



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

17 June 2017

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

Town Centre Operations

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

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

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

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have been placed for the lift refurbishment projects across the Council’s MSCP’s and orders for the replacement of the outdated pay machines and resurfacing at the Grosvenor will be raised shortly.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

Economic Growth and Regeneration

Future High Street Fund

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

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

Vulcan Works

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

Upton Country Park

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

Delapre Abbey

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

Four Waterside

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

Station Multi-storey Car Park

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

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

Heritage

Queen Eleanor Cross

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

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

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning