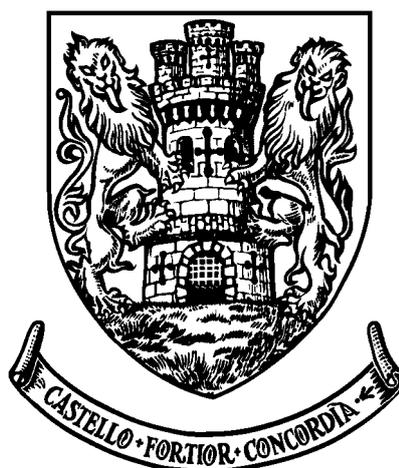


NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 17 June 2019

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 17 JUNE 2019 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 3 June 2019.

3. APOLOGIES

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Roberts to make a statement on "Planning for the people."

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

This council believes that its best decisions are informed by public consultation.

The council passed the 2019/20 budget in February 2019 but one major saving relating to Car Parking Income has yet to be implemented and this is likely to result in a shortfall in income in the current year.

Whilst consultation was undertaken as part of the budget process this did not include consultation on the specific Car Parking increases.

To ensure that future budgets are implemented as planned, the Council asks Scrutiny to review the 2019/20 consultation process and recommend improvements to ensure that planned changes can be implemented in an effective way.

ii) Councillor B Markham to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second:

The council is currently consulting on Part 2 of the Local Plan with the view of submitting the draft for public inspection in 2020.

The draft plan has introduced a more detailed categorisation of open space which differentiates between Parks and Gardens and Amenity Green Space.

Many well-known parks have been categorised as Amenity Green Spaces (AGS) which is defined as *Informal recreation and green spaces in and around housing, with a primary purpose of providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work.*

The council is concerned that the public would not recognise their local park as complying with this definition and requests that consideration is given to all open spaces, with play equipment supplied and maintained by this council, be classified as Parks and Gardens and not as Amenity Green Spaces.

iii) Councillor G Eales to propose and Councillor Stone to second:

Council welcomes the formation of a Town Centre Masterplan. A bid for funding from the governments Future High Streets Fund can only be a positive thing for Northampton, especially if we are successful. However, it must be noted that until it no longer exists or is replaced, Northampton Borough Council is the current authority with responsibility for the Town Centre and regeneration. Yet this fundamental role is being circumvented during the Town Centre Masterplan process. The formation of 'Northampton Forward' has been undertaken without a mandate from Full Council or indeed the cabinet. This entity is answerable to no-one - as such there is a democratic deficit and no accountability. The board of 'Northampton Forward' is scheduled to be the sole decision maker on any final bid that goes forward and the body that considers any public feedback.

There is of course a role for stakeholders and partners, but it is imperative that Northampton Borough Council and elected members play a role in what should be a positive process, as is our elected responsibilities. The Town Centre Masterplan and the grouping that drives it must operate with openness and not on the basis of cronyism. This town has suffered enough of that. To ensure the best outcomes, the following is agreed;

1) Full Council shall nominate Councillors from each political grouping to sit on the Northampton Forward board. The numbers should be; Conservative 3, Labour 2 and Lib Dem 1. These Councillors should play active roles as board members in considering the

feedback from the public and shaping any final plan that is submitted for consideration, working in parity with the rest of the board. The nominees from each political group should be established within 48 hours after this meeting and provided to the Chief Executive, who can then advise Northampton Forward.

2) Full Council should formally vote on any final Town Centre plans that are to be part of any bid. This plan can be pre-agreed by the Northampton Forward board 'in principle' and then brought to Full Council for rubber-stamping.

With cross party involvement on this issue and on the Northampton Forward board, it will ensure 'buy in' from all political groups and everyone positively focused on the best outcome for the town, whilst still respecting the role and democracy of Northampton Borough Council.

iv) Councillor Birch to propose and Councillor Duffy to second:

This Council recognises the contribution made to the town by the voluntary sector. They will bring local intelligence, energy, commitment and resources to our localities.

We therefore agree;

- to include the voluntary sector in our forward plans;
- to ensure robust partnerships are in place as we go into the new Unitary Authority;
- to work with Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire to provide the Northampton voluntary sector with sound funding and business advice;
- to work with VIN and CVS to develop back room services for the voluntary sector.

v) To be proposed by Councillor B Markham to propose and seconded by Councillor Meredith:

At the council meeting on the 3rd June there was unanimous cross party support for action to be taken to address the "climate emergency".

Making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030 must be accompanied by conserving and enhancing biodiversity across Northampton and managing its green Infrastructure.

This council adopted a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning document in May 2015 and this will influence new developments but will not affect the general conservation and enhancement of the existing environmental infrastructure that is vital to reducing Northampton's carbon footprint.

In August 2011 under the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs issued a report entitled:- **BIODIVERSITY 2020** : A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.

The mission for this strategy was *to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.*

The council requests a report to be presented to the Council meeting in September setting out how this council has responded to the Biodiversity 2020 challenge and highlighting the areas that still need to be addressed that needed to be considered in the preparation of the 2020/21 budget.

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

George Candler – Chief Executive
The Guildhall
Northampton

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, 3 June 2019 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Cali, Davenport, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, Joyce, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, B Markham, M Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Roberts, Russell, Sargeant, Kilby-Shaw, Smith, Stone, and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 11 March 2019 and 16 May 2019 were agreed.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Bottwood, Flavell and Marriott.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were no Mayoral announcements.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Lisa Bradshaw addressed Council advising that there was a lot of fly tipping and littering in the Bouverie Estate. She went on to refer to littering from take aways and HIMOs. Ms Bradshaw suggested that there was a need for more communication between Housing Services and Planning; she appreciated however, their heavy workloads. Parking was another concern that Ms Bradshaw brought to Council's attention; she was pleased that NPH had put in some parking restriction measures but had not implemented all of them. She noted that the area of Spring Boroughs had received a number of improvements. Ms Bradshaw concluded her address by conveying her concerns about the Council's complaints process.

Ms Anne Wankiri confirmed that she was appealing to Council to provide a Centre for the African Community. She noted that there is a real need for such a Centre for the African Community to receive advice, help each other and network. Ms Wankiri commented that a Centre would help the African Community to be able to attend Wellbeing Sessions. There is a hub that is currently used but this is not in an ideal location.

Mr Daniel Soan addressed Council commenting that he supported option B of the report (agenda item 9 – Community Governance Review of the Borough – Potential options for consultation and future action.) In his opinion, options had originally been limited and these options were a true choice. Mr Soan referred to Parish Precepts commenting that with a Parish Council it can be ensured that money is spent locally. He went to query how there can be any differences in costs for Borough or Parish elections. Mr Soan closed his address by urging Council to approve option B of the report.

Mr Huffadine-Smith addressed Council. He commented that he was a Parish Councillor for both Upton Parish Council and Duston Parish Council but was making his address as an individual. Mr Huffadine-Smith referred to agenda item 9 - Community Governance Review of the Borough – Potential options for consultation and future action; giving his opinions on community, governance and review. He commented that now is the time to think of West Northamptonshire as a whole. Mr Huffadine-Smith felt that the proposals put forward for Kingsthorpe were excellent; he then concluded his address by commenting that the proposal for widening the boundary for Duston Parish Council could include the northern boundary of Duston.

