

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held in the Jeffrey Room,
The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on
Wednesday, 20 January 2016 commencing at 6:00pm

D Kennedy
Chief Executive

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

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor Jamie Lane
Deputy-Chair	Councillor Brian W Sargeant
Committee Members	Councillor Rufia Ashraf Councillor Muna Cali Councillor John Caswell Councillor Gareth Eales Councillor Terrie Eales Councillor James Hill Councillor Phil Larratt Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Brian Oldham Councillor Suresh Patel Councillor Samuel Shaw Councillor Zoe Smith Councillor Graham Walker

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
11 April 2016 6:00 pm 13 June	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1 6:00pm	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitution
2	Minutes	1 - 10	Members to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2015.
3	Deputations/Public Addresses		The Chair to note public address requests. The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.
4	Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
5 6:05pm	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group – General Fund MTFP 2016/2017 - 2020/2021, draft Council wide draft budget 2016-2017, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Rent Setting 2016/17 and Budget Projections 2017/18 to 2020/21	11-12	The Committee to consider the General Fund MTFP 2016/2017 - 2020/2021, draft Council wide draft budget 2016-2017 Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Rent Setting 2016/17 and Budget Projections 2017/18 to 2020/21
6	Response of Cabinet to Overview and Scrutiny Reports		
6 (a) 7:05pm	Keep Northampton Tidy	13 - 19	
6 (b) 7:10pm	Interpersonal Violence	20 - 26	
6 (c) 7:15pm	Tree Maintenance	27 - 30	
7	Scrutiny Panels		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a progress report from the three Scrutiny Panels.
7 (a) 7:20pm	Scrutiny Panel 1	31	
7 (b) 7:25pm	Scrutiny Panel 2	32	
7 (c) 7:30pm	Scrutiny Panel 3	33	
8 7:35pm	NBC Owned Street Lighting Working Group	34	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a progress report from the Chair of the Street Lighting Working Group.
9 7:40pm	Potential future pre decision scrutiny.	35	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any potential issues for future pre decision scrutiny.
10 7:45pm	Urgent Items		This issue is for business that by reasons of the special circumstances to be specified, the Chair is of the opinion is of sufficient urgency to consider. Members or Officers that wish to raise urgent items are to inform the Chair in advance.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25 November 2015

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair), Councillor Brian Sargeant (Deputy Chair); Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Muna Cali, Gareth Eales, James Hill, Phil Larratt, Dennis Meredith, Brian Oldham, Suresh Patel and Zoe Smith

Witnesses
: Josie Bateman, Flood and Water Manager, NCC (item 5)
Ben Thornely, Area Flood Risk Manager, NCC (item 5)
Councillor Stephen Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing (items 6, 7(a and 8)
Phil Harris, Head of Housing and Wellbeing (items 6 and 7a)
Debi Waite, Private Sector Housing Manager (item 7a)
Julie Seddon, Director, Customers and Communities (item 8)
Councillor Alan Bottwood, Cabinet Member for Environment (item 8)
Councillor Tim Hadland, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning (item 8)
Claire Berry, Planning Policy and Heritage Manager (item 8)

Officers Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

Members of the Public Kim Fuller
Martin DeResario

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terrie Eales and Councillor Graham Walker.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2015 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Kim Fuller, tenant, addressed the Committee on agenda item 6 - Sheltered Housing Review.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

Councillor Brian Oldham declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 – Sheltered Housing Review Update as a sheltered housing resident.

5. FLOODING 1:200 FLOOD RISK

The Committee received a comprehensive presentation on Flood and Coastal Risk Management in the Welland and Nene Catchment from Josie Bateman, Flood and Water Manager, Northamptonshire County Council and Ben Thornely, Area Flood Risk Manager, Environment Agency. The salient points contained within the presentation were highlighted:

- FWM Act 2010 → Roles and Responsibilities
- Nature of Flood Risk in Northamptonshire & Northampton
- Capital/Maintenance funding & Partnership Working
- Growth – EA and NCC input to the planning system
- Key partners and ways of working
- Incident Management
- Section 19 Flood Investigations
- Key sites

The Committee heard:

- The Flood and Water Management (FWM) Act 2010 came into force in 2010
- The nature of flood risk in Northamptonshire is extremely varied and widespread.
- Northampton was significantly affected in the Easter 1998 floods – as a result of main river and surface water interactions.
- The sources of recent flooding include a variety of:
 - A small amount of main river affecting caravan sites such as Billing Aquadrome.
 - Surface water and a great deal of agricultural runoff
 - Ordinary watercourses overtopping, but mainly culverted watercourses surcharging
 - Groundwater in basements
- Josie Bateman advised that the worst week of floods was 21-26th November 2012 when a significant amounts of rain fell onto already saturated ground. 11 flood warnings were in place for Northamptonshire. Evacuation of Billing Aquadrome and Cogenhoe Caravan Park. A total of 302 incidents were reported across the two main events. Of these incidents, a total of 128 properties were internally affected by flooding. Of these reported incidents, a total of 17 incidents meet the draft protocol for formal investigation.
- The Committee was advised that the total hotspot number: is 2,527 from data captured from 2011-2014. It is collated from a wide variety of sources – including Fire and Rescue records; NCC Highways records; Borough and District Authorities, national, local and social media, direct reports to the County Council by phone, email or using the online incident report form or street doctor.
- Environment Agency (EA) Capital spend in Northamptonshire in 2014/2015: equated to £0.9million; EA Revenue spend in Northamptonshire in 2014/2015: £2.1m;
- Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)'s total Local Levy contributions for 2015/16 is £641,653

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- In response to a query regarding 1:200 flood risk, Ben Thornely advised that this is applicable to defences in the centre of Northampton. Other areas have lower standards of protection; such as Wooldale Road at 1:100. There are various levels of protection for Wootton Brook - No minimum level is set by DEFRA. Any new developments within or upstream of Northampton have to attenuate water to a higher standard than most other parts of the country and to demonstrate that they do not increase flood risk. Policy BN7 in the WN JCS details this requirement to attenuate water to a 1:200 (plus climate change) standard – this should not be interpreted as requiring all defences to be increased to this standard.
In answer to a comment regarding Supplementary Planning Guidance and 1:200 flood risk, Ben Thornely further advised that new developments should be to this standard. It was suggested that this issue is considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme event in March 2016. Ben Thornely proposed a meeting with interested Councillors and Officers before this time.
- In answer to a query about sluice gates in the town centre and whether they are capable and meet requirements to discharge water in large scale; Ben Thornely reported that modelling shows all structure on the Nene in the centre of Northampton are capable of dealing with a flood up to the 1:200 standard. The Committee felt that technical details should be available on line. Ben Thornely mentioned that this information had been made available to interested parties in the past – they have had full access.
- The Committee heard that 27 formal flood investigations were undertaken, the results of all published. Consultation exercises take place with all those affected. Clear recommendations are set. NCC and the EA do not have powers to enforce the recommendations but publication of them does help.
- There is no legal requirement to publish desk-based investigations, which do not meet the agreed protocol..
- The Committee welcomed the [Flood Toolkit](#) that was launched in April 2015. There are around 1,000 hits on the website each month. The Toolkit is up for a National Award.
- Northamptonshire County Council has been successful in securing funding for a Pathfinder 2 Project working with 30 new communities
- A second DEFRA bid for small projects (Small Schemes Pathfinder); this funding will inform the efficiency of bids.
- The Flood Warning sirens were raised – Ben Thornely stated that their use was superseded by the provision of the flood defence in the centre of Northampton and that new ways of communicating, such as the Environment Agency’s Flood Line (which sends out flood warnings) and social media, were deemed far more effective and targeted. Communication would occur with the Council and the communities if the sirens were to be decommissioned.

Ben Thornely and Josie Bateman were thanked for providing an informative and comprehensive presentation to the Committee.

6. SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW UPDATE

Kim Fuller, tenant, addressed the Committee. She highlighted the needs of vulnerable people and that DWP criteria should be met. Ms Fuller gave the Committee an example of tenant who had asked for her daughter to be moved closer to her. Ms Fuller felt that not all

the needs of this tenant had been taken into consideration such as lack of nutrition. Ms Fuller added that there is a need for a Mental Health Advocate to be present during assessments. Ms Fuller went on to advise the Committee of her own experience of alleged bullying. Ms Fuller concluded her address by referring to improvements made at Gladstone Road.

Ms Fuller was thanked for her address.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Mike Kay, Chief Executive, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), Shirley Davies, Executive Director, NPH, and Phil Harris, Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC, presented the briefing paper on the Sheltered Housing Review highlighting the key points:

- The Sheltered Housing Review is in respect of demand rather than the assessment process, but the assessment process will be looked at as part of a service improvement review
- The use of Community Rooms are also being looked at so that they can be best used.
- The Chief Executive of NPH is aware of the alleged bullying incident and the matter had been dealt with and the case closed.
- In 2012 Northampton Borough Council undertook a review of its sheltered housing stock which was followed by a further, external review by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH).
- On 5 January 2015 NPH was created by NBC NPH has subsequently taken this work and research further and fed this into a wider “Older Persons” Strategy” project which will produce a more holistic Strategy that meets the current and future needs and aspirations of older people in Northampton. To support this work NPH has engaged a specialist consultant:
- The Sheltered Housing Review is currently work in progress with good progress being made. Mike Kay confirmed that he could present the findings and recommendations of the Review when it was complete. This was estimated to be May 2016.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- In response to a query whether NPH is working with Planning Services, particularly regarding large scale planning applications; Mike Kay advised that consultation includes Planning Services, in respect of current and future need etc. Planned developments will inform the Review.
- The Committee commented that Parsons Mead Community Room is well used.
- In answer to a question regarding the criteria for individuals qualifying for sheltered housing, the Committee heard the traditional approach is that individuals should be of pensionable age: classified as being 55 years of age is in respect of concessionary TV licence of £5. Assessment is on an individual basis and other referrals are accepted such as medical and learning needs.
- Mike Kay confirmed that Northamptonshire County Council would be a key stakeholder in the Older Person’s Strategy.

The Chair thanked all for providing information about the Sheltered Housing Review and asked that the findings be presented to the June 2016 meeting of this Committee.

AGREED: (1) That the update is noted.

(2) That the findings from the Sheltered Housing Review are presented to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 June 2016.

7. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS:

(A) MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING INCLUDING HIMOS

Councillor Stephen Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Phil Harris, Head of Housing and Wellbeing and Debi Waite, Private Sector Housing Manager, presented the action plan detailing progress on the accepted recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny report: Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing, including HIMOs. The salient points contained within the action plan were highlighted.

The Committee heard:

- The Private Sector Housing Team is changing its approach to licensing and enforcement, and is planning to submit a new HIMO Fees Policy and Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy to Cabinet., for consideration, in February 2016.
- Debi Waite provided the Committee with details of her previous experience and her plans for tackling criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords, using risk assessment and available intelligence to target the worst properties and landlords.

The Committee asked questions, made comment and heard:

- Phil Harris advised that the Senior Managers in Housing and Planning are working together to improve the quality of HIMOs in the borough and ensure that the Planning Committee has all of the information it needs when considering an application for planning permission in relation to a HIMO. This is likely to involve a review of the guidance and the provision of joint training for Members on the Planning Committee.
- Well-managed HIMOs play a vital role in meeting the housing needs of many hundreds of people in Northampton, including students and people living on a low income.
- In response to a query about sound proofing, Debi Waite advised that the Council is able to attach any 'reasonable' conditions to the licensing of a HIMO. She said she is currently reviewing Northampton's licensing conditions and she confirmed that Planning Officers will have an input into that review.

The Chair thanked all for providing an update on the progress of the accepted recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny report and requested that a further updated is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in six months' time.

AGREED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes further monitoring of the accepted recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny report: Private Sector Housing including HIMO's at its meeting on 13 June 2016.

8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY

Councillor Tim Hadland, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning and Claire Berry, Planning Policy and Heritage Manager, addressed the Committee on Performance Indicator (PI) N1154 – Net additional homes provided.

Councillor Hadland emphasised that the Authority is not in a position to control the PI but can encourage developers to build and bring land forward. There are currently sites identified in adopted Local Plans, with planning permission or under construction for more than 22,000 dwellings in the borough and immediate surrounding areas; planning is not a constraint on supply in this area; constraints are around the market and infrastructure. Councillor Hadland added that the Chancellor had announced in his Spending Review 2015 that measures would be taken to remove some constraints including incentives for first time buyers.

The Committee asked questions, made comment and heard:

- The Committee was advised that a substantial number of housing supply has been identified and work is taking place with developers and land owners to ensure this supply is brought forward for development.
- There is a need to ensure that home ownership in Northampton is attractive, for example, good employment and education. Northampton Alive is a key contributor.
- In response to a query why NI154 is monitored if the Authority has no control; Claire Berry advised that the Authority is required to monitor this by central Government. The figure is set in the adopted Local Plan.
- In response to a concern regarding affordability of homes; Councillor Hadland advised that one of the Chancellor's recent measures is more support for low cost ownership including other housing tenures such as shared ownership. The more housing that is built equates to more affordable housing being available.

Councillor Hadland and Claire Berry were thanked for providing information to the Committee

Councillor Alan Bottwood, Cabinet Member for Environment, and Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities, addressed the Committee on Performance Indication PP53 – Percentage Service requests responded to within three days. Councillor Bottwood advised that there had been a slip against this target due to resources being directed towards another indicator; however, resources will be diverted back

The Committee then posed questions and made comment regarding Performance Indicators ESC09 – Percentage of fly-tipping incidents removed within two working days of notification and ESCO1n – Total bins/boxes missed in period:

- Reported fly-tipping is removed but people continue to fly-tip. The work of the Neighbourhood Wardens was commended.
- Councillor Bottwood advised that all options to prevent fly-tipping are being investigated; particularly educating people and introducing various campaigns. There is the need for ward Councillor and resident involvement.
- In response to a query how the data for ESC09 is collated, Julie Seddon advised that this Performance Indicator (PI) is the responsibility of Enterprise who monitor it. This is the most cost effective method of monitoring. The Partnership Unit also checks and verifies PIs and carries out site checks.
- It was emphasised that PI ESC09 is in respect of reported incidents of fly tipping.
- A member of the Committee confirmed that when he had reported fly-tipping it has always been removed; he highlighted the need to educate people.
- There is a high level of fly-tipping in Northampton.
- It was confirmed that if there are slippages to the PI penalties are set.
- Councillor Bottwood referred to ESCO1n and advised that there were 817 missed bins in a month. 1.9 million bins are collected every month; this equates to 0.043%. Performance is good.
- Annual calendars are issued that detail the dates of bin collections.
- In response to a query regarding the establishment of how a missed bin is identified; the Committee heard that in-cab technology makes a record whether a bin has been collected. A bin is only a missed bin if it has been properly presented. A missed bin must be collected within 24 hours.
- In response to a concern regarding fly-tipping (such as building materials, tree cutting and white goods), in the country side, for example Wootton Field it was confirmed that it is difficult to trace where this has come from. Julie Seddon advised that this is categorised as semi commercial activity. Notices are put up and CCTV cameras used. Neighbourhood Wardens should be contacted in the first instance.
- In response to a query regarding the process for issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs); Julie Seddon advised that three notices must be issued – informing the individual, educating them and warning them. The whole process can take at least nine weeks and specific evidence is required. It is a resource intensive process.
- It was commented that Enterprise has given presentations to Residents' Associations which were very well received.
- It was suggested that fly-tipping and the need to educate people is considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming event in March 2016.

Councillor Bottwood and Julie Seddon were thanked for providing information to the Committee

Councillor Stephen Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, addressed the Committee on Performance Indicator HML05 – Total number of people sleeping rough on the streets. He advised that the Outreach Team often meets with rough sleepers, offers assistance and

signposts them to various organisations and charities. There are currently 20 rough sleepers, of which 12 are Eastern European.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- Rough sleeping can sometimes be a life style choice.
- It was noted that not all rough sleepers will visit Oasis House and some may have been rejected due to previous behavioural issues.
- The Chair advised that he had been part of an Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group that had investigated rough sleeping in 2006.
- Councillor Hibbert commented that a Rough Sleeping Strategy would be included in the overarching Housing Strategy for the next five years
- Northampton Borough Council works with NASH and the Hope Centre.
- The Severe Weather Policy for 2015/16 has been produced and Oasis House will be used during severe weather.

Councillor Hibbert was thanked for providing information to the Committee.

9. RESPONSE OF CABINET TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS

(A) IMPACT OF THE WELFARE REFORM ACT

The Committee noted Cabinet's response to its Report "Impact of the Welfare Reform Act". The Chair would now ask the Cabinet Member and Director to attend the meeting of the Committee on 13 June 2016 to advise Councillors on the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

AGREED: That monitoring of the accepted recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny report "Impact of the Welfare Reform Act" takes place at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 June 2016.

(B) POVERTY IN THE TOWN

The Committee noted Cabinet's response to its Report "Poverty in the Town". The Chair would now ask the Cabinet Member and Director to attend the meeting of the Committee on 13 June 2016 to advise Councillors on the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

AGREED: That monitoring of the accepted recommendations contained within the Overview and Scrutiny report "Poverty in the Town" takes place at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 June 2016.

10. SCRUTINY PANELS

11. SCRUTINY PANEL 1

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted a progress report regarding the review undertaken by Scrutiny Panel 1.

12. SCRUTINY PANEL 2

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted a progress report regarding the review undertaken by Scrutiny Panel 2.

13. SCRUTINY PANEL 3

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted a progress report regarding the review undertaken by Scrutiny Panel 3.

14. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTING AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the terms of reference for the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group 2015/16 for approval.

AGREED: That the Terms of Reference for the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group are approved.

15. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY NBC OWNED STREET LIGHTING WORKING GROUP

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted a progress report regarding the Scrutiny activity undertaken by NBC Owned Street Lighting Working Group.

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

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted a briefing paper regarding the work of Northamptonshire County Council's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Brian Sargeant, NBC's representative to this Committee advised that members of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee would be undertaking a site visit to a local prison.

The update was noted.

17. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY

The Chair advised that he had received a request from a member of the Committee for future pre decision scrutiny regarding the contract for Environmental Services. The suggestion would be taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming event in March 2016.

18. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 8:26 pm



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

20 JANUARY 2016

BRIEFING NOTE:

**O&S Reporting and Monitoring Working Group –
General Fund MTFP 2016/2017 - 2020/2021, Council wide draft budget 2016-
2017, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Rent Setting 2016/17 and Budget
Projections 2017/18 to 2020/21**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group met on 11 January 2016 to review the draft budget details and identify proposals that it considered merited closer scrutiny.

2 UPDATE

2.1 All the items in the revenue and capital budget proposals for the General Fund, (GF), and Housing Revenue Account, (HRA) were discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group. The Working Group agreed a number of priority items forward for closer scrutiny by the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 The items chosen for closer scrutiny are:

Saving Options and Budget Risks

Area For Further Scrutiny	GF / HRA Saving Option or Budget Risk
1. Rent decrease based on Government Policy -1% for 4 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on the Capital Programme • Impact on the Repairs and Maintenance Budget 	HRA Budget Risk
2. Welfare Reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of provisions in place for support and how this is reflected in the budget 	GF Budget Risk
3 Environmental Services Contract: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and plans for a possible new contract and the mitigation against potential increase in costs 	GF Budget Risk

- 2.3 Cabinet Members and Officers have been asked to attend this meeting to support the scrutiny of these proposals.
- 2.4 Comments raised by Overview and Scrutiny will form part of the Cabinet considerations for agreeing the final budget proposals to Council. They will be provided to Council as an Appendix to the Cabinet report so that they can also be taken into account in approving a final budget.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees its comments and observations to be included as an Appendix to the Cabinet report; and for consideration by Cabinet in agreeing a final budget proposal.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 Budget Consultation (NBC internet).

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Brian Sargeant, Deputy Chair, Reporting and Monitoring Working Group

12 January 2016

Appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet response to Scrutiny Panel 3 – Keep Northampton Tidy
---------------------	---

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 December 2015
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Customers & Communities
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Alan Bottwood
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Report Keep Northampton Tidy

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Keep Northampton Tidy are implemented in accordance with the actions outlined in 3.2 below including the identification of suitable sources of finance where appropriate.
- 2.2 That the Scrutiny Panel are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanked for the time and effort given to producing it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1** Following approval of its work programme for 2014/15 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 3 to undertake the review- Keep Northampton Tidy. This review was carried out between May 2014 and March 2015.
- 3.1.2** A number of meetings were held to gather evidence from a broad range of stakeholders.
- 3.1.3** 25 recommendations are included in the report. They focus on Keep Northampton Tidy, Campaigns, Gateways into the town and Purple Flag Accreditation.

3.2 Recommendations and Service Responses

Keep Northampton Tidy

- 3.2.1** Investigate the wider use of the successful NBC Report It App., such as the inclusion of a facility to report tree issues, and use as a channel to request and coordinate community action such as litter picks. Consider extension to include NCC issues within the borough.

Action: *Discussions commenced with ICT services team at LGSS to review app functionality. The app will be updated as part of planned changes to the wider CRM system in 2016/17 and this will provide a suitable opportunity to amend functionality.*

- 3.2.2** All Councillors are sent details of the Report It App., how it works and details of the Report It App. are included in the Induction Pack for all Councillors.

Action: - *details will be circulated to all Councillors*

- 3.2.3** A Usage Log for the Report It App. is produced on an annual basis.

Action: - *This information has been requested from ICT.*

- 3.2.4** Officers such as Neighbourhood Wardens, are charged to use adhesive stickers over illegal fly posts advertising events indicating cancellation of the event in appropriate cases, and removing outdated fly-posts.

Action: *Stickers have been made available to Neighbourhood Wardens and they remove outdated fly-posts.*

- 3.2.5** Officers from Planning Services rigorously pursue perpetrators of illegal flyposting / advertising with a view to prosecution. The Scrutiny Panel recognises legislative weaknesses regarding flyposting and asks that Cabinet lobbies MPs for a change in legislation to make it easier to prosecute in respect of this issue.

Action: Powers to take action against promoters and venues responsible for fly posting are included in the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order which is currently out for consultation. Further discussions are being held with Planning to ensure that these powers are effectively enforced.

3.2.6 Funding of £2000 is made available for;

- i. Officers to be charged with disseminating portable ashtrays in the town centre.
- ii. "Do not feed the pigeons" signs to be erected at various locations in the town centre.

The provision of chewing gum boards is investigated on a cost benefit basis.

Action:

- i. Some supplies of portable ashtrays have been provided from existing budgets.*
- ii. Supplies of signs are available, suitable locations will be identified having consideration for the need to avoid clutter of signage.*
- iii. Discussions will be held with Enterprise regarding the practicalities of this proposal.*

3.2.7 To enhance an area, empty brick or similar highway planters in situ in the town centre are, either filled with various foliage, removed or topped with a hard surface.

