Crime

Background

- Ahead of the performance year 2012/2013 the Force in setting, with the Police Authority and local communities, its local policing plan made the reduction of violence a key priority. At that time the Force appointed a Force Strategic Violence lead at Chief Superintendent level. Current Force performance showed a 9.1% reduction YTD (580+ fewer offences) and movement from 8th to 6th in MSG. The rest of the year predictions give a high level of confidence of continued sustained reductions.

Strategy

- Violence reduction is highlighted as a key Force priority.
- New Force violence reduction strategy is developed, informed by analysis, professional judgement and experience. This strategy identified 5 key themes for focus (domestic abuse, serious sexual offending, night time economy, schools and young people and alcohol harm).
- Operation Challenge launched as a vehicle to drive activity to achieve the aims of the violence reduction strategy, (reduce violence, increase resolutions for violence, increase satisfaction with victims of violence).
- Chief Constable and Police Authority allocated funding to deliver strategy.

Governance

- Strategic lead is appointed at Chief Superintendent level.
- Chief Inspector and Inspector investment made to drive daily activity and deliver sustainability in violence reduction.
- Operational leads identified at Chief Inspector level for each of the agreed five key themes.
- Strategy developed into a strategic performance plan, containing actions, owned by the five operational leads to deliver the aims of overall strategy and performance improvements.
- Monthly strategic violence governance process in place that identifies violence related risk issues and delivers operational responses to mitigate.
- Robust daily management places re-enforced to manage violence performance and related incidents.

Operational activity

- Review and restructure of Operation Nightsafe, the Force operational response to the policing of the local night time economy. This is supported by a bespoke intelligence and briefing process - supported by individual training of Inspectors relating to the expectations required of them concerning this activity.
- Frontline officer briefings delivered focused on "Early interventions and positive

action".

- Small pro-active capability created to target repeat violence offenders and those subject to use of preventative powers.
- Increased usage of preventative powers (arrest of drunken persons that present risk of vulnerability to themselves, Section 27 powers). Persons so arrested are subject to visits by this resource to reinforce earlier interventions.
- Use of custody village approach in night time economies to reduce frontline officer abstractions and deliver low tolerance message to communities.
- Robust management processes put into place to manage offenders wanted for violence offences, offenders on bail.
- Regular visits made to addresses of repeat domestic abuse victims and offenders. These are subject to risk assessment by PVP to ensure consistency and protection of vulnerability is paramount.
- Joint campaign launched with Northamptonshire Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (NRICC) to reduce sexual offending and sexual health and to undertake research with victims in order to better inform future operational activity.
- Introduction of "consequences" workshops for young people (13 to 17) as a part of CR disposals where their offending includes low level violence offences.
- Rollout of Domestic Abuse Perpetuator Scheme across Northamptonshire.
- County Schools Challenge used last academic year to deliver "One Punch" campaign and anti- violence messages and will be themed again this year in relation to violence reduction to engage with the County's secondary school pupils.
- Significant marketing of success undertaken including support from NTFC, Northampton Saints RFC and NCC as key sports venues in the County.

Future Sustainability

- Literature review commissioned to provide "what works" in relation to violence reduction. Following this working group commissioned to action.
- Six month review of Operation Challenge to inform future 18 to 24 month strategy, operational activity and governance.
- Multi agency process to start in November 2012 based on MAPPA style process to try and identify and intervene with potential future violence offenders.
- Force violence reduction strategy and strategic performance plan cross referenced with six CSP action plans to ensure connectivity between partners.
- Reading project commissioned to spread sustainable anti- violence messages in the County's primary schools to support County Schools Challenge in Secondary schools.
- The Police does not foresee any particular barriers to addressing violence in the Borough. Challenges remain such as the culture of excessive alcohol consumption within the night time economy and the new phenomenon of pre-loading.
- The District Commander links into the BSG and CSP and Ward level engagement is managed by the relevant Sector Inspector and their teams.
- Operation Challenge management team have presented to each CSP the plans for tackling violence throughout 2012/13.
- A partnership has been established to tackle strategic violence issues utilising

an evidenced based approach.

- Together with a continued desire to have reduction of violence high on partners priorities and a desire to work collectively.
- The Police see the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner as:
 - directing funding and resources against these aspects as they see fit and in line with their manifesto and mandate.
 - to forge strong working relationships with partners, businesses and the wider criminal justice system.
 - to act as a voice for the community/victims of crime in order to address specific issues or concerns they may have in respect of violent crime.
- Additional information that NBC can provide to the Police to further information intelligence led policing for violent crime:
 - drive information sharing protocols to inform and alert Police to potentially violent offenders and enable Police together with partners to take appropriate actions (such as enforcement).

Serious Acquisitive Crime

- Different departments address different attributes of tackling Serious Acquisitive Crime, including Local Policing teams, the Crime Prevention team within community safety and the Crime Support department.
- The main functions of the Crime Support department are:-
 - Intelligence Function
 - Burglary and Autocrime Teams- two sites
 - Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
- The prevention of SAC through detection of crime and reducing reoffending is within the remit of the IOM.
- Wider preventative strategies are the responsibility of District Safer Community Teams and the Community Safety Department.
- The District Chief Inspector and Police Crime Prevention Manager attend the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and take part in identifying priority locations and then target resources accordingly.
- The Analyst Team, Northants Police, identifies crime patterns and seasonal peaks. Both local policing teams and Crime Prevention Officers work alongside NBC on areas identified for partnership working and the prevention of crime.
- Under Operation Guardian there are High Impact Days targeting specific SAC crime (burglary/vehicle crime/robbery), these are undertaken on particular areas, and include enforcement activity around offenders as well as prevention and community engagement.
- IOM works closely with the probation services to assess offender's needs and potential pathways out of offending as well as enforcement.

- There is good engagement with the Council but there needs to be further high level engagement around policies. For example, it is not understood how housing and maintenance prioritise upgrades and continued maintenance programmes and whether these are in line with the priorities set within the CSP. It would also be useful to have more engagement prior to planning application determinations, at the pre application stage.
- There have been challenges as both partner organisations have undertaken structure changes, which do highlight gaps. There needs to be work done on how to fill the gap previously covered by Neighbourhood Coordinators.
- The Police has started an intensive engagement project, with 4 projects Countywide. The Northampton project is looking at community engagement with a view to improving SAC levels. This work has highlighted a gap with no clear partnership forum available to set community identified prioritised, and to work with partners (including the community) on the necessary solutions.
- Reduction of re-offending in Northampton could be helped if it featured as a Borough priority in support of the Community Safety Strategy.
- The Crime Prevention Officers, undertake home surveys of high risk victims of domestic abuse and utilise funding as and when available to implement safety measures in the home. In addition to ‘target hardening’, where the risk is raised further, the installation of Sanctuary’s (a safe room) is undertaken. Clarity regarding funding is required.
- A “consequences workshop” is being trialled elsewhere in the county, where youngsters who have been convicted of ABH or Common Assault are faced with the consequences of their actions. It is hoped this programme will be rolled out across Northampton.
- A key factor to success is information sharing to identify potential key violence triggers.

Director of Offender Management, Northants Probation Service (NPT)

- Northants Probation Service (NPT) has overall responsibility for supervising in excess of 3,200 offenders across Northamptonshire, of which approximately 2,300 are in the community.
- The fundamental aims of the service are to offer public protection and to reduce the level of re offending by promoting full rehabilitation. The Probation Service is also involved in the enforcement of community orders set by Courts and licence requirements for prisoners released from custody.

Serious Acquisitive Crime

- The starting point is to undertake a full assessment, using the tool – “OASys”. It is very effective in profiling offenders and making evaluations. The assessment informs the involvement with internal teams and external agencies such as the Police and Drugs and Alcohol teams.
- Prevention of crime is not a key statutory requirement of the Probation Trust

although NPT works closely with Police colleagues and other partners to share information about offenders and their risk of re-offending.

- A major issue is locating suitable accommodation for offenders. This is a considerable problem for sexual and violent offenders and young offenders. Appropriate housing is critical for offenders and supporting their rehabilitation and protecting the public. Suitable accommodation assists offenders being able to find stable employment and re-integrating them back into the community.
- There are examples where persistent offending behaviour is being repeated within the same families by different generations. This is being addressed through the 'troubled families' initiative.
- Dedicated professional and qualified staff have a key responsibility of discharging offence focused work with offenders and ensuring that requirements of Court orders and Prison licences are met.
- Aspects of the work of the Probation Trust are supported by the Reach Project and other local charities. The core remit is to assist offenders in securing training and employment.
- Together with the Police, the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team has been formed. The Team looks to address violent and acquisitive crime with mainly male offenders. The typical age range is 18-30. Many are alcohol and/or drug dependent and commit high volumes of offences.
- It is important to maximise information sharing and ensure all relevant Agencies are provided with information in a timely manner. The most dangerous offenders are managed through the MAPPA process (multi-agency public protection arrangements), a collective body of professionals who are instrumental in managing the risks presented by such offenders.
- The Police is the organisation most responsible for tackling serious acquisitive crime. The Probation Service is committed to reducing re-offending rates and supporting the rehabilitation journey for offenders.
- The Police Crime Commissioner is there to provide the strategic overview for criminal justice as a whole and make a difference to the people of Northamptonshire. Through core briefings from lead agencies, he will be provided with a good understanding of local issues, hotspots and crime profiling.
- Agencies should be required to account for how they have spent funding and be clear about outcomes to fit and meet local priorities.

Violent Crime

- The Probation Service hosts an 18-month integrated domestic violence programme (IDAP) and another programme designed to address 'anger' issues, CALM.
- Multi Agency (MAPPPA) meetings are held regularly; weekly for level 2 offenders and monthly for the small number of level 3 (more serious) offenders.
- There is a very close relationship with the Police and 'BUDDI' - a tracker system is used on some offenders to provide critical intelligence on their daily activities and whereabouts.
- The Probation Service has strong connections with the Prison Service; this

focuses on our role in the planning of offenders subject to release and resettlement.

- Pressure is growing on accommodation across the county and NPT is finding it challenging to secure accommodation, particularly for the most violent offenders. In the county we have one Approved Premises with 22 places.
- The Local Authority Chief Executives' Group is working to try and coordinate housing protocols throughout the county which is a very positive step.
- There may be issues for the Probation Service should financial support be withdrawn from local providers.
- Women Offender - It is of concern that the SWAN project has been withdrawn and NPT is seeking to secure 12 month funding to support the unique needs of women.

Sunflower Centre Service Manager, Sunflower Centre

Violent Crime

- The Sunflower Centre is an independent domestic violence advisory service. It is a victim focussed service providing safety advice and support including signposting to housing, criminal and civil matters and support through the court process. It is linked to multi agency risk assessment conferences putting forward the victim's voice and wishes.
- The Sunflower Centre also provides support for women whose partners are undertaking IDAP with the Probation Service, providing information and reporting breaches.
- Funding for the Sunflower Centre is received from a variety of sources. A reduction in funding could impact upon the service provided.
- The issue of inter-personal violence is vast and could be considered as a separate Scrutiny Review.
- In 2011-2012, more than 12,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported in Northamptonshire to Northamptonshire Police, 4,997 were from the Northampton Borough area.
- In the first quarter of 2012/2013, 49% of all referrals to the Centre were from the Northampton Borough area.
- Referrals are in the main, directed from the Police (approximately 60%). The service is hosted by Northamptonshire Police.
- All information regarding risk is available to the Police on its systems.
- Whilst there are no statistics available locally on the impact of the service on repeat victimisation, national statistics provided by CAADA indicate that in 57% of cases involving IDVA's there is no further abuse or violence after intervention.
- The Centre undertakes a large amount of multi-agency liaison, including prisoner release, awareness training with other Agencies, education via schools, encouraging reporting and community involvement.
- Housing is an issue for the Sunflower Centre; it does not have any accommodation itself, but has found in the last year that it is harder to locate accommodation, both through refuge and housing services; mainly due to cuts to service.

- Some changes have been beneficial, for example, expanding the definition of domestic abuse to include coercive control. The age range is also being widened to include 16-18 year olds. In some cases restraining orders are attached to certain offences which apply when an offender is released from prison; a victim does not then have to go through an application process.
- Cases with complex needs, such as mental health/substance misuse are often presented to the centre. These are multi-Agency problems. It is difficult to decide which Agency will take the lead.
- A Specialist Domestic Abuse Court pilot has been on-going since the middle of 2012, the aim of which is getting domestic violence cases into the court system. Due to time that it takes for a case to get to trial, many victims withdraw because of pressures from the offender. Initial hearings progress quickly but follow up trials are of a much longer timeframe.
- Countywide, approximately 25-40% of cases seen by Sunflower are repeat cases, in that they involve the same perpetrator and victim.
- Some offenders are serial offenders.
- Suggestions of how Northampton Borough Council can improve its services to victims of domestic abuse and support the Sunflower Centre/victims:-
 - A review of housing responses and consideration of perpetrator clauses, on-going use of target hardening and civil orders.
 - Improved communication channels with the Sunflower Centre and other domestic abuse services.
 - Consider funding for prevention as well as reaction.
 - Support the continuation of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court.
 - Be honest with clients about what can be done. Only realistic options need to be presented and these will differ for each person.
 - Realise that it may take a client some time before they are ready to take certain steps, such as leaving the offender.
- Certain factors contribute to the likelihood of violence being committed. In many cases alcohol is a contributory factor. This is not just a case of people drinking in pubs but increasingly frequently drinking at home, or drinking at home before going into town.
- The work of Operation Challenge has had a positive impact on incidents of domestic violence.
- In certain parts of the county, such as Corby and Kettering, prevention programmes are being carried out for perpetrators of domestic abuse .They undertake a more in depth behaviour analysis. The results are being analysed, with a view to rolling that programme out to other parts of the county.
- The Community Safety Partnership will, in December 2012, pilot work with Women's Aid regarding lower level intervention.

Northamptonshire Pakistani Welfare Trust

- The local community has been instrumental in action being taken to resolve the

Asian gold thefts. The Police identified patterns relating to the thefts which indicated specific targeting. There was a wide spread publicity campaign involving the targeted communities and full investigations leading to some prosecutions.

- Currently, no checks are carried out when gold is sold. It is an easy commodity to dispose of.
- Violence to taxi drivers often starts as fare evasion, on occasions resulting in a case of serious assault.
- The installation of CCTV in taxis being introduced to a small number of vehicles as a pilot scheme was suggested. This initiative had been investigated previously for all taxis, but because of the number of taxis involved it had proved too expensive.
- It was highlighted that it is important for the Police and Northampton Borough Council to build trust and confidence with the Pakistani/Muslim community.

Northampton Youth Forum (NFY)

- Some young people have experienced attacks in the street and the town parks. The impact depended upon the individual but it could affect their confidence and their willingness to go out.
- Young people are aware that there are a number of counselling groups available. They did not know how to contact them. Support through schools would be more effective.
- The perpetrator may not be ashamed of what they had done and could consider it a badge of honour. This may lead them to being part of a gang and therefore gaining the support of a group of others.
- Some young people felt that the perpetrator received support and advantages through Agency involvement, receiving additional educational support. Resources were felt to be diverted away from the victim.
- Violent crime is a problem for young people.
- It is too easy to obtain alcohol, often obtained from older siblings/friends. A minimum pricing policy for alcohol might make it more difficult to obtain alcohol.
- Young people can feel vulnerable, but the fear of crime is widespread across age ranges because of media portrayal.
- Statistics indicate that a high proportion of young people are victims of crime.
- A lot of organisations provide assistance and facilities within the borough. There was a general awareness but most young people did not feel comfortable with the idea of approaching and using alternative organisations.
- With regard to preventing crime young people felt that there needs to be better access to recreation facilities.
- There needs to be a confidence in further education, which would lead to job opportunities, giving young people an incentive to work hard at school.
- Crime affecting young people could be better prevented by providing more facilities such as youth clubs, better lighting, a more visible presence and the introduction of a curfew.
- Young people could best help themselves from falling victim of crime by education, better engagement with available facilities, greater parental involvement and greater attention to personal safety and awareness of risks.

Consultant in Public Health, Health Protection NHS, Northamptonshire

- The key aspects of public health are promoting health, prolonging life and preventing disease through organised efforts of society. These translate to health improvement, health protection, and health care service commissioning functions or teams.
- Public Health is involved in monitoring trends, which is the focus of public health analyses and epidemiology work, and involves trying to identify problems which are experienced by groups such as habitual drug users.
- Health protection work, for example, involves providing access to Hepatitis vaccinations and directing services for the rehabilitation of addicts and providing support to at-risk households and families.
- Public Health is responsible for ensuring prisoners receive the same range of health care services that they would have access to if they were living freely within the community. The range of health care services commissioned for prisoners is specified by Public Health.
- Prior to release, each prisoner is expected to have their discharge planned, including attention to their health needs and facilitated access to a GP. On discharge, the Probation Service acts as a liaison for prisoners and helps them to access health care required. There will be some people, who due to complexity of their needs or chaotic lifestyles, do not receive the required service, or are unwilling to participate in the system. They often have re-occurring problems.
- Health improvement aims to address lifestyle issues and equips individuals with necessary tools to adopt healthier lifestyles and take better control of their health.
- Each locality has a Community Safety Partnership established, and will also be setting up a local Health and Well-being Forum (similar to the County Health and Wellbeing board). The Northampton Health and Well-being Board will be chaired by the Director of Housing, Northampton Borough Council.
- Public Health collaborate as partners in the Community Safety Partnership and contribute by helping to identify community needs or changes that are required to services to provide improvements in health and social outcomes.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner's role could be developing better links across newly re-organised public sector organisations to ensure potential synergies and economies are tapped into, with continuous improvement and the best targeting of resources.
- As part of the development of services by Public Health, over the last five years or so, discussions led by Public Health, scoped the feasibility and commissioned the development of an Accident and Emergency (A&E) department based alcohol nursing liaison project. This has been providing activity data relating to alcohol at Kettering and Northampton General Hospitals over the past couple of years. The programme at Kettering has had slightly more success.
- Health departments are often the first point of contact for an individual. The Health Service comprises a number of organisations with different remits and roles, and is not homogeneous. It is important that clients gain access through the most appropriate channels, to ensure that their experience of the health care journey and outcomes of care are optimised. Collection of alcohol related

incidents data is carried out in A&E.

- A newly commissioned drug and alcohol service provider for Northamptonshire is scheduled to commence in February 2013. It is anticipated that this service will make improvements to the range of specialist care provided and improve access to care for the most complex cases. People with substance misuse issues will be assessed, signposted and given options. Services provided will be structured into four tiers of complexity. If required, they will be offered 12 weeks in a detox programme. The goal of intervention is for users to attain a state of “recovery” and be able to live within society and contribute meaningfully. Drug service providers will aim to ensure problematic drug users can be given appropriate supports to enable them to do this.

Service Delivery Manager, Victim Support

- Victim Support offers its services to everyone that has been affected by crime, not just victims but also families and friends.
- Victim Support is a charity and all services are delivered free of charge and are confidential.
- Central Government funding for Victim Support is ending in March 2014. It is vital that partnerships are used to their maximum capacity. Whilst there are some funds to resource victims’ practical requirements, these will only be used if there are no other sources of funding available.
- Victim Support offers a range of services including emotional support, practical help and advocacy. It works with a number of different Agencies and is aware of a rise in the number of mental health services required by clients.
- Victim Support also offers other services to witnesses, including advice on procedures, support in court and specialised services to the most vulnerable.
- Most individuals are referred from the Police, and in certain defined areas 100% of victims of particular crimes are referred. Others are not.
- Not all referrals are from the Police, they may come through other Agencies or the victim may refer themselves and do not need to report the crime to the police. If victims of other crimes were to contact Victim Support then they would not be refused assistance.
- Services are tailored to individuals. Some people prefer face to face contact, some want support via phone or E-mail or text.
- There are no time limits and often people who initially did not want to use the support service wanted help much later, often after an additional event had triggered a need.
- Direct support is offered to people over the age of 16. For younger victims, consent from persons legally responsible for them is required or a competence assessment is undertaken.
- Direct support is not offered to individuals under the age of 12. Victim Support works with Agencies that offer support to young people. Persons responsible can be supported, so they can in turn, support the young person.
- All support is offered on an individual basis.
- If a victim makes a request to change their supporter the request will be actioned if possible depending upon the circumstances.
- The impact of crime on individuals varies widely. In the case of an older person it may relate to a lack of confidence or reduction in their physical ability,

meaning that they are no longer able to live independently. Other people may suffer financially if they lose items that they require for work, or the means to be able to get to work.

- Violence is a particular area which can impact the most on the wider family group leading to damaged relationships. More timely intervention will lead to more positive outcomes.
- With regard to the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner, it would be a positive step if all victims are offered some form of support and a victim centred programme of restorative justice is developed.
- Priority crimes are serious acquisitive crimes and violent crimes. In general, vehicle crimes are not referred to Victim Support although the Police will refer vulnerable people.

Assets Director, Enterprise Management Services (EMS)

- EMS' approach, based upon "Situational Crime Prevention", uses techniques focused on reducing the opportunity to commit a crime, increasing the difficulty of crime, increasing the risk of crime, and reducing the rewards of crime.
- EMS engages in its working areas with Agencies such as Traveller Liaison, youth organisations and local Residents Associations to inform, educate and involve people in its prevention Strategies.
- The use of accurate and useful management information and statistics is paramount to focusing resources effectively.
- Engagement with key stakeholders and organisations across the borough must focus on reducing risk factors for youth offending, drugs and other contributory factors.
- The perceived lack of trust in the Police and other Authorities among high risk groups is a key barrier in addressing serious acquisitive crime in the borough.
- NBC can facilitate EMS' involvement with the key stakeholders and Agencies to share experience and allow dialogue. Previously the neighbourhood model would have made these links with partner organisations as a matter of course, for example, operational briefing sessions attended by Officers such as PCSOs.
- It would be beneficial for EMS and its street scene operations if EMS was to positively encourage this model approach again as it allows EMS to focus its resources on potential hot spot areas where the integrity and standards of the area have a direct influence on behaviours. This will be particularly important as EMS becomes more data rich.
- EMS sees the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner as:
 - ensuring the policing needs of the area are met in making key decisions that will impact on infrastructure such as CCTV and tackling hot spots that attract gang and drugs activity
 - responding to the needs of the public and restoring trust in the Police and other Agencies thereby reducing the risks of youth offending
 - working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending
 - ensuring that the regional/local plans align with national strategic plans for crime prevention
 - setting tougher targets within the area for detection and resolution

- EMS has no direct influence in relation to some of issues around violent crime. EMS is looking at schemes where a “don’t walk by” approach is promoted and how these can be used as early warning systems within communities.
- EMS provides clean-up operations in the town centre and highlights areas with particular problems, such as drug use, that could gain better focus from Neighbourhood Wardens and the Police.
- Approximately 12,000 Housing Association properties are surrounded by green space which EMS has found it difficult to manage. Higher rates of serious acquisitive crime have been found in those areas. These areas are subject to problems such as fly tipping and general environmental abuse. Areas which appeared to be neglected proved attractive for criminal activity.
- EMS is required to respond to fly tipping incidents within 24 hours. There were 600 incidents in November 2012. Quick responses to problems such as this are vital in preventing further deterioration.
- It is important that Northampton Borough Council works with other Agencies to ensure that improvements are made patterns identified.
- It is beneficial for local communities, in particular young people, to be more actively involved in clearing up problem areas.
- It is important that there are clear lines of communication and where problems are identified action is taken quickly.
- It is important to encourage an element of self-policing and proper reporting.
- Neighbourhood Wardens are supplied with engagement forms and trained on the correct reporting routes. Neighbourhood Wardens play a vital role and this has been reflected by including them on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) so that they can feed directly into the work of the CSP. In one case this had already led to direct action and a change of prioritisation.
- A lot of anti-social behaviour is connected to litter and environmental problems.
- A process for the information flow to be stronger and with faster responses is required.
- Work is underway regarding fly tipping incidents to ascertain whether the large number of incidents relate to problems which people have with access to home waste and recycling centres.
- There are problems with shared areas at housing complexes and in private alleyways. Those areas cause a series of problems and a process needs to be identified to remove demarcations and ensure that they are dealt with quickly when problems are reported.
- Schedules are provided to the Council providing details of the work that is being carried out in each area.
- Working with partners and other Agencies is vital in providing a holistic approach to making improvements. The Princes Trust is engaged in some work in the Bellingham area in which EMS is involved.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire, attended the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel on 4 February 2013.

Salient points:

- Since his election in November 2012, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has been compiling a work programme and associated budget. The work programme has been informed by public consultation and will be agreed by the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) in March 2013.
- The following priorities have been set:-
 - Reduction in violent crime by 40% over a five year period
 - Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Reducing drug related crime
 - Reducing re-offending
- Originally, the PCC felt that there were too many priorities. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will focus on three priorities for the next 18 months, aiming to deliver transformational change before moving on to any future priorities.
- The CSP is in a strong position and has been consistently delivering improvements.
- There will be a 25% overall reduction in funding. CSPs will be asked to bid for funding for their activities.
- It is vital that the makeup of CSPs is revised to ensure that membership comprises the right partners and Agencies.
- Northampton has a fundamental role to play in achieving these priorities.
- A longer term Policing Plan will extend beyond the PCC's term of office.
- The focus on drug prevention is a long term aim. There is a need to understand the reasons that individuals become addicted to drugs. Drug use often leads to a wide range of offending behaviour, including serious acquisitive crime and violent crime.
- It is a common misconception that violent crime only takes place within the town centre, on a Friday and Saturday night. A lot of violent crime takes place in domestic situations, with a high level of re-offending.
- Northampton Borough Council (NBC) has an important role to play in ensuring that families that need help are targeted early and their problems addressed holistically. Often, a range of service providers are involved in finding solutions for the problems, which may encompass a number of issues such as inadequate housing and exclusion from school. NBC could play a vital role in bringing those Agencies together.
- The Government funding for Northamptonshire Police has been reduced by £3.2 million. It is vital to ensure that partnerships deliver results, whilst accepting there would be fewer resources.
- Northampton is facing problems, some of which, such as drug trafficking, are on the same scale as inner city areas such as London, Manchester and Merseyside. There are potential opportunities for improvements and new ways of working. All partners should work together, endeavouring to give young people who have been excluded from school, a focus to aim to.
- Violent crime has been decreasing by 10% a year, and if this continues, that alone will meet the violent crime reduction targets. Violent crime has not been displaced in terms of geographical area but there are changes in the type of

violent crime experienced, for example 40% of current violent crime is domestic.

- Growth in domestic violence needs to be thoroughly examined. It will need the input and assistance of a number of different Agencies, for example the Probation Service, Health Service and Voluntary Sector. There may be many influencing factors, such as the increase in drinking at home and the impact of the economy.
- It is uncertain how often incidents of violence that present at hospitals are reported. Some may not be reported as they are dealt with internally by members of the hospital staff. On occasions, Police Officers are called to deal with incidents.
- There could be occasions where the individual involved in an incident may be suffering from an illness rather than being under the influence of alcohol. The Police and Crime Commissioner queried whether a medical card system could be introduced in a similar way to diabetics carrying an insulin alert.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner is looking to introduce a central reporting system, hosted by the Police. This system will direct queries and provide a better response time.
- A community alert system is in place which ward Councillors can subscribe to. This will keep them up to date with incidents in their area.
- A number of youth projects are in place but the Police and Crime Commissioner would like to see a much wider range of activities. It is intended to hold a youth engagement event, which will include a shadowing event, multimedia forums and entertainment, culminating in a music event.
- Organisations should be encouraging youth branches, such as the Police Cadets. The Police and Crime Commissioner is in dialogue with the Fire Service regarding the re-introduction of a young fire fighters branch.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner would like to introduce a mentoring scheme, whereby prominent people in Northampton are encouraged to mentor a young person and help them to become more ambitious. It is imperative that young people are encouraged to think about their futures and try to make positive influences on them.
- It is important to encourage proper behaviour. Wherever possible, potential problems need to be addressed at the planning stage. The Police and Crime Commissioner hoped that this would be taken into consideration during the various redevelopment projects due in the town.
- It is vital that problems are reported. The Police are currently undertaking a performance review and is looking to progress positive engagement. It had engaged Northampton University to assist it in looking at best practice in community engagement, with the aim of improving social cohesion. There needs to be a commitment to get to the route of problems within communities and to assist in this. Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) have received training on problem identification.
- There is a trial in the South West Sector of the county, whereby the community is encouraged to draw pictures of their neighbourhood. Those pictures have revealed issues that the Police was unaware of. Matters not considered to be within the Police's remit are passed to the relevant Agency.

3.4 Site Visit

3.4.1 Two site visits took place. One to a locality where there were currently problems with serious acquisitive crime (SAC) and one where improvement work had been carried out. The purpose of the visits was to concentrate on “hotspots” and focus on environmental improvements. Two site visits were therefore set up.

3.4.2 The Panel visited Spring Boroughs, Bellinge, Spencer and Kings Heath wards.

3.4.3 Spring Boroughs and Bellinge, Northampton

3.4.3.1 The Panel visited Spring Boroughs and Bellinge on 13 August 2012.

Key points:

Spring Boroughs

- Major environmental improvements, as part of Cleaner, Safer Greener funding, took place a few years previously, which included new fencing, the adoption of Secured by Design principles as part of the refurbishment of Beaumont and Claremont Houses, play spaces for children, the creation of secure parking areas and a boulevard area had been created outside the local primary school. At the time of the environmental improvements there had been a sense of pride and purpose within the community. A community group had maintained Pocket’s Park. This group no longer meets and there were signs of debris, long grass and overgrown borders in the park.
- A number of issues around some of the blocks of flats, particularly around anti-social behaviour (ASB) were noted. The Police is aware of this and is working with Agencies.
- A number of supporting schemes for the area, such as the Swan Project that offers support to sex workers, and Operation Uncanny are now undertaken at a lower level. This is more related to ASB in this area.
- SAC figures for the area have started to increase.
- A vetting process for the allocation of tenancies no longer takes place across the town. It has been difficult to manage who has moved into the area.

Bellinge

- Bellinge comprises 60/40 private/social housing with a number of sheltered housing properties. There are number of walkways throughout the estate, a number of which provide anonymous routes for offenders but at the same time are legitimate routes for residents. The estate was built in ‘court style’ and each court has a walk way in, with access from any direction. This design makes it easy for crimes to be committed. There was previously a huge drug issue on the estate.
- Operation Guardian, run by the Police, has concentrated on the top ten wards for SAC, of which Bellinge was included, being the top ‘hotspot’ for SAC for the county. Operation Guardian has been a forerunner for CASPAR projects, attracting substantial funding, outreach work and re-designing. Operation Guardian has forced crime figures down and the stabilisation of tenancies.

More recently, crime and drug use has increased in Bellinge; however, it is not the top 'hotspot' for SAC for the county anymore.

- Fencing has been erected to prevent anonymous routes, creating just one way in and out, but there is evidence of lack of maintenance with a number of the fences either damaged or removed. It appears that some fences had been damaged or removed for some months or years. Some fencing has strengthening bars added to prevent it from being jacked open.
- On occasions, mothers lift their children over the fences so that they can go to school, rather than walk the children around, which highlights that the fencing appears to be perceived by some residents as an inconvenience.
- High fences are in situ in a number of areas, causing lack of visibility to the parking areas.
- Some of the front lawns of the properties were unkempt.

3.4.4 Spencer and Kings Heath, Northampton

3.4.4.1 The Scrutiny Panel visited Spencer and Kings Heath wards on 8 October 2012. Salient points:

- An Environment Visual Audit (EVA) of Kings Heath was undertaken approximately two years ago. It was revisited in 2012. An EVA for specific areas within Spencer was undertaken and an Action Plan produced as directed by the Northampton Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- Some communal doors have been replaced within the ward, and some environmental improvements taken place to prohibit access to the rear of flats.
- As part of the Action Plan, the Police is working with Housing Services, NBC, regarding Secure by Design standard for access communal doors.
- During the site visit, the problem of storage cupboards within communal halls was observed, as was the condition of some of the fencing.
- A number of out of date signs in relation to crime prevention, and partnership operations are in situ around the area.
- Two sites, where pubs had originally stood, were observed. An unused open space, near to Brookside Meadows, was seen.
- Disused and unkempt garage blocks, alongside knocked down street signage, overgrown foliage and general fly-tipping were observed; as were, maintenance issues, such as the removal of gates on public rights of way, problems with communal steps in disrepair and littering within shrubbed areas.

4 Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.1 Overview and Scrutiny ensures that it adheres to the Council's statutory duty to provide the public with access to Scrutiny Reports/agendas/minutes and other such documents. Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny/Scrutiny Panels are widely publicised, i.e.: on the Council's website, copies issues to the local media and paper copies available in the Council's One Stop Shop and local libraries.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny Panel was mindful of the eight protected characteristics when undertaking scrutiny activity so that any recommendations that it made could identify potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the

community. This was borne in mind as the Scrutiny Review progressed and evidence gathered.

4.3 Any possible recommended changes may have perceived adverse and beneficial effects for all diversity groups.

4.4 In order that the Scrutiny Panel obtains a variety of views, a number of key witnesses provided evidence as detailed in section 3 of this report.

4.5 Details of the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken can be obtained from the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#).

5 Conclusions and Key Findings

5.1 After all of the evidence was collated the following conclusions were drawn:

5.1.1 The Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that this Review should concentrate on wider issues and that if initial figures indicated that the domestic abuse was disproportionately high it would be relevant for a future Scrutiny Review to be undertaken on interpersonal violence. The Scrutiny Panel felt that the remit of this Review could include how improved education on domestic violence issues could be provided for the non-British White population.

5.1.2 The Scrutiny Panel felt that it would be useful for ward Councillors to have regularly updated information on the demographics of their areas. It was however noted that this information is available on the Northamptonshire Observatory and that a permanent link is detailed within each edition of the monthly Councillor E-Newsletter, (Councillor Connect).

5.1.3 From the evidence provided in the statistical data there is evidence that there has been an increase in Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC), especially vehicle crime which impacts negatively upon the residents of the town.

5.1.4 It was concluded that it would be useful for all Councillors to be informed of when initiatives are being undertaken in their wards by the Community Safety Partnership.

5.1.5 It was concluded that target hardening of properties in hotspot locations was effective in reducing burglary.

5.1.6 The need for a representative from Housing Services, Northampton Borough Council, to be a member of the Community Safety Partnership was emphasised. It was highlighted that access to safe and adequate housing is an essential element in building positive community cohesion and discouraging crime. The Scrutiny Panel further agreed that there is a need for all service areas involved in community safety activity to attend meetings of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

5.1.7 The Scrutiny Panel welcomed that training will be provided to all Community Safety Partnership members who work on the frontline. It felt, however, that awareness

training on domestic abuse should be made available for Councillors.

- 5.1.8 It was recognised that when training correct use of terminology should be emphasised.
- 5.1.9 The value of whole family interventions be emphasised and that such cases require multi-Agency intervention, including Policing, education, profiling, training and support.
- 5.1.10 It was welcomed that the CSP is currently undertaking work endeavouring to engage with Eastern/Central Europeans. Those who are economic migrants do not appear to be engaged with any community, simply being here to work. Data is showing this ethnic group as being of being vulnerable to crime either as a perpetrator or a victim. The numbers involved/affected are disproportionately higher than the population figures.
- 5.1.11 It is a statutory requirement that Accident and Emergency data is provided to the Community Safety Partnership and it was felt that data should be provided on a more regular basis.
- 5.1.12 The Scrutiny Panel noted that there appears to be a gap between Public Health and Housing Services but realised that steps were in place to address this.
- 5.1.13 The Scrutiny Panel conveyed concerns that it appeared that Neighbourhood Wardens are being expected to take on a much wider role. Whilst they have received some training the Scrutiny Panel felt that they are not crime prevention professionals and should not be giving advice on that basis. The role of the Wardens should be about working with partner Agencies and signposting the public to the correct service and not actually solving crime issues directly.
- 5.1.14 It was acknowledged that Neighbourhood Wardens sit on a number of Partnership sub groups and feed into action plans and the overarching process.
- 5.1.15 It was generally felt that members of the public will often speak to Neighbourhood Wardens when they would otherwise be reluctant to engage with the Police. Neighbourhood Wardens are in regular contact with an area and are generally trusted.
- 5.1.16 Further to the site visits undertaken by the Panel it was felt that disused property needs to be secured so that it does not become a target for vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Such sites should be protected or screened. It would be beneficial for best practice advice to be sought from the relevant department within Northampton Borough Council.
- 5.1.17 The evidence gathered from the site visits concluded that there are issues in areas where fencing has been erected in order to try and solve problems. These had not been maintained or panels had been removed to allow easier routes through. This highlighted the need for ensuring that on-going maintenance is identified prior to any schemes being undertaken.

- 5.1.18 The evidence gathered highlighted that there is a need to reduce the impact of the “broken window syndrome” on members of the community; such issues are identified through Environmental Audits produced by Crime Prevention Officers for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). It was felt that a possible improvement is an enhanced, responsive maintenance service in “hotspot” areas.
- 5.1.19 Vice and drug issues appear to be prominent in some areas of the town and the ‘broken window syndrome’ appears to be the forerunner to crime.
- 5.1.20 The Scrutiny Panel felt that the unused open spaces should be utilised to create public use with a view to reducing the “broken window syndrome.”
- 5.1.21 The Scrutiny Panel highlighted the importance of educating residents in security so the purpose of security measures are understood and used. Examples such as locking doors, windows and gates, securing vehicles and the removal of visible property.
- 5.1.22 Lack of maintenance management in areas is an issue, for example:
- Access controlled car park not working
 - Lack of maintenance to fencing
 - Littering
 - Landscaping maintenance issues
- 5.1.23 The development of a Neighbourhood Forum for the Spring Boroughs area is currently taking place. There is a need for it to comprise at least 21 individuals who either work or reside in the area. The Scrutiny Panel felt it would be useful for at least one individual from each of the houses (block of flats) to be elected to the Forum.
- 5.1.24 The Scrutiny Panel agreed that there is a need to understand NBC’s maintenance programme for housing stock and estates, including communal doors, garage blocks, street cleansing, and grounds maintenance. For example - when repairs are undertaken there is a need for them to be made, not only to the front access communal doors but also to the rear.
- 5.1.25 The Panel welcomed the trial of the Intensive Community Engagement programme that is currently taking place in the South West Sector of the Northampton. Part of the programme includes ‘Rich Picturing’, where the community is asked to draw pictures of their neighbourhood currently, and also what they would like it to look like. These pictures can reveal issues that the Police are unaware of. Matters that are not considered to be within the Police’s remit will be passed to the relevant Agency. The Panel considered this initiative would help to engage with the community and identify problems and the ward Councillors could be a long term strategic link.
- 5.1.26 It was emphasised that in certain areas, the completion of a CASPAR project had been very positive but no further support was provided to the community following completion of the project. The Scrutiny Panel felt that an exit strategy should always be put in place, ensuring a level of support and on-going maintenance if required.
- 5.1.27 The Scrutiny Panel was disappointed that, due to the lack of current projects such as CASPAR in Spring Boroughs, coupled with the current economic climate and lack of

officer presence, that the area had begun to deteriorate.

- 5.1.28 The previous benefits of a Community Group undertaking gardening activities in the Pocket Park on Spring Boroughs were realised.
- 5.1.29 The Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that it would be beneficial to encourage Residents Associations and Community Forums to use open space facilities which in turn would assist in developing community spirit.
- 5.1.30 Collection of alcohol related incidents data is carried out in Accident and Emergency (A&E). The value of this is limited because the data is not shared in a timely manner.
- 5.1.31 The Panel recognised that, on occasions, victims of domestic abuse presenting at A&E are not referred to supporting Agencies.
- 5.1.32 The Scrutiny Panel realised that a lot of anti-social behaviour is connected to litter and environmental problems. There needs to be a process for the information flow to Enterprise Management Services (EMS) be stronger and with faster responses.
- 5.1.33 The Scrutiny Panel noted that work is underway to ascertain whether the large number of fly tipping incidents relate to problems which people have with access to home waste and recycling centres. There are problems with shared areas at housing complexes and in private alleyways. These areas can cause a series of problems and a solution needs to be implemented to ensure that issues are dealt with quickly when reported.
- 5.1.34 EMS provides schedules to the Council detailing work that is being undertaken in each area. The Scrutiny Panel felt it would be useful for this information to be disseminated to all Council departments.
- 5.1.35 The Scrutiny Panel concluded that working with partners and other Agencies is vital in providing a holistic approach to making improvements.
- 5.1.36 Significant progress has been made regarding the issues surrounding people attending pubs and clubs in the town centre area. The introduction of Night Watch, which includes the traffic light system and the banning of some key violent offenders from the town centre, has created a positive effect, was welcomed.
- 5.1.37 Good communication between door staff and the Police was recognised.

6

Recommendations

6.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was:

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

Scrutiny Panel 1 recommends to Cabinet that:

Northampton Borough Council (NBC)

- 6.1.1 A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening for properties that are located within hot spot areas.
- 6.1.2 Northampton Borough Council ensures active engagement with the Troubled Families Agenda.
- 6.1.3 Prior to any physical works being undertaken, consideration to long-term maintenance is given and resources identified.
- 6.1.4 Councillors are issued with regular updated information on the demographics of their wards.

Housing

- 6.1.5 Obsolete signs in place around the Council's housing stock are removed and all relevant signage is in situ and is clearly visible.
- 6.1.6 An enhanced and responsive maintenance service is implemented in "hotspot" areas.
- 6.1.7 A funding pot is identified to provide target hardening on Council properties that are located within hot spot areas.

Planning/Regeneration

- 6.1.8 It is ensured that when land or buildings is transferred, it is stipulated that the land must be cleared and properly secured.
- 6.1.9 Consideration is given to utilising unused open spaces in residential areas across the town for public use.
- 6.1.10 Planning continues to work with and seek advice and guidance from the Police Architectural Liaison Officer to ensure new developments meet 'Design out Crime' standards.

Neighbourhood Wardens

- 6.1.11 Clarification is given on the role of the Neighbourhood Wardens. This information is disseminated to ward Councillors.
- 6.1.12 Neighbourhood Wardens undertake annual refresher training on crime prevention matters.
- 6.1.13 An on-going professional training and development plan, with specific focus on crime prevention and community safety, for Neighbourhood Wardens is produced and implemented

Partners and Agencies

- 6.1.14 Following completion of projects in hotspot locations, an exit plan is developed outlining support and maintenance post project, in order that the positive results are maintained.
- 6.1.15 On-going maintenance budgets are included with any environmental improvements such as fencing.
- 6.1.16 A directory for young people is developed that provides information on services and facilities available to young people.
- 6.1.17 There is timelier sharing of data from Accident and Emergency with the Community Safety Partnership. This means weekly highlight reports and full details on a monthly basis.
- 6.1.18 A mechanism is introduced to ensure that the Health and Wellbeing Board can provide information and feedback to the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 6.1.19 Membership of the CSP be revisited to ensure that it includes all relevant Agencies and service areas, including the Voluntary Sector.

- 6.1.20 When training/education around crime prevention issues is undertaken, consideration is always be given to the audience and the trainer is mindful to use appropriate language that is universally understood.
- 6.1.21 Information systems between the Police and local Councillors are reviewed and further developed.
- 6.1.22 Support is given to the Intensive Community Engagement programme hosted by Northamptonshire Police.
- 6.1.23 Formal links between Enterprise Management Services (EMS) and Northampton Borough Council are developed around situational crime to ensure faster information sharing and faster responses to dealing with service issues, therefore resulting in a positive outcome for the community.

Community Forums

- 6.1.24 Residents Associations, Community Groups and Forums are encouraged to use open spaces which in turn will assist in community development and ownership of their local areas.

Northants Probation Service

- 6.1.25 A programme of works on the priority locations identified by Northampton Borough Council is built into the Community Pay Back Initiative.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire

- 6.1.26 A copy of this report is provided to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire.

Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 6.1.27 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to consider the inclusion of a Scrutiny Review of Interpersonal Violence in its Work Programme for 2013/2014.
- 6.1.28 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.

Appendices



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME AND VIOLENT CRIME/COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

2. Outcomes Required

- To provide a research paper for 2013/2014 to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) detailing outcomes and the Council's priorities
- To investigate what Northampton Borough Council services can do to add further value to effectively addressing serious acquisitive crime across the borough
- To identify which services within the Council that could contribute to the reduction in serious acquisitive crime
- To make recommendations for improvement, as appropriate

3. Information Required

- Context:
 - Local statistics
 - Demographics – local and national
 - Benchmarking data from comparable Local Authorities

- Baseline data:
 - National crime statistics
 - Local crime statistics
- Synopsis of various research documents and other published documents
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from ward Councillors
- Best practice data
- Site visits
- Desktop research

4. Format of Information

- Officer reports/presentations
- Baseline data such as:
 - Performance data - National and Local Crime Statistics Identified 'hotspots'
- Published reports (présis's) such as:
 - Environmental audits
 - SAC Evaluation documents
 - Strategic Assessment 2011/2012
 - Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2012/2013
- NBC – Leader of the Council evidence
- Evidence from Julie Seddon, the Chair of Community Safety Partnership
- Evidence from Mark Evans, Laura Mayor, Crime Prevention Manager, Chief Inspector Fay Tennet, Northants Police
- Evidence from Deborah Presbury, IOM Team, Northants Probation
- Evidence from Neighbourhood Wardens
- Evidence from the Head of Offender Management Services, Northampton Prisons
- Evidence from Dawn Wintle, Accident and Emergency, Northampton General Hospital
- Evidence from Victim Support
- Evidence from the Northampton Youth Forum
- Evidence from the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Evidence from Housing Services, Northampton Borough Council
- Evidence from Neighbourhood Management, Northampton Borough Council
- Evidence from Lynn Chapman, Sunflower Centre
- Evidence from ward Councillors
- Expert advice – Internal and external
- Best practice
- Witness interviews/evidence

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site Visits (if applicable)
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-

➤ Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

- Sharon Henley, Architectural Liaison Officer, Northants Police, to be approached suggesting that she is co opted to this Review for its life.

7 Equality Impact Screening Assessment

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

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

May 2012 to April 2013

- Wednesday, 2 May 2012 - Scoping meeting
- Monday, 18 June 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Wednesday, 15 August 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Wednesday, 10 October 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Monday, 26 November 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Thursday, 10 January 2013 – Evidence gathering/approval final report
- -Monday, 4 February 2013 – If required
- Thursday, 21 March 2013 – If required
- Monday, 8 April 2013 – If required

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

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

7. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

8. Resources and Budgets

Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection, to provide internal advice.

9 Final report presented by:

Completed by 8 April 2013. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

10 Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2013)

Northampton Borough Council Scrutiny Panel 1 Serious Acquisitive Crime/ Community Safety *Performance & Hotspot Data.*

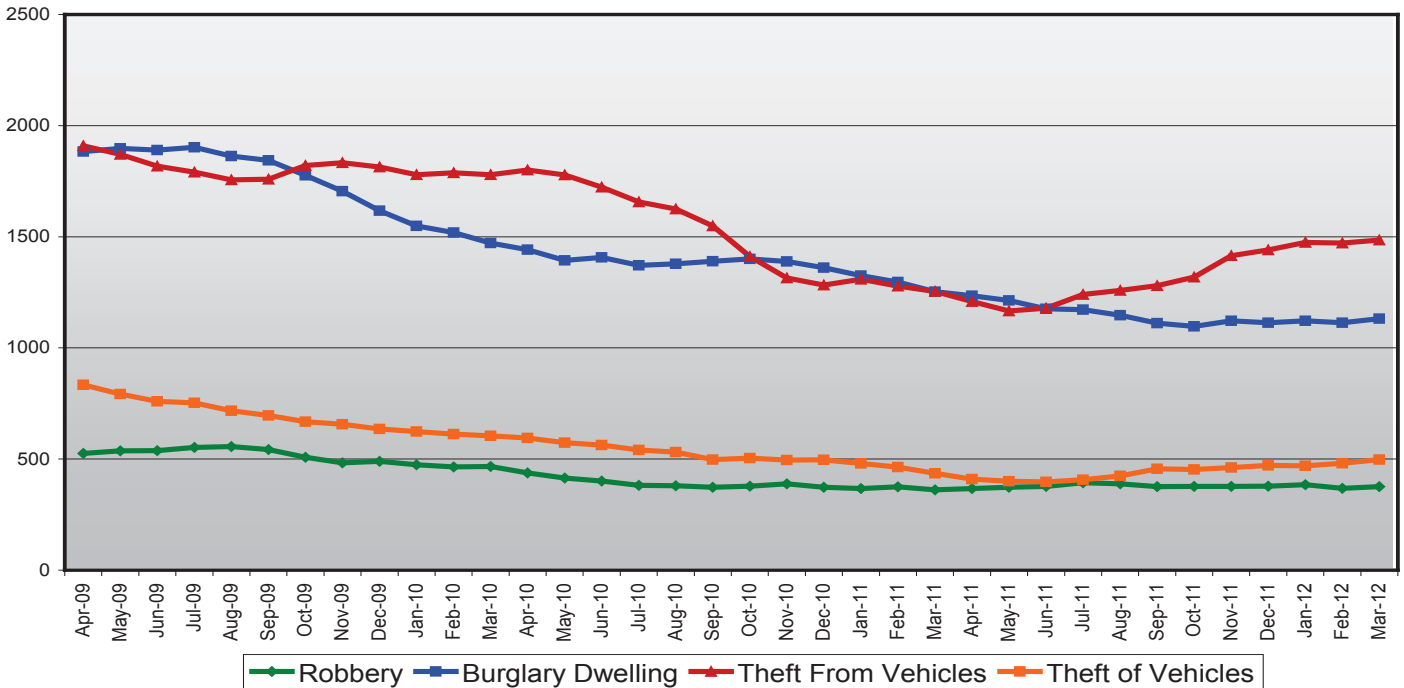
Contents

- Performance Data by Crime Type
- 2011/12 Performance Data by Crime Type
- 2011/12 Performance Data by Sector
- 2011/12 Hotspot Location Performance Data by Priority Wards
- Most Similar CSP Comparative Performance
- Cross County Comparative Performance

SAC Performance Data by Crime Type (2009/10 – 2011/12)

The graph below shows the volume of all four elements of serious acquisitive crime on a 12 month rolling total.

Breakdown Of Serious Acquisitive Crime by Crime Type



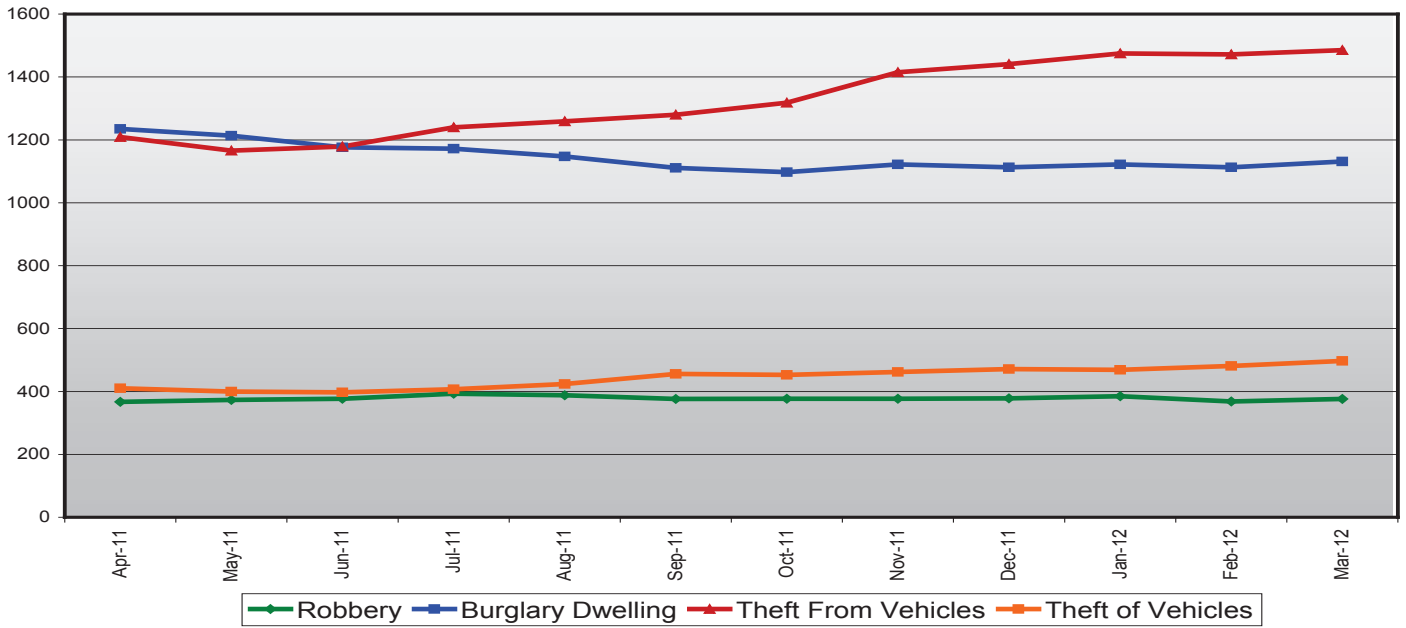
The table below shows the annual percentage change in all four elements of serious acquisitive crime in the past three years.

Northampton: Annual SAC Performance by Crime Type								
Crime Type	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Volume	Annual % Change	Volume	Annual % Change	Volume	Annual % Change	Volume	Annual % Change
Burglary Dwelling	1882		1472	-21.8%	1253	-14.9%	1131	-9.7%
Theft from Vehicles	1965		1779	-9.5%	1254	-29.5%	1485	18.4%
Theft of Vehicles	854		601	-29.6%	436	-27.5%	497	14.0%
Robbery	503		426	-15.3%	361	-15.3%	376	4.2%
Total SAC	5204		4278	-17.8%	3304	-22.8%	3489	5.6%

SAC Performance Data by Crime Type 2011/12

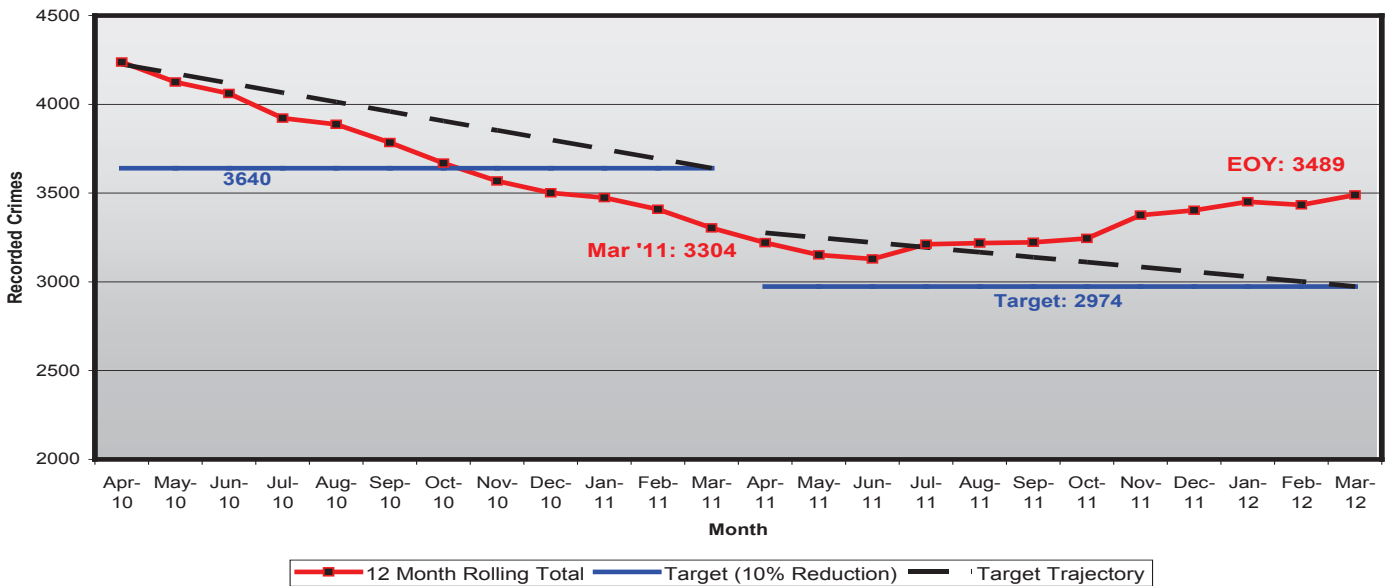
The graph below shows the volume of all four elements of serious acquisitive crime on a 12 month rolling total in 2011/12 only.

Breakdown Of Serious Acquisitive Crime by Crime Type



The graph below shows the volume of serious acquisitive crime against the CSP annual targets on a 12 month rolling total.

**Serious Acquisitive Crime
Rolling 12 Month Totals**



SAC Performance Data by Sector 2011/12

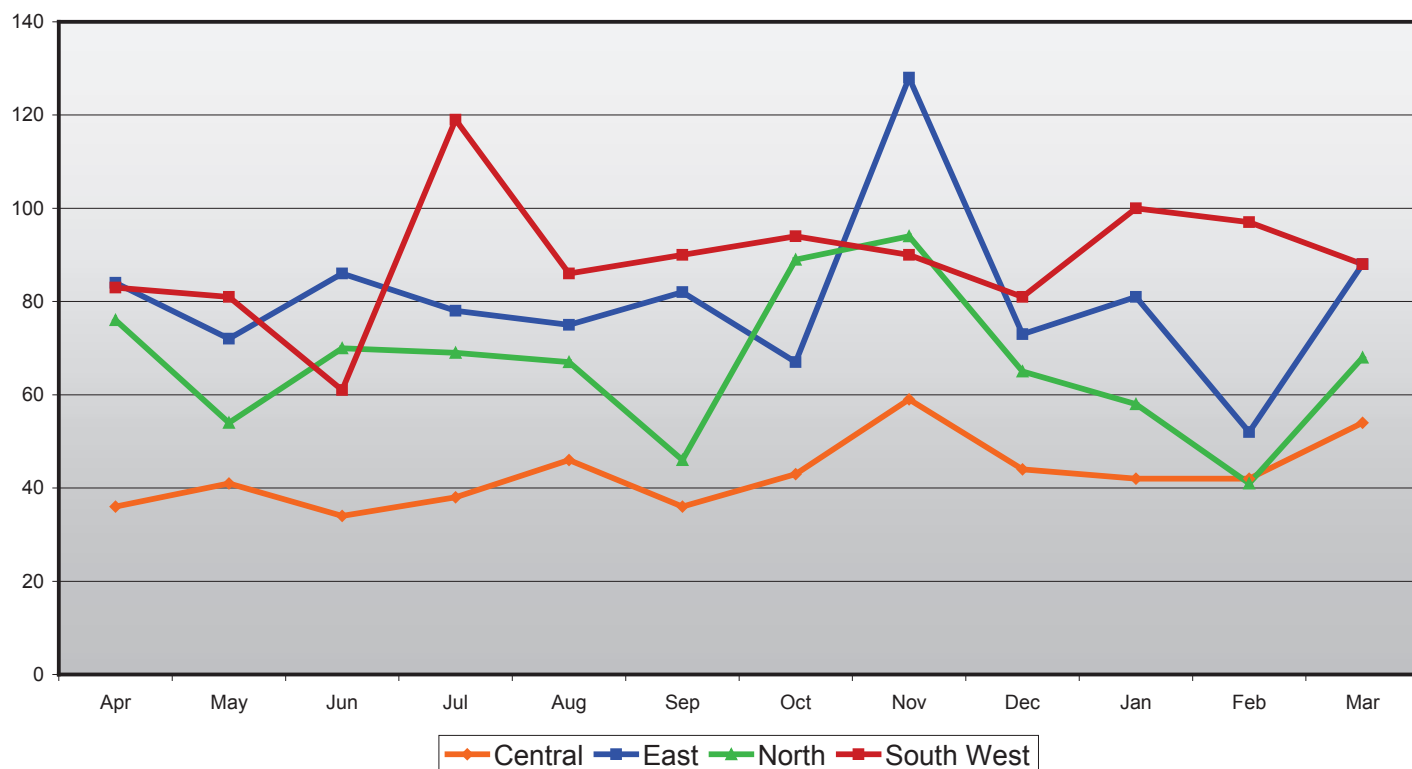
The tables below show the annual percentage change in three elements of SAC (theft from and theft of vehicles is grouped together) in each sector of Northampton during 2011/12.

Central Sector				East Sector			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11	2011/12			2010/11	2011/12	
Burglary Dwelling	182	171	-6.0%	Burglary Dwelling	401	314	-21.7%
Vehicle Crime	292	260	-11.0%	Vehicle Crime	479	542	13.2%
Robbery	122	84	-31.1%	Robbery	100	110	10.0%
Total SAC	596	515	-13.6%	Total SAC	980	966	-1.4%

North Sector				South West Sector			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11	2011/12			2010/11	2011/12	
Burglary Dwelling	354	264	-25.4%	Burglary Dwelling	316	362	14.6%
Vehicle Crime	465	442	-4.9%	Vehicle Crime	439	638	45.3%
Robbery	82	91	11.0%	Robbery	55	70	27.3%
Total SAC	901	797	-11.5%	Total SAC	810	1070	32.1%

The graph below shows the monthly volume of total SAC offences in each sector during 2011/12.

Monthly Volume of SAC Offences by Sector



SAC Performance Data by Ward 2011/12

The tables below show the percentage change in three elements of serious acquisitive crime (theft from and theft of vehicles is grouped together) in the top ten wards for SAC in Northampton.

NB: This data is YTD figures up to 04/03/12 only.

NB: The wards below are based upon pre 2011 ward boundaries, as the police still work to these.

Abington				Lumbertubs			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD			2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD	
Burglary Dwelling	63	74	17.5%	Burglary Dwelling	86	38	-55.8%
Vehicle Crime	107	87	-18.7%	Vehicle Crime	72	69	-4.2%
Robbery	28	27	-3.6%	Robbery	29	32	10.3%
Total SAC	198	188	-5.1%	Total SAC	187	139	-25.7%

Billing				Spencer			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD			2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD	
Burglary Dwelling	62	46	-25.8%	Burglary Dwelling	65	57	-12.3%
Vehicle Crime	98	129	31.6%	Vehicle Crime	75	157	109.3%
Robbery	15	18	20.0%	Robbery	8	13	62.5%
Total SAC	175	193	10.3%	Total SAC	148	227	53.4%

Castle				St Crispins			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD			2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD	
Burglary Dwelling	77	85	10.4%	Burglary Dwelling	88	73	-17.0%
Vehicle Crime	129	131	1.6%	Vehicle Crime	139	116	-16.5%
Robbery	65	39	-40.0%	Robbery	50	38	-24.0%
Total SAC	271	255	-5.9%	Total SAC	277	227	-18.1%

Delapre				St James			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD			2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD	
Burglary Dwelling	60	60	0.0%	Burglary Dwelling	38	67	76.3%
Vehicle Crime	62	95	53.2%	Vehicle Crime	83	110	32.5%
Robbery	10	10	0.0%	Robbery	10	9	-10.0%
Total SAC	132	165	25.0%	Total SAC	131	186	42.0%

Kingsley				Thorplands			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD			2010/11 YTD	2011/12 YTD	
Burglary Dwelling	75	65	-13.3%	Burglary Dwelling	58	51	-12.1%
Vehicle Crime	99	95	-4.0%	Vehicle Crime	66	71	7.6%
Robbery	27	17	-37.0%	Robbery	13	15	15.4%
Total SAC	201	177	-11.9%	Total SAC	137	137	0.0%

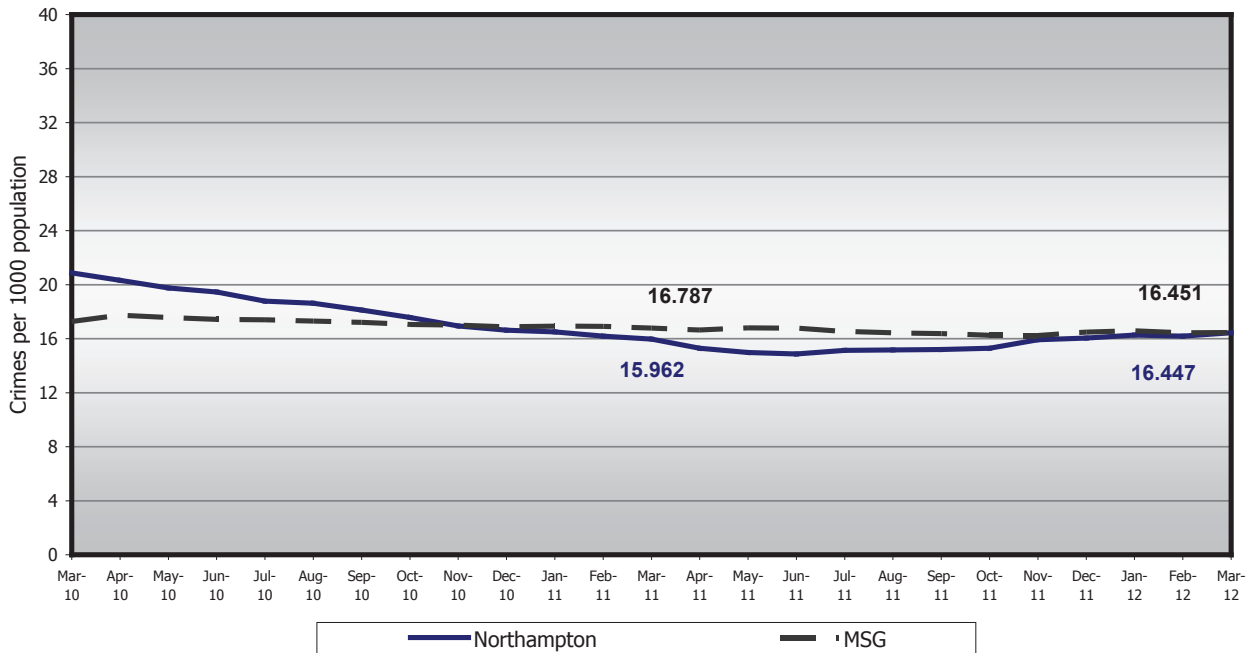
Comparative Performance Against Most Similar CSPs.

Community Safety Partnerships are placed in groups of fifteen Partnerships defined by the Home Office as having enough similar characteristics to allow a reasonable comparison of their performance: this is known as the Most Similar Group. A list of CSPs in Northampton's most similar group is below.

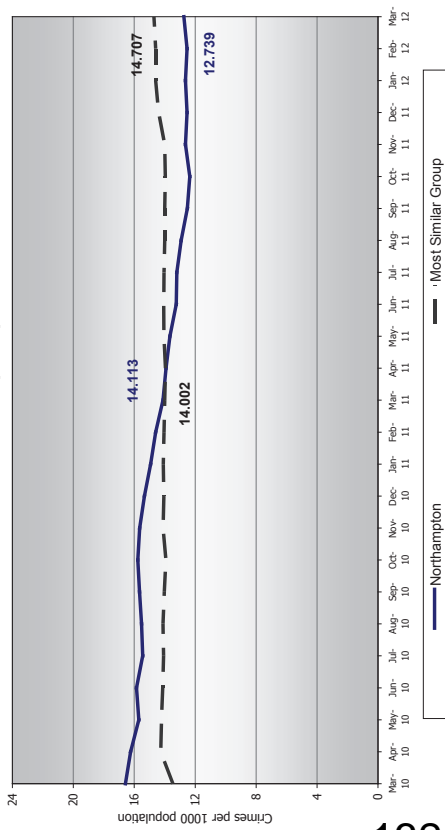
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedfordshire – Luton • Devon & Cornwall – Plymouth • Devon & Cornwall – Torbay • Gloucestershire – Gloucester • Greater Manchester – Trafford • Kent – Dartford & Gravesham • Lancashire – Blackpool • Metropolitan Police – Hillingdon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Police – Hounslow • Northamptonshire - Northampton • Suffolk – Ipswich • Thames Valley – Milton Keynes • Thames Valley – Slough • West Midlands – Coventry • Wiltshire - Swindon
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The graphs below show Northampton CSP's performance against the average for our most similar groups. Performance is monitored in terms of crimes per 1000 population.

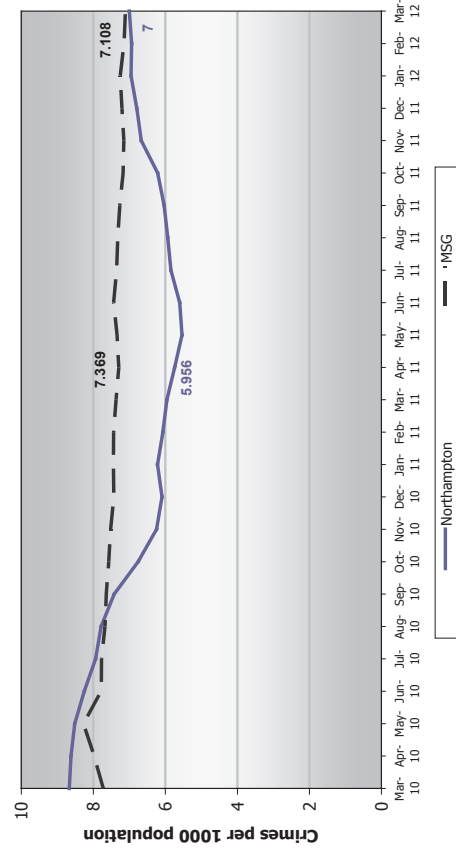
Serious Acquisitive Crime Most Similar Group Comparison



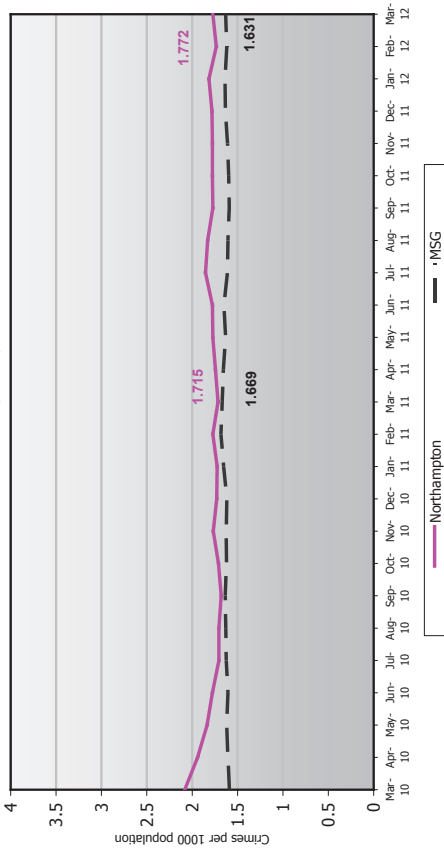
Domestic Burglary Most Similar Group comparison



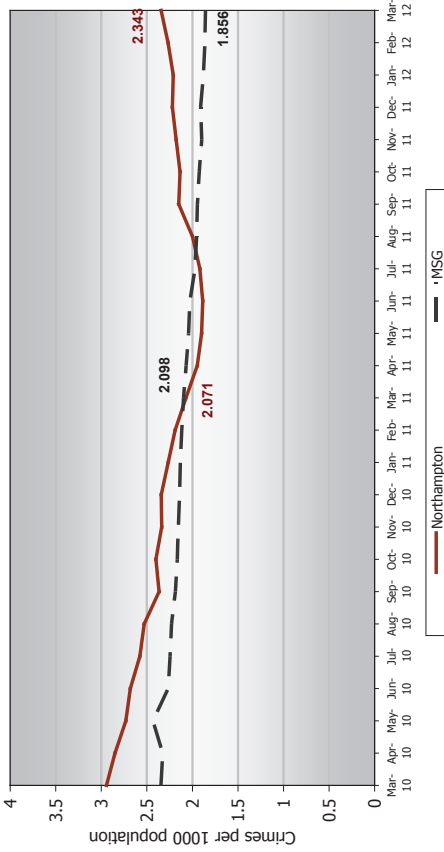
Theft from Vehicle Most Similar Group comparison



Robbery Most Similar Group comparison



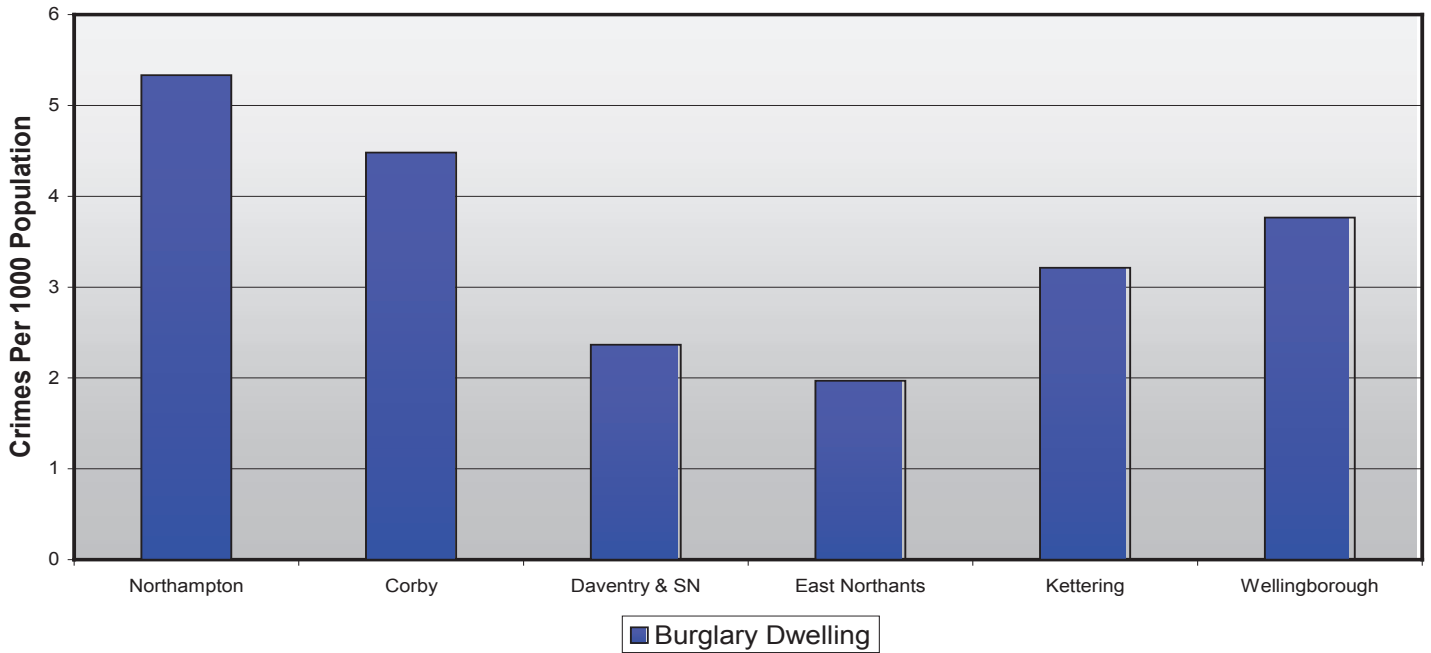
Theft of Vehicle Most Similar Group comparison



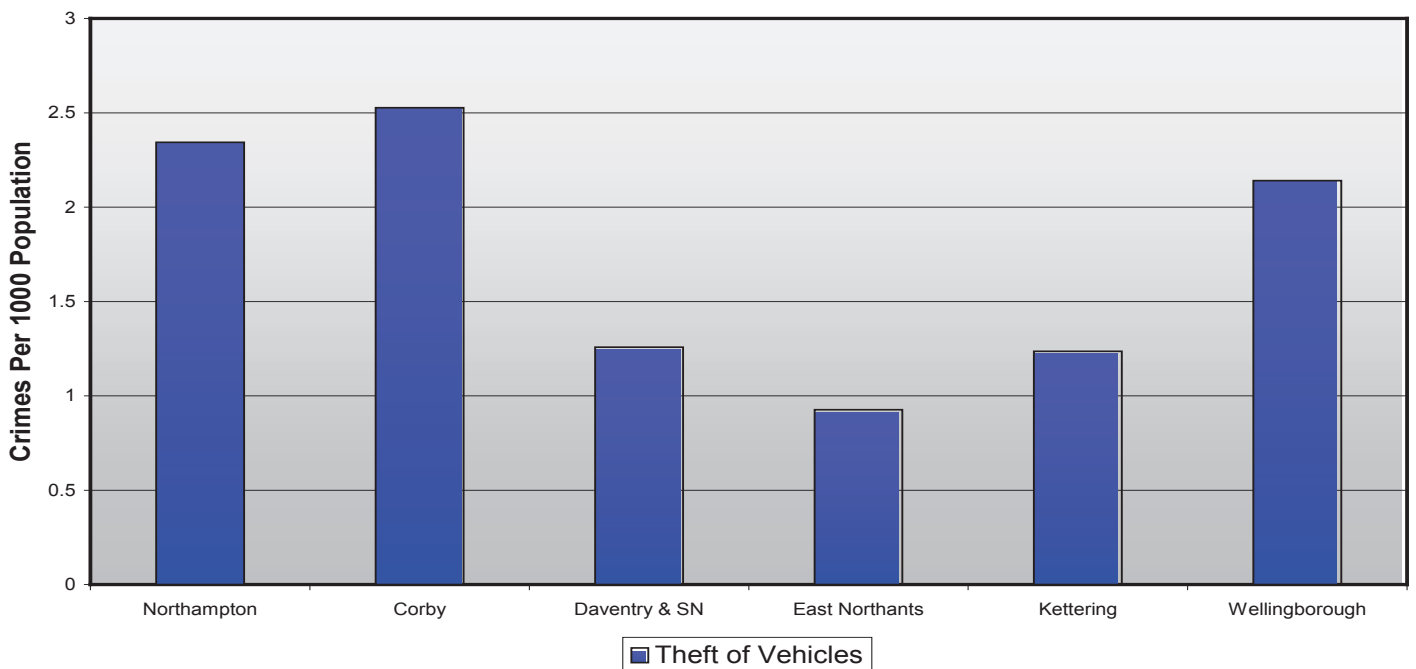
Cross County Comparative Performance

The graphs below show how Northampton compares to other localities within the county for all four elements of serious acquisitive crime. To allow reasonable comparison, accounting for population differences, the volume of crime is shown in terms of crimes per 1000 population.

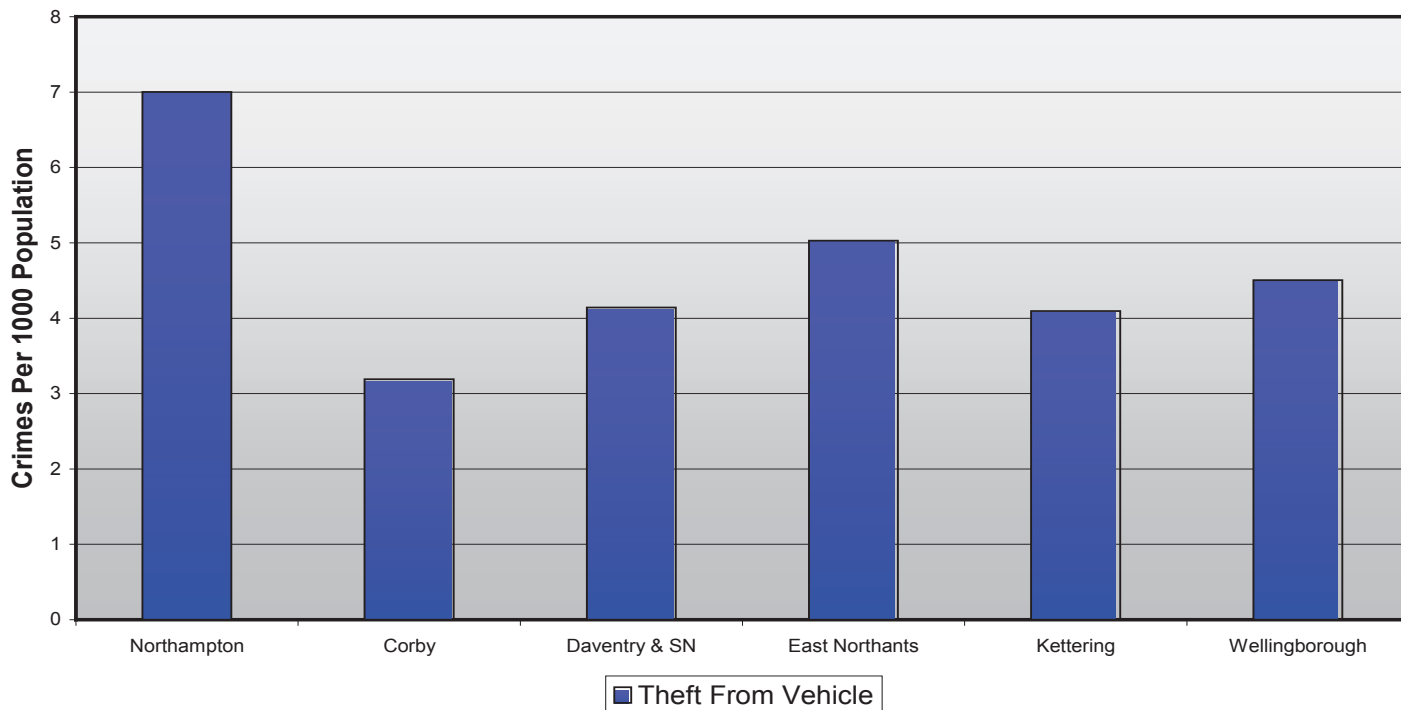
Burglary Dwelling: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



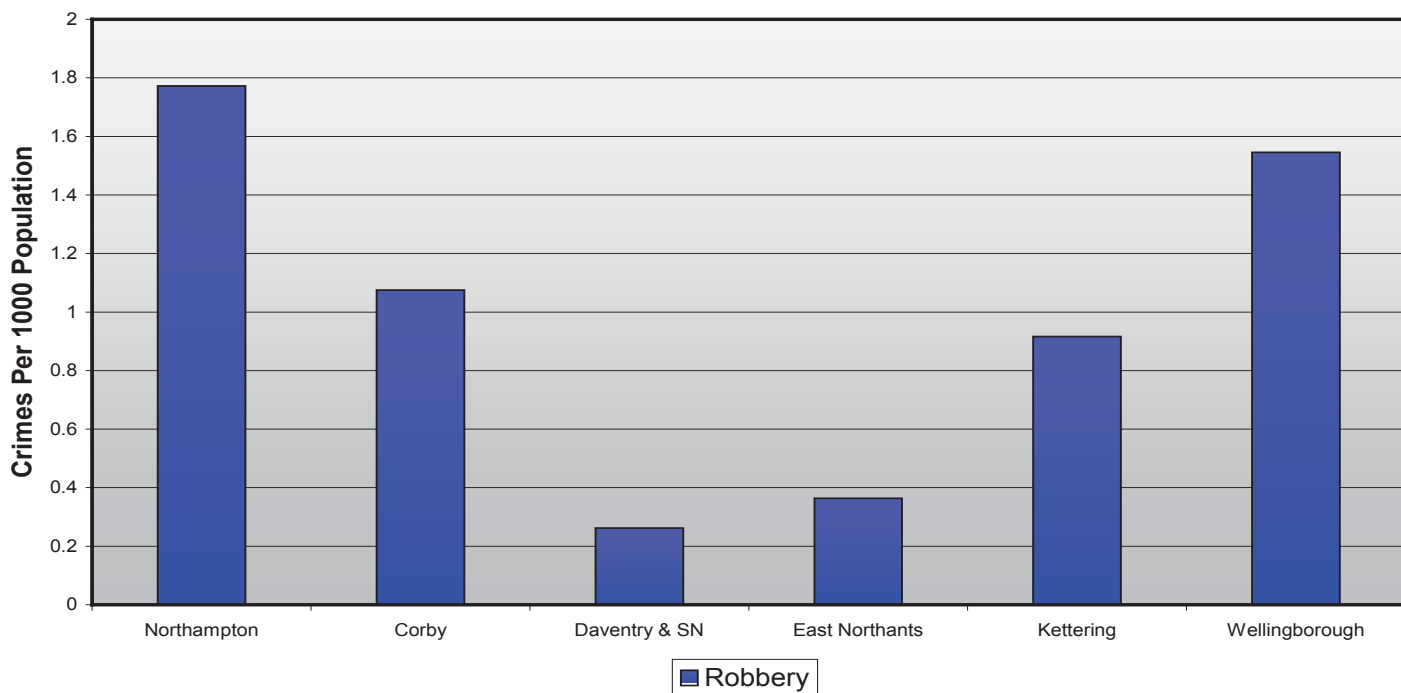
Theft Of Vehicles: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



Theft From Vehicles: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



Robbery: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



Northampton Borough Council Scrutiny Panel 1

Violent Crime/ Community Safety

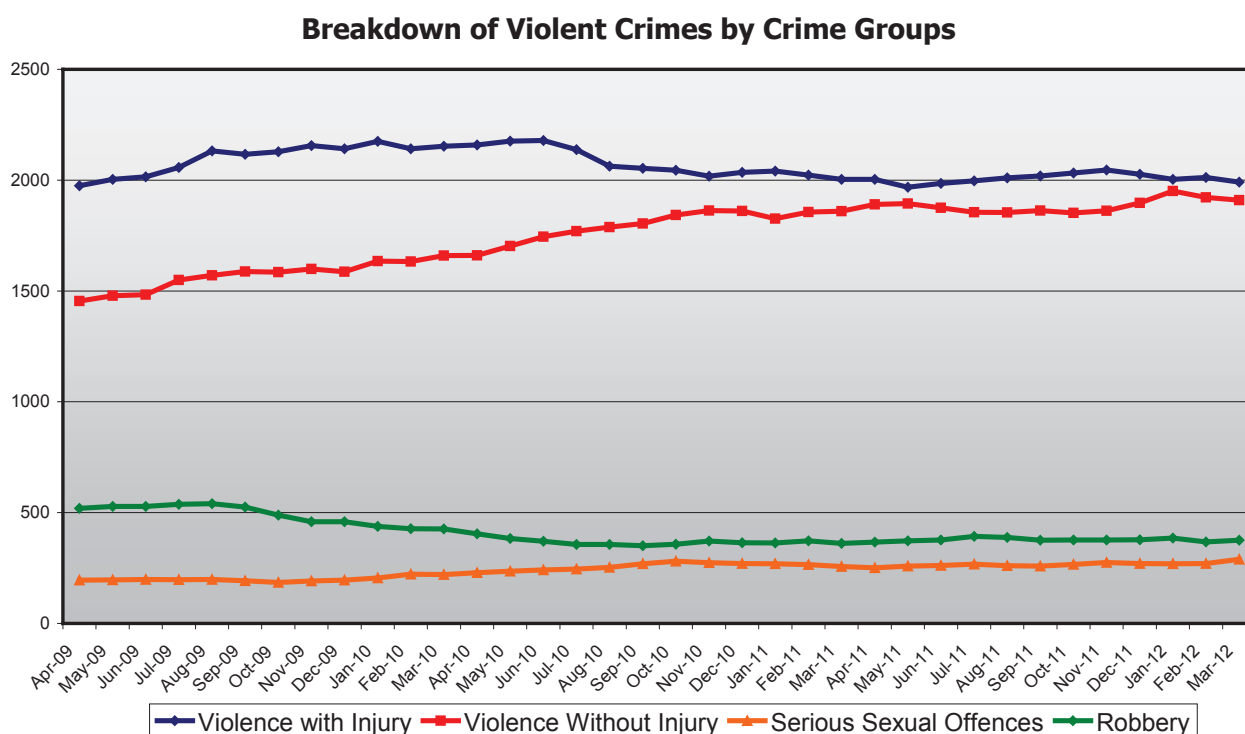
Performance & Hotspot Data.

Contents

- Performance Data by Crime Group
- 2011/12 Performance Data by Crime Type
- 2011/12 Performance Data by Sector
- 2011/12 Hotspot Location Performance Data by Priority Wards
- Most Similar CSP Comparative Performance
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Violence Performance Data by Crime Group (2009/10 – 2011/12)

The graph below shows the volume of the key elements of violent crime on a 12 month rolling total.

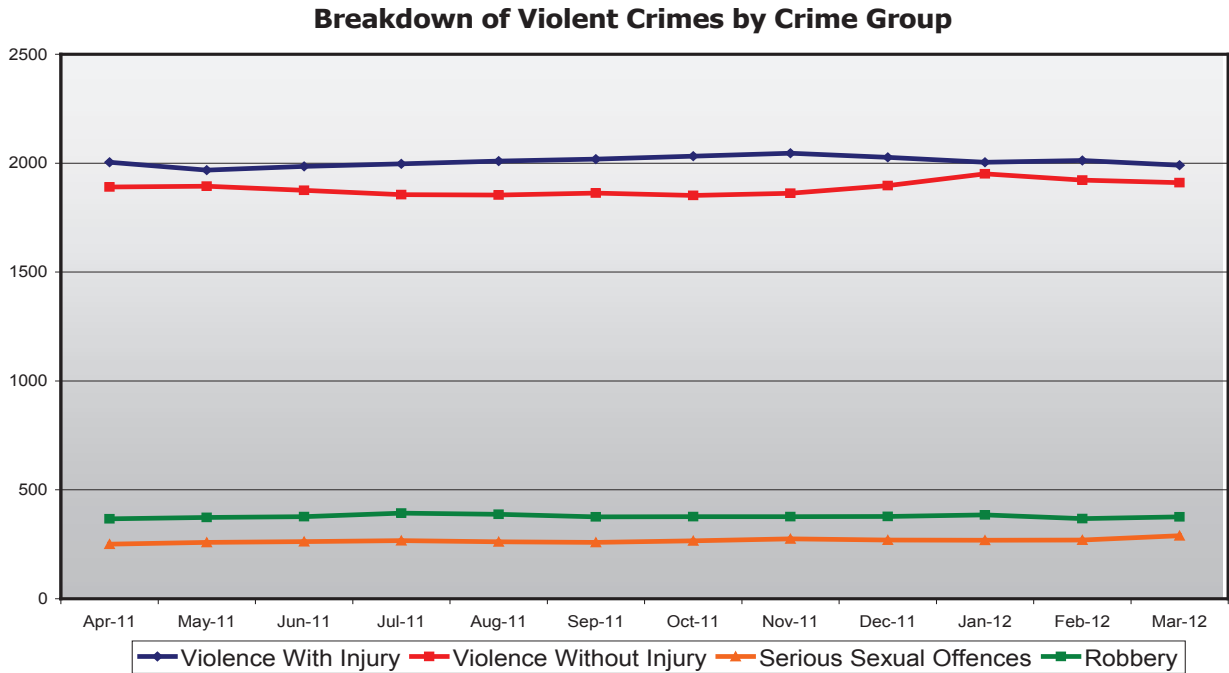


The table below shows the annual percentage change in volume of the key elements of violent crime in the past three years.

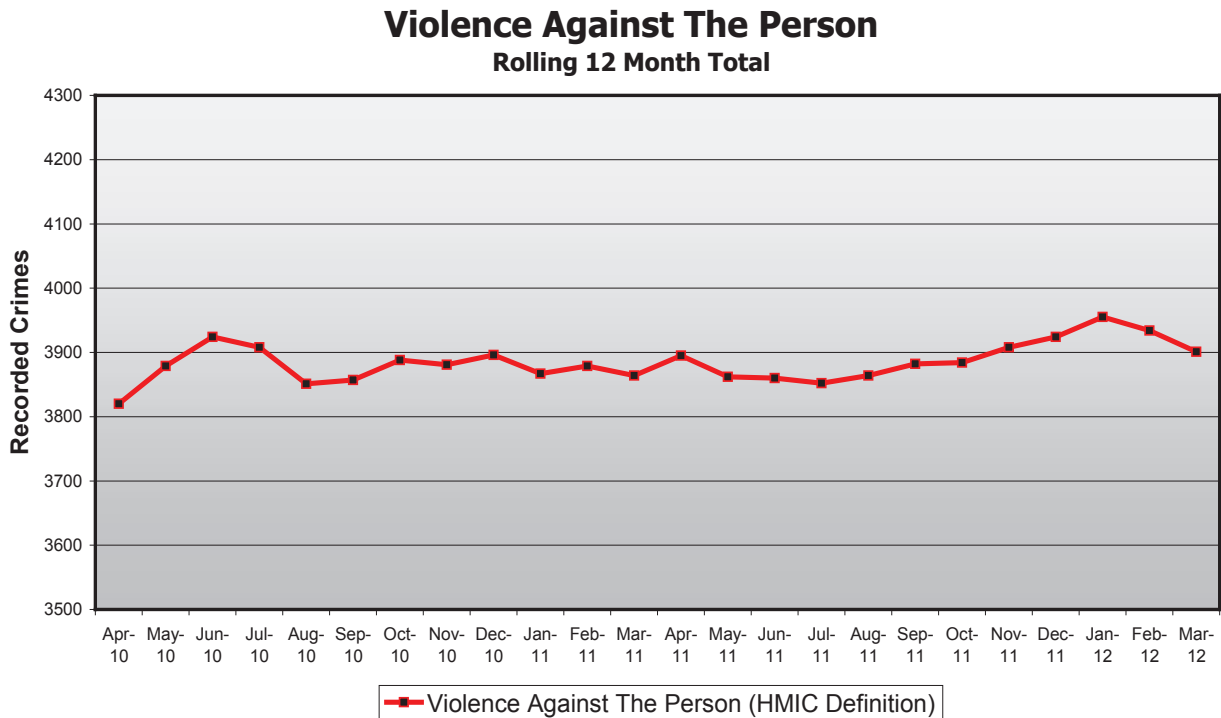
Northampton: Annual Violence Performance by Crime Group								
Crime Type	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12	
	Volume	Annual % Change	Volume	Annual % Change	Volume	Annual % Change	Volume	Annual % Change
Violence with Injury	1937		2153	11.2%	2004	-6.9%	1991	-0.6%
Violence Without Injury	1441		1660	15.2%	1860	12.0%	1910	2.7%
Serious Sexual Offences	203		220	8.4%	257	16.8%	289	12.5%
Robbery	503		426	-15.3%	361	-15.3%	376	4.2%
Violence (exc Public Order)	4084		4459	9.2%	4482	0.5%	4566	1.9%

Violence Performance Data by Crime Group 2011/12

The graph below shows the volume of the key elements of violent crime on a 12 month rolling total in 2011/12 only.



The graph below shows the volume of serious acquisitive crime against the CSP annual targets on a 12 month rolling total.



Violence performance Data by Sector 2011/12

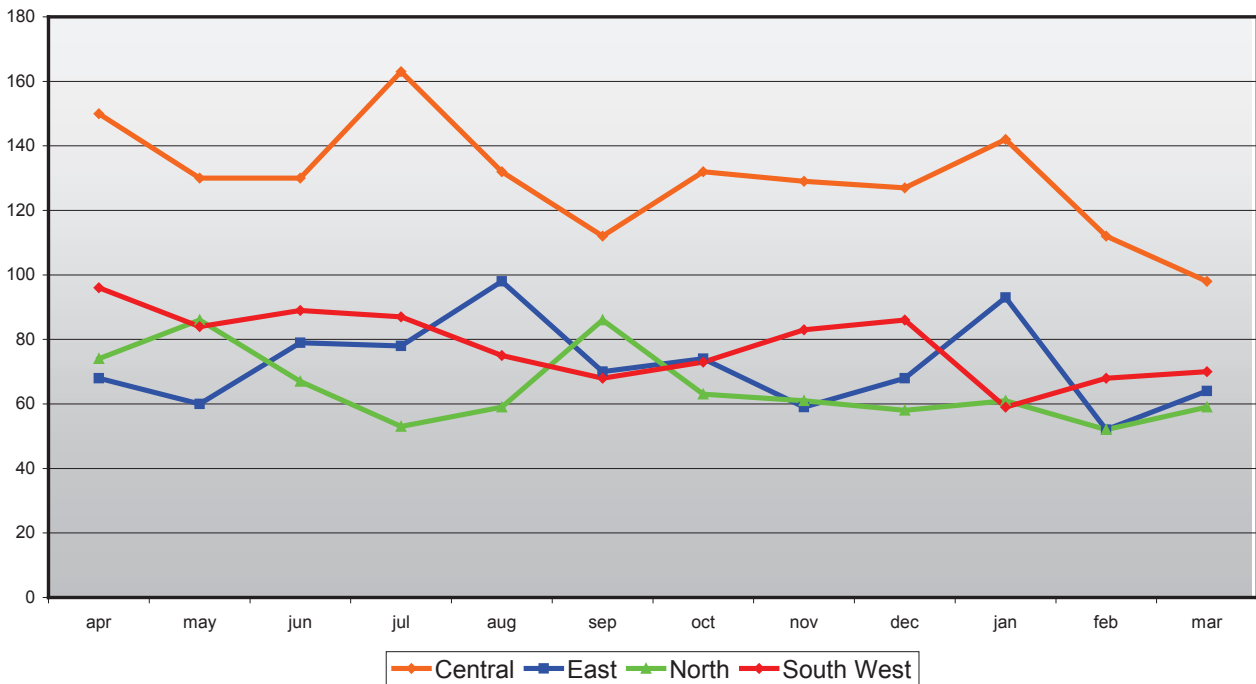
The tables below show the annual percentage change in different elements of violence in each sector of Northampton during 2011/12. NB: The 'violence' category is now a sum of the three categories above.

Central Sector				East Sector			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11	2011/12			2010/11	2011/12	
Assault with Less Serious Injury	709	638	-10.0%	Assault with Less Serious Injury	379	355	-6.3%
Most Serious Violence	84	86	2.4%	Most Serious Violence	25	23	-8.0%
Serious Sexual Offences	75	55	-26.7%	Serious Sexual Offences	51	60	17.6%
Violence	1690	1557	-7.9%	Violence	877	863	-1.6%

North Sector				South West Sector			
Crime Type	Volume		Change	Crime Type	Volume		Change
	2010/11	2011/12			2010/11	2011/12	
Assault with Less Serious Injury	318	328	3.1%	Assault with Less Serious Injury	409	405	-1.0%
Most Serious Violence	39	27	-30.8%	Most Serious Violence	29	27	-6.9%
Serious Sexual Offences	56	72	28.6%	Serious Sexual Offences	57	57	0.0%
Violence	795	779	-2.0%	Violence	945	938	-0.7%

The graph below shows the monthly volume of violence offences in each sector during 2011/12.

Monthly Volume of Violence Offences By Sector



Violence Performance: Top Wards in Northamptonshire 2011/12

The table below is extracted from a recent violence problem profile produced by Northants Police analysis team. As a result it includes wards from outside of Northampton Borough. The table shows five of the top ten wards for all violent crime are located in Northampton Borough, 22.9% of the violent crime in Northamptonshire occurs in these five wards.

NB: This data is for 2011/12 only. .

NB: The wards below are based upon pre 2011 ward boundaries, as the police still work to these.

Ward Name	All Violent Crime		MSV		AWLSI		Common Assault		Sexual Offences		SSO		Robbery	
		%		%		%		%		%		%		%
Castle	969	9.2%	49	12.8%	367	9.4%	25	8.6%	35	5.4%	29	5.6%	35	5.6%
St Crispin	640	6.1%	31	8.1%	245	6.3%	14	4.8%	28	4.3%	21	4.0%	36	5.7%
Swanspool	309	2.9%	15	3.9%	111	2.9%	68	2.3%	18	2.8%	14	2.7%	36	5.7%
William Knibb	307	2.9%	17	4.4%	104	2.7%	79	2.7%	13	2.0%	11	2.1%	14	2.2%
Lumbertubs	274	2.6%	5	1.3%	88	2.3%	77	2.6%	28	4.3%	21	4.0%	29	4.6%
Kingswood	230	2.2%	10	2.6%	82	2.1%	78	2.6%	11	1.7%	9	1.7%	14	2.2%
All Saints	215	2.1%	6	1.6%	92	2.4%	61	2.1%	13	2.0%	12	2.3%	10	1.6%
Spencer	219	2.1%	5	1.3%	78	2.0%	61	2.1%	14	2.1%	13	2.5%	12	1.9%
Abbey South	200	1.9%	12	3.1%	80	2.1%	46	1.6%	5	0.8%	4	0.8%	4	0.6%
Kingsley	195	1.9%	3	0.8%	72	1.9%	62	2.1%	18	2.8%	15	2.9%	16	2.6%
Total for Ten Wards	3558	33.8%	153	39.9%	1319	33.8%	930	31.4%	183	28.0%	149	28.7%	206	32.9%

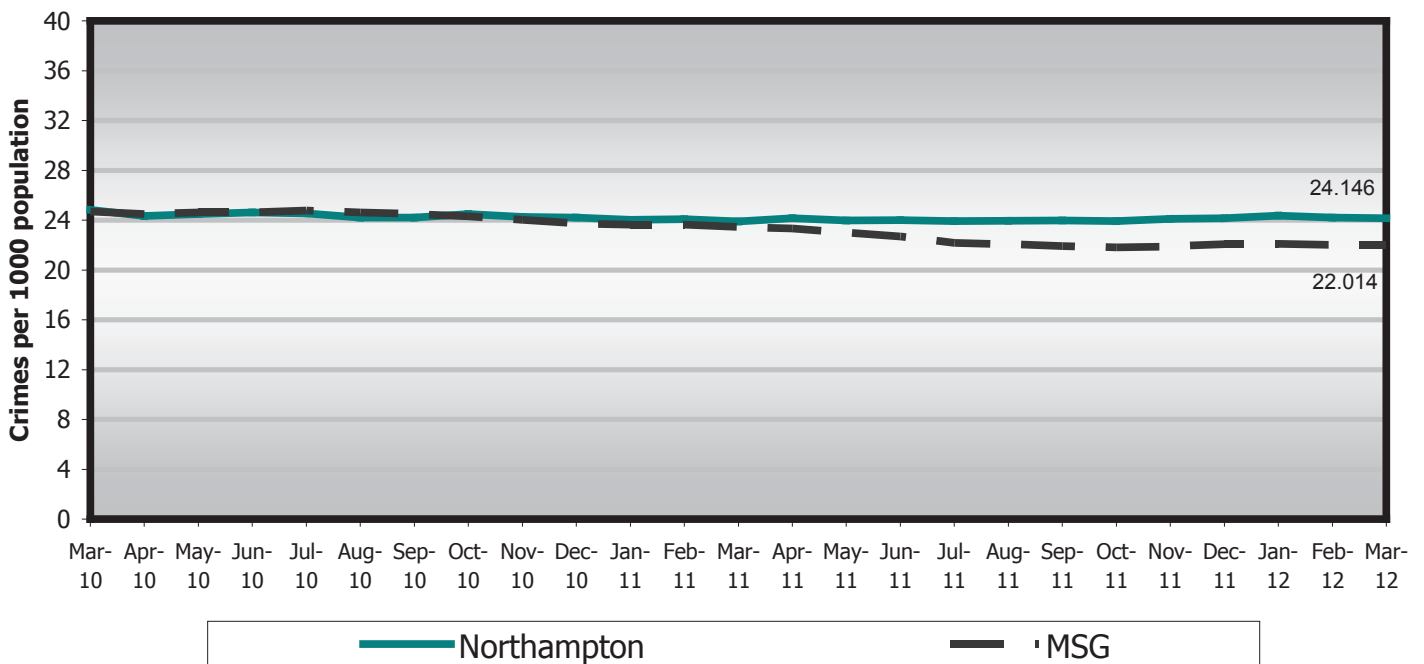
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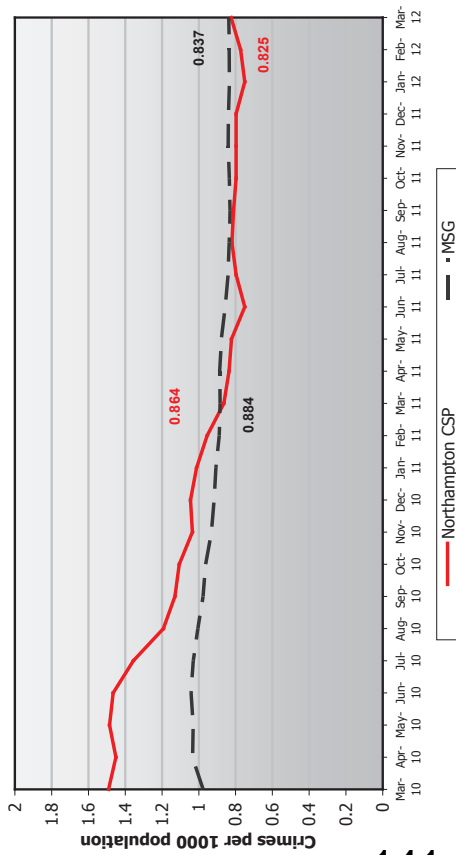
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedfordshire – Luton • Devon & Cornwall – Plymouth • Devon & Cornwall – Torbay • Gloucestershire – Gloucester • Greater Manchester – Trafford • Kent – Dartford & Gravesham • Lancashire – Blackpool • Metropolitan Police – Hillingdon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Police – Hounslow • Northamptonshire - Northampton • Suffolk – Ipswich • Thames Valley – Milton Keynes • Thames Valley – Slough • West Midlands – Coventry • Wiltshire - Swindon
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The graphs below show Northampton CSP's performance against the average for our most similar groups. Performance is monitored in terms of crimes per 1000 population.

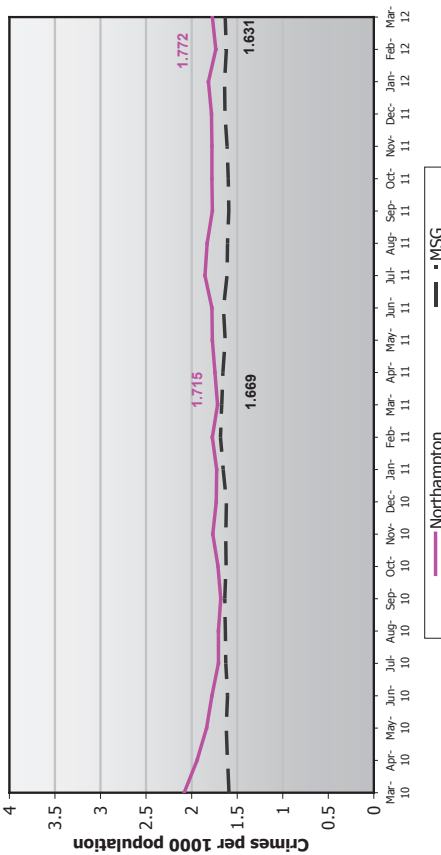
Violent Crime
Most Similar Group comparison



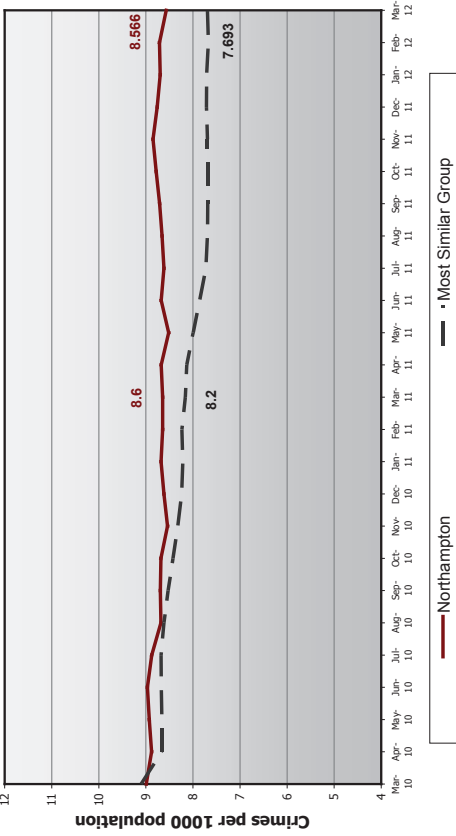
Most Serious Violence Most Similar Group comparison



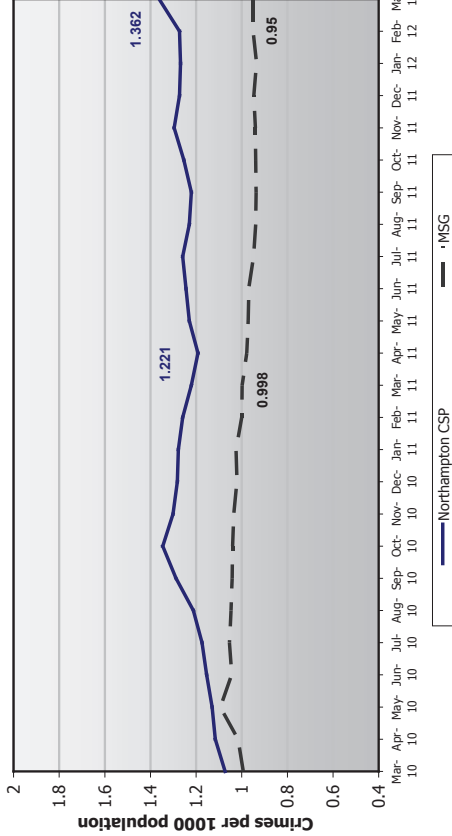
Robbery Most Similar Group comparison



Assault with Less Serious Injury Most Similar Group comparison



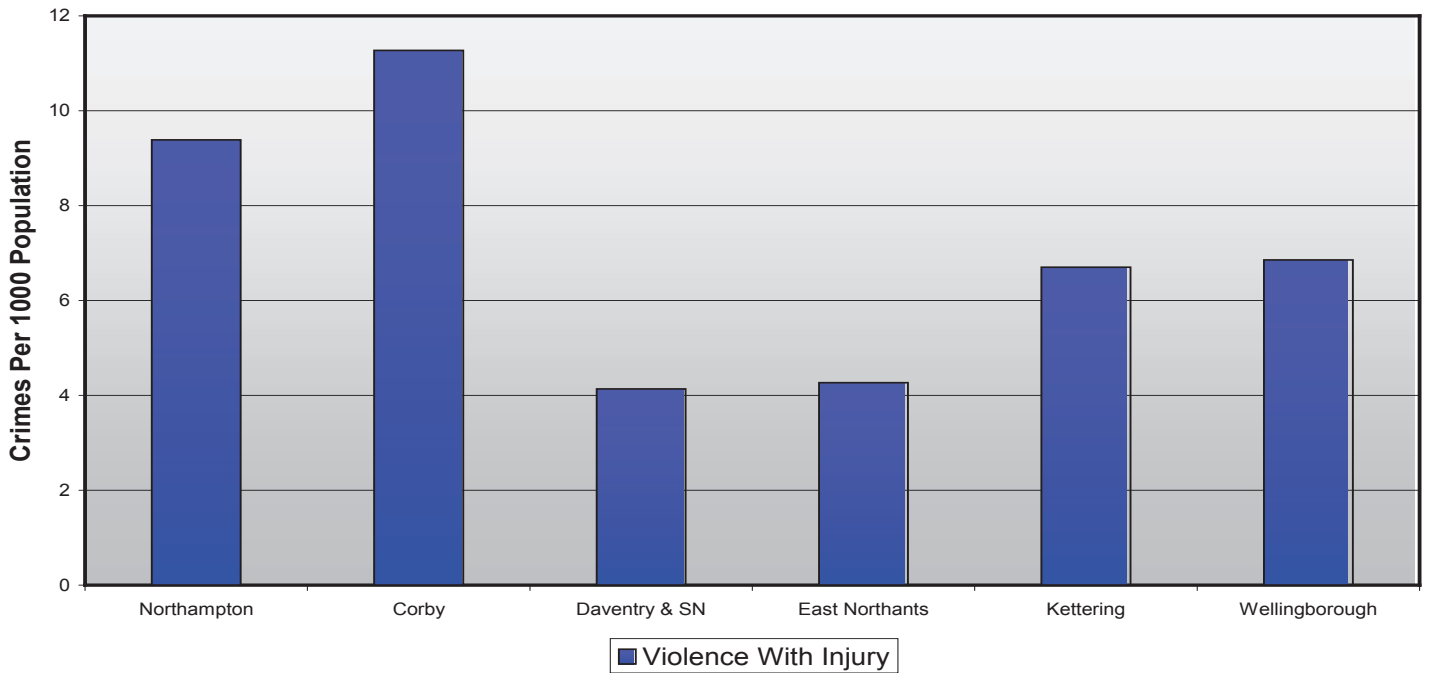
Serious Sexual Offences Most Similar Group comparison



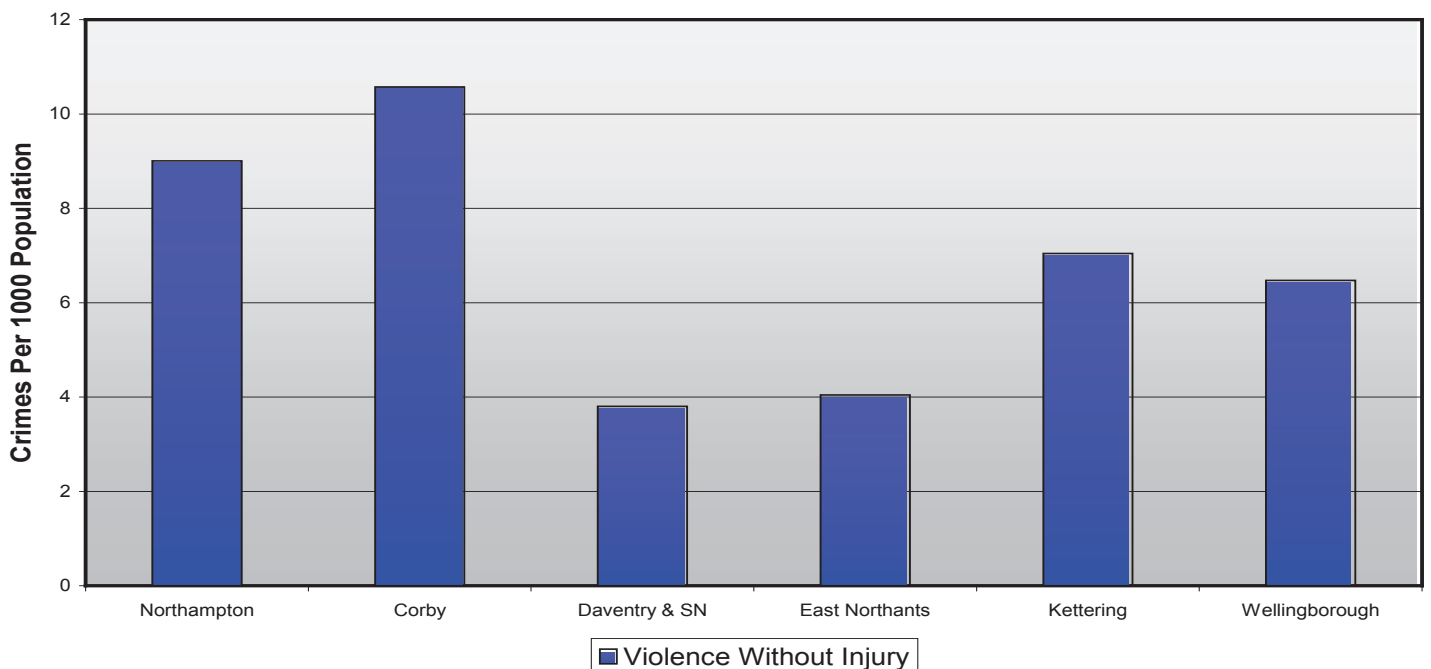
Cross County Comparative Performance

The graphs below show how Northampton compares to other localities within the county for different elements of violent crime. To allow reasonable comparison, accounting for population differences, the volume of crime is shown in terms of crimes per 1000 population.

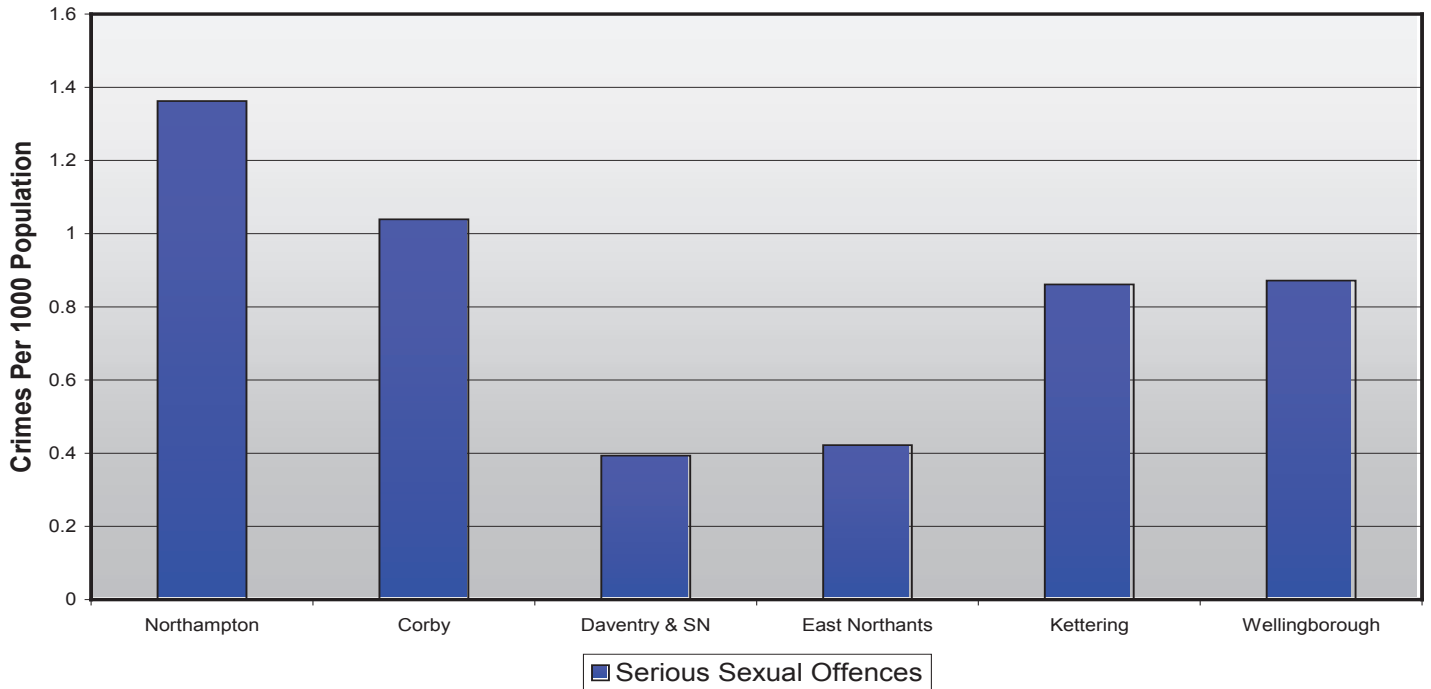
Violence With Injury: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



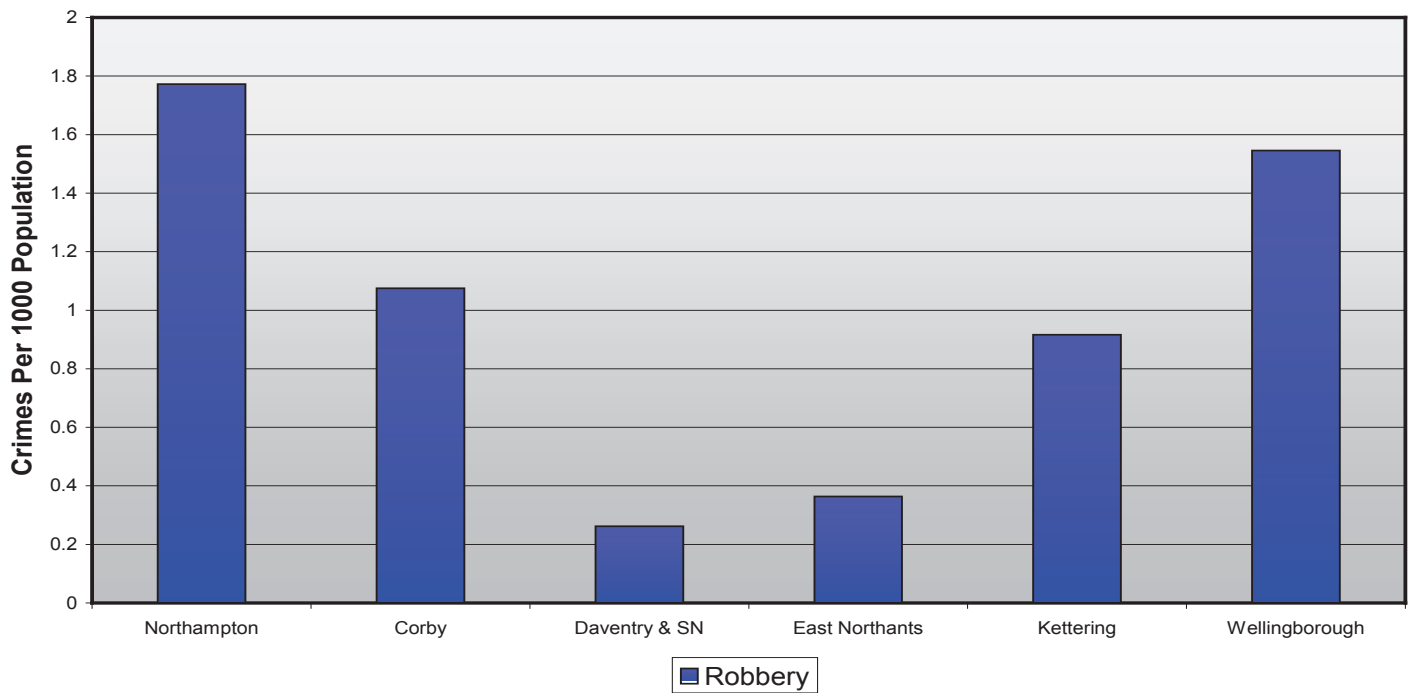
Violence Without Injury: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



Serious Sexual Offences: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



Robbery: Crimes Per 1000 Population (2011/12)



Northampton Borough Council Scrutiny Panel 1

Community Safety

Population Demographics Data

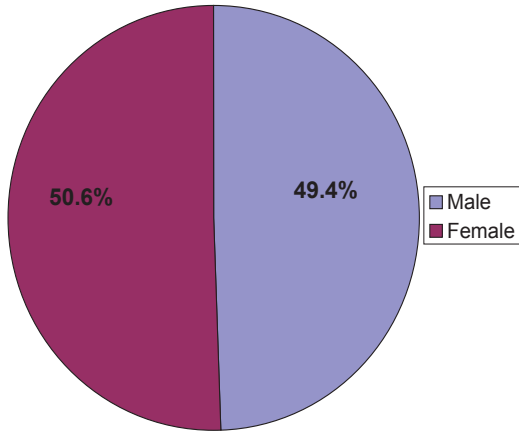
Contents

- Population Demographics: Gender
- Population Demographics: Age
- Population Demographics: Ethnicity
- Population Demographics: Density

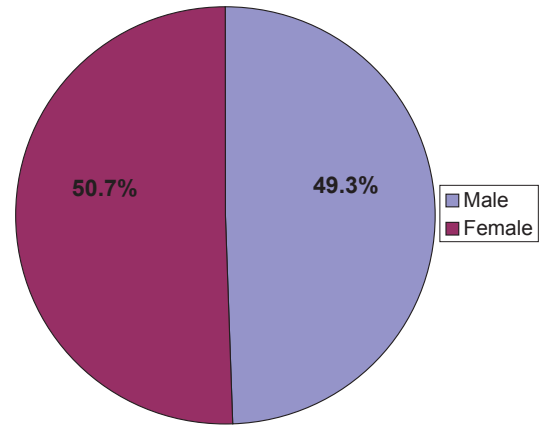
All Data in this document is based upon Office for National Statistics Population Estimates mid-2010.