Mr David Garlick commented that he was addressing Council in respect of Opposition Group Business – “Tackling Climate Change – Playing Our Part 2 and Notice of Motion iii). In his opinion two excellent notices of motion had been submitted in relation to climate change and he urged Council to unanimously carry these Notices of Motion. Everyone needs to work together. Mr Garlick added that global warming is a threat to everyone and there is a need to start reducing gases to protect the planet. Mr Garlick added that there is a need for a Northampton Zero Carbon Group.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 14 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 were given as tabled, supplementary questions were asked as detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 7, Councillor Nunn commented that he needs to be inclusive of all Groups, not just specific ones; he provided examples of various Groups that he had met with.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 13, Councillor Hallam advised that currently there are no charging points in the town centre but there are charging points at various locations in the borough.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Nunn, as Leader of the Council, elaborated on his report and noted that clarity had now been received from Government to proceed with Unitary in 2021. Children's Services would be delivered through the creation of a Children's Trust. Responding to questions Councillor Nunn noted that the Children's Trust would be an item for discussion at the next meeting of the Cross Party Working Group. The West Northants Joint Committee would now have a greater significance for a longer period; it was not expected for there to be additional costs. Councillor Nunn conveyed his thanks to the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development for all the important work that he had done and that interim arrangements for his replacement were being put in place. Councillor Nunn confirmed that sites for an additional park and ride scheme were being investigated.

Councillor Larratt submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon noting key Councillor briefing sessions that had been programmed into the schedule. He highlighted an additional session on HIMO licensing – 26 June 2019 at 6pm and identical session at 11 June 2019 at 1:30pm. Councillor Larratt highlighted a letter that he had recently received following the Shine a Light on Tibet event; the letter emphasised the gratitude for presence at the event. The letter was read out to Council. Responding to questions, Councillor Larratt confirmed that a meeting is being convened regarding street lighting. In respect of Section 106 Agreements, Councillor Larratt advised that there is provision for elected Members to be involved in pre-planning and that a Protocol had been drafted. Regarding Travellers, the Police had agreed to use its S61 Powers more frequently, which was welcomed. Should proposals for a Travellers' Site be put forward they would be pursued.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. Responding to supplementary questions, Councillor Hibbert advised that regarding the recent death of a rough sleeper, a case review would be initiated in the usual way. He added that rough sleepers can be identified should they stay in the Night Shelter and the formal process can then be followed regarding housing. Councillor Hibbert advised that the aim of the list for Direct Lets is to reduce it from over 350 to 200. Councillor Hibbert confirmed that he would liaise with Northampton Partnership Homes regarding the wording of their arrears letters that are issued to tenants. He confirmed the Outreach Team work with vulnerable homeless women.

Councillor Eldred presented his Cabinet Member report and highlighted the key points. He conveyed his thanks to the Billing Team and Post Room staff for successfully issuing bills to residents. Responding to supplementary questions, Councillor Eldred advised that the Guildhall Team has promoted and marketed the Guildhall, generating income. He was confident that the accounts would be signed off this year and value for money is being received from the Auditors, and value for money provided to the residents of Northampton.

At this juncture of the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for Cabinet Member reports had been reached and no further Cabinet Member would elaborate on their reports.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Beardsworth made a statement on “Tackling climate change, playing our part.” She commented that there had been a Climate Change debate over the years and gradually Government had concluded there is a threat to our planet. Good progress had been made in 2018; for example 5% reduction in the UK’s energy usage. Councillor Beardsworth highlighted the need for all to work collaboratively. There is a need for leadership and the Council to commit to reducing the carbon footprint in Northampton. Councillor Beardsworth added that there is a need to make progress now so that the work can be forwarded to the Unitary Authority to continue.

In response, Councillor Hallam agreed with much of Councillor Beardsworth’s statement and he referred to the recent demonstration, outside the Guildhall, that had taken place on climate change. He added that the collection charge for bulky waste had been reduced from £25 to £15, but it would be some time before it could be ascertained whether this reduction had made a difference in fly tipping. Recycling can also make a difference, for example in Far Cotton there has been a reduction in fly tipping of 14%. Councillor Hallam noted that climate change is complex and commented on the seriousness of plastics and the damage to the planet. He added that on 18 June 2019 a cross Party meeting comprising Councillors, Officers and young people had been scheduled.

Councillor Beardsworth reiterated that the Council needs to show leadership, there must be a clear plan on climate change that could be forwarded to the new Unitary Authority but the Plan must be worked on now. Northampton Borough Council needs to work with Northamptonshire County Council and the other districts on this and work on “getting people out of cars.” There is a need to improve insulations too and aim to reach Swedish insulation standards.

9. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH - POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION AND FURTHER ACTIONS

Councillor Larratt, as Deputy Leader of the Council, presented the report “Community Governance Review of the Borough - Potential options for consultation and further actions”, he drew Council’s attention to the report of Opinion Research Services (ORS) and the options for consultation. He added that consultation would be wide-reaching and it would initially be discussed by the Working Group. Councillor Larratt highlighted that it is important that Northampton and the Communities have a strong voice.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

Councillor Stone commented that a Northampton Unitary had been wanted and there was a real need for a strong voice for Northampton. She added that the Labour Group had no objections to Parish Councils but the voice of Northampton must not be diluted. She was pleased that two alternatives were going out to consultation. She enquired how the consultation would take place and emphasised the importance of this decision to the town.

Councillor Malpas commented that he could not support this report, the borough of Northampton is an ancient borough. He added that Councillors wanted to be one big Unitary and there was a need for Councillors to be united. He went on to refer to the

difficulties some Parish Councils can experience, adding that with a Town Council there is uniformity.

Councillor Beardsworth referred to consultation that took place some years previously regarding parishing the whole town and residents had not wanted this then. She acknowledged that Kingsthorpe had been proposed to be a Parish Council and she had not been consulted on this. She added that the proposals for a Kingsthorpe Parish Council were big and it would be bigger than the Town Council in Towcester. Councillor Beardsworth commented that residents had informed her that they did not agree with a Parish Council for Kingsthorpe. She suggested that locality based Councils should be investigated after the new Unitary Authority had been set up. A Town Council would have a strong voice for Northampton.

Councillor Birch advised that she was an advocate for Community Governance and supported a larger Town Council for Northampton. Councillor Birch felt that residents in her ward would want to be associated with Northampton, Civic and ancient traditions; which would fall in line with a Town Council. She commented that the town is suffering from an identity crisis.

Councillor Nunn commented that the report was asking Council to consider going out to consultation and let the people decide.

Councillor Davenport commented that she was speaking on behalf of the residents of Far Cotton. The residents want accountability. Parish Councillors do not receive an allowance, a Community Council would receive a precept. Residents felt that they had not previously been consulted with.

Councillor Smith advised that she concurred with Councillor Birch's comments. She emphasised that consultation must go out as far and wide as possible; it should not be restricted to Residents' Associations only. She added "Northamptonian" is key.

Councillor Meredith stated that consultation has to go out widely and every household must be issued with a letter providing explanations about the consultation. Other methods of consultation such as street stalls should be considered.

Councillor G Eales commented that there should be a Northampton Town Council and it should be about what the people want. There is a need to get the consultation right.

Councillor B Markham referred to the recommendations contained within the report and queried how this could be built upon. He added that costs of services are currently unknown and what services would be devolved from the Unitary Authority. He felt this was a rushed process and a new review should convene after the Unitary Council had been set up. A Town Council would keep the voices of Northampton and its identity.

Councillor McCutcheon commented that the majority of people feel they are "Northamptonians" and this should be reflected.

Councillor Hill advised that he supported the consultation detailed in the report. Town Councils and Parish Councils have the same level of power. Community Councils

should serve the people in that area and should be accountable to the people. He added that there would be costs but these would be determined by the local people and consultation needs to be inclusive.

