

# NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



## COUNCIL

Monday, 3 June 2019

**YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 3 JUNE 2019 AT 6:30 PM WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED**

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2. MINUTES.**

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> March and 16<sup>th</sup> May 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 Beardsworth to make a statement on "Tackling climate change, playing our part"

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

(Copy herewith)

## 10. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Hibbert to propose and Councillor King to second:

At the moment, most private renters are on short term contracts of six months or a year, and can be required to leave once that term has ended without the landlord having to give any other reason. These no-fault evictions, introduced under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act, significantly add to homelessness issues in England, leave tenants wary of asking for repairs, and means renters – including 1 in 4 families – never really know where home will be in a year's time.

This Council calls upon the Government to amend Section 21 and/or introduce minimum tenancies of 2 years to provide greater security for tenants.

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

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

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

The Council Requests a report to be submitted to the council in 12 months' time and updated in January 2021 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.

iii) Councillor Joyce to propose and Councillor Nunn to second:

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

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

- A ban on single-use plastics within school environments. Schools across Northampton produce a huge amount of plastic waste each week
- Northampton schools would benefit from educating their students on eco issues through school schemes, where programs could be set up in order to teach students how to stay green in lessons, such as Personal, Social, Health and Economic education or by holding educational assemblies with influential speakers.
- To help further reduce the damaging effects of plastic littering, the council should support and work closely with schemes operated by companies like TerraCycle who turn many unrecyclable plastics (such as crisp packets and wrappers) into outdoor furniture.

- To explore with Local businesses and partners options for an eco-rewards scheme that would allow individuals and groups to gain something back from recycling.
- Northampton Borough Council to commit to reducing carbon emissions, both as an organisation and as the local planning authority and resolve to go further than the UK100 Agreement. To act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net-zero carbon by 2030, thus use the planning process to encourage developers to consider low carbon developments.

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

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

iv) Councillor Roberts to propose and Councillor T Eales to second:

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

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

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

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

v) Councillor Eales to propose and Councillor Stone to second:

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

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

- 1) Full Council shall nominate Councillors from each political grouping to sit on the Northampton Forward board. The numbers should be; Conservative 3, Labour 2 and Lib Dem 1. These Councillors should play active roles as board members in considering the feedback from the public and shaping any final plan that is submitted for consideration, working in parity with the rest of the board. The nominees from each political group should be established within 48 hours after this meeting and provided to the Chief Executive, who can then advise Northampton Forward.
- 2) Full Council should formally vote on any final Town Centre plans that are to be part of any bid. This plan can be pre-agreed by the Northampton Forward board 'in principle' and then brought to Full Council for rubber-stamping.

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

- vi) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

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

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

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

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

- vii) Councillor B Markham to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second:

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme Budget

George Candler – Chief Executive  
The Guildhall  
Northampton

**Public Participation**

**1. Comments and Petitions**

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

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

**NOTES**

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

**2. Member and Public Questions**

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

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

### NOTES

*In respect of paragraph 2.1 above, questions may be rejected on certain grounds that are set out on page 4-12 of the Council's Constitution and which may be viewed at [www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download\\_info.php?fileID=1919](http://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](mailto:democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk)

Tel 01604 837722

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