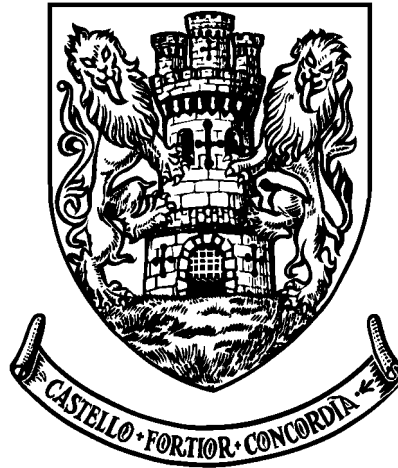


NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



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 16th 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 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

Tel 01604 837722

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

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 16 September 2013 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Marriott (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Caswell, Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Capstick, I. Choudary, N Choudary, Duncan, Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Ford, Glynane, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Palethorpe, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Stone, Strachan, Wire DL and Yates

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eales declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motion vi) – as a Royal Mail employee and would not therefore take part in the debate or vote. The Motion would be proposed by Councillor Stone and seconded by Councillor Palethorpe and this had been duly notified in writing to the Chief Executive prior to the meeting

Councillor Stone declared a personal interest in Motion vi) as a shareholder in Royal Mail

Councillor Capstick declared a personal interest in Motion vi) as a shareholder in Royal Mail

Councillor Wire declared a personal interest in Motion vi) as a shareholder in Royal Mail

Councillor Palethorpe declared a personal interest in Motion vi) as a shareholder in Royal Mail

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th July 2013 were agreed and signed by the Mayor

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Beardsworth, Mason, Gowen, Subbarayan, Golby, Davies, Hill and Conroy.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that the forthcoming civic ceremonies which included a reception for the Northamptonshire Cricket Club on the 27th September 2013 to celebrate their winning the 'Friends Provident Twenty 20 Trophy' and a successful

season in the league. It was noted that a Special Council meeting would be held on the 5th October 2013 to award the Honorary Freedom of the Borough to the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and that another Special Council meeting would be held on the 28th November 2013 to install Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Northampton.

The Mayor further announced a number of charity events that would be held including the Poppy Ball, a curry night and the Mayor's Annual Charity Gala Dinner on the 29th November 2013 and invited members to attend. He mentioned that he had attended the Gold Awards for Duke of Edinburgh at St James' Palace and congratulated all of those who had achieved their awards. The Mayor offered his congratulations to the children (12 years and under) who had represented Northampton and winning the regional Swimming Gala. They would now attend the national final to be held in Corby in November

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Leach presented a petition to Council and commented that the petition submitted, sought to change the Council's Policy on petitions.

Ms Sarti addressed Council and explained that she was asking Members to support Womb Awareness month in October and requested that Councillors wear an item of peach clothing in support of the charity.

Mr Adams addressed Council and referred to the recent comments made by Grant Shapps on Raquel Rolnik, United Nations special rapporteur on housing, and the comments she had made on the bedroom tax and stated that a letter in support of her comments be sent to government.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that eight questions had been received from members of the public and Councillors and that they, and the answers, had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

Questions asked and answers given were as tabled (included in an updated agenda on the website).

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to Question 1, Councillor Bottwood commented that there was continued work to achieve the minimum numbers of empty homes as possible.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to Question 2, Councillor Markham commented the figures produced in the tabled answer should be used as a guide as not all receipts had been processed and that further money would continue to be spent on Disabled Facilities Grants.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to Question 4, Councillor Eldred commented that there was still 3 weeks until the first Women's' Forum and an agenda and notification would be sent out in due course.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to Question 5, Councillor Hallam commented there had been an acceleration of services and that a legal notice had been raised with Enterprise to ensure grass cutting was completed and that work was being undertaken to ensure long term actions were completed.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to Question 6, Councillor Mackintosh commented that some of the zero-hour contract staff employed by the Council was done so for a summer period or for specific events and there was no other conceivable option for such work.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to Question 8, Councillor Mackintosh commented that the departure of the Director of Housing was as part of an on-going journey to improve the Council.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

At this point, each of the Cabinet Members made a presentation of their respective portfolios that had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Mackintosh submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He commented that he was pleased by the number of visitors attracted to the town by the numerous events held over the summer months and commented that the trialling of two hour free parking had been successful and the results were currently being considered. He further noted that the expansion of Church's Shoes in Northampton, agreed at Cabinet on the 11th September 2013, would ensure new jobs would be created and retained within the Enterprise Zone.

Councillor Markham submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She explained that with regards to Decent Homes, the extension of Phase Two was underway and that contractors were working to full capacity. With regards to the Fraud Initiative, Councillor Markham explained that since the report had been written there were a further five cases of fraud currently being investigated. In response to a question asked, Councillor Markham commented that with regards to empty garages, work had been recently been undertaken to clean up those areas affected and that officers had already dealt with the query being referred to. Responding to a further question, it was noted that there were currently 20 families being housed in bed and breakfast accommodation, one of which had been there for more that the ascribed period of six weeks, but that they would be housed within the week.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He commented that from the 16th September 2013 refuse would be collected in green sacks, of which there would be a limit of two per household per week. It was explained that Enterprise was not to collect any less waste, but that the waste would be collected in a different way. He noted that there some residents had shown concerns about the changes to recycling but many were pleased about the changes and noted that as Cabinet Member for Environment, he was determined to meet the challenges that lay ahead. In response to a question, Councillor Hallam commented that it would never be possible to get rid of black sacks completely but that there was a commitment to reducing waste and increasing levels of recycling. Councillor Hallam also responded to another question by stating that where and when it became possible for black sacks to be replaced by wheelie bins, this would be done through

funding from Enterprise.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work that had been undertaken by the volunteers during the Heritage weekend and it was noted that the Friends of Delapre Abbey had raised funds for the restoration of the greenhouse. It was noted that on the 11th September 2013 businesses on Wellingborough Road had been invited to attend a forum to discuss establishing a Business Improvement District (BID). It was reported that 28 businesses had attended the meeting and he thanked both Councillors Ansell and Nunn for their work on this. In response to questions raised, Councillor Hadland confirmed that to ensure that the water feature in Delapre Park remained vandal-proof, a delay had occurred in getting it up and running but he hoped that it would be resolved soon. He further noted that there were on-going discussions with the Premier Inn hotel (soon to be situated on Swan Street) regarding parking at St Johns car park.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He commented that the year-end audit of the 2012/13 Statement of Accounts had been completed.

Councillor Eldred submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He noted the success of the Alive@Delapre event and stated that the event would be taking place again next year. He commented that the Waterfront Festival had taken place on the 5th and 7th 2013 July which had been a success. He further commented that the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery had held a number of events and exhibitions and subsequently had reported an increase in footfall. In response to a question, Councillor Eldred stated that he would contact Councillor Eales with information relating to the Kingsheath Boxing Club. Responding to a further question, Councillor Eldred commented that he was not aware how much had been spent on the legal proceedings with regards to the Sekhemka statue but commented that the sale was still going ahead.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Eales commented that he had concerns over the 2 green sacks, per household, per week policy and should be revisited. He noted that whilst he supported the notion of limiting the amount of refuse sacks, he was concerned about knock on effects and suggested that there may be an increase in fly tipping as a result of the restriction. He further questioned whether or not residents would be allowed to request extra green sacks at certain times and how the number of green sacks put out by residents who lived in flats would be calculated by Enterprise. He commented that communication with residents needed to be crystal clear with residents as there had been considerable confusion. He argued that waste collections had continued to fall short and had continued to get worse since it had been taken out of house and taken over by Enterprise. He further questioned the cost of pulling out of the contract with Enterprise.

Councillor Hallam responded by noting whilst Councillor Eales may want to see the service bought back in house and the removal of a bag limit, the implications of doing so would be considerable and implausible and explained that there was not a way in

which a contractor would remove a clause.

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2012-13

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report that outlined performance in relation to its borrowing and investment strategy for 2012/2013.

Councillor Bottwood seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED: That Council noted the Council's treasury management performance for 2012-13.

10. AMENDMENTS TO NOMINATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report which sought Council's appointment of Councillor Bottwood as a substitute member to the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillor Hadland seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bottwood be appointed as a substitute member of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee to replace Councillor Hill.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Ansell proposed and Councillor Sargeant seconded:

"On behalf of the residents of Northampton, Council congratulates Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge following the birth of their son Prince George of Cambridge on 22nd July.

The safe delivery of Prince George has been met with joy by millions of people across the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the rest of the world.

As the newest member of the Royal Family and the third in line to the throne, Prince George represents the future of this country's monarchy, and Council wishes to record its best wishes on this happy occasion".

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

ii) Councillor Mackintosh proposed and Councillor Eldred seconded:

"Council congratulates Northamptonshire County Cricket Club on their historic victory over Essex and Surrey on Saturday 17th August to win the T20 final, their first one-day trophy since 1992. Northampton's three professional sports clubs are a huge source of pride and prestige for our town, who put Northampton on the map both domestically and internationally.

The Steelbacks win at Edgbaston not only makes us proud here in Northampton, but

also symbolises our town's commitment to excellence, achievement and success. To congratulate the Steelbacks following their win, celebrations will take place in the town on 27th September".

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

iii) Councillor Strachan proposed and Councillor Begum seconded

"This Council notes that next year Northampton Rail Commuters will face an increase of 4.1 per cent, which is above inflation.

The Council further notes that wage growth has either been very low or stagnate in recent times.

This Council believes that the increase gives further hardship on rail commuters who will now see their disposable income squeezed further. This is bad news for shops in Northampton who will likely see a drop in demand for goods and services.

The Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport and local MPs saying Northampton Borough Council is opposed to this inflation busting hike in rail fares. Brian Binley MP, from Northampton Rail Users Group, has already made known his displeasure at the increase and this Council hopes he continues to publically speak out against this increase".

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried

iv) The motion was withdrawn

v) Councillor Palethorpe proposed and Councillor Aziz seconded:

"This Council notes the Olympics were a fantastic success for Great Britain last year.

The Council further notes that an 'Olympic legacy' has been created which gets young people involved in Sports.

The Council believes that the Olympic legacy here in Northampton is under threat with the withdrawal of the Discretionary Rate Relief for our local grass roots sports clubs.

Upon the submission of an amended motion, Council agreed to debate the amended motion:

'This Council notes the Olympics were a fantastic success for Great Britain last year. The Council further notes that an 'Olympic legacy' has been created which gets young people involved in Sports.

'The Council notes the Cabinet has already pledged to review the Discretionary Rate Relief for Sports Clubs and Working Men's Clubs at the forthcoming budget in February 2014, and that on 19th August the Leader of the Council wrote to local community sports clubs informing them of how they can apply.'

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Motion vi) Councillor Eales left the Council Chamber for the duration of the debate.

vi) Mr Joyce addressed Council and commented that the privatisation of Royal Mail would lead to the deterioration of postal services and noted that privatisation could result in the franchising of many parts of the service. Having made profits of £403 million in the last year it was clear to people that this was and should remain as a public limited company.

Mr Bosworth addressed Council and stated that he held the fundamental belief that Royal Mail should be 100% public owned and that to privatise it would be tantamount to disposing of 400 years of heritage. He commented that the debate was being framed as failing service, but noted that profits had increased and that the workforce were embracing modernisation. He stated further that implications of privatisation would be huge and that opinion polls had clearly shown that public ownership of Royal Mail remained extremely popular.

Mr Batterham addressed Council and commented that a recent 'yougov' poll had shown that 67% of people were opposed to the sell off and noted that there was wholesale opposition to the sale of Royal Mail. He further commented that if privatised, the likelihood would be that companies would come in and break up the company with the possibility of franchising parts of it which could lead to an increase in zero-hour contracts being offered to staff.

Mr Adams addressed Council and stated that he considered it necessary for a statement to the Labour party stating that Royal Mail should not be privatised.

Councillor Stone proposed and Councillor Palethorpe seconded:

"This Council recognises that the Royal Mail is part of the fabric of our nation and believes that plans for its privatisation will lead to high prices, a loss of jobs and a reduction in services for the people who need those services the most. Therefore we resolve that Northampton Borough Council should formally sign the "Save our Royal Mail" petition to put pressure on the Government to reverse its decision and protect the country's postal services; and that the Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Business and Enterprise conveying the terms of this Resolution".

Council debated the Motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion, Councillors Aziz, Begum Capstick, N Choudary, Mennell, Palethorpe, Stone, Strachan and Wire.

There voted against the motion, Councillors, Ansell, Bottwood, Caswell, I Choudary, Duncan, Eldred, Ford, Glynane, Hallam, Hibbert, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant and Yates.

There abstained: The Mayor.

The motion was lost.

Councillor Eales re-entered the room.

vii) Councillor Glynane proposed and Councillor Meredith seconded:

The Council Notes that:

- The substantial drop in footfall through the town centre is of serious concern
- Numbers of empty shops in the town centre are at their highest since records began
- Both of these trends are contrary to clear beginnings of a national economic recovery
- The current administration's priorities for the town centre have demonstrably failed, threatening jobs and businesses based in Northampton town centre.

The Council believes that:

- Further work on the town centre, and further allocation of funds, should be focused on improving the core offer of the town centre – including but not limited to, beautification, events, etc.
- The demolition of the now empty Greyfriars building should be considered a priority
- A firm start date from Legal and General for work on the Grosvenor centre is now required, as progress and surety seems to have stalled since the current administration took control.
- There can be no higher priority than safeguarding and expanding job opportunities and economic vigour in Northampton

The Council Further Notes that:

- The fountain was thoroughly enjoyed by local people, particularly during warm weather, and having it switched off over this summer may well have

contributed to the drop in footfall.

- Similar style fountains exist, work and are extremely popular and entirely in other town and city centres across the Country, where they are properly maintained.
- The potential threat of the Rushden Lakes development means it is more essential than ever that the town centre is an attractive location

The Council Therefore Resolves:

- To fix the fountain, that they have allowed to fall into disrepair, in time for next summer
- To immediately begin the process of deconstructing Greyfriars
- To increase their focus on beautification of the town centre
- To work harder to draw and create attractive events on the space on the market square successfully opened up by the last administration
- To make a reversal in the trends of falling footfall and shop vacancy within 12 months a confidence issue in the portfolio holder and leader of the Council

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

xiii) The motion was withdrawn.

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

None.

The meeting concluded at 8.52

Question for Full Council Monday 28th October 2013

Question 1

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Councillor Lee Mason

What currently is the number of voids in the housing stock and how does this compare with 12 months ago?

Response

The number of voids at the end of September 2013 was 115. The overall trend in voids performance this year up to August was an increase in the number of properties let each month but September spiked with a reduction in lets and an increase in routine voids compared with the same time last year.

Cllr Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 28th October 2013

Question 2

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Councillor Danielle Stone

How many families are living in emergency accommodation and what is the shortest and the longest period of time they have to stay there? How many families are being accommodated by the borough outside of the Northampton?

Response

There are currently 20 households in emergency accommodation (Bed and Breakfast). Two of these have been given offers and will be moving on very shortly. The occupant who has been in emergency accommodation for the shortest time has been there for five days. The households who have been in the longest have been there for seven weeks. There are four households being accommodated out of the borough in Wellingborough at the present time. We will bring them back to Northampton at the earliest opportunity if we are unable to resolve their situation before then.

Cllr Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 28th October 2013

Question 3

Question to Councillor David Mackintosh from Councillor Danielle Stone

What is this Local Authority going to do to support the Red Cross and food banks that are providing emergency help to the people of this town?

Response

Responsibility for this lies with Northamptonshire County Council. Representative from our Revenues and Benefits team meet regularly with County Council colleagues to make sure that provision is aligned and that forecast changes are accounted for. We will continue to work closely with Northamptonshire County Council in support of food banks.

Cllr David Mackintosh

Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 28th October 2013

Question 4

Question to Councillor David Mackintosh from Councillor Mohammed Aziz

This Conservative administration has said it intends to introduce 'boris bikes' in Northampton. This is welcome. However, cyclists in London benefit from other measures such as cycle super highways, mirrors at junctions, advanced stop lines and other works to enhance the cycling experience especially for less experienced cyclist who would be attracted to a hire scheme. Will comparable measures be undertaken here?

Response

We intend to implement the pilot Northampton Bike Hire scheme in March 2014 in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council. In terms of comparable measures with the London scheme, I am pleased to say that Northampton already benefits from many measures to enhance the cycling experience, with a network of cycleways, paths and routes. There are also advance stop lines at many signal controlled junctions. The Department of Transport in general does not permit the use of mirrors on the public highway, but if there are other beneficial measures to further improve the Bike Hire Scheme once it is implemented, and funding allows, I am sure that we and the Highway Authority would consider such measures

Cllr David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

28th October 2013

On 11th October we hosted the latest Northampton Alive event at the Guildhall. Representatives from local companies were invited to come along to hear an update on the schemes progress. It was also an opportunity for us to hear the views and comments of local firms and community groups.

The regeneration of our town is moving ahead very quickly. Legal and General have announced a £3m refurbishment of the Grosvenor Centre, the North Gate Bus Station will open on 2nd March 2014, the demolition of the Greyfriars Bus Station will begin on 31st March 2014, work will begin to reopen Abington Street next April, work will begin on the Albion Place Hotel in January, the planning application for the expansion of the Sixfields stadium has been now submitted, and we are expecting The Saints to submit their plans for the expansion of Franklins Gardens during October.

Delapre Abbey has been awarded a £3.2m lottery grant from The Heritage Lottery to go towards the restoration and preservation of parts of the building. The money will be matched by £1.34m from the Borough Council.

Earlier this month Northampton based firm Cosworth Engineering announced plans to invest in a new factory that will create 70 new skilled jobs in the borough. This is great news for our town and is another vote of confidence in Northampton as place to do business.

On 8th October the Prime Minister visited Northampton, and whilst here he praised our efforts to regenerate the town by describing it as 'the beating heart of the British economy'. This was significant recognition of the progress we are making, and evidence of Northampton's growing reputation.

Northampton Borough Council, Moulton College and the Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club have come together to find a new home for the town's athletics club when development work begins at Sixfields. The deal will see the club move to Moulton College's campus to enjoy all the benefits of state of the art facilities to support the athletes train and compete. The new athletics track and supporting infrastructure will be the latest addition to the £18 million investment in sporting facilities already in place at Moulton College.

On 5th October Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service were awarded the Freedom of the Borough in a ceremony at the Guildhall. My thanks to those who attended to officially recognise the important work and bravery of the men and women in the Fire and Rescue Service.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester visited Oasis House in Northampton on 3rd October to see the good work being done to help the homeless. Oasis House was officially opened at the beginning of 2012 and has revolutionised the provision of services for homeless people in Northampton.

On 27th September the Steelbacks received a heroes' welcome when they returned to Northampton having completed one of the most successful seasons in the team's history. Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Cricket Club invited supporters to come into the Town Centre to celebrate the players' success. The team set off from the county ground in an open-top bus to parade the T20 trophy through St Giles Street, before arriving at the Guildhall for a civic reception in their honour.

Community Safety

All crime and violence continues to fall and exceed the annual Community Safety Partnership targets. To date there has been a 9.3% reduction in violence, which exceeds the annual target. The summer seasonal peak was less severe than previous years, being consistently below last year's average. Repeat victims of domestic violent crimes have reduced by 22.9% compared to the same period in 2012-13. Serious Acquisitive Crime has reduced by 6.4% and is on track to meet the annual target.

Crime prevention and awareness raising events for University students have taken place during September to coincide with Freshers Week. Students were provided with information packs, property marking and crime prevention advice.

The first CSP Week of Action took place in the Blackthorn and Goldings areas during October half term. There are further weeks of action planned in November and December to support Police pre-Christmas operations.

The Northampton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) handled 71 cases of serious and persistent anti-social behaviour between April 2012 and March 2013. The majority of these cases related to adults. Early intervention has proved again to be the most effective course of action to deter and prevent continued anti-social behaviour. During 2012/13 the unit sent out 408 warning letters as a preventative measure to those identified as committing anti-social behaviour. Youth outreach workers have also been working in nine areas of the town where youth related anti-social behaviour was identified as a problem. Just seven of the 71 cases referred to the unit led to an ASBO, CRASBO or injunction.

Councillor David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Housing

Northampton Borough Council

28th October 2013

Oasis House

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester visited Oasis House on the 3rd October 2013 to see at first hand the work that is being done to help the homeless in Northampton. After being introduced to representatives from various agencies, His Royal Highness toured Oasis House taking in the training rooms accommodation, dog kennels, canteen and day centre. During the tour HRH was introduced to support workers, volunteers and service users and commented on how impressed he was with the building and the facilities being provided.

Call Care

The relocation of Call Care from Exeter Place to the third floor of the Guildhall was completed on the 14th October 2013. As well as substantially reducing the accommodation costs of the team this will also release four flats to be reinstated to the housing stock for much needed tenancies. The team's Disaster Recovery site is also being relocated from Eleonore House to the Westbridge Depot. The move has also involved an upgrade to the systems which will involve significant service improvements and savings by nearly halving the annual licence and maintenance fees, making the system paperless and providing the ability to handle all types of calls as well as lifeline calls.

Estate Services Apprentices

On 4th October I presented certificates to six of the Estates Services apprentices. I have been very impressed with the apprentice scheme and very pleased with the progress all six of them have made in the year that they have been with the Borough Council, and the contribution they have made to create such a customer focused and enthusiastic team.

SCATE (Safe, Clean and Tidy Estates)

At the end of September the first large scale consultation exercise on the SCATE project for Briar Hill took place. The project brings together a range of neighbourhood services including Housing Management, Environment Wardens, Leaseholders Services, Capital and Estate Improvements and Customer Engagement in making a concentrated and concerted difference in improving neighbourhoods. With preparations for improvements to porches, windows, brickwork repairs and upgrading unpopular bin areas well underway it was important to go out into the estate and gauge residents' opinions and capture their ideas on what further improvements would make a real difference to the neighbourhood.

Housing Options Review

This project has taken a major step towards its conclusion with both the Tenants' Panel and the Employee Focus Group having scored the five options using agreed criteria and weightings that they have devised. The outcome of this part of the process will be reported to a special tenants' conference to which all of the Borough Council's tenants have been invited.

The outcome was reported in the latest edition of Your Home Your Future which was sent to all members of the Council. Both groups scoring independently of each other placed the creation of an Arms Length Management Organisation (an ALMO) as their preferred option with the transfer of the housing stock to a newly created independent mutual housing association as second. Retention of the housing stock under the current arrangements was placed last by both groups.

The views of these groups will now go forward for consideration by the Housing Options Panel (the member/tenant/employee steering group) which will make its own recommendation to a special meeting of the Cabinet on 4th December, and to then to full Council on 9th December.

Councillor Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing



Cabinet Member Report for the Environment

Northampton Borough Council

28th October 2013

Environmental Services

The new refuse and recycling collection rounds introduced in September affects approximately 22,000 properties. There is an on-going communications programme with those affected and Enterprise is working with the councils Warden Service to ensure any issues are dealt with early and effectively. The purpose of these changes is to reduce the amount of residual waste going to land fill and maximise recycling. All homes affected are being encouraged to fully participate in recycling all that is possible as this will enable the residual waste to fit within the 2 sack collection per week. Enterprise will give advice and facilitate the process of recycling for any property that requires assistance.

The Partnership Unit is working with Housing, Enterprise and SCATE (Safe, Clean and Tidy Estates) to get as many properties as possible transferred from refuse sacks onto containers, such as wheelie bins and eurobins. In September 2013, 101 properties in Ryehill were transferred from sacks to wheelie bins.

Environmental Health

On 7th October the Borough Council, in partnership with the Chewing Gum Action Group (CGAG) launched BIN IT YOUR WAY with the aim of reducing littered gum in our town. The scheme is funded by the chewing gum industry, and the Borough Council is among sixteen local authorities and BIDs taking part this year. High profile advertising will be present at a number of locations around the Borough and Wardens and Rangers will be carrying out education and enforcement, the effectiveness of the campaign will be monitored and an update provided in a future report.

The new round of the Junior Wardens programme has begun with sessions taking place at Ecton Brook Primary school.

Licensing

Multi agency taxi checks have been undertaken with around one in four vehicles being non-compliant.

Multi agency visits involving the Fire Service, the Police and Environmental Health have been undertaken on ten key establishments, with no significant issues being found.

Since the introduction of legislation allowing us to suspend Premises Licences for non-payment, the arrears on Premises Licences has fallen from £21,000 to just over £500.

Councillor Mike Hallam



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

28th October 2013

Events

Events in September included Heritage Open Weekend on the 11th-14th, with over 30 venues open to visitors plus tours and trips to other venues.

In October the Freedom of the Borough Parade for the Northamptonshire Fire Service was held in the Town Centre and Market Square.

The St Crispin Fair will take place between 27th and 29th October. Some changes have been made to this year's arrangements following feedback after last year's event. The fair, which is now in its second year since being reintroduced by this administration in 2012, has proved very popular, and we have asked the organisers to work closely with Town Centre businesses to find out how we can make this year's fair work for them as we help attract more visitors to Northampton.

The Christmas light switch on will be on 21st November and will mark the beginning of our exciting programme of Christmas celebrations, aimed at helping Town Centre traders by giving shoppers a fantastic festive experience.

Coming Out Day took place in the Museum on 11th October, and was the first time this event had been held, working closely with the forums and LGBTQ community.

As Strictly Come Dancing takes over our TVs and as familiar faces from the town prepare for Northampton's Strictly Come spin off, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery opened their latest exhibition, 'Strictly Shoes'. The exhibition launched on 5th October and explores the history of ballroom and Latin dance as well as the social significance of dance in popular culture. Since 2012 the museum has been collecting memorabilia, shoes, costumes, photographs and dance cards from local people, which will be featured in the exhibition to help explore Northampton's dancing past and our love for ballroom dance.

London's ultimate luxury shopping destination, Westfield London, has joined forces with Northampton Museums & Art Gallery to create a ground breaking exhibition that showcases leading UK shoe designers. 'My Favourite Shoe' explores how vintage shoes inspire and influence contemporary designers, with interviews about the designers' work, design process and inspiration. The event is part of a wider drive dubbed The Cinderella Syndrome, aimed at raising awareness of the Northampton shoe heritage collection and making it accessible to new audiences by taking items from the collection into non-museum venues. It has been made possible thanks to an Arts Council England funding award of £47,000 to Northampton Borough Council's museum service.

Fundraising events took place in Northampton from 5th to 13th October to mark Guide Dogs Week. The event was partly organised by the Borough Council's Park Rangers.

Culture & Heritage

The Mods exhibition which was scheduled to end on 29th September had been attracting such interest that we have transferred a large part of it into the shoe lounge in order that it may continue for a further month.

Our museum has been fortunate to be one of just four museums that have been selected to exhibit the amazing reconstruction of King Richard III that has recently been created based on CT scans taken from the skull that was found amongst the remains of the monarch excavated in Leicester earlier this year.

Northampton Leisure Trust, in partnership with the Borough Council and Northamptonshire Sport held the Northampton Sports Awards at the Guildhall on 17th October 2013. The evening was a great success, with the winners of the awards going onto the County Awards being held in November.

Councillor Community Fund

Applications for the Councillor Community Fund are being received on a regular and steady basis, and so far during 2013/14 a total of 59 applications have been received amounting to £38,153. The applications cover a wide range of local initiatives, allowing councillors to make a positive impact on the areas they represent and to empower local residents to be active in their communities.

Customer Services

Following the first of the Partners Synergy Group meetings, Customer Services will now be hosting regular meetings with all our external partners. The purpose of the meetings is to understand each partners role and responsibility, and what their organisations can offer our customers during the Welfare Reforms. These will continue bi-monthly. The benefits to customers are already being delivered with faster referrals and greater access to information and support.

The Contact Centre gave a presentation to the Repairs and Maintenance Service Improvement Place (SIP) mainly consisting of customers/tenants which was well received. This was followed-up with 'shadowing' sessions by tenants with Contact Centre staff to observe and make suggestions to improve. This was followed-up by a successful review session.

Councillor Brandon Eldred

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

28th October 2013

Finance

The Chancellor will make his Autumn Statement to the House of Commons on Wednesday 4th December which will provide some indications on what local government can expect in the settlement later that month. We will watch the statement with interest and recognise that everyone must play their part in sorting out the national economy.

We are already aware that the Government is proposing a Council Tax freeze again and this Administration will be proposing no increase in Council Tax again this year in our Draft Budget in December to help hard working people in Northampton in difficult financial times

KPMG, the Council's external auditors have now finalised the audit of the statement of accounts and annual governance statement which were both published on the Council's website by 30th September. KPMG, in their report to the Audit Committee explained that their audit of the Council's financial statements did not identify any material adjustments. The Authority made a small number of non-trivial adjustments which were of a presentational nature and after the addition of an explanatory narrative to the Officer Remuneration note there were no non-trivial uncorrected differences. This is an excellent result and the Audit Committee Chair commented that there had been extra pressures on finance due to changes relating to LGSS and thanked both the staff for their continued professionalism and hard work and KPMG for the presented report.

Work is underway identifying options for the budget setting process for 2014/15 in order to deal with the pressures that there are on local government in these difficult times. Work will continue on this over the Autumn and Winter. Finance staff are currently engaging with Directors, Heads of Service, and budget managers to assist in the identification and analysis of various proposals that will feed in to the development of a draft budget which the Council will put out to consultation in December. There will be difficult decisions that will need to be made to keep the books balanced and the administration is committed to continuing its strong financial stewardship of public money and ensuring that front line services remain as protected as possible.

Revenues & Benefits

We are seeing positive results from the Performance Support Framework introduced in 2012, with overpayment classification accuracy at 99%, its highest level since monitoring began, and Revenues accuracy as high as 97%. These improvements are making a significant difference to the income the Council receives.

The Revenues and Benefits team has been recognised at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV) Awards. The team won the “blue ribbon” category, Revenues Team of the Year, and were placed second in the Excellence in Staff Development category.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Northampton Borough Council

28th October 2013

Town Centre

In October as part of the Freedom of the Borough granted to the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, a display of vintage and modern fire engines was held on the Market Square.

The development works on the University Accommodation and North Gate Bus Station are continuing on schedule for opening next January and March. The new hotel development on part of the Albion Place car park starts on-site in the near future.

Local businesses were asked for their views on issues in Northampton Town Centre at the Town Centre Summit on 20th September. Former independent retailer Stephen Church chaired the summit, and will now produce a report that will review the issues facing Northampton Town Centre and identify potential future developments. The event was attended by representatives of different groups from the town's day and night time economy including property landlords, independent and corporate retailers, restaurants and hair salons, Northamptonshire Police and the Northampton Town Centre BID.

Regeneration

This summer residents, businesses and visitors to Northampton have asked for the Market Square fountain to be remodelled and turned back on. We asked residents for their views on the future of the fountain, and the majority of people wanted to see the fountain remodelled and turned back on. We have started working with specialists on bringing the fountain back into use for visitors to the Town Centre to enjoy next spring. The remodelling of the fountain is expected to take sixteen weeks to complete and cost around £50,000.

Next year, visitors arriving in Northampton's new North Gate Bus Station will see the town's heritage brought to life through three works of art. Three artists have been chosen to bring their creative talents to Northampton and tell the story of our town. Northampton Borough Council and NN Contemporary Art Northampton selected three artists from 27 applications to work on a fitting welcome to Northampton. Thanks to £75,000 funding from Arts Council England, each artist will have the opportunity to create a celebration of our town's heritage in the new landmark building.

On 11th September Northampton Borough Council's Cabinet approved a report proposing the transfer of land at Midsummer Meadow to create an access route to the proposed new University of Northampton campus via a new bridge crossing of the River Nene

Northampton Town Football Club has submitted a planning application to Northampton Borough Council which will see Sixfields Stadium's capacity increase to about 10,000. The

expansion of the stadium will mark the first stage of a multi-million pound redevelopment of the area which will support growth in the Enterprise Zone and bring forward more revenue streams for the Football Club. With additional planning applications expected later this year for housing and local retail facilities, and plans for a hotel to be submitted early next year. The redevelopment of Sixfields Stadium and the surrounding area is part of a £12 million loan deal put together by Northampton Borough Council and Northampton Town Football Club.

Agreement has been reached on the move of the Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club to a new purpose built facility on the Moulton College campus alongside the College's impressive range of sporting provision.

The planning application for the expansion of Northampton Saints' Franklin's Gardens ground is expected to be submitted during October, and is likely to be determined by the Planning Committee early next year.

Work to demolish Greyfriars bus station is to begin on March 31st 2014. Some decommissioning of the building took place in February this year, when fixtures and fittings were stripped from the former office complex and the overgrown roof-garden areas, once an architectural feature of the building, were cut down. The new North Gate Bus Station will open at the beginning of March 2014 and the Greyfriars building will close completely. The site will be secured and fenced while a detailed demolition programme and site clearing programme is put in place. The physical demolition of the building will take up to eighteen months to complete, after which the site will be ready for redevelopment that will regenerate this area of the Town Centre.

Legal and General have announced a £3m refurbishment of the Grosvenor Centre. This work will be internal and external on the Market Square and is set to be completed before Christmas 2014.

Construction work at Castle Station is progressing well, a temporary footbridge has been installed and highway works are on-going. The foundation piling work is now complete, and the steel frame will begin to take shape in the next few weeks.

A sculpture officially unveiled by King George V has been restored to its original glory to mark its centenary. Over the summer a team of specialists have been hard at work making sure the bust of King Edward VII on the corner of Billing Road and Cheyne Walk is in the best possible condition to mark its centenary and see another 100 years of life in Northampton.

Proposals to establish a Business Improvement District in Wellingborough Road are moving forward following a successful first meeting. Northampton has Business Improvement Districts in the Town Centre and at Brackmills, both of which have been running for a number of years. The Council suggested that BID status might further strengthen and support businesses on the Wellingborough Road as part of a wider package of measures to revitalise the Town Centre. Around 30 business representatives attended the meeting at the Guildhall to discuss the BID proposals.

This summer thousands of people came into Northampton to take advantage of free parking in the Town Centre. During the month of August visitors to Northampton were welcomed with free parking every Saturday and two hours free parking on weekdays in addition to the regular free parking offers. The popular free parking scheme attracted 21%

more cars to the Town Centre. Free parking is part of a raft of initiatives announced in July by the Borough Council to support local businesses, boost the local economy and encourage more people into our Town Centre.

We have been working closely with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust and Friends of Delapre Abbey to submit the £3.6 million Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the restoration of Delapre Abbey. We were delighted to learn that the bid was successful. The money will be used to preserve and restore the main Abbey buildings. The Borough Council will provide match funding with an investment of £1.34m. The project involves refurbishing the main Delapre Abbey building, including rebuilding the conservatory and opening the south wing for events, restoring the 18th century stable block into a new reception area, shop, classroom and exhibition space and the 19th century stable yard, creating units for use by small retail businesses. The first phase of work on the Abbey, comprising the replacement of the roof, is a programme supported by English Heritage and the Council, and work will start in the near future and take about six months. The main Abbey restoration will follow on next year.

Cabinet has approved applications requesting the designation of a Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area, received from a group known as Growing Together which is led by local charity Blackthorn Good Neighbours. This means that Growing Together now have the responsibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for an area which includes the communities of Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings and Lumbertubs.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

<p>Appendices: 0</p>



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28th October 2013

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Changes to Committee Places and Consultation Appointments
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1. Purpose

1.1 To confirm the appointment of Councillor Mason as Deputy Leader of the Labour Group following the resignation of Councillor Davies as Deputy Leader and changes to Committee Places and Consultation Appointments.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the appointments to Committees and Consultation Appointments set out in the report, be confirmed.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1 At the Council meeting on the 23rd May 2013, Councillor Davies was appointed as Deputy Leader of the Labour Group. However, since her resignation from the post and Shadow Cabinet, Councillor Mason has been elected Deputy Leader of the Labour Group.

