YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2011 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED:-

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES.
   To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meetings of the Council held on 24 October and 7 November 2011.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
   (Questions and responses attached)

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS
   (copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS
   Councillor Beardsworth to make a statement concerning fuel poverty.

9. APPOINTMENT TO NORTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL CHURCH CHARITY
(copy herewith)

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Councillor Mason to propose and Councillor Marriott to second:

“This Council notes that Cllr T Hadland and Cllr A Woods put an amendment to a motion in November 2006 (motion by Cllr L Barron and Cllr L Marriott) supporting unitary status for Northampton but not on the current borough boundaries. The amendment also clearly opposed a unitary Northamptonshire. The motion and amendment was carried.

This Council reaffirms its long held commitment to achieving Unitary Status for Northampton on expanded borough boundaries and opposes any plans to create a Unitary Northamptonshire.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Leader of Northamptonshire County Council and Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government stating this motion has the support of NBC full Council.”

(ii) Councillor Eldred to propose and Councillor King to second:

“Council welcomes the news that as part of the Olympic Torch Relay the Olympic Flame will be coming to Northampton on 2nd July 2012 during its 70-day journey to the Olympic stadium in London.

The arrival of the Olympic Flame in Northampton is an exciting opportunity for the town to be involved in Olympic fever and feel part of this once in a lifetime event. Council will work with residents, community groups and its partners to use the excitement of the games and the arrival of the torch to promote the virtues of sport, education, friendship and fair play that are encompassed by the Olympic Games.

This council also encourages local schools, community groups and organisations to seize these opportunities and harness interest in the Olympics for the good of Northampton.”

(iii) Councillor Hadland to propose and Councillor Nunn to second:

“Council reaffirms its commitment to support local businesses, local jobs and the local economy in these difficult financial times. Northampton Borough Council has a civic responsibility to promote local enterprise wherever it can, and to work with partners to create and sustain good quality jobs and a healthy environment in which businesses can flourish.

Council notes the following positive developments since May 2011:

Northampton is one of 22 areas nationally to be awarded an Enterprise Zone, which will give our town a competitive edge in attracting and keeping new business investment, high quality education and skilled jobs through favourable planning regulations and concessions to business rates.

By introducing a scheme of one hour free parking and free Sunday town centre parking this
administration is supporting local businesses by giving shoppers an additional financial incentive to visit our town centre.

Funding has been secured to relocate and demolish the old bus station, which is the first, and long overdue step towards the regeneration of the Grosvenor Centre and town centre retail

The administration is working with market traders and the Town Centre BID to make improvements to the organisation of the Market Square that will help traders and businesses who depend on it to make a living

With local partners the Borough Council has put together one of the best Christmas packages of events and decorations for many years to attract Christmas shoppers, and keep them returning to our town throughout the year. In difficult financial times, Council welcomes the contribution of local businesses to make this happen.”

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

The Guildhall
Northampton
25 November 2011

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

Public Participation

1. Comments and Petitions

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

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

NOTES

i. Comments may be on one or more subjects but each person has no longer than three minutes to have their say.

ii. The same person may make a comment and present a petition on different subjects. In such instances that person will have three minutes to make their comment and a separate three minutes to present a petition.

2. Member and Public Questions

2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:

- be submitted in writing and delivered, faxed or e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
• include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.

2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

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

NOTES
In respect of paragraph 2.1 above, questions may be rejected on certain grounds that are set out on page 4-12 of the Council’s Constitution and which may be viewed at www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1919 or by seeking advice using the contact details below.

3. Motions

3.1 A member of the public may register to speak to a motion under the ‘Notices of Motion’ item on the agenda. Registration to speak must be made to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the day to the meeting. Speaking to a motion is restricted to three minutes per person.

(The ‘Notices of Motion’ item will not be taken at the Annual Council meeting or meetings called for civic or ceremonial purposes.)

4. General

A member of the public may make a comment, present a petition, ask a question or speak to a motion at the same meeting subject to the restrictions set out above.

5. Contacts

Democratic Services: e-mail democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk

Tel 01604 837722

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

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH
COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 24 October
2011 AT SIX THIRTY O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT:
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Lane (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS:
Aziz, Ansell, Beardsworth, Begum, Bottwood, Capstick, Caswell,
Choudary, Choudary, Conroy, Davies, Duncan, Eales, Eldred,
Ford, Glynane, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill,
King, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Marriott,
Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Palethrophe, Parekh,
Patel, Sargeant, Stone, Subbarayan, Wire DL and Yates

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hadland declared a Personal interest in item 14- Appointment of Trustee to
Sir Thomas White’s Northampton Charity and the Henry and Elizabeth Lineham Fund
as Chair of the Trustees.

Councillors Capstick and Hadland declared Personal interests in item 14- Minutes of
the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee as members of that
Joint Committee.

Councillors Aziz, N. Choudary, Davies, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, Lynch, Markham,
Mason, Meredith and Oldham declared Personal interests in item 16 (i)- Notices of
Motion as members of the Planning Committee.

Councillors Eales and Golby declared Personal interests in item 16 (i)- Notice of
Motion as members of the WDNC Northampton Planning Committee.

Councillor Gowen declared a Personal interest in item 16 (i)- Notice of Motion as a
season ticket holder of the Saints RFC.

Councillors Aziz, Begum and Stone declared Personal and Prejudicial interests in
item 16 (iii)- Notices of Motion as having close involvement with Supplementary
Schools and did not speak or vote thereon.

Councillor Conroy declared a Personal interest in item 16 (iii)- Notice of Motion in so
far as the school that he was a governor of was a host to supplementary school
classes.

Councillor Patel declared a Personal interest in item 16 (iii)- Notice of Motion in so far
as his granddaughter attended a supplementary school.
Councillor Mackintosh declared a Personal interest in item 16 (iii)- Notice of Motion as Cabinet Member for the subject area with Northamptonshire County Council.

2. MINUTES.

Subject to the addition of Councillor Conroy’s apologies and to the deletion of the words “County Council” and “team” in the second paragraph of page 2, the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12 September 2011 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Flavell and Strachan.

4. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor referred to the 150th Anniversary of the laying of the Guildhall Foundation Stone and to the exhibition in the Court Room the previous week, congratulating Ian Widdicks; noted that a permanent home was to be found for it and referred to the successful dinner the previous Saturday.

The Mayor reminded Council of his Gala Dinner to be held on 25 November 2011.

The Mayor reported that he would be entering the London Marathon in April 2012 to raise money for his charities.

The Mayor commented that the Council had won the East Midlands in Bloom Gold Award in the City Category and presented the Certificate and trophy to representatives of Enterprise.

The Mayor reported that the Council, Frank Haslam Milan and Orbit Housing had won the Best Sustainable Smaller Housing Project of the Year in the 2011 Sustainable Housing Awards for its development of new houses at Brookside Meadows in Kings Heath. He referred to the award that had been displayed, congratulated Gary Parsons, Strategy and Performance Manager who had lead the Council’s work on the project and presented the award to the Director of Housing.

The Mayor referred to the tragic events that had taken place at the Lava and Ignite nightclub the previous week and commented that as it was the subject of an ongoing Police investigation Councillors should refrain from making any comments about it.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Hoare referred to the Leader of the Council’s Portfolio Holder report and to the lack of reference to performance issues. This was a surprising lack of reporting to Councillors, the public and the media. He noted that an exceptions report had been submitted to the September meeting of Cabinet but nothing to the October meeting and observed that the November meeting had been cancelled. He commented that there was no mention of performance reports in the Forward Plan and nor had there been at the Audit Committee. He queried how the Council’s performance could be judged; there did not appear to be adequate opportunity for challenge.
Mr Baker commented that it was of concern that a large company could not introduce a food waste collection service until after Christmas. He believed that it smacked of incompetence. He queried what the costs of the delay were.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 11 questions had been received from members of the public and Councillors and that they and the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

In the absence of Mr Adams, Mr McNabb and Mrs Varnsverry it was noted that the responses to the questions they had submitted would be sent to them.

Councillor Aziz asked Councillor Hadland as the relevant Portfolio Holder whether a multi faith room could be included as a requirement in the design of the new Grosvenor Centre and noted the response as tabled. Councillor Aziz as a supplementary question asked if the public would be included in any discussions in the provision of such a facility. Councillor Hadland stated “yes”.

Councillor Wire DL asked Councillor Hadland as the relevant Portfolio Holder why a pledge in the Conservative Manifesto to establish an independently chaired body to review the governance and direction of the Market Square had not yet been actioned and noted the response as tabled.

Councillor Mason asked Councillor Hadland as the relevant Portfolio Holder to give a firm commitment to opposing moving Northampton Central Library from its current location and noted the response as tabled.

Councillor Mennell asked Councillor Malpas as the relevant Portfolio Holder if the Housing Department would consider using social media, particularly twitter, as a way of keeping in touch and informing its customers and noted the response as tabled.

Councillor Wire DL asked Councillor Malpas as the relevant Portfolio Holder how the Council addressed the issue of fuel poverty with its most vulnerable tenants and noted the response as tabled.

Councillor Mason asked Councillor Malpas as the relevant Portfolio Holder how opposition Councillors would be included in the various reviews and discussions affecting the Housing service and noted the response as tabled. As a supplementary question Councillor Mason asked whether the Councillor Training Programme would be used as a way of informing Councillors of changes. Councillor Malpas commented that the Director of Housing had this in hand.

Councillor N Choudary asked Councillor Palethorpe as the relevant Portfolio Holder if the Administration had ruled out applying for city status until at least May 2015 even if an opportunity to do so arose in the meantime and noted the response as tabled. As a supplementary question Councillor N Choudary asked the Leader was in favour of city status. Councillor Palethorpe commented that he was in favour of anything that
promoted Northampton’s position.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

At this point each of the Portfolio Holders made a presentation of their respective portfolios that had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Palethorpe submitted his Portfolio Holder report. Councillor Mason commented that the Leader had indicated at the last meeting of Council that Portfolio Holder reports would include more detail and asked when it would be happening. Councillor Palethorpe commented that the Portfolio Holder reports were intended to give headlines and that he generally favoured brevity. Councillor Beardsworth referred to the statement made by Mr Hoare earlier in the meeting and queried where performance information could be found. Councillor Palethorpe commented that performance information could be found on the internet and that he would ask the Council’s IT team to help her access it.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Portfolio Holder report and noted the opening of the Delapre Abbey water garden on 20 October 2011. Councillor Stone asked what improvements did his Portfolio Holder report allude to in the Drapery and also what were the improvements to car parks. Councillor Hadland reminded Council that the Portfolio Holder reports were meant to set out headlines. He commented that the improvements to the Grosvenor Car Park were clearly visible and that a free first hour had been introduced at the Mayorhold Car Park. In the Drapery new street furniture had been put in place and other improvements would follow.

Councillor Hill submitted his Portfolio Holder report and noted the two heritage events described that he would report on further at the next Council meeting. He also noted that Cabinet had agreed to the further transfer of three Community Centres out of Council control. Councillor Meredith in welcoming the Community Clean Ups expressed concern at the quantity of equipment that was being made available to volunteers and possible confusion about how rubbish could be picked up. Councillor Hill commented that he would check on the arrangements and write to Councillor Meredith a response. Councillor I Choudary asked how the Council would monitor the management of the Community Centres transferred out of Council control. Councillor Hill commented that the Council would receive regular reports. In answer to a question from Councillor Eales, Councillor Hill commented that he would write to all Councillors setting out what was needed to organise a Community Clean Up. Councillor Marriott in noting the new Councillor Connect e-newsletter queried what savings were expected to accrue by its introduction. Councillor Hill commented that he would write to Councillor Marriott with a response. Councillor Subbarayan asked what was going to be done with the Community Centres that had not transferred out of Council control. Councillor Hill commented that discussions were still taking place about them running themselves and that the Council was offering help through an advisor who could assist with the preparation of business cases. Councillor Beardsworth noted that CEFAB had recently met and commented that many in the voluntary sector and Councillors would like to know what was happening. Councillor Hill commented that the Liberal Democrats were represented on CEFAB and that the Volunteer Bureau had been briefed. Once a clearer idea of a budget was known then applications for bids would be invited in the usual way and CEFAB would meet to
decide allocation of the budget. Councillor Beards worth commented that she would have expected greater support of the Stamp Out Hate campaign. Councillor Hill commented that this was now part of the Leader’s Portfolio. Councillor Eales commented that he had met Deafconnect and had been impressed with their plans for the Dallington Spencer Centre and asked when the works would be completed to allow the transfer to take place. Councillor Hill commented that he would write to Councillor Eales with a response. In answer to a question from Councillor Glynnane, Councillor Hill commented that he would write to him setting out the details of the Town and County Art Exhibition.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Portfolio Holder report and noted that a great deal of work was going into budget preparation and also the successful Heritage Weekend. Councillor Beardsworth asked which Performance Indicators was giving the Portfolio Holder the most concern and what was he doing about them. Councillor Bottwood commented that at present none of the Performance Indicators were giving concern. He reminded Council that the information was available on the website. Councillor Meredith commented that the Portfolio Holder had previously referred to a review of the overall financial position that would be available on the website and queried when this would be available. Councillor Bottwood stated that he would write to Councillor Meredith with a response. Councillor Golby welcome the Portfolio Holder’s statement on the Leisure Trust and encourage Council to see what facilities were being provided.

Councillor Malpas submitted his Portfolio Holder report. Councillor Marriott commented that some tenants were concerned about the possible costs of “depooling”. Councillor Malpas commented that as soon as a report was ready it would be made available to Overview and Scrutiny. Councillor Glynnane commented that at the last meeting Councillor Malpas had stated that meetings of the Decent Homes Tenants Group had already commenced; when was it? Councillor Malpas commented that he would write to Councillor Glynnane. Councillor Glynnane commented that the meeting had taken place on 18 October! Councillor Beardsworth queried performance indicators on voids and welcomed the reinstatement of Housing Strategy meetings. Councillor Malpas commented that he would write to Councillor Beardsworth in respect of the voids performance indicators. Councillor Oldham commented that he was dealing with a case where a tenant was having difficulty in downsizing. Councillor Malpas stated that the tenancy regulations were being reviewed and that downsizing would be considered as part of this. Councillor Meredith queried what had happened in respect of the review of garages. Councillor Malpas commented that the review of garages had been an Overview and Scrutiny project and as a result garages at Eastfield had been re-roofed and new doors fitted. If they were popular with tenants then other garages would be repaired and brought back into use. Councillor Mennell asked how Tenant Auditors were chosen. Councillor Malpas commented that he would e-mail all Councillors with this information and place it on the website. In answer to a question from Councillor Beardsworth, Councillor Malpas commented that he would write to her in respect of the areas covered by the CESP.

Councillor Yates submitted his Portfolio Holder report. In answer to a question from Councillor Glynnane he commented that the Council’s response to the consultation on
the NPPF had been made on 17 October 2011 and that if the Borough Solicitor advised that it could be circulated to Councillors it would be. Councillor Glynane asked how many bus stops would be included in the new bus interchange and if ticketing facilities would be included. Councillor Yates commented that these questions could not yet be answered as architects had only just been asked to submit schemes for consideration. In answer to a further question from Councillor Glynane, Councillor Yates commented that subject to any legal parameters public consultation on any designs would be six weeks. Councillor Beardsworth referred to Mr Baker’s comments earlier in the meeting concerning the delay in the introduction of a food asked what costs had been incurred by it. Councillor Yates commented that he shared the disappointment over the delay but that he was unaware of any costs it had resulted in. The Administration had inherited the timetable set up by the previous Administration but had decided that it was not feasible to ensure a smooth introduction. Councillor Davies asked whether Enterprise would learn from the mistakes of the introduction of the new waste collection service. Councillor Yates commented that he believed that the new waste collection service had, in general, gone well. The Council was not the only one introducing a food waste collection service as the product was very saleable however there was a shortage of suitable collection vehicles nationally, hence the delay. The costs of delaying its introduction were unknown as the market place for food waste was only just being established and figures were not yet available. Councillor Davies asked what the Council’s role in carbon emissions reduction had been. Councillor Yates stated that from 2006 to 2009 the Council had reduced its carbon emissions by 30%. This had been achieved mainly by vacating Cliftonville House. Councillor Gowen asked if the Council had the capacity to take back planning powers from the WNDC in April 2012. Councillor Yates commented that he was looking forward to the return of planning powers the following April. Councillor Eales asked if the Portfolio Holder was considering an increase in enforcement resources for the inspection of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and what resources were available to carry out the consultation on a proposed age condition on vehicles. Councillor Yates commented that it was for the Licensing Committee to consider and that he had no plans to increase licensing enforcement resources. Councillor Yates noted that with reference made by Councillors at previous meetings in respect of pest control and rats in particular, of 30,000 enquiries to the Customer Contact Centre only 11 had been about problems with rats.

8. POSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Wire DL commented that he acknowledged that the Leader of the Council had inherited a difficult situation from the previous Liberal Democrat Administration that had lived beyond its means however it was important that the Council devoted as much of its resources as possible to front line services. He noted statements in the Conservative Party manifesto prior to the elections which noted the increase in senior staffing costs of 8% since 2008. He believed that this should be reviewed to free up resources. The majority of staff had experience a pay freeze for two years and some had lost money through Pay and Grading. Staff pensions were also under attack by the Government. In the last financial year 24 senior managers had seen their pay increase by a total of £130,000 plus pension contributions. In the current climate this was not acceptable. Resources needed to be redirected pest control, neighbourhood wardens etc. Councillor Wire asked the Leader to urgently review and redress the
Councillor Palethorpe stated that this had been an issue for many years and that a review would be carried out. Group Leaders had already received a document that showed a reduction in management costs of 20%. However, he cautioned that not all the savings could be transferred to frontline services. The Chief Executive was carrying out a review of what senior management was needed and capacity to carry out front line services. He was grateful for the support of the Opposition to deliver the Northampton everyone wished to see.

Councillor Wire DL, commented that he looked forward to seeing the results of the review and welcomed the protection of front line services.

9. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 JANUARY AND 25 JULY 2011

Councillor Palethorpe submitted the minutes of the meetings of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee held on 31 January and 25 July 2011 for noting. Councillor Hadland seconded the noting of the minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee held on 31 January and 25 July 2011 were noted.

10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2010/11

Councillor Bottwood submitted a report that set out performance in relation to the Council’s borrowing and investment strategy for 2010/11. Councillor Palethorpe seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: That the treasury management performance for 2010/11, as reported to Cabinet on 27 July 2011, be noted.

11. TREASURY STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2011/12 UPDATE

Councillor Bottwood submitted a report that set out amendments to the prudential indicators in respect of external debt and amendments to the Treasury Strategy and Treasury Management Practices consequent upon the deletion of some vacant posts. Councillor Palethorpe seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: 1. That the revised prudential indicators for external debt required under the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Fully revised second edition 2009) as set out at Appendix A of the report, be approved.

    2. That (a) The revised TMP Schedules for 2011-12 set out in Appendix B of the report and

    b) The revised Treasury Management Strategy for 2011-12 set out in Appendix C of the report, incorporating the Affordable Borrowing
Limit for 2011-12 as required by the Local Government Act 2003, be approved.

12. CHANGES TO AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
Councillor Hallam submitted a report that sought ratification to changes to the membership of the Audit Committee. Councillor Patel seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: 1. That Councillor Patel replace Councillor Duncan as the Chair of the Audit Committee and that Councillor Nunn become the Deputy Chair of the Audit Committee.

2. That Councillor Hibbert replace Councillor Duncan on the Audit Committee.

13. SEMLEP NORTHAMPTON WATERSIDE ENTERPRISE ZONE
Councillor Caswell submitted a report that sought the appointment of the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise, ex officio, to the Enterprise Zone Board. Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

RESOLVED: That the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise be appointed, ex officio, to the Enterprise Zone Board.

14. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO SIR THOMAS WHITE'S NORTHAMPTON CHARITY AND THE HENRY AND ELIZABETH LINEHAM FUND
Councillor Hill submitted a report seeking approval of the appointment of Janet March to the Sir Thomas White’s Northampton Charity and the Henry and Elizabeth Lineham Fund. Councillor Marriott seconded the report.

RESOLVED: That Janet March be appointed to the Sir Thomas White’s Northampton Charity and the Henry and Elizabeth Lineham Fund until the annual Council meeting in 2015.

15. APPOINTMENT TO ST THOMAS HOUSE
Councillor Hallam submitted a report seeking the approval to the appointment of Councillor Wire DL to the St Thomas House Charity. Councillor Marriott seconded the report.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Wire DL be appointed to St Thomas House.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION
(i) Councillor Beardsworth proposed and Cllr Glynane seconded:

“The council recognises the great disappointment of many Saints season ticket holders who will be faced with additional travelling costs to Milton Keynes at a time when many families are experiencing financial pressures on household budgets.
This Council is concerned at the potential loss of £1 million business revenue to Northampton’s economy as a result of the Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club decision to voluntarily move their home Heineken Cup fixture against Munster to Milton Keynes.

The council also recognises the great disappointment of many Saints season ticket holders who will be faced with additional travelling costs to Milton Keynes at a time when many families are experiencing financial pressures on household budgets.

Major fixtures, either in the Heineken Cup or against our East Midlands rivals Leicester Tigers will always create the potential for ticket sales higher than the current 11,500 capacity at Franklin Gardens but this can be solved by progressing the planned redevelopment of the Sturtridge Stand.

The Rugby Club announced their plans to expand capacity at Franklin Gardens to 17,500 in November 2009. The current Conservative Administration when in opposition claimed that they would solve the planning application problems if they were voted into office.

This council calls on the Board of Directors of the Saints and the Conservative Administration to deliver on their previous promises of expanding Franklin Gardens for the benefit of the Northampton economy and their loyal fans.

Council believes that unless a planning application for the redevelopment of the Sturtridge Pavilion is made before the end of this year then there is a real danger that the development will not take place during the 2012 closed season resulting in more Saints home fixtures moving to Milton Keynes during the 2012 /13 season.”

Councillor Wire DL proposed and Councillor Eales seconded an amendment as follows:

“That an additional paragraph be added to the end of the motion to read:

“This Council recognises that the Saints Rugby Club would have been much further along with their stadium development plans had it not been for the mishandling and incompetence of the previous Liberal Democrat administration. The current Liberal Democrat councillors who were all in the last administration should apologise to the Saints and the people of Northampton.”

Councillor Wire DL proposed that the amendment be modified by the deletion of the last two paragraphs of the motion. The amended motion to read:

“The council recognises the great disappointment of many Saints season ticket holders who will be faced with additional travelling costs to Milton Keynes at a time when many families are experiencing financial pressures on household budgets.

This Council is concerned at the potential loss of £1 million business revenue to Northampton’s economy as a result of the Northampton Saints Rugby Football Club decision to voluntarily move their home Heineken Cup fixture against Munster to Milton Keynes.”
Milton Keynes.

The council also recognises the great disappointment of many Saints season ticket holders who will be faced with additional travelling costs to Milton Keynes at a time when many families are experiencing financial pressures on household budgets.

Major fixtures, either in the Heineken Cup or against our East Midlands rivals Leicester Tigers will always create the potential for ticket sales higher than the current 11,500 capacity at Franklin Gardens but this can be solved by progressing the planned redevelopment of the Sturtridge Stand.

The Rugby Club announced their plans to expand capacity at Franklin Gardens to 17,500 in November 2009. The current Conservative Administration when in opposition claimed that they would solve the planning application problems if they were voted into office.

This Council recognises that the Saints Rugby Club would have been much further along with their stadium development plans had it not been for the mishandling and incompetence of the previous Liberal Democrat administration. The current Liberal Democrat councillors who were all in the last administration should apologise to the Saints and the people of Northampton.”

Upon the proposal being put by the Mayor, Council agreed to the modification of the amendment.

Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote the amendment was carried.

Council debated the amended motion.

Upon a vote the amended motion was carried.

(ii) Councillor Palethorpe proposed and Councillor Marriott seconded:

“Council will be aware that all members are required by Law to adopt a Model Code of Conduct based on regulations under the Local Government Act 2000.

In summary the code as it currently applies to members of Northampton Borough Council is to apply certain standards to Member involvement and behaviours. The obligations are designed to ensure that Councillors serve the public interest rather than their own.

The current situation is that the Council complies fully with the statutory obligations through a statutory Standards Committee which hears and determines complaints of any breach of the Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee has statutory powers to sanction members which include suspension for up to six months.
The committee also has the power to refer certain matters to the Standards Board for England. This national body has more extensive powers which can result in members being disqualified for up to five years.

The Localism Bill proposes the abolition of the Standards Regime, including:

- Abolition of the National Standards Board for England
- Abolition of the requirement for Councils to have a Standards Committee
- Abolition of formal sanctions available to the Standards Committee.

In order to retain public confidence in the role and duties of elected Councillors, Council resolves, subject to the detailed requirements of the Localism Act to:

- Fully commit to maintaining high standards of conduct by members
- Formally adopt a Model Code of Conduct based on the current code or one based on one specified by the Localism Act
- To continue with a Standards Committee, with independent representation, as currently
- All members, including Co-optees will be expected to sign and comply with the Model Code of Conduct.
- The Council’s Monitoring Officer will have an obligation to establish and maintain a register of interests, specified by the Localism Act
- That the Leaders of the Political Groups are charged with supporting a strong ethical culture with the responsibility for ensuring that the Model Code of Conduct is implemented and applied."

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

(iii) Councillors Aziz, Begum and Stone left the meeting in accordance with their declarations of interest set out above.

Councillor Mason proposed and Councillor Gowen seconded:

“That this Council recognises the value of supplementary schools in Northampton. The schools add value to the life in our Town by ensuring the children who attend are good citizens, focussed on achievement, know how to share and collaborate with all communities, and as they grow up can offer a range of languages in the workforce. They represent good value for money through the voluntary efforts of their respective communities. They play an important role in community cohesion.

By passing this motion Council acknowledges the value they add to the wellbeing of our communities. Applauds the Association of Northampt onshire Supplementary Schools in its efforts to develop a strong strategy for sustainability for the schools.”

Councillor Mackintosh noted that in his role as a Cabinet Member of
Northamptonshire County Council he had already met with the Association of Supplementary Schools and would continue to do so to find solutions to the withdrawal of funding from April 2012.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

17. 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 20.20 hours.
Council Minutes - Monday, 7 November 2011

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2011 AT SIX THIRTY O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Lane (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Aziz, Ansell, Beardsworth, Begum, Bottwood, Capstick, Caswell, N Choudary, Conroy, Davies, Duncan, Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Ford, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, King, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Markham, Marriott, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Palethorpe, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Stone, Strachan, Subbarayan, Wire DL and Yates

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors I Choudary, Glynane and Malpas.

2. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Councillor Hadland announced that Councillor Mackintosh was now Leader of the Conservative Group and that Councillor Caswell was now Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

The announcement was noted.

3. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Hill proposed and Councillor King seconded “That Councillor Mackintosh be elected Leader of the Council to hold office until the day of the post-election Annual Council Meeting which follows Councillor Mackintosh’s election today, unless before this date; he resigns from office; he is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); he is no longer a Councillor; or he is removed from office by resolution of the Council.”

Councillor Palethorpe commented that the past week had been difficult for him in the aftermath of what had seemed an innocent question at the last Council meeting concerning city status. He stood by his views. He had been proud to lead the Conservative Group to its first election victory in 24 years and he expected the new Administration to build upon the foundations he had laid. He stood by the Conservative’s manifesto pledges and the delivery of them. Councillor Palethorpe commented that he looked forward to further progress being made with the Town’s sporting clubs and believed that the Administration would take advantage of any opportunities that arose to further the Town’s interests. He would give the new Administration the same level of loyalty, dedication and support as they had given him as Conservative Group Leader and Council Leader; and looked forward to the challenges that faced everyone.
Councillor Mason extended her congratulations to Councillor Mackintosh and commented that she was mystified as to why the Conservative Group were so set against city status. She hoped that they could put their differences behind them especially in the light of the cuts in County Council services.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that the events of the past week had been a complete surprise: Councillor Palethorpe was a honourable person. She congratulated Councillor Mackintosh and hoped that the Leadership meetings would continue and that the new Administration would build upon the success of the previous one.

Councillor Hill commented that the Council had bid for city status some years previously however it was an expensive process, wasteful of officer time and did not lead to any real benefit; there was a certain cachet to being the largest town in the country. The Conservative Group was united.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mackintosh be elected Leader of the Council to hold office until the day of the post-election Annual Council Meeting which follows Councillor Mackintosh’s election today, unless before this date; he resigns from office; he is suspended from being a Councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); he is no longer a Councillor; or he is removed from office by resolution of the Council.

4. DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET

Council noted the Leader of the Council’s appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet, Portfolio responsibilities, Assistant Cabinet Members and Advisors to the Leader as tabled and as follows:

Councillor Caswell- Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Environment
Councillor Bottwood- Portfolio Holder for Finance
Councillor Eldred- Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement
Councillor Hadland- Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Enterprise
Councillor Markham- Portfolio Holder for Housing.

Assistant Cabinet members:
Councillor Golby- Environment
Councillor Nunn- Regeneration and Enterprise
Councillor King- Community Engagement
Councillor Hibbert- Housing

Special Advisor posts to the Leader:
Councillor Larratt- Shared Services and
Councillor Hill- Civic Affairs

[The Assistant Cabinet posts and the special advisor posts would not attract a Special Responsibility Allowance payment.]
5. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report that had been tabled and sought approval to amendments to the appointments to Committees for 2011/12. Councillor Caswell seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED: That the amended appointments to Committees for 2011/12 be as set out in the report.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report setting out amendments to the appointments to Outside Bodies for 2011-2015 and noted the amended appendix that had been tabled and the further amendments so that Councillor King replaced Councillor Patel on the Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council and Councillors Markham and Hibbert replaced Councillors Malpas and Yates on the Countywide Travellers Unit. Councillor Caswell seconded adoption of the report as amended.

In response to a query from Councillor Wire, Councillor Mackintosh stated that he was happy for Councillor Mason to remain as the Council’s representative on the East Midlands Museum’s Service and that the Council’s representation of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee would remain as tabled.

RESOLVED: That the amended Appointments to Outside Bodies be as set out in the report and as tabled and as further amended at the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 18.48 hours.
Agenda Item 6
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 1

Question to Councillor David Mackintosh from Mr T McNabb

In your new position as leader, could you please give assurance that your group will endeavour to give a full response to questions and that we will NOT be subjected to a disgraceful repeat of 7 December 2009 at which portfolio holders declined to answer on seventeen occasions?

Response

This Administration firmly believes in transparency and accountability to the public. I can confirm that this Administration will always endeavour to respond to questions in full, and agree that failure to answer questions as mentioned above would be totally unacceptable. From time to time, some questions may need to be answered in writing after the meeting, but I also agree this should be a full and timely response.

David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 2

**Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Mr N Adams**

Will you confirm that you intend to uphold your Manifesto pledge on Sheltered Housing?

We recognise and value the special nature of Sheltered Housing Northampton, and the need to protect vulnerable adults from uncertainty about the future of their homes. Because of this, Sheltered Housing stock would be retained under the control of Northampton Borough Council.

**Response**

You will be aware that the sheltered housing service is currently being independently reviewed. Once we have received the final report, it will be clear on the range of options that are available to us. A further period of consultation will then follow and the recommendations for the future of the service will be brought back to Cabinet for a decision on the way forward. Support for our vulnerable tenants remains an important priority for this council both now and in the future.

I stand by our commitment to recognise and value the special nature of Sheltered Housing and will look at the new Housing Strategy document and subsequent Government guidance in relation to Sheltered Housing.

Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing
Question for Full Council Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} December, 2011

Question 3

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Mr T McNabb

Is the new portfolio holder conversant with the Margot James M.P. {CON} debate on Sheltered Housing in Whitehall on November 2010, Which began with residents being bullied and leaned on, and continued with other issues, such as votes for residents, burdensome complaints procedures, legal protection etc.

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101117/halltext/101117h0001.htm

Response

I have read this debate and have contacted Margot James' office to discuss her views on Sheltered Housing further.

Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 4

Question to Councillor Alan Bottwood from Mr N Adams

As guidance states: "As a matter of government policy contracting authorities should aim to have at least one or more contracts with a supported factory or business.

What contracts (if any) does Northampton Borough Council have with a supported factory or business.

Response

NBC currently does not have any procurement arrangements in place with supported factories or businesses. We can only enter into contracts with organisations through the proper procurement processes under the regulations.

Current procurement legislation does not have provision for the council to invite organisations to tender.

Processes are in place to encourage not only supported organisations but all local small and medium sized enterprises to bid for contracts with the Council. As outlined in my portfolio report the Council recently ran a "how to do business with the Council" day which attracted over 70 local businesses.

Alan Bottwood
Portfolio Holder for Finance
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 5

Question to Councillor John Caswell from Cllr L Mason

Northampton Borough Council is the body taking comments and complaints from customers and councillors alike on Environmental Services now provided by Enterprise.

Can the Portfolio Holder given an assurance that Enterprise has ready access to this information daily in order that they can respond accordingly and promptly?

Response

The Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) which is used by Northampton Borough Council's Customer service staff to record all service requests, complaints and compliments was integrated with Enterprise's existing system to ensure that all customer details are passed on to Enterprise immediately upon receipt. All records are checked on a regular basis for accuracy and to ensure they remain up to date. NBC and Enterprise work very closely to ensure that all the current information and data contained both in the CRM and on the Council website is up to date and reflects that information which Customers are requesting including details of bin rounds, the ability to request assisted collections or bulk collections etc. NBC hold geographical data in relation to new, altered and deleted properties and this information is updated and integrated with Enterprise information on a regular basis and procedures and policies are in place to ensure this happens. NBC Customer Service Staff attend regular meetings with Enterprise to continue to improve the flow of information and data and review complaints and service requests and look for opportunities to further improve the service to our customers.

John Caswell
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Environment
Question for Full Council Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} December, 2011

Question 6

**Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Cllr L Mason**

The new Localism Act allows local authorities to restrict the number of people joining the social housing register. Does the Portfolio Holder plan to use this new legislation to stop people joining the council house register?

**Response**

*We understand that all local authorities will be required to produce a Tenancy Strategy to demonstrate how they will manage social housing in the future. As part of our preparations for this requirement we are reviewing our allocations policy and will be receiving a report to Cabinet at a future date with a number of recommendations regarding making changes to our current policy.*

Mary Markham  
Cabinet Member for Housing
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 7

Question to Councillor Phil Larratt from Cllr L Mason

As the special advisor for “Shared Services" (noted at Council on Nov 7th) what services have you advised cabinet it might want to share with neighbouring local authorities?

Response

Initially I am looking at all back office services operated by the Borough Council to see how we can save costs by joining with other authorities and enable more money to be spent on frontline services.

We are also exploring options around Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) which is operated by Northamptonshire County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

Phil Larratt
Special Advisor on Shared Services
Question for Full Council Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} December, 2011

Question 8

\textbf{Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Cllr D Stone}

What is the projected impact on local residents of the rise in rents and the new cap on housing benefit? What is the Tory Administration planning to do about it at the local level?

\textbf{Response}

The cap will not be introduced until 2013 and will predominantly affect London and areas with higher Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates (Brighton and Edinburgh have also been mentioned). Local Housing allowance rates are set based on the 30th percentile of rents within a broad market areas i.e. Northampton is a single broad market area.

In Northampton this would effect approximately 100 claims based on our current figures.

We are already working closely with landlords, the voluntary sector and customers in order to ensure that we can fully support people through the transition to a reformed welfare system. We also continue to develop decent and affordable housing.

Mary Markham  
Cabinet Member for Housing
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 9

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Cllr D Stone

Do you support the campaign by local businessman, John Sheinman, to rename the top of Abington Street “Eastgate”?

Response

Yes, we support this proposal and are happy to look into this as part of our ongoing commitment to support our town’s heritage, and applaud John Sheinman’s long standing commitment to Northampton, its history and future.

Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 10

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Cllr J Capstick

Will the cabinet Portfolio Holder agree to bring to cabinet a viable long-term Tenant Participation strategy before July 2012?

Response

Establishing effective and meaningful tenant engagement is and remains a crucial part of delivering our Housing service.

Over the last 18 months numerous changes have been implemented to reinvigorate participation at NBC to ensure inclusive, effective engagement is undertaken.

- This has seen the launch of quarterly Hot Desks and Tenant Panels held away from the Guildhall in 4 locations and are very well attended.

- The sounding board continues to grow in size and enables tenants to be as involved as they want in areas of service delivery, this can range from being interviewed over the telephone, becoming a mystery shopper or a Tenant Auditor.

- We have also introduced an extensive free training programme for tenants which range from budgetary skills, IT skills, job interview skills right through to training in areas of housing such as finance.

- Regular focus groups are held all of which are now well attended with the last 4 discussing issues of de-pooling, housing finance and repairs attracting a combined total in excess of 100 tenants.

The new Localism Act also places requirements on the Council in the area of co-regulation and as such this will have to be fully digested and acted upon before a strategy is presented to cabinet.

As can be seen from what I have previously stated the profile of meaningful engagement has been raised enormously at NBC and we remain committed to involving our tenants in the improvement of service delivery.

The Engagement team remain committed to a new strategy produced in conjunction with tenants that fully incorporates the requirements of the new Localism act

Mary Markham
Cabinet Member for Housing
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 11

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Cllr J Capstick

With projections for economic growth in the UK being down graded is the Joint Core Strategy, drawn up exclusively by Tories and Lib Dems, now deliverable in the medium term?

Response

Yes

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 12

Question to Councillor D Mackintosh from Cllr N Choudary

In May 2011 a 'Councillor Development Group' (Cllr N Choudary, Conroy, Glynane, Hallam, Patel & Stone) was formed but has not met yet. Does the Tory Administration plan to carry on with this body? Also does the Tory Administration intend to do 'Annual Member Development Reports' as the previous Liberal Democrat Administration did?

Response

Responsibility for Councillor Development is transferring from HR to Democratic & Chief Executive Services in December, and the first meeting of the Councillor Development Group will be in January 2012, after which it will meet quarterly. It is our intention to publish an annual Councillor Development Report as part of our commitment to help elected members serve the public to the best of their ability.

David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 13

Question to Councillor D Mackintosh from Cllr L Marriott

Recently you took the decision to overturn recently established NBC Policy and scrap Neighbourhood Management Boards.

What evidence did you use to come to this decision?

A vacuum now exists for partnership working at the neighbourhood level when will a report be put before cabinet to rectify this?

Response

NBC policy has not been overturned and neighbourhood management boards have not been ‘scrapped’. As clearly advised, neighbourhood management boards will still be supported in the wards of councillors who wish them to continue.

Many councillors however have strongly indicated that they do not find it useful to sit through long neighbourhood management board meetings, dealing with issues for other wards that are not relevant to them. They of course acknowledge that, from time to time, cross boundary issues occur, but they feel that these will be more effectively dealt with on an ad hoc basis as they arise.

This is a change in focus, rather than a policy change and it has been done to emphasise the role of local councillors as community leaders in their ward. Far from creating a vacuum, being clearer and sharper in our approach to neighbourhood management will facilitate more effective partnership working.

David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 14

Question to Councillor D Mackintosh from Cllr J Capstick

Four times a year Northamptonshire County Council has meetings between trade unions and elected councillors, sometimes known as ‘local joint committees’. At present Northampton Borough Council has no such forum. Will the Leader of Northampton Borough Council consider introducing such a body similar to the one they have at County Hall?

Response

The consultation framework adopted at NBC has been operating successfully with the Trade Unions for a number of years. This is a series of Management Trade Union Consultation Meetings (MTUCM). There is an overarchng meeting that meets once a month and the chair of the meeting is rotated between Management and the Trade Unions. There are also separate MTUCM meetings on Policy and Restructures. Any new Policy or Terms and Condition changes are presented to the General Purposes committee.

There was previously a local joint committee, however this was disbanded. The trade unions have not raised a local joint committee as an issue in recent years, and the partnership approach with regard to employee relations works well.

Therefore I do not believe that a local joint committee is needed given the positive employee relations and the trade unions at NBC

David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 15

Question to Councillor A Bottwood from Cllr L Marriott

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm whether the Tory Administration will freeze council tax this next financial year 2012/2013?

Response

Our manifesto pledged to work with Central Government to freeze the rate of Council Tax wherever possible to help lighten the financial pressures felt by local residents. Therefore it is our intention to propose a 0% Council Tax increase for 2012/2013, and at a difficult financial time for many people, we are grateful for the support from Central Government in achieving this.

Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Finance
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 16

Question to Councillor J Caswell from Cllr N Choudary

The Conservative Manifesto says it will find better ways of encouraging residents to recycle more (page 9). After more than six months in office what ideas does the Portfolio Holder himself have, if any?

Response

As you will know, kitchen food waste and textile collections will be rolled out from January, which will boost our recycling service and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

In our contract to clearly specified year on year improvements in recycling levels and there is also a strong financial incentive for EMS to encourage people to recycle more. Furthermore our contract has been designed to encourage ongoing innovation to ensure we continue to stay ahead of the curve.

John Caswell
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for the Environment
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 17

Question to Councillor D Mackintosh from Cllr T Wire, DL

As ward Councillor working with the St James Residents Association who are in discussions with interested partners including Northampton University about securing suitable premises for the relocation of St James Library to allow it to co-locate with other community and social enterprises to form a community hub. This could include a heritage and arts centre.

Some vacant buildings have been identified which may be suitable for this project. Unfortunately, the Council’s Planning Committee has just given approval on the 15th November to the demolition of one of them.

Will the Council now give its full support to the SJRA in its endeavours to enhance the community of St James and also support this project in principle?

Will Northampton Borough Council also follow the principles of the Localism Bill which was given Royal Assent on 15th November, and actively support the SJRA in procuring suitable premises for this exciting community enterprise, which is within the scope of the said Bill?

Response

The library in St James is the responsibility of Northamptonshire County Council. They lease the building from the Borough Council and we have not sought to amend or terminate that agreement.

We have not been approached directly by St James Residents Association about proposals for a community hub building, that could include library facilities. The Residents Association have though been actively involved in the plans, already approved by Cabinet, for the Doddridge Centre Limited to lease and manage St James Community Centre. We would anticipate that the Community Centre, together with the already successfully run Doddridge Centre, would help contribute to any plans the Residents Association may have.

The Council is supportive of community organisations who have viable and sustainable proposals to help re-generate their local areas. The Borough Council is happy to work with such community groups and other partners to develop initiatives, whilst recognising the difficult financial limitations that exist.

David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council
Question for Full Council Monday 5th December, 2011

Question 18

Question to Councillor D Mackintosh from Cllr S Beardsworth

Why has the practice of regularly publishing finance and performance data been stopped?

Will the Administration receive and publish monthly reports on performance and finance

Response

NBC continues to publish performance data, although the format has now changed. The next Finance and Performance Exceptions report (providing data up to October 2011) is due to be published on 7th December for review at Cabinet on 14th December 2011. The 'All Measures' report detailing data up to October 2011 is also scheduled to be published on the Council's website on 9th December 2011.

David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council
Agenda Item 7

Council
Date: 5 December 2011

Portfolio Holder Presentations

Report of the Leader of the Council (Page 2-5)
Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment (Page 6-7)
Report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement (Page 8-10)
Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance (Page 11-12)
Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing (Page 13-14)
Report of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning (Page 15-17)
There have been a number of positive developments since the last meeting of Full Council. I would like to brief members on. Most obvious to the town’s future is that WNDC confirmed £8m of funding on 15th November for the new bus interchange. This investment is fantastic news for the town and a good step forward for the redevelopment of the bus station / Grosvenor Centre. On Monday 21st November, Cllr Hadland and I also met with Legal & General to discuss this and the way forward with the development of the Grosvenor Centre.

I have also had meetings on 7th November with David Cardoza at Sixfields, and Leon Barwell and Tony Hewitt at The Saints, and discussions are progressing well. I intend to meet with them regularly to support their aims for the future.

On 21st November I visited Downing Street to meet with the Prime Minister. This was a great opportunity for me to raise many of the issues and concerns we face in Northampton at the highest level of government, and some of the exciting opportunities for the town.

Christmas is one of the most important times of year for our town centre economy, and this year NBC has joined with the Royal & Derngate, Northamptonshire Enterprise, Northamptonshire County Council and the Town Centre BID to plan and coordinate a programme of events and promotions to attract shoppers to Northampton.

The Christmas lights in the town centre were officially switched on at 5pm on Saturday 26th November. The town centre decorations have been paid for in part by local businesses this year, led by the BID. This year Northampton has, a 60ft tree, its biggest tree ever, as the sparkling centrepiece in the Market Square, and other trees, all at least 30 ft high, which are at All Saints (50ft), outside The Guildhall and in Abington Street. There are also another 150, four-foot-tall Christmas trees, all lit with solar lights, outside business premises all around the town.

A new promotional website has also been launched with our partners which is a one stop shop for information about shopping, events, restaurants, theatres and everything going on in Northampton this Christmas.

The website can be found at: www.christmasinnorthampton.co.uk
The website also reminds visitors that parking costs have been cut in time for Christmas, with free parking for up to an hour in the three most popular car parks, and free parking on Sundays in all town centre car parks.

Sadly, everyone will be aware of the tragic events that happened at Lava and Ignite on Wednesday 19th October which caused two young women to lose their lives. Once again I offer my condolences to all those affected by this tragedy, and would like to thank the officers and members of the Licensing Committee who acted so swiftly to deal with the situation, and are assisting the police with their investigations.

Since the last Full Council meeting I had the pleasure of announcing that the Olympic Torch will be coming to Northampton on 2nd July, which is great news for the town only a few weeks ahead of the games beginning, and will give everyone a chance to get involved in Olympic fever.

The Night Run took place in Northampton on 29th October and raised nearly £2,000 overall for the British Heart Foundation. It was a fantastic night for the town with over 500 people taking part in the event.

On the 22nd November the Borough Council was honoured to welcome the 9th/12th Royal Lancers Regiment to a reception at The Guildhall following their parade through the town centre. I am sure all members will join me in thanking them for their service and welcoming them back from their tour of Afghanistan.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for making Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday dignified events through which to remember and honour our town’s war dead.

Community Safety

3 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and 1 Interim Order were obtained during the month of October. Two of these were in relation to prolific street drinkers, and is part of this administration’s commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour and making our town safe and pleasant place for residents and visitors.

In partnership with Northamptonshire County Council the Bridge Street Closure was put in place to help with public safety over the Halloween weekend.

Operation Lapland has been launched as an addition to the Police ‘Nightsafe’ scheme leading up to, and covering Christmas.

In support of the International Day Against Hate Crime pledge boards were put on display at Westbridge and in the One Stop Shop.

Operation Stay Safe was undertaken on 24 October to provide support for vulnerable young people.
Human Resources

Work is continuing on the HR efficiency programme, which includes the HR restructure that has now been completed. A HR on-line system and HR Helpdesk have been launched that are receiving positive feedback from line managers. The next steps are to support managers on the e-appraisal system in preparation for the 1st year of performance management.

Borough Solicitors

The Shared Legal Service Pilot with East Northamptonshire Council is beginning to develop the data on which the Business Case for a full shared legal service will be based. The Borough Solicitor is on target to present the Business Case in January 2012 with a recommendation that the full shared service start in April 2012.

Litigation

The protection of the majority from the few that flout the law is enforced actively through the department through the criminal justice system.

Since 26th September NBC has prosecuted 3 people for Benefit Fraud, one was conditionally discharged, one fined £150 and one given a 24 month conditional discharge.

Four people have been prosecuted for incorrectly disposing of their waste, three were fined a total of £550 whilst the other was given a 250 hour Community Order and ordered to pay £469 towards the cost of cleaning up the mess they had caused.

In two cases possession and Anti Social Behaviour Orders were obtained, in the first a couple have been banned from entering the area in which they were causing a nuisance for two years whilst in the other the court banned the person from the area where they had been causing a nuisance for five years and from drinking in public for the same period.

A Possession Order was obtained against a Council Tenant who had sub-let their tenancy without permission, in this case the court also ordered the person to pay outstanding rent of £519 and a possession was obtained against a trespasser on council property.

Litigation is however not always about the Council taking action. Recently the Litigation Team concluded a long case in which the Council had been sued for a considerable sum. Not only were they able to successfully resist the claim they have been able to obtain a court order for £58,000 towards the Council's costs of defending this action.
Information Governance

The number of FOI requests being received by NBC is at an all time high, with more having been received in the first ten months than were received in the whole of 2010. The department continues to respond to these requests within the statutory time limits and is supporting key initiatives such as data transparency.

David Mackintosh
Leader of the Council
Environmental Services

Members of the public will soon receive a leaflet advising them of their Christmas refuse and recycling collections. The leaflet also provides information on the forthcoming food and textile collections that will be gradually rolled out from the end of January through to March 2012.

On 28th October, Sarfraz Farooq, formerly the operator of Flava Wellingborough Road, was sentenced to 250 hours of Community Service and costs totalling £1490 for offences of fly tipping in March 2011. The administration takes a zero tolerance approach to fly-tipping and will continue to focus on prosecuting those responsible for abusing our town in this way.

There have been three recent prosecutions for breach of section 46 Waste Receptacle Notices with fines of £150 and £250 and costs of between £250 and £415, which again demonstrates the administration’s zero tolerance approach to the problem.

The Best Bar None awards evening for the town’s best run licensed premises took place on 22nd November. The administration believes Northampton Borough Council has an obligation to promote and recognise responsibility amongst the town’s licensed premises as part of a safe and vibrant nighttime economy.

The Licensing Team have been heavily involved in the license review process following the incident at Lava and Ignite on the 19th October. The investigation is ongoing and a further review hearing was held on the 14th November. Representatives of the Administrators of Luminar provided the Committee with an assurance that the licence for Lava and Ignite in Northampton will not be reinstated. Northamptonshire Police are undertaking a full and thorough investigation into what happened and Northampton Borough Council will continue to help them in any way it can.

Consultation in relation to the feasibility of introducing upper and lower age limits for Hackney and Private Hire vehicles is now underway.

Northampton Borough Council has been ranked 354 out of 1301 organisations in the UK for the work it has done to successfully cut its carbon emissions. The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme applies to large non energy intensive organisations within the public and private sectors. The purpose of the scheme is to help reduce the UK’s carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 (against 1990 emissions).
John Caswell
Deputy Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder for Environment
Community Centres

The Borough Council joined local community organisations and community centre users at the Camp Hill centre on 19 October to celebrate Cabinet’s approval of new management arrangements for three further community centres, St James, Semilong and Camp Hill which is the first of the ‘self-managed’ centres to make formal proposals to take on full responsibility for their centre. St James centre will be managed by the Doddridge Centre, familiar to local people as providing facilities and services to the community. The management committee of the Alliston Gardens centre have applied to run the Semilong Centre, which will complement their existing activities in that part of town. All three organisations were represented at the celebratory tea party.

On 23 November Cabinet approved a further proposal, for the well established ‘Need to Know Shop’ to manage the community centre at King’s Heath. The Need to Know Shop has been active in that area for several years, providing a range of community services and advice, and is well placed to bring new impetus to the running of the community centre.

Neighbourhood Working

A programme of partnership working with Northamptonshire County Council and the Police is being piloted in the North Area of the town to educate parents and deter them from inconsiderate and dangerous parking around schools at “school run” time. This is backed up by the threat of enforcement action. To date three events have been run at All Saints, Boothville and Cedar Road schools and an ongoing programme is planned at 10 other schools.

Community Panels are being set up to enable Northampton Borough Council to apply for the Community First funds on offer to four areas of the town from Department of Communities and Local Government through the Community Development Foundation.

Funding has been secured to run the very successful junior wardens scheme in six schools this school year and is being pursued for a further five.

The new Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for the South/West Area, Jenna Parton, started work on Monday 31 October.
Events

Our Christmas programme launch included the switching-on of the Christmas lights on a 60’ Christmas tree in the Market Square (which is the largest the town has had). This, together with the 50’ tree on All Saints, 40’ trees and a 150 4’ trees on shop fronts around the town centre is giving Northampton a sparkling feel.

The Town Centre Christmas launch was on the 26th November, with two festive Frost Fairs on Sunday 27th November and Sunday 4th December with workshops, gifts, dancing and carols. Visitors can also take advantage of free Saturday and Sunday parking, and one hour of free parking introduced earlier in the year.

A free rock climbing, abseiling and extreme activities event for young people was held in the Market Square on 19th November, and involved the Northampton Volunteering Centre, Northampton Association of Youth Associations, Service Six, the Community Partnership and the Change of Scene project.

Night Run Northampton, the UK’s first dedicated night running event, took place on Saturday 29th October as part of this year’s Igniting Ambition Festival in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Culture & Heritage

The 98th Annual Town & County Exhibition opened in October and will continue into December. The Northamptonshire Town & County Art Society have been holding their annual exhibition at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery since 1915, at 96 years perhaps constitutes the oldest Borough Council relationship with an external partner.

Plans to modernise Northampton Museum and Art Gallery went on display on 8th November. Funding has come from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Northampton Borough Council’s capital fund, and will allow for new lighting, flooring and redecoration.

Northampton Leisure Trust

Northampton Leisure Trust is providing new, exciting health & fitness opportunities and initiatives for its customers and the people of Northampton. Good quality leisure facilities make a vital contribution to the health and wellbeing of Northampton’s residents, and the administration continues to closely monitor these facilities following their transfer to the leisure trust.

The Forum Cinema continues to perform extremely well, with attendances continuing to increase. An exciting and varied programme of films in December and during 2012 will ensure this trend continues.
Northampton Leisure Trust is currently providing professional advice and support to Duston Parish Council in relation to the development of Duston Sport and Leisure Complex.

Brandon Eldred
Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement
Finance

On 23rd November, Procurement hosted 2 half-day conferences titled “How to do Business with the Council”. Guest speakers included the Leader, the Chief Executive and external partners, Due North (the Council’s supplier of an electronic tender system) and SCAPE (the East Midlands Property Alliance (EMPA) Framework Agreement Managers). The Council is targeting local Small, Medium Enterprises and it was an opportunity to let businesses in our area know how about all the good work we are doing to support them. It also gave us an opportunity to give local businesses a better understanding of how they can do business with us both directly as main contractors and indirectly as part of the supply chain. It is important that the local business community are informed that we, as a Council, support the local economy and do everything we can to help them within the regulations.

Our external auditors have signed off all grant returns for 2010/11 including the HRA subsidy claim and Housing Benefits Subsidy claim, all well within statutory deadlines.

A new VAT helpline contract has been agreed with PWC; this will provide the Council with savings for 2012/13 onwards and will ensure that the Council receives sound day-to-day VAT advice.

The continuation budget has now been finalised and work is continuing on the overall draft budget which will be presented to Cabinet on 21st December.

Revenue and Benefits

Single Fraud Investigation Service

We have now received a response on the recent consultation related to the future of fraud teams across local Government. The consultation asked Local Councils to look at a range of options including staff from Councils remaining employed locally or transferring to the Department of Work and Pensions. The majority of Local Authorities that responded felt that staff should still be employed by them whilst undertake the wider fraud role for the DWP under a SLA. By leaving employment and location unchanged this option would allow Local authorities the flexibility to redeploy resource to meet their priorities if required.
Whilst we do not know the final decision, we will continue to work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions on opportunities to participate in any transitional arrangements in supporting a Single Fraud Investigation Service.

**ICT & Facilities**

The ICT Team along with Customer Services were successfully re-awarded the Customer Service Excellence Accreditation which is a prestigious Cabinet Office Award. Once again the service has full compliance (The only Council to date to have passed with no partial compliances).

The Web Improvement and Development Roadmap was agreed at Management Board which will lead to major improvements to our website including the facility to develop “microsites” for initiatives such as the Enterprise Zone and the Museum.

A new Intranet has been launched giving an improved source of information to all our staff with features such as a People Directory, improved search and updates and Blogs from the Chief Executive therefore improving our Internal communications.

The Installation of Wireless connectivity for customers and visitors to the Guildhall has been completed. Initial feedback is very positive.

50 Terminals have been installed for employees which use the latest technology for desk tops and will save a significant amount of energy thus reducing energy costs. Further roll-out to other areas is progressing well. Additionally we have made a change to our server network which allows us to switch off storage capacity during the night, again reducing energy costs.

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**Alan Bottwood**

Portfolio Holder for Finance
We are currently analysing the consultation responses from tenants on the de-pooling proposal. We have had approximately 1,000 replies. De-pooling involves separating out rent and service charges so that tenants can see clearly what their weekly payment covers.

A group of tenants are finalising their training to become Tenant Auditors so that they can assess the effectiveness of the way we deal with anti social behaviour on housing estates. They are planning how they are going to approach the audit and are preparing a satisfaction survey and mystery shopping.

Work is progressing well on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. This is necessary to support the government’s new housing finance regime which comes into force in April 2012. Under the new rules, the Council will be able to keep all the money it receives from rent. The subsidy system will end and the Council will also be able to borrow for housing up to a limit set by government. Proposals will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

The Strategic Business Review into the housing DSO repairs service is underway and the service is being analysed for costs, performance, satisfaction and overall effectiveness.

The Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) will be starting on site shortly. Once agreements have been approved by the Council and E-on, letters will be distributed to customers whose properties will receive energy efficiency measures, to help them reduce their energy bills.

The legal agreements for Robinson House have now been agreed and demolition of the existing building will take place shortly. Planning permission has been submitted and we await a decision. The plans will transform the site and provide 17 very much needed affordable family homes.

The consultation period for the Financial Inclusion Strategy started on the 24th October and in the first 2 weeks of a 12 week consultation period we have received over 41 survey responses back, which is a good response rate so far. The consultation is due to end in February 2012.

We have received the Louder than Words Charter Mark Accreditation after demonstrating commitment to providing the best possible practice to our deaf and hard of hearing customers and employees. An audit was carried out on the 30th September when we were assessed against 10 quality standards and were found to have met all 10 standards. The Charter Mark is awarded for 3
years, however, an annual self-assessment is required to ensure that the standards are being maintained.

Mary Markham
Portfolio Holder for Housing
Town Centre Operations

In October the administration introduced one hour of free parking and free Sunday parking to help encourage visitors to come to Northampton and help local retailers by encouraging economic growth in the town centre.

All the refurbishment works on the Grosvenor & St Johns multi-storey car parks were completed in time for shoppers to use this Christmas. This, together with the free parking every Sunday and free parking on Saturdays in December in the Mayorhold car park, will all helped to create a more festive experience in the town centre.

The Northampton free parking offer is being widely advertised to attract more shoppers into the Town Centre and Market Square.

Northampton Town Centre Limited

The BID is working closely with local businesses and partners to promote visiting and shopping at Christmas in Northampton town centre. The local media, website, and signboards were used to help market and promote the town. Together with the installation of 150 x 4’ Christmas trees and solar lights on shop fronts around the town centre, the Christmas feel is there for all to see.

The BID continues to improve the environment with the refurbishment of some of the street furniture around the market square; helping the night-time economy by funding two additional street wardens with Pub Watch.

The website [www.christmasinnorthampton.co.uk](http://www.christmasinnorthampton.co.uk) has been launched to promote festive events and information in Northampton, and has been jointly set up by Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Enterprise, Town Centre BID and the Royal and Derngate.

Planning

Following the successful bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government for ‘front-runner’ status for Wootton and East Hunsbury Parish Council to participate in the pilot for neighbourhood planning, new bids have been submitted with Castle Partnership for the community led regeneration scheme in Spring Boroughs and Blackthorn Good Neighbours. Consultation
on the Central Area Action Plan focussed changes commenced on 10th November and will run until 22nd December. It is anticipated that the results will come back to Cabinet in February.

As part of delivering the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone, consultation with businesses about the proposed Local Development Order in St James will take place until 9th December 2011. Feedback will help inform the drafting of the LDO for the area. It will be necessary to have more than one LDO to reflect the different characteristics of parts of the Enterprise Zone.

**Assets**

The 150th anniversary of the Guildhall was a great success with over 100 people every day visiting the exhibition and having a tour of our building.

The celebratory dinner was a great success with many compliments from attendees who enjoyed a wonderful evening, which included a talk entitled “150 years of Northampton”.

**Regeneration**

There has been significant progress on the development of the Bus Interchange on the site of the Fishmarket.

Design work has proceeded swiftly, and a preferred initial layout has been selected. Consultation with user groups has started. In addition to the bus bays, waiting areas and public toilets, there is also provision for additional business space to provide retail and other uses. It is important that this important landmark building should do justice to the town. Construction should start mid 2012 with completion one year later.

WNDC has resolved to make £8 million available to facilitate Stage Coach’s move from Greyfriars, and the development of the new facility. The County Council is financing the design work, and the Borough Council will be investing up to £3 million in the project, to ensure that the best possible building is provided.

This development fulfils a commitment made by the Council to remove a constraint to the development of the Grosvenor Centre extension.

Progress on the Grosvenor project is accelerating, and Legal and General have appointed the team to take forward the design and technical work necessary for submitting a planning application in July 2012.

**Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone**

The Strategic Board has been appointed, and has met for the first time to discuss the draft implementation plan to be shared with DCLG. Membership of the Board, chaired by Dr Ann Limb, chair of SEMLEP (South-East Midlands...
Local Enterprise Partnership) includes representatives of all the partner organisation involved in the promotion of the Zone and its benefits.

**Innovation Centre**

This exciting project is making good progress, and the Planning Application has been submitted.

**St Johns**

Negotiations for both the Student Accommodation development and the Hotel development are making good progress.

**Tim Hadland**
Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
1. Summary

To seek Council’s approval to the appointment of Mr Richard Pestell as Trustee to the Northampton Municipal Church Charity.

2. Recommendations

That Mr Richard Pestell be appointed as Trustee to Northampton Municipal Church Charity.

3. Report Background

Council will recall that at its meeting on 24 October 2011 it approved the appointment of Councillor Wire DL to St Thomas House which is administered under the umbrella of Northampton Municipal Church Charity.

Wilson Browne Solicitors, who is the clerk to the Northampton Municipal Church Charity has now notified the Council that a vacancy exists on the umbrella charity itself. The Northampton Municipal Church Charity provides “for the relief in need either generally or of individual persons resident in Northampton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need or hardship of such persons”.

Wilson Browne has put forward Mr Richard Pestell to fill the vacancy. Mr Pestell is a former Diocesan Secretary to the Peterborough Diocese and before that worked in Education including two years as Deputy Director of Education in Northamptonshire. He has numerous community roles including being Chair of the Northamptonshire Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and is currently a trustee of the Becketts and Sargeants Educational Foundation, the Bluecoat Trust and the Ekins Trust (three educational charities in Northampton).
Appointees do not have to be Councillors and appointments usually run for four years.

4. Implications (including financial implications)
   4.1 Resources and Risk
   None

   4.2 Legal
   None

   4.3 Other Implications
   None

5. Background Papers
None

Report Author and Title: F. McGown, Democratic Services Manager
Telephone and Email: 837101  fmcgown@northampton.gov.uk
1. Summary
This report formally records the result of Councillor Palethorpe joining the Labour Group and seeks Council’s approval of the consequent number and Group proportionality of seats on each Committee and the consequential effect on Committee memberships.

2. Recommendations
1. That the result of Councillor Palethorpe joining the Labour Group be noted.
2. That Council approves the number of seats on each Committee as set in the report.
3. That the representation of the political groups be as set out in this report.
4. That the removal of Councillor Eldred from the membership of the Appointments and Appeals Committee and the removal of Councillor Hill from the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
5. That Councillor Palethorpe be appointed to the Audit Committee.
6. That Councillor Beardsworth be appointed to the Appointments and Appeals Committee.

3. Report Background
3.1 The result of the local elections on 5 May 2011 was that 26 Conservative, 15 Labour and 4 Liberal Democrat Councillors were elected to the Council. As Councillor Palethorpe has now joined the Labour Group these figures now become 25 Conservative, 16 Labour and 4 Liberal Democrat.

3.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, requires the Council, at its annual meeting, or as soon as practicable afterwards following any changes to its political makeup, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats (ie proportionality). The rights of the various political groups are specified in relevant regulations. Council last did this on 19 May 2010.

3.3 The following principles need to be applied in allocating Committee places:

  3.3.1 that not all seats on any Committee or Sub-Committee are allocated to the same political group;
3.3.2 that the majority of the seats on all Committees and Sub-Committees are allocated to the political group that has a majority of the Council’s membership or as otherwise reflects the make up of the Council;

3.3.3 that subject to 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 above the number of seats for all main Committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the main Committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council; and

3.3.4 subject to 3.3.3 the numbers of seats on the individual Committees and Sub Committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of seats of that Committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to their membership of the Council.

3.3 There are 60 allocated Committee places which divides as 33 Conservative, 21 Labour and 5 Liberal Democrat.

3.4.1 The allocation of seats between the Committees is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Conservative</th>
<th>Labour</th>
<th>Lib Dem</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O&amp;S</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appointments and Appeals</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportionality would be:

33.2  21.3  5.3  60

3.4.2 The effect of the change in proportionality is that the Conservatives loose two Committee places on the Appointments and Appeals and Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Labour Group gain a place on the Audit Committee and the Liberal Democrat Group gain a place on the Appointments and Appeals Committee. The Group Leaders have agreed this situation. The Labour Group will take up their place on the Audit Committee which will now become an eight member Committee. Overview and Scrutiny Committee will now be a fourteen member Committee. The Liberal Democrat Group will take up their place on the Appointments and Appeals Committee.

3.4.3 In order to reflect that they are now entitled to two fewer Committee places the Conservatives have removed Councillor Eldred from the Appointments and Appeals Committee and Councillor Hill from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3.4.4 The Labour Group propose that Councillor Palethorpe fill the place on Audit Committee and the Liberal Democrat Group propose that Councillor Beardsworth fill the place on the Appointments and Appeals Committee.

4. Implications (including financial implications)
4.1 Resources and Risk
None specifically arising from this report.

4.2 Legal
The Council has legal obligations under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats.

4.3 Other Implications
None specifically

5. Background Papers
None

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