

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 14 July 2014

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 14 JULY 2014 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 2nd June 2014.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Beardsworth to make a statement on 'Rushden Lakes and the future consequences for Northampton Town Centre'.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

(Copy herewith)

10. UPDATE ON GREYFRIARS DEVELOPMENT

(Copy herewith)

11. NORTHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP HOMES - DELEGATION - APPOINTMENT OF A MANAGING DIRECTOR

(Copy herewith)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Glynane to second that:

“This Council welcomes the initiative by Northampton BID to clean up the Town Centre (“Clean up day” Wednesday, July 2nd) and proposes that this Council support their effort by looking at what other Councils around the Country are doing to tackle litter”.

ii) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Marriott to second that:

“This Council notes that Victoria Street has been designated the location for the arrival and departure for the National Express and other long distance buses.

This Council therefore resolves to utilise part of the car park in Victoria Street to develop amenities such as a transit area, information board, disabled friendly access and facilities and toilets for the bus users.

This Council furthers resolve to investigate the possibility to adapt an empty unit on the Drapery to provide a passenger centre and transit area.”

iii) Councillor N Choudary to propose and Councillor Stone to second that:

“This Council notes Northampton Carnival Arts Consortium is a small group of dedicated and hard- working volunteers who spend hours of their own free time bringing to the town a great inclusive multicultural event.

This Council gives its support to the Northampton Carnival Arts Consortium and recognises their fantastic work.

This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to work with them from this September to ensure plans are put in place for 2015 in a timely and responsible manner, having due regard to the venue, route and support for fundraising.”

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 at the Annual Council Meeting or other civic or ceremonial meetings.)

NOTES

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

2. Member and Public Questions

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:
- be submitted in writing and delivered, 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, 2 June 2014 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Caswell, Ansell, Aziz, Beardsworth, Begum, Bottwood, Capstick, I. Choudary, Conroy, Davies, Duncan, Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Ford, Glynane, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Larratt, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Palethorpe, Patel, Sargeant, Stone, Strachan and Yates

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Capstick declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 – Cabinet Member Reports as former Member of WNDC and a current Member of the WNDC Audit and Risk Committee.

Councillor Hadland declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 – Cabinet Member Reports and as former Member of WNDC and a current Member of the WNDC Audit and Risk Committee.

Councillor Hibbert declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in Motion i) as Secretary to the Northampton Rail Group

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28th April 2014 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillor Marriott, Subbarayan, N Choudary, Hill, Lane, Lynch and Parekh.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that all future Council meetings there would be a recess during proceeding where a comfort break would be had.

The Mayor further announced that on the 8th June 2014 a special service at the town's War Memorial in Abington Square would be held, followed by a military parade through the Town Centre. Council were further notified that a memorial service would be held for Councillor Wire DL at the Guildhall on the 19th June 2014.

The Mayor congratulated the Saints on their recent achievements and expressed his enjoyment of the celebrations that were had on June 1st 2014.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Judith Hodgkinson addressed Council and commented that the sale of the Sekhemka statue could result in the loss of accreditation for the Museum of Northampton and argued that it was both ethically and morally wrong to sell that statue. She asked that all documents relating to the sale be made public to allow them to be effectively scrutinised and requested that the sale be stopped or at the very least postponed.

Ruth Thomas addressed Council and commented that a recent announcement in the Chronicle and Echo showed plans for a £14 million extension to the museum. She questioned where the funding would come from as the museum would only gain half the amount of funding from the sale of the statue and would lose its accreditation, thus losing its future funding.

Leo Boyle addressed Council and commented that by selling the Sekhemka statue the people of Northampton were being deprived of a Museum Artefact which had been donated to them. He stated that £40,000 of Council tax payers money had already been wasted on the sale and urged the administration to reconsider and put Sekhemka back into the museum.

Phil Leach addressed Council and commented that with regards to the depedestrianisation of Abington Street, hundreds of messages had been left during the 'chalk up' and submitted a copy of the online responses he had received from members of the public. He further commented that the recent European Elections had demonstrated people's disillusionment with main stream political parties and urged Councillors to recognise the dangers associated with a rise in far right political thinking and extremism.

Morcea Walker addressed Council and commented that the Northampton Carnival Arts Consortium had worked tirelessly to improve Delapre Park and for the first 6 years of the carnival being held there, there had been no issues. Since relocating, she reported that there had been a loss of 9 traders on last year's number and urged the Council to reconsider and hold the Carnival at Delapre Park again.

sAlexander Pradere-Johnson addressed Council and asked for the Carnival to be located in Delapre Park. He stated that it was an event that embraced and celebrated diversity from all residents of Northampton and asked that the work of the Carnival Committee be recognised and asked that assistance be given to ensure that the carnival be held in Delpare Park to guarantee a sustainable, safe and family friendly venue.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 7 questions had been received from members of the public and Councillors and that the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

Questions and answers given were as tabled (included in an updated agenda on the website) unless where stated supplementary questions were asked – detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to Question 1, Councillor Mackintosh commented that all Cabinet meetings were held in public but that there was a need for some legal information to be kept confidential.

In response to a supplementary question relating to Question 2, Councillor Mackintosh commented that he had read the report written by the University of Northampton with regards to depedestrianisation but noted that it was not relating to Northampton and referred to other locations such as Vienna and Rio de Janerio.

In response to a supplementary question relating to Question 3, Councillor Mackintosh said that the opening up of Abington Street was a unanimous decision of the Conservative Group.

In response to a supplementary question relating to Question 4, Councillor Eldred stated that the expected legal costs likely to be incurred from the sale of sekhemka to be in the region of £10,000. He stated that he was not sure where the figure of £40,000 had come from.

In response to a supplementary question relating to Question 5, Councillor Eldred stated that all procedures and processes had been followed and that he was confident that the funding would be in place there would be no loss of ongoing funding.

In response to a supplementary question relating to Question 6, Councillor Hadland stated that they had always been virgin media cables in Abington Street and that the costs had been considered in the overall budget.

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 congratulated the Saints on their achievements and noted that 30,000 people had visited the town centre to join in the parade through the Town Centre and was honoured to have the rugby team visiting. It was noted that on the 7th May 2014 a Women's Cycle event had been held and that the Delapre Beer Festival had been a great success and noted that it was encouraging to see the town centre and local parks thriving. It was noted that it had been a pleasure to welcome Kris Hopkins MP to attend a ceremony to mark the beginning of Cosworth Engineering's new £12 million Manufacturing Centre.

In response to the concerns raised by Morcea Walker, Councillor Mackintosh commented that he would very much like the Carnival to be held in Delpare Park but that there were issues with the drainage system and therefore it would be impractical to hold the carnival on the site. In response to a question asked by Councillor Davies, Councillor Mackintosh commented that he had recently visited a park in Briar Hill to see the equipment that had been vandalised and commented that he continued to work hard with FODA. Responding to a question asked, Councillor Mackintosh informed Council that all building work was going well during the phase 2 stage of the Castle Railway Station and that he was extremely happy with the progress.