Councillor Russell commented that she had concerns regarding finance and was aware that some Parish Councils had debts; one with a particularly large debt. In response, Councillor Golby advised that Duston Parish Council is proud of the services that it provides and it had borrowed money to be able to provide these services.

The Solicitor, Northampton Borough Council, advised Council that the proposed extension to Duston Parish Council was in two areas and he confirmed that there would be detailed consultation in Duston. The results of which could be presented to Council to consider. The Council in considering the first part of the consultation by Opinion Research Services referred to the recommendation that the nature and content of the next stage of the CGR consultation would be decided by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Working Group at its next meeting.

Councillor Hadland commented that divisions for the Unitary Authority would comprise three Northampton Councillors for each present division; he felt that they would fight for the identity of Northampton; joined by other Councillors.

The Deputy Leader advised that there was a need for the next stage consultation to take place; he added that residents of East Hunsbury and Grange Park, for example, are also very much "Northamptonians."

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the report of Opinion Research Services on the first stage of the consultation, after being given careful consideration, is noted with its content and conclusions taken into account for the next stage of the consultation process.
- 2.2 That the recommendations made by the Working Group at its meeting on 15 May 2019 are approved, to allow the two following options discussed at the Working to go forward for stage two of the Community Governance Review consultation process:
 - a) Option 'A' with enclosed map (Appendix B of the report)
 - b) Option marked 'B' with enclosed map (Appendix C of the report)
- 2.3 That the recommendations made by the Working Group at its meeting on 15 May 2019 are approved, to allow the two following submission to go forward for further consultation with their individual communities:
 - a) Submission by Duston Parish Council to extend its boundaries as shown in the enclosed plan (Appendix D of the report)
 - b) Submission from the Whitehills & Spring Park Residents' Association to create a new Parish Council title at this stage

Kingsthorpe Parish Council (Appendix E of the report)

- 2.4. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Working Group, is delegated power to approve the form of the second stage of consultation under the CGR process to be carried out by Opinion Research Services.

Council adjourned at 8:55pm and reconvened at 9:10pm

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Mayor agreed to alter the order that the Notice of Motions would be considered.

The Mayor advised that Councillor Hibbert wished to withdraw Notice of Motion i), which had been seconded by Councillor King. Council agreed to the withdrawal of Notice of Motion i).

Councillors Aziz, Cali and Haque left the meeting at 9:20pm and rejoined Council at 9:30pm

Ms Rachel McGrath, Chair, Northampton Food Poverty Network, addressed Council on Motion iv) advising that the Network had been in operation for a number of years. She added that no one should have to go hungry and there are over one million children living in poverty. She referred to a Special Commissioners' report that had estimated that there are 14 million people living in poverty. Ms McGrath referred to the upcoming summer holiday period advising that this is when families look forward to breaks but it can create acute financial stress for others, particularly with the loss of free school meals over this period. Holiday hunger can cause stress. She added that there is a need for "Kids' Clubs" over the school summer holidays that provides both meals and activities. She highlighted that child poverty is becoming the norm.

Councillor Roberts proposed and Councillor T Eales seconded:

"Northamptonshire currently has 15,220 children receiving free school meals. For many of these children this is the only hot/substantial meal they receive.

During school holidays there is a loss of free school meals given out during term time, in addition to the extra childcare costs around the holidays, families already struggling with low budgets find it difficult to feed their children. This has the most impact over the longer summer holiday. Those children most at risk of hunger during the holidays may also suffer from social isolation, loneliness, and inactivity. These factors combined can lead to significant weight loss or gain, and negative impacts on physical and mental well-being.

In 2018 there were a number of campaigns run by charities such as Food cycle and End Hunger UK. There was a £2m fund for children's food from government, to help prevent Holiday Hunger.

We call on this council to work with Partners to establish Holiday clubs where children can receive social activities as well as food that will provide financial relief for parents on very low incomes, so that no child should go hungry over

the school holiday.”

The motion was debated.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote, there voted for the recommendations:

Councillors Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Cali, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Haque, Joyce, B Markham, McCutcheon, Meredith, Roberts, Smith and Stone

There voted against the recommendations:

Councillors Ansell, Eldred, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, M Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Sargeant, Kilby-Shaw and Walker

There abstained the Mayor, Councillor Davenport.

The Motion was not carried.

Martin Sawyer addressed Council on Motion ii) commenting that he had been a Climate Change activist in his youth. He had studied ecology and had left University 36 years ago. However, people are now listening about climate change. There is a need for Northampton to become carbon neutral.

Steve Miller, Green Party, and a resident of Kingsthorpe, addressed Council on Motion ii) commenting on the need to take climate change seriously. He hoped that this Motion would be carried. Mr Miller referred to the draft Local Plan commenting that it makes no reference to energy efficiency in new builds. He noted that Northamptonshire County had agreed road widening at Cliftonville but he felt this was not the solution, there was a need to look for car reduction. Mr Miller added that trees should be planted, not chopped down.

Luke Adams addressed Council and commented that he cared deeply for the planet and was terrified for the future. The planet is beautiful and it is being killed, everyone needs to act soon and set zero carbon by 2025, 2030 is too late.

Ian Bates addressed Council commenting that he is a Community activist. He added that Climate Change is the most important issue that anyone should consider for children's future; their future is in crisis. He referred to a published report that had taken into consideration 6,000 reports. Emissions are rising annually. Mr Bates felt that there was no Political will to deal with this.

Abi Rowe addressed Council and she referred to the future for her four year old son and how she was afraid for his future. She added about the depleting insect chain and that the world is becoming unsuitable for children as the earth's life supporting system is breaking down. Ms Rowe added that emissions must be cut faster than currently planned.

Rob Farmer addressed Council commenting that scientists had first issued warnings

about climate change in 1992. Forests are depleting and animals becoming extinct. He added that it is important to reduce carbon emissions to zero and we need to act now.

Ruth Hemmingway addressed Council referring to two Notices of Motion in relation to climate change, she was concerned for the future of children and referred to starving Polar Bears and other species that have been wiped out.

It was agreed that Standing Order 25 is suspending to allow further business to be transacted. It was further agreed that Notices of Motion vi) and vii) would be deferred to the meeting of Council on 17 June 2019.

Councillor Hallam proposed an amendment to the motion ii):

Councillor Beardsworth accepted an alteration to the original motion. Council agreed to the altered motion and debated below:

“This Council recognises the strength of public opinion recently expressed in London and Northampton to address the issue of climate change and the need to address carbon reduction to protect the health and wellbeing of future generations. The council also notes that the UK parliament has declared a Climate Emergency.

The Council therefore declares “a Climate Emergency” in Northampton and commits to a target of making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council requests a report to the Council at the beginning of 2020 setting out the action that has been taken in respect to this motion and detailing how progressing this objective has been communicated to and integrated within the start up plans of the West Northamptonshire Unitary Council.”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

Lily Alston addressed Council on Notice of Motion iii). She commented that climate change is the future for everyone. She stated that recycling is high in Northampton but we are supporting other countries that will take the UK's waste, therefore being guilty of disposable waste. She concluded her address by asking that Northampton is the forefront of the world.

Councillor Joyce proposed and Councillor Nunn seconded:

“All parties within this council acknowledge the urgency of dealing with climate change. We need cross party agreement to develop strategies for a greener, more sustainable society in Northampton. A green revolution is required.