Action; *Many planters have been replaced as part of town centre regeneration projects. Plans will be developed to deal with the remaining planters.*

3.2.8 Officers are instructed to contact supermarkets highlighting the problem of abandoned shopping trolleys in the town and encouraged to participate in a trolley collection schemes.

Action: *A letter has been sent to all supermarkets and stores in Northampton that use trolleys. Follow up visits will be carried out to those whose trolleys are found off site.*

3.2.9 Through the Planning Conditions, supermarkets and similar shops are required to have mechanisms installed to prevent trolleys being removed from site.

Action: *it is not possible to control the use of supermarket trolleys through planning conditions. Informal approaches will be made to supermarket operators recommending this as good practice..*

3.2.10 All Councillors are provided with details of the Shop Front Cleaning Orders (Community Protection Notices) and Street Litter Control Notices Legislation,

the guidance to this Legislation when it becomes available and other relevant Legislation.

Action: *A briefing note will be made available on the Intranet*

3.2.11 All relevant Agencies are encouraged to come together at budget planning time, with the aim of making a contribution to the cleanliness and community safety of the town.

Action: *A meeting has been held of all relevant budget holders at NBC and contact has been made with NCC and other partner agencies*

3.2.12 Cabinet considers the gating of jetties at night in the town centre that are currently subject to anti-social behaviour.

Action: *Previously significant work was done to investigate the practicality of this action. It was not considered to be possible due to Highway issues and the fact that some fire exits from commercial premises that are occupied at night open onto the jetties.*

Keep Northampton Tidy Campaign

3.2.13 Information about resources available is published on the Council's website.

Action; *Information has been posted*

3.2.14 In recognising their success, Cabinet explores the effectiveness of Kangaroo Runs.

Action: *Further investigations are currently being undertaken to present proposals with relevant costing and information about the implications of such activities. This will be brought back to a meeting of Cabinet early in 2016.*

3.2.15 Additional funding of £5,000 per year is allocated for five schemes with Junior Wardens and education activities.

Action: *A growth bid will be put forward for the necessary funding.*

3.2.16 The viability of running a National Citizen Scheme (NCS) to attract mid-late teenagers involvement is investigated.

Action: *This is currently being investigated and further information will be provided to Cabinet along with the information outlined in point 3.2.14 above.*

3.2.17 Community Clean Ups are co-ordinated so that they supplement the cleansing regime of the Environmental Services contract.

Action: *Wardens are encouraged to work with Community Groups and to share information about potential clean ups with Enterprise.*

3.2.18 Campaigns, such as Community Clean Ups, are publicised both on the Council's webpage and by the organisers of the Community clean ups.

Action: *Arrangements for this have been put in place.*

3.2.19 Community (Parish) Enhancement Teams are encouraged to undertake more work within the town.

Action: *Information about Community Enhancement Teams is available on the Keir WSP website at <http://www.kierwsp.co.uk/who-we-are/our-people/a-day-in-the-life>*

Gateways into the town

3.2.20 Where possible, co-ordinated working between the Local Authorities and the Highways Agency regarding major highway closures to enable litter picking to take place during closure periods.

Action: *Contact is made with the Highways Agency and other organisations responsible for managing major roads to attempt to coordinate litter picking with other road closures. This is not always practical*

3.2. 21Where practical, the Local Authority and the Highways Agency arranges anti-littering campaigns at service stations.

Action: *Investigations into this are ongoing.*

3.2.22 Post April 2015, the Highways Agency is contacted to ask that it reviews its grass cutting schedule to include amenity cuts, in addition to safety/visibility cuts and litter picking schedules, along the A45 throughout the borough; and that MPs are contacted in this respect.

Action: *Contact has been made with the Highways Agency and information passed to MPs*

3.2.23 Planning Services, Northampton Borough Council, together with the Highways Agency, explores improvements to gateways including signage, such as "Welcome to Northampton" signs to be erected on the entrance to Northampton on the A45 at Billing and at Junction 15 (M1).

Action *This is the responsibility of the Highways Agency and their contractors. Contact has been made with the regional office about the matter.*

3.2.24 The Highways Agency is asked to de-clutter signage, in particular around Junction 15(M1).

Action: *Contact has been made with the Highways Agency over this matter.*

Purple Flag Accreditation

3.2.25 A time limited Action Plan in respect of the 30 criteria of the Purple Flag Accreditation is produced; with the aim of exploring the feasibility of entering an application for Purple Flag Accreditation for Northampton town centre.

Action; *A time limited action plan will be presented to Cabinet early in 2016.*

3.3 Issues

3.3.1 As detailed in 3.2

3.4 Choices (Options)

3.4.1 Cabinet may chose to adopt some, all or none of the recommendations of Scrutiny Panel 3 as detailed above. The actions required to bring forward each of the recommendations are outlined in 3.2 above. Some of these action have cost implications and as indicated they can either be funded from existing budgets or may be the subject of growth bids.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.2 None at this stage

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1. The financial implications of this report are noted against each of the Actions in 3.2 above. It may be necessary to review some of the actions in light of the current financial constraints. The financial implications will be considered as part of the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 None specifically highlighted.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 None specifically highlighted.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 The following stakeholders have been consulted.

Internal

Planning and Regeneration
Contract Partnership Unit
Legal Services
Finance
ICT

External

Enterprise Managed Services
Northamptonshire County Council Highways / Kier WSP
Highways Agency

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 The proposals contribute to the delivery of the following objectives: Investing in cleaner, safer neighbourhoods, Creating empowered communities and Responding to your needs.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Report of Scrutiny Panel 3 Keep Northampton Tidy

Ruth Austen Environmental Health and Licensing Manager Ext 7794

Appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet response to Scrutiny Panel – Interpersonal Violence
---------------------	--

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 December 2015
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Customers & Communities
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Anna King
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to respond to the recommendations set out in the Overview and Scrutiny document constructed between May 2014 and March 2015 presented to cabinet in March 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report “Interpersonal Violence” are accepted.
- 2.2 That the Scrutiny Panel are formally congratulated for their commitment to reviewing Northampton Borough Council’s response in addressing issues around interpersonal violence (domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child exploitation), centring on domestic abuse, and the high quality and comprehensive report produced, and are thanked for the time and effort given to produce it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 The Review took place between May 2014 and March 2015, and the Panel received evidence both written and spoken, from a variety of expert advisors. The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review Northampton Borough Council's response in addressing issues around interpersonal violence (domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child exploitation), centring on domestic abuse

- To clearly identify existing domestic abuse services and partnerships covering Northampton
- To consider and assess the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations involved in addressing domestic violence including the Police.
- To identify any gaps in service provision in order to assess the adequacy for supporting victims of domestic abuse
- To make recommendations for future development of services
- To identify the underlying causes of domestic violence and preventative measures
- To identify the responsibilities of the Local Authority, for example strategic housing
- To identify funding mechanisms and how this could be used to alleviate the problem

3.2 Response to Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations

3.2.1 All 17 recommendations included in the report have been considered by Community Safety, Housing and Wellbeing (including Northampton Partnership Homes) and the representatives from the voluntary sector.

Cabinet's response to the 17 recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny report are as follows:

1. In recognising the success of the information stand hosted by the Scrutiny Panel as part of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, a similar event is held annually in the town centre in a location with a consulting room should attendees need advice and support.

Response:

Event is arranged for week commencing 23/11/2015 in the One Stop Shop. Sunflower Centre now offer drop in service every Tuesdays and Thursdays in One Stop Shop, and staff can also make direct referrals to Women's Aid.

2. Education Information Packs on domestic abuse preventative services are disseminated to BME Groups, schools, universities, faith groups and community groups in Northampton prior to Domestic Violence Awareness Raising Week 2015.

Response:

This sits with the Countywide IPV group, on which there is NBC representation. Information and awareness raising programmes are service/audience specific.

3. In recognising the good practice undertaken by Northampton Borough Council in funding domestic abuse services; Northampton Borough Council (NBC) should take this into consideration when allocating funding in future years and share best practice with other funding bodies.

Response:

As well as encouraging joint commissioning and the pooling of budgets, NBC is playing a key role in working with commissioners to ensure that domestic abuse services are fit for purpose and sustainable.

4. The countywide definition of vulnerable adults is adopted by Northampton Borough Council.

Response:

This has been adopted, and Countywide approach is followed.

5. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for education at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) is contacted and asked whether education, advice, information and support regarding healthy relationships and personal safety can be included in the school curriculum.

Response:

Included within the PSHE programme for schools. Specific awareness raising sessions on healthy relationships and personal safety have been funded covering Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation.

6. Public awareness of domestic abuse is increased and services that are available to tackle the issue and support victims:
 - Review and update contents of relevant pages of NBC website to ensure it is informative and 'user friendly'

Response:

Web pages reviewed and updated in July 2015

- Provide effective and updated publicity throughout the Borough via poster, leaflets and contact cards

Response:

approach is co-ordinated at a countywide level. Updated information/leaflets will be distributed throughout NBC

- Support NADA awareness raising campaigns for the county

Response:

NBC representative sits on NADA and supports the delivery of campaigns and the bi-annual conference.

- Training for all Councillors on Interpersonal Violence is delivered and an information booklet or webpage is produced

Response:

Training to be arranged. This will be provided by the Countywide, IPV training strand. Web pages containing relevant information are available on NBC website.

7. NBC's Domestic Abuse Policy is revised and updated to reflect the new countywide Interpersonal Violence Strategy; which is currently out to consultation.

Response:

A new countywide Domestic Abuse Strategy & Plan has now been approved and NBC is represented on the Implementation Group. Although there are plans for a new Northampton Domestic Abuse Strategy, NBC's priority is to support and promote a Countywide approach. It is leading on the development of a Countywide 'safe accommodation' initiative.

8. The statistical data collected in respect of domestic abuse is reviewed to ensure that it is robust and meaningful. NBC considers the effectiveness of current data collection in relation to domestic abuse and encourages all relevant departments to review and contribute by the end of December 2015.

Response:

All current data sets to be reviewed and recommendations for future collection to be made.

Funding

9. It is established whether NBC has central funding to access interpreter services, to aid communication with victims whose first language is not English.

Response:

Interpretation and translation services are already subscribed to through Communities & Partnerships and can be utilised by all departments.

10. Due to the relocation of the Sunflower Centre, Northampton Borough Council provides them with accommodation in the One Stop Shop for drop in sessions.

Response:

Completed, Sunflower Centre hold drop-in sessions in One Stop Shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

11. A central budget to support the Sanctuary Scheme and the target hardening for victims properties is identified to enable victims to remain in

their own home.

Response:

All Boroughs and Districts have now signed up to a new Countywide funding arrangement that will require social landlords to meet the cost of Sanctuaries and target hardening in their properties, and the relevant Homelessness Team to meet the cost of Sanctuaries and target hardening in the homes of private tenants and owner occupiers.

Training Programme

12. NBC develops a sustainable domestic abuse awareness raising training programme for Councillors, managers and all staff. This programme is also offered to neighbouring Local Authorities.

Response:

This is to be developed in partnership with Countywide group. Please also see recommendation 6, bullet point 4.

Housing Services, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH)

13. It is recommended that the conditions of Tenancy Agreements are fully explained to new and prospective tenants to ensure their understanding and compliance.

Response:

Approach is victim centred and support is offered throughout the process, including ensuring they are resettled in their new home. On-going support is offered and welfare checks completed for at least the first 12 month of any new tenancy.