Councillor Markham submitted her Cabinet Member report and commented that on the 12th May 2014 the new ALMO had been announced – the Northampton Partnership Homes, who would manage 12,000 homes and considered the best at meeting the needs of residents. In response to a question asked, Councillor Markham noted that she did not have the exact figures that amounted to the 99.9% of rent collections being met but would email the information to the relevant Councillor. Responding to a further question, Councillor Markham explained that Phase 3 of the Decent Homes contract was well underway and that a number of problems had been experienced with the new contractors but that the Administration were committed to the Decent Homes Project and that they had introduced a hotline for Councillors and members of the public. It was noted that there were 6 service improvement panels, members of which were working extremely hard.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Cabinet Member report and stated that there good financial management was ongoing and offered his praise to the Revenue and Benefits team who had transferred to LGSS which was reflected in the Key Performance Indicators. In response to a question asked regarding the New Homes Bonus and a recent planning application refusal, Councillor Bottwood explained that this was a reflection of Localism and that any costs incurred by a lack of New Homes Bonus would be accommodated in the budget. In response to a further question, Councillor Bottwood explained that the cost of opening Abington Street and the savings to be made to staffing levels were unrelated and that staffing levels were constantly under review. He further explained that opening up Abington Street to traffic would generate income to both businesses and the Council and explained that a business plan had been presented and that consideration to all businesses in the town needed to be considered.

Councillor Hadland, as the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning concurred with Councillor Bottwood and noted the New Homes Bonus had not yet been implemented by Central Government and expressed optimism that any financial costs incurred would not necessarily be as damaging as first considered.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that there was a week-long exhibition underway as part of the Northampton Alive project and noted that the development of the new facility at Cosworth would see the creation of 70 new jobs. In response to a question asked, he informed Council that the demolition of Greyfriars and the removal of asbestos had been done in line with the necessary regulations.

Councillor Glynane proposed that Council Procedural Rules be waived so that the time allowed for Cabinet Member Presentations be extended.

Upon a vote the motion was lost.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Capstick commented that there had been a large amount of growth and development within the town centre but noted that there were still areas of dereliction. She recognised that it was not necessarily an easy issue for the Council to deal with as some of the derelict properties lay on private property but urged the Administration to speed up progress, specifically the old Royal Mail building and requested that derelict buildings be bought back into use as soon as possible. She further noted that some building, such as Greyfriars, needed to be demolished but asked that St Edmunds and other similar derelict buildings be dealt with promptly.

Councillor Mackintosh commented that he understood the frustrations with regards to derelict sites and assured Councillor Capstick that he would look into the problems she mentioned.

Councillor Capstick commented that it would be helpful if the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning support relevant planning applications in the future that would encourage sites of dereliction to be developed.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Jill Hope (County Councillor) commented that St James' residents had been pushing for a change in the area to ease the congestion experienced by residents and commuters and asked that careful consideration be given to ensure that any diversion or change would not exacerbate existing congestion problems. She suggested that gated access be considered to ease traffic problems specifically on match days.

Graham Croucher commented that St James' Residents had been lobbying to get the road opened up between St James Mill Road and St James Retail Park but that it had taken a long time for any progress to be made. He stated that the Council should put pressure on Network Rail and requested that Council not to dismiss the prospect of having a bridge built over the dismantled railway.

Rufia Ashraf commented that traffic and parking in the affected area was causing havoc to the lives of the residents and that congestion in the area needed to be addressed. She further noted that there were difficulties in Argyle Street when people were using the Mosque for Friday Prayers and raised concerns about match day parking, suggesting that consideration be given to a Park and Ride scheme and more enforcement from the Police and Wardens.

- i) Councillor Eales proposed and Councillor Capstick seconded that:

“This Council notes that Cllr Wire seconded a motion on 12th September 2011 supporting the joining up of St. James Mill Road and the road end in St. James Retail Park.

This Council notes how long this policy has been in existence, disappointingly without resolution.

Linking up these particular roads would ease congestion on Peters Way and the roads in St. James and Far Cotton, which also means less pollution. It would increase the economic viability of the southwest district and particularly the Waterside Enterprise Zone and the new Rail Station. Also the major problem of heavy traffic on Saints and Cobblers match days would be much improved.

This Council asks the Cabinet to continue in putting pressure, by whatever means they see as necessary, on the Secretary of State for Transport and Network Rail to have the rail line dismantled as soon as realistically possible.

However, if this course of action proves problematic (as suggested in the Northampton Chronicle & Echo 15/5/2014), then an alternative option, such as a bridge, should be considered and implemented at the earliest opportunity.”

Councillor Mackintosh proposed and Councillor Hadland seconded an amendment.

Amended motion to read:

“This Council notes that Cllr Wire seconded a motion on 12th September 2011 supporting the joining up of St. James Mill Road and the road end in St. James Retail Park. This Council notes how long this policy has been in existence, disappointingly without resolution.

Linking up these particular roads would ease congestion on St Peters Way and the roads in St. James and Far Cotton. It would increase the economic viability of the southwest district and particularly the Waterside Enterprise Zone and the new Railway Station. Also the major problem of heavy traffic on Saints’ and Cobblers’ match days would be much improved.

This Council recognises the work already undertaken by the Administration, working with the County Council, Brian Binley MP, Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership and SEMLEP, to push Network Rail on decommissioning the rail line as early as possible and asks the Cabinet to continue in putting pressure by whatever means they see as necessary”.

Council debated the amended motion.

Upon a vote the amended motion was carried.

ii) Councillor Stone proposed and Councillor Mason seconded that:

“This Council notes the Sekhemka statue is due to go to auction on 10th July.

This also notes Arts Council England (ACE) has warned that the sale could

jeopardise Northampton Museum's Accreditation status.

This Council further notes that the Museums Association's (MA) ethics committee has urged Northampton Borough Council to rethink its sale of an ancient Egyptian statue.

This Council ask the Cabinet one last time to reconsider selling of the statue, so it can be enjoyed by the people of Northampton and visitors to the town."

Council debated the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Aziz, Beardsworth, Begum, Capstick, Conroy, Davies, Eales, Glynane, Gowen, Mason, Meredith, Palethorpe, Stone and Strachan .

There voted against the motion: Councillors Bottwood, I Choudary, Duncan, Eldred, Flavell, Ford, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Larratt, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Patel and Sargeant

There abstained the Mayor and Councillor Mennell.

The motion was lost.

iii) Councillor Palethorpe proposed and Councillor Stone seconded that:

"This Council notes the 'People's March for the NHS' starts in Jarrow on 16th August and finishes in London 6th September.

This march is highlighting the detrimental impact Government policies are having on the NHS.

This Council further notes it follows the spirit of the Jarrow Crusade in October 1936, which saw 207 people troop to London to highlight mass unemployment in Britain

It will be going through 23 major towns and cities and will arrive in Northampton on September 2nd.

This Council supports the NHS. It is one of our most important institutions.

This Council is pleased the People's March for the NHS is passing through our town and we will welcome them to Northampton when they arrive."

Council debated the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Aziz, Beardsworth, Begum, Capstick, Conroy, Davies, Eales, Glynane, Gowen, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Palethorpe, Stone and Strachan .

There voted against the motion: Councillors Ansell, Bottwood, I Choudary, Duncan, Eldred, Flavell, Ford, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Larratt, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Sargeant and Yates.

There abstained the Mayor.

The motion was lost.

iv) Councillor Beardsworth proposed and Councillor Glynane seconded that:

“Rogue landlords cause increasing problems for residents on Northampton. This administration has introduced new licensing rules recently. However, the LGA say “the current system limits Council’s ability to stamp out poor quality and dangerous property conditions” and as such, these new rules are likely to have a limited effect.

This Council therefore resolves to write to local Members of Parliament, asking them to back the LGA campaign to lobby Government to toughen powers of local Councils to tackle rogue landlords effectively”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

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

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 9.22pm

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

To mark Armed Forces Week flags were flown outside of The Guildhall and the public were encouraged to come to the Town Centre and welcome home the brave soldiers of the 9th/12th Lancers who are part of our community. This was the first time the regiment had had the opportunity to march through the streets of Northampton since being awarded Freedom of the Borough in 2012. Northampton is immensely proud of the brave men and women of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, and it was a huge honour to be able to show our appreciation by welcoming them back to the UK and have them parade through our town as part of Armed Forces Day on 28th June.

On 8th June we commemorated the seventieth anniversary of the D-Day landings to remember the brave men and women who fought against tyranny. The town held a special service at the War Memorial in Abington Square, followed by a military parade through the Town Centre, where more than 100 representatives of the Armed Forces, both serving and retired, along with members of the cadet forces gathered to show their respect. This year our country stands united in showing our respect for our armed forces, past and present. It was good to see everyone at the War Memorial in Abington Square. Every community was touched by the events of World War 2, and when it mattered we all came together, so it was fitting to see everyone come together again as our thoughts turn to events 70 years ago.

On 2nd June we hosted the latest event to announce new projects, and update the public on ongoing projects, under the Northampton Alive banner. Under this administration the regeneration of the town has really taken off, with cranes on the skyline and 40 projects underway or already completed across Northampton. With our partners we are driving Northampton forward and turning it into a town we can be proud of again.

Northampton has again received national recognition as a great place to do business. A report published by the think tank Centre for Cities has listed our town as one of the top ten places in the UK for new small and medium sized businesses. This is testament to the hard work being undertaken to attract investment and jobs to Northampton and foster a climate where people can do business.

Last month figures were published which show a fall in unemployment in the town. With the economy now recovering from the recession, and businesses like Carlsberg, Church's Shoes and Cosworth creating jobs, it's clear our plans to stimulate the local economy are working. There are now more jobs and fewer unemployed in Northampton than when we took control in 2011, and it is important that we continue the work we have been doing to make Northampton the prosperous place we all want it to be.

The summer events programme has got off to a great start with another successful Delapre Beer Festival, the Grand Prix event in the Town Centre, Northampton Music Festival, Films on the Waterfront in Becketts Park, and of course we still have the second Alive at Delapre to look forward later in the month. It is great to see so much happening in and around our town as events such as these bring people into Northampton to enjoy all the great things we have to offer.

On 1st June the victorious Northampton Saints joined their supporters in the Market Square to celebrate winning both the Aviva Premiership and Amlin Challenge Cup. Over 30,000 people lined the streets of the town, and we had the privilege of welcoming the players and coaching staff and congratulating them at The Guildhall. Once again The Saints have done us proud bringing not one but two trophies back home and being crowned champions of England. It was fantastic to meet with the players at The Guildhall to let them know, on behalf of the town, how proud we are of their achievements and what they mean to our town. It was great to see so many people on the streets, which were a sea of black, green and gold.

Community Safety

Serious Acquisitive Crime continues on its downward trend with an overall reduction of 5.1%, a reduction of 6.6% in burglary and 5.1% in vehicle crime. Criminal Damage continues on its gradual downward trend with a 0.6% reduction.

I was pleased to officially open The Castle Community Hub (formerly Spring Boroughs Community Café) with Cllr Mary Markham and representatives from Northamptonshire Police on 21st June. Led by the Police and the Borough Council, the facility is now providing an improved multi-agency presence within the area, creating opportunities for the community to engage on a regular basis.

The first Week of Action is being held on Semilong from 21st July. As with previous events there will be a range of agencies involved, providing a number of activities, opportunities and support for the community. Planning is underway for a further four weeks of action during 2014/15 in hot spot locations across the town.

Councillor David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council



Designation for Additional Licensing of Housing is Multiple Occupation

After detailed liaison with the Council's legal services (LGSS) the designation for additional licensing of houses in multiple occupation and the required public notice have been drafted. The designation for additional licensing was made on 3rd July and public notice will run for six weeks. Following this all landlords who operate a house in multiple occupation in the designated area will be required to licence the property or risk prosecution. We anticipate the scheme will affect about 2000 shared houses across the wards of Obelisk, Sunnyside, Kingsthorpe, St David's, Kingsley, Semilong, Trinity, St James, Delapre, Briar Hill, Castle, and Abington. We will also be looking at the introduction of an accreditation scheme to complement and extend our approach to achieving better standards in private rented housing. Once the scheme becomes operational, landlords will have sixteen weeks to ensure that they have applied for a licence. Officers have agreed a detailed communications exercise so that all people who are affected are aware.

Prevention Bid

Subject to Cabinet approval, Northamptonshire County Council will issue an Invitation to tender for Community Wellbeing Services. We recognize the importance of a range of services delivered by and for the local community to the wellbeing of local people and our communities. We are therefore working in partnership with a wide range of agencies in order to submit a proposal for how these services could be delivered. We do not expect to hear the outcome of this tender exercise until October, after which there will be detailed planning about how services, including those we deliver ourselves, are changed to meet the new requirements of the County Council.

New Pre-ALMO team at Landlord Services

With the considerable activity preparing for the establishment of Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), we have taken steps to bring the preparation work and the day to day operational/activity together. A new Pre-ALMO team has been put in place.

New board for NPH established

Vital to the success of NPH is its Board of Management, which is now in place and has met twice. We are satisfied that a Board of significant quality has been put together and in particular, along-side the tenants, council nominees and members, we have been able to attract independent board members with good experience.

Decent Homes

In order that we can let tenants know in advance the works to be undertaken and to have greater control of the programme for the contractors, we have bought in Savills to pre-survey all the properties that have not yet been started. We have also created a Decent Homes hot-line in partnership with the Contact Centre to ensure that queries and complaints can be speedily resolved.

Councillor Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

Northampton has been recognised as being among the best places for supporting entrepreneurs and innovators with more small and medium sized businesses being set up here than almost anywhere else in the country.

A government think-tank has placed Northampton as being one of the top ten places in the UK for new small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and also one of the top ten places where SMEs are successfully adopting high-growth strategies.

The Centre for Cities has published its 'Small Business Outlook 2014' looking at the strength and performance of SMEs, which are a vital part of the national economic recovery. Northampton has one of the highest levels of new SMEs as more and more entrepreneurs take advantage of the benefits of beginning their new business in Northampton.

The report also shows how more of our town's SMEs are also using high-growth strategies compared to other areas. This describes businesses that aim for quality rather than price, or deliver highly customised or bespoke products and services.

From 2nd June to 6th June the Guildhall hosted an exhibition showcasing the latest Northampton Alive projects and announced new projects that are set to create jobs and transform our town.

This year's exhibition included:

- Plans for the £14m expansion of Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, and Cultural Quarter improvements
- A 38,000sq ft expansion of Cosworth's Northampton factory
- Creation of 140 new jobs as Church's Shoes expand their existing factory onto a 4.5-acre site
- What is happening with many new developments taking shape in the Enterprise Zone
- The stadium expansions for Northampton Saints and Northampton Town FC
- The new state of the art University of Northampton campus

This is part of this administration's commitment to create new jobs and opportunities for people in our town.

Other new projects include the development of a major commercial area – called FOUR Northampton – on a key gateway location to the Town Centre, and phase II of the Castle Railway Station project, which includes the creation of a multi-storey car park and retail and commercial opportunities. There are now more than 40 projects in the Northampton Alive programme of regeneration, which represent a coming together of agencies in the public and private sector, business and commerce to work together to create a coherent and effective programme of regeneration in Northampton.

On 11th June Cabinet approved plans that will make way for a new £6.5 million creative hub with the creation of 240 jobs. Vulcan Works is one of the latest projects to join the Northampton Alive programme of regeneration which is reshaping our town.

The grade II-listed building, situated in Guildhall Road, was commissioned in the late 19th century by Henry Mobbs & Co to manufacture boot and shoe-making machinery. It occupies a key site within Northampton's Cultural Quarter and the plan is to transform it into an incubator for creative firms, offering space for 70 income-generating businesses.