Working with partners we will seek to implement the following actions, which we strongly believe will benefit Northampton in leading an eco-friendly Britain:

- A ban on single-use plastics within school environments. Schools across Northampton produce a huge amount of plastic waste each week
- Northampton schools would benefit from educating their students on eco issues through school schemes, where programs could be set up in order to teach students how to stay green in lessons, such as Personal, Social, Health and Economic education or by holding educational assemblies with influential speakers.
- To help further reduce the damaging effects of plastic littering, the council should support and work closely with schemes operated by companies like TerraCycle who turn many unrecyclable plastics (such as crisp packets and wrappers) into outdoor furniture.
- To explore with Local businesses and partners options for an eco-rewards scheme that would allow individuals and groups to gain something back from recycling.
- Northampton Borough Council to commit to reducing carbon emissions, both as an organisation and as the local planning authority and resolve to go further than the UK100 Agreement. To act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net-zero carbon by 2030, thus use the planning process to encourage developers to consider low carbon developments.

Joining many councils who have already done the same, NBC declares “a Climate Emergency” in Northampton and commits to a target, in line with the above actions, of making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council requests a production of a baseline report to be submitted to the council in the beginning of 2020 setting out the action that has been taken in respect to this motion. This Council also resolves to work with other local authorities ahead of Unitary to use the baseline report as the basis on which to develop an action plan which could be adopted by the new Council.”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor advised that Councillor G Eales wished to withdraw Notice of Motion v), which had been seconded by Councillor Stone. Council agreed to the withdrawal of Notice of Motion v).

The Mayor advised that Motions vi) and vii) would be deferred to the meeting of Council on 17 June 2019. This was agreed by Council.

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

The Mayor confirmed that he had agreed to hear the following item as a matter of urgency. This was agreed by Council.

(A) HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME BUDGET

Councillor Eldred proposed the report that sought approval of an increase in the HRA budget envelope and sought approval of Cabinet to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes. He highlighted the salient points.

Councillor Hibbert seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That Council approves:

- a) An increase in the HRA budget envelope by an additional £25M to enable additional HRA capital programme expenditure for 2019/20 funded through borrowing, for the acquisition of blocks of homes as the element of delivering affordable homes on major developments.
- b) An increase in the HRA budget envelope by an additional £6M to enable additional capital programme expenditure for 2019/20 funded through borrowing, for the acquisition or development of specialist homes (form of supported living) in support of Social Care outcomes.
- c) That Cabinet be authorised to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes during 2019/20, subject to a business case, the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council.

The meeting concluded at 10:22 pm



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday, 17th June 2019

Since my last report to Council, I have continued to work with the Cabinet, Members, the Chief Executive, and Officers across all areas of the council. Many of these activities and issues are referred to in Cabinet colleagues' reports.

Unitary Status

The West Northamptonshire Joint committee met on 5th June. The main agenda item was to review the Draft Constitution for the West Shadow Unitary Council, which the cross-councils task and finish group had undertaken further work on.

Two questions had also been submitted to the Joint Committee, from Healthwatch and from Citizens Advice, and it was helpful that these two important partner organisations were able to raise their questions in this public forum, and for the committee to be able to discuss the issues of diversity and voluntary sector funding, which I am hopeful provided some comfort to both organisations.

By now Members may have had the opportunity to review the Unitary Prospectus which was published on 3rd June, outlining the revised approach to delivering the unitary programme, but again, a reminder to members that the next member unitary briefing will be held on 20th June, at 6.00pm.

Northampton Forward

Each political group has made its nominations for the Cross-party working group, and the first meeting is now being arranged. This first meeting will receive an overview of the Northampton Forward work so far, the initial masterplan ideas, and receive an update on the progress of the current consultation. It will also consider the University's draft ideas on next steps through a wide range of working/consultation groups.

Other Activity

Of the other activities and meetings since my last report, a couple of key highlights include:

- It was a pleasure to attend the Spencer Road 'Big Lunch' event, which was a wonderful opportunity to meet some of the great people that live in this community, and see neighbours get to know each other better and enjoy time in each other's company.
- I was glad to visit Quinton House School with the Chief Executive, to see the progress being made since my last visit on some of the challenges the school faces in balancing the needs of conserving the heritage of the building with the other regulations with

which they must comply as an operational school. As one of the most important heritage buildings in the ownership of this council, it is essential that we work with the school to conserve its splendid heritage, but also that we ensure it remains successful as a school, ensuring the building's sustainable future. The school now participates in Heritage Open Days in September, and a visit to the school in September would be highly recommended.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council
Northampton Borough Council
Monday 17th June 2019

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have been playing an active role in the establishment of a Unitary Council and the transition to it, while continuing to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council. I can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

Market

As I previously reported, Market Traders remain keen to get a greater understanding about the Town Centre Masterplan. Therefore a meeting of the MAG for traders to learn about the proposals from those developing and promoting the plan will be held on Tuesday 23rd July 2019, at 5.30 pm.

Councillor Training

Since the last meeting of this Council, Member Briefings have been held regarding the North West Relief Road and HIMO Licencing for all Councillors, and regarding Licencing for members of the Licencing Committee.

Further briefing sessions that have been arranged are as follows:

20/06/19 – Local Government Reorganisation – to be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

25/06/19 – HIMO Licencing - One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

18/09/19 – Local Government Reorganisation – to be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

12/12/19 – Local Government Reorganisation – to be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

18/03/20 – Local Government Reorganisation – to be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

Can Members wishing to attend any of these events please inform Tracy Tiff as soon as possible.

Future Briefing Sessions on Local Government Reorganisation may include Members of Daventry and South Northants Councils

Two Members will be attending East Midlands Councils Charing Skills Course at Newark & Sherwood District Council on 18th June 2019.

Street Lighting

Having worked through the procurement process to take forward the work required to our Street Lighting assets and to secure a maintenance contract for their ongoing maintenance, it is hoped that a Cabinet Report will be presented at the July Cabinet Meeting.

Rail Issues

The East West Rail Consortium met on 11th June 2019 in Bedford and meets again on 17th September 2019 in Cambridge.

There is one area of the Western Section of East / West Rail, (the line between Bedford and Oxford, including the link to Aylesbury and further south), known as “The

Calvert Box". This where East / West Rail crosses and in part runs alongside HS2. HS2 will be responsible for the construction of East / West Rail in this area. There is currently uncertainty regarding the HS2 delivery programme and this may impact on the delivery of East / West Rail, including the North / South corridor. The Consortium resolved to restate its position with regard to the importance of delivering the Western Section at the earliest opportunity. The Consortium also resolved to encourage DfT and the East / West Rail Company to actively explore alternative arrangements for the delivery of the "Calvert Box" if changes to the HS2 programme raise a question mark regarding the timing of the delivery of the "Calvert Box". I will also be writing to the town's MP's regarding this matter.

The Inquiry regarding the Western Section of East / West Rail that includes the Northampton / Milton Keynes to Oxford and Aylesbury routes is complete. The Inspector's report is anticipated to be published early in the autumn. The Western section of East / West Rail will then move into the delivery phase.

As Network Rail undertakes preparatory timetabling exercises with regard to East / West Rail services, there is a capacity issue at Oxford station itself, and between Oxford and Didcot. There is currently a study going on into the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor and the Consortium will receive a more detailed report at the next meeting in September. The Consortium confirmed its position as to the importance of East / West Rail services continuing through Oxford to Didcot and beyond. While East / West Rail understand the aspirations of Northampton to achieve better rail connectivity, Network Rail appear to have little understanding. I'm therefore trying to arrange a meeting with Network Rail's Strategy Department to discuss the strategy with regard to Northampton in the near future. Network Rail's East / West Rail sponsor has offered to facilitate this meeting.

Freight Strategy remains a matter of concern as it could use up much of the capacity released by HS2, especially on the Northampton Loop. We will be meeting with the consultants exploring the potential for rail freight, recognising the strategic significance of East / West Rail as part of the wider national rail network to reiterate our concerns on this.

Governance Review

We have received a further formal request for a Community / Parish Council for Far Cotton.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

17 June 2017

As presentation of my Report was ‘timed out’ at the 3rd June Meeting, I have repeated it here with additions and updates.

Town Centre Operations

The overall daily parking figures for the council car parks for 2018/19 was 2,626,616. These figures do not include all the season, commuter and residents parking permits. The free two-hour parking totals for 2018/19 saw 934,440 taking advantage of the free parking with the Grosvenor car park receiving the highest number of visitors with 400,528 (42.9%). Saturday parking figures in MSCP’s for 2018/19 reached 310,141 and Sunday parking figures reached 147,058.

We undertook public consultation on the proposed changes to parking charges. We had previously made some changes following discussions with business organisations. We received 112 responses to the consultation. There was acceptance of a number of the proposals, although, as is to be expected, there was less support for some others. After considering them, we have decided that the only way to meet the financial target required to carry out the repairs and improvements to our car parks that are required will be to implement the changes as proposed. The new charging regime is to be implemented in July.

The annual town centre footfall figures between April 2018 – March 2019 was 12,633,907 for the Abington Street & Market Square cameras.

The programme of improvement works across the council’s car parks has commenced with the relining of the Market Street and Melbourne car parks having been completed. Works orders have been placed for the lift refurbishment projects across the Council’s MSCP’s and orders for the replacement of the outdated pay machines and resurfacing at the Grosvenor will be raised shortly. The ongoing improvement works will continue throughout 2019 and 2020.

Economic Growth and Regeneration

Future High Street Fund

- Following the submission of Northampton’s Expression of Interest into the Future High Street Fund the council have commissioned architects to develop a detailed masterplan for the town.
- The first phase of this work is to undertake a wide public consultation to get their views on the future of the town. This consultation started on 15th May with a well-

attended event at the University of Northampton. Further events took place at the Grosvenor Centre on 18th, 20-24 May from 11am – 3pm with the online consultation staying open until 30th June. I would urge everyone to study the proposals and provide their comments.

Vulcan Works

- The Vulcan Works project continues to move at pace with clearance and demolition of the former Angle Street cottage building and roofs of the factories along Guildhall having already taken place.
- We are exploring the feasibility of providing viewing panels in the hoardings so that public viewing of progress is easier.

Upton Country Park

- Idverde have been appointed as the contractor for the Upton Country Park Phase 2 project. Work on site will commence in May.

Delapre Abbey

The Leases of the Abbey to DAPT has been completed, enabling the final HLF contributions to the scheme to be released.

Four Waterside

This important development site is now fully back in the Council's control, and proposals for its future development are under discussion. The hoardings will shortly be improved on this prominent site.

Station Multi-storey Car Park

There is positive progress in the discussions with Network Rail and their partners to bring this important development for Northampton forward.

A detailed proposal from Network Rail has just been received and is being considered.

Heritage

Queen Eleanor Cross

Works have now commenced for the sensitive repair of the Queen Eleanor Cross, and the detailed investigations are progressing well, following the erection of the scaffolding required for access.

The first Public events were held on 30th May. The conservation contractors gave a detailed presentation on the work that is taking place, with illustrations examples. Both sessions were full subscribed, and very well received.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Planning

Northampton Borough Council

17th June, 2019

Planning Applications

- Planning application N/2019/0456 for the redevelopment of Berkeley House and St Mary's Court at Horse market for 126 affordable dwellings received in April 2019.
- Reserved matters application N/2019/0591 for the development of 132 dwellings at the former Parklands Middle School site off Devon Way received in May 2019.
- Development Management has maintained 100% performance standard in terms of major, minor and other applications in May 2019.

Planning policy

The Northampton Local Plan Part 2 was drafted and public consultation started on 1st May and will finish on 14th June 2019.

The Council designated the Queens Park neighbourhood forum and neighbourhood area.

Heritage

- The Conservation Area Appraisals for Barrack Road, was reviewed which is a statutory duty. Derngate Conservation Area review is complete and due to be considered by cabinet shortly.
- A Selection Panel of independent relevant professionals has been set up to review town centre buildings for inclusion in a Local Heritage List. The panel have already reviewed the existing Town Centre Local List and the Barrack Road and Billing Road Local List candidates. Development Management responses – the team has responded to approximately 620 Development Management consultations (heritage and trees) (since April 2018)
- Considered and determined 288 TPO/TCA applications (since April 2018)
- The team co-ordinated Heritage Open Days events in September 2018
- Queen Eleanor Cross – procured the services of specialist advisors with regard to the programme of sensitive and careful repair of the Queen Eleanor Cross. Work has commenced on site.
- Commissioned a specialist condition report for the Delapre Lodge Railings.
- Commissioned specialist architects to write a condition survey, options appraisal and feasibility study for 21-23 Bridge Street.

Building Control

Period 1st April 2018 to the 31st March 2019:

Site Inspections

Total Number of Site Inspections carried out	3226
Inspections booked and inspected on same day <u>Commencements and completions of work</u>	100% (target 100%)
Completions Certificates issued	549
Commencements of work	705
Completions against commencements of work	77% (target 70%)

Income

Building Regulation related income (Forecast Income target £208,000)	£215,498
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Other Building Control Services

Dangerous Structures reported and actioned.	29
Demolition Section 80 Notices received	69
Unauthorised works investigated	27
Regularisation applications received	123
Total number of Building Regulation applications	779

Land Charges

Pleased to report the council has a standard KPI which we are not required to report on to return local search within 10 working days, however we have met returning searches in 2-3 working days.

The Council also makes daily updates to the LLPG Property Gazetteer and this is reported monthly we currently have a rating of Achieving National Standard.

Councillor James Hill
Cabinet Member for Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

17 June 2019

Councillor Community Fund

Between April 2018 and March 2019, a total of £127,128.20 was spent by councillors supporting positive outcomes in their wards.

From April 2019 to date, a further £29,291.38 has been spent from councillor's community funds.

Partnership Support

There were 24 applications received through the 2019/20 partnership grant process in total. 18 of these organisations will receive funding. These are the organisations that scored most favourably for delivering against the corporate priorities of the Council, they also demonstrated value for money, working in partnership and had identified and evidenced community need.

In April 2019 organisations received final payments from the 2018/19 partnership grant process, totalling £39,250.

Forums

13 Community Events held including International Women's Day, International Men's Day, and International Day for Persons with a Disability Day, International Youth Day and National Hate Crime Week. These events were utilised to bring the community together, to get key messages out to the community. Including how to stay safe, get help and support and to raise awareness of hate crime, domestic abuse, mental health and equality.

Since April 2019 the IDAHO civic ceremony and a very successful Northampton Pride event was delivered on the Market Square on 17 and 18 May.

Events

2018-19

Spring 2019 event season started with the annual Terry Wire Harley Davidson Ride in the town centre, whilst in Abington Park the annual Bands in the Park programme commenced and ran every Sunday until the middle of September and we had Tai Chi in Becketts Park at the end of the month.

May saw the fair move onto Abington Park and we held our LGBT at Phipps Brewery, the BID Circus performance and Oak Apple Day in the town centre.

In June we had the annual Beer Festival on Becketts Park and the Race for Life and Pretty Muddy on Abington Park. The annual Northampton Carnival took to our town streets with stage performances on the Racecourse. The annual Music365 Festival took place in the town centre and the annual Speedy Cup was held on the Racecourse. We finished the month with the annual Armed Forces Day parade in the town centre.

The Town Festival was held on the Racecourse in July and attracted thousands of visitors and we saw the Fun Colour Run return on Abington Park with more participants than in previous years. The Umbrella Fair returned once again to the Racecourse and we held a special RBL event on Becketts Park.

In the autumn, the annual half marathon took place in the town centre and took in the Racecourse, Becketts Park, Brackmills Industrial Estate and finishes at Delapre Park. The Nene Festival was held on Becketts Park and the river, Northamptonshire Day was a huge success at Delapre Abbey and the St Crispins Fair visited the town centre. The Vintage Bus Rally was held on the Market Square showcasing vintage buses and taking trips around the town.

In November the annual Diwali light celebrations took place attracting thousands of visitors to the town centre and the annual Fireworks Show drew a large audience to the Racecourse to see a stunning display. The annual Remembrance Day Service and Parade took place again attracting thousands in to the town centre during the day and at night we held the Beacon Lighting event. At the end of November the annual Christmas Light Switch-On show was delivered and enjoyed by thousands of visitors.

In December the annual Frost Fair was held on the Market Square and including a parade along Abington Street with Santa leading the way on his sleigh. In the Grosvenor Centre, the Igloo Cinema was launched showcasing two Christmas films for children free of charge. The Christmas programme included Saturday stage entertainment on the first three Saturday's in December.

In the New Year we saw the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Deco, International Women's Day and the Annual Sea Cadets parade in the town centre.

2019-20

The Bands in the Park season continued to attract large audiences throughout May and June visit the park and listen to the music provided by Gretton, Kettering, Marsh Gibbon, RAF Halton and Rushden Town bands. The Annual Pride event was held on the Market Square on Saturday 18 May, Oak Apple Day was held at All Saints Church on Sunday 26 May and the Annual Beer Festival was on Becketts Park from Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June. The events attracted diverse audiences from across the county and entertained thousands of visitors. The Annual Carnival Parade visited the town centre and the Racecourse on Saturday 8 June and yesterday the Annual Music Festival was heard across our town centre.

Looking to the summer, we will see the Race for Life & Pretty Muddy on Abington Park on Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 June, Armed Forces Parade in our town centre and Market Square on Saturday 29 June. We will have a new event, Prosecco in the Park on Becketts Park from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 June showing films for the whole family, the 5km run at Delapre on Thursday 19 June.

The Annual Town Show will be on the Racecourse from Saturday 6 July to Sunday 7 July, another new event for children, Funtopia will be on Abington Park from Saturday 20 July to Sunday 21 July, the Fun Colour Rush returns to Abington Park on Sunday 28 July and the Mela event returns to Becketts Park on Sunday 28 July.

In August we will see another new event the Heritage Show at the Guildhall from Monday 5 August to Thursday 8 August.

Culture & Heritage

During the year several of the galleries at Abington Park Museum underwent an exciting redevelopment and the new displays opened at the end of June 2018. The year saw a number of temporary exhibitions showcase at the museum including Northampton Town & County Art Society, Abington Camera Club held the first in a series of exhibitions entitled 'Photos for All Seasons' and the annual open Art in the Park exhibition attracted many local artists.

A full programme of events throughout the year attracted 2,002 visitors more than the annual target. Workshops for all ages covered a variety of topics and were very well attended by both adults and children. The Art History lectures led by ProArtium, have continued to be popular with audiences that are steadily growing. The number of fairs increased from four to five with the museum a venue for the first Vegan food fair which was very popular with visitors and traders alike. Several museum volunteers have led groups on monthly tours of Abington Park Museum.

Significant donations to the collections throughout the year included the social archives of local garage company, Grose and the knighthood medal and portrait of Northampton composer Malcolm Arnold. A number of specific designer shoes were purchased for the new galleries. The museum received a bequest of c£10,500.

The museum was hired out to various organisations for use as a performance space, weddings, a wake, filming sessions, meetings and private parties.

Museum Expansion Project

During the 2018-19 period the museum expansion project moved from the design to construction phase. Wildgoose Construction Ltd were appointed as main contractor and took possession of the site in August and breaking ground in September 2018. Work has progressed well and over the course of the year.

Demolition work began in October, with a focus on internal demolition and preparing the bridge connecting the Old Gaol Block and Guildhall Road block for demolition in early November. Internal demolitions and demolition of the connecting bridge was completed, with no structural problems uncovered. Thirty three pilings were sunk to a depth of 15m in the area cleared by the removal of the bridge as the first step of construction of the new extension.

In early 2019, Realm Projects were appointed as exhibition fit out contractor and Ugly Studios appointed as designers for the opening temporary exhibition, 'We Are Northampton', an exhibition exploring the character of Northampton through people, places and events. Work began on the new extension building and the concrete base slab was been poured and work begun on forming the columns for the first floor.

There was a small fire on the fourth floor of the Old Gaol Block in February, cause still to be determined. No objects were affected and the building only sustained localised smoke and water damage. The programme was not be affected and work is currently on schedule for a spring 2020 opening.

Customer Services

Customer services answered 91.32% of calls during 2018/19 (149,860 calls answered), achieving our target of 90% of calls answered. We also served 94.6% (4,017) customers within 10 minutes of their appointment hitting target of 90% of appointments seen within 10 minutes. We saw 93% of customers on our drop in service (19,551) within 15 minutes of their arrival time, achieving target of 90% within 15 minutes of their arrival time.

Customer Services have introduced the replacement CRM within the Contact Centre. This has introduced cost and performance efficiencies enabling the agents to view service requests completed by customer online and actions completed by contactors. This has reduced transaction times and increasing service delivery at single point of contact.

Our new CXM has additional functionality enabling us to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) on our simple enquiries reducing the need for human interaction, this will, in the future, enable us to reduce wait times and prioritise our most vulnerable customers helping prevent homelessness and debt.

In November 2018, Customer Services worked very hard gathering and provide evidence of the excellent service we deliver across a range of criteria which are determined by the Cabinet Office exacting standards for the award of the Customer Excellence Accreditation. The assessor fed back that our Customer Service has been rated as fully compliant in all five areas with seven Compliant Plus scores. A Compliant Plus score means we are exceeding the Excellence expectation, are exceptional and are delivering Best Practice.

The five full areas assessed were; Customer insight, The Culture of the Organisation, Information and Access and Timelessness and Quality of Service – the outcome was that we are Fully Compliant with seven Compliant Plus scores.

The seven elements of compliance plus or Best Practice were: Culture, Staff empowerment, Performance Management and Training, Valuing Contribution, Partnerships, co-ordinated working and Impact on Communities.

Community Safety

A number of days promoting community and personal safety were delivered across the town between April 2018 and March 2019.

32 Days of action

33 Awareness raising days delivered

10 bike marking specific events

17 days supporting Police led activity.

Three Primary Schools Community Safety events held, working with partners, including Fire Service, Northants Police, Network Rail and the Youth Offending Service. 600 year 6 students attended from 11 primary schools, covering the following community safety issues for young people in the town, specifically; fire safety, railway safety, hate crime, child sexual exploitation, knife crime, personal safety and anti-social behaviour.

Cuckooing training was delivered to more than 150 frontline officers.

Funding provided to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence agencies totally £50,500 as well as a coordinated 16 days of activism campaign rolled out during November 2018 promoting DA/SV services

Two additional Police Officers funded 6 days a week, to provide visibility, improve the feeling of safety and to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in the Town centre over a 6 week summer period and 6 week winter period 2018.

Knife Crime Launch in the summer, promotional materials produced to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife.

£354,706, secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund for the next two years, with a potential of additional funding for a further two years, a total of £470,936 (subject to the Governments Spending Review) to help increase the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. The funding will enable Northampton Borough Council and Free2Talk, to deliver interventions and mentoring, lasting up to a year, to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

In additional, a further 21 community safety and engagement days have been delivered from April 2018 to date.

A working group has been established and begun projects with the funding allocated to Northampton Borough Council for tackling FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).

Anti-Social Behaviour

Since April 2018 ASBU have obtained:

- 44 Community Protection Warnings (CPW)
- 26 Community Protection Notices (CPN)
- 10 Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)
- 1 Cuckooing Injunction
- 8 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC)
- 1 Closure Order

In addition, 4 gang injunctions have been produced and submitted to NBC Legal Team.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Cabinet Member Report for Finance Northampton Borough Council 17th June 2019

FINANCE

The Finance Team are close to completing the Statement of Accounts for 2017-18 which is planned to be presented to the Audit Committee in July 2019 for approval. The accounts for 2018-19 continue to be refined, but cannot be finalised and draft accounts published until the prior year is completed.

The final end of year budget position for 2018-19 was reported to Cabinet on 12 June 2019 as an overspend of £0.732M, which is a material reduction from the projections anticipated. This is due to late Government Grants in respect of Temporary Accommodation and Homelessness which alleviated the incurred cost pressures, along with management action to mitigate risk and costs.

The finance team are commencing preparations for the budget planning for 2020-21 and Medium Term Finance Plan.

REVENUES & BENEFITS

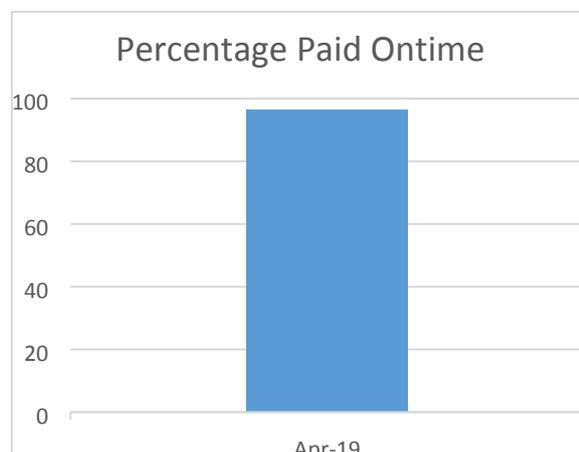
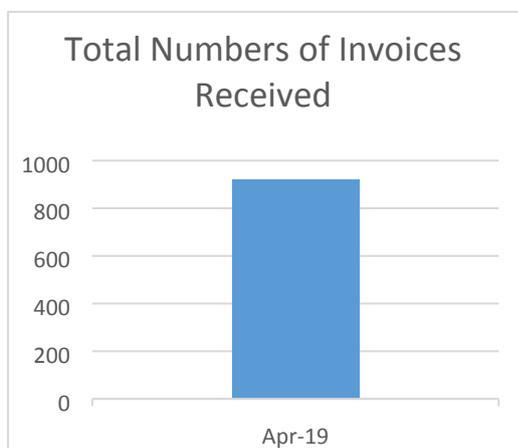
Collection Rates – The year has started with on target performance in respect of billing and initial collection rates.

Business Rates – The service is running well, but is having to monitor the media to assess risks in respect of Retail operators, the latest High Street retailer identified by the media as a ‘risk’ is Topshop/Topman. The Northampton store was not on the risk of closure list and the team provided assurance that there is no outstanding debt.

Benefits – The service is working with NCC to agree a scheme to review Single Person Discount to ensure that those entitled receive the benefit and remind those whose circumstances have changed that failure to inform the Council may risk recovery action .

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE / RECEIVABLE

The table below reflect that 919 Invoices were received and 96.41% were paid on time.



In respect of recorded sundry debt at the end of April 2019, the Council had debt due of £3.082M, of which £1.814M is over 61 days old. The largest service area debt was Asset management with £1.039M of debt. The CFO Governance Team is currently working with the Asset Management Team to improve processes, procedures and debt management to reduce the level of aged debt.

FACILITIES

Guildhall Office

The Guildhall Office Team have had a good month for securing future booking for the Guildhall, in April they have secured 3 Wedding Ceremonies and 1 Reception for this year and 2020. The Team have also taken confirmed bookings from Royal and Derngate to hold 2 days of pantomime rehearsals at the Guildhall, from The Northern Network to hold their Gala Ball with us in March 2020 and also a return booking for the Jobs Fair.

April saw the return of the Preloved Vintage Clothes Fair to the Guildhall and as always was a very busy day with people queuing out the door to attend. There was also our first Wedding Ceremony of the year in the Council Chamber, Northampton Scouts held an awards ceremony in the Great Hall for young and old scouts to attend.

Post Room

- A total of 58,353 items of post sent out
- 1782 incoming documents scanned
- 1556 incoming Revs and Bens documents indexed in total
- 2663 incoming Revs and Bens e-mails indexed
- Almost £4,000 worth of savings gained by using Royal Mail Business Mail
- NPH outgoing post sent straight from Guildhall Post Room started during this month
- Messenger Van service ended with a saving of £285 per month
- Scanning Accuracy April 2019 : 99.85%
- Indexing Accuracy April 2019: 99.56%

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance



Environmental Services

June 2019 marks the 1st anniversary of the commencement of the council's new Environmental Services contract with Veolia. I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the past year successes and service improvements.

Over 200 staff transferred over to Veolia and idverde. On day one of the Contract around 80 employees received a salary increase due to the Living Wage requirement of the tender.

Some 325 new vehicles and items of equipment rolled out of the depot on day one and within days an improved level of service was experienced over that provided by the previous contractors, refuse and recycling, parks and green areas were immediately improved and street litter cleared in a seamless fashion.

In September, 70,000 wheeled bins were delivered to relevant households and a new 'all in one' recycling service was implemented.

As part of the new contract, the unpopular Saturday collections were also discontinued which necessitated some collection day changes, these were implemented smoothly and customer feedback was and continues to be exceptionally positive.

In addition, the street cleansing teams have undertaken a 'transformation' of the Boroughs streets and some 250 tonnes of litter and detritus were removed as part of the programme.

In October, the Grounds teams switched from grass cutting to winter maintenance – borough wide shrub, bush and tree maintenance, the improvements have been significant with areas which had been neglected now looking pristine and the parks and public spaces being enjoyed by more residents than ever before.

Christmas refuse and recycling Collections, although subject to a slight day change (no collections on Christmas Day) went seamlessly.

In April, after months of planning, a trial to replace recycling boxes with single use recycling sacks commenced for 1,000 properties in Far Cotton – the basis of this trial was to reduce qualitative issues such as box return, street cleansing and to improve the recycling rate in the area – feedback received so far has been very positive and the objectives have been met. Plans are in place to roll the trial out to other areas.

In 2019, spring bedding plants have been removed from the town flower beds in order to be replaced by the summer plants. This year we launched a new initiative whereby the 'old' bedding plants have been given away to community groups for reuse. This initiative has been very well received.