14. Dual Tenancies are encouraged and staff trained to recognise the implications of cultural differences.

Response:

NPH is currently reviewing its policy and procedures with regard to the ways they deal with the victims of Domestic Abuse, both for tenants and those non-tenants applying for housing.

15. In recognising that when moving from a crisis and safe accommodation to a permanent address; women often have no furniture or equipment; a Transition Strategy is introduced. Information is provided detailing where household items can be obtained, for example Charity Link and Spencer Contact.

Response:

At the sign up interview an incoming tenant's situation is assessed and if needed a referral is made to Spencer Contact who will offer three items of furniture as a donation. All victims are supported by NPH, and resettlement is part of the support plan and necessary referrals are made to support agencies. If required, referrals are also made to Charity Link.

Housing Solutions, Northampton Borough Council

16. In recognising that new people to the area; and individuals with no recourse to public funds, are offered advice, support and given information.

Response:

NBC's Housing and Wellbeing Service is actively encouraging and promoting an effective multi agency response to domestic abuse in the borough in order to ensure that people affected by domestic abuse are able to access the advice, support and information they need.

17. Housing Solutions, NBC, takes responsibility for reports of domestic abuse and ensure all staff are trained and able to respond.

Response:

NBC's Housing and Wellbeing Service takes all reports of domestic abuse seriously and a number of its housing advisers lead on domestic abuse issues. Specialist training is planned, for all Housing Options and Advice staff, to ensure that all staff are trained and able to respond.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are none specifically

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 Any financial implications will be met through existing budgets.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no legal implications

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 There are no specific new equality implications in adopting these recommendations.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 The Panel took evidence from a wide range of Stakeholders and Councillors from Northampton Borough Council

Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Cabinet Member for Housing
Director of Customers & Communities
Director of Housing Management (NPH)
Head of Housing and Wellbeing
Northampton Women's Forum
Northamptonshire Police

Northamptonshire County Council
Sunflower Centre
Women's Aid
EVE (formerly Nene Valley Christian Refuge)
Relate
NRICC
NIFF
BME SRP

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Northampton Borough Council Corporate Plan – Invest in safer, Cleaner Neighbourhoods; Promoting Health & Wellbeing

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 The report and its recommendations have policy implications in relation to interpersonal violence.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee report – Interpersonal Violence (March 2015)

**Julie Seddon,
Director of Customers & Communities
Ext: 7379**

Appendices
0



Item No.

**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Tree Maintenance - Response to O&S Recommendations
---------------------	---

AGENDA STATUS PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 December 2015
Key Decision:	No
Within Policy:	Yes
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Customers and Communities
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Alan Bottwood
Ward(s)	Non-specific

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To respond to the 10 recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet on 9th September, set out in paragraph 3.1 of this report, following a review it undertook in relation to tree maintenance.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Agrees to approach Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire borough and district councils to discuss how the use of the NBC app, 'Report It', might be widened across the county, *as per O&S recommendation 1*.
- 2.2 Agrees to use its best endeavours to try to implement *O&S recommendations 2-4*, in so far as it is so able.
- 2.3 Agrees to develop a revised corporate tree policy, including a detailed options appraisal, as per *O&S recommendation 7*, in order that a bid for additional funding can be made, at Cabinet's discretion and if deemed appropriate and affordable, as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process, to enable a response to *O&S recommendations 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9* to be implemented.

- 2.4 Accepts O&S recommendation 10.
- 2.5 Thanks Overview and Scrutiny Committee for undertaking a robust and detailed review of tree maintenance that has the potential to have a positive impact on Northampton for many years to come.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee made recommendations as follows to Cabinet on 9th September following a review it undertook in relation to tree maintenance:

3.1.1.1 Recommendation 1

In noting its effectiveness, the NBC app. – “Report It”, use is widened and developed so that there is preferably one reporting app. for the whole county or more realistically at least one reporting app. for NBC and NCC.

3.1.1.2 Recommendation 2

A presentation on the Northamptonshire County Council IT Programme regarding damage caused to street furniture, including trees, is given to all Councillors at Northampton Borough Council.

3.1.1.3 Recommendation 3

When the software that is being used in relation to the Tree Inspection Programme that is being piloted in Daventry is rolled out in Northampton and becomes available for use by NBC, it is used by NBC to record all trees and hedges on NBC and NPH managed land.

3.1.1.4 Recommendation 4

In the planning process consideration is given to the retention and planting of trees and hedges and the maintenance thereof, while affording the ongoing right to light to nearby properties. The Tree Planting and Retention Policy be detailed within the Joint Development Framework; with a view to delivering low on-going maintenance costs and that a Policy is adopted to ensure trees are not planted close to properties or in the vicinity of properties; alleviating problems encountered by residents as detailed in this report.

3.1.1.5 Recommendation 5

A Policy of thinning out trees in Parks and Open Space throughout the Borough is adopted and funded over a five year period to ensure that remaining trees are able to reach their full growth and maturity.

3.1.1.6 Recommendation 6

An on-going Forward Maintenance Plan for trees, recognising the right to light, is developed, funded and implemented over a five year period. This should be linked to the tree inspection software.

3.1.1.7 Recommendation 7

A revised Corporate Tree Policy, including a Tree Maintenance Policy and recognising the right to light, is developed and adopted. This should be in plain English. It should be an all embracing policy, making reference to relevant Planning, Highways and NPH policies.

3.1.1.8 Recommendation 8

Full consultation should be undertaken on the revised Corporate Tree Policy, including the Maintenance Policy therein.

3.1.1.9 Recommendation 9

Parish Councils should be consulted in developing the new Tree Policy and encouraged to adopt the policy in respect of land in their ownership.

3.1.1.10 Recommendation 10

A review of the effectiveness of the Corporate Tree Policy, including the Tree Maintenance policy therein, takes place within five years.

3.1.2 Building on the O&S review of Tree Maintenance, using specialist expertise, a review will be undertaken of the corporate tree policy during the period January to April 2016.

3.1.3 Flowing from the review of the corporate tree policy, a detailed options appraisal will be undertaken so that a range of prioritised and costed options can be produced, which will be considered by Cabinet and, at Cabinet's discretion and if deemed appropriate and affordable, can be used to inform a bid for additional funding as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process.

3.1.4 It is proposed that the review of the corporate tree policy will:

- Build on the existing tree policy
- Be relevant to and consistent with Planning, Highways and Northampton Partnership Homes policies
- Include proposals for tree thinning in parks and open spaces, to allow natural growth of remaining trees
- Include a maintenance plan that recognises residents' right to light
- Include a maintenance plan that follows best practice, but also identifies minimum requirements, to give the council options on the standard of maintenance it wishes to provide

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 This report includes a proposal to review the corporate tree policy.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 The estimated cost of undertaking the review of the corporate tree policy is approximately £10,000. It is proposed that the review is funded from the Environmental Services reserve. This is the only direct cost arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 4.2.2 The implementation of O&S recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 10 can be delivered from within existing resources and therefore creates no additional budget pressure.
- 4.2.3 A number of the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review of Tree Maintenance could have very significant financial implications for years to come as there is massive potential for expenditure on tree maintenance across the borough.
- 4.2.3 A range of prioritised and costed options will be produced as part of the aforementioned review. Those, if any, that Cabinet wish to take forward having considered their appropriateness and affordability, will be fed into the 2017/18 budget setting process, to be implemented on or after 1st April 2017.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

4.4 Equality

- 4.4.1 There are no equality implications directly arising from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 Extensive consultation has taken place as part of the Overview and Scrutiny review process. Due regard will be paid to this consultation in undertaking the review of the Corporate Tree Policy and in formulating the options that flow from the Corporate Tree Policy review.
- 4.5.2 Further consultation will be undertaken to inform the review of the corporate tree policy, including consultation with parish councils.

4.6 How the Report Delivers Priority Outcomes

- 4.6.1 The Proposals contained in this report will contribute to the priority outcome of 'safer, greener and cleaner communities'.

Background Papers

Recommendations of Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Tree Maintenance (Sept 15)



**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 JANUARY 2016

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – HEALTH CHECK OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY

1 INTRODUCTION

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

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 30 November, the Scrutiny Panel received a response to its core questions from expert advisors:

Director, Northampton Enterprise Partnership
Director, SEMLEP
Director, Northamptonshire Growth Hub
Director, Talent Match, Northamptonshire
Executive Director, Skills Funding Agency (SFA)
Director, Environment, Development, and Transport, NCC

- 2.2 The Scrutiny Panel also received a background briefing paper that detailed a number of published reports.

- 2.3 A further evidence gathering meeting is scheduled with the next being set for 14 January 2016. Evidence from additional expert advisors will be provided at this meeting.

- 2.4 It is envisaged that this Scrutiny Review will conclude in March 2016, with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 11 April 2016.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Rufia Ashraf, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1

1 December 2015



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 JANUARY 2016

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – IMPACT OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON THE TOWN

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Panel has held a further evidence gathering meeting that took place on 10 December 2015.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 10 December 2015 the Scrutiny Panel heard from a number of expert advisors:

Northampton Partnership Homes
Northampton Town Centre BID
Northampton Retail Crime Initiative
West Hunsbury Parish Council
London Midland
Network Rail

- 2.2 The Scrutiny Panel also received a briefing note detailing background data in relation to Hazzard Alley at Milton Keynes and Street Pastors. The Chair also reported the findings from the site visits that he undertook. All of which will inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny review.

- 2.3 Further evidence gathering meetings are scheduled with the next being set for 28 January 2016.

- 2.4 The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel will provide further progress reports to each meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 2.5 It is envisaged that this Scrutiny review will conclude in March 2016, with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 11 April 2016.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.



**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 JANUARY 2016

BRIEFING NOTE:

**SCRUTINY PANEL 3 –
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY IN
RESPECT OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Panel has continued with its evidence gathering with meetings held on 26 November 2015 and 7 January 2016.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 26 November 2015, the Scrutiny Panel received responses to its core questions from a variety of key expert advisors:

Chair, Hackney Carriage Association
Chair, Private Hire Association
A number of Private Hire Operators

- 2.2 The Scrutiny Panel also received a briefing paper that detailed précises of various pieces of Legislation. The Scrutiny Panel finalised the date of a further site visit – mid December.

- 2.3 At the meeting held on 7 January 2016, the Scrutiny Panel heard evidence from:

Community Engagement Manager, Northants Highways, NCC
Licensing Sergeant, Northants Police

- 2.4 The Deputy Chair reported back on the findings from the recent site visits. The Scrutiny Panel received briefing notes about Taxi Marshals, licensing conditions elsewhere and taxi and private hire licence data.

- 2.5 It is envisaged that this Scrutiny review will conclude in March 2016, with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 11 April 2016.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Gareth Eales, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3

8 January 2016



**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 January 2016

BRIEFING NOTE:

O&S NBC OWNED STREET LIGHTING WORKING GROUP

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Working Group has held a further evidence gathering meeting.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Working Group held on 30 November 2015, Councillors received information and documents around:

Information regarding a Corporate Asset Register
Feedback from the site visit that took place in November 2015

- 2.2 Further meetings are scheduled.

- 2.3 It is envisaged that this Scrutiny activity will conclude in February 2016, with the report of the Working Group presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 11 April 2016.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.



Northampton Borough Council

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

Decision Maker: [Cabinet](#)

Directorate:	Chief Executive
Report of:	Chief Executive
Public or Private	PUBLIC
Expected Date of Decision:	10 February 2016
Title of Expected Decision	Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy and Fees and Charges Policy
Record of the expected decision to be made:	🔗 Cabinet is being asked to approve a new Enforcement Policy and Fees & Charges Policy for Private Sector Housing.

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