

## **Question for Full Council Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

### **Question 1**

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Councillor Lee Mason

What currently is the number of voids in the housing stock and how does this compare with 12 months ago?

### **Response**

The number of voids at the end of September 2013 was 115. The overall trend in voids performance this year up to August was an increase in the number of properties let each month but September spiked with a reduction in lets and an increase in routine voids compared with the same time last year.

**Cllr Mary Markham**  
Cabinet Member for Housing

## **Question for Full Council Monday 28th October 2013**

### **Question 2**

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Councillor Danielle Stone

How many families are living in emergency accommodation and what is the shortest and the longest period of time they have to stay there? How many families are being accommodated by the borough outside of the Northampton?

### **Response**

There are currently 20 households in emergency accommodation (Bed and Breakfast). Two of these have been given offers and will be moving on very shortly. The occupant who has been in emergency accommodation for the shortest time has been there for five days. The households who have been in the longest have been there for seven weeks. There are four households being accommodated out of the borough in Wellingborough at the present time. We will bring them back to Northampton at the earliest opportunity if we are unable to resolve their situation before then.

**Cllr Mary Markham**  
Cabinet Member for Housing

## **Question for Full Council Monday 28th October 2013**

### **Question 3**

Question to Councillor David Mackintosh from Councillor Danielle Stone

What is this Local Authority going to do to support the Red Cross and food banks that are providing emergency help to the people of this town?

### **Response**

Responsibility for this lies with Northamptonshire County Council. Representative from our Revenues and Benefits team meet regularly with County Council colleagues to make sure that provision is aligned and that forecast changes are accounted for. We will continue to work closely with Northamptonshire County Council in support of food banks.

**Cllr David Mackintosh**

Leader of the Council

## **Question for Full Council Monday 28th October 2013**

### **Question 4**

Question to Councillor David Mackintosh from Councillor Mohammed Aziz

This Conservative administration has said it intends to introduce 'boris bikes' in Northampton. This is welcome. However, cyclists in London benefit from other measures such as cycle super highways, mirrors at junctions, advanced stop lines and other works to enhance the cycling experience especially for less experienced cyclist who would be attracted to a hire scheme. Will comparable measures be undertaken here?

### **Response**

We intend to implement the pilot Northampton Bike Hire scheme in March 2014 in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council. In terms of comparable measures with the London scheme, I am pleased to say that Northampton already benefits from many measures to enhance the cycling experience, with a network of cycleways, paths and routes. There are also advance stop lines at many signal controlled junctions. The Department of Transport in general does not permit the use of mirrors on the public highway, but if there are other beneficial measures to further improve the Bike Hire Scheme once it is implemented, and funding allows, I am sure that we and the Highway Authority would consider such measures

**Cllr David Mackintosh**  
Leader of the Council