

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at This meeting will be held remotely at <https://www.youtube.com/user/northamptonbcTV> on

Monday, 15 February 2021 commencing at 6:00pm

George Candler
Chief Executive

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

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor Jamie Lane
Deputy-Chair	Councillor Graham Walker
Committee Members	Councillor Tony Ansell Councillor Rufia Ashraf Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz) Councillor Janice Duffy Councillor Gareth Eales Councillor Penelope Flavell Councillor Andrew Kilbride Councillor Samuel Kilby-Shaw Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Nilesh Ramesh Parekh Councillor Emma Roberts Councillor Cathrine Russell Councillor Zoe Smith

Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1 6:00pm	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitution
2	Minutes	1 - 4	Members to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021.
3	Deputations/Public Addresses		<p>The Chair to note public address requests.</p> <p>The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance please complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Democratic and Member Services Manager of your intention to speak and you will be provided with the relevant access details for the meeting.</p>
4	Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
5 6:05pm	NPH and affordable housing	5 - 10	
6 6:25pm	Update on the Housing Acquisitions Scheme	11 - 12	The Committee to receive a briefing note providing an update on the Housing Acquisitions Scheme.
7 6:45pm	Cabinet responses to Overview and Scrutiny reports		<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the Cabinet response to Overview and Scrutiny Reports:</p> <p>Food Poverty Gangs and Knife Crime</p>
8 7:05pm	Performance Management Scrutiny	13 - 15	<p>The Committee to undertake performance management scrutiny:</p> <p>HML07 – Number of households prevented in becoming homeless ESCO1 – Missed bins collection</p>
9 7:25pm	Potential future pre decision scrutiny.		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any potential issues for future pre decision scrutiny.
10 7:40pm	Urgent Items		This issue is for business that by reasons of the special circumstances to be specified, the Chair is of the opinion is of sufficient urgency to

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

			consider. Members or Officers that wish to raise urgent items are to inform the Chair in advance.
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Agenda Item 2

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE Monday, 11 January 2021

Councillors Present: Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair); Councillor Graham Walker (Deputy Chair); Councillors Tony Ansell, Aziz, Gareth Eales, Penny Flavell, Andrew Kilbride, Sam Kilby-Shaw, Dennis Meredith, Emma Roberts, Cathrine Russell and Zoe Smith

Councillor Tim Hadland – Cabinet Member
Councillor Mike Hallam – Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Stephen Hibbert – Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing
Councillor Anna King, Chair, CSP and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement

Officers Kevin Langley, Director of Economic Development
Phil Harris, Director of Housing and Wellbeing
Vicki Rockall, Community Safety Manager
Chris Carvell, Environmental Services Manager
Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager
Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager
Ed Bostock, Democratic Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES

There were none.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2020 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

3 DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

5 UPDATE ON HOUSING ACQUISITION SCHEME

Phil Harris, Director of Housing and Wellbeing, presented the briefing note to the Committee, highlighting the salient points.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- In response to a query regarding HMO (Houses in multiple occupancy), the Committee heard that 15 units would be provided, they would each have ensuite facilities. These properties must be acquired in this financial year.
- In answer to a question relating to budgets going forward, Phil Harris confirmed that this will still be the Housing Revenue Account and NPH, as the ALMO, will continue as the ALMO going forward.
- The purchase of family homes will be part of the budget. One bedded properties are only available this year; family homes are included within the Housing Capital Programme.
- In response to a question, it was confirmed that should a Council property that had been purchased under the right to buy scheme, was to be sold within ten years, it must be offered to the Local Authority, for its value, as “first refusal” under “buy back arrangements.” In addition, Officers do see other properties advertised for sale, the properties do not have to be ex-Council properties but must be either freehold or leasehold by the Council.

The Chair requested that a further update is provided to the Committee at its February 2021 meeting.

Councillor Hibbert and Phil Harris were thanked for their informative address.

AGREED: That a further update is provided to the meeting on 15 February 2021.

6 CSP PERFORMANCE

Anna King, Chair of the CSP, presented the briefing note that detailed the community safety partnership priorities and the key points were highlighted to the Committee.

The Committee asked questions, made comment and heard:

- Multi-Agency meetings will re-commence shortly and be held remotely.
- In answer to a query relating to the enforcement of breaches to legislation in relation to Covid-19, the Committee heard that a lot of enforcement has taken place. For example between 24 December and 31 December 2020, 202 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued; 130 gatherings were intercepted. There was a lot of Police presence.
- Wardens have been making visits regarding untaxed vehicles
- In answer to a concern about anti-social behaviour and fly tipping, Councillor King confirmed that the Park Rangers are vigilant, and should Members see any fly tipping for this to be reported.

Councillor King and Vicki Rockall were thanked for their comprehensive updated

AGREED: That the update is noted.

7 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook performance management scrutiny of:

MPE02 – Number of new jobs created on NWEZ.

Councillor Hadland presented a briefing note detailing information regarding the above and highlighted the main points. From the briefing note, the Committee had no questions for the Cabinet Member.

CS14a – Percentage of OSS customers with an appointment seen on time

The Committee received an in-depth briefing note that provided information about the above.

The Committee asked questions, made comment and heard:

- It was confirmed that it is not advertised that the One Stop Shop is open, but Officers are working closely with partners and face to face appointments do take place. The Committee was pleased that the One Stop Shop is open.
- Due to lockdown, the Daphne Bus initiative is not taking place.

ESC04 – Percentage of household waste recycled

The Cabinet Member for Environment presented a comprehensive briefing note. The Committee asked questions, made comment and heard:

It was noted that expectations of 33% for chargeable garden waste had been surpassed.

PP53a – Percentage of service requests

The Committee noted a briefing note regarding the above and asked questions, made comment and heard:

- The parks are very busy currently and bins are getting full quickly
- It was noted that Covid19 is driving service requests and it is endeavoured that there is as least as possible impact on services as possible, for example services to black bin and recycling collection remains unchanged. It was acknowledged that there could have been improved communication regarding the changes to some services such as food waste and graffiti.

- The waste collection service was commended.

The Committee commented on the missed bins target and asked for a full report to the next meeting on this.

AGREED: That a briefing note on an overview of missed bins targets including lessons learnt is provided to the next meeting of this Committee.

8 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

It was reiterated that a report on ESC01 – missed bin collections would be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

It was further requested that a briefing note in respect of HML07 – number of households prevented in becoming homeless is presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

AGREED: That a briefing on ESC01 and a briefing note on HML07 is presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

9 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS

The Committee received a verbal update on Cabinet’s response to the following reports, noting that Cabinet’s response would be formally considered at its meeting on 20 January 2021:

Food Poverty

The Cabinet Member highlighted key points:

- DEFRA has provided a grant that will be administered by the Hope Centre, by a Multi-Agency Group.
- Councillors are assisting on community projects
- Free2Talk is leading on a project providing laptops for school children
- When the report has been received by Cabinet, a copy of the Overview and Scrutiny report will be provided to the MPs, highlighting specific recommendations

Knife Crime

The Cabinet Member highlighted the salient points:

- Work is taking place regarding the remote delivery of the Community Safety Conference
- Knife crime and gangs is a key priority for the Community Safety Partnership

AGREED: That a further response on Cabinet’s response to the two Overview and Scrutiny reports – Food Poverty and Gangs & Knife Crime is presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

10 MONITORING OF ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee received the action plan detailing progress against the accepted recommendations contained within the report- Culture and Tourism.

The Chair highlighted that some of the recommendations have been passed to Northampton Town Council and queried how these would be taken forward. Discussions would take place. A meeting is scheduled to discuss blue plaques and the green berets. The Committee commented:

- All the recommendations should also transfer to West Northamptonshire Council
- An updated action plan should be presented to the next meeting of this Committee

AGREED: That an updated version of the action plan – culture and tourism is presented to the next meeting of this Committee.

11 POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

There was none.

12 URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 19:30 hours.

AGENDA ITEM: 5

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

For: INFORMATION

Date: Monday 15 February 2021



Title: NPH AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING - HOUSING STOCK

Report of: Mike Kay, Chief Executive: NPH

Telephone / Email: 01604 837555 / mkay@nph.org.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Following the overview and scrutiny committee's work planning event held in April 2020, at the request of Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee this briefing note has been prepared as requested to brief the committee on details of the affordable housing within the borough.
- 1.2. The report provides predominantly details of the affordable housing stock owned by NBC and managed by NPH but also includes a short summary of numbers of housing stock owned and managed by other RSL's (Registered Social Landlords) across the borough
- 1.3. The data provided below is accurate as of 1st January 2021

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee are requested to note the contents of the report.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Affordable housing is provided by a number of Housing Associations across Northampton and whilst NBC is by far the largest housing provider there are several other Housing Associations who provide homes across the Northampton borough. All of these housing associations can access and house people from NBC's waiting list.

Housing Associations with housing stock across NBC are listed below:

- Grand Union - 41 homes (6 of those are shared ownership)
- East Midlands Group - 2006 homes
- Futures Group - 371 homes (incl.154 shared ownership)

- Greatwell Homes - 117 homes (incl. 27 shared ownership)
- Muir Group - 53 homes (incl. 30 supported housing units)
- Accent Group - 49 homes
- Longhurst Group - 207 homes
- Derwent Living - 40 homes
- NCHA - 674 homes (incl. 204 shared ownership)
- Paragon Asra Housing - 343 (incl. 53 shared ownership)

3.2 In the last year a total of 88 lets were made by these other Housing Association's from the waiting list.

3.3 NBC are also registered with Homes England as a social housing provider. As described by the National Housing Federation Housing Associations are "social landlords, providing a home for more than six million people in England. They are social landlords because they are independent, non-profit organisations driven by social purpose: reinvesting all their profit back into people, by building new homes and investing in communities. Their focus is on providing homes at prices people can afford". There are almost 1,500 housing associations across the country.

4.0 NBC OWNED AFFORDABLE HOUSING

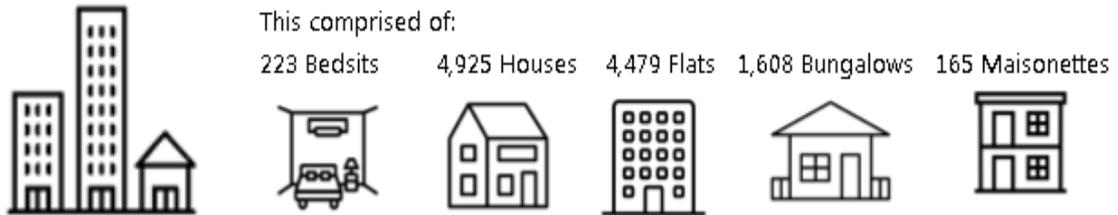
4.1 Members will be aware that "affordable Housing" has a broad definition and includes homes for social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership, leasehold properties and other properties such as caravans. In addition NPH also manage a small number of rooms within schemes through NBC on behalf of social services. For completeness NPH also manage a number of garages on behalf of NBC.

4.2 Numbers of properties fluctuate consistently due to a number of factors, the data provided herewith is as of the 1st January and NPH managed for NBC a total of 11,400. The breakdown between houses, flats, bedsits etc is depicted below:

	bedsits	1 bed	2 beds	3 beds	4 beds	5 beds	TOTAL
Bedsits	223	0	0	0	0	0	223
Bungalows	0	900	686	19	2	1	1,608
Flats	0	3,213	1,234	31	1	0	4,479
Houses	0	21	1,679	2,908	202	115	4,925
Maisonettes	0	6	58	97	4	0	165
TOTAL	223	4,140	3,657	3,055	209	116	11,400

4.3 As explained in 4.1 NPH manage a range of other properties, the full list is depicted below:

HOUSING STOCK **On 1st January 2021, there were 11,400 dwellings on the rent roll which NPH manage for NBC**



242 properties were let at affordable rent and the rest at social rent

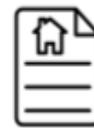
On that date, NPH also managed:

35 pitches at Ecton Lane Travellers' Site



18 rooms at Eleanor Lodge

25 'Empty Homes' owned by private landlords



977 leasehold properties

2,155 garages



5.0 HOUSING DEMAND

5.1 Members will be aware that the "waiting list" is NBC's Housing Register. As of January 2021 there were 2,557 applicants on the waiting list. This is considerable lower than previous reports which is down to NPH regularly purging and managing the list. Every applicant is required to provide supporting evidence for their application within 28 days, if they do not they are now removed from the list and have to re-apply. In addition anyone who has not "bid" for a property in 12-months is also removed from the list.

5.2 Accepted applicants to the waiting list are classified into bandings according to their need (Emergency, Urgent, Moderate, Reduced priority) and each applicant is assessed on need for a type/size of property using NBC's set criteria for households.

5.3 Current (as of the 1st January 2020) breakdown of numbers is as follows:

HOUSING REGISTER



On 1st January 2021, there were 2,557 applicants on the housing register

Bedroom need



1	832	33%
2	854	33%
3	302	12%
3+	110	5%
Awaiting assessment	459	18%

Banding



Emergency	462	18%
A Urgent	1,028	40%
B Moderate	842	33%
C Reduced Priority	225	9%

Applicants in statutory categories



Homeless	232	9%
Owed a duty by any local housing authority	46	2%
Overcrowded, insanitary or unsatisfactory housing	159	6%
Medical, welfare or disability grounds	546	21%

New applications

In the 9 months to January 1st on average **230** households were accepted onto the housing register every month



Armed forces

On January 1st 2021 **9** applicants were members of the UK Armed Forces community



	Emergency	Urgent Need	Moderate Need	Reduced Priority	TOTAL
1 Bed	129	266	350	87	832
2 Beds	188	338	286	42	854
3 Beds	83	124	76	19	302
4 Beds	30	36	17	9	92
5 Beds	7	6	4	1	18
Unknown	25	258	109	67	459
TOTAL	462	1,028	842	225	2,557

Data Source – Housing Register Applications Report 1st January 2021

6.0 LETTINGS

6.1 In the last 9 month period from 1st April to end of December 2020 NPH let on behalf of NBC a total of 518 properties. In addition 131 properties have been let over the last year as Temporary Accommodation (TA), although the number available varies on a weekly basis. A further total of 88 lets were made by other Housing Association's

6.2 A breakdown of the lettings made by NPH are detailed in the diagram below:

LETTINGS

In the 9 months to 1st January 2021, 518 properties were let



	0 bed	1 bed	2 beds	3 beds	4 beds	5 beds	TOTAL
Bedsits	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Bungalows (including Older Persons)	1	49	26	1	0	0	77
Flats (including Older Persons)	0	171	58	0	0	0	229
Houses	0	13	72	91	10	6	192
Maisonettes	0	6	1	2	1	0	10
TOTAL	11	239	157	94	11	6	518



149 properties were let to NBC



21 were let to applicants who had been living in other social housing



348 were let to applicants who were new to social housing

72 were let through mutual exchanges -

53 to tenants from Northampton and

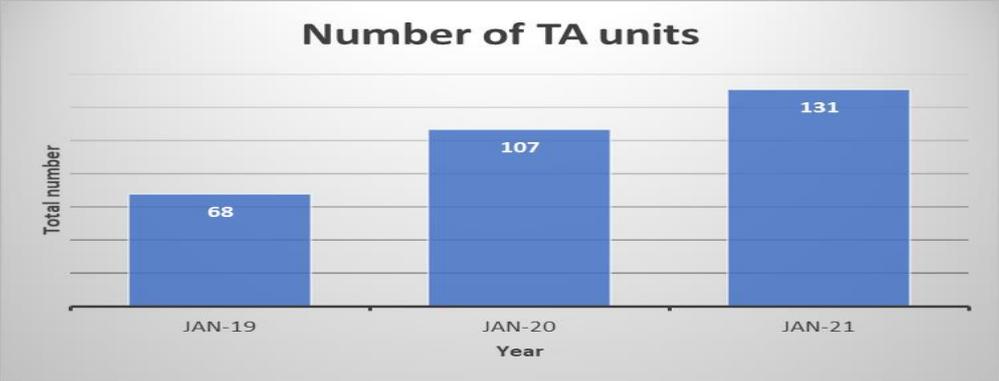
19 to people from elsewhere



In addition, **88** households were housed by other registered social landlords in the borough

- 6.3 NBC have the statutory responsibility for homelessness and these details are not included here. However in supporting NBC to discharge that duty a number of NBC's housing stock is used to house homeless households as temporary accommodation although on occasions these can become permanent lets. During 2020 we converted 13 such properties to permanent tenancies.

The table below confirms the number of properties used for TA over the last 3 financial years. The number of available properties for TA changes on a regular basis, as of the 14th January 2021 we had 112 properties let with a further 6 being prepared ready to be let which will bring the total to 118 at the end of January 2021.





OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report Title	Update on the Housing Acquisitions Scheme
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Meeting Date:	15 February 2021
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stephen Hibbert

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 In July and August 2020, an Overview & Scrutiny Working Group reviewed the way in which the Council has used the 'Buy Back' arrangements to reduce its use of temporary accommodation, and it undertook a pre-scrutiny review of the Council's decision to extend and expand the housing acquisitions scheme.
- 1.2 When Cabinet approved the extension and expansion of the housing acquisitions scheme at its meeting on 19 August 2020, it was agreed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be provided with regular updates on the progress of the scheme.
- 1.3 On 11 January 2021, the Committee received its first update. This is the second update.

2. Background

- 2.1 In order to increase its stock of affordable rented housing and reduce the use and cost of Temporary Accommodation (TA), the Council has been working closely with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) to purchase former council homes and then let them, as permanent homes, to homeless families living in the most expensive TA.
- 2.2 The rent charged for these permanent homes is an 'affordable rent' (up to 80% of the market rent) but 'capped' at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates.
- 2.3 During the housing acquisitions pilot scheme, the Council sought to simplify and accelerate the home buying process, including the rate at which properties can be acquired, repaired, refurbished and let. The financial viability of each acquisition was assessed on the basis of an investment appraisal that included a 'ceiling' on total costs, including the purchase price, legal costs and any repairs and maintenance required.

- 2.4 At its meeting on 19 August 2020, Cabinet approved the extension of the housing acquisitions scheme to acquire more homes, including one-bedroom homes to meet the needs of people who have been sleeping rough.
- 2.5 Cabinet also approved the expansion of the scheme to include any suitable homes (not just those that were previously owned by the Council) and acknowledged that the cost of ongoing maintenance can be reduced by acquiring blocks of similar homes.
- 2.6 Although it was agreed that the housing acquisitions scheme will continue to use a target operating model that is based on agreed formulae and ceilings on purchase and repair costs, Cabinet agreed that there may be occasions when the Council chooses to exceed those cost ceilings, in order to meet specialist requirements, where those acquisitions are forecast to remain affordable within the Housing Revenue Account.

3. Developing a pipeline of housing acquisitions

- 3.1 Following Cabinet approval of the extension and expansion of the housing acquisitions scheme, NPH undertook an appraisal of the local housing market to establish whether or not there was a sufficient supply of suitable family homes available, within the agreed cost ceilings, to support a second round of property purchases.
- 3.2 After reviewing the formulae and ceilings on the purchase and repair costs, the Council's Finance Team issued a new set of cost ceilings, for the second round of housing acquisitions, at the beginning of November 2020.
- 3.3 On 16 December 2020, Cabinet approved – subject to due diligence – the acquisition, through the Housing Revenue Account, of a block of 44 apartments which is currently under construction, by a private developer, at 85-89 Lion Court, Southbridge.
- 3.4 Construction of 85-89 Lion Court – which comprises 15 one-bedroom homes, 28 two-bedroom homes and 1 three-bedroom home – is due to be completed in March 2021. If the Council's purchase of the apartment block is completed in a timely manner, tenants could start moving in as early as May 2021.
- 3.5 Although it has taken a while to develop a pipeline of individual housing acquisitions, momentum is building and the situation, as at 2 February 2021, was as follows:
 - The Council has instructed solicitors to proceed with the purchase of 18 homes (12 one-bedroom, 4 two-bedroom and 2 three-bedroom) that it has surveyed, valued and agreed a purchase price with the vendor.
 - The Council is awaiting the outcome of the surveys and valuations it has commissioned in relation to 7 homes (4 one-bedroom, 1 two-bedroom, 1 three-bedroom and 1 four-bedroom) that it has expressed an interest in purchasing.

Phil Harris
Director of Housing and Wellbeing



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ACTION PLAN: SCRUTINY PANEL – Food Poverty – Recommendations in Progress

Response and Action Plan in response to the Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel

Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations

Report received by Cabinet	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
16 December 2020	11 January 2021	

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to:

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

This will deliver against our objective within the Corporate plan:

- Support vulnerable people to achieve their full potential

Update: 11th January 2021 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation	Lead Cabinet Member & lead responsible Officer	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a Working Group, owned by the Community and Engagement Team, is set up and tasked with analysing the gaps in foodbanks within Northampton and the Working Group works with Partners to seek solutions to increasing food provision within these areas. • That Officers are instructed to work with partners in generating more events such as summer festival where assistance in relation to food poverty can be highlighted. • That Food Poverty Champions, who can identify the partners, who have the motivation and drive to bring all together lead on the production of 	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety</p> <p>Victoria Rockall</p>	<p>West Northants Sustainable Food Place - working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voluntary sector: organisations like Northampton Hope Centre and Northants ACRE • Environmental groups like Transition Town and Circular economies network • Northampton's hire Public Health • Local councils which will form West Northants Unitary Council 	<p>January 21</p>	<p>January 21 update: Recommendations were approved 17 December 2020:</p> <p>West Northants Sustainable Food Place has been working in partnership to complete a food mapping provision within Northampton. This identified both the area's most in need and gaps within provision. They have released an updated food directory which can be found on https://www.nph.org.uk/sites/default/files/Food%20Alliance%20by%20DayTime.pdf</p> <p>This will also be available from Partners websites.</p> <p>West Northants Sustainable Food Place are working together to commit to action to improving the quality of food under six key headings. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action</u> • <u>Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement</u> • <u>Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food</u>
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<p>an Anti-Food Poverty Strategy, which must include all demographics, ensuring that it is an all-inclusive Policy is investigated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a Working Group, led by the Community and Engagement Team, is set up and tasked with identifying areas where holiday hunger is a concern and to seek solutions to increasing food provision for children 365 days a year. In addition, the outcomes that have come out following the Marcus Ashford Scheme within Northampton are continued and built upon to ensure food provision is developed for all children 365 days a year. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Northampton • Northampton General Hospital • Northampton Partnership Homes • Made in Northampton (local food producers) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy</u> • <u>Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local supply chains</u> • <u>Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.</u> <p>Further information is available of their website: https://goodfoodwnorthants.org/sustainablefoodstrategy.tml</p> <p>£750,000 from the Winter Grant Scheme has been allocated for schools, children who are eligible for free school meals, the funding will ensure food provision over the Christmas and February holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £350,000 has been spent on the winter grant scheme, £91,000 has been allocated to Northampton residents • 416 applications received • 380 supported • 22,455 residents helped across the County • 20,586 children helped across the county
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the promotion of food poverty is highlighted to allotment holders and shops regarding giving away excess produce as emergency food aid. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That with the move to the West Northamptonshire Authority, the way forward in relation to the production of an Anti-Food Poverty Strategy including the following adopted actions for local authorities as recommended by Sustain: <p>NB: The Scrutiny Panel updated some the actions recommended by Sustain so that they are</p>	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety	<p>Jo Barratt, Unitary Lead for Poverty.</p> <p>Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager</p> <p>Victoria Rockall, Community Engagement Manager</p>		<p>02 December 2019: Geraldine Mahney met with Brian Degrunchy, Unitary programme lead to discuss the Overview and Scrutiny Review objectives. The purpose of the report and he confirmed that this fitted within the Housing and Revenues and Benefit workstreams.</p> <p>January 2021 update:</p> <p>- Received confirmation that there have been some changes within the FN programme, and this now under the new authorities Community Strategies Workstream. Jo Barratt is the lead for West Northants and Vicki Rockall very much involved and will ensure food poverty and provision is included in any community strategy that is developed.</p>

<p>more Northampton based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a food action plan to tackle food poverty • Promoting breastfeeding via the Baby Friendly Initiative • Promoting the need for children's centres • Ensuring low-income families have adequate access to childcare • Investing and developing children's access to food 365 days a year • Becoming an accredited Living Wage employer and promoting the Living Wage 				<p>This work will support The West Northants Sustainable Food Place to achieve their objections.</p> <p>NPH and DWP are promoting Healthy Start vouchers through their Newsletters and communications due out April 2021.</p> <p>£750,000 from the Winter Grant Scheme has been allocated for schools, children who are eligible for free school meals, the funding will ensure food provision over the Christmas and February holidays.</p> <p>Over 2 million pounds available to support families in Northamptonshire through the Winter Grant Scheme, CENCAB, CLS, VIN, NPH and NBC all direct referrers to the scheme - which is being administered by NCC. Access to support in the form of a voucher for food and utilities.</p> <p>DEFRA grant - £300,000 also available for food banks and providers in West Northants. More than 50% of the funding has been allocated to organisations through 2 tranches of funding applicants. Another tranche available at the end of January/beginning of February.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring all residents have physical access to good food • Supporting and enhancing meals reasonably priced and the provision of meals to vulnerable people • Supporting financial advice services and providing crisis support 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Health Start Voucher Scheme is promoted. • That the Universal Credit app. Is widely promoted 	Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager	West Northants Sustainable Food Place - working group. Northampton Partnership Homes		January's update: West Northants Sustainable Food Place -working group are actively promoting this. Also currently promoting through DWP and NPH newsletters. NPH are adding an article to promote the Health Start Vouchers and their inhouse Financial Inclusion Officers role. The main responsibility is to work with people that are experiencing financial difficulty ensuring they access the right support and benefits. They work closely with the DWP work coaches maximising support and training. They

				frequently advertise benefits support within their Your Home magazine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it is recommended to Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) that it considers reviewing Tenancy Agreements to ensure that support is provided to older people to ensure that they are in receipt of the correct pension credits • That the Northampton Community Forums are asked that a presentation is given to each Forum, the Older People's Forum, that promotes the provision of pension credits and how this can be applied for. 	Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager	Cam Whyld, Head of Customer Engagement & Communications		<p>NPH have two dedicated Financial Inclusion Officers and their main responsibility is to work with people that are experiencing financial difficulty ensuring they access the right support and benefits. They work closely with the DWP work coaches and frequently advertise benefits support within their Your Home magazine.</p> <p>We are liaising with the DWP Partnership within our Welfare Reform meetings to organise.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a Grants Officer is engaged with the main role of investigating funding for crisis support and the Grants Officer works closely with all organisations in this respect. 	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety	Victoria Rockall, Community Engagement Manager		<p>January update:</p> <p>NBC have an Officer within our Community Engagement Team reviewing all funding. They are also part of the West Northants Sustainable Food Place. NBC, CA and CLS are referring agents of the Winter Grant Scheme; £350,000 has been spent on the winter grant scheme, 416 applications</p>

				<p>received, £91,000 has been allocated to Northampton residents, 22,455 residents helped across the County and 20,586 children helped across the county.</p> <p>Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but in particular this action.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That it is recommended to the West Northamptonshire Authority that West Northamptonshire becomes a living wage Authority and a sustainable food Authority. 	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety			<p>January update: Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but this action.</p> <p>Andrea Leadsom MP, Andrew Lewer MP, Stephen Alton MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the West Northamptonshire Authority is asked to lobby for national campaigns and challenge national Policy on food poverty. 	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety			<p>January update: Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but this action.</p> <p>Andrea Leadsom MP, Andrew Lewer MP, Stephen Alton MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That a copy of this report is provided to the MPs within West Northamptonshire and the MPs are asked to respond to the recommendations. 	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety</p>			<p>January update: Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but this action.</p> <p>Andrea Leadsom MP, Andrew Lewer MP, Stephen Alton MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP.</p>
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Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 February 2021

UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – GANGS AND KNIFE CRIME

Summary

Following approval of its work programme for 2019/2020, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in April 2019 commissioned the Scrutiny Working Group to undertake the review – Gangs and Knife Crime.

The purpose of the Scrutiny Working Group was to investigate how Northampton Borough Council (NBC) can play an active role in tackling knife crime and gangs in Northampton.

An in-depth review commenced in June 2019 and concluded in September 2020.

Ten recommendations that were suggested by the panel were put forward to Cabinet and agreed at their meeting in January 2021.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the implementation of the recommendations that were agreed.

Recommendation Updates:

Collaborative working

1. **That the current work and programmes undertaken by the Community Safety Team regarding knife crime is continuous and becomes more strategic.**

The Community Safety Strategy was refreshed in July 2020. Violent Crime and Serious Organised Crime are strategic priorities for the partnership. The action plan that has been developed to deliver the plan has a clear focus on knife crime, gangs and youth violence.

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Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

- 2. That the Community Safety Manager is charged with working with all relevant organisations and Agencies so that they collaborate and enhance joint bids for funding in respect of dealing with gangs and knife crime.**

Year 4, 2021-2022 funding for the Trusted Relationships programme, being delivered by Free2Talk has been granted by the Home Office. This will mean a further £220,000 to work in targeted wards within the Borough with young people who are on the periphery of getting involved with gangs.

Big Lottery bid for youth provision is currently being explored with a number of partners – reached stage 2 of the application process.

- 3. That Northampton Borough Council, works with other Agencies and Groups in the town to coordinate the youth provision/offer in the Borough.**

A Youth Provider Network has been established. More than 25 organisations that are delivering youth services/provision in the Town are on the circulation list. Terms of Reference have been established, to include the coordination of activity and to identify any gaps in service provision. The group meets every 6 weeks and have set up a WhatsApp group to keep in regular contact with each other as the youth offer in the Town continues to develop.

- 4. That Northampton Borough Council leads on Multi Agency Training, regarding issues relating to gangs and knife crime, to bring all multi Agency work together.**

Through the Trusted Relationships project, the lack of training and understanding of youth work has become apparent. The Youth Providers Network and the Community of Practice partnership meetings provide an opportunity to identify the gaps and need for partnership learning, development and training.

The following training has been delivered and is planned to be delivered through the project and has been and will be available for officers across the partnership.

Youth Providers event 29th June 2019 – workshop on ‘Keeping young people safe’ based on contextual safeguarding.

Youth Providers event 25th November 2019 – Young People Online.

Signs of safety training: 16th July 2020

Introduction to Systemic Supervision: Using Reflective Models to Supervise Youth & Community Workers: Friday 26th February 10am-12pm Led by Ricky Murphy Senior Lecturer and Psychotherapist

Proactive responses to tackling youth violence – Friday 5th March 1-3pm Led by Craig Pinkney, Researcher, Lecturer and Activist <https://craigpinkney.com/>

- 5. That a meeting with Community Safety Team, NBC, and Community Courtyard is convened regarding involving its work.**

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Meeting took place and Community Courtyard attending the Youth Providers Network and added to the WhatsApp group. Partnerships are developing amongst the youth providers in the Borough. Community Courtyard have also been supporting the Community Resilience Hub work, in providing support to those most vulnerable in our communities.

Facilities for Young People

- 6. That all potential funding streams are investigated so that youth clubs, and other facilities for young people are brought back into the town.**

Community Safety budget has been utilised to support additional youth provision in the Borough. As well as external funding pots. Including the recently established 'safe zone' in McDonalds in the Town Centre, part of our focus on contextual safeguarding, which looks at the influences on safety outside the home.

There has also been some specific engagement work, in Thorplands (due to being identified as a police priority area and recognising the need for a multi-agency approach to build community resilience). Including hand delivered letters to residents, engagement sessions and bike marking session, designed to improve confidence and increase reporting. Funding secured for joint basketball/youth worker project after recognizing through community engagement that there was a gap in youth provision.

- 7. Funding is the core as all activities cost money and it is ensured that the costs should not be passed onto the young people.**

There are activities that are available for young people to access at no cost. The Youth forum have started planning the 'youth app' in partnership with the communication and digital teams at Northampton Borough Council, the app will allow young people to see what youth provision there is in the Town, searchable by location.

- 8. That in recognising that the most difficult area appears to be liaising with families, when safe to do so, the Community Safety Team has a stand a family fun day; or a similar event is organised remotely.**

There will hopefully be several opportunities to engage with families, once the COVID restrictions are lifted. The Community Safety & Engagement Team will deliver their annual calendar of events, days and weeks of action in our priority neighbourhoods as soon as it is safe to do so and when the COVID regulations and restrictions allow.

Best Practice

- 9. That the Community Safety Team liaises with Officers at Merseyside regarding their best practice initiatives in dealing gangs and knife crime and aim to mirror such initiatives in Northampton.**

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Community Safety Manager has been in touch with the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership. Awaiting a response.

10. That all Councillors are provided with the link to the short film produced by young people, via Free2 Talk - Knives end Lives: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCnUZyfeL4> and encouraged to watch it.

Video circulated to all elected members – including a brief on the work that Free2Talk have delivered over the past 3 years and how members can get in touch, should they be aware of any young people that may be on the periphery of getting involved with gangs.

In addition to the recommendations, I have provided some further updates of planned activity and activity that has taken place in relation to gangs and knife crime within the last 12 months:

- Through the funding secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund, Free2Talk continue to deliver youth services in four of our priority neighbourhood areas, increasing the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. Delivering interventions and mentoring to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Development work of the augmented reality app for the Knife Angel started including filming interviews with key people involved in tackling violence and gang related issues.
- Promoted and supported Police knife amnesty events in Town Centre in December.
- Developing a virtual community safety package for schools, with partners, which includes raising the awareness of gangs and knife crime – to be rolled out in our primary schools.
- Continue to plan with partners a range of activity, focusing on anti-violence messages and activity to coincide with the arrival of the knife angel which has been put back to the Autumn 2021.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Team continue to support with tackling offenders, securing Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions and Cuckooing Injunctions against identified perpetrators.

Brief Author: Vicki Rockall, Community Safety & Engagement Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Engagement

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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report Title	Prevention of Homelessness
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Meeting Date:	15 February 2021
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stephen Hibbert

1. Introduction

- 1.1 After considering the Council’s Performance Report for Quarter 2 of 2020/21, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has requested more information about one Measure:
- **HML07** – Number of households that are prevented from becoming homeless
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with additional information about the number of households prevented from becoming homeless.

2. HML007 – Number of households that are prevented from becoming homeless

- 2.1 During the first six months of 2020/21, the number of households that approached the Homelessness Prevention Team for assistance (558) was 32% lower than the number of households (818) that approached the Team for assistance during the first six months of 2019/20. This was due, in the main, to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and the Government’s ban on evictions.
- 2.2 Despite the 32% reduction in the number of households seeking help, the number of households that the Homelessness Prevention Team prevented from becoming homeless during the first six months of 2020/21 was just 6% lower than the number that were prevented from becoming homeless during the first six months of 2019/20.
- 2.3 As they were dealing with fewer approaches, the Homelessness Prevention Team was able to concentrate on achieving positive outcomes and, during Quarter 2 of 2020/21, it prevented a total of 132 households from becoming homeless:

- Jul 2020: 44
- Aug 2020: 26
- Sept 2020: 62

- 2.4 During Quarter 2, the Homelessness Prevention Team was more successful at preventing private tenants from becoming homeless and helped a total of 21 tenants to secure suitable alternative private rented accommodation. This was achieved through negotiation with landlords and letting agents, and was assisted by the increase in the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates.
- 2.5 The Homelessness Prevention Team also persuaded applicants' families and friends to continue accommodating 10 households (as part of the 'Homeless at Home' scheme and in spite of the COVID-19 restrictions) in order to prevent them from losing their accommodation and having to move into temporary accommodation.

Phil Harris
Director of Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 February 2021 6pm, remote meeting over zoom

Briefing Note: Performance Management Report September 2020-21

Update on ESCO1 – missed bins collection

Background

1.1 At a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, an update was requested regarding the performance of **ESCO1 - missed bin collections**

2 Update –

ESCO1 – Missed bin collection

2.1 The amount of bins and boxes missed in period is showing an increase on last years' figures. In comparison to this time last year, figures recorded were 2,985 missed bins and boxes against 3,899 this year (in the 9 month period between April and December 2020).

2.2 It should be noted that there has been an increase in household waste and recycling presented during the period. This was expected due to more people working from and being at home and therefore more collections. There has also been disruption to collection rounds due to Covid related driver shortages.

2.3 To put these figures into perspective, Veolia undertake around 1.3 million collections per month and miss an average of 433.

2.4 Work continues to identify those rounds where there may be repetitive collection problems and, if this can be identified as down to crew, rather than resident's behaviour, investigations take place to isolate and correct any blockages to providing a flawless collection process.

2.5 Any reported missed containers are required to be rectified within 24 hours, the current performance for this is around 97% of missed collections being rectified within 24 hours.

Brief Author: Christopher Carvell, Environmental Services Contract Manager

2nd February 2021

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