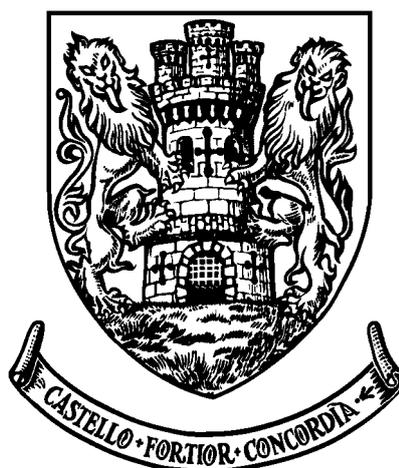


NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 16 September 2019

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 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 22nd July 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 Ashraf to make a statement on "Cleaner, Greener and safer Northampton".

9. TERMS OF REFERENCE TO THE WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE

(Copy herewith)

10. UPDATE ON CARRIED MOTIONS

(Copy herewith)

11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

(Copy herewith)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

- i) Councillor Joyce to propose and Councillor Smith to second:

“We are concerned that the borough council, local organisations and residents are, generally speaking, using non-renewable energy suppliers, incurring high bills, and using up precious resources.

We agree that a Big Switch to a green energy company would be much better for the environment and help reduce bills.

We therefore commit the Borough Council to a BIG SWITCH. We will research the best green company using renewable energy sources, and lead a campaign asking local organisations and residents to switch with us.”

- ii) Councillor Roberts to propose and Russell to second:

“This council is aware of the Government proposal to create a Children’s Trust for the provision of Children’s Services in the Northamptonshire area, serving two Unitary Authorities.

For Children’s Services to improve there needs to be a return to multi agency locality working.

There needs to be a focus on early help and prevention.

We therefore commit to modelling how this could work in two areas of Northampton, Briar Hill and St David’s.

The modelling will involve a needs analysis of the families and young people in the area. This will be a desk top exercise looking at income, health, housing, education, employment, life expectancy, crime rates and other influencing factors.

The modelling will look at community and voluntary sector resources that can be utilised to provide the network of support needed in conjunction with statutory services, particularly housing, adult social care, and health.

The modelling will identify gaps in provision.

The results will go to the West Northants joint committee and the West Northants Shadow Board.”

- iii) Councillor Hallam to propose and Councillor Kilby-Shaw to second:

“Council notes the excellent work of the "Save our Street Trees" Group in Far Cotton and the work they have done in bringing both NBC and NCC together with the Woodland Trust to look at a trial project for re-instating street trees in Northampton.

Council notes the work of the former Mayor of London Boris Johnson in re-instating 20,000 of street trees to our Capital during his time as the Mayor and the benefit that can give to the wider environment and efforts to combat climate change. He also delivered his pledge to create 100 rejuvenated spaces as part of his pocket parks programme in 26 London boroughs, with more than 25 hectares of community land across the capital having been converted into new enhanced green areas.

Northampton Borough Council calls for a transformation of underused urban spaces across our town. Trees deliver huge benefits such as cleaning the air and storing carbon. To ensure future generations receive these benefits and Northampton grows sustainably, we all need to protect existing trees and plant new trees.

Therefore, this Council requests on the initial work to form a joint plan for wider scale re-instatement of street trees as part of the move to Unitary.”

iv) Councillor B Markham to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

“This Council discussed “Declare a Climate Emergency” at its meeting on the 3rd June 2019.

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend DEFRA declared at their Northampton Monitoring Station the Highest Pollution figures across the country had been recorded.

This Council has yet to publish “*the adjusted Air Quality Readings for 2018*” which the administration has said are the only figures that it is prepared to use to initiate correct action to protect the health of Northampton residents.

Councillors are concerned that adhering to this approach will result in a similar delay in 2020 waiting for the 2019 adjusted Air Quality Figures to be verified by the DEFRA.

In support of the declared Climate Emergency this Council calls upon the administration to publish “*provisional adjusted Air Quality Readings*” as soon as adjustments have been applied by NBC Environmental Health Department and to take action to address any areas of concern.

The Council believes that this approach will demonstrate that it is taking action at the earliest possible time to protect the Health of Northampton residents.”

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

“This Council has expressed its concern in debates in this chamber at the growing signs of poverty across Northampton but it has also recognised that local action requires a multi-agency approach.

Councillors believe that the Borough Council is in a unique leadership position to bring about multi-agency working to improve the distribution of collection points across the town to help the voluntary organisations maintain the flow of stock that is vital to help struggling families.

The Council requests that the Portfolio Holder for Community Development approaches the Business Improvement District and the local Voluntary sector organisations, to encourage a joint initiative to develop an enhanced network of collection points for food donation across the town centre.”

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

“The County Council is responsible for on street parking charges in the Town Centre and the Borough Council is responsible for the parking charges in the car parks that it operates.

This Council believes that Car Parking charges are a factor in the vitality and prosperity of the Town Centre.

The County Council has initiated consultation with the Public and Stakeholders regarding the increases that it is proposing but it unfortunately ends on the 5th September.

This council believes that it should formally respond to the County Council consultation and request that they accept a late submission from the Borough Council.

The council agrees that it wishes to express concern and opposition to the proposed increases as it believes that it will have a detrimental effect on the Town Centre economy at a time when this council is trying to address the downturn in footfall and look for ways of investing in the Town Centre in support of its long term prosperity.”

13. 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, 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

Fax 01604 837057

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, 22 July 2019 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 June 2019 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Caswell, Chunga, Davenport, Duffy, Malpas, McCutcheon and Smith.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

At the Mayor's invitation the Deputy Leader, Councillor Larratt was pleased to announce that East Hunsbury won the best large village category in the Northamptonshire Village Awards. The Judges were impressed with the work conducted in the community. The Mayor said he would send a letter of congratulations to the parish council.

At this point during the meeting a point of order was called citing Articles 2, 3 and 18 of the constitution. This referred to the fact that elections had not been held in accordance with the usual election cycle. It was asked that the Council was dissolved and the meeting be suspended due to being in breach of the constitution.

The Monitoring Officer explained that a parliamentary order had been issued suspending elections until May 2020. The parliamentary order superseded the Council's constitution.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Norman Adams addressed the Council saying he felt democracy was being undermined and the Council's time had expired in May 2019. He asked all of the

members to resign and allow the public to vote to elect a new Council.

Ruth Hemmingway addressed the Council explaining she was part of Extinction Rebellion Northampton. She thanked the Council for declaring a zero carbon emergency. She looked forward to seeing all motions of an ecological or climate nature being passed.

Sandy Maitland addressed the Council and indicated she didn't feel listened too last time she addressed Council and she felt the decision had already been made. She felt that the consultation had been designed to reach a specific conclusion and members were now staying in power for longer than they should. The people's vote in May had been removed and the public were left to trust those who remained. She asked that an all-party group was formed that was free from a party whip.

Tony Mallard addressed the Council explaining that Northamptonshire Partnership Homes had made great strides and the new builds were excellent. He accepted the difficulty in finding new areas of land to build on however there was a problem at Eastfield's. He felt there was a lack of forethought with the design being altered from bungalows to flats. The service road would be closed for twelve months. He indicated the site should have been prepared before the work had started.

Dagmar King addressed the Council thanking them for the response to her petition regarding the transient site. She felt that a second night shelter would not help the rough sleepers or those with pets. The town had got used to people sleeping in doorways. She asked if the people camped on Sheep Street could stay there as they had nowhere else to go. She indicated that many needed an account to be set up to help them manage their money to pay bills.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that nine 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 unless where stated, supplementary questions were asked as detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to question five, Councillor Hallam indicated he was happy to consider all options for campaigns to address the issue of fly-tipping.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to question eight, Councillor Hallam indicated the Council would work with groups regarding the clean-up following community events.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Nunn submitted his report as Leader of the Council explaining a member briefing session on the unitary status had been held on 20th June 2019. The Council had been successful in getting through the first round in its bid for the Future High Streets Fund. The first meeting of the cross-party Town Centre Regeneration

Working Group had taken place. Work was ongoing regarding the Greyfriars site. He requested that any motions submitted should include costings going forward.

In response to questions asked Councillor Nunn explained that many motions received could have a positive impact however it was hard to vote for them because they did not include the costings to show viability. The funding available from the Future High Streets Fund would allow the Council to begin key areas of the regeneration which in turn could attract further funding. There were a number of electric car charging points in the borough and all options to increase the number were being considered. The Council would want to ensure the history of County Hall was retained however there was a need to consider if the building could be used in such a way as to generate income. He shared member's frustration that the old bus station in St James remained undeveloped however the owners now had a clear view as to when investment in the site would be undertaken. The Council would monitor this.

Councillor Larratt submitted his report as Deputy Leader of the Council explaining that the Councillor Development Group had met last week and the reporting tool would be updated and upgraded. Training for the Standards Committee would be arranged.

In response to questions asked Councillor Larratt also congratulated Chantelle Cameron on her recent boxing success. He was sure the Mayor would be delighted to write to her and wish her well on her impending title fight. He clarified that the market traders were an essential part of partnership working. He felt that the legal department was doing a fantastic job and had the right capacity. The Council was getting good support from England's Economic Heartland and they were working hard to provide another train route into London.

Councillor King submitted her report as Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety explaining that the Northampton Lottery was being launched on 23 July 2019 and she urged all community groups to attend to become a beneficiary of this lottery. The media launch for the summer events programme was also taking place on 23 July 2019.

In response to questions asked Councillor King explained the Police and Crime Panel considered the draft policing plan due to be released soon. If members had any safeguarding concerns she suggested they be reported to the MASH team. She was happy to meet with members to discuss the funding arrangements for Community Law and the Citizens Advice Bureau. It was planned that the museum would re-open in the spring of 2020.

At this point the Mayor advised Council the time limit of 45 minutes for the item had expired.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone made a statement on 'The Northampton Economy'. She explained that Northampton needed a healthy local economy to thrive. A living wage was required for everyone and the wage gap should be addressed. Staff should be given

the opportunity to train in artificial intelligence. She felt that the retail and tourism sections of the town needed to work together. Opportunities should be available to encourage students to stay in the town after they graduate. It was queried what was being done to encourage people to take on high end apprenticeships. Small and medium enterprises should be supported. The voluntary sector should be included as an equal partner. Meeting the skills gap would assist the Northampton Economy. She felt that outsourcing services was a failed experiment and that funding should be kept local.

In response Councillor Nunn explained there were twenty five enterprise zones in the county and Northampton was fourth in that list. In 2016 Northampton was listed as the best place for start-up businesses outside London. Northampton had more jobs than people available to do them, therefore people travelled into the town to work. A business incentive grant was available and the Vulcan works would create sixty eight new business units in the town.

Councillor Stone believed that the Department for Work and Pensions suggested that finding a job in the area would be challenging. She felt that growth had happened due to cheap unskilled labour that did not bring growth to the economy. There was a need for the Council to generate its own income alongside the grants it received.

9. CHANGES TO THE APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Stone proposed the report which sought to confirm the following appointments to the Planning Committee:

- Councillor Brian Oldham (Chair);
- Councillor Jamie Lane (Deputy Chair);
- Councillors Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Golby, Haque, Kilbride, Kilby-Shaw, B Markham, M Markham, A McCutcheon and Russell.

Councillor Birch seconded the report.

At this point the Mayor called for the report's recommendations to be voted upon. All members voted in favour. The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed that Councillor Cali was appointed to the Planning Committee to replace Councillor Joyce.

10. CHANGES TO HMO LICENSING FEES

The Mayor explained that the report had been deferred to September's Full Council meeting to allow further work to be undertaken.

11. COUNCIL RESPONSE - MHCLG LETTER

Councillor Nunn proposed the report which sought approval to the response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) letter to the Council's Chief Executive.

Councillor Larratt seconded the report.

Members discussed the report indicated that agreement was needed given the costs

and risks involved however it was felt that no other options were available. It was felt that democracy was an important part of society however the electorate was becoming more and more disengaged. It was suggested that the proposal should not be approved. It was noted that the letter had been sent to the Chief Executive in May and queried why it was only just being discussed. It was queried what would happen if the proposals were not enacted next year as planned.

In his right to reply, Councillor Larratt explained that the situation was not ideal but unless there was a change in government Northampton had to do the best it could in the time it had left. The powers to be contained in the structural change order were yet to be determined.

At this point the Mayor called for the report's recommendations to be voted upon. 14 members voted against with the remaining members voting in favour.

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the draft response attached at appendix 2 to this report.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

At this point a point of order was called citing Article 4 indicating there was a need for members to have a clear understanding of the role of motions and it was asked that a meeting be held to discuss this.

i) Councillor Hallam proposed and Councillor Kilby-Shaw seconded the motion:

“This Council recognises that the rapid growth of Hybrid and Electric vehicles.

Council welcomes the recent news that it has been awarded a grant to put 2x new Rapid Charging Points in its Town Centre car parks to add to the network of points we already have in the Borough.

Council also recognizes the contribution of the private sector in ensuring that Northampton already has a substantially larger network of point's available compared to similar towns nearby. Council welcomes the work of companies such as Nationwide in providing an extensive network of points in the town for its employees and welcomes a recent announcement by BP that it intends to deploy publically available charging points at many of its forecourt sites.

Council agrees to work with companies seeking to deploy such technology and to work with Northamptonshire County Council as the Highways Authority to aim to increase the amount of Rapid Charging Points available to the general public in Northampton.”

Members debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

ii) Councillor Hallam asked to withdraw the motion and this was agreed by Councillor Hill the proposed seconder.

Council agreed this proposal.

iii) Councillor B Markham proposed and Councillor Hill seconded the motion:

“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.”

An alteration to the amendment was submitted by Councillor B Markham to amend the final paragraph to read ‘The council requests that, and following on from the cross party meeting on 18th June 2019, a report 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.

The Mayor asked Council if they accepted the alteration to the motion. Council accepted.

Members debated the altered motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

iv) Councillor B Markham proposed and Councillor Beardsworth seconded the motion:

“Air Quality Policy 2 of The Northampton Low Emissions Strategy states:
“We will aim to reduce the vehicle emissions that have a harmful effect on air quality, by increasing the attractiveness of low polluting alternatives to the private car and

encouraging modal shift.”

Air Quality Policy no 6 states:

“We will work with operators and Government to seek the introduction of buses fuelled by alternative fuel sources in Northamptonshire.”

Other Local Authorities with similar policies have imposed target dates to ensure the introduction of alternative fuelled buses in their areas. Northampton does not have such a target and as a result we are getting older more polluting vehicles that other areas have banned.

We therefore call on NBC to work with public transport operators, Northamptonshire County Council and Michael Ellis MP, (Minister of State, Department of Transport,) to take urgent action to :-

1: Ban all diesel buses that do not meet EURO 5 Emissions standards or higher, from scheduled bus and coach services, in Northampton by 1st April 2023.

2: To ensure that buses and coaches that do not meet EURO 6 standards are withdrawn from scheduled service routes by 1st April 2025.

3: Produce a public transport plan for the Northampton Travel to Work Area that will enable the councils and successor authorities to secure funding for a Low and Ultra-Low Emissions Public Transport Infrastructures. With the aim of getting rid of diesel powered buses from Northampton and the county by 1st January 2030.”

An alteration to the amendment was submitted by Councillor B Markham to add two additional recommendations numbered 4 to read ‘To campaign to stop cars and buses idling, enforcing this with fixed penalties under the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) Regulations 2002’ and numbered 5, to read ‘ To establish car free zones around schools wherever possible.’

The Mayor asked Council if they accepted the alteration to the motion. Council accepted.

Members debated the altered motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

v) Councillor B Markham proposed and Councillor Beardsworth seconded the motion:

“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.

Members debated the altered motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

vi) Councillor Birch proposed and Councillor Roberts seconded the motion:

This Council recognises that poverty, as an issue in the county, has a major impact on the life chances of our citizens. We have 18,000 plus children living in poverty. We are seeing an increasing number of our elderly, vulnerable residents living in poverty. We will therefore, working with partners and services, develop an anti-poverty strategy that will:

- seek to prevent people and families becoming poor;
- support people and families with appropriate measures when they are poor, and;
- support people to maximise their income to get them, and the following generation, out of poverty.

This strategy will be offered to the new Unitary Authority as a working document.”

Anya Willis addressed Council speaking on behalf of Restore Northampton. She indicated that poverty in the town was a very real problem with people using food banks and being employed on zero hours contracts. Families were having to choose between having a roof over their heads, food on the table and getting the essentials for their new baby. The Council needed to recognise the issues in the town and work collaboratively with these third sector agencies.

An alteration to the amendment was submitted by Councillor Birch to replace the last line of the motion with the following ‘We commit to setting up a six member cross party working group by the end of November 2019, to develop a strategy and this will be brought back to full Council.

Members debated the altered motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

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

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 pm

Council Meeting 16th September 2019

Question 1

Mr Norman Adams to Cllr Hibbert

On 5th August 54 of the flats affected by the Berkeley House & St Marys Court development site were sitting empty with no tenants

According to NBC's Housing Regeneration Policy the council would consider placing homeless households into those sitting empty with no tenants.

QUESTION: Did the council consider placing homeless households into those homes?

Response

Yes, it was always intended that the Council would use the flats in Berkeley House and St Mary's Court as temporary accommodation when they became vacant. However, when the tenants subsequently moved out, Northampton Partnership Homes advised the Council that none of the flats were in a fit state to be re-let and that the high cost of bringing them up to a lettable standard (for use as temporary accommodation) was uneconomic.

At the Council's request, Northampton Partnership Homes has agreed to re-visit all of the empty flats to confirm if any of them can, in fact, be used as temporary accommodation.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert

Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question 2**Mr Norman Adams to Cllr Hibbert**

Within one month of the Ombudsman's final decision, the Council will apologise to Mr X for:

- o its delay in accepting Mr X's homelessness application; and
- o the unclear assessment of what was affordable to Mr X during his meeting with the money advisor and the subsequent unaffordable bill sent to him.

<https://www.lgo.org.uk/decisions/housing/homelessness/18-011-094>

Have the Council followed the agreed action and apologised?

Response

The Council completed the agreed action including an apology to Mr X.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert

Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question 3
Cllr Russell to Cllr Hibbert

What protocols does the council have in place for bailiffs and other agents with which it has contracts, for evicting council tenants for rent arrears?

Response

Northampton Partnership Homes complies with Northamptonshire Housing Protocol (Social Housing Tenants), Rent Arrears Recovery Policy and Rent Arrears procedure for Rent income Officer on evictions. The Rent Arrears Recovery Policy is on the NPH website. The other documents are not downloadable, but copies can be made available on request.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question 4**Cllr Russell to Cllr Hibbert**

What provisions does the council have in place to protect people with mental health problems, young children or other vulnerable people in households with council tenancies and who are facing eviction for rent arrears?

Response

Northampton Partnership Homes has implemented a number of safeguards to protect people with mental health problems, young children or other vulnerable people in households, as follows:

At the approval stage of the eviction officers must highlight any vulnerability concerns so that a safeguarding referral can be completed to Early Help Assessment (EHA) or Adult Social Care.

We also complete a Pre-Eviction Referral to Northampton Borough Council (Housing Options Team) for investigation into possible homelessness and assistance from NBC Money Advice Team.

We also signpost to other agencies locally i.e. Community Law Service and Citizens Advice.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert

Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question 5
Cllr Roberts to Cllr Hallam

Under the contract with Veolia/Ide Verde can you confirm the exact provision for the cutting of trees around the street lighting? I understand that tree cutting is done to a metre around street lights, however concern is being raised with regards to whether this is adequate to ensure the lighting performs correctly and that sensors on the lighting columns are not covered by the foliage. How are we managing the protection of our streets whilst ensuring our lighting works correctly and efficiently?

Response

The council's tree policy states that council managed trees will clear lamp column heads by 1.5 metres all round. A common complaint is around urban trees blocking lamp columns which in turn create excessive shade in public areas. No one has a direct right to light in common law, however works can be carried out to improve light to areas and to create more aesthetically pleasing community spaces. NBC will always aim to assist in keeping localities reasonably safe by ensuring that trees do not cause an excessive nuisance. Veolia, the council's Environmental Services contractor, are obliged to survey all trees in the borough over a three year period but if there are any areas of particular concern, please advise through the call centre.

Cllr Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 6**Cllr Roberts to Cllr Hallam**

It is noted that NBC do not have provision for the supply of compostable bags to line the food caddy that are supplied for the disposal of food waste. Can you explain on what basis this decision was made? Research by WRAP shows that if Council's provide food waste liners to residents upon request it keeps them engaged with the process.

Response

NBC has recently worked with WRAP to improve food waste diversion from the residual waste stream, the project consisted on delivering a leaflet and a roll of caddy liners along with labelling each residual waste bins with a 'no food waste' – this was delivered at the same time as the new 'all in one' blue lidded bin recycling service in September 2018 – since this time, diversion has increased from an average of 192 tonnes a month to around 273 tonnes per month. The project cost £85,000, of this around £77,000 was for caddy liners (£24,000) and stickering & delivery of liners and leaflets (£53,000). The procurement and delivery of the liners are not covered by the Environmental Services contract so may attract an additional cost of around £70,000 per annum to supply free caddy liners to all relevant properties. The final WRAP report is available upon request.

Cllr Mike Hallam

Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 7
Cllr Roberts to Cllr King

Taxi licensing and support for those with disabilities are two responsibilities covered by NBC. Can you confirm what training is on offer for licensee holders in respect of Assistance Dog use of Taxi and PHV's. What action are we taking to ensure that new applicant drivers are "fit and proper" and understand how to deal with customers with disabilities and the assistance dogs that may travel with them? What work is being done with the PHV companies and ensuring they advertise that not only do they follow legislation regarding assistance dogs in PHV's but that they are welcoming and encourage such use?

Response

The one day induction course for all new taxi/private hire drivers includes approximately an hour's session raising the awareness of the needs of all disabled person/s and the roles and responsibilities of the driver. This session has been delivered by an external disabled training supplier to all new drivers for at least the last 10 years. There is currently work in progress with the Northamptonshire Licensing Liaison group, looking at the delivery of a joint training package that can be delivered to all drivers across Northamptonshire and thus setting similar standards of training (this should include rolling out any agreed training to all existing drivers). Due to resources, it is more realistic and achievable if we can deliver this type of training package jointly.

Our website provides information regarding the statutory duties in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 and operators are made aware of their responsibilities. Unfortunately, there may be peaks in demands for wheelchair accessible vehicles that impact upon the service user, i.e. during school contract hours when all wheelchair accessible vehicles may be in use. It is in the business interest of the operator to provide the right balance and mix of vehicles to meet the needs and demands of their service. The licensing team are always keen to ensure that all sectors of the trade meet their obligations in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 and will always investigate any complaint that identifies a breach of the requirements. The licensing team will also review any additional training that may be applicable for the operators in order to promote the needs of all disabled passengers.

Cllr Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Question 8**Cllr Ashraf to Cllr Hallam**

Is Veolia on track with all the weeding and cutting back?

Response

There is little 'cutting back' over the summer period, other than to attend to Health and Safety issues. The landscaping resources have been concentrating on grass cutting over the summer period and maintaining weed free flower beds in our parks and open spaces. Resources are now gearing up for the winter maintenance schedule where grass cutting operations are wound down and hedge maintenance such as cutting back increase.

Weeding is one of the area's I referred to in my Cabinet Member report - we have worked closely with the contractor to address some of the challenges in this area and a new sub-contractor has been appointed with a new way of working and a re-spray across the whole Borough starting w/c 16th September.

Cllr Mike Hallam

Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 9
Cllr Ashraf to Cllr Hallam

Do we have enough wardens if not, are we going to recruit more?

Response

The Council has a record number of Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Rangers. There are currently 14 Neighbourhood Wardens which cover the whole Borough. Recently we have focused on maximising Warden time in their communities by freeing up time spent on other activities. We commenced working with our 3rd Party enforcement partner and have also hired an administrator for the Warden team to take on much of the paperwork they used to do themselves.

Cllr Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 10
Cllr Ashraf to Cllr Hallam

How many missed collections have been recorded since April?

Response

A total of 1343 missed collections have been recorded since April 2019 (April to July 2019) with an average of 79% corrected within 48hrs, the total number of collections made in this period is 4,197,622.

Veolia are working with the crews to reduce the amount of missed collections and increase the response times to correct any issues.

These statistics are included in the regular performance monitoring reports and I am delighted that the level of missed collections and corrections has dramatically improved since the new contract started.

Cllr Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 11
Cllr Birch to Cllr Hallam

On tree maintenance: what is the program of work and is there a budget?

Response

Along with attending to the fuller contract specification (available upon request) which deals with routine and emergency tree work, Veolia are currently finalising year 4 of the enhanced tree works schedule which will be undertaken in the attached area – local stakeholders have been consulted and have been asked to provide any areas of concern via the call centre. 2019-20 budget for tree works is £417,000 which includes £100,000 for the enhanced tree works. The enhanced tree works budget was a result of one of the recommendations of a Scrutiny Panel into tree maintenance.

Cllr Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 12
Cllr Birch to Cllr Larratt

With the possibility of elections over the winter period will all polling stations ensure that the routes to the polling stations have adequate lighting and are safe so as to encourage people to vote.

Response

We regularly assess polling stations for suitability and are at the moment conducting a Polling Station Review. We are aware of one polling station where there may be an issue, we have asked for this to be addressed and are awaiting a response. We are also looking for alternative suitable venues.

If any members have concerns regarding polling stations please contact the Returning Officer.

Cllr Phil Larratt
Deputy Leader of the Council

Question 13 Cllr Beardsworth to Cllr Hallam

My question to the Portfolio Holder, submitted for the Council meeting on the 22nd July regarding Electric Charging Points in the town centre, was unfortunately not processed for that meeting and I only received the reply on Friday 6th September.

In his response the Portfolio Holder says “**a full analysis of demand and usage will be undertaken**”. Can I help the Portfolio holder with Information from the Society of Motor Manufacturers who stated on the 5th September, when they released New car registrations to the end of August the following headline comments

05 SEPTEMBER 2019 #CARS #REGISTRATIONS #SMMT NEWS

- UK new car market falls -1.6% in August, to 92,573 registrations.
- Good news for zero emission vehicle uptake, with registrations up nearly fivefold to take record 3.4% market share as hybrids also register growth.
- Industry calls for policies and measures to boost uptake of latest, lowest emission vehicles, a vital step on the road to zero.

I hope the Portfolio Holder will accept that there is no need for this council to undertake analysis when the Motor Trade industry organisation is calling for measures to support the objective of zero admissions.

As far as “usage” is concerned this might be found to be low in a town centre that has no electric charging points.

In the leaders report he states we Northampton was one of just 50 Councils to get through the first round of the Future High Street Fund and the Council was also applying for up to £25M from the Governments **New Town Fund** aimed at improving among other criteria transport.

Can the Portfolio Holder advise if, this council should secure any of this Government support that the Borough Council will up its game which currently consists of supplying just two electric charging points in the Town Centre?

Response

Thank you Cllr Beardsworth for providing this information on demand for and usage of electric vehicle charging facilities. The Future High Street Fund is designed to enable towns adapt to the structural changes within retail that are having a major impact on the High Street. As such, electric vehicle charging points would not be an appropriate use of this funding. The guidance to the Towns Fund has not yet been released. Where funds are available to address electric charging provision we will look to maximise the use of these and work with partners, in particular the County Council who have responsibility for the most obvious areas to locate them (ie. the Highway) and to secure an appropriate level of provision of electric vehicle charging points in Northampton.

Cllr Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 14
Cllr Beardsworth to Cllr Hibbert

My question to the Portfolio Holder, submitted for the Council meeting on the 22nd July regarding 200% increase in payments to external suppliers for temporary accommodation was unfortunately not processed for that meeting and I only received the reply on Friday 6th September.

In his reply he acknowledged that ***“The homelessness service is demand-led and represents a major challenge for the borough. As part of the action plan approved by Cabinet in April 2019, we are seeking to increase the amount of council-owned accommodation that is used as temporary accommodation”***

He went on to say ***“ Our aim is to reduce the use and cost of temporary accommodation and, in doing so, prevent an overspend on the homelessness budget. It is for this reason that we have asked NPH to increase the amount of council-owned temporary accommodation in line with the action plan”***.

Can the Portfolio Holder clarify the following :-

If NPH increase the amount of NPH owned temporary accommodation used for met the demand-led requirement for temporary accommodation

- Will that be at the expense of the residents on the NPH waiting list?
- Or will NPH increase their supply of accommodation to ensure that existing stock is still available to the waiting list but result in a higher proportion of the NPH stock allocated to temporary accommodation?
- If this strategy is successful what would the Portfolio Holder anticipate would be the reduction in externally sourced temporary accommodation in the current annual budget and over a 3 year period?

Response

In your question, you refer to "NPH owned temporary accommodation" and "the NPH waiting list".

NPH is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) and, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, it does not own any housing stock and it does not operate its own "waiting list".

Through the Management Agreement, NPH is contracted (by the Council) to manage, maintain and improve the Council-owned housing stock and to manage Northampton's Housing Register, on the Council's behalf, for all housing applicants who are seeking a council or housing association home within the borough and the NRDA (Northampton Related Development Area).

Although it is proposed (in the action plan) that the number of council-owned homes that are used as temporary accommodation will be doubled, this increase is a necessary and proportionate response to the temporary accommodation problem we are dealing with and will still only result in just 1% of the Council's housing stock being used as temporary accommodation.

Notwithstanding the high demand for affordable rented housing in Northampton, you will be aware that housing applicants (including homeless households) on Northampton's Housing Register will have access to not just the existing council and housing association homes that become vacant each year but also the 150 new council homes that NPH is planning to build each year for the next three years, the new housing association homes that are being built in Northampton and the NRDA, and the homes the Council is hoping to purchase (through NPH) from private developers under s106 agreements.

The primary objective of the 14-point action plan is to substantially reduce the Council's use of temporary accommodation and ensure that, as soon as practicable, all of the temporary accommodation that the Council uses is either owned by the Council (within the General Fund or HRA) or is leased or let to the Council on favourable terms.

For these reasons, I do not think that the decision to use more of the Council's housing stock as temporary accommodation will necessarily be to the detriment of housing applicants on the Council's Housing Register and I am confident that any adverse effect on applicants will be mitigated by the new council homes that are being built or purchased and the NRDA nominations.

Although the high number of placements in temporary accommodation, the slower-than-expected rate of rehousing and NPH's advice that the vacant flats in Berkeley House and St Mary's Court were not in a fit state to be used as temporary accommodation have meant that we are no longer forecasting that the amount of temporary accommodation that is procured from private sector housing suppliers will be reduced by two thirds by the end of 2019/20, our aim is to reduce our use of externally sourced temporary accommodation to less than thirty units of accommodation by March 2021.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question 15
Cllr Beardsworth to Cllr Hibbert

Can the Portfolio Holder advise the Council the Administration's policy with regard to purchasing empty properties on the open market to increase its housing stock?

Will the Portfolio holder advise the council of the number of properties purchased in :-

- The last Financial Year
- The Current Financial Year.

Once these properties have been re-furbished and added to the Council Stock what restrictions apply, if any, to the normal tenants Right to Buy?

Response

During the last financial year and the current financial year, the Council has not purchased any empty properties on the open market to increase its housing stock.

However, NPH is aware that we are supportive of such an approach where the acquisition and refurbishment of suitable properties offers good value for money and will meet housing need.

If the properties are included within the HRA and are let as permanent homes, they will be subject to the Right to Buy. However, if they are included within the HRA but are let as temporary accommodation using non-secure tenancies, they will not be subject to the Right to Buy.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question 16
Cllr B Markham to Cllr Eldred

The Agenda for the cabinet meeting on the 11th September contains as expected a Finance Monitoring Report.

In Paragraph 3.1 it states that this is the second monitoring report of 2019 / 20

| | |
|------------|--|
| 3 | Issues and choices |
| 3.1 | Report background |
| 3.1.1 | This report is the second financial monitoring report of 2019/20 and reports the forecast position as at the end of July 2019, period 4 of the financial year. |

Can the Portfolio Holder advise when the first monitoring report was issued to inform councillors of progress controlling expenditure approved at the February Council meeting?

The cabinet report provides the a narrative that the author has chosen to bring to the attention of the cabinet.

What the cabinet report does not provide are details of the expenditure YTD compared to the budget to the end of Period 4 at a Directorate / Departmental level as approved by council at the meeting in February.

The failure to provide detailed expenditure and budget figures to the end of Period 4, means that councillors council are not able to identify aspects in the YTD results that the author has not chosen to refer to in the report.

This is a departure from the way that in year budget figures were presented to Cabinet and other Councillors in previous years

Accepting that the Council meeting, at which the Portfolio Holder is required to respond to this question, is after this week's Cabinet, will he also take action to release detailed figures to all councillors of Expenditure against Budget Headings, for period 4, at least 24 hours ahead of the Cabinet meeting on the 11th September?

Response

1. The first monitoring report was reviewed by Cabinet on 24 July 2019.
2. The author of the report is the Chief Finance Officer, who compiles the report with input from his full finance team based on the various Service's inputs. This is then reviewed and where necessary amended by the Corporate Management Board.
3. The content is reviewed and discussed with all Cabinet members, through Portfolio Holder meetings.
4. We are advised that the format of reporting mentioned was not used in 2016/17, 2017/18 or 2018/19, there has been no material change to the Cabinet Reporting in recent times.
5. The normal scrutiny practice is for the draft budget to be scrutinised by O&S and is then considered by full Council. Once the budget is set then the

administration manages it through its officers (Corporate Management Board) and receives reports every two months at Cabinet meetings. The key focus as a strategic meeting is to focus on the issues, rather than all of the detail.

6. If there is a specific aspect of the budgets that is giving cause for concern, then I would be happy to meet Cllr Beardsworth with the Chief Finance Officer to discuss her concerns.
7. If NBC seeks more information/detail in the budget monitoring report and it is not already available, then there will be a cost that will need to be investigated and considered as a cost pressure.

Cllr Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance

Agenda Item 7

Report for Leader of Council
Northampton Borough Council
Monday 16th September 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 report.

Unitary Status

Over the summer the new governance structure whereby Leaders meet now on a monthly basis has continued with the Leaders Oversight Board taking place in both July and August. The discussions have focussed primarily on updates of the Programme team, the appointment of the new Programme Director as well as monitoring how the Business Rates Retention Pilot monies that we received from government should be best spent. I have also separately met with the new Programme Director, Paul Helsby, and was impressed with this willingness to engage as we go through this next phase where the focus will be on transformation over the coming months. We have continued with the regular meetings of the Cross Party Unitary Working Group where again we have been keeping members informed of progress and these will continue on a regular basis going forward.

I, alongside the other Leaders and Chief Executives, attended an update on the Children's Trust by the Children's Commissioner Malcolm Newsom where he took us through the planned next steps including the development of a Project Board which will be chaired by Malcolm as well as the timetable for the appointment of the Chair of the Trust and the Chief Executive of the Trust.

An important part of the wider unitary activity is the development of a new Town Council for Northampton that we are currently undertaking. As part of the Cross Party Working Group for the Community Governance Review, I attended the most recent meeting in which we heard from Opinion Research Services on the proposed second phase consultation that will be undertaken on the two options as well as the separate consultation that will be undertaken regarding the area covered by Duston parish Council, and proposals for Far Cotton & Delapre and the Kingsthorpe area. A report will come back to Council at the conclusion of the consultation period to agree the final geographical area of the new Town Council for Northampton.

Economic Development

Building on the news that Northampton was one of only 50 local authorities that were successful in getting through the first round of the Future High Street Fund we have since had a number of Northampton Forward board meetings as well as further meetings with the newly formed Cross-Party Town Centre Regeneration Working Group. The focus now is on pulling together the project team that will need to develop our full business case, which needs to be submitted to government by the middle of January 2020 and we are therefore proposing an update on all the work in a Cabinet paper in October. We are also finalising the outcomes of the consultation and we plan to publicise this alongside the final master plan in the near future.

We await further news on our recent application for Heritage Action Zones funding, but in the meantime we have been delighted to learn that we have been listed amongst the 100 locations

who will be invited to apply for the Government's new Towns Fund, with the opportunity of winning up to £25 million for transformative investment in areas such as transport, technology, skills and culture. We await further details of the criteria and process for applying to this funding, but for clarity, this funding is in addition to the Future High Streets Fund.

Linked to the town centre regeneration, the Chief Executive, Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager and I recently met with representatives from Legal and General and Montagu Evans (commercial property agents) on the work that we have been undertaking in the last 12 months in the town centre. As Legal and General are a significant land owner in the town, not least as the owners of the Grosvenor Centre, I feel that it is particularly important that we keep them regularly briefed on the work that we are doing and how they can assist with both our short term and medium term plans for the future development of the town. The meeting was positive and we have agreed to continue the dialogue over the coming months.

The Chief Executive and I have also continued our positive relationships with the Managing Director at Cosworth where we met recently to discuss St James Mill Link road. Members will be aware that the increased costs following the land analysis continues to make this a challenging project, but I wanted you to be aware that we are still continuing our dialogue with SEMLEP with regards to this project and will be providing a further update on the work at the Enterprise Zone Board in November, with a view to providing a more detailed, updated business case for further funding from SEMLEP to enable the road to be completed. There is no guarantee we will be successful, but it is important that we try to complete this particular scheme.

Over the summer months we held discussions around the North West Relief Road with representatives from WASPRA and the County Council as well as officers here, to ensure that proposed developments will meet the future demand of road traffic in the area.

Brackmills Business Improvement District continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Sarah Homer, and I was pleased to attend one of their recent board meetings to hear of the work they are undertaking and the future investment that is going into the area. Similarly, I have held positive meetings with representatives of the Leather Museum, currently located in the Grosvenor Centre, continuing to explore the opportunity of alternative locations for them in the town centre, ideally in the Cultural Quarter.

I was also pleased to attend a networking event hosted by Metro Bank in early September and also the Chamber Business Awards at the Park Inn, celebrating all that is great about business in Northampton and the wider county.

Other Activity

It was a pleasure to attend the 100 Years of Housing celebration event in July which included the official opening of 5 new council homes in Northfield Road and again further adding to the housing development that our ALMO, Northamptonshire Partnership Homes, are continuing to do on our behalf.

It was wonderful to see the graduates from the University parading through the town back in the summer and a pleasure to attend one of their graduation ceremonies celebrating their success in their time here in Northampton.

Most recently, the Chief Executive and I, alongside other Leaders and Chief Executives, were invited by the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold and the Chief Constable Nick Adderley to hear first hand of the impending Peel Report on the inspection done last year

on Northamptonshire Police (and due to be published this month) as well as the significant improvements the police are starting to make in their operational model. There will be wider briefings and communication on this by the police in October, but it was positive to hear of the improvements they are making particularly in the work around residential burglary.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council
Northampton Borough Council
Monday 16th September 2019

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have continued to play 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

A meeting of the MAG took place on Tuesday 23rd July 2019. Traders were given a presentation on the Town Centre Masterplan and Future High Streets Bid by the Economic Growth & Regeneration Manager. While traders appreciate that change is necessary and inevitable, they have some concerns that they raised and that were noted. Traders were told and have been reassured that they will be fully consulted on proposals and plans as they develop, and that they will have ample opportunity to comment and make observations on the plans.

There is still a strong desire amongst some traders for more permanent / fixed stalls.

Councillor Development Group

The Councillor Development Group last met on 16th July and is scheduled to meet again on 23rd September 2019.

At the last meeting the Group received a presentation from Customer Services and others on various changes regarding the Contact Centre and to the "Report It" App, that has recently been updated. We were due to receive an update on Caseworker, but this was not possible due to staff absences. An update will be provided at the next meeting of the Group.

Due to the summer period no Briefing or Training sessions have taken place since the last meeting of the Council.

Further briefing sessions that have been arranged are as follows:

18/09/19 - Local Government Reorganisation - To be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6pm in the Jeffery Room. ***Sessions have been scheduled on a three-monthly basis.***

26/09/19– Councillor Briefing on Greyfriars - To be delivered by the Chief Executive. One session from 6pm to 8pm in the Jeffery Room.

01/10/19 - Councillor Briefing on the Report It app and various Web features - To be delivered by various Officer. One session from 6pm to 8pm 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.

Contact is being made with an external training provider regarding delivery of a session on Islamophobia awareness.

One Councillor from each of the Political Groups, together with the Democratic and Member Services Manager, are attending the Regional Annual Scrutiny Conference hosted by East Midlands Councils on 4th October 2019.

Two Councillors who are members of the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group – Gangs and Knife Crime - are attending a seminar around this issue on 3rd December 2019.

Borough Secretary - Legal Department

Highlighting some of the work of Legal Services over the period of June and July 2019, they have:

- Had an appeal against a House in Multiple Occupancy Civil Penalty of £17,000 upheld.
- Resisted an application for a summary judgment arising out of a £6 million claim from Enterprise Managed Services / Amey relating to a pension fund surplus.
- Successfully prosecuted over 50 “litterers” in the Magistrates’ Court.
- Successfully concluded two appeals under the Licensing Act.
- Dealt with 27 right to buy applications.

Street Lighting

Cabinet approved a report on 24th July agreeing to enter into a contract with Balfour Beatty Street Lighting Ltd to undertake a scheme of column replacements and lamp renewals to this Councils own street lighting assets across the Borough. Works will now commence in October and will be completed in the current financial year

It is still intended that a further report will come to Cabinet in this calendar year with regard to establishing a maintenance agreement for the ongoing maintenance of our lighting assets.

Rail Issues

The East West Rail Consortium next meets on 17th September 2019 in Cambridge.

The current uncertainty regarding HS2 is a matter of concern. For Northampton, HS2 has always been about capacity. Capacity on the West Coast Mainline (WCML) is almost at breaking point in some areas. Unless more train paths become available, as they would with trains running on HS2 as opposed to the WCML, there will not be the capacity to deliver our aspiration of improving Northampton’s rail connectivity to the north and could also prevent any aspect of East / West Rail running to the town.

Governance Review

The Cross-Party Working Group – Community Governance Review – met on 5th September. The Working Group were presented with the proposals for the second round of consultation by the Legal Officer and Consultant undertaking it. The Working Group agreed the proposals before it and the consultation will commence in the very near future, lasting 6 to 8 weeks.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

16 September 2019

Environmental Services Contract

Refuse and recycling collections go from strength to strength with improvements in recycling rates and a decrease in the number of missed bin collections.

Street cleansing is also seeing improvements with the main issue in the summer being around weed spraying. Whilst, the warm and wet weather was not a good mix – the previous weed treatment sub-contractor has now been replaced and a more robust inspection regime put in place.

Despite the very challenging weather, grass cutting has gone well and the mowing schedules have been kept up to date – with only the occasional slippage at the start of the season when the wet weather took the crews off the road completely.

There are a number of projects ongoing in the section at the moment, including reviews of various operational policies, along with improvements to Westbridge operations depot.

We are currently also preparing for transfer approximately 3000 properties from sacks to bins in late September/early October– this will introduce wheeled bins to those properties that were missed out under the previous Enterprise contract bin roll out.

We are working with NPH to assist in tidying up areas Housing Land thus creating environmental improvements for residents.

Investigations are ongoing to upgrade the Towcester Road Cemetery Chapel to include a multi faith area and hygiene facilities, existing and provisional plans have been drawn up.

Parks and Open Spaces

The MUGA (multi-use Games Area) at Victoria Park has been re-lined, as the basketball and football markings had worn off. Also, the adjacent tarmacked area has had a children's train track and hopscotch game permanently marked out. New "Welcome" signs have also been installed at the main entrances.

The Racecourse has had a replacement bird's nest swing installed after the original one was damaged.

St Crispin's Allotment – A low level fence and gate has been erected within the allotment to create an enclosure adjacent to the residential home. This is so the gardening group with in the home are able to be part of the allotment. The works also include a new footpath.

Neighbourhood Wardens

The Neighbourhood Wardens are still as busy as ever and have carried out the following:

- They have investigated 158 incidents
- They have issued 207 Statutory notices
- Issued 12 Fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping
- Issued 12 fixed penalty notices to businesses under the Environmental Protection Act - Duty of Care, for not having the appropriate documentation for their waste disposal
- They have removed 26 illegal vehicles off the road

Enforcement

The total number of fixed penalty notices issued by the environmental enforcement team during August was 274. Notices were issued during the period in Kingsley, Kingsthorpe, Riverside, Semilong and Castle Wards.

As I confirmed at a previous Full Council Meeting, Kingdom have kindly agreed to extend their sponsorship of the drop in the Bulky Waste Charge from £25 to £15 from the initial period of 3 months to the rest of the Financial Year. The funding has also enabled us to increase the number of time slots available for collection by around 50%.

On 17 July, officers from the environmental protection team executed a warrant and seized stereo equipment and speakers from a property in the east of Northampton. This type of sanction is used relatively infrequently and in this case it has proved to be effective in dealing with a noise problem.

Environmental Health

Work is progressing on the technical work required to define the precise boundary of the proposed air quality management area in the town centre. Once completed a report will be presented to Cabinet to seek the formal approval of the designation of the area.

Air quality monitoring continues at over eighty sites across the town. The raw data up to the end of July is published on the Council's website

Recent reports in the press spotlighting premises with poor food hygiene ratings have highlighted the work carried out by officers from the food and safety team. When inspections highlight poor standards of hygiene and management, advice is given and where appropriate enforcement action is taken to ensure that safe food is provided. I am pleased to report that over 95% of the food businesses in Northampton are broadly compliant with food law requirements.

Climate Change Forum

The first meeting of the Climate Change forum was well received by all those who attended and a date for the second meeting will be set and circulated shortly.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

16 September 2019

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2019, a total of £69,427.85 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Forums

12 Aug – International Youth Day held at the Grosvenor Centre in partnership with Northants Police, led by members of the Youth Forum. A range of entertainment, activities and workshops aimed at engaging with teenagers and promoting positive activities in the town was well attended.

22 Aug- Youth engagement day at Midsummer Meadows focussed around cycling and youth safety. Partners from Northants Police, Cycle Northants, Umbrella Fair Organisation and British Cycling providing a range of activities, advice and information including close pass mat, smoothie bike, go ride coaching from British cycling, bike maintenance and free bike security marking, whilst Mark Dean from Inspiration FM is providing music on the day. Opportunity to consult with public around cycling needs and possible site for bike trails.

15 September – Youth Forum leading short tours of the Guildhall for Heritage Open Day.

Planning underway for Hate Crime Week of Action, to take place week commencing 14 October 2019.

Events

The Bands in the Park performances continued to attract audiences to Abington Park throughout August and early September with Milton Keynes Brass, Syncopated Jazz, Towcester Studio Band and Bradwell Silver Band, Sax Cool and Rushden Mission Band all performing.

Abington Park saw the Fun Colour Rush (28 July) and Rocking Roadrunner (15 Sept), whilst at Becketts Park we saw the Mela (28 July), at Upton Fields held their first Community Show (27 July), Bradlaugh Fields held their annual Community Show (3 August) and in the town centre we delivered the Heritage Show in the Grosvenor Centre between 5 – 8 August and Festive Road show on the Market Square (31 August).

Looking forward we have the annual half marathon on Sunday 29 September, Diwali Celebrations on Saturday 19 October, St Crispins Fair on 26 – 29 October, Annual Fireworks Display on Saturday 3 November, Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 10 November and Christmas Light Switch-On on Saturday

Culture & Heritage

Abington Park Museum continues to offer a wide range of exhibitions, activities and events which are appealing to young and old alike.

August saw the exhibition 'Photos for All Seasons: Autumn' open – the photographs on display taken by members of the Abington Camera Club (Northampton), beautifully capture all the colour and magnificence of the season.

July saw the museum being a venue for 'Edgecote 1469 – A Study Day'. The event was led by members of the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society and attended by 62 adults. During the school summer holidays, the museum held a wide range of workshops for children. Over 330 young people attended workshops ranging from learning how to sail a pond yacht, 3D Landscape painting, decorating a ceramic ladybird plant pot, flower sun catchers, wooden wind chimes and stone painting and a Castle workshop run by the Friends of Northampton Castle.

Funding was obtained from a generous grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to run 4 sculpture workshops and 48 young people had an opportunity to learn how to make life-size papier-mache dog sculptures and clay figures.

A medieval themed family fun day was held during August. HistoryNeedsYou provided re-enactors, medieval music and hands-on activities for all to enjoy. Despite extreme weather on the day the event attracted 962 visitors.

Finally, the museum was hired out for three weddings in August and by the Masque Theatre for 'Love's Labours Lost' – the annual summer Shakespeare open air production. Inclement weather led to the cancellation of two shows but the final attendance numbers were 661.

Museum Expansion Project

Installation of roof on museum extension completed and work has begun on the installation of the curtain wall. The laying of main road gas pipe to main supply and install of metering cabinet is complete and meters ordered and on track to be installed in the next month.

Damp proof membrane fitted in the Shoe Gallery and the screed substrate laid to the floor in advance of the pouring of the concrete floor. User testing for on gallery databases completed and final versions in development.

The Temporary Exhibition Gallery fit out is 90% complete and awaiting fit out of cases and lighting installation.

The catering tender went live and closing date as now passed. Tenders will be evaluated and successful contractor appointed for October start. Off-site construction of café and servery equipment and furniture is underway and fit out will commence next period.

Customer Services

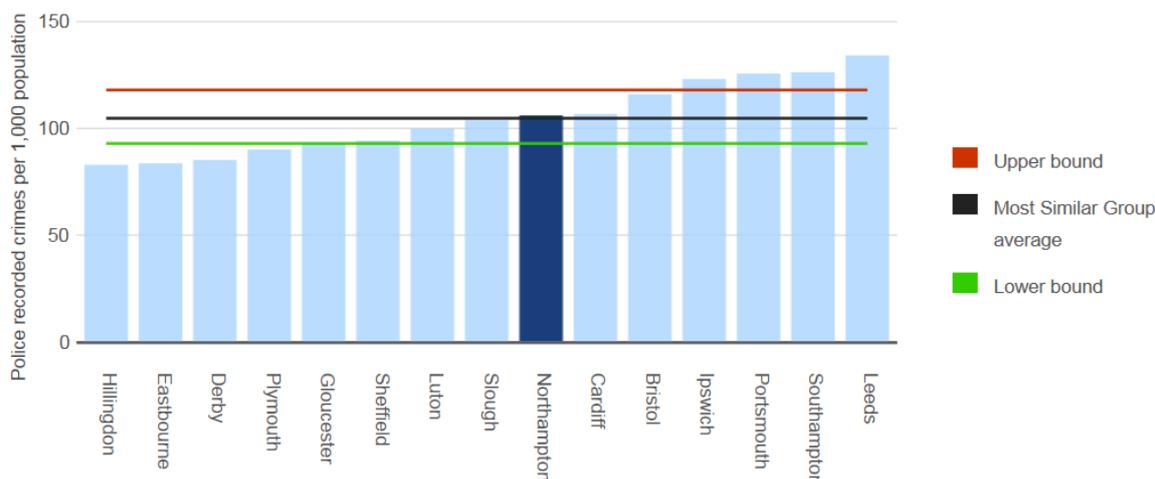
We have had our hearing accreditation assessment and are awaiting the overall outcome. The assessor spends over four hours reviewing the processes and practises in place to support customers that are hard of hearing. The assessor was extremely impressed with the new software that we installed earlier this year and the continuous efforts to improve processes and we are positive that we have achieved the 2019/20 accreditation.

Community Safety

Over the last six months January – June 2019, (in comparison to the same period last year), there has been an increase in overall crime in Northampton of 1.33% (211 crimes).

Further data can be accessed via www.police.co.uk which provides a statistical breakdown of area (North East, Central and South West) and crime type

In the year ending December 2018, the crime rate in Northampton was about the same as the average crime rate across similar areas.



24 July – 4 September 2019 - Two additional Police Officers were funded by the Council, working from 12 – 8pm, for six weeks, from Monday through to Saturday.

The following objectives were agreed:

- Police Officers to take appropriate enforcement action to tackle anti-social behaviour, street drinking and begging, including the issuing of CPN's and enforcing CBO breaches
- Provide an additional presence on the Town Centre, focussing on the hot spot areas, including the Market Square – particularly between 4-8pm
- Engage with the Town Centre businesses, offering support and a point of contact
- Work in partnership with other agencies including, the outreach workers, Town centre BID, neighbourhood wardens, community safety and engagement officers and the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit
- Carry out and support joint patrols and operations with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on the Town Centre
- Provide a visibility in the Town Centre, acting as a deterrent to those who may ordinarily be engaged with criminal activity or be causing alarm, harassment or distress.

The following was achieved:

- 576 extra patrol hours, high visibility foot patrols, covering; Abington Street, Drapery (focus around McDonalds), Gold Street, St Peters Walk, Market Square, Guildhall Road and Bridge Street
- 154 seizures of alcohol (huge disruption, focus on street drinking, particularly around St Katherine's, Market Square, Mayorhold and All Saints)
- 9 cannabis seizures and warnings issued
- 9 Stop Searches carried out (involved perfume sellers, shoplifters and drugs)
- 24 arrests (relating to violence, shoplifting, drugs, domestic assaults and prostitution)
- 88 warnings and words of advice given to cyclists who were riding through the Town on bikes
- 30 beggars engaged with and moved on
- 10 cars stopped and advice offered around traffic restrictions
- 8 offers of medical/first aid assistance
- Drug dealing activity disrupted
- Regular interaction with the businesses and the market stall holders
- Supported six days of action during the six weeks, working with partners

24, 31 July, 5, 15 and 28 August – Town Centre Days of action; Bike marking and consulting with public re. proposed PSPO for Jeyes Jetty.

1 Aug- Briar Hill community one stop and litter pick – In total we had over 30 volunteers (mixture of public and agencies) for the litter pick, in total we got over 45 bags.

2 Aug - Briar Hill community fun day – throughout the day over 400 residents and 14 organisations attended the event. The following was achieved:

- 12 bikes marked
- 390 meals provided by the rapid relief team
- Over 100 engagements and from the canal river trust with over 70 children completing their educational game around water safety
- Over 12 signs ups from Ness (Northamptonshire energy saving service)
- Other agencies including the scouts, fire, police, viola, solivit and the RSPCA all nearly ran out of their freebees and information leaflets.

The rapid relief team also took donations for the local youth club.

6 Aug – Semilong Day of action; Partnership activity held at Alliston Gardens community centre to engage local residents with a range of services offering advice, information and free items to improve their safety. In the afternoon a range of partners provided youth related activities and information to engage with young people in the area and promote positive activity available to them, including boxing and street sports.

13 Aug – Spring Boroughs Day of action; Partnership activity held at Springs Family Centre engaging with local residents with a range of services offering advice, information and free items to improve safety. A short film documenting the history of the area in light of the redevelopment created by Springs Youth Hub and Free 2 Talk was shown, and a range of activities engaged both young people and their families throughout the day.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Planning

Northampton Borough Council

16th September, 2019

Development Management

The Council have had another busy few months of planning applications. Outline planning permission N/2017/0091 for residential development of up to 1,400 dwellings including local centre, primary school and open space at Upton Lodge Farm, Weedon Road was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 30th July, subject to a S106 agreement to secure planning obligations.

Full planning permission N/2018/1207 for the development of 138 dwellings at the former British Timken Site, Main Road, Duston was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 30th July, subject to a S106 agreement to secure planning obligations.

Full planning permission N/2019/0456 for the redevelopment of the site and provision of 126 affordable units at Berkeley House and St Mary's Court, Horsemarket was approved by the Planning Committee on 30th July.

Development Management has maintained 100% performance standard in terms of major, minor and other applications in July 2019.

Planning Policy-

Representations made to the public consultation on the Proposed Submission version of the Northampton local plan Part 2 are being processed and will have been posted on the Council's website by the time of this meeting.

Public consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Documents about Houses in Multiple Occupation, Specialist Housing and Parking Standards started on 8th August and will finish on 3rd October 2019.

Heritage

Works are continuing on the sensitive repair of the Queen Eleanor Cross taking advantage of the warm weather conditions.

The Local List Panel is continuing to have regular meetings and is working towards a full set of recommendations.

Land Charges

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

The Council make daily updates to the LLPG Property Gazetteer and this is reported on monthly we currently have a rating of Bronze.

Received NPH applications for:

Nethermead Court, 1 new dwelling with associated car parking **(FP/2019/7372)**

Paddock Mill Court, 2No dwellings and parking **(FP/2019/7366)**

1 Nether Jackson Court, 1 new dwelling **(FP/2019/7365)**

Maidencastle, 1 new dwelling and associated car parking **(FP/2019/7364)**

Greatmeadow, 1 new dwelling **(FP/2019/7362)**

Completion certificates issued 25 including:

9-13 St James Mill Road – 2No dwelling houses **(FP/2018/825)**

Commencements of work 132 including:

Demolition of 34 garages and construction of three new dwellings, Gloucester Avenue **(FP/2019/496)**

Demolition of garages and construction of 2no new dwellings, Old Barn Court **(FP/2019/7388)**

Received Reversion applications for:

4 New apartments, Alliston Gardens **(RV/2019/556)**

New garage and conversion of existing garage into two bedrooms, Ash Lane **(RV/2019/543)**

Received and investigated 6 unauthorised works including:

Erection of outbuilding to rear for use as home office, 1 Fieldgate Close **(UW/2019/538)**

Single storey rear extension to form shower facility and internal alterations, 145 Ruskin Road **(UW/2019/581)**

Internal alterations, 5 Oakley Street **(UW/2019/582)**

Building Control carried out 250 Building Regulation related site inspections

Councillor James Hill
Cabinet Member for Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

16th September 2019

Economic Development and Regeneration

- On July 4th we were contacted by MHCLG to inform us that we have been successful in getting through to the next stage of the Future High Street Fund. Northampton was one of 50 areas selected from over 300 expressions of interest made into the fund. We are now reviewing the guidance that has been issued in order to set up our project team to develop the full business case.
- Consultation on the Town centre Masterplan closed on the 30th June, with 742 detailed responses being received as well as over 1000 people attending the consultation events. The responses from the consultation is now being used by the architects to start to inform the next phase of design.
- A new call for proposals was launched under the Future High Street Fund banner. This fund is called the High Streets Heritage Action Zones and Expression of interest were requested before the closing date of 12th July. NBC worked with its partners on Northampton Forward to submit a EoI and we expect to find the outcome of this in Autumn.
- The Vulcan Works project continues to progress with the planning conditions now discharged. Work on a specification for the operator of the Vulcan Works has begun in order to get an operator appointed during 2020.
- Work on Upton Country Park Phase 2 has commenced with work on the site starting at either side of the site to speed up delivery. This project continues on time and within budget.
- Architects and commercial agents have been commissioned to undertake a masterplan and for FOUR Waterside to enable this key site to come forwards. Soft market testing with developers has taken place and a variety of studies are underway to assess ground conditions in order to inform the design development.
- The delivery of the Museum continues, with slight delays experienced due to the fabrication and install of the steel frame. Installation of the roof is now complete, and the installation of the curtain walling has begun.

Asset Management

The following capital schemes are complete;

1. Grosvenor car park ramp value c£81,000
2. Removal of 3 barges from river to allow EA dredging scheme c £10,000

The following capital schemes are ready to get into contract; (Should be in contract by end of Sept)

1. Street Lights
2. Billing Brook Lakes
3. Rectory Farm Community Centre

Ridge and partners have started condition surveys on the first 30 properties, it is envisaged that the 120 properties will be complete for the end of Dec to feed into budget setting in January.

Emergency works are underway at the following;

- Mounts Baths Califiers and pumps
- Derrigate Sprinkler repairs

Queen Eleanor Cross

The work is progressing well.

The contractors held a very successful public workshop, with two sessions on 16th August. The sessions were fully booked, despite appalling weather.

They were able to demonstrate some of the techniques involved, and to describe the problems that they had encountered.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 16th September 2019

FINANCE

The Statement of Accounts for 2017-18 are due to be signed imminently (if not already by this meeting). A formal draft set of accounts (SoA 2018-19) will be presented to Audit Committee later this month for acceptance.

The teams have commenced preparatory work for the budget 2020-21 and associated Medium Term Financial Plan and are working hard to support services to manage their 2019-20 budgets.

REVENUES & BENEFITS

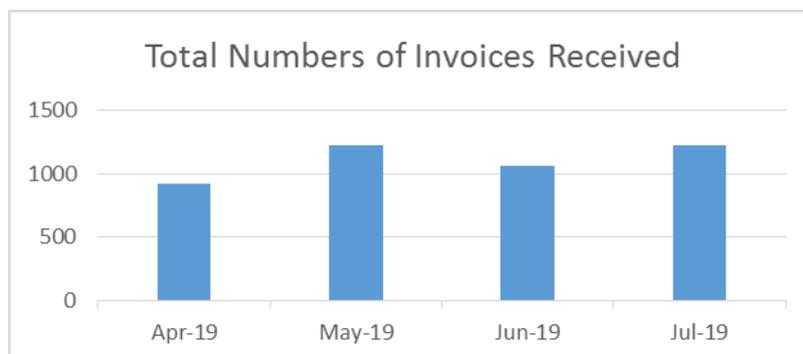
Collection Rates – The year has started with on target performance in respect of billing and initial collection rates, there is a need to re-profile the monthly collection values due to the high volume moving from 10 month direct debits to 12 months.

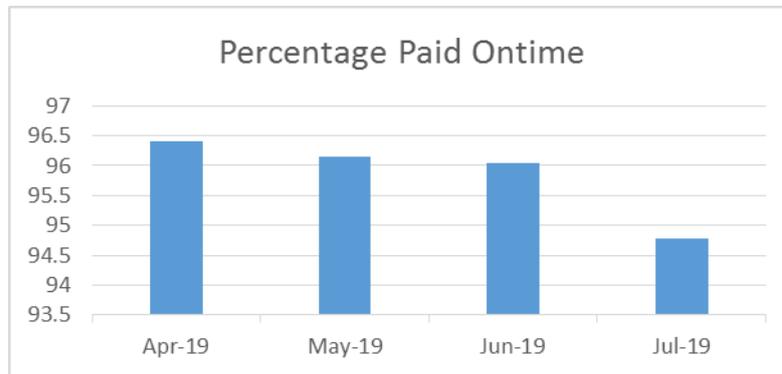
Business Rates – The service continues to run well, with continued monitoring of business volatility and risk.

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 4420 Invoices were received the average were paid on time is 95.8%





In respect of recorded sundry debt As at the end of July there was a total of £1,949,141.35 on the sundry debtors system of which £1,574,658.15 was older than 61 days. The largest service area debt is Asset Management with £527,908.06 of debt. The CFO Governance Team continues to work with the Asset Management Team to improve processes, procedures and debt management to reduce the level of aged debt.

FACILITIES

Guildhall Office

Facilities Management team took part in the emergency planning exercise on 26th July and also managed to carry on with the commercial business, hosting 2 weddings at the same time.

Facilities Management hosted 6 Wedding Ceremonies and 1 Reception. The Guildhall has also been the venue of choice for National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Question Time & Public Board Meeting for an all-day meeting, with approx.. 150 people attending throughout the day.

Looking Glass Theatre, have hosted tours around the Guildhall as part of the “Celebrate Northampton this summer” for the summer holidays

The Great Hall was used for the Green Flag Awards & Afternoon Tea, The Green Flag awards is the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the UK, the Great Hall looked amazing, with a great set up.

Fire Marshall training has been undertaken for majority of the Fire Marshall at The Guildhall, with another session booked for September for those who were unable to attend the July Training.

Post Room

- A total of just under 49,000 items of post dispatched
- 2008 incoming documents scanned
- Overall scanning accuracy – 100%
- 1844 incoming Revs and Bens documents indexed in total
- Overall indexing accuracy – 99.4%
- 2859 incoming Revs and Bens e-mails indexed
- Savings estimated to be around £3,000 by using Royal Mail Business Mail

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

16th September 2019

Keeping rough sleepers safe this winter

In my last report, I described the way in which the Council and local services and organisations are working together to tackle, prevent and reduce rough sleeping in the borough.

Following a successful multi agency workshop in July, a further event is planned for 1 October when participants will review the current rough sleeping strategy and agree on future priorities.

Next month, the Single Homelessness Forum will consider a wide range of issues, including the rough sleeping strategy, the annual rough sleepers count, the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP), the establishment of an 'alternative giving' scheme and a public petition calling on the Council to establish a 'safe area' for rough sleepers in the town centre.

One of the things I would like the Single Homelessness Forum to consider is the merits and feasibility of changing the criteria that is used to determine when SWEP is triggered. If there is support from the faith and community groups and we can attract enough volunteers, I would like SWEP to be activated whenever the Met Office is forecasting that the 'feels like' temperature (taking into account windchill) will be 0°C or below for at least three consecutive nights.

When I made an urgent appeal for Councillors to help the Housing and Wellbeing Service to run Northampton's Winter Shelter in March this year, only two Councillors stepped forward and helped out for one session each. I do hope that, this winter, more Councillors will volunteer.

Implementing the restructure of the Housing Advice & Options Service

Since my last report, we have completed the consultation on a restructure that is designed to improve the effectiveness of the Service, support the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, increase the number of households that are prevented from becoming homeless, and reduce rough sleeping and the use and cost of temporary accommodation.

The new Housing Advice and Options Manager joined us on 1 August and the second of his 3 Managers (the Single Homelessness Pathway Manager) is due to join us on 14 October.

All government-funded, fixed-term rough sleeping roles have now been recruited to, and the process of filling all of the other roles in the Housing Advice & Options Service has now started.

Considering an Additional HMO Licensing Scheme

On 16 October, the Cabinet will consider the results of a comprehensive 10 week consultation exercise that has been carried out in relation to the proposed designation of an Additional HMO licensing scheme. If approved, the new scheme is likely to come into effect on 1 February 2020.

Improving the hospital discharge scheme

Following a successful pilot scheme in Kettering, Northampton General Hospital (NGH) has agreed to provide South Northamptonshire Council with 12 months' funding to employ a full-time Hospital Outreach Worker who will be based in NGH and Berrywood Hospital and will work proactively with Northamptonshire County Council and the local housing authorities in Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire in order to facilitate patients' safe and timely discharge from hospital.

As Northampton is already operating a successful hospital discharge scheme ('Homeless 2 Home'), the Council is working closely with South Northamptonshire Council to ensure that the Hospital Outreach Worker and Northampton's Housing Transitions Officer (Hospital Discharge) complement one another, avoid duplication and achieve positive outcomes.

Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH)

Northamptonshire County Council projects

NPH is now managing Eleanor Lodge and planning applications have now been submitted to deliver the two new build schemes at Moray Lodge and Billing Brook Road, Thorplands.

Designs for the two new build schemes have been completed and NPH has agreed that 'Modern Methods of Construction' (MMC) will be employed, using Structured Insulated Panels (SIPs) that are constructed in a factory. This will speed up the delivery of the project.

Marking 100 years since the Addison Act 1919

On 31 July, Andrew Lewer MP opened a housing development of 5 new council homes at Northbrook/Eastfield Road. A commemorative tree was also planted at Cotterville where council houses were built in 1918 and first let, one hundred years ago, in 1919.

Council House New Build Programme

Last month, planning approval was granted for 'The Roof Gardens', the demolition of Berkeley House and St Mary's Court and the construction of a new build scheme of 124 homes. Cabinet approval will now be sought for NPH to proceed with the regeneration of the site.

NPH is currently building new homes on the former garage sites in Kings Heath, Delapre, Lings, Eastfield and Lakeview. Permission has been granted for a further 76 properties on former garage sites which are at demolition stage, with construction due to start in Autumn 2019.

Planning applications have also been submitted for a further 214 homes across a number of sites, including 126 resulting from the proposed conversion and extension of Belgrave House (a former office block) in Northampton Town Centre.

Planned Investment Programme

Scoping and detailed consultation are taking place with the residents of the Briar Hill, Southfields and Goldings neighbourhoods in relation to the 2020/21 investment programme. Works are due to commence in April 2020.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

Appendices: 2



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
16 September 2019

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Report Title | Local Government Reform in Northamptonshire – Additional Terms of Reference for the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee |
|---------------------|--|

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To amend the Terms of Reference for the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council agrees the revised and augmented Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 2 of this report and delegates the necessary powers and authority to the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee.
- 2.2 Subject to approving the resolution as per above, delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, to amend the 'West Northamptonshire Joint Committee Agreement' to incorporate the changes agreed by Council.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 In August 2018, NBC and six other councils resolved to submit a joint proposal ('Joint Proposal') for two new unitary authorities covering the county to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (SoS). That proposal was duly submitted. The SoS issued a Written Statement on 14th May 2019 in which he stated that there would be two new single tier councils established for the county of Northamptonshire operational from 1st April 2021.

- 3.1.2 The West Northamptonshire Council is to comprise geographical areas of the existing councils of Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council and Daventry District Council.
- 3.1.3 In order to give legal effect to this decision, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will lay a statutory instrument before both Houses of Parliament known as the Structural Changes Order for Northamptonshire (SCO). When made, the SCO will create two shadow unitary authorities, which will undertake the necessary preparation work for the new shadow councils in 2020, as well as determine the date for the full power and authority of all the current Northamptonshire councils, including the County Council, to transfer to these councils.
- 3.1.4 The SCO also provides for the establishment of Joint Committees in both the West and the North and outlines the tasks that these committees need to complete in order to prepare for the formation of the Shadow councils.
- 3.1.5 **Joint Committee**
- On 25th February 2019, Full Council agreed to set up the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee (WNJC) with defined Terms of Reference (ToR) and associated delegated authority. This Committee met on 26th March 2019; 14th May 2019 and 5th June 2019 and undertook and completed a number of matters, through member led Task and Finish Groups including the adoption of a draft Constitution for the Shadow Council; Remuneration Panel Issues and the process for the appointment of Interim Statutory Officers. The Original Terms of Reference were very limited by design and are attached as appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.1.6 The augmented/extended terms of reference have been developed with input and agreement from the Monitoring Officers in Northamptonshire taking into account the ToR used in other unitary projects, for example the Dorset council's. Full agreement is required in the West as the WNJC will need to work to the same terms of reference. The same terms of reference will therefore be taken for approval to all sovereign councils in the West.
- 3.1.7 MHCLG has shared a draft of the SCO with all the councils in Northamptonshire and they have provided their individual comments on that draft in writing directly to the SoS.
- 3.1.8 The draft SCO if approved in its current form will require the establishment of a Joint Committee for the West with specific functions outlined in the SCO. There is no current legal requirement for the Councils to extend the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee's terms of reference, pending parliamentary approval of the SCO. However, there is a massive programme of works and decisions that are required to be made leading up to the establishment of the Shadow Council many of which have a lead in time. The Joint Committee has advantages of being member led and the formality of the Committee requires openness and transparency in its decision-making. For all these reasons, it is recommend that the WNJC's terms of reference are amended and augmented.

3.1.9 Meetings of the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee (WNJC)

The WNJC has already met 3 times. Further meetings will, once the extended terms of reference have been agreed, be called in order that the WNJC can agree a second tranche work programme and facilitate the smooth transition to the shadow unitary councils.

No changes to the membership of the WNJC are being proposed by this report. In terms of the Advice, support to the joint committee would be given by existing personnel from one or more of the councils. This will be clarified in a formal agreement and could be from a single lead governance team or from the governance team of the council where the meeting is being held if rotated. The administrative arrangements for the meetings of the WNJC will be agreed between the councils.

3.2 Decision details

3.2.1 The recommended additional and amended Terms of Reference align with the requirements of the Structural Changes Order. However, it is likely that the WNJC's terms of reference will need to be adjusted following the approval of the final SCO. Further reports will be brought to full Council if required.

3.2.2 It is hoped that the SCO will be laid before Parliament and made timeously.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 None specifically

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 A risk register has been compiled for Local Government Reorganisation. Agreeing appropriate ToR for the WNJC in place should help mitigate a number of risks that have been identified. Risks will be discussed regularly and escalated as and when necessary to the Leadership Risk Register. Councils within Northamptonshire have agreed budgets for the unitary programme.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are powers under section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 which enables local authorities to enter into joint arrangements with one or more local authority to discharge its functions.

4.3.2 The Structural Changes Order is not as yet in force, but it is anticipated that it will be imminently. Once it is in force it will impose legal obligations on Northampton Borough Council and the other councils on matters outlined in the order.

4.3.3 Under the Local Government Act 1972, the expenses incurred by a joint committee shall be defrayed by the constituent councils in such proportions as they may agree or, in the case of disagreement, by an arbitrator appointed by the Secretary of State.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 None specifically arising from this report. However, relevant decisions of the WNJC will be assessed for equality impacts.

4.5 Other Implications

None specifically

5. Background Papers

5.1 None specifically

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary
01604-837334

Appendix 1

West Northamptonshire Joint Committee

Current Terms of Reference

1. To consider and recommend a Constitution to be adopted by the Shadow Authority at its inaugural Full Council meeting;
2. To consider and recommend a Members Code of Conduct to be adopted by the Shadow Authority at its inaugural Full Council meeting;
3. To agree and undertake the recruitment process for the selection of the posts of Interim Head of Paid Service, Interim Chief Finance Officer (section 151 Officer) and Interim Monitoring Officer for the Shadow Authority and recommend to the Shadow Authority at its inaugural meeting nominations for the three interim statutory Officers;
4. To consider and recommend to the Shadow Authority at its inaugural meeting a nomination for the post of Returning Officer;
5. To monitor and seek to mitigate any potential risks associated with the Local Government Reform programme (LGR), the creation of a Shadow Authority and creation of a unitary authority for West Northamptonshire and to establish/agree relevant protocols or process's to manage the risks to LGR;
6. To establish and propose a Calendar of Meetings for the Shadow Council for adoption at its inaugural meeting.
7. To respond to consultations on the content of orders, consents or any other matters where specifically requested to do so by the West Steering Group
8. To establish/agree any protocol or process which, if not implemented timeously, may threaten the establishment of a Unitary Council within the deadline set by the Secretary of State.
9. To receive recommendations/reports from work streams that require Joint Committee approval so long as those relate to the Joint Committee's terms of reference referenced above.
10. To agree the process for an independent review of a scheme of Members Allowances for the Shadow Authority, including the setting up of an Independent Remuneration Panel and to recommend to the Shadow Authority a scheme of Members Allowances for adoption at its inaugural meeting;

APPENDIX 2 – Amendments to current Terms of Reference and additions

52

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| 1. To consider and recommend a Constitution to be adopted by the Shadow Authority at its inaugural Full Council meeting. |
| 2. To consider and recommend a Members Code of Conduct to be adopted by the Shadow Authority at its inaugural Full Council meeting. |
| 3. To agree and undertake the recruitment process for the selection of and the designations of Interim Head of Paid Service, Interim Chief Finance officer (section 151 officer) and Interim Monitoring Officer for the Shadow Authority and recommend to the Shadow Authority at its inaugural Full Council meeting nominations for the three interim statutory officers. |
| 4. To consider and recommend to the Shadow Authority at its inaugural Full Council meeting a nomination for the post of Returning Officer. |
| 5. To consider and initiate appropriate mechanisms for the recruitment and designation of a permanent Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), including provisional terms and conditions, including salary, and method of selections, so that the earliest possible appointment can be made by the Shadow Authority. |
| 6. To monitor and seek to mitigate any potential risks associated with the Local Government Reform (LGR) programme, the creation of a Shadow Authority and creation of a unitary council for West Northamptonshire and to establish/agree protocols or processes to manage the risks to LGR. |
| 7. To establish and propose a Calendar of Meetings for the Shadow Authority for adoption at its inaugural Full Council meeting. |
| 8. To respond to consultations on the contents of orders, consents or any other matters where specifically requested to do so by the Leaders Oversight Board (or any successor group). |
| 9. To identify and approve a policy framework (including production of draft policy statements and supporting procedures) relevant to the required statutory compliance of the new unitary council. |
| 10. To agree the process for an independent review of a scheme of Members Allowances for the Shadow Authority, including the setting up of an Independent Remuneration Panel and to recommend to the Shadow Authority a scheme of Members Allowances for adoption at its inaugural Full Council meeting. |
| 11. To agree a mechanism for expenditure incurred by the officer(s) responsible for the conduct of the election on 7 th May 2020 for North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council to be paid. The cost to be divided among, and paid by, the County Council, North Northamptonshire councils and the West Northamptonshire councils. |
| 12. To agree a mechanism for expenditure incurred by the shadow authorities to be divided among, and paid by, the County Council, the North Northamptonshire councils and the West Northamptonshire councils. |
| 13. To prepare and keep under review an Implementation Plan to include such plans and programmes as are in the opinion of the Joint Committee necessary to secure the effective, efficient and timely discharge of any functions necessary and/or proscribed in a future Structural Change Order. |
| 14. To form a team of officers as an “Implementation Team” for the purpose of assisting the Joint Committee to discharge its functions |
| 15. To take steps to prepare for the economic, effective, efficient and timely transfer of the functions, property, rights and liabilities of the County Council and district/borough councils to the new unitary council |

APPENDIX 2 – Amendments to current Terms of Reference and additions

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| 16. To develop and oversee early enabling strategies including, but not limited to, organisation design process and principles, ICT, digital transformation, organisational development and assets |
| 17. To identify, promote and ensure collaborative working between councils and to ensure that all Members are kept fully briefed and engaged in establishing a new unitary council |
| 18. To oversee the development and delivery of a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy that addresses the requirements of Members, staff, town & parish councils, local partners and wider stakeholders and, to consider how decisions and issues shall be communicated to local people and stakeholders and to engage with stakeholders on matters within the purview of the Joint Committee |
| 19. To liaise with relevant internal and external auditors and ensure their focus supports the development of the new unitary council. |
| 20. To agree an induction & training programme for newly elected Members for 2020/2021 |
| 21. To agree support services for newly elected Members for 2020/21 |
| 22. To progress arrangements for civic & ceremonial matters and functions related to the new unitary council. |

Appendices: 1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

16 September 2019

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary and
Monitoring Officer

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Report Title | Update on Carried Motions |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To receive, and note, the update on Carried Motions from April 2018 to date, as attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the update on Carried Motions.
- 2.2 That a further update is brought to full Council at its meeting on 9 March 2020.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 Full Council, at its meeting on 11 March 2019, received the update on carried motions. This document has been updated and is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Officers have undertaken an information gathering exercise to assess the current status of Motions that have been passed and what has been completed or is in the process of being completed for each Service Area.
- 3.1.3 Information contained within the appendix of the report provides details of the number of motions submitted, those currently outstanding, those that are in progress and those that have been completed.

- 3.1.4 A number of the motions are marked as 'ongoing' due to the complexities of work that is required to complete some of the motions, it is reasonable for several motions to be 'in progress' for a period of time whilst officers carry out work prior to completion which can also involve partnership agencies. Furthermore, some motions request continual support for certain projects and as such, are inevitably regarded as ongoing. Officers have included in the action column of the document details of work that has taken place and how the motion is being actioned.
- 3.1.5 There are examples contained within Appendix A of motions that cannot be completed due to the change in circumstance of the Council following the agreement of the proposed Unitary Council.
- 3.1.6 Should Members wish to have further information on individual motions, a narrative will be provided with additional information that cannot practically be reported on the published table of motions by contacting Democratic Services who will endeavour to gather relevant information on each motion.
- 3.1.7 A further report will be submitted to Council in March 2020 updating Council on the six month progress since this meeting and on further progress of motions submitted and carried at future Council meetings.

3.2 **Decision details**

- 3.2.1 Full Council is to note the update on carried motions and consider receiving a further update at its meeting in March 2020.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 There are no policy implications arising directly from this report, however some motions affect wider Council Policy.
- 4.1.2 Notices of Motion are a substantive agenda item of each meeting of full Council.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 There are no direct resource implications arising directly from this report however some motions affect wider Council resources and Officer time

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Council has a responsibility to debate Notices of Motions submitted to meetings of full Council. Each motion may have its own legal implications but for the purposes of this report there are no specific legal implications.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising directly from this report.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 There are none.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Agendas and minutes of meetings of full Council from April 2018 in relation to the carried motions.

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer
0300 330 7000

COUNCIL MOTIONS LIST

22nd January 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|
| 57 | <p>1. This council recognises the important role played by our Private Sector Housing Service which provides the following,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licences houses in multiple occupation (HiMOs) • Enforces legislation tackling rogue landlords • Investigates suspected incidences of abuse whether from Landlords or tenants <p>This Council notes that our town's private rented sector is sometimes used to support criminal activity, including money laundering, sexual exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery. Additionally, the profits that can be made from HiMOs, have encouraged criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords to break the law. In order to tackle these issues, our Private Sector Housing Service needs more resources.</p> <p>This council welcomes the fact that on 17th January 2018, the Administration</p> | Head of Housing and Wellbeing | Cllr Stephen Hibbert | <p>The Council completed the recruitment of the Housing Enforcement Manager, 6 Housing Enforcement Officers, 2 Intelligence Officers and a Tenancy Relations Officer in April 2018.</p> <p>The Housing Enforcement Team consolidated its working relationship with Northamptonshire Police by providing advice and training in relation to its work and powers, by working together to support the sharing of intelligence and resources and by carrying out joint enforcement operations with the Police, Fire & Rescue Service and Immigration Services.</p> | Ongoing | |

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| 58 | <p>took to Cabinet, and approved, a report that enables this Council to impose civil penalties of up to £30,000 per offence on law-breaking landlords. A business case for utilising the penalty income collected to expand the Housing Enforcement team, initially by eight additional officers, and subject to due diligence and an updated business case, a further five officers, thirteen officers in total, was also approved and is welcomed by this Council.</p> <p>This Council recognises the demand for, and commits to, a robust, coordinated, intelligence-led response to breaches of legislation and complaints regarding it, and therefore calls on the Police and other agencies to do everything in their power to help support NBC</p> | | | <p>The Housing Enforcement Team is now imposing civil penalties as an alternative to criminal prosecutions and, during the financial year, penalties were issued for a total of £212k.</p> | | |
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COUNCIL MOTIONS LIST

12th March 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|---|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 59 | <p>2. This council recognises that more can be done to encourage recycling. To this end, and working with our new Environmental Services Contractor, this Council resolves to investigate and recommend innovative models for the recycling of cans and bottles that can be available in locations across the Borough. In doing so this Council recognises that young people are encouraged to collect and recycle cans and bottles for a small remuneration. The model recommended should educate, entertain and encourage the process of recycling.</p> | <p>Head of Customers and Cultural Services</p> | <p>Cllr Mike Hallam</p> | <p>NBC Environmental Services team are currently working with Veolia on reducing waste to landfill and improving the recycling rate across the borough. First steps towards this was to introduce the blue lidded bin recycling 'all in one' scheme in autumn 2018 and we have also introduced a single use sack trial in Far Cotton to both improve recycling rates and street cleansing standards. Although in its infancy, Veolia are trialling reverse vending machines at two London locations, the first machine is at Kings Cross and accepts plastic bottles</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |

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| 60 | | | | <p>and aluminium cans – users are rewarded with vouchers for a local restaurant. The second is in Veolia’s offices and for every bottle and coffee cup recycled, the company donates 5p to charity. The ES team will continue to monitor these innovations and seek to adopt them as soon as operationally possible.</p> <p>UPDATE: We are working with Veolia for the transfer approx. 3000 properties from sacks to wheelie bins. We hope this will encourage residents more to recycle, as the wheelie bins will be able to contain the recycling, rather than the open boxes which do not contain the recycling. This will be rolled out in October. Properties included</p> | | |
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| 61 | | | | will be notified of the change. | | |
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| 62 | <p>4. The administration has always been committed to enhancing and promoting the heritage of our town.</p> <p>Never was this more clearly demonstrated than with the opening of Delapre Abbey to the public next weekend for the first time in 900 years after a multi-million pound restoration programme.</p> <p>The Abbey takes its place as a jewel in the crown of our historic town, a fitting tribute to all those organisations and individuals who have supported the project.</p> <p>The administration has maintained its commitment as difficulties arose and were overcome, creating and working with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust to ensure that we have something to make us all proud.</p> <p>This Council congratulates and thanks everyone who has been involved, and wished the Trust and its volunteers every good wish for an exciting and successful future</p> | <p>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</p> | <p>Cllr Anna King</p> | <p>The trust and volunteers have been thanked</p> | <p>Completed</p> |
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| 63 | <p>5. This Council recognises that our town has been let down by the current Environmental Services provider. According to the biggest and most successful consultation that this Council has ever undertaken, a higher quality of cleanliness delivering cleaner streets and a cleaner environment, and quality grounds maintenance are top priorities for residents of our Borough.</p> <p>This Council is therefore delighted that our new contractor won the bid primarily due to the quality of service it was offering. This Council is making a significant additional investment in this contract and looks forward to working with Veolia to raise the standard of cleanliness and grounds maintenance right across Northampton – something that our town has long been crying out for.</p> <p>This Council also very much welcomes the new Enforcement Contract and the zero tolerance approach to littering and fly-tipping. We call on our enforcement provider to continue to strenuously enforce legislation with regard to littering and fly-tipping, especially through using fixed penalty notices for those people who litter our streets.</p> <p>With the help, hard work, and commitment of our community</p> | <p>Head of Customer and Cultural Services</p> | <p>Cllr Mike Hallam</p> | <p>Some 325 new vehicles and items of equipment rolled out of the depot on day one of the new contract 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.</p> <p>In September, 70,000 wheeled bins were delivered to relevant households and a new ‘all in one’ recycling service was implemented and Saturday collections were abolished (apart from catching up after Christmas Day).</p> <p>In April, a trial to replace recycling boxes with single use recycling sacks commenced for 1,000</p> | <p>Completed</p> |
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| 64 | <p>volunteers, this Council will continue to provide local communities with clean, well maintained and safe open spaces. Council therefore proudly commits to provide continued support to community groups, initiatives and projects, including Residents Associations, Parish Council's, Summer Bloom, Green Flag and Friends of Parks Groups.</p> | | | <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

23rd April 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|--|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 66 | <p>1. This Council notes the success of the night shelter in tackling rough sleeping in Northampton.</p> <p>We are aware that concerns remain with rough sleeping and hidden homelessness, and we are aware that women in this situation are particularly vulnerable. This Council therefore commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully implementing “TOGETHER we change lives”, the borough’s 10-point multi-agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton; • Exploring the options for establishing a permanent emergency nightshelter that has the capacity and facilities to provide men and women with shelter and support; • Persuading local groups and services to do everything they can to help and encourage people to engage with local services and accept the help that they need in order to come off the streets and rebuild their lives; • Considering the role that ‘Housing First’ can play in reducing rough sleeping in the borough; • Working with partners to establish the true extent of hidden homelessness in Northampton and the way in which people with protected characteristics, physical and mental disability, addiction, forensic history and immigration are affected by hidden homelessness; and • Ensuring that everyone who is homeless is provided with a personal housing plan, and that the homelessness service | <p>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</p> | <p>Cllr Stephen Hibbert</p> | <p>‘TOGETHER we change lives’ has provided the foundations for the way in which rough sleeping in the borough is tackled. This Strategy is being revisited at a multi-agency workshop in July 2019.</p> <p>Since the publication of the Strategy, the Council has secured Government rough sleeping funding of £480k in 2019/20 and has agreed to invest in the expansion and</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |

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| 67 | <p>is a two-way process with service users fully consulted and involved with the provision of the services they use.</p> | | <p>reorganisation of the Housing Options & Advice Service which will include the establishment of a Single Homelessness Pathway Service.</p> <p>The extra government funding has enabled the Council to fund a total of 11 additional staff, including a Rough Sleepers Co-ordinator, extra Street Outreach Workers, a Mental Health Outreach Worker and a team of Rough Sleeper Navigators.</p> <p>The search for suitable premises for a larger Nightshelter</p> | | |
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| 68 | | | <p>was put on hold while efforts were being made to address tensions between local agencies, including the Council. These have now been addressed and a raft of improvements (including the establishment of a multi-agency Single Homelessness Forum that is being established in September 2019) are planned.</p> <p>'Hidden homelessness' and 'Housing First' featured in a 2019/20 Overview & Scrutiny Review of Rough Sleeping and</p> | | |
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| | | | | Homelessness. All homeless people have been provided with personalised housing plans since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in April 2018. | | |
| 69 | <p>2. There is national concern about keeping our communities safe and the concern is widespread in Northampton. We are seeing alarming rates of crime, with increases in violent crime, sexual crime, trafficking, vehicle thefts, burglary and drug related crime. We are particularly concerned that young children and young people are being exploited and sometimes also drawn into crime. We have a duty of care to our citizens and we must do all we can to keep them safe. This Council will therefore take the following actions:</p> <p>- Continue to work with the Police to receive regular performance information from the Police that drives our activity, supports our multi-agency approach and enables this Council to have a good understanding of the crime and antisocial behaviour issues in the town.</p> <p>- Actively contribute to and support the Community Safety Partnership, which includes the Police and Police Crime Commissioner's Office, and the three – year community safety strategy, including the following identified priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Crime | Head of Housing and Wellbeing | Cllr Anna King | <p>See below re knife crime and youth violence activity</p> <p>Four gang specific injunctions being developed</p> <p>'Nights Out' campaign continued</p> <p>Working with the University, to introduce safety messages amongst the</p> | Completed | |

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| 70 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce ASB and Hate Crime • Support Vulnerable People • Build Stronger and Resilient Communities • Safety in the Night-Time Economy <p>The full strategy can be found at https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/10006/ncsp-2017---2020</p> <p>- Support the Government and the Home Secretary in delivering the new Serious Violence Strategy, including improving policing and visible policing, to break the deadly cycle of violence that devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities.</p> | | | <p>students, including the 'safer routes home' initiative</p> <p>Taxi Marshall scheme being piloted</p> <p>Delivering partnership activity days in priority areas</p> <p>Additional police resource funded to work in the Town Centre during peak ASB and Youth Violence times over the Summer and Christmas period.</p> | | |
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| 71 | <p>3. Northampton Borough Council calls for the continued support of our local market and market traders. Consequently, this Council is proud that our market participates in the Love Your Local Market campaign organised by the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA).</p> <p>Love Your Local Market is an international initiative and the UK's largest annual celebration to promote retail and wholesale markets across the country.</p> <p>To coincide with this year's initiative, and together with the Northampton Town Centre BID, the Council is organising workshops, street entertainment and other activities. This Council is delighted to be able to contribute to celebrating our town's history, innovation, experience, entrepreneurship, food and culture in a festival of market activities and events running from 17th to 31st May, and urges the public to support these events and our towns market offer</p> | <p>Head of Customers and Communities</p> | | <p>Love Your Local Market was celebrated in conjunction with Pride on the market square.</p> <p>Also as part of the LYLM initiative the market offered free stalls to traders wanting to try market trading for the first time</p> | <p>Completed</p> | |
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| 72 | <p>4. Northampton Borough Council welcomes the Government's Serious Violence Strategy launched this week by the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd. The strategy stresses the importance of early intervention to tackle the root causes of serious violence and steer young people away from crime in the first place, while ensuring the police continue to have the tools and support they need to tackle violent crime.</p> <p>This Council has recognised the great importance of engaging with our young people early to help prevent them from being drawn into crime.</p> <p>This motion, therefore, calls for support of this Council's collaborative work with the Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Youth Offending Service, University and Free to Talk in developing a training and awareness package that will be offered to schools, during our school's event in October, youth clubs and youth groups. The package will include a video, drama production and training, as well as educational awareness packs</p> | <p>Head of Customers and Communities</p> | <p>Cllr Anna King</p> | <p>Trusted relationships funding from the Home Office - £800k over 4 years (youth work in three established areas in the Borough.</p> <p>Delivering community safety awareness messages to year 6 students in 12 of our priority primary schools – youth conference held at the Deco.</p> <p>Knife crime awareness programme delivered to teachers and students in 11 of our secondary schools and both colleges in Northampton</p> | <p>Completed</p> | |
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| 73 | <p>5. Cuckooing' is where gangs travel to towns and befriend vulnerable people in order to take over their home and use it to deal drugs.</p> <p>Northampton Borough Council recognised the seriousness of this problem and has so far, through its Case Management Meetings for Cuckooing, arranged two training sessions for 40 frontline officers across NBC, Adult Social Care, Probation and the Police. Further two sessions have also been fully booked, which will train additional 40 officers.</p> <p>This Council, working closely with the Police, will run an awareness campaign for the public so they can help tackle the increasing problem of 'cuckooing'.</p> <p>The support of the community is crucial for pursuing 'cuckooing' drug dealers and those who choose to engage themselves in the illegal supply of drugs and associated antisocial behaviour and for this, commits to setting up a hot line for anonymous reporting of any suspicious activity.</p> | <p>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</p> | <p>Cllr Anna King</p> | <p>Cuckooing case management meeting chaired by Community Safety & Engagement Manager – individual cases discussed – focus on supporting the victim.</p> <p>In the past 6 months, two cuckooing specific injunctions have been sought to tackle offenders</p> <p>More than 150 frontline officers trained, across the partnership, to understand what cuckooing is, the signs and how to report/get support.</p> | <p>Completed</p> | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

4th June 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 74 | <p>1. The letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government regarding submission for unitary authorities stated that they wanted “locally led proposals for establishing unitary authorities across the county which will be right for communities and people they serve.</p> <p>This Council acknowledges these requirements and will try and fulfil them on behalf of the residents in the Borough of Northampton. It is essential that Residents participate in the formal, county-wide consultation, because this will ensure that their views are taken into account, and this council will encourage them to do that.</p> <p>To achieve this end the Council commits to undertake consultation with local residents to explain the changes that are being proposed and to seek resident’s views on the key issues and requirements of a new unitary council to serve Northampton residents</p> | <p>Chief Executive</p> | <p>Cllr Jonathan Nunn</p> | <p>Countywide consultation undertaken in the summer 2018 with over 6000 responses.</p> <p>A separate Northampton specific consultation was also undertaken and the outcomes of this both informed the community governance review on the establishment of a new town council and the name of the new unitary council for the West.</p> | <p>Completed</p> | <p>31/08/18</p> |

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| | <p>This is the most important decision regarding local government reorganisation since 1974 and all Councillor should make their best effort to help with the consultation so that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Governments call for proposals is delivered.</p> | | | | |
| 75 | <p>2. Obesity in Childhood is a growing problem. There are many causes of obesity. One is an issue that can be addressed by planning conditions. Tower Hamlets and other Local Authorities are leading the way by not allowing fast food outlets within a 400 metre radius of schools. Some authorities are additionally providing healthy food awards for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices.</p> <p>This council therefore commits to proposing, through the local plan process, a policy that there will be no new fast food outlets that fall within a 400 metre radius of schools.</p> <p>We will additionally consider creating a healthy food award for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices.</p> | <p>Head of Planning</p> | <p>Cllr James Hill</p> | <p>Introducing a policy was considered as part of the drafting of the emerging Local Plan Part 2, which included an assessment of the impact of similar policies elsewhere. This concluded that, without an objectively assessed evidence base to demonstrate the direct link of takeaways near schools to childhood obesity, such a policy would conflict with the National Planning Policy Frameworks requirements to plan positively and support economic development. On that basis, a blanket exclusion approach would not be positive,</p> | <p>Completed</p> |

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| 76 | | | | <p>justified, effective or consistent.</p> <p>It is also noted that a neighbouring authority which had proposed such a policy as part of its Local Plan Part 2 has had to recommend that the policy be removed for the same reasons.</p> <p>In light of this, the basis of the emerging NBC plan has been to plan positively for healthy communities by encouraging sustainable communities which promote safe and healthy activity.</p> <p>In addition, the emerging West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan offers the opportunity to undertake an objective health impact assessment with neighbouring authorities and health professionals to understand whether a direct link can be</p> | | |
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| | | | | established in order to justify a future policy | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

9th July 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|---|---|----------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| 78 | <p>1. Whatever the boundaries of the new Unitary Councils, for Northamptonshire, those councils will take on responsibility for the care of older people in our community, from 2020.</p> <p>A recent study estimated that 35% of inpatients in local hospitals were there simply waiting for suitable after care to be available (so called Bed Blocking).</p> <p>This council asks scrutiny, working with NCC scrutiny and partners, particularly health service partners, to carry out investigation into Adult Social Care facilities in the area to identify future demand patterns, in order that the new Unitary Council is able to better plan for the needs of older people in the future.</p> | Chief Executive | Cllr Phil Larratt | <p>Overview and Scrutiny meeting group specifically looking at this.</p> <p>Results will be reported back to Cabinet at its conclusion</p> <p>This work has now concluded. Final report to O+S 10/06/19 – Cabinet in July 19</p> | Completed | |
| | <p>2. Our town is famous for the boot and shoe industry and for leather works. The Central Museum hosts our famous shoe collection and the town has in trust the National Leather Collection, currently located in the Grosvenor Centre.</p> | Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager | Cllr Tim Hadland | <p>The Council, working with the BID, has had engagement with leading local shoe manufactures over this proposal and seeking to identify and investigate a potential site.</p> | Ongoing | |

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| 79 | <p>We note recent announcements of retail and other High Street closures and the Northampton Chronicle's current Town Centre campaign. We know as a council that we need to support the regeneration of our town, increase footfall and to stimulate tourism. Leather goods manufacturers and our world renowned shoe makers can play a key role in this.</p> <p>This council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>Invite interest from shoe manufacturers and leather goods producers around the county and possibly beyond to be included in a retail shoe and leather goods outlet in Northampton Town Centre. This plan could see the development of one of the vacant sites in the middle of town become a show case for the sale of shoes and leather goods from our world class manufacturers. The vision being that the demand for our high quality shoes & leather goods, will contribute to making Northampton Town Centre an attraction for visitors into the town. This will aid regeneration and increase footfall.</p> <p>To make this offer work and make it viable for the businesses concerned, this council will work with them and make whatever concessionary offers are within its gift for a defined period</p> | | | <p>This will be problematic for the manufacturers as given the strong independent brands they have developed and the issues with how a store could operate.</p> <p>The council are continuing to hold talks to look at if this is achievable.</p> | | |
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| | <p>and play an active role in the delivery of what will be a mutual heritage and commercial concern.</p> <p>This council will seek to include the BID and the University of Northampton in playing an active role in this initiative.</p> | | | | | |
| 08 | <p>3. There are four community libraries in the town that are under threat of closure.</p> <p>This council recognises the value of libraries as community hubs. This council, therefore, resolves to work with the friends of the libraries to facilitate the libraries remain open for community use.</p> | <p>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</p> | <p>Cllr Anna King</p> | <p>Support has been offered via the Community Safety & Engagement Team, to St James Community Centre and offers to facilitate meetings to help support others, including Far Cotton who have been expressed.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |
| | <p>4. This motion calls for the Council to continue to a commitment to support mental health awareness and support to the Government's Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.</p> <p>The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across local authorities, the NHS, public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations and others.</p> <p>This Council is proud to actively support the campaign to make Northampton a</p> | <p>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</p> | <p>Cllr Anna King</p> | <p>Mental Health Concordat signed.</p> <p>Support being given to reinvigorate the Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum</p> <p>Supporting David Smart to deliver the GREAT DREAM in Northampton 'rolling out the 10 key ways to make people happier in Northampton.</p> | <p>Completed</p> | |

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| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">81</p> | <p>'happy town', including the launch of Northampton's first 'Happy Café' in June. 'Happy Cafés' are being set up by supporters of the Action for Happiness movement in local communities, as a friendly and welcoming place to meet others with a shared interest in promoting happiness and well-being.</p> <p>As well as the 'Happy Café' launch, there was also be a celebration of the publication of '50 Ways to Feel Happy', a new illustrated children's book which helps children build skills and develop healthy habits for their daily lives, promoting resilience, wellbeing, self-confidence and emotional stability.</p> <p>This motion calls on the Council to further promote a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health , including supporting community based initiatives, for example, community choirs and health walks, which makes a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society.</p> | | | <p>Funding offered through NBC's grants programmes for the 'Happy Hood' project and counselling services.</p> | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

10th September 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
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| 82 | <p>1. This Council notes that graffiti is an unwelcome sight in most towns and cities across the country. A town is often judged by how it responds to graffiti, particularly that of a racist or offensive nature. Council notes that there has previously been a robust informal policy and stance adopted regarding this, but now resolves to:</p> <p>a) Adopt a formal policy for the removal of graffiti in a quality manor, free of charge on private property where the appropriate permission has been provided in writing by the property owner;</p> <p>b) Prioritize and immediately tackle instances of racist or offensive graffiti;</p> <p>c) Continue the commitment to do all it can to remove graffiti in the town, including working closely with the police across the borough, Northampton Town Centre BID, Network Rail, and owners of other affected properties, to try and catch offenders;</p> <p>d) Relaunch the “name the tag” campaign and actively promote it within</p> | <p>Head of Customers and Communities</p> | <p>Cllr Mike Hallam</p> | <p>Utilising projects to establish local ownership. i.e. St David’s youth graffiti project and NorFAMton</p> <p>Removal of offensive and racist graffiti is included in the environmental service contract</p> | <p>Completed</p> | |

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| | <p>the Youth Forum and youth groups across the town;</p> <p>e) Urge people to report offenders and the location of graffiti on both public and private property when they see it, so it can be removed.</p> | | | | | |
| 83 | <p>5. This Council recognises the concerns of residents and Parish Councils in areas where management companies are responsible for open space and other amenities. Council resolves to support residents and Parish Councils in resolving their concerns.</p> <p>This Council also resolves to make it clear that, it too, has significant concerns regarding the establishment of management companies to manage open space and other facilities on new housing developments in the borough of Northampton, rather than them being formally adopted.</p> <p>While resisting management companies, this Council will encourage developers to consider all the alternatives available for managing the facilities on new developments in the borough and Northampton growth area, including seeking for developments to be adopted with sufficient resources to ensure that the maintenance of these pieces of land is fully funded.</p> | Head of Planning | Cllr James Hill | <p>Planning applicants proposing areas of open space and drainage which could be run by Management Companies are being challenged about the management of these spaces as part of the planning application determination process.</p> | Completed | |

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| 84 | <p>6. This Council notes the Government's aims in encouraging a modal shift of freight from road to rail, which is a key aspect of its transport policy, and recognise that with effective implementation this modal shift can result in a reduction of carbon emissions, shorter and more efficient journeys, and fewer road casualties.</p> <p>This Council further notes that the delivery of a national network of Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges (SRFIs) forms a key part of recognising this aim, and the criteria for these are set out in the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy Guidance documents.</p> <p>This Council also notes that the NPSNN is clear that there is a need for an expanded network of large SRFIs across the regions to accommodate the long-term growth in rail freight, and that new rail freight interchanges, especially in areas poorly served by such facilities at present, are likely to attract substantial business, generally new to rail. However, the NPSNN also states that existing operational SRFIs and other intermodal RFI are situated predominantly in the Midlands and the North, and that SRFI capacity needs to be provided at a wide range of</p> | <p>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</p> | <p>Cllr Tim Hadland</p> | <p>A letter to the Secretary of State was written about this matter.</p> | <p>Completed</p> |
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| 85 | <p>locations, to provide the flexibility needed to match the changing demands of the market.</p> <p>This Council believes that, as there is already around 39m sq. ft of SRFI-related warehousing either under construction or being proposed in the East Midlands alone, not including the existing SRFI warehousing capacity already present nor other SRFIs in the wider Midlands region, it is unclear whether the proposed local developments, Rail Central and Northampton Gateway, are compliant with the NPSNN.</p> <p>This Council, therefore, resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask for an urgent review of the NPSNN, and all other associated policy guidance, to ensure that SRFI capacity is deployed as a national network across the country, rather than being built in areas where developers have pre-existing land options.</p> | | | | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

5th November 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 86 | <p>1. The Council recognises that in 18 months' time that responsibility for the regeneration of Northampton Town Centre will pass to the newly formed Unitary Authority.</p> <p>The Council also recognises that delays implementing regeneration projects in Northampton may occur if the new authority does not have a clear understanding of the stakeholders' vision for Northampton.</p> <p>Building on the good work of the Business Improvement District and its recent consultation, as well as the work of others, this council agrees to set up a cross party working group, working with a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties to produce a "Peoples Plan for Northampton" to enable the new Unitary Council to prioritise projects in its first year. This Council requests that the working group produces its report by September 2019.</p> | <p>Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager</p> | <p>Cllr Tim Hadland</p> | <p>Northampton Forward, a group made up of leading representatives from NBC, NCC, SEMLEP, UoN, Royal and Derngate, Northampton Town Centre BID, Northamptonshire Chamber, Northants Police, Legal and General, and Trickers was set up in January to guide the work being undertaken to regenerate Northampton Town Centre. A cross Party Group has been formed which forms a sub group of Northampton Forward in order to feed in to the plans and allow for a wide range of views to be</p> | <p>Completed</p> | |

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| | | | | considered as the programme develops. | |
| 87 | <p>2. The council notes that in spite of the fact that two firms of consultants have been appointed to produce a development scheme without success, the site of the former Greyfriars Bus Station has stood empty since March 2015 and adds to the sense of decline in Northampton Town Centre.</p> <p>The council notes the appointment of a new consultant to produce a development scheme and calls on the administration to ask this consultant to draw up options for the site to be brought into a temporary use as a matter of urgency for the public's benefit. While accepting that this is an interim measure pending the long-term development of the Greyfriars site, whatever happens in the short term must not be to the detriment of a long term permanent development</p> | Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager | Cllr Tim Hadland | A meanwhile use (temporary use) strategy for the site will begin to be developed in September 2019. This needed to wait until a full site appraisal could be undertaken to assess when the site is likely to come forwards in order to establish how long the temporary uses would likely need to be for. | Ongoing |
| | <p>3. The technological advancements of recent decades have much in common with the effects of the Industrial Revolution in the latter part of the 18th century. Specifically, both movements accelerated the displacement of workers by machines that could perform tasks faster, more accurately and 24/7. While technology enables business owners to reduce overhead by</p> | Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager | Cllr Tim Hadland | At present any structural changes to the logistics sector that will result in job losses following the introduction of autonomous vehicles are a significant number of years away. Given this it is | Completed |

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| 88 | <p>downsizing their workforce, individuals whose skill sets are now obsolete have limited options for employment if their current jobs are eliminated.</p> <p>Given that Northampton has a large proportion of warehousing and transport as its employment base, both of which face the introduction of new technology and automation in the near and medium future, this equates to at least 37% of workers in fear of their job.</p> <p>Working in partnership with other appropriate bodies such as local colleges, the University of Northampton, and relevant industry training bodies and organisations, the council will start to prepare and identify the finances to allow for upskilling of workers. The partnership will assist with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training through employers and other agencies • Planning for the future to deal with the implications of new technology as it is introduced. • Organising a Symposium on the future of employment and the local economy with the university and employers. | | | <p>too early to start making preparations. We will continue to keep this under review as the technology develops.</p> | | |
| 4. | <p>We note with concern the effects of holding commercial events on our town parks resulting in damage to the grass and terrain. The damage to the parkland is taking months to repair and</p> | <p>Head of Customers and Communities</p> | <p>Cllr Mike Hallam</p> | <p>Any damage caused by events is recharged to the organisers and to</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |

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| 89 | <p>meanwhile our residents are not able to enjoy the full use of these public open spaces.</p> <p>This Council resolves to introduce a legally binding contract with commercial hirers, including fairs, to ensure the full restoration of the site and land impacted upon by the event, at the expense of the hirer, requiring a deposit to cover the likely cost of this work should it be deemed necessary.</p> <p>Council also resolves to liaise through Park Management Committee's regarding events in individual parks. As we move towards Unitary status parishes may wish to take on the responsibility of their parks and these issues need to be regularised.</p> | | | date, there have been no issues. | | |
| 5. | <p>Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities.</p> <p>This Council resolves to: 1) Acknowledge the importance of tackling anti-Semitism in all its forms, to support the growing Jewish community in our town and across the county.</p> | Head of Housing and Wellbeing | Cllr Anna King | The Council utilises national days such as Holocaust Memorial Day and Srebrenica to bring communities together, to learn about the past, in order to positively shape the future—to celebrate difference and promote understanding. HMD was commemorated on 28 January and Srebrenica will be | Ongoing | |

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| | <p>2) Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism in all its manifestations</p> <p>3) Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism.</p> <p>4) Asks the Executive to look to adopt similarly agreed definitions to confront and challenge all forms of racism and discrimination that exist within our society.</p> | | | <p>commemorated on 11 July.</p> <p>Northants Police work towards the definition, that is recommended by the Royal College of Policing,</p> | |
| 06 | <p>6. There is an increasing number of reports received by Northampton Borough Council (NBC) regarding abandoned shopping trolleys. These are often abandoned in roads, on walkways and in parks, where they have the potential to cause accidents and are an eye sore within the community.</p> <p>Although many of local supermarkets try to take effective action to prevent the abandonment of shopping trolleys, it is too often the case that they do not act quickly enough on reports received.</p> <p>This Council, therefore, resolves to investigate whether it ought to use legal powers available to it to more effectively tackle the problem by charging supermarkets a fee for each trolley collected by NBC. This set charge would be solely to recover the cost of collecting a shopping trolley that</p> | <p>Head of Customer and Communities</p> | <p>Cllr Mike Hallam</p> | <p>Following a period of public consultation, on 16 January 2019, Cabinet resolved that Schedule 4 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 shall be applied to the whole of Northampton. This resolution allows the Council to collect abandoned shopping trolleys and to charge their owners for their return. This resolution comes into effect on 1 May 2019. Arrangements to deliver this service are being put into effect.</p> | <p>Completed</p> |

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| 91 | <p>is found by an NBC authorised officer on 'any land in the open air' (including watercourses), and that appears to them to be abandoned. The Council would have to comply with certain statutory procedures in order to set up such a scheme, including a requirement to consult with supermarkets and other shops which offer the use of shopping trolleys to the public. This Council notes that officers will commence the necessary preparatory work with a view to preparing a report for the Executive so that it may make a decision as to whether or not to introduce such a charge throughout the entire Borough and, if so, what amount that charge should be set at.</p> <p>Abandoned trolleys are a real nuisance and NBC is hoping that if such a scheme is created, rather than paying fees, supermarkets will take more responsibility for collecting their trolleys and, consequently, help reduce the number of such incidents.</p> | | | | | |
| 7. | <p>There has been a growing understanding of the positive impact that taking part in the arts can have on health and wellbeing. By supplementing medicine and care, the arts can improve the health of people who experience mental or physical health problems. The arts can improve healthcare environments and benefit</p> | <p>Head of Housing and Wellbeing</p> | <p>Cllr Anna King</p> | <p>Northampton Museums and Art Gallery (NMAG) will seek to align its planning and programming with Northampton becoming a Dementia Friendly Town. It will</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |

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| 92 | <p>staff retention and professional development.</p> <p>There are many case studies and a wealth of evidence in Creative Health report, conducted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, to support three key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The arts can help keep us well, aid in our recovery and support longer lives better lived. • The arts can help meet major challenges facing health and social care: ageing, long term conditions, loneliness and mental health. • The arts can help save money in the health service and social care. <p>Northampton Borough Council (NBC) expresses its strong support for the report's ten recommendations to increase awareness of how engaging in the arts can bring benefits to health and wellbeing.</p> <p>This Council notes the recommendation 3 of the report, which encourages all local authorities to designate an individual to take cross-sector responsibility for arts, health and wellbeing.</p> | | | <p>feature as a key new area of work for NMAG to explore and implement. People living with dementia will become an area of focus for the museum service and we will seek to provide activities for those living with dementia and their carers through our existing core offer and developing bespoke activities in conjunction with partners. NMAG has been running a monthly Dementia Café as a pilot scheme and is looking at how activities for people living with dementia can be further developed and integrated into our public programme will rolling this out on a larger scale on the opening of the new museum.</p> <p>This ethos will be developed further to</p> | | |
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| | | | | consider how museum exhibitions, events and its collections and contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals and the aims and objectives of public health bodies and initiatives. | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

10th December 2018

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
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| 94 | <p>3. Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (formerly women's aid) do valuable work to support victims of domestic abuse. They currently run 5 refuges with 21 beds, which will not be funded from April 2019. Partner organisation Eve is at risk of losing 13 beds. NDAS have launched a fundraising campaign to raise £100k by March to keep the refuges open for 12 months. Losing these refuges will mean that the responsibility of helping these victims out of abusive homes will fall onto NBC.</p> <p>We therefore call upon this council to not only recognise NDAS for the service they have been providing to domestic abuse victims but to give some much needed financial assistance.</p> | Head of Housing and Wellbeing | Cllr Anna King | <p>Supporting the working group to establish a countywide domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy</p> <p>Funding provided for NDAS - £20k per annum</p> <p>Funding provided for Northampton Rape Crisis and the Sunflower Centre, more than £30k</p> <p>16 Days of activism delivered</p> | Ongoing | |
| | <p>4. This Council recognises the value of openness and transparency in communicating with the public about air quality and the steps that it is making to monitor and to reduce air pollution.</p> | Head of Customers and Communities | Cllr Mike Hallam | <p>Monthly air quality monitoring results are now reported on the Council's website. With effect from April 2019 the relevant webpages are being</p> | Completed | |

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| <p>95</p> | <p>This Council notes that other authorities, such as Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Council, make effective use of corporate websites to share information about air quality monitoring in an accessible way, including regular monthly publication of raw data from air quality monitoring tubes.</p> <p>Northampton Borough Council resolves to review the accessibility, frequency of update and timeliness of the air quality data and activity published on its own website in order to match the openness and transparency achieved by other local authorities.</p> <p>This Council also notes that it is important that members of the public understand that the raw data can only be properly analysed and trends assessed after a 12 month period to take account of any seasonality or specific in-month events that might skew the data such as road traffic closure.</p> <p>Council also notes that this is a highly complex and technical area of work and resolves to work openly with all those with appropriate expertise in this area.</p> | | | <p>redesigned to a similar format to the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk site and data from previous years will be displayed together with current results.</p> | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

14th January 2019

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
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| 96 | <p>1. Northampton Borough council is committed to being the best employer we can be and to set the standard for other local employers.</p> <p>It can be hard to balance the demands of modern life and needs of family with those of an employer but it's in everyone's interests to get the balance right, and Northampton residents deserve to be served by council staff that feel valued and engaged with their work, and therefore provide the best service they can.</p> <p>We therefore continually refresh our employment procedures, and these include the existing policies that the council has on Parental Leave and Paternity Leave, and our Career Break Policy that is currently supporting staff including one employee who's long-term serious illness would otherwise have meant them having reduced pay, but who is still receiving full pay consistent with our commitment to the TUC 'Dying to Work' charter.</p> | Chief Finance Officer | Cllr Brandon Eldred | <p>CMB continually review NBC policies.</p> <p>The policy relating to Flexible working, Home working etc is currently under a further review (17/72019).</p> <p>The Governance & Risk Manager is working with the HR Manager to form a small working group of managers to assist with a review of NBC HR policies.</p> <p>All material changes to policies impacting on staff, go through the MTUCM (NBC Management and Trade Union Committee Meeting).</p> | Completed | July 2019 |

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| 97 | <p>The council also operates family-friendly working, which (whilst never losing sight of the service to be provided to residents) not only allows parental leave and flexible working arrangements, but flexible working, part-time, job sharing, working school hours, and staggering time.</p> <p>Working from home is part of modern work patterns, and this is allowed, with a review currently under way to ensure that this, and flexible working, is clearly defined." As an employer we are keen to help staff find the right work/life balance because we want them to be productive and focused on work, getting the best possible outcome for our service users, and council reaffirms its commitment to this.</p> | | | | | |
| 3. | <p>This Council recognises the importance of retaining good members of staff over the next 15 months to ensure that skilled staff are available to transfer to a new Unitary authority to continue to provide good local government services to the residents of Northampton.</p> <p>The Council has HR policies and procedures in place, which of course need to be understood and adhered to, in order to achieve the goal of retaining good members of staff.</p> | Chief Finance Officer | Cllr Brandon Eldred | <p>CMB continually review NBC policies.</p> <p>CMB is aware of the need to use all policies available to ensure the retention and motivation of staff during the transition period to formation of the Unitary Councils</p> | Completed | July 2019 |

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| <p>96</p> | <p>The Council recognises that there will always be staff who choose to move on, but during the past 18 months, in order to make NBC an attractive place for good staff to work, has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced the standard work hours from 40 to 37, to be competitive with other employers, with part-time staff reducing their by the same percentage if they chose to. • Removed the no pay for the first day of sickness • Improved various HR policies • Used the discretions policy on sick pay to honour commitments under the TUC 'Dying to work' charter • Anticipates a likely 2% pay award for 2019/20 • Enhanced staff discounts and benefits arrangements • Maximised the use of apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy • Transferred a significant proportion of the interim contract staff to more permanent types of fixed contract arrangements • Recruited a Learning and Development Manager to support personal development • Brought the HR service back in-house to be closer to the employees that it supports Council thanks its hard working staff for their dedication to supporting the town and serving its | | | | | |
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| | residents, and reaffirms its commitment to ensure that NBC is an attractive place for good staff to work. | | | | | |
| 66 | <p>4. Northampton has a strong and proud history of manufacturing, including its boot and shoe trade and heavy to medium engineering.</p> <p>Despite the demise of such important companies such as British Timken, Express lifts, Northampton Machinery Co, RHP Bearings and Plessy, we do still have centres of excellence with Cosworth, AMG Powertrain, Churches shoes, Trickers and many others.</p> <p>This Council is already very pleased to buy products and services from many local companies, and as part of continually seeking to get best value for the local taxpayer, is keen to work with more local companies and employers.</p> <p>There are now two national campaigns to promote manufacturing, the GMB Union “Making it” and “The Made in Britain” which is run for manufacturers.</p> <p>This Council therefore recognises both of these campaigns, and agrees to promote their membership to local companies, along with continuing to encourage potential manufacturers to site within the town. The Council will, wherever possible and cost effective,</p> | Chief Finance Officer | Cllr Brandon Eldred | <p>NBC has had for some years a policy and practice to seek to procure services locally, within the legal constraints of the EU rules and the requirement for Value for Money.</p> <p>LGSS Procurement have been reminded of the need to include local suppliers wherever possible and practical.</p> | Completed | January 2019 |

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| | use local suppliers to support the local economy. | | | | | |
| 100 | <p>5. The Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review with the intention of establishing two tiers of local government across Northampton when the new unitary arrangements come into force.</p> <p>This will constitute a major change to the way that services are delivered to local communities and the level of council tax that households are expected to pay in the currently unparished areas of the Borough.</p> <p>This Council therefore expects that in any literature provided to the public, setting out proposed new Parish / Town Council arrangements, will detail the options for service delivery by the new councils and give an indication as to the initial precept / council tax that will be levied, while recognising that going forward this will be a matter for the elected members of the new councils.</p> | Borough Secretary | Cllr Phil Larratt | Borough Secretary – Discussion already begun with Opinion Research Services (ORS) as to format and method of 2 nd stage of consultation which will be needed when finalised to be approved by cross party working group. This will include information on likely services to be delivered by new town council and the financial effects/precept etc as necessary information to out public. | Completed | |
| | <p>6. The Disability Confident scheme, run by the national government, promotes a disability-inclusive culture among employers across the UK.</p> <p>The scheme helps employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • draw from the widest possible pool of talent | Chief Finance Officer | Cllr Jonathan Nunn | NBC renewed its membership of the previous two tick scheme, now known as Disability Confident on 11 January 2019 | Completed | January 2019 |

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| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">101</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • secure high quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working • improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating that all employees are treated fairly. <p>Disability Confident employers are changing behaviour and cultures within their organisations, networks and communities. Northampton Borough Council is serious about equal opportunities and proud of its proven track record of being an Equal Opportunity employer and, as such, it already carries out numerous actions to make a difference for disabled people. Nevertheless, we are aware this is only a part of a much broader journey.</p> <p>Therefore, this motion calls on the Council to commit to signing up as Disability Confident Committed and taking the necessary steps to become a Disability Confident Employer, playing an active role in changing attitudes for the better.</p> <p>Under the Disability Confident scheme, this Council will further commit to carry on learning and strengthening the networks it will need to continue to improve its offer to existing and future disabled employees.</p> | | | | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

11th March 2019

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
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| 102 | <p>1. This Council believes that to maintain a connection between communities in Northampton and a remoter Unitary Council that the new body needs to embrace Neighbourhood working supported by delegated budgets.</p> <p>The Council calls on NBC representatives on the Shadow Authority to promote the concept of Neighbourhood working to enable residents and local stakeholders to work with service providers and drive improvements in their local area.</p> | Chief Executive | Cllr Jonathan Nunn | Programme Plan has been established with key thematic work streams. This element (Neighbourhood Working) will be considered in Phase 2 of the work programme (Spring 2019 – Winter 2019) | Ongoing | |
| 3. | <p>In preparation for the transition to Unitary we call upon NBC to produce a Sports Strategy for the people of Northampton that draws on the Sports Strategy for West Northamptonshire of 2009.</p> <p>The purpose of this strategy, as well as reviewing current facilities, would be to identify gaps, reflect current user preferences and requirements.</p> | Head of Customers and Communities | Cllr Anna King | <p>The Head of Customers and Communities is liaising with Northampton Leisure Trust in relation to developing a wider health and wellbeing strategy which will include sport in preparation for unitary</p> <p>UPDATE:</p> | Ongoing | April 2021 |

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| 103 | <p>Only by doing this can we protect the assets in Northampton for the people of the town.</p> | | | <p>In January 2008 Syzygy Leisure was commissioned by Daventry District Council, on behalf of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit to undertake the development of a Sports Facilities Strategy for West Northamptonshire.</p> <p>A number of strategic documents, i.e. national policy documents, regional policy documents, county policy documents and the plans of Northampton Borough Council, Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council helped frame the Sports Facilities Strategy.</p> <p>Thirty Governing Bodies of Sport were approached to ascertain their needs. These needs were</p> | | |
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| 104 | | | | <p>then considered against the facilities available across the West Northamptonshire area and a number of issues were identified, some specifically in Northampton.</p> <p>The report then looked at the needs and demands of the sports facilities across West Northamptonshire. Again, a number of issues were identified, some specifically in Northampton.</p> <p>The report also looked at future requirements for the West Northamptonshire area, and outlined the conclusions and action plans. The report identified a number of new facilities that were required to meet the growth in the West Northamptonshire area as well as</p> | | |
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| 105 | | | | <p>identify where there was insufficient provision to meet demand at that time. The report also identified that there is an overall need to ensure that where facilities exist that their access for community use is maximised.</p> <p>The Sports Facilities Strategy for West Northamptonshire (2009) has helped shape the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) which sets out the long-term vision and objectives for the whole of the area covered by Northampton Borough, Daventry District and South Northamptonshire District councils for the plan period up to 2029.</p> | | |
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| 106 | | | | <p>An assessment of the current supply and demand, future requirements and recommendations was undertaken in the development of the West Northamptonshire Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategies for Northampton Borough dated 2017/18. These strategies will be used to inform the development of the Local Plan Part 2.</p> <p>In preparation for the transition to Unitary we need to ensure that we deliver and build on the strategies already produced for West Northamptonshire and jointly maximise any opportunities to increase participation in sport and physical activities, e.g. taking advantage of any funding available, joining in with national</p> | | |
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| | | | | <p>sports initiatives and building upon the work of Northamptonshire Sport.</p> <p>Together we need to put healthy living at the heart of our communities and support each other to deliver this.</p> | |
| 107 | <p>4. In September 2018 this Council expressed its concern about the number of housing developments that were failing to deliver open spaces and other amenities to adoption standards and transfer them to the relevant local authority but instead were establishing management companies to manage and maintain them with no democratic oversight or accountability.</p> <p>In order to protect residents from uncontrolled charges and poor levels of service this Council would like to see all open spaces and other amenities provided by developers built to the standard required by local authorities for adoption, and calls upon Planning Officers to do all that they can to achieve this in their negotiations with developers.</p> | Head of Planning | Cllr James Hill | <p>Planning applicants proposing areas of open space and drainage which could be run by Management Companies are being challenged about the management of these spaces as part of the planning application determination process.</p> <p>Northamptonshire County Council has proposed a motion regarding the management arrangements of open space and drainage.</p> | Ongoing |

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| 108 | <p>This Council wishes to make it clear that it will aim for open space land on new residential developments to be transferred into the Council's ownership.</p> <p>Furthermore, this Council also calls on other public bodies, when offering their land for sale for potential residential development to make it a condition of sale that the relevant local authority retains ownership of the open space within the proposed development.</p> <p>Additionally, this Council will fully research the problems and issues that residents, Residents Associations, and Parish Councils have with management companies in Northampton and resolves to write to the Secretary of State expressing them as well as the views of the Council. Furthermore, this Council will work with the Local Government Association to lobby the Government for legislation to address the issue of Management Companies with a view to protecting residents from unreasonable maintenance charges, giving them the right to challenge such charges, as well as providing communities, including Town and Parish Councils, the opportunity to take on the role and responsibilities of the management companies."</p> | | | <p>Parish Councils and Residents Associations are to be approached* for evidence on the nature and scale of the issue faced by residents.</p> <p>*RAs have now been approached – results are currently being co-ordinated</p> | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

3rd June 2019

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|
| 109 | <p>2. 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.</p> <p>The Council therefore declares “a Climate Emergency” in Northampton and commits to a target of making Northampton carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>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.</p> | Head of Planning | Cllr Mike Hallam | | Ongoing | |
| | <p>3. 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</p> | Head of Planning | Cllr Mike Hallam | An approach to Energy Use within the Borough is being drafted. | Ongoing | |

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| 110 | <p>in Northampton. A green revolution is required.</p> <p>Working with partners we will seek to implement the following actions, which we strongly believe will benefit Northampton in leading an eco-friendly Britain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, | | | | | |
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| <p>111</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | | | | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

17th June 2019

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|---|---|------------------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| 112 | <p>4. Mr David Ward of Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire addressed Council indicating that 147 organisations had provided support over the last few months. Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire worked to provide car schemes to take people to appointments and the 'Happy Home' scheme which helped to reduce isolation. They were invested in helping community organisations. He tried to bring additional funding into the county. He asked how the voluntary sector could engage with Councillors. He vocal and passionate about the community sector and promoted organisations engaging in a positive way. He asked that Council helped to share the same vision and provide continuity for people whilst the government reform changes were being undertaken.</p> <p>This Council recognises the contribution made to the town by the voluntary sector. They will bring local intelligence, energy, commitment and</p> | <p>Community Safety & Engagement Manager</p> | <p>Cllr Anna King</p> | | | |

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| | <p>resources to our localities. We therefore agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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; and• To work with VIN and CVS to develop back room services for the voluntary sector. | | | | | |
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FULL COUNCIL MOTIONS

22nd July 2019

| Motion No. | Motion | Responsible Officer | Responsible Cabinet Member | Actions | Status | Completion Date |
|------------|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| 114 | <p>1. This Council recognises that the rapid growth of Hybrid and Electric vehicles.</p> <p>Council welcomes the recent news that it has been awarded a grant to put 2x new Rapid Charging Points in its Town Centre car parks to add to the network of points we already have in the Borough.</p> <p>Council also recognizes the contribution of the private sector in ensuring that Northampton already has a substantially larger network of points available compared to similar towns nearby. Council welcomes the work of companies such as Nationwide in providing an extensive network of points in the town for its employees and welcomes a recent announcement by BP that it intends to deploy publically available charging points at many of its forecourt sites.</p> <p>Council agrees to work with companies seeking to deploy such technology and to work with Northamptonshire County Council as the Highways Authority to</p> | | | | | |

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| | aim to increase the amount of Rapid Charging Points available to the general public in Northampton | | | | | |
| 115 | <p>3. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> | | | | | |

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| | <p>more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.</p> <p>The council requests that, and following on from the cross party meeting on 18th June, a report be presented to this Council, setting out how we have responded to the Biodiversity 2020 challenge highlighting those areas that still need to be addressed and actions that need to be considered when preparing the 2020/21 budget.</p> | | | | | |
| 116 | <p>4. Air Quality Policy 2 of The Northampton Low Emissions Strategy states: “We will aim to reduce the vehicle emissions that have a harmful effect on air quality, by increasing the attractiveness of low polluting alternatives to the private car and encouraging modal shift.”</p> <p>Air Quality Policy no 6 states: “We will work with operators and Government to seek the introduction of buses fuelled by alternative fuel sources in Northamptonshire.”</p> <p>Other Local Authorities with similar policies have imposed target dates to ensure the introduction of alternative fuelled buses in their areas. Northampton does not have such a target and as a result we are getting</p> | | | | | |

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| 117 | <p>older more polluting vehicles that other areas have banned.</p> <p>We therefore call on NBC to work with public transport operators, Northamptonshire County Council and Michael Ellis MP, (Minister of State, Department of Transport,) to take urgent action to :-</p> <p>1: Ban all diesel buses that do not meet EURO 5 Emissions standards or higher, from scheduled bus and coach services, in Northampton by 1st April 2023.</p> <p>2: To ensure that buses and coaches that do not meet EURO 6 standards are withdrawn from scheduled service routes by 1st April 2025.</p> <p>3: Produce a public transport plan for the Northampton Travel to Work Area that will enable the councils and successor authorities to secure funding for a Low and Ultra-Low Emissions Public Transport Infrastructures. With the aim of getting rid of diesel powered buses from Northampton and the county by 1st January 2030.</p> | | | | | |
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| | <p>4: In addition, we call on NBC to campaign to stop cars and buses idling, enforcing this with Fixed penalties under The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) Regulations 2002</p> <p>5: We also call on NBC to establish car free zones around schools wherever possible.</p> | | | | | |
| 118 | <p>5. The council is currently consulting on Part 2 of the Local Plan with the view of submitting the draft for public inspection in 2020.</p> <p>The draft plan has introduced a more detailed categorisation of open space which differentiates between Parks and Gardens and Amenity Green Space.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> | Head of Planning | | | Ongoing | |

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| | supplied and maintained by this council, be classified as Parks and Gardens and not as Amenity Green Spaces. | | | | |
| 119 | <p>6. This Council recognises that poverty, as an issue in the county, has a major impact on the life chances of our citizens. We have 18,000 plus children living in poverty. We are seeing an increasing number of our elderly, vulnerable residents living in poverty.</p> <p>We will therefore, working with partners and services, develop an anti-poverty strategy that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · seek to prevent people and families becoming poor; · support people and families with appropriate measures when they are poor, and; · support people to maximise their income to get them, and the following generation, out of poverty. <p>This strategy will be offered to the new Unitary Authority as a working document.”</p> | | | | |

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

Council - 16 September 2019

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|---------------------|--|
| Report Title | OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019 |
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019, as attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019.

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 twelfth Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council, covering the Municipal year 2018/2019. 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 2018/2019 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, Democratic and Member Services Manager on behalf of Councillor Jamie Lane ,
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Telephone: : 0300 330 7000

The background of the cover features a pair of glasses with a magnifying glass effect. The lens is positioned over a textured surface, likely a book cover, which is visible through the lens. The overall color scheme is dark with a yellowish-green tint.

Report of the
Overview & Scrutiny
Committee

Annual Report
2018/2019

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

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 very busy and interesting year for O&S with four in-depth reviews being undertaken and a Working Group undertaking Scrutiny activity:

- Homelessness and Rough Sleepers
- Northampton Post Unitary
- Impact of the Move of the University
- Adult Social Care Facilities
- Evaluation of the success of Overview and Scrutiny reports at Northampton

The Scrutiny Panels reported their findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its April and June 2019 meetings.

I have continued to promote the good work of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton wider. This year I presented the work that Overview and Scrutiny does regarding public engagement in the O&S process at Northampton at the Centre for Public Scrutiny Conference in December 2018. I was delighted that they promoted this work in their publication [Scrutiny Frontiers](#).

Overview and Scrutiny work is member-led and evidence-based. It is fundamental 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. I will be pleased to present all five reports from 2018/2019 to Cabinet in the summer and autumn of 2019.

Once again, we asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny reviews. There were over fifty suggestions from the public. I emphasise that Overview and Scrutiny values and encourages the input of the public into its Work Programming. Non-Executives carefully considered the suggestions at a workshop held in April 2019. From these suggestions, Cabinet's priorities for the year and ideas put forward by Councillors, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved its Work Programme 2019/2020 at its April 2019 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. This Working Group will continue to meet during the Municipal year 2019/2020. I highlight that this is a process that has previously been noted as best practice.

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported Scrutiny over the past year. 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.

Overview and Scrutiny welcomes and encourages members of the public who live or work in the borough to get involved in Scrutiny. If you have any suggestions for the work of scrutiny we would welcome your comments by post or [email](#). For more information about scrutiny and to view current and past reports, please visit our website at www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny.

Instead of a complete commentary of all that O&S has achieved over the year this Annual Report provides a summary of the key highlights of the work O&S has been engaged in during 2018/2019. I hope it reflects what I feel has been a very important year in Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton.

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



Councillor Jamie Lane
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Achievements

How was this impact made during 2018 – 2019 ?

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.

All of the four Scrutiny Panels this year had non-Executive Councillors who were not O&S Councillors as members of the Panels. Membership for the Scrutiny Panels closed quickly as they reached maximum capacity of seven Members; this enabled the option of appointing a co-optee.

Key Example: The Scrutiny Panel that investigated Adult Social Care Facilities was made up of seven non-Executives, of which four were not O&S Councillors, demonstrating involvement of non-Executives in the O&S process.

Co Optees to Scrutiny Panels

Three of the Scrutiny Panels this year benefitted from the expertise and knowledge of co optees. The Deputy Lieutenant and a previous Mayor sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Northampton Post Unitary), the Vice Chancellor sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Impact of the Move of the University) and the Director of the Umbrella Fair sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Homelessness and Rough Sleeper).

It was a privilege and honour to have been co-opted to Scrutiny Panel 3 which was looking at how to maintain and increase civic pride and ceremonies in Northampton. The group was looking at what Northampton should reflect and improve when the two Unitaries are formed. To have the opportunity to share my own ideas and to hear those of others has given me a much better understanding of the work being done to further improve the lives of the residents of the town and thus its impact on the whole County. The Councillors led meetings that were well organised and participation by organisations and individuals led to very good debate/discussions. I always felt that I was a valued member of the Scrutiny Panel.

Morcea Walker MBE,

DL

Co Optee – Scrutiny Panel – Northampton Post Unitary

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

It was a great privilege to be co-opted onto this Scrutiny Panel about the future of Northampton "post unitary." As a historian and as a previous Mayor of Northampton I believe it is very important to preserve and protect the traditions of our town and our 800 year old Mayoralty. It was very interesting to hear that so many organisations also share these concerns and are anxious not to lose our ancient heritage.

Lee Mason

Co Optee – Scrutiny Panel – Northampton Post Unitary

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. An 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.

Overview and Scrutiny acts as a critical friend, it is constructive and focuses on the priorities of local people, which feeds into the priorities of the Council and its partners. The work of the committee adds great value to the delivery of the community safety partnership strategy.

Vicki Rockall

Community Safety and Engagement Manager

The O&S Committee has also looked at:

Anti Social Behaviour

Enforcement Issues – Adults riding bicycles on pavements

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.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Key example: Performance management scrutiny of:-

- PP06% change in serious acquisitive crime from the baseline
- PP07% Hackney carriage and private hire vehicles inspected which comply with regulations
- HML01 total number of households living in temporary accommodation
- HML07 number of households that are prevented from becoming homeless

Critical Friend to Cabinet

Call-In

At Northampton call-in is used sparingly. During 2018/2019 there were no Call-In Hearings.

Influencing Policy Development

Four in-depth Scrutiny reviews and one comprehensive Scrutiny activity was undertaken during 2018/2019:

Homelessness and Rough Sleepers
Northampton Post Unitary
Impact of the Move of the University
Adult Social Care Facilities
Evaluation of the success of Overview and Scrutiny reports at Northampton

Review work of 2017/2018 has received Cabinet's response. Almost all of the recommendations were accepted, which highlights that Overview and Scrutiny is continuing to make significant influence of Council policy, both in terms of holding the Cabinet to account and contributing to policy development, and the well-being of the citizens of Northampton.

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 2018/2019. 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 Centre for Public Scrutiny highlighted the work of O&S at Northampton in its publication - [Scrutiny Frontiers](#).

The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel – Homelessness and Rough Sleepers, and the Democratic and Member Services Manager gave a presentation to the East Midlands Councils Scrutiny Network on the evidence gathering process of this Review, which was very well received.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

The Scrutiny review process at Northampton is widely recognised both within the Council and amongst the citizens of Northampton which is demonstrated by their attendance and interest in the O&S Committee and its Review work.

The O&S Work Programme received extensive press coverage, locally, which just under 40 individuals responded to, suggesting over 50 ideas for future Scrutiny review.

Paperless Overview and Scrutiny

As reported in the last four year's Annual Reports, the innovation attracted national interest. External interest in the innovation has again continued this year, with a number of enquiries regarding the success of the paperless Committee.

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 during 2018/2019:

Impact of the Move of the University of Northampton

The report of the Cemeteries Scrutiny Review will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2018/2019. The O&S Committee will begin monitoring of the accepted recommendations in the spring 2020.

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review the impact on the town and local areas; including student accommodation, concentrating on:

- To understand the work currently being undertaken by the University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners regarding the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the challenges, including all areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the implications of the move of the University

The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Graham Walker (Chair), Councillors Sam Kilby-Shaw (Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Panel), Councillors Jane Birch, Gareth Eales, Penny Flavell, Dennis Meredith together with other non-Executive Councillor Danielle Stone. The Scrutiny Panel benefitted from the expertise of the co-optee, Jane Bunce, University of Northampton. The Scrutiny Panel received both written and spoken evidence from a wide variety of expert advisors. Desktop research was carried out by the Scrutiny Officer. Representatives undertook site visits to the University of Northampton, of which produced a

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

wealth of information that informed the evidence base of this high profile Scrutiny review. The Scrutiny Panel was very impressed by the facilities offered at the University of Northampton at its new site. 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 May 2018 and April 2019.

Councillor Graham Walker

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Impact of the Move of the University

Co-Opted Members

This year, the Scrutiny process chose to engage the expertise and knowledge of co-optees in its review process for all of its in-depth reviews. It also fully utilised expert advisors in the witness evidence process. Further details are contained at page 2 of this Annual Report.

Review work 2018/2019

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:

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.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

The objectives of this Scrutiny Panel was to review ways in which the Council and its partners engage with rough sleepers and long term homeless individuals, consider the best way in which 'Housing First' can be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough, and understand the nature and extent of 'hidden homelessness' and how it can best be addressed.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of how and why people become homeless
- To gain an understanding of the causes and extent of rough sleeping in the borough, the impact that rough sleeping has on the health, safety and life expectancy of people who are sleeping rough, and the implications for safeguarding and community safety.
- To gain an understanding of the work that is currently being undertaken by Northampton Borough Council (NBC), local groups, organisations and voluntary services to engage with rough sleepers
- To consider the effectiveness of the action that is being taken (by NBC and local groups, services and organisations) to help people who are sleeping rough to come off the streets.
- To gain an understanding of the 'Housing First' model and consider how best it could be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough.
- To gain an understanding of the nature and extent of 'hidden homelessness' in the borough, including the profile of the people affected and what contact (if any) they have had with NBC, Northampton Partnership Homes or local advice agencies.
- To explore various ways of connecting with, and engaging with, harder to reach groups
- To gain an understanding of the specific needs and assistance provided for young people, between the age of 16-25, including care leavers.
- To gain an understanding of the specific needs and assistance provided for ex-Offenders
- To understand how data, statistics and demographics are gathered and used to meet the needs of rough sleepers, men and women, who are homeless

The recommendations were around:

Additional bed spaces for homeless women in the borough
Housing solutions
Refresh of the Rough Sleepers' Strategy
Plan for strengthening equal relationships and partnership working
Social Media Strategy
Multi-Agency Publicity Campaign

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2019/2020.

The Scrutiny Panel was made up of non-Executives, myself, Councillor Zoe Smith (Deputy Chair); Councillors Sally Beardsworth, Jane Birch, Gareth Eales and Ian Bates from the Umbrella Fair was co-opted to the Review. The Review took place between May 2018 and May 2019.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

This was an informative and at times, intense Review, with clear evidence received, exploring why individuals become homeless, a social and community phenomenon which is growing every year. I thank all those who contributed and gave their time to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to provide this information and all those who provided comprehensive written evidence. I would particularly like to convey my thanks to those individuals who shared their experiences with the Panel about their experiences when sleeping rough and being homeless; this information has greatly informed the evidence base of this high-profile Scrutiny Review

The Scrutiny Panel held interviews with Cabinet Members, senior officers at Northampton Borough Council and a number of key external expert witnesses. Desktop research was carried out by Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer. After each meeting the Scrutiny Panel would watch a short film, such as a TED film on research into Housing First, homelessness and rough sleeping.

The value of these short films was very useful and provided additional information to the Panel. The result is an important piece of work which, when presented to Cabinet, offers several key recommendations around reducing homelessness and managing rough sleepers in the borough. I would like to thank everyone who participated and contributed to this very important piece of work.

***Councillor Cathrine Russell Chair,
Scrutiny Panel 1 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping***

The Impact of the Move of the University

Please refer to page 5 for a precis of this review.

Northampton Post Unitary

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was to look at Northampton, (being mindful of the potential Unitary Authority), giving particular consideration to how civic pride and ceremonies can be protected

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding and overview of the civic pride, events and ceremonies (compiling a formal list) that currently take place within the Borough of Northampton
- To gain an understanding of how Northampton's civic events and ceremonies are marketed
- To understand the role of the Mayor of Northampton
- To understand the roles of both the previous Northampton Borough Council and other partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough
- To consider how the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority

The recommendations were around:

- Retaining the Mayor of Northampton

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- The creation of a Civic Quarter
- The location of a possible Town Council
- Protection of Civic Pride
- Civic events

A comprehensive review took place between June 2018 and May 2019. A wealth of background data and information was received by the Scrutiny Panel and a series of interviews with a number of key expert advisors were held. A number of organisations and community groups provided written information. Informative site visits also took place. Desktop research was undertaken by the Scrutiny Officer, the findings of which informed the review. Information gathering was very important to this review so that the Scrutiny Panel could map the civic events and ceremonies that the Mayor of Northampton is involved in. This enabled the Scrutiny Panel to devise its 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. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this in-depth piece of work.

**Councillor Brian Sargeant, Chair
Scrutiny Panel 3 – Northampton Post Unitary**

O&S Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny Reports

The objective of this Working Group was to evaluate the effectiveness of Scrutiny Reviews completed to date.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To demonstrate the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny reviews at Northampton
- To identify areas and means for further developing Overview and Scrutiny review process at Northampton Borough Council
- To provide objectivity by identifying evidence from the questions posed in the framework
- To highlight any potential barriers to improvement

The recommendations were around:

The good work of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton and that in any new Unitary Authority there should be some Scrutiny process. The method of Scrutiny operated at Northampton Borough Council is retained in any new Unitary Authority

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 the previous year, are being monitored by the O&S Committee.

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Key examples

Scrutiny Panel 1 - Child Sexual Exploitation

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to ensure Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations, and the Police to address these issues
- To investigate how NBC contributes to the above work
- To raise awareness of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton
- To explore best practice elsewhere in identifying and providing support to victims of CSE
- To understand what NBC is doing outside the Scrutiny process in relation to human trafficking and domestic slavery of children

Recommendations were around:

Making Public Spaces Safer
Communication and E- Safety
Training and Awareness Raising

Cabinet has responded to the recommendations in details and Overview and Scrutiny is monitoring the effectiveness of these recommendations.

Scrutiny Panel 2 – Homelessness (pre decision Scrutiny)

The purpose of the pre-decision scrutiny review was to review how the Borough Council and its partners prevent homelessness and to respond to those without homes in the borough.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by Northampton Borough Council (NBC), partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations to address homelessness
- To assess the extent of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough assess the initiatives currently in place to tackle homelessness
- To examine the Council's Severe Weather Provision
- To gain an understanding of the effect on the health, wellbeing and the safety of homelessness people, including rough sleepers

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- To gain an understanding of the causes and barriers to support homelessness
- Identify any specific groups that are not accessing services

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is continuing to monitor the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Dementia Friendly Town

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to investigate the town of Northampton can become a Dementia Friendly Town.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of what Dementia is, and its symptoms
- To gain an understanding of the Dementia Friendly Communities Programme, Dementia Friendly Communities Recognition Process, the BSI Code of Practice for Dementia Friendly Communities (and the foundation criteria),
- To gain an understanding of the Dementia Friends Programme and Dementia Friends Champion
- To gain an understanding of the effect on the health, wellbeing and the safety of people with dementia and their carers/families
- To gain an understanding of current and potential partnership working
- To gain an understanding of the causes and barriers to supporting people with Dementia
- Identify any specific groups that are not accessing services

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is busy monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Environmental Services Contract

Cabinet considered the interim findings of the Working Group and noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the right processes have taken place to date. The processes to date has been robust and carried out with due diligence. Cabinet also noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the procurement process has been robust.

The Committee will continue to monitor the Environmental Services Contract.

Culture and Tourism

The purpose of the Scrutiny panel was to investigate and promote Northampton's heritage and culture on a national and global platform. To increase visitor numbers to Northampton through its diverse heritage and cultural offering. To increase jobs and spending linked to tourism. To use the vehicle of tourism. To use the vehicle of tourism to provide learning about Northampton.

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Key Lines of Enquiry:

- To gain an understanding of the culture and heritage within the Borough of Northampton
- To gain an understanding of how Northampton's tourism, heritage and culture offer is marketed and to identify any gaps that can be developed
- To receive an overview of Northampton's heritage assets
- To review the extent to which a holistic image of Northampton as an attractive cultural, heritage and tourism place to visit.
- To understand the roles of both Northampton Borough Council and other partners in promoting the town of Northampton.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is busy monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Cemeteries

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review cemeteries in the Borough, concentrating on:

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around amenities and facilities within the Borough's cemeteries

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is busy monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Budget Scrutiny

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

- To review the budget proposal.
- To consider the Council's medium term financial plans.
- To recommend a short list to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for detailed consideration.
- To consider suggestions from the public and other Councillors for items to be included in the short list for scrutiny.

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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 ten Councillors from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in January 2019, undertook budget scrutiny of the following issues:

- HRA Housing Delivery Programme (HRA Capital)
- Restructure of Housing Options and Advice Team
- Central Museum Development
- Environmental Services Contract Review
- Reduction in shop income
-

Looking ahead

The Work Programme for 2019/2020 was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the spring 2019. One Scrutiny Panel and one Working Group will be set up and will scope the reviews:

- Food Poverty – Scrutiny Panel
- Gangs and knife Crime – Working Group

Details of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/2020 will be published on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#) as soon as it is finalised.

What are our Challenges for 2019/2020?

- 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.

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- To continue to ensure O&S works with the community and key partners to respond to concerns. We often do this by involving the community and key partners as witnesses or co-optees to our Scrutiny review process.
- 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.

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Contact details for more information

Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager, 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: -

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

Email: [Scrutiny](#)

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Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](mailto:Scrutiny@northampton.gov.uk)

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 837408.

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 2018/2019

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

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

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

LARGE PRINT AND TAPE

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