



**NORTHAMPTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY, 17 JULY 2013**

**DECISIONS**

<b>PRESENT:</b> Councillor Mackintosh (Chair); Councillor Markham (Deputy Chair); Councillors Eldred, Bottwood, Hadland and Hallam .
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Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 17 July 2013. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

These decisions will come into force and then may be implemented on the expiry of three working days after the publication of this list.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Emma Garratt on 01604 837089.

<b>THIS LIST OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED:</b>	<u>18<sup>th</sup> July 2013</u>
<b>DATE OF EXPIRY OF CALL IN:</b>	<u>23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 AT 17:00 HOURS</u>

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b> None
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**A. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE - SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME, VIOLENT  
CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Cabinet noted the report and a response would be given at a future Cabinet meeting.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b> None
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**B. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND  
SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS**

Cabinet noted the report and a response would be given at a future Cabinet meeting.

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b> None
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**C. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RETAIL EXPERIENCE**

Cabinet noted the report, the responses of which were incorporated into Item 8 - Northampton Town Centre - The Next Steps

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<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Declaration/Conflict of Interests:</b> None
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**7. NORTHAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB AND NORTHAMPTON SAINTS RUGBY CLUB - EXPANSION PLANS.**

Cabinet approved the principle of providing loan finance to Northampton Saints plc ("Saints") and Northampton Town Football Club Limited ("NTFC") to support stadia expansion and associated development on land presently within their control.

Cabinet delegated to the Chief Executive the authority, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Leader of the Council, and approved the amounts and terms of any loan finance arrangements on a basis that takes into full account the matters set out at 3.2.1 of this report.

Cabinet supported the principle - pursuant to a previous Cabinet authority given to enter into a collaboration agreement with Homes & Communities Agency ("HCA") - of this Council entering into a Joint Venture ("JV") Agreement with a private company, HCA (as necessary) and NTFC for the development of that land forming part of Sixfields Stadium (shown edged red upon the attached plan at Appendix 1), together with other adjoining HCA land, on the basis that an agreement relating to a disposal at nominal initial value of the freehold interest (in the land edged red) to the private party concerned may be required to be completed prior to the commencement of physical development.

Cabinet delegated to the Director of Regeneration Enterprise and Planning the authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree the terms of transfer of the land referred to at 2.3 and to contract generally with JV partners, on the basis that:

- (i) this Council is first satisfied that the proposed comprehensive development scheme will be viable and generate a positive value for the land owners
- (ii) that this Council is not exposed to any risk of financial loss or liability from its participation within the JV Agreement
- (iii) that adequate arrangements are made to re-provide suitable athletics facilities at an appropriate location as part of an overall approach to development.

Cabinet supported in principle, subject to the legal considerations set out in clause 4.3.3. of this report, that the net value generated for this Council from any Joint Venture Agreement that may be entered into (consistent with 2.4 above), may be used in whole or part to reduce any the levels of debt owed by NTFC to this Council (pursuant to 2.1 and 2.2 above), in support of the promotion of the wider economic and social benefits that would be generated for the Town.

Cabinet delegated to the Chief Executive the authority, acting in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Leader of the Council, to agree the basis of any reduction of debt owed to this Council by NTFC in the potential circumstances envisaged at 2.5 above.

Cabinet supported the principle of varying the existing lease of Sixfields Stadium to NTFC to permit the sharing of the facility by NTFC with another professional sports club and delegates to the Director of Regeneration Enterprise and Planning the authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Enterprise and Planning, to agree the terms of any lease variation.

Cabinet, subject to the final loan agreements, delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, authority to incorporate the loans into the Council's Capital Programme and noted the potential impact of the loans on the Council's Affordable Borrowing Limit.

Cabinet welcomed the proposed partnership between the Saints and Northampton Borough Council to promote the town to visitors, in order to enhance the economic well-being of the Borough and delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council the completion of this agreement.

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	None

## **8. NORTHAMPTON TOWN CENTRE - THE NEXT STEPS**

1. Cabinet reaffirmed the town centre as a major strategic priority for the council and agreed to add it as an improvement project to **Northampton Alive**.
2. Cabinet agreed to establish a **Town Team** to lead the town centre improvement agenda, as per paragraphs 3.1.76/7 of the report, to provide the strategic vision and operational management for Northampton town centre and to oversee a detailed plan for implementing the actions arising from this report.
3. Cabinet, in accordance with the Administration's manifesto commitment to appoint a **High Street Czar**, agreed to appoint local

businessman Stephen Church for a period of four months, for the purpose of producing an independent report proposing a strategic and collaborative vision for the town centre and agreed that the position will be known as **Town Centre Summit Chairman**.

4. Cabinet agreed to host a **Town Centre Summit**, on 20th September 2013, led by the Town Centre Summit Chairman, to allow partners and stakeholders to actively inform the town centre vision.
5. Cabinet agreed to introduce a regular **town centre newsletter** from the council to town centre businesses to keep stakeholders well informed and up to date about what is going on.
6. Cabinet agreed to a summer trial of **free car parking** all day Saturday and for two hours on week days during the whole of August 2013 in the council's pay on exit car parks (St John's, Mayorhold and St Michaels), with Sundays continuing to be free all day, leading to a reduction in income that could be £180,000.
7. Cabinet agreed to review the impact of **car parking reductions** following the August 2013 trial.
8. Cabinet approved in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council (subject to agreement of the detailed business case), the utilisation of the £100,000 received by the council from the Town Centre Innovation Fund to implement **pay on exit at the Grosvenor Centre Car Park**, including the option to pay by credit and debit card.
9. Cabinet agreed that pay on exit machines be procured from Metric Group Limited for the reasons set out in paragraphs 4.2.5/6 of the report.
10. Cabinet endorsed the proposals in the council's 2013/14 Capital Programme to install improved **car park signs** on the main entrance roads into the town centre to direct motorists to their most convenient car park and provide up to the minute information on where spaces are available.
11. Cabinet acknowledged the contribution that **Northampton Town Centre Limited** (the Town Centre BID), has made to improving the Town Centre.
12. Cabinet agreed to commence consultation with local businesses on the creation of a **business improvement district for Wellingborough Road**.
13. Cabinet acknowledged the challenge that **empty shops** and **negligent and/or absent landlords** present to the council's ambitions for a vibrant and thriving town centre and requested that an action plan be promptly developed to address the problem with a

**public register of landlords.**

14. Cabinet approved proposals for major improvements to the **public realm** in the **Cultural Quarter**, to be delivered in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council, set to be outlined later this year.
15. Cabinet endorsed the establishment of a **town centre ranger** post, dedicated to keeping the town centre in pristine condition.
16. Cabinet made a commitment to try to reduce the blight of **discarded chewing gum** on town centre streets.
17. Cabinet agreed that in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council, to launch a formal consultation process to determine whether to **re-open the middle section of Abington Street** to vehicles to allow easier access for shoppers and visitors to the town centre.
18. Cabinet agreed to relocate the **Francis Crick Memorial Statue** to a suitable location.
19. Cabinet agreed to rollout **free Wi-Fi** across the entire town centre.
20. Cabinet agreed that an exciting **programme of summer events** be developed to bring more visitors into the town centre, including regular performances provided from a town centre bandstand.
21. Cabinet agreed that dedicated **busker spots** are created around the town centre to encourage more and better quality buskers.
22. Cabinet agreed that a review of the town's **night time economy** be undertaken to make certain the council, local businesses, Northamptonshire Police and other partners work together effectively to ensure the town centre is safe, as well as vibrant, and has something to attract a wide cross section of visitors.
23. Cabinet acknowledged the problem of **street drinkers and beggars** in the town centre and requested that an action plan is promptly developed to address the problem.
24. Cabinet endorsed the work currently being undertaken, in partnership with Northamptonshire County Council, on a pioneering **urban bicycle-hire scheme**, to be implemented in the town centre during the summer.
25. Cabinet agreed that a public consultation be undertaken on the future of the **Market Square fountain** during the summer of 2013.
26. Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations made in Overview and Scrutiny Committee's May 2013 **Retail Experience report** and thanked Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its valuable work.

27. Cabinet endorsed the allocation of £195,000 from the New Homes Bonus Reserve, in accordance with the delegations in the Constitution, to fund recommendations 2.6, 2.18 and 2.19 in 2013/14 and, for all of the remaining recommendations that have a financial impact, with the exception of recommendation 2.8, agreed that they will be funded from previously approved revenue and capital budgets.

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	None

### **9. CORPORATE OUTTURN PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Cabinet noted the contents of the report and recommended actions to be taken, if any, to address the issues arising.

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	None

### **10. FINANCE AND MONITORING OUTTURN REPORT**

1. Cabinet noted the draft outturn for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2012/13 as set out at Appendix 1 and Appendix 7 of the report.
2. Cabinet noted the net contribution to General Fund Revenue Reserves of £863k, and the detailed movements in Earmarked Reserves shown in Appendix 4 of the report..
3. Cabinet noted the net movement in Housing Revenue Account Reserves and working balances as set out at Appendix 8 of the report.
4. Cabinet noted the draft outturn for the Council's Capital Programme for 2012/13 and how the expenditure was financed as set out at Appendix 9 of the report.
5. Cabinet approved the carry forward of unfinished capital schemes from 2012/13 into the 2013/14 Capital Programme as set out at Appendix 9 of the report.