We have been promoting the Envirogrant Scheme which NBC are delivering in partnership with Veolia. A great deal of interest has been generated and 15 applications were received, six of whom were successful in receiving a share of the £5,000 funding. This will further improve the environment in Northampton whilst supporting local community groups.

A Borough wide food waste reduction campaign has been launched, stickers have been applied to residual bins advising that food should be recycled and also promoting the NWP 'in to win' scheme.

In addition, work has begun on regularising all service streams by producing policy documents to assist stakeholders to understand the services procedures and to date, the team have produced a graffiti and fly posting policy which has been adopted by the council.

The cost of the bulky waste collection service was reduced from £25 to £15 for a trial period from 1st April along with a near a 50% increase in the availability of booking slots. This reduction in charge will continue for the rest of the financial year whilst the success of the initiative is evaluated. The additional cost associated with the reduction in charge is being funded through the income from successful enforcement. In addition, our partners Veolia have also re-introduced the "Kangaroo Runs" specifically to target areas persistently affected by fly-tipping.

We have established a cemeteries working group who are working closely with representatives from all faith groups to implement improvements to the cemetery provision within the Borough.

Neighbourhood Wardens

It has been a very busy year for our team of Park Rangers and the Neighbourhood Wardens. They have performed exceptionally well this year focusing both on community projects and their continued enforcement work.

The Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers have continued their professional development issuing a record number of notices as a team this year:-

- 1194 Section 46 notices issued (initial stages of an investigation giving people the opportunity to correct their wrong doing before any action is instigated)
- 13 Section 34 Notices issued (Duty of Care – Failing to dispose of their rubbish properly)
- 200 Fixed Penalty Notice's (FPN) issued to persons who have littered or fly tipped
- 10 Court prosecutions (failing to provide us with information under Section 108 or for fly-tipping)
- 180 Community Protection Warnings issued (The community protection notice is intended to deal with unreasonable, ongoing problems or nuisances which negatively affect the community's quality of life by targeting the person responsible)
 - They have also removed 100's of abandoned and non-taxed cars of the streets working with ELVIS (End of Life Vehicle Impoundment Scheme) in association with the Police.

Enforcement Services

During the year from 1 April 2018, the environmental enforcement officers issued a total of 5,618 fixed penalty notices for littering. Over 58% of these were issued to people aged between 20 and 40 and 66.8% were issued to males.

During 2018/19 the food and safety team carried out over 800 inspections, audit and advisory visits to food premises. During the year over 94% of the premises in the Borough were found to be broadly compliant with legal requirements. Where premises were did not meet the legal

requirements appropriate advisory and enforcement action was taken with 17 improvement notices being served to require action when serious problems were highlighted.

Following a tendering process, new stray dog kennelling and collection contracts have been put in place which will enable the Council to continue to meet the statutory duty to deal with stray dogs.

Parks & Open Spaces

We have over 170 parks and open spaces throughout Northampton and continue to be seen by local residents as some of our best assets.

Over the past year we have invested over £440,000 on play equipment, footpaths, walls, fencing, signs and trees in the parks, cemeteries and allotments. Below are a few of those projects:

- Installation of hundreds of bollards in numerous parks to stop access by unauthorised motor vehicles to ensure the health & safety of all park users
- Towcester Road Cemetery – Removal of trees to make way for more burial space
- Rectory Farm - Additional play equipment
- Racecourse – Construction of two concession pitches for use by ice cream or food vans
- Ryehill – Construction of two MUGA (Multi use Games Areas) goal walls
- St Crispin’s play area – New play surface area around the base of the play equipment
- Notre Dame Grave Yard – Refurbishment of crosses and wall
- Dallington Car Park – Removal of old planters and resurface car park to create more parking spaces
- Mushroomfield Road Green Space – New play equipment
- Rectory Farm – Resurfacing of footpaths and replace steep ramp with steps
- Oathill Drive Green Space – New tarmac area and new goal
- Aberdare Road Green Space – Creation of a new play area and new safe entrances
- Harlestone Road Allotment – New security fence at the front of the allotment to stop vandals breaking in
- Delapre Park – Resurface entrance and add yellow lines
- Foot Meadow – Fence off arches to stop ASB issues
- Thornton Park – New trim trail and additional play equipment
- Errington Park – Construction of a new play area
- Bradlaugh Fields – New footpaths in the Sensory Garden

Park Management Committees

Love Parks Week 2018 - 3 clean up events took place at Ladybridge, Mereway and Eastfield Park where in excess of 10 bags of rubbish were collected. Community events were held at the Racecourse, Bradlaugh Fields, Becket’s Park, Abington Park, and Eastfield Park.

Walk this Way- A Pilot project with Keep Britain Tidy and Dogs Trust took place at Bradlaugh Fields. Volunteers and wardens/rangers supported this very successful event.

Becket’s master plan was consulted on, completed and submitted to the Council, it is currently awaiting approval for implementation. The recommendations are expected to be picked up by the Park Management Committee.

A new park management Committee has now been established for Thornton Park

Love Parks Week events are being coordinated by several parks in the town for 13-21 July 2019 and being supported by the community safety and engagement team.

Bradlaugh fields are currently being supported to explore an application for charitable status.

Positive feedback has been received for both Veolia and Idverde at all the Park Management Committees and the Committees have welcomed attendance and input from both of them.

Climate Change

At 3rd June Council meeting, I was pleased to report that the Council had appointed Cllr. Sam Kilby-Shaw as it's new Climate Change Champion and passed 2 important resolutions regarding climate change. The first meeting of a cross-party group takes place on 18th June.

A range of initiatives to support addressing climate change have already been implemented:

- All relevant Veolia vehicles now meet the highest standard of emissions and they have also, where possible switched to electric, which has since been recognised by the Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics as best practice. The refuse/recycling vehicles have electric bin-lifts which have replaced the diesel powered lifts.
- Veolia Supervisor's vans are now electric and a number of street cleansing vehicles are now electric rather than diesel.
- A replacement programme has started to replace all the lights in the Council carparks with energy efficient LED lights.
- All the lights in the Guildhall stairwells have been updated to energy efficient LEDs and have automatic switch on/off.
- The Guildhall boilers are being replaced this year.
- Glass doors are being installed between the Spencer Percival area and the Guildhall Office to improve the energy use of the building.
- The Guildhall roof has been replaced and as a result is significantly more energy efficient due to increased insulation.
- The messenger van has been taken off the road and documents are now transferred electronically.
- The Council is actively encouraging employees to cycle to work and there has been an excellent take up from staff with regard to the introduction of a salary sacrifice scheme for the purchase of bicycles.

We have also successfully applied for and were awarded an OLEV (Office of Low Emission Vehicles) grant to install two rapid charging electric taxi charging points in the Council's carparks. We are consulting with the taxi providers in relation to the location and will help increase the number of points available in the Borough.

For over a year now we have been actively monitoring for Nitrogen Dioxide levels near Schools in addition to the active monitoring we do across the Borough. This information is feeding into the current review of the Town Centre Air Quality Management Area. The consultation we undertook in relation to the development of a single air quality town centre management area has now closed and the outcome will feed into the development of a specified area. Once we have received the transport modelling data, I will develop a cabinet report to outline the consultation outcome and a detailed air quality modelling report including options for the way forward.

Climate change will clearly be an area that the Borough focuses on, across all areas, as we transition to Unitary and I will bring a formal report to Council in early-2020 to review work undertaken in 2019 and that planned for the future.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment