

# NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



## COUNCIL

Monday, 21 July 2008

**YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 21 JULY 2008 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED:-**

**1. MINUTES.**

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 26 June 2008 (adjourned to 30 June 2008). (Copy herewith)

**2. APOLOGIES.**

**3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS**

**5. QUESTION TIME**

Attached are the questions of which notice had been given and the responses given.

**6. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS**

(copy to herewith)

**7. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO DALLINGTON RAYNSFORD ALMSHOUSES CHARITY**

Report of Solicitor to the Council (copy herewith)

**8. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR CAPITAL FINANCE 2008-09 TO 2010-11**

Report of Director of Finance (copy herewith)

**9. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2007/08**

Report of Solicitor to the Council (copy herewith)

**10. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS**

The Leader of the Opposition to make a statement on recent work by the Council.

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

The Guildhall  
Northampton  
10 July 2008

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

**MINUTES**

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON THURSDAY 26 JUNE 2008 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

**PRESENT:** HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor B Markham (in the Chair).

**COUNCILLORS:** Beardsworth, Capstick, Caswell, Choudary, Church, Clarke, Collins, J. Conroy, R. Conroy, Crake, Davies, Edwards, Garlick, Glynane, Hadland, Hill, B. Hoare, M. Hoare, Hollis, Larratt, C. Lill, Malpas, I. Markham, Mason, Matthews, Meredith, Mildren, Palethorpe, Perkins, Reeve, Scott, Taylor, P. D. Varnserry, P. M. Varnserry, Wilson, Woods and Yates

The Mayor noted that several Councillors were not sitting in the seats allocated to them.

Two Councillors commented that they were unaware of which seats had been allocated to them. The Mayor stated that seats in the Council Chamber had been allocated, as usual, following discussions within and between the Groups and that all Councillors had been made aware of this.

Councillor Hadland withdrew the Conservative Group from the meeting in protest over this situation. The Conservative Group left the Chamber.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 18:43 hours.

The meeting resumed at 19:10 hours.

Councillor Woods commented that this would be the last meeting that Clive Thomas, Director of People Planning & Regeneration, would be attending before leaving and on behalf of the Council thanked him for his work for the Council and wished him well for the future.

The Mayor announced that as no immediate agreement could be reached in respect of the seating plan he was adjourning the meeting until Monday 30 June at 18:30 hours.

The meeting adjourned at 19.20 hours

**RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING**  
30 June 2008 at 6.30pm.

**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, Councillor B Markham (In the Chair)

Councillors I Choudary, Church, Clarke, Collins, J Conroy, R Conroy, Crake, Davies, De Cruz, Edwards, Garlick, Glynane, M Hoare, Hollis, Larratt, C Lill, Malpas, I Markham, Matthews, Meredith, Mildren, Palethorpe, Perkins, Reeve, Scott, Simpson, Taylor, P M Varnserry, P D Varnserry, Woods and Yates.

## **1. MINUTES.**

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 12 May 2008 and 22 May 2008 were signed by the Mayor.

## **2. APOLOGIES.**

Apologies were received from Councillors Beardsworth, Capstick, Caswell, S Chaudhury, Duncan, Flavell, Hadland, Hawkins, Hill, B Hoare, Lane, J Lill and Tavener.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## **4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

The Mayor commented that Councillor Tavener had recently been in hospital and on behalf of the Council expressed his best wishes to her and her family.

The Mayor commented that he had met a group of young African men undertaking a sponsored walk to raise awareness of the problems in Africa and who were trying to encourage young Africans to get involved in finding solutions to those issues.

The Mayor commented on the clear up of Abington Park undertaken on 28 June with the help of volunteers from the Church of the Latter Day Saints and the supervision and equipment provided by the Council.

Councillor Davies stated that at the meeting adjourned on 26 June Councillor Mason had been unable to take her allocated seat in the Council Chamber and the remainder of the Labour Group had supported her. Councillor Davies stated that there was no intention to give slight to the Mayor and apologised if his Group's actions had been interpreted as such.

Councillor Clarke stated that he was happy to sit in the seat allocated to him and was pleased that the seating plan would in future be a matter of agreement. He hoped that this would extend to all other issues that were open to all Councillors to be involved in.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS**

Mr C Swinn with reference to item 7 "Statement of Accounts 2007/08" commented that he was pleased that HRA Balances had been increased and that more money had been made available for the Decent Homes Standard. He commented that the previous week had been the third anniversary of the tenant's vote for the housing stock to be retained by the Council. He also commented that he was pleased that improvements had been made in Revenues and Benefits and Homelessness but commented improvements were still needed in Housing Maintenance. Mr Swinn expressed the hope that the Council would join the Joint Municipal Housing Association.

## 6. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Councillor Woods submitted a report and commented that this was a new document introduced this year as part of the Annual Governance Arrangements. It would be presented to the auditors as part of the Council accounts. The document was based on six core principles that had been identified by the independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services and set out in the report.

Councillor Perkins indicated that the Audit Committee had reserved their position to await the Auditors comments on the Statement.

Councillor Clarke noted that the cycle of Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings was out of sync with those of Cabinet and therefore provided a limited opportunity for Councillors to examine decisions made by Cabinet. In response Councillor Woods noted that Overview & Scrutiny could hold extra meetings if they so chose.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Governance Statement be adopted.

## 7. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

Councillor Mildren submitted a report commenting that it summarised the day to day expenditure and balances of the Council during the last financial year. The report had to be approved in draft form by 30 June and adopted by 30 September. He noted that neither Audit Committee or Cabinet had raised any issues.

Councillor Woods thanked the Director of Finance and her colleague for their work to compile the statement and noted that Cabinet had asked the Chief Executive to look at some housing schemes project management.

Councillor Palethorpe stated that he was pleased with the increased funding made available for meeting the Decent Homes Standard and expressed the hope that N-TACT would be involved in any decisions on what works were carried out.

Councillor Clarke highlighted a number of potential risks identified in the statement and Councillor Church observed that there were also a number of potential windfall gains that were also identified.

Councillor Perkins stated that the Audit Committee had considered the accounts in detail and had alerted Cabinet of some issues and were to investigate others itself.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the revised General Fund Balance be noted.
- (2) That the Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 be adopted.
- (3) That the Director of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance be authorised to make any non-material adjustments to the accounts prior to external audit.

## 8. LONG SERVICE AWARD - COUNCILLOR RICHARD CHURCH

The Mayor observed that at Annual Council a report on employees Long Service (25 and 35 years) was made however no such opportunity existed for Councillors. He commented that Councillor Church had served the Council and residents of Kingsthorpe continuously for 25 years and congratulated him upon that landmark

and presented a gift to him.

Councillor Church expressed his thanks to the Mayor and the Council and expressed the hope that this would be extended to other Councillors upon similar achievement. He stated that he found it rewarding to do something for the local community and that more young people should be encouraged to get involved in local government.

**9. 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 19.35

# Agenda Item 5

Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

Question to Cllr Church from Cllr Malpas

Can the Portfolio holder tell me

1. How many new bus passes has there been issued?
2. How many were issued to senior citizens?
3. How many were issued on the grounds of disability?
4. Using the answer from question 3, how much would it cost this authority if we were to allow those with a disability to travel at no cost 24hrs a day, 7 days a week?

**Answer:**

1. *Total applications for new national concessionary bus pass submitted to the suppliers, the majority of which will have been received by applicants*

*Total 24,133*

2. *To date, applications for Residents aged 60 and over*

*Total 22,686*

3. *To date, applications for Disabled residents*

*Total 1,447*

4. *The research required on the cost of unrestricted concessionary travel is subject to a decision by Overview and Scrutiny 1 on commissioning consultants to carry out the exercise. They have agreed to set up a task and finish group on Concessionary Fares*

**Councillor Richard Church**  
**Portfolio Holder - Regeneration**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Beardsworth from Cllr Palethorpe

On at least two occasions the portfolio holder for housing has informed the council that she has put in place a strategy for reducing the level of arrears and for collecting outstanding arrears from former tenants.

Will the portfolio holder also provide a written explanation of the following:

1. The accumulated total of arrears recovered from former tenants under the new scheme, and the number of tenants involved.
2. Has the high level of arrears been discussed with NTACT?

#### **Answer:**

*The total amount of arrears recovered since the new housing computer systems (IBS) went live in October 2007 is £1,322,181*

*The number of former tenants currently stands at 2,020 and we are actively chasing this debt.*

*In the last quarter, a significant reduction in current rent arrears was achieved representing a £220,000 increase in collection rates compared to the same period last year and this will clearly have a positive impact on the amount of former tenant arrears accumulating this year.*

*There are regular liaison meetings with NTACT representatives where performance information is shared and discussed including the current position relating to rent collection.*

**Councillor Sally Beardsworth  
Portfolio Holder - Housing**



## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Crake from Cllr Larratt

A few weeks ago the borough council was informed that the public bench on the junction of St. Edmunds Street, Alfred Street and Stockly Street was in need of repair. Many people walking to and from the hospital used the bench as a place to rest, but rather than repairing it, the council removed it.

Would the portfolio holder please inform me what plans they have to replace the bench, and inform me of a date by when a replacement will be installed?

### **Answer:**

*The bench had become dangerous due to age and had to be removed following complaints. An order for a replacement was issued straight away and is due to arrive and be in place early in August.*

**Councillor Trini Crake**  
**Portfolio Holder - Environment**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Glynane from Cllr Palethorpe

During the CEFAP funding allocation meeting held March 2008 the Deputy Leader responded to a question from the voluntary sector representatives on the panel that he was not aware of the reasoning behind the additional £10,000 grant to Northampton Rape and Incest Crisis Centre, and promised to respond to them in writing. Can the Deputy Leader of the council confirm that he has indeed written to the voluntary sector representatives, and will he undertake to provide a copy of his response to the CFAP committee members?

#### **Answer:**

*The Deputy Leader of the Council has not written to the voluntary sector representatives on CEFAP (Community Enabling Fund Advisory Panel) to provide information on grants to the Northampton Rape and Incest Crisis Centre. The minutes of the meeting do not record any undertaking to provide information on this matter.*

**Councillor Tony Woods**  
**Portfolio Holder – Partnerships & Improvement**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Crake from Cllr Flavell

There is an ongoing problem in St. Crispin ward of surplus trade refuse being left at the junction of Hood Street and Colwin Road by nearby food outlets. This has persisted despite numerous complaints to the council. I believe there are currently provisions in the budget for two Section 47 enforcement officers, but it would appear that no action has been taken to resolve this.

Can the portfolio holder please tell me what the council has already done to prevent this nuisance, and what additional action it intends to take to stop it once and for all?

#### **Answer:**

*I am aware of problems in this area. Officers have contacted local businesses and action under Section 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 will be taken if the problem persists.*

*Our enforcement activities are being reorganised to strengthen enforcement. The additional officers will be employed as part of this reorganisation.*

**Councillor Trini Crake**  
**Portfolio Holder - Environment**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Beardsworth from Cllr Flavell

Three years ago the borough council installed security gates in properties at Portland Place following complaints from residents who had found that the area was being littered with used needles and drug paraphernalia. I have recently received similar complaints from residents on the Bouverie Estate, one of which being serious enough to gain national media coverage. Despite this I have been told that an investigation conducted by the borough council found that there was no demand for security gates at this location.

Will the portfolio holder please provide details of this investigation and inform me as to which member, officer or committee made the decision?

### **Answer:**

*The budget for this work is limited given that our priority is to meet the Decent Homes Standard. Consequently, we will be spending the majority of available funding on improving our housing stock. However, there is an installation programme for security doors and gates and all requests are evaluated against set criteria before being included in the programme. All decisions relating to prioritising work programmes are made by officers working within the property maintenance section of Housing*

**Cllr Sally Beardsworth  
Portfolio Holder - Housing**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Glynane from Cllr Reeve

It is requested that the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Safety provide the Council with a detailed breakdown of the April 2006 – March 2007 and April 2007 – March 2008 crime figures (not percentage, actual reported crimes) in Northampton for the following categories:

- Violent crimes
- Thefts of & from motor vehicles
- Robberies (including those involving threats or violence)
- Burglaries

### **Answer:**

The figures for Northampton for each category of recorded crime are as follows -

#### *Violent crime:*

2006-7	5,078 crimes		
2007-8	5,367 crimes	289	5.69%

#### *Thefts of and from motor vehicles:*

2006-7	3,854 crimes		
2007-8	3,232 crimes	-622	-16.14%

#### *Robberies:*

2006-7	688 crimes		
2007-8	538 crimes	-150	-21.80%

#### *Burglaries (of dwellings)*

2006-7	1,897 crimes		
2007-8	1,933 crimes	36	1.90%

2006-7	11,517 crimes		
2007-8	11,070 crimes	-447	-3.88%

**Councillor Brian Hoare**  
**Portfolio Holder - Performance**

## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Beardsworth from Cllr Palethorpe

It is requested that the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Housing provide the following information:

1. A breakdown of the April 2008 homelessness figures including those in temporary accommodation, in Northampton Borough Council housing stock, private landlord stock, RSLs and B&B.
2. A breakdown of the homelessness and temporary accommodation data for the period April 2007 – March 2008.

#### **Answer:**

*These figures are being calculated manually between April 2007 – March 2008 as the information required pre dates the new housing computer system (IBS).*

#### **1. April 2008 homelessness figures are as follows:-**

<i>Applications</i>	42
<i>Accepted</i>	28
<i>Intentional</i>	9
<i>16/17 year olds</i>	3
<i>Parents no longer willing to accommodate</i>	2
<i>Friends no longer willing to accommodate</i>	3
<i>Partner Non Violent</i>	3
<i>Violence/Harassment</i>	6
<i>Loss/Termination of tenancy</i>	11

#### **2. At the end of April 2008 there were 58 households in temporary accommodation.**

- 22 in Registered Social Landlord stock*
- 20 in Private sector leased accommodation*
- 8 in Council housing stock*
- 8 in Bed and Breakfast (average length of stay 1 week)*

*The number of homeless preventions last year was 916*

#### **Homeless and temporary accommodation data for the period April 07/March 08**

Applications	428
Accepted	307
Intentional	37
16/17 year olds	153
Parents no longer willing to accommodate	58
Friends no longer willing to accommodate	44
Violence/Harassment	78
Loss/Termination of tenancy	126

There were a total of 463 households in Temporary accommodation during this period with an average of 80 in any one week and an average stay of 9 weeks.

It has not been possible to break down this information further as this predates the implementation of the IBS open housing system when such reports were unavailable.

**Councillor Sally Beardsworth**  
**Portfolio Holder - Housing**

**Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Question to Cllr Crake from Cllr Scott**

*How many cases of flytipping have been reported to Northampton Borough Council in the last six months?*

**Answer:**

*During the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008, Northampton Borough Council received 3,164 reported instances of fly tipping.*

**Councillor Trini Crake  
Portfolio Holder - Environment**



## Questions for Full Council Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

### Question to Cllr Church from Cllr Scott

Could the administration state whether planning permission was required for installing the arrow and spheres on the racecourse and if not why not?

#### **Answer:**

*If the work had been carried out by the Borough Council this would have been Permitted Development and so would not have required planning permission.*

*FoNR asked the Council if planning permission would be required for the artwork and notice boards (spheres) and were advised that it was not. A detailed consideration by planning and legal officers now concludes that technically, as the work was carried out by the Friends of Northampton Racecourse (FoNR) and not the Borough Council it may not be classified as permitted development under Part 12 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted) Development Order 1995 and therefore planning permission may have been required. However, the position is not entirely clear and Officers are conducting further investigations on the exact status of the art work..*

**Council**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Portfolio Holder Presentations**

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1. Report of the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Improvement (Page 1)
2. Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement & Safety (Page 3)
3. Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing (Page 6)
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**Council**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships & Improvement**

**Management Restructure**

Recruitment of a Director of Housing and a Director of Planning & Regeneration are well in hand with final interviews planned for 24 July 2008.

Recruitment of a Director of Environment & Culture will commence shortly. An internal candidate for the post of Director of Finance & Support was interviewed by the Appointments Panel on 30 June 2008. The Panel were delighted to recommend that Isabell Procter be appointed to that post from 1 October 2008.

Recruitment of Heads of Service for Planning, Human Resources and Landlord Services is progressing with final interviews planned for late July and early August so that relevant Directors can be involved in the selection of their teams.

An Assessment Centre was held during week commencing 23 June 2008 for managers 'at risk'. The Chief Executive will announce the results shortly. Recruitment to unfilled Head of Service posts will commence shortly with adverts being placed in early September for maximum effect.

**Partnerships**

The Northamptonshire Local Area Agreement (LAA2) has been submitted to Government Office on time. The Borough Council has been active in ensuring that this agreement delivers real benefits in Northampton.

The Public Service Board has been established and will be overseeing projects within the LAA2 and the completion of the Northamptonshire Sustainable Communities Strategy. This is being simplified and rewritten under the tag-line "the best place in England to grow". The input of NBC to this process has had a major impact on the final framing of the strategy and reflects the growing influence and commitment of NBC within this partnership. The revised strategy is due to be available for approval in September.

The orders establishing the Joint Strategic Planning Committee are expected to be approved later this month. There have been some delays in moving the Joint Core Strategy forward. The new committee should help resolve these however, NBC with the County Council, South Northants and Daventry District Councils have commissioned a short review of the Joint Planning Unit to ensure it has the capacity and resources to deliver.

## **Improvement**

Feedback received from a number of key individuals at the Local Government Association conference (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008) suggests that there is a general perception that Northampton Borough Council is now improving well. Establishing a clear reputation as an improving council is important in recruiting and retaining staff and so in building the capacity to accelerate the rate of improvement.

The Government Monitoring Board met on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008. They continue to be happy with the progress being made and extremely supportive of our plans for further improvement. The next GMB meeting will be in October.

## **WNDC**

Council has asked for regular feedback from my activities as a member of the WNDC Board.

The board approved in principle the use of a Standard Charge approach to increase the amount of S106 monies available for infrastructure development. The initial level is being set at £20,000 per dwelling (including affordable housing provision) – with existing S106 negotiations continuing for commercial developments. This is somewhat less than the amount calculated as required but was considered reasonable as a first step. Further discounts will be negotiated for brownfield sites to recognise the additional costs of mitigating problems with the land.

The board are discussing the implications of the ‘credit crunch’ and the current economic environment. Clearly, commercial house building has slumped recently. Registered Social Landlords may be the only people building houses in the near future.

**Cllr Tony Woods**  
**10 July 2008**

**Council**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement &  
Safety**

**Customer Services Operations**

Successful liaison and communication across teams/departments prior to the implementation of changes in bin rounds has reduced the impact on our customers. Additional resources were available in the Contact Centre to meet additional demand, with changes made to the messages on the telephone system and CRM scripts to support staff to give consistent information.

At the beginning of the change additional calls were received, this has now reduced. The Contact Centre experienced a small increase in the number of missed bin collection calls. Staff provided members of the public with full details of the changes in their area.

Front line staff in the One Stop Shop are working closely with Housing Services and receiving training on Choice Based Lettings. Customer Service staff remain committed to working with Housing to achieve successful implementation of this project.

There is a time limited project One Stop Shop transformational group reviewing the existing use of the One Stop Shop, customer feedback, stakeholder requirements for the future to forward plan how existing accommodation is used, review resource and capacity for service delivery.

**Support Services**

Print Services Unit and Post Room worked collaboratively with Waste Management to produce stickers for bins and advise customers of revised bin collection dates. 14,000 stickers and hangers were made available to place on wheelie bins. The Post Room sent out 14,000 letters.

Post room & Electoral Registration have jointly purchased a new inserter/enveloped, which will increase efficiency and assist in reducing external expenditure.

Print Services Unit were responsible for producing much of the work on display at the Venezia Exhibition. This has received both local and national recognition.

## **Call Care**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> May a full 3-year audit was conducted by Telecare Standards Association (TSA). Call Care passed this inspection and is accredited to the TSA Part 1 for calls handling. The inspector complimented staff on the quality of their pre-inspection submission. There were no improvement notices issued. Work is in progress to achieve Pt 2 of the accreditation in the autumn of this year. A presentation will take place in November 2008.

Following a financial review in August 2007, increased call monitoring charges from 0.38p/unit/week to 0.52p/unit/week became effective from April 1<sup>st</sup> with planned incremental increases during 2009/10 & 2010/11. There have been no increases for 10 years. The impact has been a loss of income of £1200 from the termination of a contract with one customer. No other negative feedback has been received.

## **Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**

### **Crime Figures:**

The first quarter of the year has seen a general drop in recorded crime, reflecting a very focused and intensive approach to offenders and 'hotspots' by the police and other partners, including this Council. This trend needs to continue if Northampton is to achieve the kind of results which similar partnership areas are recording. This Council is better co-ordinating the work of its various front-line services (eg maintenance, housing) to ensure that we make the most of opportunities to reduce and prevent crime and disorder.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour Policy:**

An updated policy was approved by Cabinet this month, confirming the flexible and proportionate approach that has brought considerable success in tackling ASB in the Borough. Early intervention with individuals and families is preventing problems from escalating.

### **Partnership Strategic Assessment:**

Last year saw the first 'partnership strategic assessment' for community safety in the county, in which all the key agencies took part in identifying problems and issues and then prioritising them. This work has now been incorporated into the local Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership's plans. The next partnership

strategic assessment is now underway, again with the full involvement of this Council's officers.

## **Culture and Leisure**

### **Venezia!**

The festival has proved a great success, attracting much positive publicity and achieving impressive numbers of participants for most events. I am particularly pleased at the good links we have made with the business community, showing their support for a strong cultural offer for Northampton, and at the diversity of activities and tastes which Venezia! has catered for. We will certainly be looking to build on this for future events on a similar pattern.

### **Balloon Festival:**

Arrangements for this year's Festival on 15-17 August are well advanced. A full programme of arena entertainment and continuous attractions has been confirmed, and most of the evening acts as well. Our headliner this year will be Rick Astley (remember 'Never Gonna Give You Up'?). The team is working hard to reduce unnecessary expenditure and raise income for the event, but festivals generally are suffering at the moment and last summer's rains have not helped. However, with a little support from the weather the 2008 Balloon Festival should be a fantastic event. Councillors are also looking at the longer term future of the event, working closely with other professionals locally with a view to proposals later this summer.

### **Cultural Investment Plan:**

Cultural Investment Plan: A major piece of work is underway to map the existing 'cultural infrastructure' of Northampton and West Northamptonshire, and identify the gaps and how they might be filled in the short, medium and long term. Commissioned by WNDC, paid for by the Arts Council and supported by NBC and NCC, the plan will help to argue the case for investment in culture through developer contributions. A number of well-attended events have helped to shape the work and ensure that different perspectives are represented.

Leisure Investment: limited capital investment in our leisure facilities is now underway, which will improve our customers' experience and satisfaction. Included in the programme is the replacement of worn out features in the leisure pool at Danes Camp, and much needed modernisation of changing facilities. As well as improving customer focus, this will help to safeguard income for the council.

**Cllr Brendan Glynane**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Council**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing**

The following is an update on key issues delivered or being progressed within the housing services portfolio.

**Performance**

Voids performance remains good, however there is likely to be a reduction in performance during July and August as Choice Based Lettings (CBL) is introduced. The year to date performance is 23 days. We recently held an awards ceremony to recognise the individual contributions of the voids, housing needs and tenancy services teams and this was well received by the staff involved. There is still room for improvement but we have improved considerably from the previous poor performance.

In Benefits, it is currently taking 18 days to pay new claims and 9 days to pay when people have a change of circumstances, such as an increase in income or rent increase. This level of performance has been maintained for some months now and this had made a real difference to people who rely on benefits to help them with their housing costs.

The Annual report to tenants has just been published. This highlights a number of achievements this year including:

- Signing up to the Respect standard for tackling anti social behaviour
- All tenants received a new, revised tenants handbook
- Direct Debits for rent payments introduced in April this year
- Over 200 tenants joined the sounding board and some have taken part in focus groups, mystery shopping etc.

The report also identifies where we need to make improvements.

**Partnership Working**

Changes to the management of Anti Social Behaviour

Housing management can now use the threat of 'Demoted tenancies' to deal with serious anti-social behaviour. Where appropriate, tenants will have certain rights withdrawn and may face eviction from their home if they do not change their behaviour. Housing is working very effectively with the Anti-social behaviour unit to address this issue.



## **Homeless Strategy**

We are currently reviewing our homeless strategy for the next five years in line with government requirements. The Homeless Forum, representing the majority of homeless agencies in the town, are very much involved in the consultation process and it is intended to share the draft strategy with members for their views before it is finalised.

## **Key Issues**

Choice Based Lettings will go live at the end of this month.

The economic downturn is having a significant effect on the housing market. Building of new housing has slowed down significantly and in some cases had stopped altogether. We need to work in partnership with local housing associations to access government funding to purchase some of the new housing which remains unsold, for use within the social housing sector. We also need to provide good quality advice for people who are struggling with their mortgage payments to help them remain in their own homes and prevent increasing numbers of homeless applications. This is a challenging time for housing nationally and we are aware of the need to respond positively herein Northampton.

On that note, recruitment processes are under way for the Director of Housing and Head of Landlord Services positions and appointments will be made shortly.

I attended the Chartered Institute of Housing national conference in Harrogate recently. In addition to the issues around the “credit crunch”, I was most interested in the proposed role for housing in addressing “worklessness” and how this will contribute positively to place shaping and community cohesion. I was also very pleased to listen to how we might attract the right talent to the council in the future, using the experiences of others to guide us. Perhaps most challenging of all is the question of how we deal with the issues related to an increasingly elderly population. By 2051, the numbers within the population over 65 will have risen from 9.3m in 2000 to 16.8m and this is already putting an increasing strain on a number of public services. In terms of housing, we need to ensure that there are suitable options available for all including the right to live independently in your own home.

**Cllr Sally Beardsworth  
July 2008**

**Council**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration**

**The ‘Chrysalis’ centre**

This is the working title for a new business start up centre providing workshop and retail opportunities for new creative businesses. 36 Guildhall Rd has been identified as the preferred site. This would enable us to bring a listed building on a key site back into use. East Midlands Development Agency has short-listed the £5 million project. We are now working on a detailed proposal.

**Town Centre retail strategy**

A report on a retail strategy for the town centre has set out the opportunities for retail in the town, and the risks of taking the wrong decisions. In particular, the danger of further out of town retail development acting as an unsustainable threat to the town centre. The report sets out the importance of the Grosvenor/Greyfriars development to attracting major new retailers to the town. It also highlights the need to encourage specialist retail outlets to key locations in the town. The report will inform the council’s work going forward, particularly the Town Centre Area Action Plan.

**Market Square and Abington St frontages**

The cabinet have approved a report commissioned to identify opportunities to improve the frontages of buildings in the Market Square and Abington St. Research was undertaken into the history of a number of important buildings. The report identifies measures to return original shop fronts and improve aspects of the exteriors. This will improve the contribution of these buildings to the street scene and heritage of the town centre. Working with owners and leaseholders, the Council will now be seeking external funding to take these proposals forward.

**Market Square**

Pleydell Smithyman are concluding the work on the Market Square, programme of events and business plan. A £900k funding application has been submitted to Northamptonshire Enterprise Limited to implement a programme of changes to the square. A paper is being drafted for the 4 August Cabinet.

## **Disposal of School Playing Fields - Parklands and Grange Rd**

Following the recommendation of Scrutiny One, I have written in response to the County Council's consultation on a further proposal to dispose of these two school playing fields for development. The County Council have given no evidence for the Secretary of State to change his previous decision not to dispose of these playing fields, and there is a significant shortage in playing pitches for junior football and rugby. There has been no response to this council's request for community access agreements to playing fields at PFI schools covering affordability, availability and access has not been actioned. I have therefore objected to the proposal and requested that the disposal of these sites for development be refused.

## **Developer Contribution Standard Charge**

The Cabinet has responded to WND's proposal for a standard charge (roof tax). This will apply to residential and commercial developments to fund the infrastructure needs of the growth agenda. In supporting the principle, we are seeking the council's full involvement in further developing the proposal. We are also asking that proper account is given to the needs of parks and green space infrastructure, as well as the costs of cemeteries, allotments and waste collection to support a growing population.

## **Former Blueberry Diner site**

The Council has advertised for a developer to work with us on providing a new high quality building close to the new entrance to the Derngate Centre. It will offer new facilities for those visiting the theatre and new opportunities for businesses in catering of in the creative sector. We look to appointing a developer by the end of the year.

## **Car Parks Strategy**

The Council has commissioned White Young Green to develop a car parking strategy. It will take account of the needs for town centre parking as the town grows, and how current car parks can be further improved. Colleagues from throughout the council are supporting this work, together with partners from the County Council and local businesses. The strategy should be complete by October 2008.

## **Sixfields**

The Council is seeking the authority of the Government Office for the East Midlands to change the Local Development Scheme. This will allow a

masterplan to be developed for Sixfields instead of an Area Action plan. With the co-operation of local stakeholders, proposals for regeneration at Sixfields could be completed more speedily, and could subsequently be incorporated within the LDF.

### **Concessionary Fares**

Approximately 24,000 cards have now been issued. Currently approximately 200 additional applications are being processed per week. The considerable problems associated with card production and distribution now appears to have been resolved. Overview and Scrutiny have been asked to assess the extent to which the statutory scheme should be amended to allow for variations in times that cardholders could use the bus services.

### **Establishing an Integrated Planning Service**

The recruitment process for the Director of Planning and Regeneration and Head of Planning has commenced, with the closing date following advertisement now passed. It is anticipated the roles will be filled by October at the earliest.

An internal appointment has been made to the Building Control Manager post. He was previously the team leader within the service.

**Cllr Richard Church**

**July 2008**

**Council**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment**

**Street Scene**

The train in Abington Park was installed on the 26<sup>th</sup> June to replace the one destroyed by vandals. The new train was generously donated by Child First Nursery of Moulton and is already proving very popular. The children have named the train “Runaway Rosie” as this was the most popular suggestion. Relocation costs associated with the move were met by generous contributions of £5000 from Councillor Maureen Hill and £1000 from local Café owner Tony Ansell.

Volunteers from Friends of the Latter Day Saints have re-painted all of the play equipment in Abington Park as well as cleaning out the stream that runs through the spinney.

An opportunity was taken at the recent Northampton Carnival to consult on the Becketts Park Master Plan. Around 150 people visited the stand and put forward their suggestions on the proposals.

All bedding plants have now been planted throughout the town resulting in numerous positive comments and feedback from residents of the borough.

The new service level agreement is now in operation with the ELVIS (End of Life Vehicle Impound Scheme) partnership. In May, this resulted in 100% of abandoned vehicles being removed from locations across the borough within 24 hours of report. This is the first time that this level of performance has been achieved and has a real impact on our customers and reduces further issues of anti social behaviour, such as arson.

We have just launched “Postcards from the parks” for the second year running in partnership with the Chronicle and Echo. This competition awards a prize for the best photograph taken in one of Northampton’s parks.

**Waste Management**

We recently collected our 100<sup>th</sup> tonne of glass from the trial kerbside collection area. Options are now being developed to identify how this service can be rolled out across the rest of the borough.

The changes in the refuse and recycling collection days to a number of properties across Northampton was implemented on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and has

proved to be very successful. Over ten thousand customers have now had a change in their collection day. Notification of changes was communicated by several different methods ranging from letter drops and stickers to door knocking of individual properties and displays at the Saints Show. The success of this has meant that the changes have generated minimal additional enquiries and missed collections although there have been stand by crews to deal with any such event.

### **Carbon Management Programme**

A new sustainable development officer, has been appointed to take forward the council's carbon management programme.

### **Crypto sporidiosis**

Staff in environmental health have worked closely with Anglian Water and colleagues at the Health Protection Agency following the recent issues regarding water. With staff from housing they have helped to get the message out and ensure that bottled water reaches the most vulnerable.

### **Disabled Facilities Grant**

A joint project with the county has commenced to review and improve the way disabled facility grants are awarded. An additional technical officer post has been advertised but there have been some difficulties recruiting to it. Further work is being undertaken to identify whether there are suitable skills in the authority that could be utilized in the short term.

**Cllr Trini Crake**

**July 2008**

**Council**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Performance**

**Performance Management**

Annual outturn report produced for all 2007/08 indicators. This will be made available to all Councillors in advance of the 21<sup>st</sup> July. A summary report is being assembled today (3/7/08) and this too will be available well before the 21<sup>st</sup>. The requirement for a Best Value Performance Plan has been removed this year, replaced by the minimum requirement to produce outturn data and a statement on contracts. This was completed successfully by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June, placed on the Council's website and downloaded to the Audit Commission electronic data capture system.

Work is progressing on an Annual Report highlighting the performance over the past year. This will provide a narrative of our performance against the Council's priorities over the past year and will be available by the end of the month of July.

Preparation for the new National Indicator set is well underway. Consistent with other Northampton councils, we will report against the new indicator set in October for the first time. We will continue using the majority of former Best Value Performance Indicators in order to track our progress and improvement.

Performance Plus implementation continues. Phase 1 was successfully completed on schedule – this relates to the implementation of the Regeneration Service onto the new system. An evaluation of Phase 1 is underway in order to identify the learning from that phase for application to subsequent phases. A report will be taken to Management Board setting out recommendations for further roll-out to other service areas once the evaluation is complete.

**ICT**

No significant issues to report in relation to ICT projects.

A local restructuring of the ICT department has been completed and a series of new posts recruited to. The aim of the changes is to strengthen 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line customer support – in particular the PC Support Team for the roll-out of the PC

replacement programme, and Helpdesk where we are extending the hours of operation to reflect increased operational hours in service areas.

## **Elections**

The service has recently successfully administered the Parish Poll for Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish. The poll did provide the opportunity to test out new polling station equipment designed to simplify the close of poll procedures.

## **Land Charges**

During May Land Charges responded to 608 search requests 78% of which were personal search requests.

## **Information Management**

Information Management have drawn up the scope for a review of the Council's Publication Scheme. The Council is required by regulation to review it's publication scheme in the current financial year. An internal audit of the way in which the Council deals with the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act requests it receives has been carried out and a draft report is awaited. The services are committed to the implementation of any recommendations made in the report.

During May Information Management dealt with:

Freedom of Information requests	21
Environmental Information Regulation requests	2
Data Protection Act requests	4
Section 29 requests	32

## **Legal Services**

The Legal team continue to work with colleagues on large and important projects including the Grosvenor and have successfully prosecuted on a range of matters.

In the last three months the following prosecutions have been initiated:

In conjunction with the Licensing Team - Flagging operations 14



Benefit Fraud	6
Litter Offences	11
Trespassers	2
Planning enforcement	1

### **Standards**

The Monitoring Officers reported to Standards Committee on 16th June on the Local Determination of Conduct Complaints, which is the new process by which complaints against councillors are considered by the Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer has created a Manual of the procedures to be followed under the new arrangement and will be arranging training for Members on the new arrangements and the procedures shortly.

**Cllr Brian Hoare**

**July 2008**

## **Council**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

### **Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

As members are aware, this Chamber signed off the Draft Statement of Accounts on 30<sup>th</sup> June, along with the Annual Governance Statement. This is in accordance with the timings as prescribed in the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Our external auditors, KPMG, have already commenced an initial review this week prior to commencing the audit in late July.

Following a successful recruitment round, recent appointments to the finance department include a replacement for the Divisional Account post, Accountant, Project Accountant and trainee positions. These will ensure that the progress made so far by the Finance Section will continue, with resilience and succession planning in mind.

An appointment was not made to the post of Risk and Business Continuity Manager, however an interim officer has been appointed for a period of at least three months and commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July. This will ensure that the Council does have a planned and managed approach to risk and business continuity.

The finance department therefore is now fully resourced.

Budget Monitoring for 2008/09 has commenced with the first reports being presented to Cabinet in July. At this early stage at period two (May), through robust monitoring processes, emerging pressures have been identified and work is now underway on actions to mitigate these.

I am pleased to confirm the completion of an Agreement to Lease of approximately 1.738 hectares of land at Lings wood (off Lings Way) to the Indian Hindu Welfare Organisation last week. The agreement provides the organisation with a site to construct an £12 million community complex to be known as Northampton Kutumbh which when complete will be available to all.

A report is to be taken to Cabinet on 14th July outlining the conclusions of the Delapre Options Appraisal Report commissioned by the Delapre Abbey Building

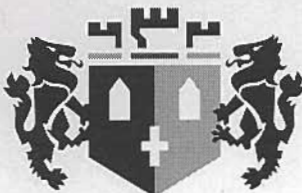
preservation Trust through consultants Purcell Miller Triton. Although further work is identified as being required it does outline a vision and way forward for the restoration and secure future for the Abbey.

The refurbishment works to the former council offices at Fish street are now complete. This has allowed for the relocation of the Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership which includes NCC, Police, PCT and NBC. Officers from the police and NBC are due to move to refurbished accommodation in next two weeks. Partners jointly funded the works.

The necessary public advertisements have been placed in connection with the proposed disposal of Archway Cottages in Abington Park, by way of a lease, in order to facilitate their refurbishment to a standard suitable to their listed status.

**Cllr Malcolm Mildren**

**July 2008**



NORTHAMPTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# COUNCIL

## 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Chief Executive**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Appointment of Trustee to Dallington Raynsford Almshouses Charity.</b>
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### 1. Summary

Pursuant to the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme for the Dallington Raynsford Almshouses Charity, Mrs Mary Christine Musson JP has been nominated to act as a Trustee of the Charity.

The Charity Commission Scheme stipulates that that the appointment of Trustees to this Charity must be made by Northampton Borough Council.

### 2. Recommendations

That Council appoint Mrs Mary Christine Musson JP as Trustee of the Dallington Raynsford Almshouses Charity.

### 3. Report Background

The Council were contacted in May 2008 by the National Association of Almshouses on behalf of the Dallington Raynsford Almshouses Charity (Charity No. 210394) to nominate Mrs Mary Christine Musson JP of Rose Cottage, 118 Dallington Road, Northampton NN5 7HN as a Trustee of the Dallington Raynsford Almshouses Charity. The Charity runs the Almshouses in Dallington.

The Charity Commission Scheme for the Dallington Raynsford Almshouses Charity dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 1927 (as varied on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1944) stipulates that Northampton Borough Council shall appoint three Trustees to the Charity. Following similar nominations in June 2007, the Council appointed two Trustees, Mrs Jane Humphreys and Mrs Marjorie Cook, at its Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007. If appointed by the Council, Mrs Musson would be the third Trustee of the Charity.

#### **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

##### **4.1 Resources and Risk**

None to the Council.

##### **4.2 Legal**

No legal implications for the Council arise from this Report.

##### **4.3 Other Implications**

There are no other implications for the Council that arise from this Report.

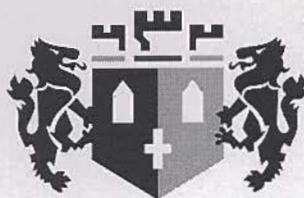
#### **5. Background Papers**

Letter from the Almshouse Association dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

Copy Charity Commission Schemes dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 1927 and 11<sup>th</sup> January 1944.

**Report Author and Title:** Tim Stedeford. Locum Solicitor.

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NORTHAMPTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COUNCIL

### 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Governance and Improvement

Report Title	PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR CAPITAL FINANCE 2008-09 to 2010-11
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#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires the Council to set a range of prudential indicators each year for the next financial year and the two following financial years. This must be done formally as part of the budget setting process each year. The Prudential Indicators for 2008-09 were approved by Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and by Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008
- 1.2 The Chief Financial Officer is required to report to Council to seek approval to revise any of the Prudential Indicators, or if there is a breach of any of the Prudential Indicators.
- 1.3 The Council has recently entered into investments over 364 days totalling £6m, exceeding the approved prudential indicator limit for 2008-09 of £5m. This has been done with the approval of the Section 151 Officer in order to take advantage of current market conditions, and without compromising the appropriate liquidity levels of cash flow resources.
- 1.4 On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008 Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council that they:
- Note a deviation from the prudential indicator for 2008-09 for the upper limit for principal sums invested for more than 364 days
  - Approve a revision to the prudential indicator for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for the upper limit for principal sums invested for more than 364 days

## 2. Recommendations

### 2.1 That Council:

- a) Note a deviation from the prudential indicator for 2008-09 for the upper limit for principal sums invested for more than 364 days
- b) Agree the following revised prudential indicators for the upper limit for principal sums invested for more than 364 days.

Upper limit on investments for periods longer than 364 days	
	Upper Limit £000
2008-09	6,000
2009-10	6,000
2010-11	6,000

### 3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) is a professional code of practice. Local authorities have a statutory requirement to comply with the Prudential Code when making capital investment decisions and carrying out their duties under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 (Capital Finance etc and Accounts).
- 3.1.2 The Prudential Code requires all local authorities to set prudential indicators for capital finance the forthcoming and the two following financial years. The prudential indicators must then be monitored, and revised, as appropriate, during the year.
- 3.1.3 The Prudential Code sets out a clear governance structure for the setting and revising of the prudential indicators. This must be done by the same body that takes decisions for the local authority's budget – i.e. by full Council.
- 3.1.4 The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for ensuring that matters required to be taken into account are reported to the decision making body for consideration, and for establishing procedures to monitor performance.
- 3.1.5 The Prudential Code requires the following matters to be taken into account when setting or revising the prudential indicators:
  - a) Affordability - e.g. implications for Council Tax and Council housing rents
  - b) Prudence & sustainability - e.g. implications for external borrowing
  - c) Value for money - e.g. option appraisal
  - d) Stewardship of assets - e.g. asset management planning

- e) Service objectives - e.g. strategic planning for the authority
- f) Practicality – achievability of the forward plan

3.1.6 There are thirteen prudential indicators, covering between them the areas of capital expenditure, affordability, prudence, external debt, and treasury management, as follows:

Capital expenditure

- a) Estimate of capital expenditure
- b) Estimate of Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Affordability

- c) Estimate of the ratio of financing to net revenue stream
- d) Estimate of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the Council Tax
- e) Estimate of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on average weekly housing rents

Prudence

- f) Net borrowing to Capital Financing Requirement

External Debt

- g) Authorised limit for external debt
- h) Operational boundary for external debt

Treasury Management

- i) Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure
- j) Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure
- k) Principal sums invested for more periods of more than 364 days
- l) Upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing
- m) Adoption of the CIPFA code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services

3.1.7 The Council's prudential indicators for 2008-09 were approved by Cabinet on 20th February 2008 and by Council on 28th February 2008

**Upper limit on principal sums invested for periods of more than 364 days**

3.1.8 The Chief Financial Officer is required to report to Council to seek approval to revise any of the prudential indicators, or to notify any breaches of the prudential indicators.



3.1.9 As a result of the economic slow down and market conditions, investment rates for periods over 364 days have been extremely favourable in recent weeks. The Council's treasury advisers, Sector, have advised that local authorities should undertake some 2-year investments in order to fix some returns at the present high rates. The market is very volatile and the current high rates are unlikely to be sustained. A proactive approach has been taken by officers to respond swiftly to these recommendations in order to maximise returns and to protect the interests of the Council against the effect of potential future rate reductions.

3.1.10 The Council has recently entered into investments over 364 days totalling £6m, exceeding the approved prudential indicator limit for 2008-09 of £5m. This has been done with the approval of the Section 151 Officer and without compromising the appropriate liquidity levels of cash flow resources. The details are set out in the following table

<b>Investments over 364 days</b>		
<b>Date Invested</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Amount invested £000</b>
04/06/08	2 years	2,000
13/06/08	2 years	2,000
16/06/08	2 years	2,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>

3.1.11 The Chief Financial Officer recommends that the prudential indicators for the upper limit for principal sums invested for periods of more than 364 days is revised from £5m to £6m for 2008-09 and the following two financial years as follows:

<b>Upper limit on investments for periods longer than 364 days</b>		
		<b>Upper Limit £000</b>
2008-09		6,000
2009-10		6,000
2010-11		6,000

3.1.12 Council are asked to agree the revision to the prudential indicator for the upper limit for principal sums invested for more than 364 days.

## 4. Implications (including financial implications)

### 4.1 Resources and Risk

- 4.1.1 The prudential indicators provide a framework in 2008-09 in which the Council conducts its treasury activities, consistent with good treasury risk management. They are monitored throughout the year and reported to Cabinet and Council on a regular basis.
- 4.1.2 The Code indicates that "in all cases, the process of setting prudential indicators for treasury management should be accompanied by a clear and integrated forward treasury management strategy, and a recognition of the pre-existing structure of the authority's borrowing and investment portfolios." The agreed prudential indicators and the proposed revision take account of the existing structure of borrowing and all reasonable restructuring activity that might occur.
- 4.1.3 Officers have considered whether there are any significant risks that could potentially prevent the Council from achieving its plans at the desired levels of affordability and prudence.

### 4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 Under the Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 the Council must set prudential limits and indicators as part of the overall budget setting process. The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, which regarded as mandatory guidance associated with the statute, requires the authority's Chief Finance officer to establish procedures for monitoring the Council's performance against prudential indicators for the forthcoming and following two financial years, to report significant deviations from expectations, and to take any proposed revisions to Council for approval.

### 4.3 Other Implications

#### 4.3.1 Policy

The prudential indicators for 2008-09 to 2010-11 set the policy for the coming year, and plans for future years.

#### 4.3.2 Equality

No equalities issues have been identified as a result of this report.

#### 4.3.3 Consultees (Internal and External)

The capital investment plans that drive much of the capital finance activity that underpins the prudential indicators are subject to consultation, as follows:

- The capital project appraisals and project variations for the schemes in the capital programme are put together by project managers, in consultation with officers and members.
- Consultation with stakeholders is undertaken as appropriate on individual capital schemes.

#### 4.3.4 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

Adherence to the Prudential Code is a statutory requirement and also represents best practice. It also contributes to improving the CPA Use of Resources score. This supports Council's Priority No 3: We will be a well-managed organisation that puts our customers at the heart of what we do

4.3.5 There are no other specific implications arising from this report.

### 5. Background Papers

#### 5.1 Legislative and Regulatory Framework

- CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services - Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes 2001
- Local Government Act 2003
- Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003
- ODPM Guidance on Local Government Investments 2004
- CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services - Guidance Notes for Local Authorities including Police Authorities and Fire Authorities (Fully Revised Second Edition 2006)
- The Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2008
- CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2003
- CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities – Fully Revised Guidance Notes for Practitioners 2007

#### 5.2 Cabinet & Council Reports

- Prudential Indicators for 2008-09 – Report to Cabinet 20 February 2008 and to Council 28 February 2008
- Capital Programme 2007-08 – Outturn Position – Report to Cabinet 26 June 2008

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**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# COUNCIL

## 21 JULY 2008

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Chief Executive**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Members' Allowances 2007/08</b>
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### 1. Summary

The report sets out a summary of Allowances that Councillors have received during 2007/08.

### 2. Recommendations

That the report be noted.

### 3. Report Background

3.1 The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require local authorities to publish the sums paid to individual Councillors in respect of Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowance, Dependants' Carers' Allowance, Travelling & Subsistence Allowance and Co-optees' Allowance. During 2007/08 no sums were paid in respect of Dependants' Carers' Allowance or Co-optees' Allowance.

3.2 Appendix A sets out the Allowances that Councillors have received. These are made up of a basic allowance, which all Councillors receive, a Special Responsibility Allowance (only one per Councillor), which some Councillors receive and which recognises Leadership of the party groups, chairmanships, Portfolio Holders, etc and Travel & Subsistence, which not all Councillors claim. The detailed Members Allowance Scheme forms part of the Council's Constitution and the accounts payable are determined annually. As the information has to be shown based on payments made in a financial year the appendix also shows these sums paid to former Councillors who were not re-elected in May 2007. Payments to the independent members of the Standards Committee are also included.

These allowances are taxable and in all cases any relevant Income Tax is deducted at source.

3.3 In addition there were the following payments made to three Councillors for their roles as Mayor and Deputy Mayor:

Colin Lill	£3,893.32	(Mayor – part year)
Brian Markham	£3,181.90	(Deputy Mayor)
Lee Mason	£20,102.98	(Mayor)

These payments are made to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (and are intended to include expenses incurred by the Mayoress and Deputy Mayoress) and are designed to cover the majority of the mayoral diary throughout their term of office. The allowances are therefore designed to cover clothing, donations to charities, collections, gifts for special occasions, expenses on foreign visits (if any) and personal hospitality.

The main civic hospitality functions (for example, the Civic Ball and Mayor Making) official Christmas cards and photographs and past Mayors' and Mayoress' badges are otherwise funded by the Council.

#### **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

##### 4.1 Resources and Risk

All payments were made within budget.

##### 4.2 Legal

None

##### 4.3 Other Implications

None

#### **5. Background Papers**

None.

**Report Author and Title:** F McGown – Meetings Services Team Leader

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### Allowances Paid to Councillors – 2007/2008

Surname	First Name	Basic Allowance	Special Responsibility	Travel and Subsistence
Beardsworth	Sally	6,000.00	3,333.30	
Capstick	Joy	5,403.23		
Caswell	John	6,000.00	397.85	
Chaudhury	Sadik	5,403.23		136.80
Choudray	Iftikhar	5,403.23		431.10
Church	Richard	6,000.00	3,333.30	
Clarke	Tony	5,403.23		
Collins	Scott	5,403.23		153.60
Conroy	Jenny	5,403.23		
Conroy	Roger	6,000.00		
Crake	Trini	6,000.00	3,333.30	665.82
Davies	Keith	5,403.23	1,666.70	389.60
De Cruz	Mel	5,403.23		
Duncan	Jane	6,000.00		
Edwards	Donald	6,000.00		
Flavell	Penny	6,000.00	397.85	106.80
Garlick	David	5,403.23		
Glynane	Brendan	6,000.00	3,631.69	
Hadland	Tim	6,000.00	2,661.32	46.30
Hawkins	Jean	5,403.23		
Hill	Michael	6,000.00		272.80
Hoare	Brian	6,000.00	3,333.30	601.85
Hoare	Michelle	6,000.00		
Hollis	Jane	6,000.00	250.00	425.70
Lane	Jamie	6,000.00	2,250.00	250.00
Larratt	Phil	6,000.00	397.85	
Lill	Colin	6,000.00		
Lill	Judith	6,000.00		
Malpas	Christopher	6,000.00	2,500.00	46.40
Markham	Brian	6,000.00	1,666.70	77.60
Markham	Irene	6,000.00		
Mason	Lee	6,000.00		113.40
Matthews	Richard	6,000.00		
Meredith	Dennis	5,403.23		278.40
Mildren	Malcolm	5,403.23	3,333.30	
Palethorpe	David	6,000.00	596.77 - 1,416.64	
Perkins	David	6,000.00	1,666.70	
Reeve	Kevin	5,403.23		59.50
Scott	Tess	5,403.23		264.43
Simpson	Andrew	6,000.00	2,500.00	
Tavener	Liz	6,000.00		3.65
Taylor	Marianne	6,000.00	2,500.00	
Varnserry	Pam	5,403.23		393.86
Varnserry	Paul	5,403.23		
Wilson	Portia	5,403.23		
Woods	Tony	6,000.00	8,198.90	1,466.43
Yates	John	6,000.00	198.93	

## Allowances 2007/2008

### Not Re-Elected May 2007

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Basic Allowance</b>	<b>Special Responsibility</b>	<b>Travel and Subsistence</b>
Acock	David	596.77		
Allen-Minney	Marion	596.77		
Barron	Lee	596.77	198.93	
Boss	Michael	596.77		102.65
Eldred	Brandon	596.77		
Evans	Peter	596.77		
Hope	Jill	596.77		
Marriott	Les	596.77		386.50
Massey	William	596.77		
McCutcheon	Arthur	596.77		
Miah	Mohammed	596.77	397.85	
Patterson	Les	596.77	198.93	
Pritchard	Margaret	596.77		
Roberts *	Margaret	333.34		
Romose Ø	Jorgen	249.99		
Roy	Anjona	596.77		
Stewart	Stephen	596.77		
Wire	Terry	596.77	298.39	

\* Independent Chair of Standards Committee

Ø Independent Deputy Chair of Standards Committee