

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 6 June 2016

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 6 JUNE 2016 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 the 18th April 2016 and the Council Meeting held on the 19th May 2016.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(Copy herewith)

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone to make a statement on "The first year of the Administration and their

forthcoming second year”.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

(Copy herewith)

10. CHANGES TO CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS

(Copy herewith)

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

- i) Councillor Ashraf to propose and Councillor Chunga to second:

“This Council notes in April 2012 the Coalition Government increased the discounts available for council tenants who buy their home using Right To Buy.

This Council notes it was also announced that receipts from RTB would be used to replace the housing stock.

This Council believes that while RTB has been beneficial to some people it has also had two negative impacts. Many properties have ended up in the private rented sector and in some instances have been converted into HIMOs. It has also eroded the social housing stock thus limiting our ability to help vulnerable people.

We are not building enough properties to replace those lost under RTB. For instance, since the announcement in March 2014 to build 100 new homes in Dallington we have lost at least 202 properties.

Therefore this Council supports the principle and aim of replacing every property sold under RTB within 3 years. This Council asks the Administration to take this forward for implementation.”

- ii) Councillor Davenport to propose and Councillor Cali to second:

“This Council believes we need to secure more temporary / emergency accommodation of an appropriate standard in Northampton.

This Council must strive, as far as reasonably possible to secure accommodation within Northampton. The Council must try to place an applicant as close as possible to their social networks.

This Council believes it is not acceptable that some vulnerable people are placed in Wellingborough, particularly if they have children who go to school in Northampton.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet to explore ways of increasing the supply and the quality of our temporary and emergency accommodation offer within the next two years.”

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

The Guildhall
Northampton

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

Public Participation

1. Comments and Petitions

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

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

NOTES

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

2. Member and Public Questions

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:
- be submitted in writing and delivered, faxed or e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
 - include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.
- 2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

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

NOTES

In respect of paragraph 2.1 above, questions may be rejected on certain grounds that are set out on page 4-12 of the Council's Constitution and which may be viewed at

www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1919 or by seeking advice using the contact details below.

3. Motions

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

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

4. General

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

5. Contacts

Democratic Services: e-mail democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk

Tel 01604 837722

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

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 18 April 2016 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Flavell (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Malpas, Ansell, Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Caswell, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, Eales, Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Hill, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith, Stone and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hadland declared a personal non pecuniary interest in Item 7, as a Trustee of the Delapre Abbey Trust.

Councillor Bottwood declared a personal non pecuniary interest in motion iii) as a Board Member of Northampton Partnership Homes

Councillor Caswell declared a personal non pecuniary interest in motion iii) as a Board Member of Northampton Partnership Homes

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meetings held on the 29th February and the 7th March 2016 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Aziz, Lynch, Russell and Choudary.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that on the 1st April she had been in attendance at an event declaring the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire - Caroline Brocklehurst at Sessions House.

It was noted that on the 8th April 2016, the Mayor's consort Michael had planted a lovely Silver Birch tree at Abington Park as part of the annual tree planting tradition. The Mayor explained that on the 24th April she would be laying a wreath in honour of the brave at the Anzac Memorial Service at the Towcester Road Cemetery.

The Mayor commented that the Council meeting would be her final Council meeting

before Annual Council. She thanked Members for their support over the past year and wished Councillor Malpas every success in his Mayoral year.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Keith Bennett addressed Council and stated that whilst he respected the views of the fire safety officers, the zero tolerance policy of personalising communal areas would be near impossible to implement and questioned how it would be policed. He commented that banning door mats and flower pots was a step too far and common sense should prevail, allowing tenants to report real hazards and the blanket ban was a policy too far.

Mr Paul Denton addressed Council and spoke of the 9 years of misery he had endured as a resident close to Highway 39 and Sixfields due to the incessant use of motorbikes using pathways that were frequently used by pedestrians and dog walkers and stated that it was only a matter of time before someone was seriously hurt by them. He reported that there had been incidents of motorcyclists using the area as a getaway exit from local robberies, from smash and grabs to armed hold ups and asked that more be done to prevent and stop this and make the area safer for residents.

Mr Norman Adams commented that he applauded the concentrated effort that had been made in tackling, preventing and reducing rough sleepers and stated that he was pleased the Council's plan to use the former British Rail Social Club as a temporary emergency shelter. He commented that the increased accommodation charges had seen an impact on the homelessness situation and reported that there was a need for the monthly monitoring.

Mr Andrew Stratton addressed Council and commented that the lack of street lights in Tower Hill had caused numerous issues for local residents and whilst Councillor Hadland had put an order in for them to be switched back on residents were still living in fear. He commented that the number of undesirable people who had been seen loitering had increased since the street lights had been turned off had increased and reported that more money should be spent on ensuring resident safety.

Ms Jaya Patel submitted a petition asking the Council to reconsider the possibility of taking back the shop premises due to the redevelopment of Little Cross Street. She noted that it had been signed by over 700 people and explained that she thought she had been guaranteed.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 21 questions had been received from Councillors and Members of the public 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, as detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 2, Councillor Hadland confirmed that the demolition of Albion House would be happening, but was unable to confirm the date.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 7, Councillor King confirmed that she would be happy to meet with Councillor Davenport and the Police to discuss the issues of off road motorcycles in Briar Hill and Far Cotton and Delapre.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 15, Councillor Hibbert stated that some rents on garages differed due to popularity in certain areas but that he would look into the costs in the future in partnership with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH).

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 16, Councillor Hibbert stated that it was a requirement for residents producing medical certificates for parking mobility scooters in close proximity for less able residents.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 18, Councillor King reported that they were continuing to work with agencies and the Community Safety Partnership, but with no legislation banning the sale, it was becoming increasingly hard to tackle the problems associated with legal highs.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 19, Councillor Hibbert commented that there was the intention to clear Toms Close to allow development of new homes.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 20, Councillor Hibbert stated that the intention to build 100 new homes was a step in the right direction for the Council to match the sale and rebuild of Council Houses under the Right to Buy legislation.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 21, Councillor Bottwood confirmed that they were constantly looking and reviewing options to decrease emissions and constantly kept them under review.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Markham submitted her Leaders report and elaborated thereon. It was noted that the 7 Borough and District Councils in the County had been working collaboratively together to explore options relating to proposed unitary local government status. She praised the achievements of Northampton Town Football Club who were on the edge of promotion and noted the intention to hold a civic ceremony for the Cobblers, provisionally on the 5th May 2016. The Elections team was congratulated for their hard work with a significant increase of residents being on the Register. She updated Members by explaining that there had been issues with the St Edmunds site, but that the Council had agreed to secure the site for clearance.

In response to questions asked, the Leader noted that she would have pass on comparison figures to Councillor Birch regarding the electoral registration for last year.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and stated that 100,000 Council Tax bills and benefit notifications had been sent out and thanked the work of officers.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hallam commented that with regards to Business Rates, should people be struggling, they should contact the Council and they would be happy to communicate with anyone experiencing problems. Councillor Hallam further stated that money had been invested in the Southfields and Goldings area and this had been done through Section 106 agreements.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Cabinet Member report and explained that recently, equipment had been seized from an unlicensed tattooist who had been operating from a house and had posed a risk to public health. It was further noted that during the 'Clean for the Queen' litter picking campaign had resulted in over 6 tonnes of rubbish having been removed by over 40 volunteers. He corrected two parts of his report, section 3, "Environmental Services" which should have read 'East Midland in Bloom' and section 8, should have read Farmfield Road.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Bottwood confirmed that the system for reporting abandoned shopping trolleys had not changed but that patience was needed as some were in very precarious places to reach. He further reported that the G4S officers working on fixed penalty enforcement wore body-cams and could therefore issue on the spot fines for those seen littering. In response to further questions asked, Councillor Bottwood declared that a lot of work was being undertaken to tackle fly-tipping but that perpetrators were becoming more adept at hiding their identities and therefore were more difficult to catch.

Councillor King submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She reported that there had been Weeks of Action for a number of areas which saw multi-agency work and activities being carried out which had been very well received.

In response to questions asked, Councillor King stated that the Hate Crime Unit had been disbanded but figures relating to such crimes could be gathered and collated for the next Council meeting. She confirmed that the Youth and LGBTQ Forum had undertaken work relating to Hate Crime and that a more comprehensive updated could be given after the PCC election.

Councillor Eldred submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that since May 2015, £71,554 of the Councillor Community Fund had been spent and any unspent funding would be carried over into the next year. He commented that there were numerous events to be held in Northampton including a Food Festival, Beer Festival, Race for Life and Carnival Parade.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Eldred confirmed that he was unaware of any charges being applied on voluntary organisations being charged to use parks in area. He confirmed that the allocation for the Councillor Community Fund would not be affected for the next 3 years as it had been a Manifesto pledge to remain the same throughout the Administrations term. In response to a request from another Member,

Councillor Eldred confirmed that he would meet them and the members of the Residents Association to discuss the Southfields Community Centre.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. It was noted that work continued on the Rough Sleeper strategy and that efforts were being made to resolve the shortage of emergency accommodation and as such had planned to use the former British Rail Social Club.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hibbert confirmed that data had been gathered relating to the demographics of homeless people and some had been helped to return to their country of origin. Responding to further questions, Councillor Hibbert explained that the outreach workers had counted rough sleepers on the basis that if they had bedded down or were on top of their beds, they were considered to be sleeping rough and noted that the Rough Sleepers Strategy would go some way to alleviate the problem.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that he would resolved to work with Mr Stretton to deal with the lighting issue in his area. He that the Cabinet Advisory Group had worked closely to develop the Local Plan and asked Councillors and members of the public to feed into the consultation process. He noted that Phase 1 of the Guildhall Road had been completed early and noted that the lift refurbishments in the Grosvenor centre had been completed.

In response to a question asked, Councillor Hadland commented that the cleaning of chewing gum from the streets was undertaken as part of the Amey contract.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Davenport made a statement as set out on the agenda. She questioned whether resources were spread evenly over the whole of the borough and equally among Wards to tackle fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and littering.

Councillor Bottwood responded by reporting that every Ward and local Councillor encountered problems and that the Council strived to look at what could be done to resolve the issues with the resources they had. He commented that anti-social behaviour was experienced in all Wards and that there was a need for them all to work with the Police and other agencies to resolve issues. He further stated that they could not simply rely on officers but that Councillors had a responsibility too and that the administration was addressing problem areas by working with supermarkets to reduce the number of abandoned trollies and the highways agency to clean up the gateways into the Town Centre.

In response Councillor Davenport questioned the disproportionate amount of money that had been spent on certain projects and developments when there were other areas that appeared to have been deprived of similar funding.

9. SPRING BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Markham proposed a report which sought Council's approval to make Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan, following the referendum, held on the 10th March 2016.

Councillor Hadland seconded the proposal.

Councillor Stone commented that she had been an advocate of the making of the Neighbourhood Plan and praised the number of residents who had turned out to vote on the referendum and was thrilled at the decision.

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That Council 'makes' the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2.2 That the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan and the Decision Statement (Appendix 1 of the report) be published on the Council's website and paper copies be provided in locations where people who live, work and carry on business in the area can view them.
- 2.3 That the Decision Statement and details on how to view the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan be sent to the qualifying body (Spring Boroughs Voice – the Neighbourhood Forum) and any person who asked to be notified of the Council's decision.
- 2.4 That Spring Boroughs Voice be congratulated on the successful outcome of the referendum and the making of the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

- i) Councillor Beardsworth proposed and Councillor Meredith seconded:

“NCC debated a motion calling for an independent study on the benefits of unitary council models in Northamptonshire. This Council notes the lengths to which the Conservative group went to ensure that motion did not include a requirement to bring on district and borough councils as joint commissioners, only as consultees.

Council notes that different unitary models could look more or less favourable depending on the scope and type of question asked, and that the best interest of the County as a whole is not necessarily the best interest in Northampton.

Council notes that its role is to bring about what is best for this town, not to prop up a failing County Council.

Council therefore resolves to commission its own independent report into the benefits of unitary models to the town of Northampton”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

Mr Norman Adams addressed motion ii) and commented that whilst he could understand tenants not wanting to reside in a sterile environment, he did not agree with the way they had gone about it and did not want to see any tenants or firefighters marred as a result of contraventions to fire safety recommendations.

Mr Phil Leach stated that tenants should be able to take pride in where they lived and their environment and voiced his opinion that tenants not being able to personalise their communal areas was taking Health and Safety a step too far.

ii) Councillor G Eales proposed and Councillor Davenport seconded:

“Many of our council tenants take pride in their environment and wish to personalise their communal areas. This council resolves to work with NPH on strategies that allow for this personalisation in such a way that doesn’t contravene Health and Safety regulations”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

Mr Norman Adams addressed Council on motion iii) and noted that more money had been allocated to DHP but recognised that it would not necessarily cover all costs of those seeking help, struggling to make ends meet. He questioned the appeals process that was in place for those turned down from Discretionary Housing Payments and questioned whether those turned down could be reviewed.

iii) Councillor Davenport proposed and Councillor Ashraf seconded:

This Council notes that the Discretionary Housing Payment is an important source of help for those struggling to make ends meet.

This Council believes not enough people are aware of DHP in Northampton.

This Council resolves to :-

- a) Work with and encourage NPH officers so they promote DHP. DHP should be promoted before someone faces eviction.
- b) To do much more to advertise DHP through housing letters, leaflets and so on.
- c) Make access to DHP as easy as possible.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

The Mayor announced that with the agreement of Council, motion iv) had been

withdrawn.

11. 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 8.52pm

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Thursday, 19 May 2016 AT ELEVEN O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING

PRESENT: HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Flavell (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Malpas, Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Caswell, Choudary, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, Eales, Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Hill, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Markham, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith and Stone

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

Councillor M Hill proposed and Councillor King seconded: “That Councillor Christopher John Malpas be elected Mayor of the Borough of Northampton for the ensuing year”.

The motion was carried and Councillor Malpas was appointed Mayor and accepted office by making and delivering, to the Chief Executive, the Declaration of Acceptance to Office.

The Mayor then took the Chair.

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYOR AND MAYOR'S CONSORT

Councillor Larratt proposed and Councillor Markham seconded “That the thanks of the Council be given to Councillor Flavell and Mr Michael Flavell for the able and courteous manner in which they have discharged their duties as Mayor and Mayor’s consort”.

The motion was carried.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Russell proposed and Councillor Larratt seconded “That Councillor Gareth Matthew Eales be appointed to the office of Deputy Mayor”.

The motion was carried and Councillor G Eales was appointed Deputy Mayor and accepted office by making and delivering, to the Chief Executive, the Declaration of Acceptance to Office.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Marriott and Councillor Walker

5. LONG SERVICE

The long service of the employees shown in paragraph 5 of the agenda was noted with appreciation.

6. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Councillor Lane announced that Councillor Markham had been appointed Leader of the Conservative Group and Councillor Nunn had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

7. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION GROUP

Councillor Russell announced that Councillor Stone had been appointed Leader of the Opposition and that Councillor Birch had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

8. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Councillor Meredith announced that Councillor Beardsworth had been appointed Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and that he would be the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

9. DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET

The Leader of the Council announced the following appointments:

Councillor Nunn	Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Bottwood	Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Hibbert	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor King	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement
Councillor Hadland	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Councillor Hallam	Cabinet Member for Community Safety
Councillor Eldred	Cabinet Member for Finance

10. COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY

Councillor Patel submitted a report that sought Council's approval of the group proportionality of seats of each Committee.

Councillor Oldham seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the number of seats on each Committee as set out in the report be approved.

2. That the representation of the political groups be as set out in this report be agreed.

11. COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Mayor announced that the next Annual Meeting of the Council to take place on 18th May 2017 and that other meetings of the Council takes place on 6th June, 18th July, 19th September, 7th November, 12th December 2016, 23rd January, 27th February, 13th March, 24th April, 5th June and 10th July 2017.

12. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Councillor Markham submitted a report that set out the detailed appointments to Committees for 2016/17.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the appointments to Committees for 2016/17, as set out in the report, be confirmed.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO CHARITIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Markham submitted a report that sought the confirmation of Council to the appointments to Charities and Outside Bodies for 2016/17.

Councillor Nunn seconded adoption of the report with the above amendment.

RESOLVED:

That the appointment to Charities and Outside Bodies, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, was confirmed.

14. CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Markham proposed the Consultation Appointments as set out at Item 14 of the agenda.

Councillor Patel seconded the adoption of the Consultation Appointments.

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments be made:

Civic Matters (Chief Executive)

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, The Immediate Past Mayor, the Leader, Councillors M Hill and McCutcheon.

Community Enabling Fund Advisory Panel (Chief Executive):

Councillors Flavell (Chair) and Councillors Walker, Sargeant, Birch and Cali

Constitution Review Working Party (Borough Solicitor)

Councillors Oldham, Larratt, Culbard, Russell and Beardsworth

Markets Advisory Panel

Councillor Nunn, Hadland and G Eales

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Hallam (Cllr King – Substitute)

Councillor Stone (Cllr Birch - Substitute)

Discretionary Housing Payments Review Panel (Chief Executive)

Councillor Eldred and Hibbert

Councillor Ashraf and Davenport

Councillor Beardsworth

The meeting concluded at 11:47

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 1

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Norman Adams

Main Homelessness Duty

Changes brought in under the Localism Act (2011) enable local authorities to also discharge this duty via a fixed-term assured shorthold tenancy in the private rented sector with a minimum term of 12 months. This is often referred to as a 'private rented sector offer

Question: Since 2012 how many private rented sector offers have been made?

Response

Since November 2012, the Council has not used this power under the Localism Act 2011.

I can confirm, however, that the Council has been using the private rented sector to prevent homelessness and discharge its homelessness duty for more than 10 years.

As you are aware, the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with the power to discharge their homelessness duty by making the homeless household an offer of 'suitable' private rented accommodation even if that household decides to refuse the offer.

Due to the shortage of good quality, affordable private rented accommodation in Northampton, we have chosen to use the private rented sector to prevent homelessness, rather than to discharge the Council's duty to households for whom it has already accepted a rehousing duty.

It is hoped, however, that the Council's access to good quality, affordable private rented accommodation will improve when it establishes its Social Lettings Agency, relaunches its rental deposit scheme and starts bringing empty homes back into use in 2016/17.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 2

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Norman Adams

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) was originally intended to ensure people could access 30% of the market.

Question: Do Northampton Borough Council know what the current percentage is, and if so what is it?

Response

Local Housing Allowance Rates reflect the rents being charged across the “Broad Market rental Area” and are set by Government. The LHA level reflects the lowest 30% of these rents. The Council currently pays LHA which is 30% of average local rents.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 3

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

When was the last temporary / emergency accommodation last inspected?

Response

The Council currently uses two types of temporary accommodation to accommodate homeless households: self-contained council housing, and bed and breakfast accommodation.

All of the self-contained council housing is inspected each time it becomes vacant. All bed and breakfast accommodation is inspected fortnightly and whenever a complaint is received.

Inspections of bed and breakfast accommodation are carried out by the Council's Temporary Accommodation Officer – who has received the appropriate training to identify hazards and issues in the accommodation – and by members of the Private Sector Housing Team.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 4

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

Why have the housing estate walkabouts been cancelled?

Response

The programme of estate walkabouts was suspended by NPH in September 2015 because they were poorly attended, they prevented frontline staff from dealing with urgent operational matters and, due to staff shortages, they sometimes had to be cancelled at short notice.

In 2014-15, a total of 249 estate walkabouts were organised, and these were attended by a total of 31 ward councillors and 53 residents. As the estate walkabout model was not working, it was replaced with a range of activities – including day to day reality checks, health and safety inspections and better risk management – aligned to NPH's ambitious 2 year Neighbourhood Improvement Plan which sets out how NPH will build capacity in local communities, empower people to take a lead in their communities and work with partners to develop new, innovative ways of working that encourage people to take more responsibility for their behaviour.

NPH has agreed to work with the Neighbourhood Service Improvement Panel to revisit the estate walkabout principles and design a resident-led process that is supported by Officers This work is ongoing and it is expected that a new approach will be launched in Autumn 2016.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 5

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

Do the councillors get invited to the housing officer surgeries?

Response

To improve its engagement with local residents, NPH has introduced monthly surgeries at Community Hubs. These surgeries are widely publicised through the NPH website, local shops, the Facebook pages of local services and groups, and at Residents Association meetings.

The Community Hub surgeries are co-ordinated by the area Housing Officer and are intended to be supported by partner agencies and local stakeholders, including the local PCSOs and Environmental Wardens.

Although Councillors are not invited as a matter of course – because many already hold their own local surgeries – NPH has confirmed that this is something it would be pleased to explore.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert

Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 6

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Duffy

The officer overseeing seeing the lakes has left the Borough Council, which officer is now in charge?

Response

The Officer in charge is Glenn Miller, who is Interim Corporate Asset Manager.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 7

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Smith

Can those streets that are part of the night time economy and those neighbouring streets have a priority in being kept clean?

Response

I do give already very high priority to cleanliness of the town centre and I have more recently ensured that extra resource is applied in order to raise standards. Those streets that feature strongly in the night time economy are given particular attention to ensure the cleaning regime deployed fits with their pattern of usage.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 8

Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Davenport

Can councillors be notified about decisions that are related to their ward before the general public and the media are notified. For instance, my colleagues and I have been asking about the garage review for some time but we have been informed by our own residents?

Response

All major decisions are made either through Cabinet or Full Council. It would not be practical to contact ward councillors on every day decisions.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 9

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Stone

Can you please list your responsibilities?

Response

As Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Sports Clubs, my key responsibilities are:-

- To deputise for the Leader in her absence
- Town Centre Operations
- Markets
- Sports Clubs
- Councillor Training and Support
- Cabinet and Member Support
- Night time Economy

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Sports Clubs

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 10

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Russell

How many fines have been issued in the last 12 months for dropping litter and cycling on pavements?

Response

The number of fixed penalty notices served for littering in the year to 20 May 2016 is 446.

Fixed penalty notices for cycling are administered by the Police.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 11

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Birch

The Psychoactive Substance Act, a ban on the trade of any substance that can affect a person's nervous system, came into force on 26th May. Those convicted of dealing or possession with intent to supply could face seven years in jail. What is the Borough doing to ensure that all traders who sell these previously named 'Legal Highs' are identified and prosecuted?

Response

Responsibility for prosecutions for the illegal sale of such substances falls to the Police and/or Trading Standards, which, as you know, is an NCC function. The Community Safety Team does however actively support the police in their work in this area through, for example, supporting community engagement or dealing with associated antisocial behaviour.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 12

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Russell

I have recently been made aware that we have brothels operating in the town under the guise of offering massage services. Is the portfolio aware of how many of these establishments there are in the town. Are they being monitored in regard to human trafficking and modern slavery and is there a case for prosecutions under the trade description act?

Response

There are no official numbers of such premises in Northampton. Managing or owning a brothel is a criminal offence and as such comes under Police jurisdiction, as would offences relating to human trafficking or slavery. If the Police become aware of any allegation that a premise is being used as a brothel, they undertake visits to ensure that offences of any nature are not being committed. If there are any issues in relation to Trading Standards then these will be the responsibility of Northamptonshire County Council

NBC do not have any direct enforcement responsibilities. However, there are plans for a multi-agency approach to be taken in undertaking joint operations/inspections of suspect premises. Discussions are taking place between ourselves, the police and Trading Standards in order to progress this.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 13

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Birch

The Racecourse will be the venue for a number of large events this summer. These will attract hundreds of residents and visitors to the Racecourse area. Can we be reassured that everything possible will be put in place to cater for the visitors – eg broken rubbish bins replaced, fly tipping cleared, and that the clean up process will be efficient with the Racecourse returned in good condition after the events.

Response

Yes. The cleanliness and maintenance of the Racecourse is amongst my top priorities. As for any event on council property, event holders are expressly required to leave the venue in a clean and tidy state after the event is over and to repair or replace anything that is damaged in the course of or as a result of the event.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 14

Question for the Leader of the Council from Mr S Miller, 43 Lynton Avenue, Kingsthorpe, Northampton. NN2 8LX

Stagecoach has recently cut back its services to Northampton, explaining that the increased congestion in the town centre meant that they would struggle to meet the reliability targets of their operating license.