3.2 As a result, Council are being asked to ratify the following changes to the Committee Places and Consultation Appointments:

- i) Councillor Mason to replace Councillor Davies as Councillors Wire's substitute on the Police and Crime Panel
- ii) Councillor Mason to replace Councillor Davies on the Appointments and Appeals Committee

3.3 Appointments to all other Committees and Consultation Appointments agreed by Council on the 23rd May 2013 remain unchanged.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

**Emma Powley
Democratic Services
01604 837089**

<p>Appendices: 0</p>



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
28th October 2013

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Nomination to Northampton Hope Centre
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1. Purpose

1.1 To seek the nomination of Cllr Markham to be appointed to the Northampton Hope Centre Charity as a trustee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Councillor Markham is nominated to be appointed to the Northampton Hope Centre Charity as a trustee for a period of three years.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

Northampton Hope Centre

The Charity has approached the Council for a Councillor nomination onto their Board of Trustees.

The Northampton Hope Centre offers support to people affected by homelessness and people who are socially disadvantaged. The Charity supplies their clients with basic essential daily services such as daily hot breakfasts and lunches, showers and recycled clothing store. The Charity is also a Big Issue regional distribution centre and Life Skills Workshop and has Hope Enterprises which is a community interest company.

3.1 Appointments to all other charities agreed by Council on the 23rd May 2013 remain unchanged.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

**Emma Powley
Democratic Services
01604 837089**

Appendices
1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
28th October 2013

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Regeneration, Enterprise
and Planning

Report Title	Proposed Residential Development at Northampton North SUE, A43 Kettering Road
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1. Purpose

1.1 To seek authority from Full Council to devolve this Council's decision making authority as local planning authority to Daventry District Council in respect of the cross-boundary outline planning application for the development at Northampton North SUE, A43 Kettering Road.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Full Council to agree to devolve this Council's decision making authority as local planning authority to Daventry District Council as set out in this report.

3. Issues and Choices

Report Background

3.1 The Northampton North Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) is identified in the submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy as suitable for the development of up to 2,000 dwellings, two primary schools, a local centre, employment land, A43 corridor improvement measures and the necessary infrastructure to support the delivery of the development.

3.2 The identified site is located on the northern edge of Northampton and on the eastern side of the A43. The whole of the built development in the SUE is within Daventry District. The village of Moulton lies immediately to the west and the village of Overstone and Overstone Park lie to the east. Adjoining the southern boundary of the SUE is the urban edge of Northampton and in particular Round Spinney Industrial Estate and Southfields residential area.

3.3 Barratt Homes is planning to submit an outline planning application for the Northampton North SUE development to Daventry District Council at the end of October 2013. The development will include:

- Up to 2,000 dwellings in total;
- Detailed consideration of the first 216 dwellings;
- 3.48ha for a local centre incorporating potential provision for Use Class A1 foodstore (2,000 sqm), Class A4 public house (650 sqm), Class C2 care home (2,800 sqm), Class D1 day nursery (465 sqm), Class D1 medical centre (550 sqm), a parade of 5 retail units (Classes A1, A2, A3, A5 and D1) (450 sqm), Class B1(c) light industry (5,000 sqm);
- A new 3-form entry primary school (3,150sqm);
- Public Open Space provision to include outdoor sports pitches, allotments and children's play space;
- Associated drainage infrastructure including Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDs) features;
- A new section of dual carriageway road to form a realigned A43, commensurate with the development of the housing.

The significant majority of the application site lies within the administrative boundary of Daventry District Council and aligns with the SUE area identified in the submitted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, with only a narrow piece of land to the east of the A43 that falls within the administrative boundary of Northampton Borough Council. The indicative master plan proposes that the land within the Borough boundary would be required for the improvement and re-alignment of the A43 and as part of the strategic open space. No built development is indicated on the plan.

3.4 In circumstances where an application site crosses the administrative boundary between two Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) two identical applications should be submitted, one to each LPA, seeking planning permission for the development of land falling within each LPA's administrative area and identifying the relevant area on the site plan.

3.5 Paragraph 73-74 of Circular 04/2008 set out the applicable procedures in respect of payment of the application fee:-

"The planning fee is payable solely to the authority of whichever area contains the larger or largest part (within the red line) of the whole application site."

3.6 In this case, the significant majority of the application site falls within the administrative area of Daventry District Council, accordingly, the application fee is payable solely to Daventry.

3.7 Paragraph 73 of Circular 04/2008 states that where an application site straddles one or more LPAs boundaries, it is necessary to submit identical

applications to each LPA, identifying on the plans which part of the site is relevant to each. Although it is strictly possible and lawful for an applicant to formulate two distinct planning applications for each LPA where each application only describes and seeks consent for the development proposed within each LPA's administrative area, such an approach would be artificial since the LPA would need to know details of the development proposed in the other LPA's administrative area in order to make an appropriate determination of the application.

- 3.8 In the absence of alternative administrative or statutory arrangements, a planning application should be determined by the LPA in whose administrative area the development is proposed to be carried out. In the case of cross-boundary applications, this can lead to two LPAs making individual determinations, imposing different conditions on the permissions and entering into separate S106 agreements. This is not recommended as it does not promote a coordinated approach to development management and the permissions granted by each LPA may be inconsistent in terms of the conditions attached to them and the obligations entered into the related S106 agreements. This is, of course, highly undesirable in terms of achieving a coordinated approach to delivering development. It is also contrary to Government guidance, which encourages joint working between LPAs in relation to the use of their planning powers. Paragraph 178 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) advises that public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, particularly those which relate to strategic priorities. The Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities, a concept that underpins the approach to strategic plan-making pursued jointly by Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northants Council.
- 3.9 Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises a local authority to arrange for the discharge of functions by any other local authority. This provision could be relied on by a LPA to delegate its development control functions to another local authority in respect of a specific cross-boundary planning application.
- 3.10 Accordingly, Northampton Borough Council could delegate its decision making powers to Daventry District Council in respect of its determination on this particular cross-boundary planning application in relation to Northampton North SUE. Daventry District Council, which would have been paid the full application fee in any event, would then determine both the applications submitted directly to them.
- 3.11 In this case, given that the proposed development within Northampton Borough would involve the realignment of the A43 only and that the Local Highway Authority is the same for both LPAs i.e. Northamptonshire County Council, Officers consider that it would be appropriate in this particular case for Northampton Borough Council to delegate its development control functions to Daventry District Council.
- 3.12 A secondary consideration is that as Northampton Borough Council would not receive a planning fee for the application and so would assume all of the costs

associated with the processing of the application, including publicity (notification letters, site and press notices), administration, Officer and Member time would be borne by Daventry District Council. This approach would also be beneficial in that consultees and members of the public would not be confused by the roles of the respective LPAs when receiving separate consultation correspondence from the two Authorities concerned.

- 3.13 Full Council should also note that Northampton Borough Council will have the opportunity to comment on the application following its submission to Daventry District Council as the Borough will be consulted formally as a neighbouring authority. Such consultation application will be considered by the Planning Committee and to formulate its consultation response prior to any decision to be made by Daventry District Council.

CONCLUSION

- 3.14 It is considered that due to the nature and extent of the proposed development associated with the Northampton North SUE that falls within Northampton Borough's administrative boundary, it is recommended that Full Council be recommended to delegate its development control powers to Daventry District Council in respect of the outline planning application for Northampton North SUE in accordance with Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. For the avoidance of doubt, the Full Council is being recommended to delegate its powers only in respect of the outline planning application and reserve the right to re-consider the decision for the submission of reserved matters and other matters pursuant to any planning permission which may be granted.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 This has no policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 Costs for public consultation and associated administrative costs would be borne by Daventry District Council and they would be receiving the planning application fees of approximately £125,000. Council should note that no planning application fee would be payable to the Borough and in the event that this Council decides not to delegate its decision making powers the full cost of the administration of the application would fall to the Council.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 None.

4.4 Equality

- 4.4.1 There are no equality issues all sections of the population will be consulted by Daventry District Council.

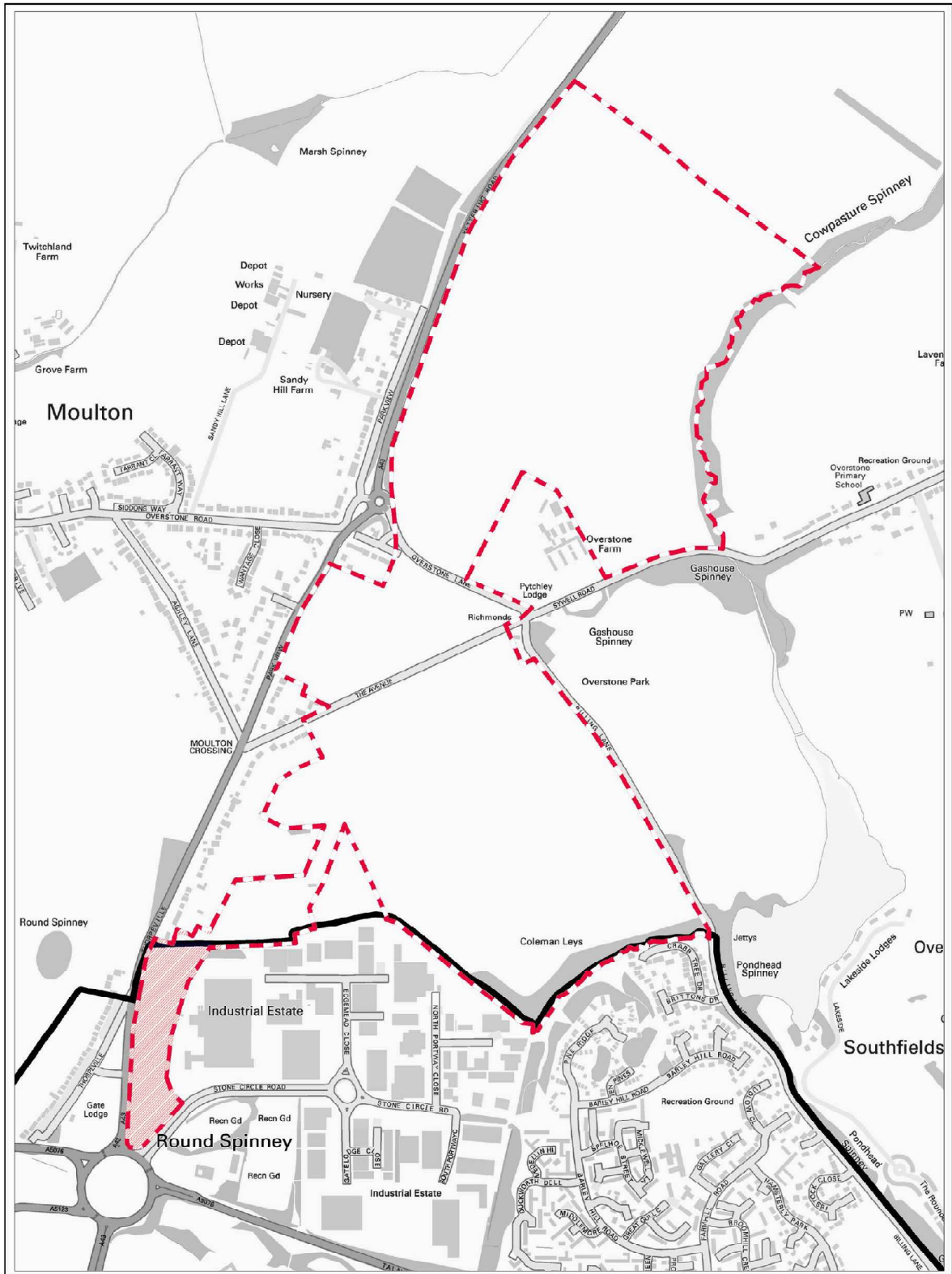
4.5 Other Implications

- 4.5.1 A report on the matter was presented to the Planning Committee on 1st October 2013 for information.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

David Kennedy
Chief Executive



M Burgess
 1:7500 @ A3
 Planning

Northampton North SUE, land off A43

— Borough Boundary - - - SUE Boundary SUE within Borough

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