Work will now begin on the development of a detailed business case. A full range of creative organisations have already been consulted on the plan and their comments will be taken into account. Work will start in 2015 with completion expected by December 2016.

The Borough Council's £250,000 Business Incentive Scheme which was launched in April this year has already made grants available to five businesses. Three vacant town centre units will be brought back into use as well as an industrial unit at the edge of town, creating 24 new jobs.

Businesses on Wellingborough Road are currently being consulted on a draft business plan which sets out a proposal to set up a Business Improvement District (BID) for their area. The Administration is actively supporting this proposal as we consider it is the most effective way to bring businesses together to collaborate on initiatives to improve their trading environment and we believe it will lead to real improvements to the Wellingborough Road area. This is a business-led proposal - run by Wellingborough Road businesses for Wellingborough Road businesses. If there is a positive response to the draft business plan, almost 400 Wellingborough Road businesses will be invited to vote in October on whether they would like to see a BID set up for their area.

During British Grand Prix week we hosted an international party of motor industry and motor sport engineering experts, and provided them with information on opportunities in the Enterprise Zone.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

Events

The season of summer events is now in full flow and the town is coming alive as the public come to enjoy all the great things Northampton has to offer.

From 29th to 31st May the Borough Council ran the ever popular Delapre Beer Festival for the second year after saving it from cancellation. The event featured over 200 beers, 90 ciders, country wines, gin and locally sourced food as well as live music, and attracted over 6000 visitors. After receiving feedback from customers, this year's event included additional seating areas, a traditional band stand and improved entry systems.

The Borough Council held the town's first outdoor film festival, Films on the Waterfront, at Becket's Park on 11th and 12th July. Families were able to enjoy a picnic in the park whilst watching a free line-up of films, including Mamma Mia, Despicable Me 2 and Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2.

On the evening of the 11th July everyone will be able to sing-along to ABBA classics as Mamma Mia is shown from 7pm on the Becket's Park mound, and on 12th July there will be a whole host of films and activities for children to enjoy including three animated favourites on the big screen plus rides, face-painting and amusements.

Formula 1 fans came along to enjoy the activities taking place in Abington Street and the Market Square on 29th June, including pit stop challenges, racing driving simulators, photo opportunities with F1 cars and activities for children. There was plenty more to look at, with stands from the Mercedes Formula 1 team, Silverstone Race Track and the Richard Sanders Group. Trainee race mechanics from the National College for Motorsport, which is the first college in the UK to have achieved the Motorsport Academy Employer Recognition Scheme Charter Mark, were also there with their display car and information on how to pursue a career in motorsport.

The Endeavour Rally, a charitable event that encourages disabled participation in motorsport, set off from the Market Square at 12pm to drive to Silverstone Circuit and return to the traditional shaken bottle of bubbly at the Market Square.

The Borough Council run event was part of a week-long celebration, Northamptonshire Grand Prix Week, marking 50 years of the Grand Prix at Silverstone and this county's many links with the motorsport industry.

Culture & Heritage

Visitors have been able to enjoy two very different continuing exhibitions: 'John Clare and the Shepherd's Calendar', and 'Corsets & Cami-Knickers'. Linked to the John Clare exhibition over 70 people attended an evening of talks, debate and discussion on 1st May, and two writing workshops were held at the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and the Central Library, Abington Street at the end of the month.

Three new exhibitions have opened at the Central Museum; 'Batteries Not Included' our summer family exhibition exploring the history of toys, an exhibition by final year fashion and footwear students from the University of Northampton and a specialist shoe exhibition - 'Kobi'. This exhibition showcases the innovative and intriguing work of the international shoe designer Kobi Levi and is his first major exhibition in the UK.

During May and June the 53rd annual 'Art in the Park' exhibition ran at Abington Museum proving to be popular with visitors and an attractive sales outlet for many local artists. During the same period renovation work has continued at Abington Museum with repairs to windows throughout the building, refurbishment of the floor in the Great Hall and restoration of the bell tower.

Northampton Leisure Trust

The Sport & Play Development Team achieved an 'excellent' rating in a tough two day in an assessment by Quest, Sport England's leading national quality scheme. The teams overall score placed them second out of over 30 other teams from across the country. Quest is the best known improvement programme within the leisure industry and its rigorous assessments challenge even the very best sports development teams in the UK.

Councillor Brandon Eldred

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for the Environment

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

Environmental Services

The summer planting is now well underway. Hanging baskets and barrier baskets are appearing in the Town Centre as well as in new areas leading from the centre to St James. The wild flower beds are also now in full bloom bringing bright new colourful displays to areas like Sixfields, and additional cleaning resources have now also been deployed in the Town Centre.

One new part time Park Ranger began work at the beginning of June, and another is due to join the team shortly. We have also started the process of recruiting another Neighbourhood Warden. Along with the other Wardens and Rangers they will be carrying out their patrols using an additional new four wheel drive vehicle.

Between 1st April and 12th June a total of 37 fixed penalty notices were served, 19 of which were for littering offences and 15 for waste offences. This administration has a zero tolerance approach to littering and fly tipping, and enforcement measures such as this are an essential way for us to make our town a clean and pleasant place to live and work.

The initial meetings of the Park Management Committees for Delapre, Abington, The Racecourse and Eastfield Park have taken place. The committees are beginning the process of drawing up action plans to bring together their ideas for the future of the parks.

Bloom

On 9th June the Borough Council and the Royal British Legion unveiled an impressive floral display on St Peter's Way which has been created as part of Northampton in Bloom 2014. The centre of the 5 x 4 metre roadside display, which is a highlight of Bloom, is located on a sloped grassy bank by St Peter's Church and features a single remembrance poppy made out of 16,000 plants.

The theme chosen for this year's Bloom is 'remembrance and celebration' to mark the centenary of the outbreak of WWI and the 825th anniversary of Northampton's town charter being granted by Richard I. The remembrance floral display is a tribute to honour those who lost their lives in the service of our country in World War I. It also serves as a poignant reminder of the bravery of our servicemen and women today.

Environmental Health

The Borough Council has backed a joint campaign by The Dogs Trust and Keep Britain Tidy encouraging responsible dog ownership and reminding people to pick up after their dogs. 'The Big Scoop' is an opportunity for groups to join forces and remind dog owners to do the right thing and 'Bag it and bin it'. Although the vast majority of dog owners are

responsible and do pick up after their pets, a small minority do not, and the consequence is that pavements, parks and sports pitches can be blighted by dog mess.

On 14th June at Bradlaugh Fields The Borough Council launched a summer-long campaign to tackle dog fouling. After the launch the Park Rangers and Neighbourhood Wardens were out and about in our town's parks and public spaces to offer advice to dog owners and issue warnings and fines to those spotted not clearing up their dog's mess.

As part of Food Safety Week (16th – 22nd June), The Borough Council worked with the Food Standards Agency to raise awareness of campylobacter. With a few simple precautions the number of people who suffer from the most common, and sometimes fatal, form of food poisoning in the UK could be reduced.

Licensing

During May two multi agency vehicle checks on licensed Hackney and Private Hire vehicles were undertaken. A total of 58 vehicles were checked with 36 being compliant. One driver had his licence revoked following an assault on a police officer.

A number of car boot sales have been checked resulting in one organiser being advised to change the traffic entry management system to the site, and to pay closer attention to how many sellers were being allowed in.

Following test purchase operations on betting shops, several betting organisations have put measures in place to tighten up operations where necessary. We intend to conduct future tests to ensure improvements have been made.

Following the introduction by The Government of extra mandatory conditions making the sale of alcohol unlawful below the price of Duty plus VAT, all premises have been written to and provided with an addendum to their licences.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for the Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

14th July 2014

Finance

The Finance team has been focussed on producing the Borough Council's statutory accounts for 2013/14. The draft Accounts were signed off by the Chief Finance Officer on 30th June and are now open for a period of public inspection and external audit. The Accounts are due to be formally signed off by the External Auditor by 30th September.

Revenues & Benefits

Following the annual billing process, the service has maintained good performance for the first quarter, with both new benefit claims and change of circumstances. This will assist us to maintain standards alongside the need to manage increasing budgetary pressures.

We are currently implementing a new e-service, which will allow customers to advise us of change of address, exemptions, discounts, apply for refunds and make payment arrangements for council tax, all on-line and their records will be updated automatically that day. This is due to go live in October.

We have issued the pre-qualification questionnaires prior to tender, for Enforcement Agent Services. This will be an LGSS contract for use by the Borough Council, Norwich, Daventry, Wellingborough and potentially six additional districts. This is due to commence on the 1st April 2015, and whilst it will start a few months earlier than the old framework was due to finish, we have recognised the importance of having a consistent approach for Northampton and its partner at the earliest opportunity. It will be very similar to the one we have at present, in the way we expect our suppliers to behave and the standards we require delivering, but it will also allow us to share the costs of performance managing them.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Finance



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

Council - 14 July 2014

Report Title	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

1.1 To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14, as attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14.

3. Background and Issues

3.1 Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report annually to Council on its workings and make recommendations for further work programmes, and amended working methods if appropriate. Attached at Appendix A is the ninth Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council, covering the 2013/14 Municipal year. It aims to provide a succinct summary of the work of the Scrutiny Panels appointed, as well as the main issues scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the course of the year.

4. Options

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

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Priorities

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

5.2 Policy Framework

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

5.3 Resources and Risk

5.3.1 Not applicable.

5.4 Legal

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

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

5.5 Equality

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

5.6 Consultees (Internal and External)

5.6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2013/2014 has been consulted on the content of the Annual Report.

6. Background Papers

Key background information: -

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

Report Author and Title: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Telephone: : 0300 330 7000

Report of the
**Overview & Scrutiny
Committee**

**Annual Report
2013/2014**

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

This Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee Annual Report gives a summary of the Committee's activities over the past twelve months and maps out its plans for the forthcoming year.

It has been another busy year for O&S with three comprehensive reviews being undertaken:

- Improving the Town's Parks
- Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (Including HIMO's)
- Impact of the Welfare Reform Act

One of the reviews benefitted from the assistance of four co-opted members, their knowledge and experience assisted the Scrutiny Panel in arriving at its conclusions and recommendations. Two of the reviews are due to complete their work in the spring and summer 2014. They will present their findings to Cabinet early in the Municipal year 2014/2015.

A number of the suggestions put forward by the public influenced the O&S Work Programme for 2013/2014. I was delighted that over thirty suggestions for future scrutiny review were received this year. Councillors carefully considered the suggestions at a workshop held in March 2014.

The Committee scrutinised the Council's budget proposals by delegating work to its Reporting and Monitoring Working Group who identified three budget proposals for the Committee to scrutinise in-depth.

The Committee has developed good working practices, procedures and protocols; a number of which have been used by other Local Authorities keen to reproduce our working practices.

I am pleased to highlight that Overview and Scrutiny continues to become involved with decisions at an early stage, for example, scrutiny provided its input into the Nene Meadows Supplementary Planning Document.

I would like to thank all those involved in Overview and Scrutiny over the past year. The support of all those involved in reviews is required for a successful outcome.

I do hope that you find this report informative and interesting.



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



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Achievements

How was this impact made during 2013-2014?

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

Key Example:

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

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

Key Example:

The Scrutiny Panel that looked at the town's parks was made up of eight non-Executives, of which four were not O&S Councillors, demonstrating complete involvement of non-Executives in the O&S process.

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

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

In 2010 the scrutiny of crime and disorder was formalised, putting in place clear working arrangements between the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Committee. A bi-annual report from the CSP continues to inform the O&S Committee of work undertaken, and non-Executives decide if further review or scrutiny is required. This report focuses on the levels of performance and whether crime has increased in the light

of reduced resources, if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance.

“Community Safety continues to work closely with Overview & Scrutiny, feeding into their reviews, as and when required. The recommendations and support provided through these reviews continues to add value to the work undertaken by the Community Safety team”

Debbie Ferguson,
Community Safety Partnership Manager

Performance Management Scrutiny

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

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

Key Example:

Performance management scrutiny of:-

- ESC02 missed bins corrected within 24 hours of notification
- ESC04 household waste recycled and composted
- ESC07 Land and highways assessed falling below acceptable levels - graffiti



Critical Friend to Cabinet

Robust Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The O&S structure enables regular, robust pre-decision scrutiny. One in-depth pre-decision scrutiny activity was undertaken this year.

Key example: Scrutiny input into the Nene Meadows Planning Supplementary document.

The O&S Committee considered the Nene Meadows Planning Supplementary document, at a specially convened meeting on 10 February 2014, in order that its comments could be considered prior to the report being above by Cabinet.

Information obtained from the followings sources formed the main body of evidence gathered by the Committee:

- Comprehensive presentation detailing the Nene Meadows Supplementary Planning document
- Planning Policy Team Leader
- Planning Policy and Conservation Manager

This pre-decision scrutiny activity demonstrates non-Executives providing input into the decision making at an early stage.

Call-In

At Northampton call-in is used sparingly. During 2013/2014 there was one call-in hearing which demonstrates that the decision making process is transparent and open to challenge.

Influencing Policy Development

Three in-depth Scrutiny reviews were undertaken during 2013/2014. The final reports of two of these will be presented to Cabinet early in the Municipal year 2014/2015.

Review work of 2012/2013 has received Cabinet's response. 100% of the recommendations were accepted, which highlights that Overview and Scrutiny is continuing to make significant influence of Council policy, both in terms of holding the Cabinet to account and contributing to policy development, and the well-being of the citizens of Northampton.

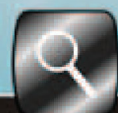
Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Good Scrutiny Awards 2013

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton was shortlisted for an award as part of the Centre for Public Scrutiny's (CfPS) Good Scrutiny Awards 2013 under the category transforming services for its review - Managing Community Centres.

The judges said:

"this work, which facilitated the transfer of a large number of community facilities from council to community control, demonstrated the contribution that scrutiny can make to implementing a key government policy around community asset transfer successfully at local level."

A short video about this review was shown at the Awards Ceremony.





Overview and Scrutiny

Excellence Action Plan 2013-2015

TT Excellence Plan Version 1 9 September 2013 1

Overview and Scrutiny Excellence Plan (2013-2015)

An evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) function at Northampton was carried out in 2012 using the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)'s framework "Accountability Works for You".

As a result of the evaluation, an Excellence Plan for O&S was produced and published. This document highlights a number of the processes and procedures that O&S at Northampton follows.

- The Overview and Scrutiny Excellence Plan (2013-2015) is 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

The Excellence Plan has attracted interest and compliments from various external Scrutiny peers.

Raising the profile of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton

The profile of O&S has continued to be raised with a number of important and successful reviews carried out during 2013/2014. O&S is keen to keep this up and invites suggestions for the work programme from various partners, agencies and members of the public.

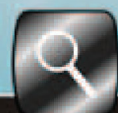
The Scrutiny review process at Northampton is widely recognised both within the Council and amongst the citizens of Northampton. The O&S Work Programme received extensive press coverage, locally, which twenty six individuals responded to, suggesting over thirty ideas for future Scrutiny review.

Paperless Innovation

The purpose of the innovation was to implement paperless Committees, using O&S as a pilot. Advancement of technology provides a real opportunity to protect the environment by utilising ICT to its full capacity and reducing the quantity of printed material.

The paperless innovation created benefits such as financial savings; highlighted the Council as modern, forward thinking and being environmentally responsible.

The pilot operated successfully and the O&S Committee and its three Scrutiny Panels agreed to continue to operate paperless.



As reported in last year's annual report, the innovation attracted national interest. External Interest in the innovation has continued this year, with a number of enquiries regarding the success of the innovation.

Public engagement within the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton

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



Key Example of review work: Improving the Town's Parks

The purpose of the review was to improve community engagement within the town's parks.

Following approval of its work programme for 2013/2014, the O&S Committee agreed to include a review of the town's parks in its

work for 2013/2014. The O&S Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. A short, sharp review commenced in June 2013, concluding in November 2013.

A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising eight Councillors and four co-opted members, who represented various Friends of Parks Groups.

This review attracted thirteen public attendees over various meetings of the Scrutiny Panel, a number of which addressed a meeting.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel were around the themes:

- Communications
- Observations – the town's parks
- Key facilities in the town's parks
- Additional facilities in the town's parks
- Role of Park Management Committees
- Membership of Park Management Committees

A short sharp review took place between June and November 2013. A series of interviews with a number of expert advisors were held and a variety of community groups and organisations provided written information to inform the review. Representatives from the Panel attended various meetings of the Northampton Forums and received their responses to the core questions. The Scrutiny Panel undertook a number of site visits to various parks around the town. Desktop research was undertaken by the Scrutiny Officer, the findings of which informed the review.

A great interest was shown by a large number of the public, organisations and forums.

**Councillor Elizabeth Gowen
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 - Improving the
Town's Parks**



Being the only co-optee on the Scrutiny Panel from a park not situated in the town centre, and not considered to be a premier park it was very interesting to hear the problems that these parks experience. All the parks are diverse in character, environment, and use, but contrary to my previous view, the problems were much the same as experienced by my local parks. The site visits made to both formal parks and those with a more natural environment, were very informative, and gave the opportunity for members of the panel to highlight and discuss what they considered to be the strengths and weaknesses of each area. This and the answers to the core questions sent to many local organisations gave a clear picture of the problems that the users of the parks experienced. Some were known to me, others were ones I had not even considered. There was the opportunity to exchange ideas which I found most useful, and the whole experience will hopefully benefit all the wonderful green spaces in Northampton, but especially, as an out of town park containing a Scheduled Monument, raise the profile of my local parks and out of town parks in general.

Mavis Wilmshurst
Chair, West Hunsbury Parks
Co-Optee – Scrutiny Panel 1 – Improving the Town's Parks

Co-Opted Members

The Scrutiny process benefitted from the expertise and knowledge of four co-opted Members to reviews this year.

On being invited as a co-optee to the Scrutiny Panel for Northampton's Parks I found a door opened that for a lay person is a rare privilege. Not only to understand the workings and decision process of NBC, but to express views and feelings that represented of the Friends of the Racecourse and other friends groups. The discussions and site visits showed the diversity of ideas which not only helped to build the final report but to take back to the Friends of Northampton Racecourse (FONR) and complement and swell our discussions in the future. Overall an experience I would not have missed and would recommend to anyone.

Alan Borrell
Vice Chair, Friends of Northampton Racecourse (FONR)
Co-Optee – Scrutiny Panel 1
– Improving the Town's Parks

Scrutiny Panels

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

Recommendations from three Scrutiny reviews that were undertaken during 2012/2013 are being implemented and monitored by the O&S Committee.



Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC), Violent Crime and Community Safety

This high profile Scrutiny review highlighted the need 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

Recommendations of the review were around the themes:

- Housing
- Planning/Regeneration
- Partners and Agencies
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Community Forums
- Northants Probation Service
-

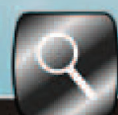
Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations contained within the report and Overview and Scrutiny will monitor the implementation of its recommendations in September 2014.

Retail Experience

This was another high profile Scrutiny review that received a wealth of evidence from key agencies, partners and the general public.

24 recommendations were included in the report. They were broadly focussed on the retail experience, cleansing and partnership working.

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny report and congratulated the Scrutiny Panel on its high quality, comprehensive report. Overview and Scrutiny will monitor the implementation of its recommendation in June 2014.



Infrastructure Requirements and Section 106 Agreements

This in-depth review focused on:

- Identifying the infrastructure requirements to Northampton and the surrounding areas
- Evaluating how the infrastructure will be delivered through Section 106 Agreements/ Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Identifying any funding gaps and how these will be filled
- Understanding the management of S106 funding

The Scrutiny Panel formally informed Cabinet that it was satisfied that the infrastructure requirements are identified in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Infrastructure Delivery Plan up to 2026.

Recommendations of the review were around the themes:

- Infrastructure requirements
- Affordable housing

Cabinet accepted the recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny report and the Committee will monitor the implementation of the recommendations in the autumn 2014.

West Northamptonshire
Joint Core Strategy
Infrastructure Delivery Plan
Update 2012



Review work 2013/2014

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton has undertaken some excellent review work again this year.

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

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton continues to be Councillor-led and focuses on the major issues affecting the town. It has therefore carried out some very high profile reviews this year, the impact of which will be reported in next year's O&S Annual Report:

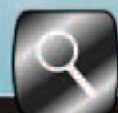
Improving the Town's Parks

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton has undertaken some excellent review work again this year.

Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (Including HIMOs)

The purpose of this review was to investigate the regulation and management of private lettings, both by landlords and agencies.

The O&S Committee, at its work programming event in March 2013, agreed to include a review of investigating the regulation and management of private lettings, both by landlords and agencies. These were issues that had been identified by the Cabinet Member



for Housing as one of her key priorities. The O&S Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 2 to undertake the review.

An in-depth review commenced in July 2013 and concluded in April 2014.

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

- **Context of private sector housing market including:**
 - Changes over the last ten years
 - Future trends
- **Baseline data:**
 - Private Sector Housing Strategy
 - Existing legislation and options available to local Councils for additional legislation
 - Options for licensing of HIMO's
- **Empty Homes Programme**
 - Evidence from expert internal witnesses
 - Evidence from expert external witnesses
 - Desktop research
 - Best practice data

Recommendations were around the themes:

- Licensing and Legislative options
- Priorities for the Private Rental **Sector**

An in-depth review took place between July 2013 and the end of April 2014.

The Scrutiny Panel held a number of interviews with the Cabinet Member (Housing), Senior Staff at Northampton Borough Council and external expert witnesses. Desktop research was carried out by the Scrutiny Officer.

This was a very informative review; which received a wealth of evidence. A lot of expert advisors gave up their time to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to provide information, advice and comprehensive written evidence

Councillor Joy Capstick
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (Including HIMO's)

Impact of the Welfare Reform Act

The purpose of this review was to evaluate the effect of the Welfare Reform Act on the public and Council employees.

The O&S Committee, at its work programming event in March 2013, agreed to include a Review of evaluating the effect of the Welfare Reform Act on the public and Council employees. This was an issue that had been identified by the Cabinet Member for Finance as one of his key priorities for the year. It was also suggested by members of the public as a key issue for scrutiny review. The O&S Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in January 2014 and will conclude in July 2014, reporting the findings to the O&S Committee in the autumn 2014.



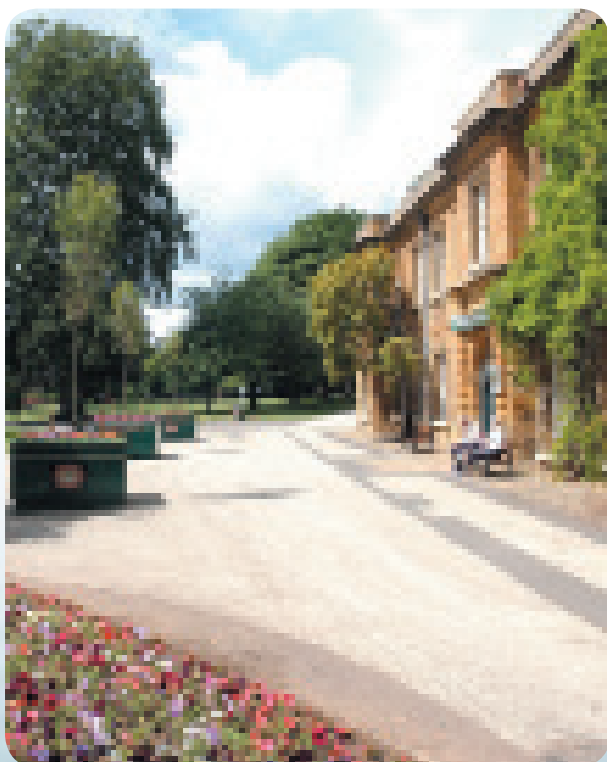
Looking ahead

The Work Programme for 2014/2015 has been approved and the Scrutiny Panels will begin to scope the reviews shortly. They will be looking at the following important topics:

- Interpersonal Violence
- Poverty in the town
- Keep Northampton Tidy

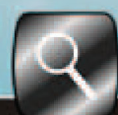
The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will look at:

- Arms' Length Management Organisation (ALMO)
- The new bus terminal



What are our challenges for 2013/2014?

- To build on O&S's achievements as identified in the Overview and Scrutiny Excellence Plan (2013-2015).
- To continue to ensure the O&S work programme reflects concerns of service users, community and public – ensuring that a wide range of organisations, partners and the public are consulted with for suggestions for scrutiny review and then on the actual work programme.
- To ensure O&S is able to respond effectively to legislative requirements, such as the new powers, for example, wider powers to influence policy and public service delivery in their area – for example investigated issues beyond its traditional remit but affect local people.
- To ensure O&S works with the community and key partners to respond to concerns.
- To continue to ensure that the work of O&S has a positive effect on decision-makers and provide evidence that it has made a real difference. Recommendations made in 2013-14 will be monitored and their impact reported on in the Annual Report 2014-2015.
- To continue to increase public participation in O&S at Northampton by increased public suggestions for scrutiny review and increased attendance at O&S Committee and Panel meetings. This process has increased year on year.



Glossary of Terms

Call-In

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

Cabinet (Executive)

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

Councillor (Member)

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

Pre-decision Scrutiny:

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

Review

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

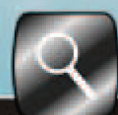
The Review will lead to recommendations for improvements to relevant Cabinet Members as well as outside agencies, such as health trusts. While these are not obliged to support the recommendations, effective consultation has been proven to lead to consensus and to Cabinet support for reviews undertaken.

Contact details for more information

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

You can view recent agendas and minutes on the Council's website at www.northampton.gov.uk or by contacting Democratic Services

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



Suggest an item for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate?

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



Overview and Scrutiny
 Northampton Borough Council
 The Guildhall
 St Giles Square
 Northampton
 NN1 1DE



Email: Scrutiny

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

Overview and Scrutiny cannot help in the following areas:

- Individual complaints about specific issues - these should be taken up through Northampton Borough Council's Customer Care Procedure.
- Proper accounting for money of the Council - this is the responsibility of the Audit Committee - for information, contact 01604 837356
- The conduct or behaviour of a councillor or officer - this is the responsibility of the Standards Committee - for information, contact 01604 837101.

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

Suggested Issues for overview and scrutiny

Name:

Email:

Telephone:

Issues suggested for inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

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

Jesli angielski nie jest Twoim jezykiem ojczystym a potrzebujesz pomocy w przetlumaczeniu tego dokumentu, prosze skontaktuj sie z Tracy Tiff pod numerem 01604 837408

Если английский не Ваш родной язык и Вам нужна помощь с переводом этого документа, то свяжитесь с Трайсу Тиф. Тел. 01604 837408

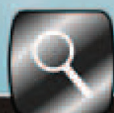
Haddii afka Ingriisigu aanu ahayn luuqad-daada kowaad oo aad u baahan-tahay in lagaa caawiyo turjumidda warqaddan fadlan kala xidhidh Tracy Tiff tilifoonka 01604 837408

如果英語不是你的主要說用語言而需要幫助將這份文件翻譯，請致電 01604 837408 向 Tracy Tiff 提出要求。

যদি ইংরেজী আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হয় এবং এই দলিলটি অনুবাদে আপনার সাহায্যের দরকার হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে ট্রেইসি টিফ-এর সাথে 01604 837408 এই টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

LARGE PRINT AND TAPE

If you would like this document as large print or as a tape recording please call **01604 837408**



Appendices



COUNCIL
14 JULY 2014

Agenda Status: PUBLIC

Directorate: Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Report Title	UPDATE ON GREYFRIARS DEVELOPMENT
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1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on the recent planning appeal decision regarding the Rushden Lakes development and the implications for the proposed retail and leisure-led development at Greyfriars.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council to note the current position regarding the termination of the Development Agreement with Legal and General (L&G).
- 2.2 Council delegates to the Leader and Chief Executive to agree the final details of the termination of the Development Agreement.
- 2.3 Council delegates to the Leader and Chief Executive any initial expenditure that is required to fund alternative plans in advance of a further report to Cabinet.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 Members will be aware that following a Public Inquiry in 2013, the Secretary of State has determined the called-in application for the development at Rushden Lakes, Rushden.

The application is for retail, garden centre, visitor centre, restaurants, hotel and other associated and ancillary development and was approved by the

Secretary of State, subject to conditions. The development is also subject to a unilateral undertaking under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

3.1.2 In approving the application, the Secretary of State agreed with the Inspector's recommendations and findings and, insofar as the decision relates to Northampton, concludes that:

- a) there is no suitable and available sequentially superior site;
- b) he is not persuaded that a grant of planning permission at Rushden Lakes would preclude further investment at The Grosvenor Centre on the grounds of viability;
- c) it is unlikely that substantial numbers of people living in Northampton and beyond would be drawn to Rushden Lakes;
- d) the impact of Rushden Lakes on the vitality and viability of Northampton [Kettering and Corby] would not be significant;
- e) he found that there would be other benefits associated with the scheme.

3.1.3 In his overall conclusions, he found that whilst the proposal would not wholly accord with the North Northants Joint Core Strategy, the key policies and provisions in the adopted development plan are out of date.

The benefits of the proposal are not clearly outweighed by adverse impacts and that there are no other material considerations which indicate that planning permission should be refused.

3.2 Issues

3.2.1 Members will recall that at the Public Enquiry, L&G, the owners of the Grosvenor Centre, made it very clear that if the development was allowed they would not be in a position to progress the proposed extension to the Grosvenor Centre.

The Leader, Cabinet Member, Chief Executive and the Director met with representatives of L&G on 13th June, 2014 to discuss the Secretary of State's decision and to understand what L&G's intentions now were regarding the proposed extension.

3.2.2 It was agreed at the meeting that it would be beneficial for both parties for the existing Development Agreement to be terminated and the Council to be able to pursue other interested parties who would be interested in working with the Council to ensure that a retail and leisure-led scheme at the Greyfriars site is brought forward as quickly as possible. It was agreed by both parties that any new scheme would ensure that adequate linkages to the existing Grosvenor Scheme were provided for. The representatives of L&G also stated that agreement to termination would be subject to Board Approval.

3.2.3 L&G have now confirmed that their Board have agreed to the termination of the existing Development Agreement.

3.2.4 The Council will now proceed with bringing forward a new scheme for the Greyfriar's site, working with other partners.

3.3 Choices Options

3.3.1 The Council could choose:

- (i) not to pursue a retail and leisure-led scheme on the Greyfriars site;
- (ii) to move ahead with the development by pursuing a new development partner

3.3.2 An option could be proposed to not move ahead with a retail and leisure-led scheme on the Greyfriars site. This option would need an alternative usage to be found for the site and would not bring the enhanced retail-led offer for the town centre.

3.3.3 The preferred option would be to find an alternative developer or partner to ensure that a new scheme is developed on the site. A procurement process would need to be undertaken.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The Central Action Plan sets out the planning policy objectives for the town centre area up to 2026. In respect of retail provision Policy 14 (meeting retail capacity) allocates the following:

61,000m² gross of comparison retail floor space
4,500m² gross of convenience retail floor space

The former Greyfriars Bus station site is allocated as part of this proposal.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are unlikely to be any further financial implications for the Council with regards to the Development Agreement being terminated.

Upon termination of the Development Agreement the future development liabilities of the site would be the responsibility of the Council. To enable the site to be developed in the future the Council has £4m set aside in its Capital Programme to demolish the existing structure. Further details on this scheme were included in the report to Cabinet in November 2013. The Council may have to spend further resources to ensure the site ready for future development.

If this is the case further details will be included in a future report to Cabinet and resources incorporated into the Capital Programme and Revenue Budget accordingly. Should the Council need to incur any initial costs in developing the future options for the site in advance of this report to Cabinet these will be funded from existing budgets and reserves.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Development Agreement does contain a number of obligations on both sides. However, the Development Agreement does not contain any specific contractual penalties if the Agreement terminates naturally. Both L&G and the Council, as parties to the Agreement, can terminate the Agreement by mutual agreement on whatever terms both parties think fit.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no adverse equality implications arising from this report, however, the original Informal Community Impact Assessment conducted prior to October 2009 will be reviewed and repeated as required during the process.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 There are no other implications.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

Steve Boyes, Director-Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
0300 330 7000

Appendices: 0



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Agenda Item 11

COUNCIL

14th July 2014

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Housing

Report Title	Northampton Partnership Homes – Delegation Appointment of a Managing Director
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the appointment of a Managing Director for the Housing ALMO at a salary level of £100,000 or more and to seek delegated powers to make the appointment, agree associated recruitment processes and set the exact salary level for the role.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Council approves, in principle, the setting of the salary package for the ALMO Managing Director (or whatever Post description is finally agreed) in excess of £100,000.00 as required by the Council's pay policy
- 2.2 Council delegates the authority to the Head of Paid Service, in a consultation with the Leader of the Council in his capacity as the chair of the Appointment and Appeals committee:
 - I) The power to appoint to the ALMO Managing Director post and all associated activities such as agreeing the Job Description, Person Specification and Interview Process and
 - II) To determine the specific level of salary package for the ALMO Managing Director following the conclusion of an appropriate salary evaluation process.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 On 9th December 2013, the Council resolved to establish an Arms Length Management Organisation (“ALMO”) to manage the Council’s housing stock. This decision was made following recommendations of the Cabinet, informed by views of the Tenants’ Panel, the Employee Focus Group and the Housing Options Panel.
- 3.1.2 It was agreed by Council that the ALMO would be created as a true arm’s length managed organisation to ensure that it had sufficient autonomy to make improvements and decisions for the benefit of tenant services.
- 3.1.3 On 9th April 2014, Cabinet agreed that the legal form of the ALMO would be a company limited by guarantee. A company limited by guarantee called Northampton Partnership Homes has now been incorporated.
- 3.1.4 It is intended that the ALMO will commence delivery of housing services from 5th January 2015. In the meantime, an ALMO Shadow Board comprising tenants, Council nominees, independents and employees has been set up.
- 3.1.5 In order to progress the implementation of the ALMO, the Council now needs to recruit and appoint the most senior Officer for the ALMO. The exact title for the person is yet to be determined but is referred to in this report as the ALMO Managing Director. Initially, it is highly likely that the Managing Director, for technical reasons will be employed by the Council and seconded to the ALMO. It is anticipated that following the commencement of the delivery of services by the ALMO, the Managing Director will become an employee of the ALMO following the conclusion of the appropriate employment processes.

3.2 Appointment of ALMO Managing Director – Appointment process

- 3.2.1 The Appointment and Appeals Committee (which is a committee of the Full Council) is responsible for making appointments of Heads of Service and Chief Officers (other than the Chief Executive). The Appointment and Appeals Committee is also responsible for undertaking all associated activities such as agreeing job descriptions, person specifications and interview processes. Ordinarily, appointment of the ALMO Managing Director post would fall within the remit of the Appointment and Appeals Committee because of the seniority of the post.
- 3.2.2 However, in this situation, it is important that the Council works closely with the ALMO Shadow Board so that the appointment is “owned” by both the Council and the ALMO. Non Councillors cannot lawfully sit on the Appointment and Appeals Committee so in order to support a joint approach this report seeks Council’s approval to a reconfiguration of the normal constitutional appointments process.
- 3.2.3 It is proposed that a joint Panel consisting of the Chief Executive, as Head of Paid Service and Cabinet member for Housing in partnership with a sub-panel of the Shadow Board (chosen by ALMO Shadow Board) work together to develop the recruitment documentation, interview processes and interview the candidates for the role. However, it is proposed that the formal approval processes for the documentation and the actual person to be appointed are

through the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader of the Council in his capacity as Chair of the Appointment and Appeals Committee.

3.3 Appointment of ALMO Managing Director – Salary Level

- 3.3.1 Prior to commencing a recruitment process, it will be necessary for the Council to carry out a formal process to evaluate what level the salary of the ALMO Managing Director should be set at. Human Resources and legal advice will be sought as required to support this process.
- 3.3.2 It is recommended that Council delegates the authority to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Leader of the Council to determine the specific level of the salary package for the ALMO Managing Director following the conclusion of an appropriate evaluation process.
- 3.3.3 Although, the specific salary level of the ALMO Managing Director has not yet been determined, it is estimated that the salary level of the Managing Director will need to be set at a level in excess of £100,000 per annum. This is due to the seniority of the post, its strategic importance, the specialist knowledge and expertise that will be required and the extensive nature of the duties and responsibilities that the post holder will be required to carry out.
- 3.3.4 The Council's Pay Policy Statement requires any salary packages of £100,000 or more to have Full Council approval. This requirement reflects the February 2012 statutory guidance, "*Openness and accountability in local pay*" that was issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to provisions of the Localism Act 2011. (In this context, a salary package includes salary, any bonuses, fees or allowances routinely payable to the post holder and any benefits in kind to which they would be entitled as a result of their employment).
- 3.3.5 For the reasons set out in paragraph 3.3.3 above, it is therefore recommended that Council specifically approves the setting of a salary package for the ALMO Managing Director at a level in excess of £100,000.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 This report seeks compliance with the Council's extant Pay Policy document.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 Outlined in the body of the report.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 Outlined in the body of the report.

4.4 Equality

- 4.4.1 There are no adverse equality implications arising from this report.
Any recruitment process will be compliant with the Council's recruitment policies which do take account of and address equality issues.

4.5 Other Implications

- 4.5.1 None

5. Background Papers

None

**Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary**