

# NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



## COUNCIL

Monday, 28 October 2013

**YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2013 AT 6:30 PM WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED**

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2. MINUTES.**

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (Copy herewith)

**3. APOLOGIES.**

**4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS**

**6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A copy of the questions asked and answers tabled is attached.

**7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS**

(Copy herewith)

**8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS**

Councillor Mason to make a statement on "Housing and Welfare Changes."

**9. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE PLACES AND CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS**

(Copy herewith)

**10. NOMINATION TO NORTHAMPTON HOPE CENTRE**

(Copy herewith)

**11. PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT NORTHAMPTON NORTH SUE, LAND OFF A43 KETTERING ROAD**

(Copy herewith)

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

1) Councillor Mackintosh to propose and Councillor Hadland to second:

“Council welcomes the announcement that Cosworth Engineering is planning to build a new Centre of Excellence in Northampton, creating around 70 new jobs and up to 200 additional jobs for their suppliers.

The announcement is further evidence that, through the Northampton Alive programme, an increasing number of firms see Northampton as the perfect place to invest and do business.

Next year will mark Cosworth’s 50th anniversary in the Borough, and this Council notes the positive contribution this prestigious company has made to our local economy, and its commitment to our towns future.”

2) Councillor Glynane to propose and Councillor Conroy to second:

“Council Notes that:

- The recent commitment by the Government to maintain the existing post office network and to invest £1.34m in the service will mean that none of the current offices across Northampton will face programs of closure.
- Government is now looking at rolling out the trial scheme championed by Sheffield City Council and the National Federation of Sub Postmasters. This scheme established the scope to deliver a wide range of Public Services through local Post Offices thus underpinning their viability as a key community resource.

Council therefore resolves:

- To confirm its support for local Post Offices and to recognise the key part they play in communities across the district and
- To ask the Chief Executive to examine the Sheffield trial scheme and report back to Council on how our services could be delivered through the Post Office network across the district thus improving their viability and bringing our services closer to local communities.”

3) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Glynane to second:

“Council notes that:

- We are not building enough homes in England.
- Rising house prices mean the dream of home ownership is beyond the reach of millions and the size of a mortgage deposit alone stops many would-be first-time buyers from getting on the housing ladder.
- More and more people are therefore being pushed into the private rented sector and as demand rises there, so too do the rents.
- One in 12 families in England is now on a social housing waiting list.
- The average house price in the East Midlands is over £161,000 – over 8 times the average household income in the region.

Council believes that:

- We need to build more of the right homes, in the right place, at the right place.
- Too often private developers try and force high density housing on huge sites that will cripple local infrastructure, causing vast public opposition to the idea of increasing the housing supply.
- All too often the people who actually need homes are missing from local debates.
- Councils need to take an active role in making the case for building more homes locally in a sensible, sustainable manner that is beneficial for communities as well as individuals.

Council resolves to:

- Support the Yes to Homes campaign and commits to increasing the delivery of the right homes, in the right place, at the right price in Northampton.
- Organise Housing Hearings to help local people, community groups and businesses to give evidence on the need for more homes, and will report the finding of these hearing to this council meeting.
- Work with Yes to Homes supporters, local groups and organisations to actively make the case for new homes and explain the benefits of new homes for the whole community.
- Investigate the reasons why people object to new homes and will produce a strategy for removing or mitigating these concerns.

Further resolves to:

- Inform local people through local media of this decision.

- Write to local MPs, informing them of this decision.”

4) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Wire DL to second:

“This Council welcomes the UK-wide campaign to end ‘legal loan sharking’.

This Council believes that the lack of access to affordable credit is socially and economically damaging. Unaffordable credit is causing a myriad of unwanted effects such as poorer diets, colder homes, rent, council tax and utility arrears, depression (which impacts on job seeking behaviour) and poor health.

This Council further believes that unaffordable credit is extracting wealth from the most deprived communities.

This Council notes it is the responsibility of all levels of government to try to ensure affordable credit for all, and therefore pledges to use best practice to promote financial literacy and affordable lending in Northampton. This will help to ensure that wealth stays in the local economy. This Council also pledges to promote based community organisations offering access to affordable credit, like Northampton Credit Union, and promoting saving in our town.

This Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Secretary of State saying this Council calls on the government to introduce caps on the total lending rates that can be charged for providing credit. In addition, this council calls on central government to give local authorities the power to veto licences for high street credit agencies where they could have negative economic or social impacts on communities.”

5) Proposed by Councillor Gowen and seconded by Councillor Mason:

“This council believes that empty properties that could be made habitable for housing should be logged with a property street doctor. There is a national empty property doctor.

This Council proposes to set up a local one on line to encourage people to log local empty properties near them.

This Council will plan for bringing a percentage back into use every year either through negotiations with landlords or by CPOs.”

6) proposed by Councillor Mason and seconded by Councillor Palethorpe:

“This council believes it is unacceptable to have families living in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 weeks. This council also believes that all emergency accommodation needs to be registered, risk assessed and visited on a regular basis to ensure basic standards are met and maintained.

This Council will ensure, whenever possible, families are placed in emergency accommodation near to their wider family, friends and the children’s schools to ensure the best outcomes for all.”

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

## **Public Participation**

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

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

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

#### **NOTES**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **NOTES**

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

### **3. Motions**

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

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

#### 4. General

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

#### 5. Contacts

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

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