As these delays seem to have coincidentally started around the time of the new bus station, and the leader of the council said in January that Stagecoach have never said they have any problems with the new station, could the leader please confirm that she is in discussions with Stagecoach to ensure that the issues in the town centre are not permanent and that the council is encouraging the bus company to reinstate those reduced services.

Response

I can confirm that the council's officers are in continual contact with Stagecoach. The service levels have been discussed and Stagecoach has confirmed that the reduction in services is not as a result of the Bus Interchange.

The commercial nature of bus services has resulted in Stagecoach reviewing their services and they have confirmed that there are no current plans to further review or amend the services now offered.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 6th June, 2016

Question 15

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Mr S Miller.

Stagecoach has recently cut back its services to Northampton, advising that the increased traffic and congestion in the town centre meant they were struggling to keep to time. Could the councillor please update on air quality measurement in the town centre since the buses moved to North Gate Bus Station, specifically with regard to the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide caused by traffic having to put up with the frequent traffic jams..

Response

Air quality monitoring has been carried out in the vicinity of the new Northgate Bus Station since before it opened. The results of this monitoring are currently being analysed and ratified. Any action that is required as a result of these results will be taken forward as part of the Low Emissions Strategy process. The draft Low Emissions Strategy is being presented to Cabinet later this week ahead of a period of proposed public consultation. It is anticipated that the strategy will be finalised later in 2016.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet member for Environment



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6th June 2016

Local Government Simplification

Members will be aware that Councils in Oxfordshire have announced that they will no longer prepare proposals for local government simplification which impact outside their county area. Members will also be aware that the new Leader of the County Council, who I congratulate on her appointment, has announced that she considers that, given the need to implement that County Council's Next Generation model for service commissioning and delivery, discussions regarding potential local government reorganisation should take place over a longer timescale.

It is this Council's stated position that local government reorganisation including a unitary Council based on Northampton should be supported. I will continue to work with the Leaders of all Councils in Northamptonshire to review and promote consideration of local government reorganisation, and to work with officers to develop the case for a unitary council based on Northampton.

LGSS

In 2018 the current arrangement for this Council to delegate certain services to the LGSS Joint Committee arrangements between Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire County Councils will come to an end. Work has therefore started on reviewing the options for the future of these services. The Council also faces further major changes in services in 2018 when the contract with Enterprise Managed Services comes to an end.

To facilitate consideration of these major future contractual changes and in order to consolidate the Council's core capacity to deal with culture and organisational change, notice has been given to LGSS to bring the delegation of Human Resources and related services and Legal services to an end one year earlier in 2017. LGSS will continue to provide Finance and related services, Revenues and Benefits and IT Services, with the future options for these services to be considered over the coming year.

Rough Sleepers Strategy

Cabinet will shortly consider a new strategy to manage the issue of rough sleepers in Northampton. This strategy has been developed in partnership between the Council, voluntary and community organisations, statutory agencies and many interested people working with this issue. The purpose of this strategy is to reduce rough sleeping and promote positive change for this key need group.

Cultural Quarter

The Cultural Quarter continues to develop positively for the town. Following on from the development of the Premier Inn, the works underway to create the Guildhall Hotel, the plans for the new Museum and Art Gallery, the construction of the new County Council HQ, the planned new screen for Errol Flynn Filmhouse, the new Hygge Bar and the project to build a creative industries hub in the Vulcan Works, Cabinet were pleased to agree the further development of those works in partnership with the University this month.

This further development will bring students, the International Institute of Leather Technology and related University activity into the Quarter working alongside the Council and other Quarter partners to further develop this exciting new offer in the town centre.

Greyfriars

I have met each of the developers who are developing proposals for the Greyfriars site. We had very useful and positive discussions and I am pleased that they each showed considerable understanding of and commitment to what the development of this site can do to help enhance the town centre offer. Further meetings will take place over the coming weeks and proposals will come forward for public consideration as soon as possible.

Voluntary and Community Sector

Councillor King reports separately on the decisions made on community funding in 2016/17. I am delighted that this Council has continued its proud record of funding the community and voluntary sector.

In addition to this funding the Council is working very closely with the sector on key issues, to help everyone involved get more from their efforts. The Council has helped access further funds, for example on dealing with issues of domestic violence and abuse, and has also developed delivery partnerships with key agencies, such as with Community Law and the CAB in the One Stop Shop at the Guildhall. The Council has also helped a number of important community and voluntary organisations through the deployment of assets and capital investment.

This Council will continue to work with the community and voluntary sector in a positive and supportive manner.

NTFC

An excellent public parade was held for Northampton Town Football Club on the 8th May. I would like to thank all councillors who attended.

Civic Matters

Members are reminded that the following civic events are coming up and members are encouraged to take part:

- 12th June: Mayoral Civic and Charity Sunday, service at All Saints at 10.30am. Members are requested to process from the Guildhall at 10.20am and to arrive by 10.00am to allow good time to robe.
- 20th June: The Armed Forces Week Flag will be flown from the Guildhall at 10.00am. Members are welcome to attend the flag raising.
- 25th June: On Armed Forces Day there will be a Parade organised by the Royal British Legion from Eastgate to the Market Square where the Mayor and the Lord Lieutenant will take the salute. The Parade will muster from 10.00am and parade to the Market Square at 10.30am. Later in the day, at 4.20pm there will be a fly-past by a Hawker Hurricane. There will be various activities on the Market Square during the day.
- 30th June / 1st July: Members have been circulated with a programme of events at Abington Park Museum to make the 100th year since the Battle of the Somme. This will include an overnight vigil and an act of remembrance at the Museum on the morning of the 1st July.

- 30th July: The 2nd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment will exercise the Freedom of the Borough on this date, with a Parade, and the Mayor and the Lord Lieutenant will inspect the Parade.

This Parade coincides with the laying up of the Battalion's old Regimental Colour at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where the Regiment has a Chapel. The 2nd Battalion carries forward the traditions of a number of forbear Regiments including the 48th Foot, the Northamptonshire Regiment.

Detailed arrangements are being made and notice will be circulated to all members in due course.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6th June, 2016

Northampton Town Centre

This Council is committed to the continued improvement of the town centre.

Significant success has been achieved in the development of the Cultural Quarter, in improving the public realm of the town centre, in supporting traders and businesses, incentivising business growth, supporting, promoting and carrying out development, combatting issues of anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns, promoting town centre events, marketing town centre attractions, providing free car parking and many other activities.

There is more to do, and our ambition for the town centre is for an ever more vibrant location for the public, with a diverse business base and offer to residents and visitors. The many forthcoming developments will build on work to date and the Council will continue to take a positive approach to exploiting these and working with all town centre interests.

As Deputy Leader I will work with my Cabinet colleagues, who do excellent work on these matters, to help co-ordinate these activities and enhance our overall focus on this vital priority for the Borough. I will also engage with all those public and private groups and agencies with a role to play, to support their work, and ensure that Northampton town centre is a high priority at the forefront of their agendas and work-plans.

Major Sports Clubs

Northampton is a unique town in many ways. One very distinctive fact is that Northampton has professional league Rugby, Football and County Cricket. These elite sports clubs have a major impact on the economy of the town, not least through attracting visitors to Northampton, and their success brings a strong sense of pride in our town, enhancing its reputation. They also act as a strong focus to the development of community sport and the engagement of young people in sport as participants and spectators.

This administration believes that it is important to work closely with the major sports clubs to ensure that the town is maximising the benefit of these important partners and their national and international profile, just as we work closely with major business interests.

Over the coming weeks I will be meeting with the major sports clubs to discuss matters of common interest and to promote our joint working with them, seeking to support their own success, and their positive contribution to the life of town.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Planning, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6th June, 2016

An extensive refurbishment of four lifts within the Grosvenor Centre has been undertaken. These are located at the Abington Street entrance.

Tenders have been received for the letting of 72 St. Giles Street, the former C'est La Vie Café. The various bids are actively being considered.

PLANNING

Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)

Consultation on the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) is taking place between Wednesday 27 April and Friday 10 June 2016. This is the first formal stage of public consultation and seeks views on what the scope of the plan should be and what issues it should address. Consultation is also directly involving workshops and presentations to stakeholder groups.

Copies of consultation documents are available to view in public libraries and on the Council website.

Planning application for the part demolition and conversion of factory building into 45 apartments and 2 dwellings at the corner of Countess Road and Lyttleton Road approved by the Planning Committee on 12th of April.

Planning application for two industrial units at Brackmill Points, Bedford Road has been received and currently going through consultation.

Planning application for a new industrial unit and an extension to an existing industrial unit at Pineham totalling 13,000m² has been received.

Planning application for the development of 81 dwellings at the former St Marys Middle School was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on the 27th of April, subject to S106 agreement.

The planning and listed building consent applications for the extension of opening hours and alterations at Delapre Abbey were approved by the Planning Committee on the 27th of April.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

Sixfields – Topographical survey complete. Ground investigation work on site due to be completed shortly. The site will be marketed in the summer.

St Giles St – Phase 1 completed 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Next phase will start in late June.

St James Mill Rd – Initial designs received from NCC. Land massing ongoing.

Waterside Enterprise Zone Qtr 1 2016/17 outputs – 293 jobs created, Private sector investment £1.9m.

Vulcan Works – Cabinet approval May 11th to grant the University a lease for the Vulcan works building for use as their international leather centre, leather conservation centre and associated teaching facilities.

Business Incentive Scheme figures:

	2016-2017 to date	2015-2016	2014-2015	Cumulative Total
<i>no. of businesses supported</i>	12	34	50	96
<i>grant monies committed</i>	£86,891.20	£226,264.00	£450,199.82	£763,355.02
<i>Jobs created</i>	118	125	201	444
<i>Private Sector Investment leveraged</i>	£304,968.20	£2,061,178.00	£1,962,321.25	£4,328,467.45

Rail Station Car Park

Positive discussions continue with Network Rail and Department of Transport on the new Multi-Storey Car Park at the Railway Station which will have 1,550 spaces.

Delapre Abbey

The works at Delapre Abbey continue and are on target. An Open Week-End was recently held which attracted over 600 visitors.

Town Centre

The 2-hour free parking offer in the council's multi-storey car parks continues to attract visitors in to the town centre with April 2016 figures reaching 80,259, the fourth highest figures since the offer was first introduced in April 2014.

Overall parking figures for April show a significant increase on last year of over 20%, and whilst a single month's figures should be treated with caution, it is an encouraging start to the year. Footfall figures for the same month are also well up on last year.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Housing & Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6th June 2016

Developing a Multi Agency Rough Sleepers Strategy

On 29th April 2016, the Housing & Wellbeing Service and Community Safety Team hosted a second half day Workshop to support the development of our 3 year Rough Sleepers Strategy.

Attended by more than 50 participants – representing around thirty services and organisations, including charities, faith groups, health and social care professionals, housing projects, advice and support providers, the neighbourhood wardens, the anti-social behaviour unit and the Police – the Workshop showcased the fantastic, innovative work being undertaken by the Council's new Outreach Workers, provided details of the town's plans for a temporary nightshelter and considered the themes, priorities and actions that need to be included in the new Strategy.

During the Workshop, Goodwill Solutions and Hope Enterprises (two local charities) pledged to work proactively with other organisations to help people who have been sleeping rough to rebuild their lives through a programme of volunteering, training and employment.

Everyone agreed that the problem of rough sleeping can only be resolved if all services and organisations work more effectively with one another, deliver a consistent message and actively encourage rough sleepers to engage with housing and support providers and leave the streets.

'Together we change lives' – our multi-agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton – will be considered by the Cabinet on 8th June 2016.

Preparing for Online HMO Licensing

When the Cabinet approved the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy and Private Sector Housing Fees & Charges Policy in February 2016, I described the action that the Council would be taking to increase the number of licensed HMOs and ensure that enforcement action is targeted at higher risk, unsafe, substandard and badly managed housing.

One of the improvements I mentioned is the introduction of Online HMO Licensing.

At present, the Private Sector Housing Team is spending too much time processing paper application forms, rather than gathering intelligence, checking on the status of unlicensed HMOs and, where appropriate, taking enforcement action. Automation will speed up the licensing process, eliminate unnecessary delays, improve customer service and free up the Officers to concentrate on finding unlicensed HMOs and holding owners, landlords and agents to account.

When the system is fully operational, all applicants will be required to complete their application online and will only be able to submit their application when it is complete, all supporting documents and certificates have been uploaded and the appropriate licence fee has been paid.

HMO landlords and managing agents will be actively involved in the preparations for Online HMO Licensing in Northampton. The system will be fully operational by 1st September 2016.

Northampton's Landlord Forum

On 7th June 2016, the Landlord Forum will hear about the role that Northamptonshire's Trading Standards Team plays in regulating and improving standards in the private rented sector.

Landlords will also be provided with a demonstration of the Online HMO Licensing System that the Council is in the process of introducing in Northampton.

As usual, the second half of the Landlord Forum will be set aside for roundtable discussions with experts from a wide range of disciplines, including Housing Advice, HMO Licensing, Private Sector Housing, Planning, Revenues & Benefits, Trading Standards, the Police and the Fire Service.

Review of Sheltered Housing (now Older Persons' Housing)

Northampton Partnership Homes has recently completed its review of sheltered housing.

It recommends that 'sheltered housing' is rebranded as 'Older Persons' Housing' and that Northampton Partnership Homes and the Council:

- Enable older people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible;
- Improve the quality of older persons' housing to enable people to live happy and healthy lives in an enriched community;
- Offer housing choices to meet the needs of current and future generations of older people; and
- Ensure that specialist housing and support is targeted to those most in need.

Northampton Partnership Homes' review, and its recommendations, will be considered by the Cabinet on 6th July 2016.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6th June, 2016

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2016, 23 Projects, totalling £10,172 have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

From the 42 applications received, 29 Organisations have received funding through the Partnership Grant for 2016/17 and 2 organisations through the small grants pot. 12 of these are new applications and are organisations that were not funded last year. The organisations funded include:

Manna House	10,000
Lowdown	18,800
Hope Centre	25,000
Community Spaces Northampton	20,000
Groundworks	7,250
Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council	24,000
Spencer Contact	13,600
School & Street Pastors	9,000
Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire	10,000
Unity Leisure	12,650
Homestart	18,000
The Good Loaf	11,800
Doddridge	10,700
Age UK	50,000
Tools for Self-Reliance	10,000
Womens Aid	25,000
Relate	10,000
Kids Aid	5,100
Shopmobility	8,000
Dostiyo	6,000
Family Support Link	10,000
Association of Northamptonshire Supplementary Schools	15,000
Blackthorn Community Centre	6,100
Beanstalk	9,000
C2C Social Action	5,000
Door to Door	35,000
Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation	5,000
Men in Sheds	5,000
Pearls of Peace	5,000

Community Centres

Annual review for each of the centres has now been carried out, as well as a mapping/scoping exercise, to establish where there are opportunities for the centre organisations to work in collaboration. The centres are looking to identify savings and improve sustainability.

Forums

The Women's Forum, in partnership with BME SRP and the Umbrella Fair, delivered a 'Happy Day' event at the Racecourse on Saturday 2nd June 10.30-3pm. The day was developed through the Forum and supported by more than 24 organisations, primarily support services for women. Happy Day was held during half-term, targeting families. The aim of the day was to encourage a healthy and happy lifestyle. The day involved exercise workshops, support services, children's activities and sports sessions.

17th May, marked International Day Against Homophobia. A small civic ceremony was held in the courtyard at the Guildhall, supported by the LGBTQ forum.

Events

The council delivered the Cobblers Victory Parade and Civic Reception on Sunday 8th May. The parade commenced at Sixfields went down Weedon Road into Gold Street around All Saints onto the Market Square and finished outside the Guildhall. The event attracted thousands of fans and well-wishers into the town who showed their support for the Team.

The council provided support to the District Scouts who delivered the St Georges Day Parade and celebrations in the town centre and Becketts Park (12 April), Food Festival on Becketts Park (14th & 15th May), Beer Festival on Delapre Park (19th – 22nd May), Speedy Cup on the Racecourse (4 June), Pretty Muddy (4 June) and Race for Life (5 June) on Abington Park.

The Bands in the Park season on Abington Park Bandstand has been well supported and continues every Sunday until the middle of September.

Looking forward the council is working with partners on the Carnival Parade from the Racecourse and around the town centre (11 June); Music Festival in the town centre (19 June); Women's Cycling Tour 2016 in the town centre (19 June); Armed Forces Day in the town centre (25 June); NN4Eight on Far Cotton Rec (2 July); Town Festival on the Racecourse (2nd & 3rd July); Mass Cycle Event starting from Delapre Park (17th July); Fun Colour Run on Abington Park (24th July) and Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse (20th & 21st August).

Planning for Women's Cycle Race, Mass Cycle Ride, Fireworks, Christmas are ongoing.

Culture & Heritage

May saw two new exhibitions showcasing at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. 'Looking in Wonderland' – a selection of the best of Sir John Tenniel's illustrations to Lewis Carroll's two Alice books – Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865) and Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There (1872). 'Animal Tales' is a family friendly exhibition about animals of all shapes and sizes, how they live and the stories that are told about them. At Abington Park Museum, 'Network Arts Summer Show' opened showcasing a range of quality contemporary and traditional art from emerging and established artists in the region.

A Spring Food & Craft Fair at Abington Park Museum attracted over 3,000 visitors and feedback was exceptionally positive. 'Moving Heaven & Earth, Capability Brown's Gift of Landscape' took place at Abington Park Museum in May.

Half term workshops for children were held at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery including 'Zoo in the Museum' led by experts from Hamerton Zoo Park along with a workshop led by the Friends of Northampton Castle and leather stamping by members of the Museum of Leathercraft. An Alice in Wonderland Shoe Makeover workshop for adults was fully booked in May. A Mad Hatter's Tea Party was held at Abington Park Museum in early June.

A series of Art History Lectures exploring the cultural context of Lewis Carroll's famous creation through works in the collection of the Northampton Museum & Art Gallery took place during May and early June.

Feedback from the loan of the Lady Mary Stanhope shoes to the Samuel Pepy's exhibition at National Maritime Museum confirmed 66,613 visitors walked through the doors.

Customer Services

Partnership working is essential ensuring we are all working together to help our vulnerable customers visiting the OSS. We are pleased to confirm that NPH's Rehousing and Support Team are available three days a week within the OSS. This together with the co-location of CLS, CAB and the Credit Union ensures that we have a One Stop Shop to support our vulnerable customers and prevent debt and homelessness. Our partners are working well together, referring to one another ensuring customers are seen by the right agency as quickly as possible.

We supported Dementia Awareness Week during May with a display in the One Stop Shop made up of a banner of hands on which staff and customers expressed their messages to Dementia.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6th June, 2016

Community Safety

2015/16 saw reduced performance in a number of crime types. During 2015/16 overall crime increased by 4.6% (+884 crimes). Serious Acquisitive Crime also saw an increase of 6.0% (+158 crimes) during the year. Vehicle crime was the primary performance issue in relation to acquisitive crime, with theft of motor vehicles increasing by 26.5% (+82 crimes) and theft from motor vehicles increasing by 5.3% (+54 crimes). Robbery and domestic burglary saw small increases of 2.3% (+7 crimes) and 1.5% (+15 crimes) respectively. There was a 25.3% increase (+1194) in violence offences during 2015/16; violence with injury increased by 27.9% (+576 crimes) and violence without injury increased by 23.3% (+618 crimes). Reported Anti-Social Behaviour incidents continued to see a significant reduction during 2015/16, decreasing by 14.3% (-1895 incidents) with environmental anti-social behaviour incidents reducing by 29.8% (-552 incidents), personal by 13.8% (-623 incidents) and nuisance by 10.4% (-720 incidents).

Weeks of Action areas for 2017/18 are Bellinge, Kings Heath, Lings/Weston Favell Centre, Semilong/Regent Square, St David's. There will also be focussed pieces of work taking place throughout the year on the town centre and with Billing Aquadrome. The first week of Action in Bellinge that took place week commencing 11/04/2016 saw excellent engagement with the local community with over 250 residents taking part in a range of activities. Achievements of note was the collection and removal of over 12 tons of waste, referrals to Women's Aid for victims of domestic abuse, 29 dogs chipped, increased awareness of local support services and a range of environmental improvements undertaken by Community Payback, Neighbourhood Wardens and Enterprise. The Week of Action for Kingsheath will be taking place week commencing 27 June 2016.

A night time economy weekend multi-agency hub has been established in partnership with McDonald's at their premises on The Drapery. The hub provides a safe area for Police Officers and Street Pastors to bring vulnerable people/victims in the early stages of assessing and assisting their needs. In addition to this the Community Safety Partnership, in partnership with Northampton Town Centre BID is funding 'Street Wardens', who will provide additional support on key risk dates of the night time economy such as pay weekends, bank holidays and certain 'Fresher' events.

Killing with Kindness event took place on Market Square on 3 June 2016. This saw a range of statutory and voluntary agencies coming together to raise awareness around street begging issues and the support available.

The two Domestic Homicide Reviews have now come to an end and the final reports have been submitted to the Home Office for their review and approval.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6 June 2016

Environmental Health

The 3GS enforcement officers have got off to a successful start, serving over 200 fixed penalty notices for littering in their first three weeks.

Local authorities have been provided with new powers to issue fixed penalty notices for fly tipping. It is hoped that these notices will act as an effective deterrent to reduce the amount of fly tipping in Northampton.

Environmental Services

Work is now underway to decide how environmental services should be provided in the future, after our current contract with Enterprise/Amey comes to an end in June 2018. A detailed options appraisal process is currently underway and robust project governance arrangements have been put in place to ensure the project is effectively managed. We have appointed a specialist with expertise and considerable experience around waste procurements to lead this options appraisal.

A key part of the process will be to understand the views of the community and lots of activity is currently underway to engage them in the process. A community engagement framework has been established to ensure an ongoing systematic approach to community engagement throughout the entire process. The framework consists of three focus groups – drawn from residents associations, parish councils, park management committees, friends groups and staff. There will also be an extensive market research exercise and a number of public meetings throughout the process.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

Enterprise has recently revised their Town Centre cleansing methods, which has resulted in an improvement in the standard of cleanliness. The Council is also going to provide a pedestrian sweeper with an operative to mechanically sweep the core streets of the Town Centre that will further enhance the standard of cleanliness.

Northampton in Bloom 2016 was launched on Monday 16th May at All Saints Memorial Garden. The theme for this year's contest is 'Fun in the Garden'. The Borough Council and other partners will also be preparing the town to enter the East Midlands in Bloom 2016 contest, where Northampton scooped a Silver-gilt medal last year.

In our bid to increase the number of Green Flag awards in Northampton to three, we are going all out to this year achieve an award for Bradlaugh fields, as well as maintaining Green Flag status for Abington Park and Delapre Abbey. Inspections recently took place in Bradlaugh Fields and Abington Park and Delapre Abbey will be 'mystery shopped' by judges on an unknown date.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 6th June 2016

Finance

The Finance team have been working closely with each of the Directorates of the Council and its partners to progress Cabinet decisions. These include advising on projects such as Greyfriars, Vulcan Works and other sites in the Enterprise Zone to deliver the economic growth and regeneration agenda across the town.

In addition the Council is in the process of closing its accounts for 2015/16 and preparing the Statement of Accounts. The outturn position for the year is planned to be reported to Cabinet in July and is expected to show the Council has been effectively using its resources against a backdrop of continued reductions in Government funding. The draft Accounts are due to be presented to Audit Committee at their meeting on 27th June and handed over to KPMG, the Council's External Auditor, by the statutory deadline of 30th June. There is then a period of 30 days for the public to inspect the Accounts. KPMG will be auditing the accounts over the summer and reporting back their findings to the Audit Committee on 5th September.

Revenues & Benefits

The Revenues and Benefits service, alongside our colleagues in the One Stop Shop and Northampton Partnership Homes are in the process of finalising a local delivery partnership agreement with the Department for work and pensions. This agreement sets out how Northampton Borough Council will support citizens who commence receiving the Governments Universal Credit in 2016. This agreement will ensure our services continue to provide assistance to those on the lowest incomes throughout the current period of national welfare reforms. Providing assistance in accessing benefits and providing personal budgeting advice are key features of this support, alongside administering Discretionary payments to those most impacted by Government reforms.

Workloads within the service remain high and the team are also in the process of undertaking work to identify error within the existing caseload. The Government are offering incentives for the identification of errors within the system, whether these be errors by the service, the Department for Work and Pensions or the benefit recipient. The service are recruiting dedicated resource to aid the successful completion of this work in 2016, which will supplement the already high standard of quality assurance performed by the team.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Council - 6 June 2016

Report Title	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

1.1 To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16, as attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16.

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 eleventh Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council, covering the Municipal year 2015/2016. 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 2015/2016 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
2015/2016**

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

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

This Annual Report is a summary of just some of the work Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) has done this year, what has worked well and what issues we need to concentrate more on next year.

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

Health Check of the Local Economy
The Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town
Enforcement of the Licensing Policy for Taxis and Private Hire

Overview and scrutiny work is member-led and evidence-based. It is vital that the work of scrutiny adds value and improvement and I feel the conclusions and recommendations from the in-depth Reviews undertaken this year have really demonstrated that. All of the Scrutiny Panels have completed their reviews and the findings will be presented to Cabinet early in the Municipal year 2016/2017.

The O&S Committee also set up a Working Group that undertook a short, sharp review - NBC Owned Street Lighting. This Working Group is still evidence gathering and will report its findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Municipal year 2016/2017.

I have continued to promote the good work of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton wider, a number of the processes and procedures being noted nationally as examples of best practice. This year, Scrutiny Councillors and Officers from a nearby District Council visited NBC, spoke with members of the Committee and observed a meeting of our Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Again this year, we asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny reviews. There were more than fifty suggestions from the public. Councillors carefully considered the suggestions at a workshop held in March 2016. From these ideas, Cabinet's priorities for the year and suggestions put forward by Councillors, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved its Work Programme 2016/2017 at its April meeting.

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.

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported Scrutiny over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank my colleagues who chaired the Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups last year. These achievements are recognised in this report.

I would also like to convey my thanks to the many witnesses that have contributed to scrutiny's work this year. Their participation brings knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm to the work of Scrutiny.

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



Councillor Jamie Lane
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

Achievements

How was this impact made during 2015-2016?

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.

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.

Two of the three Scrutiny Panels this year had non-Executive Councillors who were not O&S Councillors as members of the Panels.

Key Example: The Scrutiny Panel that investigated the Health Check of the Town was made up of six non-Executives, of which three were not O&S Councillors, demonstrating 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.

The scrutiny of crime and disorder was formalised in 2010, 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 informs the O&S Committee of work undertaken; non-Executives decide whether further review or scrutiny is required. This report focuses on the levels of performance in the light of reduced resources, if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. This demonstrates excellent working relationships between non-Executives and partners.

Also, this year Overview and Scrutiny focussed on the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town and further details are provided at a later section in this report.

Overview & Scrutiny continues to show great interest in the Community Safety agenda, and the issues that are at the forefront of our communities concerns. Their input is much valued, and contributes towards the future delivery of the service

Debbie Ferguson
Community Safety Partnership Manager

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

The O&S Committee has also looked at:

- The multi-Agency approach to Street Drinking
- Code of Practice for Betting Shops
- Flooding, 1:200 flood risk
- Sheltered Housing Review

Performance Management Scrutiny

A 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:-

- NI154 – Net additional homes provided
- HML05 – Total number of people sleeping rough on the streets
- PP53 – Percentage service requests responded to within three days
- ESC09 – Percentage of fly-tipping incidents removed within two working days of notification
- ESCO1n – Total bins/boxes missed in period

Critical Friend to Cabinet

Call-In

At Northampton call-in is used sparingly. During 2015/2016 the facility was not used at all.

Influencing Policy Development

Three in-depth Scrutiny reviews were undertaken during 2015/2016:

Health Check of the Local Economy

Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town

Effectiveness of the enforcement of the Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire

Review work of 2014/2015 has received Cabinet's response. Almost all of the recommendations were accepted, which highlights that Overview and Scrutiny is continuing to make significant

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

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.

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 2015/2016. 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 just under 50 individuals responded to, suggesting more than 55 ideas for future Scrutiny review.

Paperless Overview and Scrutiny

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.

Councillors and Officers from Wychavon District Council visited the Council in April 2016, met with Overview and Scrutiny Councillors and observed one of our meetings.

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 Programme. The details below provide key points of how O&S work has reflected the concerns of service users.

Key Example of review work:

Effectiveness of the Enforcement of the Licensing Policy for Taxis and Private Hire

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to investigate the pattern of provision of licensing in respect of taxis and private hire.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To review the policies and strategies for licensing
- To assess the effectiveness of the legislation for licensing
- To raise awareness of the licensing and planning framework around the regulation of private hire and taxi licensing
- To assess what mechanisms are in place for the exchange of information between the Council, the Police and licence holders.
- To examine what options are available and any best practice or solutions that other Local Authorities have successfully implemented
- To assess the provision and usage of taxi ranks in the borough

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in June 2015, agreed to include a review of the effectiveness of the enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 3 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in July 2015 and concluded in March 2016.

A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising five Councillors.

The review attracted interest from the public, with a number of members of the public attending meetings of the Scrutiny Panel.

Recommendations of this Scrutiny review were around the themes:

- Provision and Usage of Taxi ranks in the borough
- Policies and Strategies for Licensing and the effectiveness of the legislation for licensing
- Information Exchange
- Raising the awareness of the licensing and planning framework around the regulation of private hire and taxi licensing
- Taxi Marshals
- Highways

This report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2016/2017.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Graham Walker (Deputy Chair); Councillors James Hill, Suresh Patel and Brian Sargeant and myself.

The Panel received both written and spoken evidence from a wide variety of expert advisors. Desktop research was carried out by the Scrutiny Officer. All of which produced a wealth of information that informed the evidence base of this high profile Scrutiny review.

Following the collation of the evidence, the Scrutiny Panel drew various conclusion and recommendations that are contained in the report.

The Review took place between July 2015 and March 2016.

Councillor Gareth Eales
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3

Co-Opted Members

This year, the Scrutiny process chose not to engage the expertise and knowledge of co-optees in its review process but fully utilised expert advisors in the witness evidence process.

Scrutiny Panels

The Scrutiny Panels obtain information to inform the Review through a variety of methods, including:

- Research and briefings commissioned from officers
- Select committee-style meetings with external experts and relevant officers
- Informal interviews
- Site visits
- Surveys

Some meetings of the Scrutiny Panels are often held in a ‘Select Committee’ format, with the Scrutiny Panels seeking evidence through a question and answer session with senior officers, Cabinet Members, external experts, representatives of interested groups or members of the public who have relevant experience.

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

Accepted recommendations from previous Scrutiny reviews, undertaken during 2013/14 and 2014/2015, are being monitored by the O&S Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

Key examples

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.

Recommendations were around the themes:

- Licensing and Legislative options
- Priorities for the Private Rental Sector
- Best Practice Guide

Cabinet received the Overview and Scrutiny report and accepted all of the recommendations contained within it. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitored the implementation of its recommendations and monitoring is now complete.

Impact of the Welfare Reform Act

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

The findings from the review were reported by the local press.

19 recommendations were included in the report. They were broadly focussed on:

- Northamptonshire Credit Union
- Voluntary Sector
- Food Banks
- Monitoring

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations within the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will begin the monitoring process in June 2016.

Poverty in the Town

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review poverty in the town to ascertain whether it is a serious issue:

Recommendations were around the themes:

Promoting the work and initiatives of various organisations and charities
Working with the Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council in promoting national awareness campaigns

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations within the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will begin the monitoring process in June 2016.

Interpersonal Violence

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.

Recommendations were broadly focussed on:

- Funding
- Training
- Housing related issues

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations within the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will begin the monitoring process in June 2016.

Keep Northampton Tidy

The purpose of the review was:

- To undertake a review regarding implementing a 'Keep Northampton Tidy' campaign with an accent on preserving wildlife and encouraging children (and adults) to take an interest in their surroundings, to include Community Clean Ups and 'Northampton in Bloom.'
- A review of the problem of littering and fly-tipping, particularly in un-adopted roads and the gateways into the town.
- To explore opportunities to enhance the gateways into the town.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel were around the themes:

- Keep Northampton Tidy
- Keep Northampton Tidy Campaign
- Gateways into the town
- Purple Flag Accreditation

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations within the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will begin the monitoring process in June 2016.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

Tree Maintenance

Following a motion that had been carried at full Council at its meeting on 15 September 2014:

"There are many areas of the Eastern District where historic planting of the wrong kind of trees in the residential areas cause a number of problems for residents - from light being blocked from homes, to fallen debris, to damage to property from roots.

'This Council resolves to develop a plan to consider removing trees that are identified as problematic and consider replacing them with smaller trees more suited to residential areas.

'This Council recognises this issue is complex and many trees are located on housing land that will soon be managed by Northampton Partnership Homes so therefore refers this matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider."

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that an Overview and Scrutiny Working Group would be set up to look at tree maintenance issues.

The recommendations were around:

- Right to light
- Reporting mechanisms
- Tree Inspection Programme
- S106/CIL process
- Revised Tree Maintenance Policy

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations within the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will begin the monitoring process in June 2016.

O&S Parking Working Group

Cabinet received this report in the autumn 2015 and its response is expected to be received in the spring 2016.

Review work 2015/2016

O&S 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:

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

Health Check of the Local Economy

The purpose of the review was to look at how partners locally, including the private sector, can work together to influence the local economy.

Key lines of Inquiry:

- How can schemes, such as Apprenticeship Programmes, be developed and expanded so that they deliver for both local employees, employers and local residents?
- What is the vision for skills and learning issues, particularly low skills?
- What support is there for those that are in long term unemployment?
- What are the areas for potential growth in jobs?
- What can other organisations/groups/individuals do to help?
- Whether a mapping skills gap exercise has been undertaken to identify the type of skills that are in short supply; and what the findings of this exercise are
- How specific services can be used to generate business investment
- How can the offer of commercial land in the borough be improved to ensure a steady stream of quality premises that are accessible by new and established organisations?
- What could feasibly be done to improve the physical infrastructure in and around the town?
- How it can be ensured that those who are seldom heard or isolated are engaged with?

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in June 2015, agreed to include a review of the health check of the local economy. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in July 2015 and concluded in March 2016.

A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising six Councillors.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel were around the themes:

- Raising the profile and the economic growth in Northampton.
- Raising the profile of organisations assisting with the economic growth of the town.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

- Addressing the future skills requirements of each sector of the local economy within Northampton.
- Raising the profile of apprenticeships and vocational training in Northampton.
- Developing a Skills Strategy for Northampton.

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2015/2016.

The Scrutiny Panel was made up of Members from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: myself (Chair); Councillor Samuel Shaw (Vice Chair); Councillor Terrie Eales; together with other non-Executives Councillors Janice Duffy, Elizabeth Gowen and Cathrine Russell.

A comprehensive review took place between July 2014 and March 2016. A wealth of background data and information was received by the Scrutiny Panel. A series of interviews with a number of key expert advisors were held. A number of organisations and groups provided written information. Desktop research was undertaken by the Scrutiny Officer, the findings of which informed the review.

I highlight that information gathering was very important to this review so that the Scrutiny Panel could inform its health check of the local economy. This enabled the Scrutiny Panel to devise its key findings, conclusions and recommendations that will be considered by Cabinet later this year.

As part of the monitoring regime, Overview and Scrutiny will review this report six months after Cabinet has received it.

Councillor Rufia Ashraf
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Health Check of the Local Economy

Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to investigate the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town.

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To investigate the levels of anti-social behaviour in the town, such as tackling psychoactive substances, alcohol, littering (including chewing gum), graffiti, fly-tipping, street urination and dog fouling
- To consider the nature of the psychoactive substances market and any health consequences
- To review the policies and strategies for dealing with the impact of anti-social behaviour in the town
- To consider the paper/Bill that is currently being drafted by the Home Office to address the issue of psychoactive substances

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

- To identify the prevention strategies that can help to address anti-social behaviour on the town
- To identify 'hotspots' of the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town
- To consider the enforcement powers that the Council and other Agencies has in respect of anti-social behaviour
- To consider how Northampton Borough Council can work in partnership with local groups, Agencies, organisations and residents to reduce and prevent the impact anti-social behaviour has on the town

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in June 2015, agreed to include a review of the impact of anti-social behaviour on the town. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 2 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in July 2015 and concluded in March 2016.

A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising nine Councillors.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel were broadly around the themes:

- Promotion of the activities available in relation to prevention of anti-social behaviour
- Training for Councillors and front line Officers
- Awareness Raising Sessions – psychoactive substances
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Assistance for vulnerable people
- Multi-Agency working

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2015/2016.

The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: myself, Councillor Phil Larratt (Deputy Chair); Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Jamie Lane, Brian Oldham, Zoe Smith and Graham Walker together with other non-Executive Councillors Tony Ansell, Anamul Haque (Enam).

The Review took place between July 2015 and March 2016.

It was a very interesting and informative Review; with clear evidence received. I thank all those who gave up their time to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to provide this information and all those who provided comprehensive written evidence.

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

The result is a piece of work, which recommends to Cabinet a number of improvements to dealing with anti-social behaviour on the town. I highlight that from the wealth of evidence

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

received it became apparent that addressing anti-social behaviour is not just the responsibility of one Agency, but several and one that requires a partnership approach.

Councillor Dennis Meredith

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town

Effectiveness of the Enforcement of the Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire

Please refer to page 4 for a precis of this review.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also commissioned one Working Group to undertake short, sharp Scrutiny activity:

NBC Owned Street Lighting

A Working Group was set up comprising members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The purpose of this Scrutiny activity was to:

- Investigate all NBC owned street lighting, not just those in situ on housing land
- Differentiate between NCC and NBC owned street lighting
- Ascertain how the public can report problems and issues with street lighting
- Ascertain the cost of NBC owned street lighting and energy consumption

This Working Group is still mid-evidence gathering and will report its findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Municipal year 2016/2017.

Budget Scrutiny

Each year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sets up the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group to:

- Review the revenue budget proposals and the Council's medium term financial plans.
- Recommend a short list to Overview and Scrutiny for detailed consideration.
- Consider suggestions from the public and other Councillors for items to be included in the short list for scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny finds it helpful for a small Working Group of Councillors to take a brief overview of all the budget proposals and bring a small selection to the Committee for detailed scrutiny.

This year the Working Group comprised six Councillors from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in January 2016, undertook budget scrutiny of the following issues:

- Rent decrease based on Government Policy -1% for 4 years: Impact on the Capital Programme Impact on the Repairs and Maintenance Budget
- Welfare Reform: Details of provisions in place for support and how this is reflected in the budget
- Environmental Services Contract: Review and plans for a possible new contract and the mitigation against potential increase in costs

Looking ahead

The Work Programme for 2016/2017 will be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the spring 2016. Three Scrutiny Panels will be set up and will scope the reviews.

Details of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/2017 will be published on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#) as soon as it is finalised.

What are our Challenges for 2016-2017?

- To build on Overview and Scrutiny's achievements by setting stretching targets to broaden our impact. An example would be to ensure the Committee continues to undertake pre-decision scrutiny activities.
- To ensure that Overview and Scrutiny continues to make a positive contribution to the development of policy and the continuous improvement of the Council's operations.
- 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 continue 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.
- 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 continued to increase 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 the 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.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

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 overleaf and return to: -

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

Email: [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 837722

The conduct or behaviour of a councillor or officer - this is the responsibility of the Standards Committee - for information, contact 01604 837722.

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

Suggested Issue for Overview and Scrutiny

Name:

Email:

Telephone

Issues suggested for inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/2016

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
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 laga caawiyo
turjumidda warqaddan fadlan kala xidhidh Tracy
Tiff tilifoonka 01604 837408

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提出要求。

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Appendices:
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NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

6th June 2016

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Changes to Consultation Appointments
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1. Purpose

1.1 Council is asked to confirm changes to the membership of The Community Enabling Fund Advisory Group.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Councillor Kilbride replaces Councillor Sargeant on The Community Enabling Fund Advisory Group

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1 The Conservative Group wish to make a change to Consultation Appointments, specifically the Community Enabling Fund Advisory Group.

3.2 Appointments to all other Consultation Appointments agreed by Council on the 19st May 2016 remain unchanged.

3.3 No issues of proportionality arise

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 None specifically

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 N/A

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 None specifically

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 None

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 N/A

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

Michael Flynn
Democratic Services
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