Population Data by Gender

Northampton Population Estimates: Gender (%)

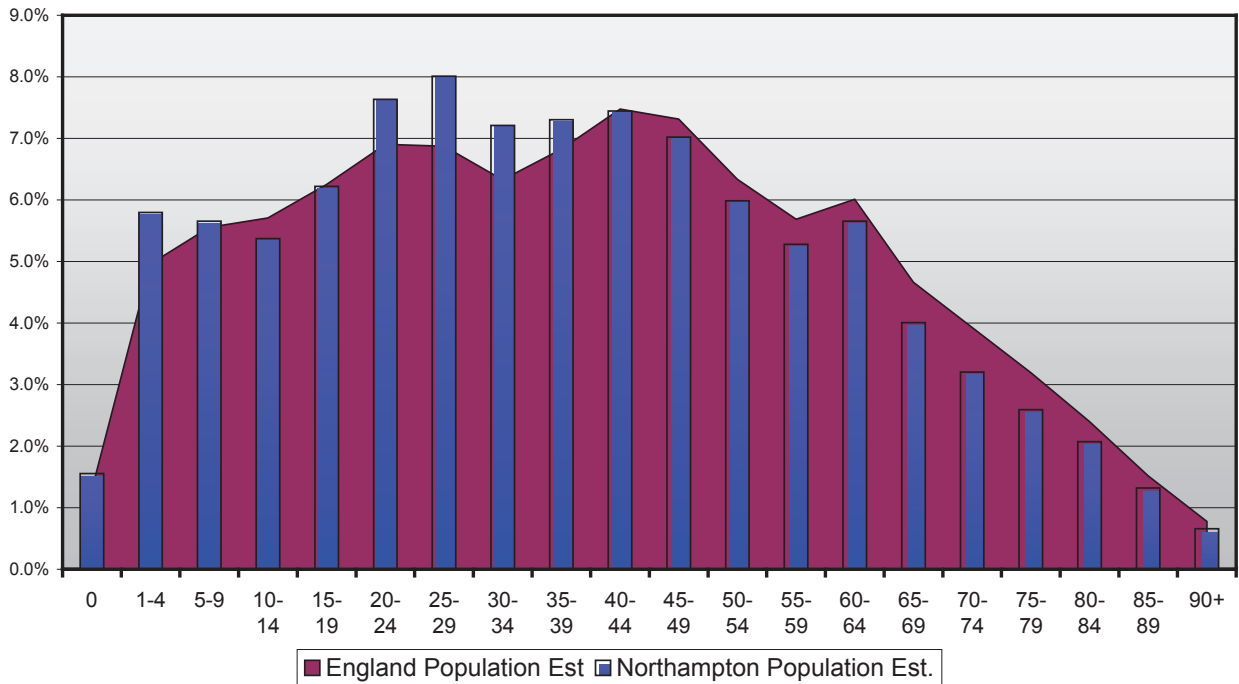


England Population Estimates: Gender (%)

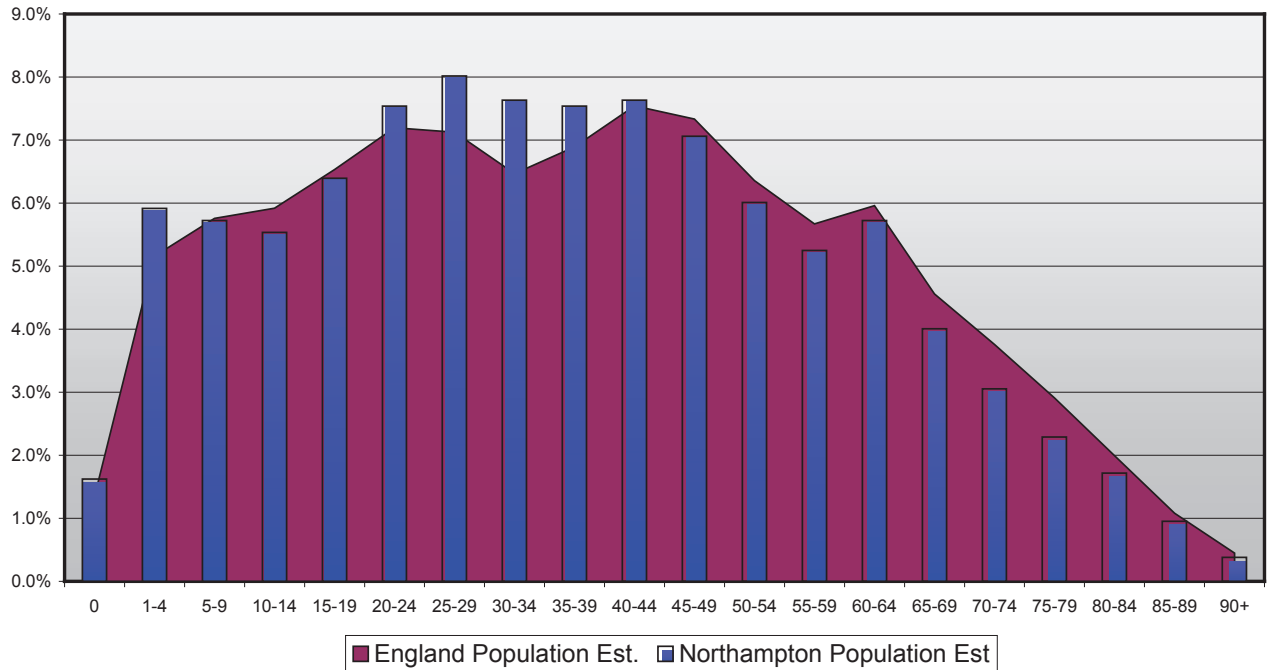


Population Data by Age Group

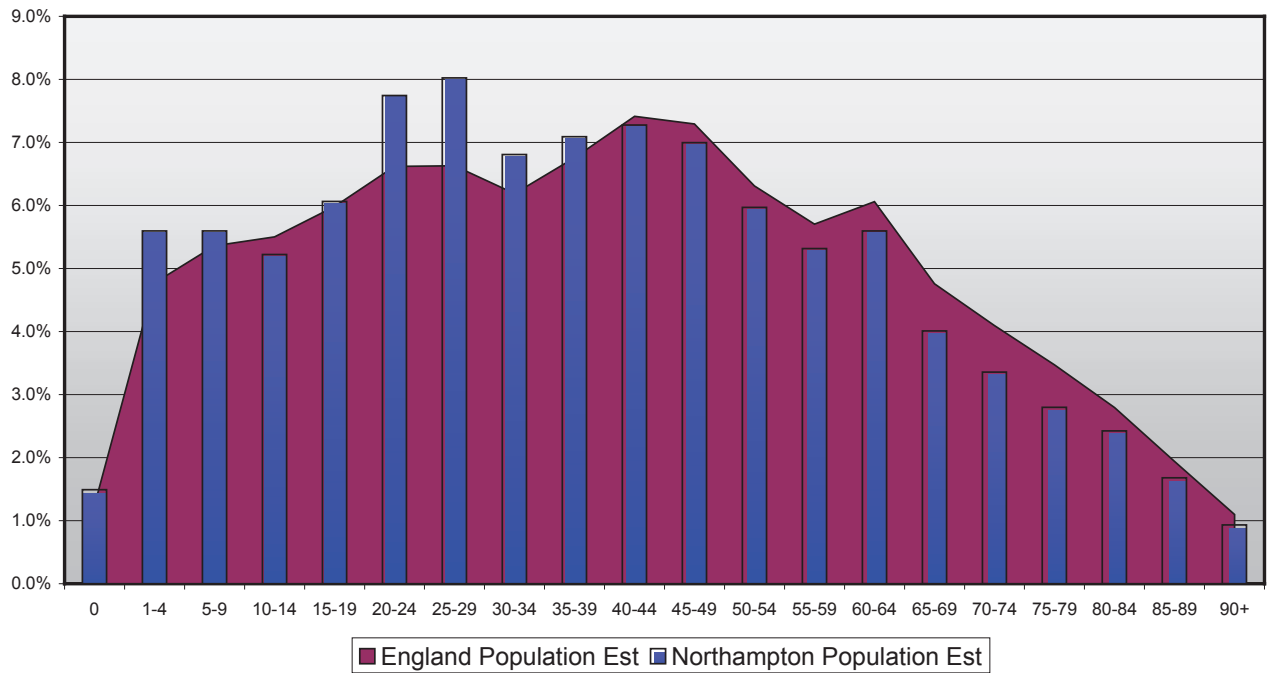
Northampton Population Estimates: Age (%)



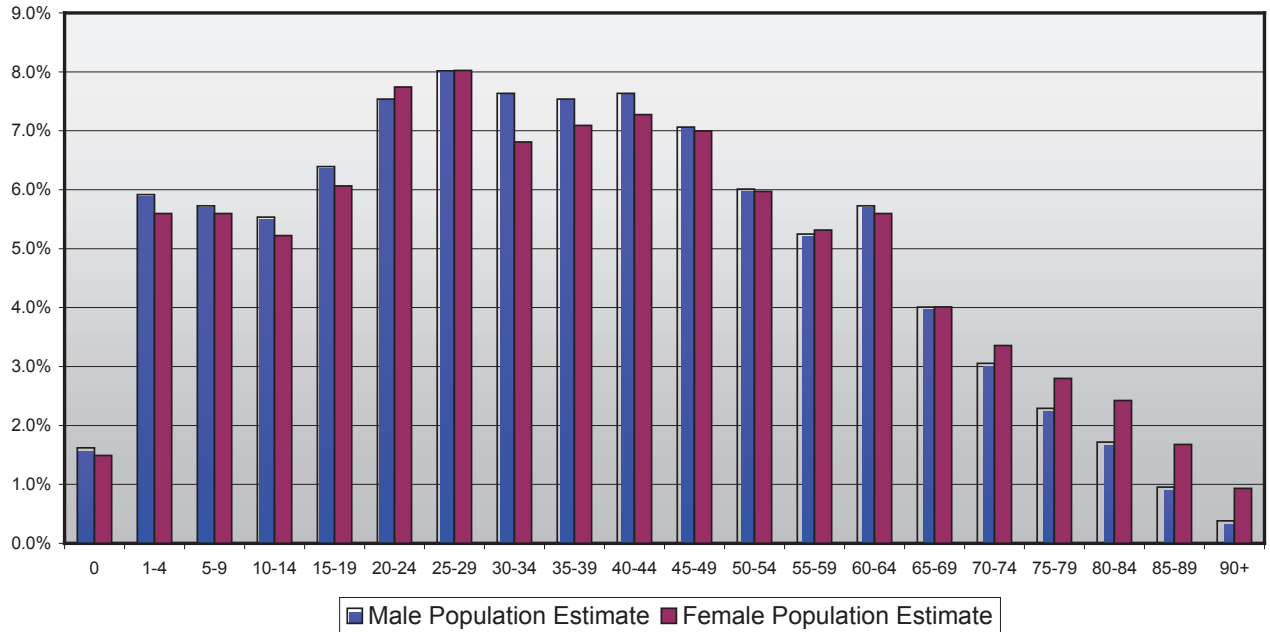
Northampton Male Population Estimates: Age (%)



Northampton Female Population Estimates: Age (%)

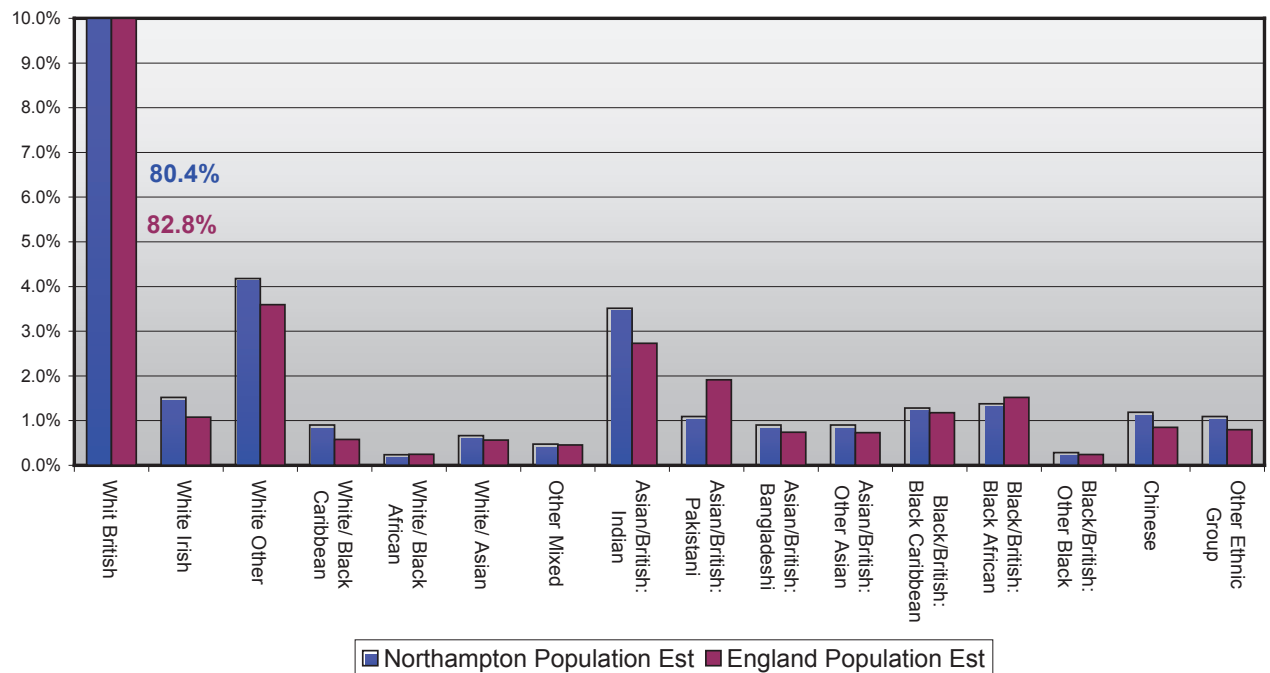


Northampton Population Estimates: Age (%) Male Vs Female

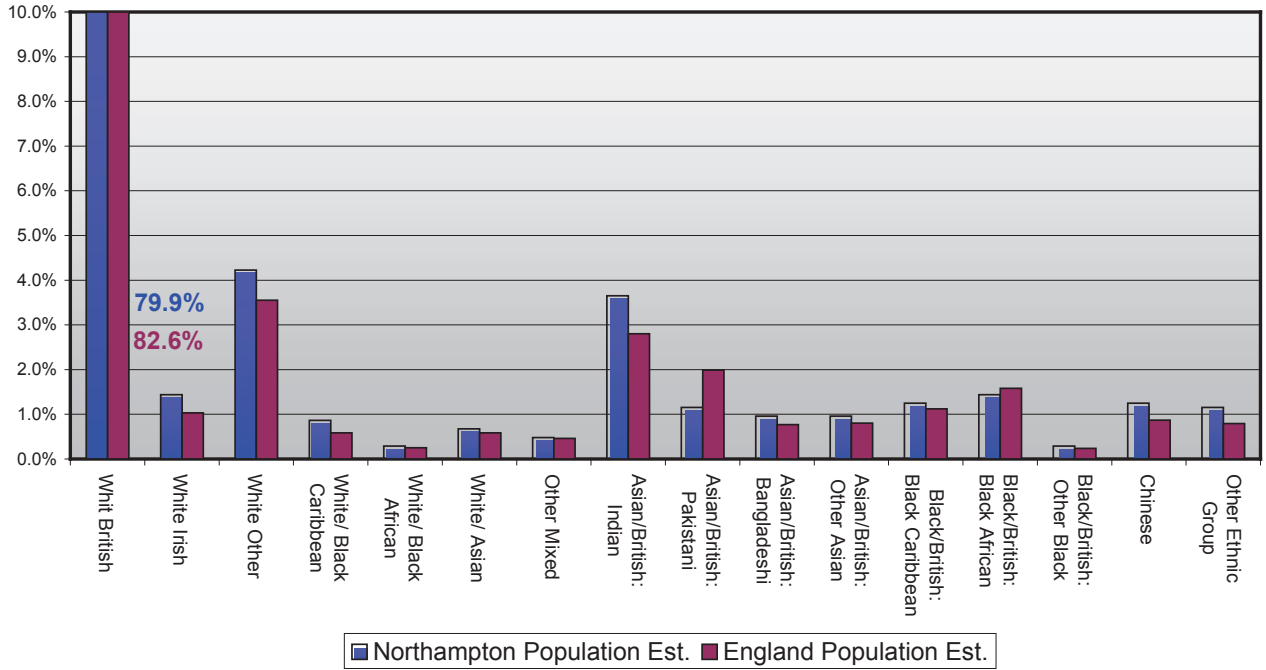


Population Data by Ethnicity Group

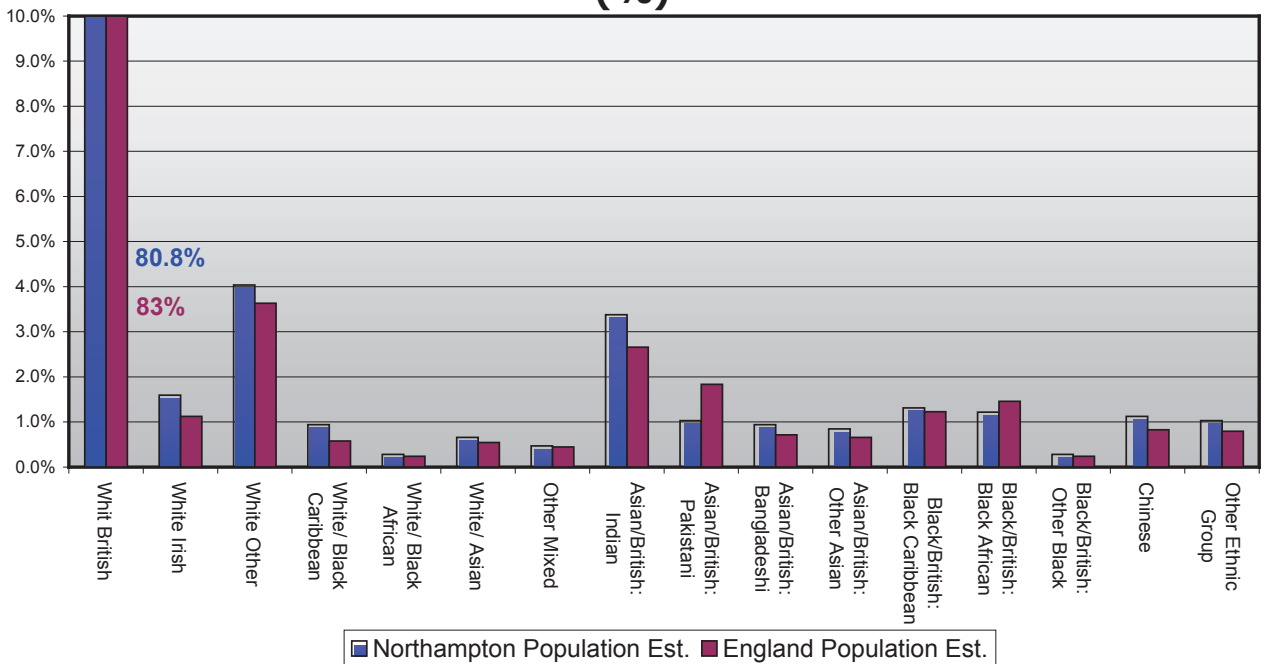
Northampton Population Estimates: Ethnicity (%)



Northampton Male Population Estimates: Ethnicity (%)

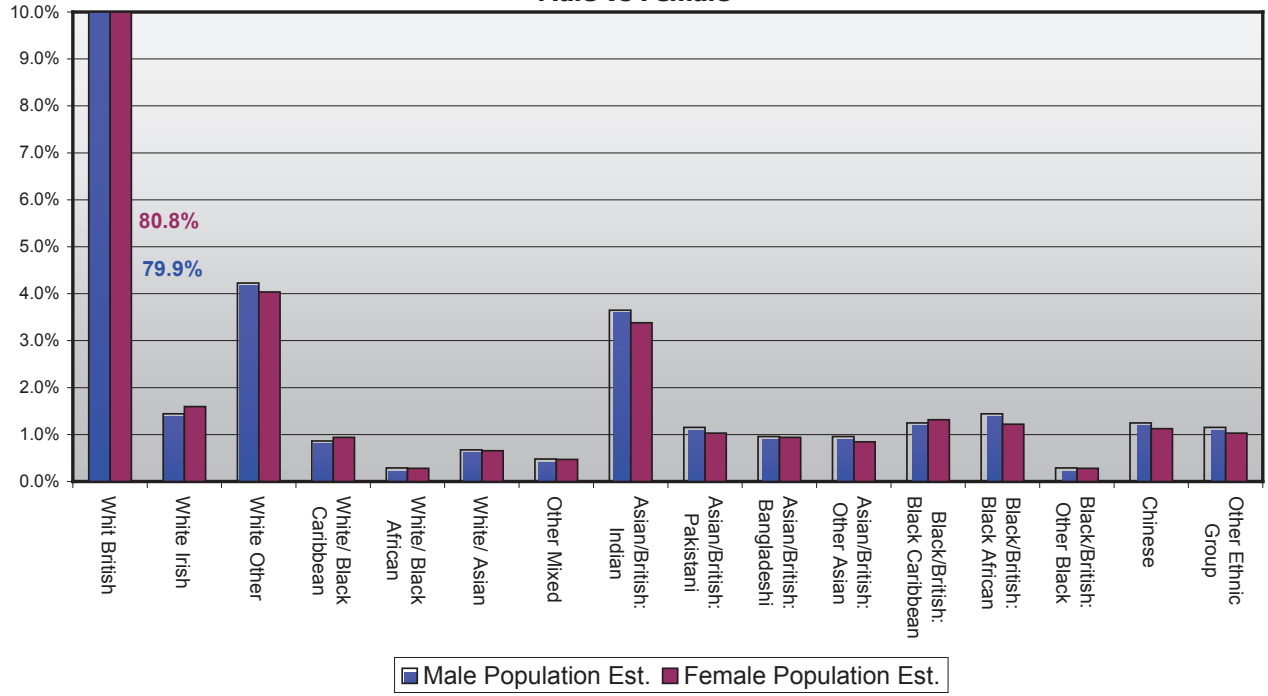


Northampton Female Population Estimates: Ethnicity (%)



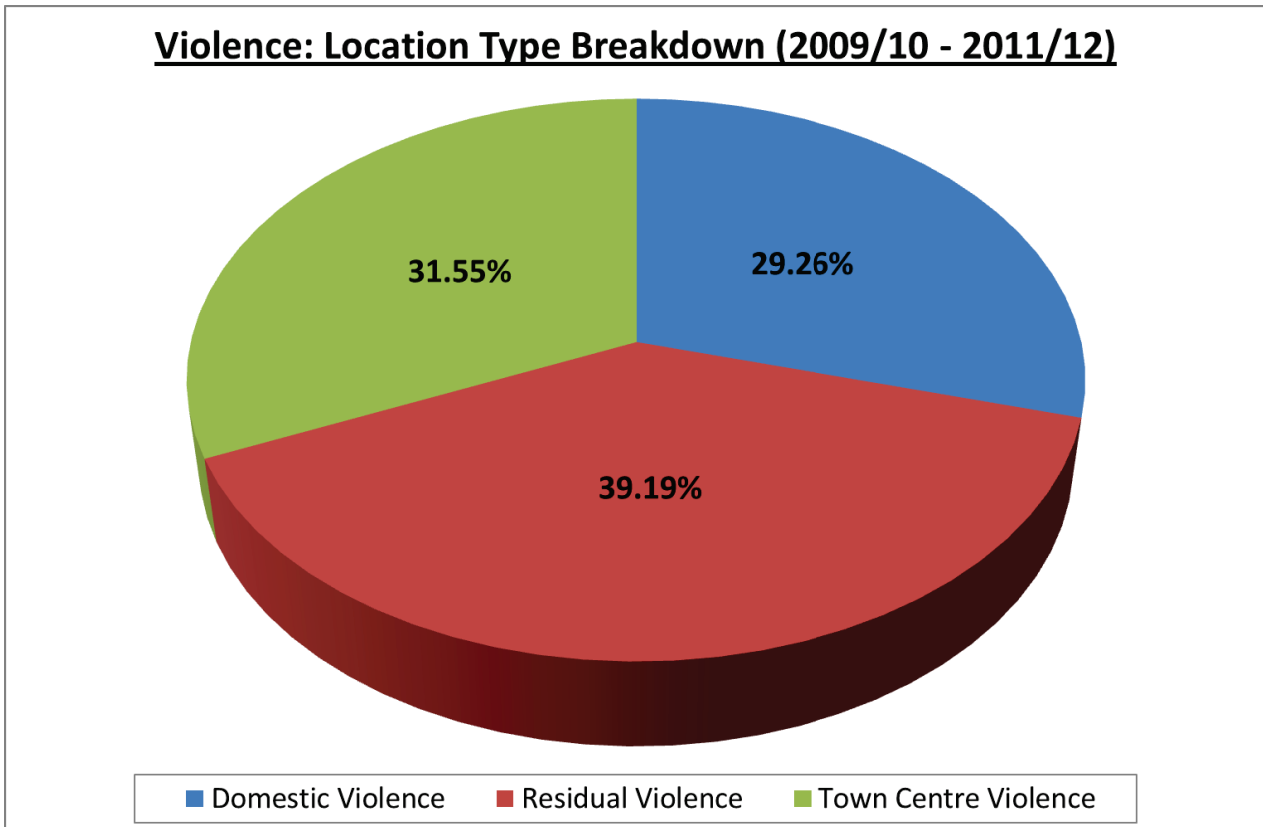
Northampton Population Estimates: Ethnicity (%)

Male Vs Female



The Breakdown of Violence Offences in Northampton by Location Type

The pie chart below show violence offences in Northampton during the past three years, broken down by location type.



The table below shows violence offences in Northampton by each of the last three years broken down by location type. The proportion of each location type has remained relatively stable during the past three years.

Location Type	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Domestic Violence	29.7%	29.2%	28.9%
Residual Violence	40.1%	37.6%	39.9%
Town Centre Violence	30.2%	33.2%	31.3%

Location Type	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Domestic Violence	1290	1252	1246
Residual Violence	1740	1612	1721
Town Centre Violence	1308	1426	1350



Please find enclosed supporting papers for **Scrutiny Panel 1 Serious Acquisitive Crime and Violent Crime/ Community Safety**.

Contents

- Serious Acquisitive Crime Problem Profile.

**Extracted from the 2012 Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.*

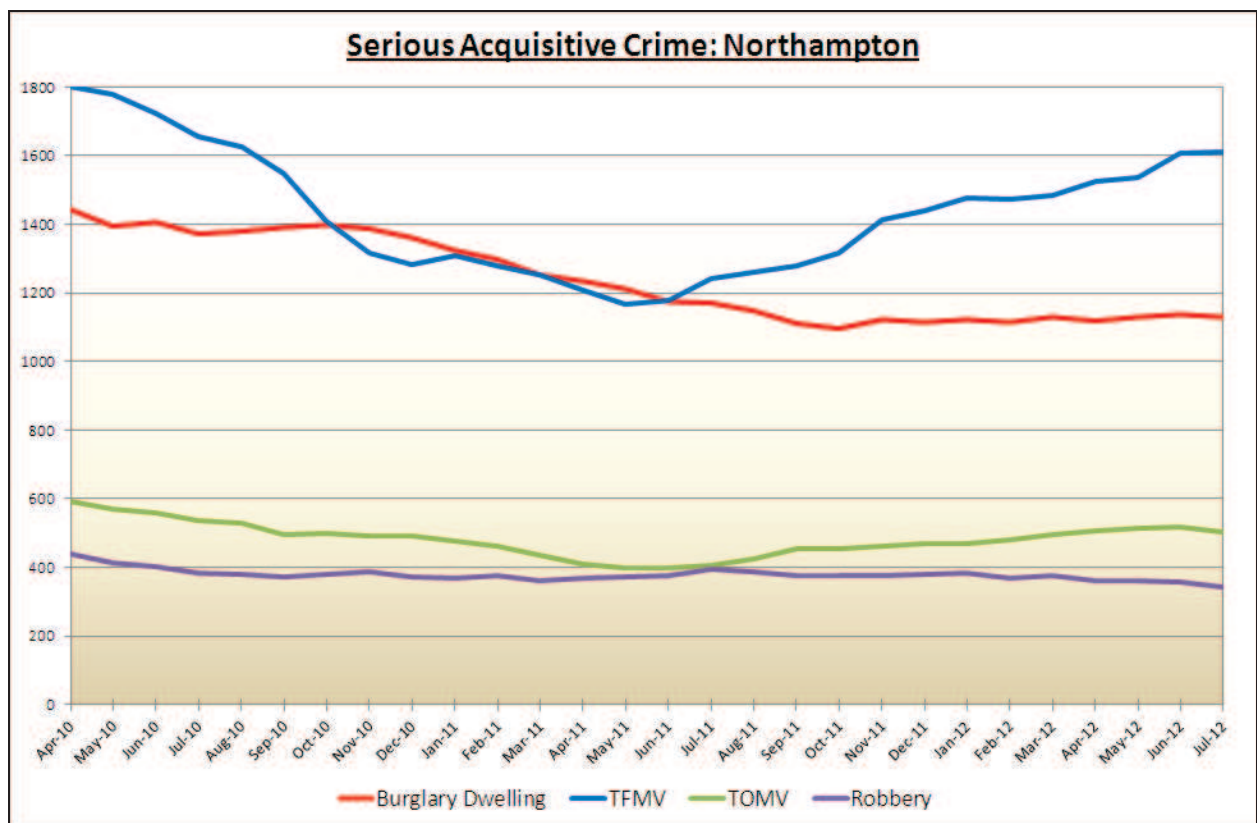
Members of the Panel

Chair	Councillor Danielle Stone
Deputy Chair	Councillor David Palethorpe
Panel Members	Councillor Michael Ford Councillor Brendan Glynane Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Christopher Malpas Councillor David Palethorpe Councillor Brian W Sargeant
Co-opted Member	Sharon Henley, Northamptonshire Police Chief Inspector Max Williams, Northants Police Neil Bartholomey, Chair Northampton Pub watch

Serious Acquisitive Crime: Northampton

Performance

SAC has been substantially reduced in Northampton over recent years (by 41.6% between Mar 2008 and Mar 2011); however since then SAC has steadily increased by 8.6%, resulting in the force not achieving similar reductions to recent years. As shown below, this is primarily due to poor performance in tackling vehicle crime (specifically thefts from vehicles) as burglary dwelling and robbery continues to be reduced.



Vehicle Crime

Performance

Over three years, vehicle crime has been reduced by 16.9% in Northampton; TFMV by 10.1% and TOMV by 33.1%. Conversely over the past 12 months this trend has reversed and Northampton has seen a 28.4% increase; TFMV by 29.8% and TOMV by 23.8%. This increase has also been seen across many areas of the county, resulting in 15% countywide increase in vehicle crime in the same period. Northampton has significantly contributed to this given it is the largest urban area of the county with the greatest volume of crime in general. Specifically, the south west sector has caused the greatest issue countywide. However, during 2012/13 vehicle crime performance has also waned in the North and Central sector.

Comparatively, Northampton sit 12th out of 15 when ranked against similar CSPs nationally for vehicle crime, this is a considerable drop from 12 months previous, when the CSP were placed 6th.

Contrastingly, the CSP are ranked 6th for TFMV. When compared to the county average, Northampton had 37.6% more vehicle crimes per population; this is across both TFMV and TOMV.

Thefts From Motor Vehicles

Locations

Shown below are the top LSOAs for TFMV in Northampton in the past 12 months and past three years. Whilst these areas are the most vulnerable to vehicle crime, they only account for around 12% of all TFMV. More generally, analysis shows that 25.3% of TFMV have occurred in Spencer, St James, Castle and St Crispins wards in the past 12 months. This is a slight shift from over a 3 year period, which highlighted Kingsley and Billing as the hotspot wards, not Spencer and St James.

NB: Ward descriptions are based upon ward boundaries used by Northants police, those used by NBC pre 2011 unless stated.

TFMV: AUG 2009 - JUL 2012				
LSOA	DESCRIPTIVE	WARD (Pre 2011/Post 2011)	COUNT	% OF ALL TFMV
E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre	Castle	157	4.1%
E01027237	Sixfields/ Weedon Rd	St James/ St James	100	2.6%
E01027140	Bellinge/ Billing Aquadrome	Billing	96	2.5%
E01027251	Upton	West Hunsbury/Upton	89	2.3%
E01027223	Town Centre/ NGH	St Crispin/ Castle	88	2.3%

TFMV: AUG 2011 - JUL 2012					
LSOA	DESCRIPTIVE	WARD (Pre 2011/Post 2011)	COUNT	% OF ALL TFMV	% CHANGE FROM PREV 12 MONTHS
E01027251	Upton	West Hunsbury/ Upton	44	2.8%	12.8%
E01027239	Spencer (Dallington)	Spencer/ Spencer	38	2.4%	58.3%
E01027237	Sixfields/ Weedon Rd	St James/ St James	34	2.2%	0.0%
E01027140	Bellinge/ Billing Aquadrome	Billing	32	2.0%	14.3%
E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre	Castle	32	2.0%	60.0%

Below is a breakdown of TFMV by sector, showing the proportion of Northampton's TFMV, the ward with greatest volume and LSOA with greatest volume within each sector. As shown, the South West sector accounts for the most TFMV in both the long and short term, this is expected due to the large geographical space it covers, however the proportion of TFMV in this sector has increased in the past 12 months.

TFMV: AUG 2011 - JUL 2012				
SECTOR	%	TOP WARD	TOP LSOA	
			CODE	DESCRIPTIVE
N'pton South West	35.7%	Spencer	E01027251	Upton
N'pton East	26.6%	Billing	E01027140	Bellinge/ Billing Aquadrome
N'pton North	24.6%	Kingsley	E01027191	Kingsthorpe Rd/ Queens Park
N'pton Central	13.1%	Castle	E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre

TFMV: AUG 2009 - JUL 2012				
SECTOR	%	TOP WARD	TOP LSOA	
			CODE	DESCRIPTIVE
N'pton South West	29.7%	St James	E01027237	Sixfields/ Weedon Rd
N'pton East	27.8%	Billing	E01027140	Bellinge/ Billing Aquadrome
N'pton North	25.4%	Kingsley	E01027191	Kingsthorpe Rd/ Queens Park
N'pton Central	17.1%	Castle	E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre

Items Stolen & MO Entry

The table below shows the top ten items stolen in the past 12 months. This has remained relatively unchanged during the past 3 years, excluding a reduction in CDs being stolen, presumably due to the introduction of MP3 car stereos and reduction in resalable value of CDs. The table also shows the % change compared to the prior 12 months, as there was a 36.6% increase in items stolen overall, anything above this indicates a notable increase. Cash stolen has increased significantly; however in only 25% of cases was this the only item stolen, therefore it is unclear whether this is what lured the offender to the vehicle or whether it was a by-product of targeting another item. The fact that all items which have increased >36.6% could be easily removed from the vehicle by the vehicle owner indicates more preventative action can be taken by potential victims to reduce risk of theft.

PROPERTY ITEM DESCRIPTION	COUNT	% OF ALL ITEMS STOLEN	% CHANGE FROM PREV 12 MONTHS
OTHER VEHICLES PARTS AND ACCESSORIES	312	9.4%	27.9%
SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEM (SAT NAV)	290	8.7%	31.2%
CASH	279	8.4%	136.4%
REGISTRATION PLATES	169	5.1%	8.3%
RADIO / CASS / CD / MP3 / DVD (ALL CAR STEREOs)	117	3.5%	-16.4%
MOBILE TELEPHONE	107	3.2%	81.4%
PAYMENT CARD (INC. CREDIT CARD/DEBIT CARD)	106	3.2%	63.1%
DRIVING LICENCE	90	2.7%	91.5%
WALLET	74	2.2%	131.3%
ELECTRIC/CORDLESS DRILLS	66	2.0%	65.0%

MO of entry to vehicles tends to be by breaking glass (46.3%) or vehicles left insecure (22.5%). These methods are increasing in use, indicating methods such as forcing locks or doors with instruments are becoming less successful.

Temporal Analysis

TFMV tend to occur between 22:00 – 06:00, this has remained relatively constant throughout the previous 3 years. These crimes occur every day of the week but show slightly greater risk on Saturdays. TFMV has peaked in April during the past 3 years and in November in 4 of the previous 5 years.

Victim Profiles

In the past 12 months, victims of TFMV were male 2/3rds of the time; the majority of victims were White British (69.3%), followed by Other White Background (12.4%). In broad terms, Asian ethnic

groups have been victimised on an increasing basis in the past 12 months (11.3% of victims, compared to 5% during the two years previous). The likelihood of victimisation considerably increases at the age of 20 and reduces at 44, accounting for 60% of all victims. When analysing the occupation of victims the most notable trend is the victimisation of taxi drivers. Taxi drivers account for 12.7% of all victims of TFMV and in the past 12 months victimisation of this group has increased by 458%.

Location & Vehicle Types

During the previous 3 years hatchbacks have accounted for 36.8% of all vehicles where items have been stolen, saloons and estates account for 24.1%, vans 16.4% and people carriers 5.9%. This has remained relatively constant during this period. Proportionately taxis/hackneys have seen the greatest increase in TFMVs during the past 12 months; however when this is analysed by volume, the vehicle types listed above account for the majority of the increase in this crime type and whilst it is important to tackle taxi-related thefts, it will not impact hugely on the overall volume of vehicle crime.

The majority of TFMV occur on the street (52.8%), secondly on driveways (22.3%) and thirdly on car parks/parking bays in residential estates (10.4%). The number of thefts occurring on driveways has considerably risen in the past 12 months (+103%, n = 181).

Thefts Of Motor Vehicles

Locations

Shown below are the top LSOAs for TOMV in Northampton in the past 12 months and past three years. This maps similarly to TFMV; with all but one LSOA, both long and short term, in the South West or Central Sector. More generally, analysis shows that 39.9% of all TOMV have occurred in Castle, St Crispin, St James, Spencer and Delapre in the past 3 years. This trend is more profound in the previous 12 months, with 46.9% of TOMV occurring within these wards.

NB: Ward descriptions are based upon ward boundaries used by Northants police, those used by NBC pre 2011 unless stated.

TOMV: AUG 2009 - JUL 2012				
LSOA	DESCRIPTIVE	WARD (Pre 2011/Post 2011)	COUNT	% OF ALL TOMV
E01027140	Bellinge/ Billing Aquadrome	Billing	39	2.7%
E01027157	Cotton End	Delapre/ Delapre & Briar Hill	38	2.6%
E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre	Castle	38	2.6%
E01027241	Spencer (South)	Spencer	35	2.4%
E01027238	St James Rd Area	St James	33	2.3%
E01027153	Barrack Rd/ Grafton St	Castle	33	2.3%

TOMV: AUG 2011 - JUL 2012					
LSOA	DESCRIPTIVE	WARD (Pre 2011/Post 2011)	COUNT	% OF ALL TOMV	% CHANGE FROM PREV 12 MONTHS
E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre	Castle	20	4.0%	100.0%
E01027237	Sixfields/ Weedon Rd	St James/ St James	15	3.0%	400.0%
E01027241	Spencer (South)	Spencer	14	2.8%	55.6%
E01027157	Cotton End	Delapre/ Delapre & Briar Hill	14	2.8%	55.6%
E01027238	St James Rd Area	St James	14	2.8%	133.3%
E01027153	Barrack Rd/ Grafton St	Castle	14	2.8%	55.6%

Below is a breakdown of TOMV by sector, showing the proportion of Northampton's TFMV, the ward with greatest volume and LSOA with greatest volume in each sector. As shown, the South West sector accounts for the most TFMV in both the long and short term, this is expected due to the large geographical space it covers, in general terms the locations correspond with top locations for TFMV.

TOMV: AUG 2011 - JUL 2012				
SECTOR	%	TOP WARD	TOP LSOA	
			CODE	DESCRIPTIVE
N'pton South West	34.7%	Spencer	E01027237	Sixfields/ Weedon Rd
N'pton East	24.0%	Lumbertubs	E01027151	Weston Favell Centre/ Lings
N'pton North	21.0%	Kingsley	E01027191	Kingsthorpe Rd/ Queens Park
N'pton Central	20.4%	Castle	E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre

TOMV: AUG 2009 - JUL 2012				
SECTOR	%	TOP WARD	TOP LSOA	
			CODE	DESCRIPTIVE
N'pton South West	35.4%	Spencer	E01027157	Cotton End
N'pton North	25.3%	Kingsley	E01027191	Kingsthorpe Rd/ Queens Park
N'pton East	22.8%	Billing	E01027140	Bellinge/ Billing Aquadrome
N'pton Central	16.4%	Castle	E01027150	Spring Boroughs/ Town Centre

Temporal Analysis

TOMV tend to occur between 19:00 – 09:00, with a particular spike between 22:00 and 02:00. However in the past 12 months there has emerged a greater likelihood of TOMVs occurring during the daytime. Specifically, a spike has emerged from 07:00 – 09:00.

TOMVs show equal risk throughout the week until Friday, which displays heightened risk. To a lesser extent, there is also a greater risk on Saturday/ Sunday.

TOMV have peaked during March, April and May for the past 5 years and, similarly to TFMV, has peaked in November in 4 of the past 5 years.

Victim Profiles

Males tend to be victims of TOMV more than females, accounting for 80%. Victims span relatively easily across all ages however there is a peak between 17 – 30 years old (38.3%), which has been more prominent in the past 12 months. As with most crime types, White British accounts for the majority of victims (68.2%) with Other White Background making up 15.7%.

Location & Vehicle Types

During the past 3 years 33.6% of stolen vehicles have been recorded as motorcycle/moped/scooter/quad, 24.2% of vehicles stolen have been hatchbacks, 16.5% saloons and 7.7% were vans. This has remained relatively constant during this period, although there has been a 69.6% increase in theft from vans, this accounts for 30.2% of the overall increase in TOMV.

TOMVs tend to occur in similar types of locations to TFMVs; on the street (55.5%), on the driveway (21.6%) and in car parks/parking bays (9.2%) in residential estates.

Burglary Dwelling

Performance

Similarly to countywide performance, burglary dwelling in Northampton is on a continuous downward trend, albeit reductions are smaller each year, as shown in the table below.

Whilst performance is strong in this crime type in the previous 5 years, Northampton still has 46.2% more crimes per population than the county average, however this is expected given it is the most urban area of the county.

When compared to most similar CSPs, Northampton is 9th out of 15 and has 12.1% less crimes per population than the average for MSG, this is a marked improvement compared to 3 years ago, when the partnership were 48.1% **above** average.

Locations

Shown below are the top LSOAs for burglary dwelling in Northampton in the past 12 months and past three years. All but one of the top areas in the past 12 months forms a strip of localities across the town centre from St James to Abington. More generally, analysis shows that 37.6% of dwelling burglaries have occurred in Spencer, St James, Castle and St Crispins and Abington wards in the past 12 months, corresponding with hotspots for vehicle crime. This is a slight shift from over a 3 year period, which highlighted Lumbertubs as a key ward for this crime type. The removal of this ward and Cotton end (at LSOA level) indicates a level of success from target hardening operations undertaken in recent years.

NB: Ward descriptions are based upon ward boundaries used by Northants police, those used by NBC pre 2011 unless stated.

Burglary Dwelling: AUG 2009 - JUL 2012				
LSOA	DESCRIPTIVE	WARD (Pre 2011/Post 2011)	COUNT	% OF ALL TFMV
E01027157	Cotton End	Delapre/ Delapre & Briar Hill	79	2.1%
E01027225	The Mounts (Colwyn Rd Area)	St Crispin/ Castle	60	1.6%
E01027198	Weston Favell Centre/ Lings	Lumbertubs/ Brookside	56	1.5%
E01027151	St James (Victoria Park)	St James	53	1.4%
E01027153	Barrack Rd/ Grafton St	Castle	53	1.4%

Burglary Dwelling: AUG 2011 - JUL 2012					
LSOA	DESCRIPTIVE	WARD (Pre 2011/Post 2011)	COUNT	% OF ALL TFMV	% CHANGE FROM PREV 12 MONTHS
E01027151	St James (Victoria Park)	St James	26	2.3%	85.7%
E01027226	Exter Place/ Artizan Rd	St Crispins/ Castle	25	2.2%	92.3%
E01027189	Kingsley Park	Kingsley	22	2.0%	100.0%
E01027241	Spencer (South)	Spencer	20	1.8%	66.7%
E01027153	Barrack Rd/ Grafton St	Castle	19	1.7%	11.8%
E01027136	Abington Ave Area	Abington	19	1.7%	26.6%
E01027133	Abington South (Barry Rd)	Abington	19	1.7%	171.4%
E01027233	Briar Hill (Hunsbarrow Rd)	Delapre/ Delapre & Briar Hill	19	1.7%	111.1%
E01027225	The Mounts (Colwyn Rd Area)	St Crispins/ Castle	19	1.7%	-13.6%

Below is a breakdown of burglary dwelling by sector, showing the proportion of Northampton's burglary dwelling, the ward with greatest volume and LSOA with greatest volume within each sector. As shown, the South West sector accounts for the most crimes but largely the split of crimes has remained relatively constant.

Burglary Dwelling: AUG 2011 - JUL 2012				
SECTOR	%	TOP WARD	TOP LSOA	
			CODE	DESCRIPTIVE
N'pton South West	33.6%	Spencer	E01027151	St James (Victoria Park)
N'pton East	27.9%	Abington	E01027136	Abington Ave Area
N'pton North	21.5%	Kingsley	E01027189	Kingsley Park
N'pton Central	17.1%	Castle	E01027226	Exter Place/ Artizan Rd

Burglary Dwelling: AUG 2009 - JUL 2012				
SECTOR	%	TOP WARD	TOP LSOA	
			CODE	DESCRIPTIVE
N'pton South West	29.7%	Spencer	E01027157	Cotton End
N'pton East	27.8%	Lumbertubs	E01027198	Weston Favell Centre/ Lings
N'pton North	25.4%	Kingsley	E01027189	Kingsley Park
N'pton Central	17.1%	Castle	E01027225	The Mounts (Colwyn Rd Area)

Temporal Analysis

Over the past 3 years burglary dwelling has peaked from 23:00 – 04:00, however a trend has emerged in the past 12 months showing greater risk during the daytime, with risk increasing as early as 14:00 and staying constant till 04:00, with a particular spike at 01:00 – 03:00. The days of the week when burglaries occur has also shifted; over 3 years Friday and Saturday are the peak days, whereas during the previous 12 months weekdays show almost as equal risk to Saturdays. Over the past 3 years, March and April have shown seasonal peaks, December has also suffered above average number of dwelling burglaries during the past 5 years.

MO Entry & Items Stolen & Property Types

The method of entry has remained relatively unchanged over the past 3 years, with one third of burglaries being due to insecurities. Forced with instrument has remained consistently second most common, with glass broken being 3rd most common, accounting for around 14.2%. It is also worth noting that end terrace houses are proportionately being increasingly targeted.

The most commonly stolen items have been laptop computers, cash, keys and games consoles throughout the past 3 years and this has remained constant. There has been a notable reduction in mobile phones and payment cards being stolen from properties, presumably due to these being useless once victims have notified their bank or service provider. Jewellery has been increasingly stolen, accounting for 17% of items stolen from homes in the past 12 months, compared to 11.1% in the same period 2 years prior.

Victim Profiles

74.2% of victims of burglary dwelling were White British with the second most common ethnicity being Other White Background (15%). The peak age of victims is 22 – 34 years old (32.3%) over the past 3 years, there is a slight increase in younger householders being victimised; this corresponds with a *slight* increase in student victims of burglary.

Overview & Scrutiny Panel 1

Victim & Offender Profile of Violent Crime By Location Type

The information provided below has been extracted from recent analytical documents completed by the CSP analyst to inform partnership delivery of activity to reduce violent crime in Northampton.

TOWN CENTRE VIOLENCE

**Extracted from 'Violence & Anti-Social Behaviour in the Town Centre during the Night Time Economy' (Oct 2011)*

**NB: The data below is taken from violence occurring between 18:00 – 06:00 only.*

Age

- Perpetrators of violent offences tend to be 18-24 years old (n = 404, 44.8%), this is also the case for the victims (n = 896, 41.8%).
- 30+ year olds account for 32.3% of all victims, in comparison to 25.5% of all recorded offenders.
- Under 18 year olds accounted for 10.2% of all recorded offender details. Whilst this isn't the highest proportion, it is of some concern given the age restrictions upon licensed premises.
- Of those offenders under 18 years old, 42.4% were female. This is particularly high when compared to 22.6% of violent offenders of all ages.

Gender

- The majority of both offenders (77.4%) and victims (63.7%) of town centre violence were male.
- A higher proportion of victims were female (36%) than female offenders (23%).
- Assault without injury accounted for a higher proportion of violence against women (32.2% of crimes) than it did for violence against any gender (22.9%).
- Actual bodily harm against females was proportionately similar than non gender-specific victimisation.

Ethnicity

- White British ethnicity represents the highest proportion of both victims (69.8%) and perpetrators (66.5%) of violent crime.
- Combined Asian victimisation rates (6.9%) are almost double that of Asian offender rates (3.5%).
- Of those offences involving an Asian victim, 26.3% are believed to be racially motivated, compared to 4.7% of *all* violence during the night time economy that was believed to be racially motivated.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Extracted from 'Non-town Centre & Domestic Violence Analysis' (Jun 2012)*

**AWI = Assault with injury. This report focused upon violence with injury rather than overall violence.*

Age

Victim rates for domestic AWI rises sharply from 16 to 19 and peaks at 19 – 27 (35.9%, n = 638), or more specifically, 19 – 23 (22.1%, n 393). Domestic violence offending tends to escalate rapidly at 18 years of age and the peak age of offenders is 20 – 28 years old (37%), this is inline with countywide trends.

Gender

Police data shows 79.1% (n = 1406) of victims were female, NGH A&E data indicates 52.4% of victims were female, this difference could be due to a wealth of factors (e.g. assaults on female's result in lesser injuries, female's less likely to seek medical help, victims providing false information at A&E reception). 86.4% of police recorded perpetrators of domestic assaults with injury were male. NGH A&E data indicates 72% of victims of home assaults were attacked by a male, 16.2% female, 3.8% both and in 8% of cases it was unknown.

Ethnicity

Victim's ethnicity is recorded as White British in 73.1% (n = 1285) of offences. The second most common ethnicity is Other White Background (13.2%, n = 232). Four of the next five ethnicity codes are black ethnicity types, all of which are disproportionately represented compared to general population estimates (cumulatively: 7.5% of offenders vs. 3.9% of population). The majority of perpetrators of domestic assaults with injury are White British (70.8%). 12% were of Other White Background, and Black ethnicity types (inc. Black & White Caribbean, Black & White African) are also disproportionately represented (11.7% recorded offenders vs 4.1% general population).

RESIDUAL VIOLENCE

**Extracted from 'Non-town Centre & Domestic Violence Analysis' (Jun 2012)*

**AWI = Assault with injury. This report focused upon violence with injury rather than overall violence.*

Age

Victims of residual AWI tend to be between 13 and 22 years old (36%, n = 838), there is a specific peak at 14 – 17 years old, accounting for 18% (n = 420) of all victims. The peak age of offenders is 13 – 21 years old (49.7%, n = 517). 35.3% (n = 367) were between 12 – 17 years old. This trend is more prominent when profiling female offenders only, 47.2% are between 14 – 20 years old.

Gender

68.9% of victims were male and the peak age range applies to both male and female victims. 74.4% of recorded offenders are male.

Ethnicity

The majority of victims are White British (76.6%, n = 1748). Other white background represented the second most frequently victimised ethnicity type (9.7%, n = 222). Black ethnicity types (Caribbean, African, Black Other) are also disproportionately victimised (5.1% of victims vs. 2.6% of population) as well as Other Asian Background.

75.6% of recorded offenders are White British. Similarly to the victim profile, Other White Background represents the second highest proportion (5.6%). Black Caribbean and White & Black Caribbean are disproportionately represented (combined: 7.8% of recorded offenders vs. 2.2% of general population).

Ethnicity Profile Northampton Population

United Kingdom	83.6%
England	80.9%
Northern Ireland	0.5%
Scotland	1.4%
Wales	0.8%

Africa	3.6%
Zimbabwe	0.6%
Nigeria	0.5%
Somalia	0.5%
Other South or Eastern African Countries	0.5%
Kenya	0.4%
South Africa	0.4%
Ghana	0.3%
Other Central or Western Africa Countries	0.2%
North Africa	0.1%
Unspecified	0.1%

The Americas & Caribbean	1.1%
Jamaica	0.4%
Other Caribbean Countries	0.3%
United States	0.2%
Other North American Countries	0.1%
South American Countries	0.1%
Central American Countries	0.0%

Antarctica and Oceania	0.2%
Australasia	0.2%

Europe	7.5%
Poland	2.6%
Ireland	1.1%
Other EU accession countries	1.0%
Germany	0.5%
Lithuania	0.5%
Romania	0.5%
Other non-EU European countries	0.4%
Other EU member countries in March 2001	0.3%
Italy	0.2%
France	0.1%
Portugal	0.1%
Spain (including Canary Islands)	0.1%
Turkey	0.1%

Middle East & Asia	3.9%
India	1.2%
Bangladesh	0.7%
Pakistan	0.4%
Other South-East Asian Countries	0.4%
China	0.3%
Other Middle Eastern Countries	0.2%
Hong Kong	0.2%
Iran	0.1%
Other Eastern Asian Countries	0.1%
Sri Lanka	0.1%
Other Southern Asian Countries	0.1%
Philippines	0.1%

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Panel 1 – Serious Acquisitive Crime & Violent Crime and Community Safety

CORE QUESTIONS – TO ALL EXPERT WITNESSES

Serious Acquisitive Crime

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to address/tackle issues of Serious Acquisitive Crime (burglary, robbery, theft from/theft of a vehicle)?

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to **prevent** issues of Serious Acquisitive Crime (burglary, robbery, theft from/theft of a vehicle)?

What do you see as the main issues and barriers to successfully addressing Serious Acquisitive Crime within the borough of Northampton?

What activity do you undertake in partnership with other organisations/ departments to tackle issues of Serious Acquisitive Crime within the borough of Northampton?

How can Northampton Borough Council further help your organisation to tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime and address any barriers, in order to achieve positive reductions?

What do you see the role of the Police Crime Commissioner to be in preventing and tackling serious acquisitive crime and violent crime?

Violent Crime

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to address/tackle issues of violent crime?

What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to **prevent** issues of violent crime?

What do you see as the main issues and barriers to successfully addressing Violent Crime within the borough of Northampton?

What activity do you undertake in partnership with other organisations/ departments to tackle issues of Violent Crime within the borough of Northampton?

How can Northampton Borough Council further help your organisation to tackle Violent Crime, and address any barriers in order to achieve positive reductions?



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 April 2013

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – RETAIL EXPERIENCE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a further evidence gathering meeting of Scrutiny Panel 2 (Retail Experience) has taken place.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting held on 14 February 2013, the Panel received information from a variety of key expert advisors.
- 2.2 A report from a Panel member on his site visit to the Grosvenor Centre, Northampton was received.
- 2.3 A meeting of the Panel is scheduled for 9 May 2013. The Panel will agree its report for presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2013.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the progress report from the Chair of Scrutiny Panel 2 be noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Matt Lynch, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Retail Experience

5 March 2013



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 April 2013

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, there has been a further evidence gathering meeting of the Panel.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting held on 7 March 2013 the Panel received responses to its core questions from various key advisors.
- 2.2 Further background data was presented to the meeting to inform the evidence base.
- 2.3 Prior to the meeting on 7 March, the Panel received a very informative presentation from Officers of Huntingdonshire District Council on its CIL process – “CIL in practice – A Local Authority perspective.”
- 2.4 It is anticipated that the Chair of Scrutiny Panel 3 will present the final report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the summer 2013

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the progress report from the Chair of Scrutiny Panel 3 be noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Phil Larratt, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3 – Section 106 Agreements and Infrastructure Requirements

8 March 2013

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny

Report of the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Scrutiny Inquiry

March 2013

1 Purpose

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28 May 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Scrutiny Inquiry to undertake pre-decision of the preparation of the outline business plan with regard to some services of this Council being undertaken by LGSS.
- 1.2 It was agreed, early into the work of the Inquiry, that there was a need to revise the terms of reference, as its role had become that of monitoring and informing. The terms of reference was updated to read “to consider the LGSS high-level risks set out below and to seek evidence of mitigation of those risks:
- That the LGSS may not achieve value for money
 - That the Borough Council may enter into an arrangement that restricts options for the future
 - That the Borough Council may be unable to achieve its 2013/14 budget gap
 - A reduced ability to react to change and priorities”
- 1.3 The purpose of the meetings of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry was to:-
- Help elected Members understand the process of engaging with LGSS and the legal framework around the engagement.
 - Enable elected Members to meaningfully challenge the rigour and robustness of the process.
 - Allow elected Members to form a view as to whether or not the process was likely to secure an arrangement which would deliver improvement, efficiency savings and best value in relation to services in scope.
- 1.4 The Scrutiny Panel dedicated a number of its meetings looking at service specifications for the Services transferring to LGSS.

2 Background and Context

Governance structure for the operation of Scrutiny Inquiries

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Inquiry operated in accordance with the [Scrutiny Inquiry Protocol](#). Scrutiny Inquiries operate on a relatively informal basis in the sense that they are a forum for adding scrutiny input into a review or issue that is currently being worked on by Officers within the Council. Scrutiny Inquiries have no delegated powers. Meetings of Scrutiny Inquiries are less

formal than meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels and are not held in public session. Meetings of a Scrutiny Inquiry require an approach that allows all Members of the Scrutiny Inquiry to participate fully, and incorporates questioning and discussion with Officers. Informal ways of working are to be encouraged.

- 2.2 The Lead Councillor for the Scrutiny Inquiry has a role to make sure that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are kept informed regarding progress of tasks through regular progress reports.
- 2.3 Membership of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry comprised Councillor Les Marriott (Chair); Councillors Brendan Glynane, Jamie Lane, Christopher Malpas and Danielle Stone.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Inquiry commenced in July 2012, concluding in March 2013.

Governance Structure - LGSS

- 2.5 Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils created LGSS in July 2010. A Joint Committee is established with the aim of looking at the functions, responsibilities and provision of shared services in order to make efficiency savings.
- 2.6 The Governance structure of LGSS is : -
 - Member Panel
 - Northampton Borough Council (NBC) Programme Board
 - NBC/LGSS Project Team
 - NBC/LGSS Steering Group
- 2.7 The Project is managed internally at both Member and Officer level.
- 2.8 LGSS operates a Joint Committee model. Key features of the model:
 - Joint Committee comprised of three members of each Council
 - Meets at least once every quarter
 - The Councils have delegated relevant functions to the Joint Committee who have responsibility for the overall management of the Shared Service
 - Reporting to the Joint committee is a unified management team comprising of four Service Directors and one Managing Director

3 Information gathering

3.1 Comprehensive details about the transfer of a number of Council services to LGSS were received over a series of meetings. Attached at Appendix A are details of the meetings of the Scrutiny Inquiry held, together with subject area discussed at each meeting.

3.2 Director of Finance

3.2.1 Salient points:

3.2.1.1 Background data

- Project Governance Structures
- LGSS Governance Structures
- Programme Governance
- LGSS Membership Categories
- Key Objectives
- Scope
- Project Plan
- High Level Risk Register
- Terms of reference and the mitigating actions following the completion of the Outline Business Case (OBC) for some Council Services being delivered by LGSS

3.2.1.2 Review of LGSS Savings by Service Areas

3.2.1.2.1 Transition costs will be incurred in the first two years of £136,000 and £72,000 respectively; taking account of these costs estimated savings to NBC at the end of 2017/18 will be £3 644m.

3.2.1.2.2 The LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry noted that any potential reduction in savings (as yet to be finalised) from the budget 2013/2014 in respect of the delay in entering into an agreement with LGSS from 1 April 2013 to 1 May 2013, provision has been made in reserves by the Director of Resources.

3.2.1.3 Service Specifications – Service Level Agreements

3.2.1.3.1 Details of the service specifications for the Services transferring to LGSS were provided to the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry:

- ICT Service
- Revenue and Benefits

- Human Resources, organisational development, recruitment, payroll and business improvement
- Finance, Procurement and Insurance Services
- Legal Services

3.2.1.4 Risk Register

3.2.1.4.1 The Risk Register for the transfer of services to LGSS was provided at the last evidence gathering meeting of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry. Attached at Appendix B is graphical risk trend data.

3.2.1.5 Progress Reports

3.2.1.5.1 Progress reports were presented to each meeting of the Scrutiny Inquiry.

3.2.2 Director, People, Places and Transformations, LGSS

3.2.2.1 The Director of People, Places and Transformations, LGSS, gave a presentation on the current position regarding LGSS and the work that was still to be undertaken to the meeting on 5 December 2012.

3.2.3 Managing Director, LGSS

3.2.3.1 The Scrutiny Inquiry met with the Managing Director, LGSS, at its meeting on 14 March 2013.

4 Conclusions

4.1 The Scrutiny Inquiry received assurances that LGSS will provide the same service that is currently provided, as a minimum. No evidence was provided to the contrary.

4.2 The Scrutiny Inquiry is satisfied that there will be efficiency savings through the transfer to LGSS. It also noted that full scrutiny has taken place during meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group.

4.3 With regard to best value, in relation to services in the scope, the Scrutiny Inquiry has confidence in the advice, understanding and information provided by expert Officers of NBC and the assurances provided by Officers of LGSS; in line with the outline business case.

- 4.4 The Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry ensured that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was updated on the progress of the project by providing reports to each meeting.
- 4.5 All Councillors were invited to attend meetings of the Scrutiny Inquiry.
- 4.6 The role of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry is now concluded. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue the monitoring function by receiving regular update reports to its meetings.

Report Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Les Marriott, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 March 2013

Schedule of meetings of the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Scrutiny Inquiry

5 July 2012

Terms of Reference of the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) Scrutiny Inquiry
LGSS Governance Structure and the roles of the different bodies

30 July 2012

Background information - LGSS:

- Scope
- Key objectives
- Membership
- LGSS Governance Structure
- Programme Governance Structures

Terms of Reference of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry

31 October 2012

Revised Terms of Reference of the LGSS Scrutiny Inquiry
Outline Business Case:

- Scope
- Cashable savings
- Impact on residual services as a result of support services being delivered by LGSS
- Non-cashable savings
- Employment model

6 December 2012

Director, People, Places and Transformations, LGSS – presentation on the current position regarding LGSS and the work that was still to be undertaken

Progress report

20 December 2012

Review of LGSS savings by service
Onboarding:

- Governance
- Service packs

TUPE update

Delegation Agreement – update

23 January 2013

ICT Service Specification – Service Level Agreement
General update

7 February 2013

Revenues and Benefits Service Specification – Service Level Agreement
Human Resources Service Specification – Service Level Agreement
General update

21 February 2013

Human Resources, Organisational Development and Recruitment and Business Improvement Service - Presentation on the service area and potential changes as a result of LGSS

28 February 2013

Revenues and Benefits Service – Presentation on the Revenues and Benefits Service
General update

6 March 2013

Finance, Procurement and Insurance Services - Presentation on the Finance, Procurement and Insurance Services

14 March 2013

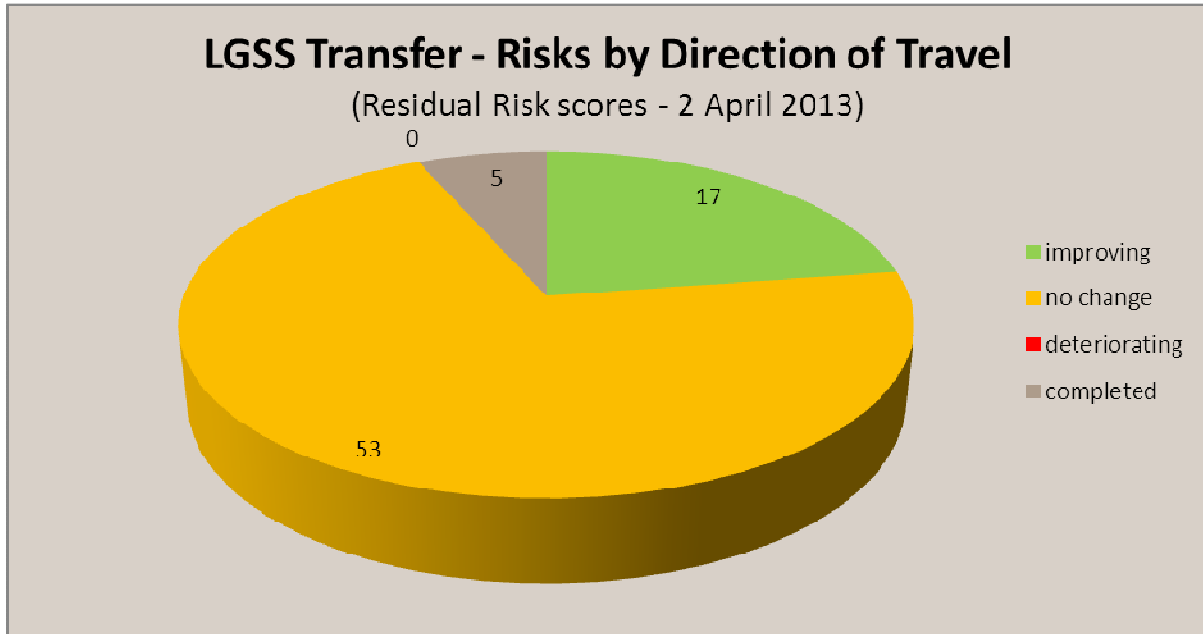
Managing Director, LGSS was introduced to the Panel
Legal Services – Presentation on Legal Services
Delegation Agreement

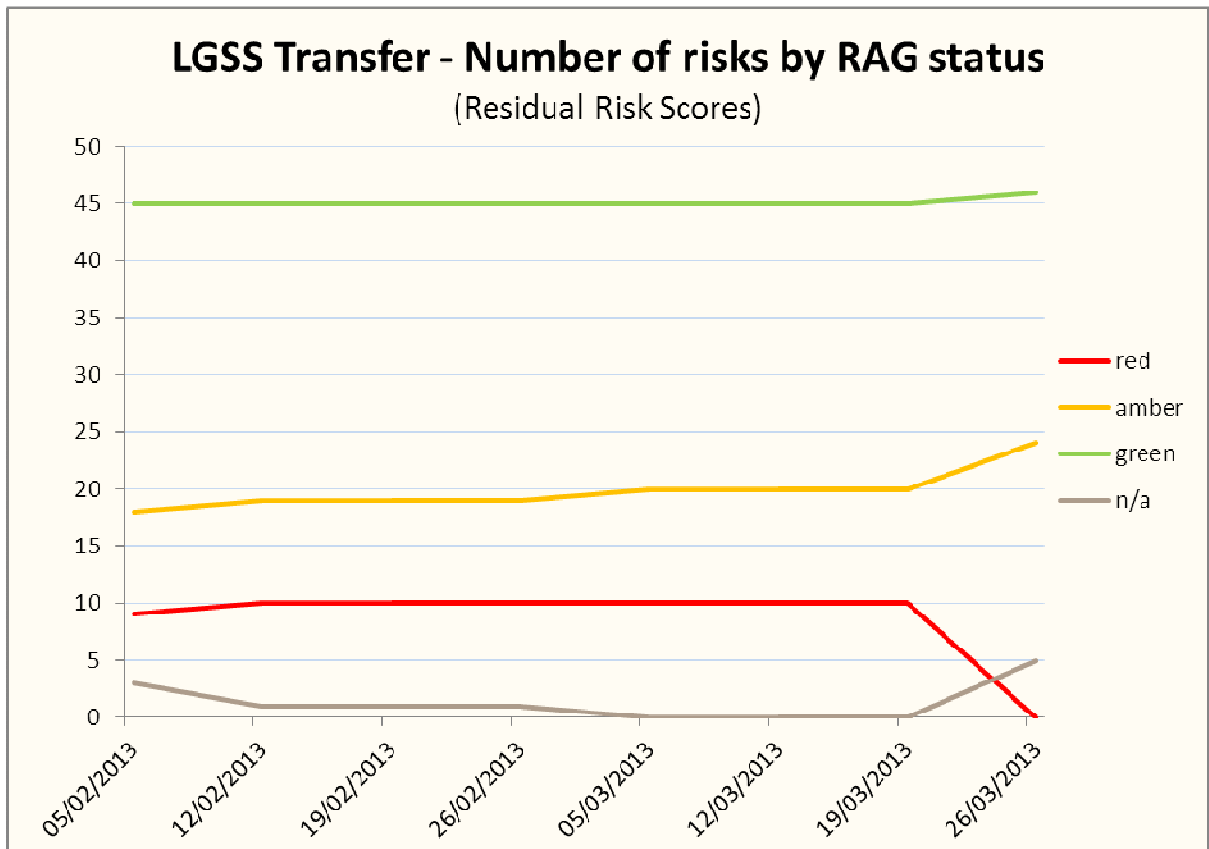
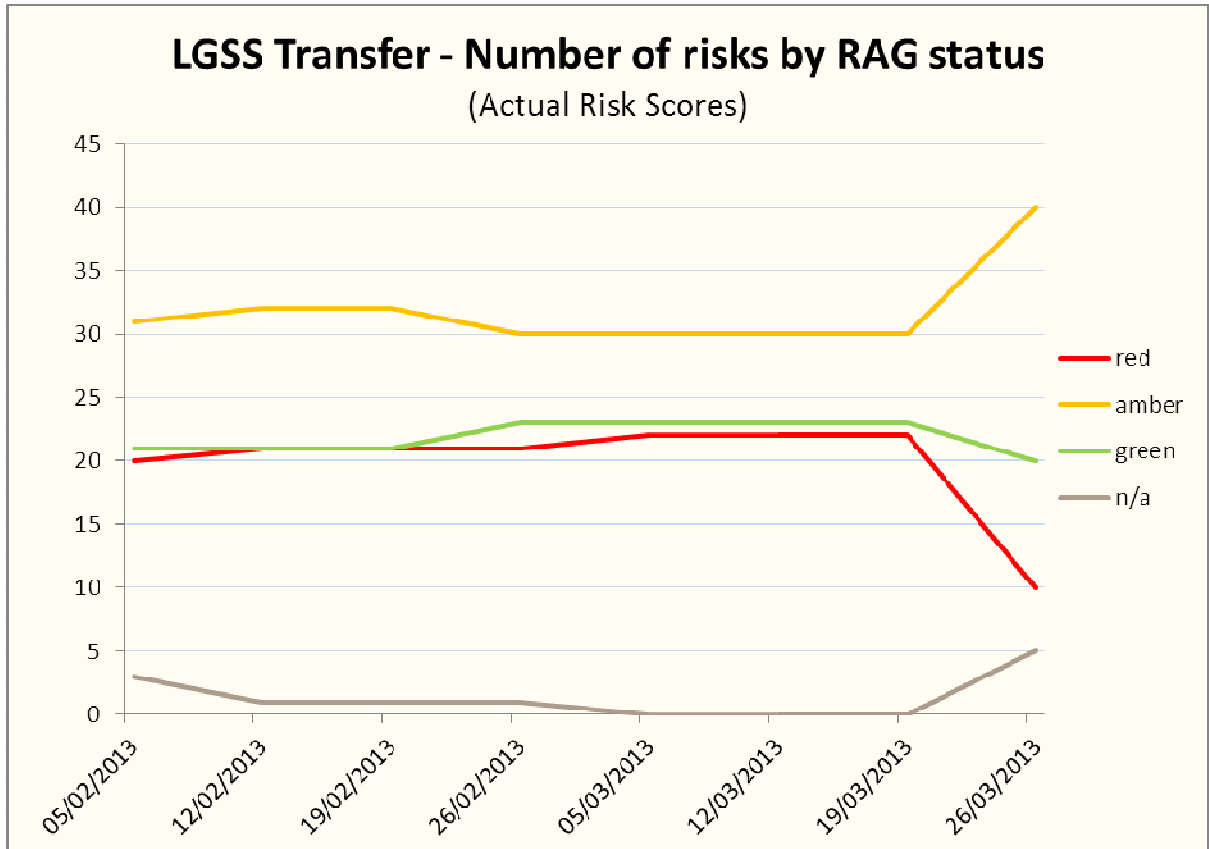
20 March 2013

Risk Register

LGSS Transfer – NBC Risk Register Analysis

2nd April 2013





Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2013

Briefing Note: Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) and the Care and Quality Commission (CQC) Action Learning Set (ALS)

1 Background

1.1 Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the relationship with District Councillors

1.1.1 A Project is underway, hosted by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), together with a number of Local Authorities:

- Northampton Borough Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Warwick District Council
- Dacorum Borough Council
- Test Valley Borough Council

1.1.2 The CQC is keen to explore developing relationships with district and borough councils which is the main aim of this project. Therefore an Action Learning Set (ALS) comprising the above Local Authorities was formed.

1.1.3 The Action Learning Set (ALS) comprises Councillors and Scrutiny Officers. Councillor Danielle Stone, NBC's representative to NCC's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, and Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, are members of the ALS.

2 Roles and responsibilities of the CQC

2.1 The CQC regulates all health and adult social care services in England, including those provided by the NHS, local authorities, private companies or voluntary organisations. It also protects the interests of people detained under the Mental Health Act.

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Northampton Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.2 The CQC makes sure that essential standards of quality and safety are being met where care is provided, from hospitals to private care homes. It has a wide range of enforcement powers to take action on behalf of people who use services if services are unacceptably poor.
- 2.3 The CQC's aim is to make sure better care is provided for everyone, whether that's in hospital, in care homes, in people's own homes or elsewhere.

3 Outcomes from the Project

- 3.1 A main aim of the Project is the production of a document that details the relationship between district councils and the CQC. The document will be drafted shortly.
- 3.2 An action from the ALS was for Northampton to host a briefing session for Northants and neighbouring Authorities about the work of the CQC and how district Councils can link in. The Chair of the Councillor Development Group has given his approval for this session to be included in the Councillor Development Programme 2013/2014.
- 3.3 So that the session takes into account Councillors' current knowledge of the CQC some short questions have been compiled and were circulated to Councillors.
- 3.4 It is possible that subject to funding, the Project will continue its work in 2013/14 and should this be agreed, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be informed.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 That the update be noted.
- 4.2 That, when published a copy of the document produced by the ALS be circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the link included on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#).

Brief Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Danielle Stone

8 March 2013

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Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2013

Briefing Note: Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee

1 Background

- 1.1 Councillor Danielle Stone is Northampton Borough Council's representative to Northamptonshire County Council's (NCC) Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 A meeting of NCC's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee was held on
- 1.3 As reported to previous meetings, the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising and reviewing issues and services relating to:
 - health care;
 - adult social care; and
 - adult and community learning.

2 Update

- 2.1 Details of the main issues discussed at the meeting held on 27 February 2013 are detailed below:
- 2.2 The agenda comprised the following items:

Joint Working Arrangements between Northampton General Hospital (NGH) & Kettering General Hospital (KGH)

The Committee received a verbal update on the proposed joint working arrangements between the two hospitals.

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Northampton Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny

NHS Nene Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Integrated Delivery Plan 2013/14

The Committee received a presentation on the Nene CCG Commissioning Integrated Delivery Plan 2013/14.

Health & Well-Being Board

The Committee received a verbal update on the progress in development of the Health & Well-Being Board.

Healthwatch Northamptonshire

An update on the progress in development of Healthwatch Northamptonshire was provided to the Committee.

Public Health – Transition of responsibility to Northamptonshire County Council

An update on progress on the transition of responsibility of public health to Northamptonshire County Council was given to the Committee.

The Francis Report into the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Trust

The Committee received a verbal update on the potential implications for future performance monitoring by NCC of the forthcoming Francis Report into the Mid-Staffordshire NHS Trust.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 That the update is noted.
- 3.2 That regular updates of the work of Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee be provided by Councillor Danielle Stone to this Committee.
- 3.3 The next meeting of Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 5 June 2013 commencing at 10:00am.

Brief Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Danielle Stone

8 April 2013

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Northampton Borough Council

(Section 5 & 9 of The Local Authorities – (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012)

Decision Maker: Cabinet

Directorate:	Customers and Communities
Report of:	Director of Customers and Communities
Public or Private	PUBLIC
Expected Date of Decision:	8 May 2013
Title of Expected Decision	Delapre Abbey - Round 2 Heritage Lottery Fund Submission
Record of the expected decision to be made:	Approval to submit an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a grant of £3.575m for the restoration of Delapre Abbey.

Directorate:	Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Report of:	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Public or Private	PUBLIC
Expected Date of Decision:	8 May 2013
Title of Expected Decision	Billing Arbours House - proposed disposal
Record of the expected decision to be made:	Approval in principle to freehold disposal of buildings and land.

Where indicated a decision or part of a decision may be made in Private – details regarding this can be found by [clicking here](#). Anyone wishing to make representations that this matter should be discussed in public, should do so by not later than 12 Calendar Days prior to the meeting, using the details below:
The Monitoring Officer c/o The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE or
email: democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk