

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held in the Jeffery Room,
at the Guildhall on Monday, 26 January 2015 commencing at 6:00pm

D Kennedy
Chief Executive

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, telephone 01604 837408 (direct dial), email ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor Jamie Lane
Deputy-Chair	Councillor Brian W Sargeant
Committee Members	Councillor Tony Ansell Councillor Rufia Ashraf Councillor Norman Duncan Councillor Michael Ford Councillor Brendan Glynane Councillor Elizabeth Gowen Councillor Anna S King Councillor Phil Larratt Councillor Matthew Lynch Councillor Nilesh Ramesh Parekh Councillor Suresh Patel Councillor Sivaramen Subbarayan Councillor Winston Strachan

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
23 March 2015 6:00 pm	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1 6:00pm	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitutions
2	Minutes	1 - 7	Members to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2014.
3	Deputations/Public Addresses		<p>The Chair to note public address requests.</p> <p>The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.</p>
4	Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
5 6:05pm	Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group :Council-wide draft budget 2015 - 2020	8 – 15	The Committee to consider the Council wide draft budget 2015-2020.
6 7:05pm	Update on the Tree Policy for the borough		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a briefing detailing the Tree Policy for the borough.
7 7:20pm	Tree Maintenance Working Group		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider setting up a Tree Maintenance Working Group.
8	Monitoring of the implementation of the accepted recommendations contained in the Overview and Scrutiny report:		
8 (a) 7:25pm	Improving the Town's Parks	16 – 36	
9 7:40pm	Scrutiny Panels		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a progress report from the three Scrutiny Panels.

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

9 (a)	Scrutiny Panel 1 (Interpersonal Violence)	37 – 38	
9 (b)	Scrutiny Panel 2 (Poverty in the Town)	39 – 40	
9 (c)	Scrutiny Panel 3 (Keep Northampton Tidy)	41 – 42	
10 8:00pm	Parking Working Group	43 – 49	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the scope of the Parking Working Group.
11 8:05pm	Potential future pre decision scrutiny	50	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any potential issues for future pre decision scrutiny.
12 8:10pm	Urgent Items		This issue is for business that by reasons of the special circumstances to be specified, the Chair is of the opinion is of sufficient urgency to consider. Members or Officers that wish to raise urgent items are to inform the Chair in advance.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 10 November 2014

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair), Councillor Brian Sargeant (Vice Chair), Councillors Tony Ansell, Rufia Ashraf, Mick Ford, Phil Larratt, Councillor Nilesh Parekh, Councillor Aziz as substitute for Councillor Winston Strachan, Councillor Nehar Begum as substitute for Councillor Sivaramen Subbarayan

Councillor David Mackintosh	Leader of the Council
Councillor Tim Hadland	Cabinet Member (Planning, Enterprise and Regeneration)
Julie Seddon	Chair of CSP
Richard Palmer	Planning Policy Team Leader
Adam Simmonds	Police Crime Commissioner
Martin Jelley	Deputy Chief Constable

Officers	Tracy Tiff	Scrutiny Officer
	Nicola Brindley	Democratic Services Officer

Observers	Tom Appleyard
	Councillor Dennis Meredith

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Joy Capstick, Elizabeth Gowen, Winston Strachan, Suresh Patel and Sivaramen Subbarayan.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September were agreed as a true record.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

5. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS:

5.A SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME, VIOLENT CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Councillor David Mackintosh presented the report to the Committee.

AGREED: That the report be noted and that monitoring is now complete on this Overview and Scrutiny report

5.B IMPROVING THE TOWN'S PARKS

Councillor Mike Hallam presented the report to the Committee and confirmed that

opportunities such as resurfacing the tennis courts and the Green Flag and Bloom award had been achieved this year. A lot of work had been done and the main items completed in early 2015 and would appear on the budget as and when.

Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities, confirmed that there was now a process in place for booking the events in the park so all parties would know in advance and coordinate their activities.

It was discussed that members of the Park Management Group had mainly the attendance of one particular group which made decisions biased. Councillor Mike Hallam confirmed that this issue had been reported to him and was monitoring the situation closely.

AGREED: That the report be noted and that further monitoring of this Overview and Scrutiny report takes place at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2015.

5.C INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND S106 AGREEMENTS

Councillor Tim Hadland presented the report and confirmed that various matters were being dealt with and was ongoing. The CIL report would be presented to Cabinet in December and implements on 1st April 2015.

In response to a question from Councillor Phil Larratt, Councillor Tim Hadland confirmed that there was no provision for a dual carriageway for the North West Bypass and they were going to have what was available to them. The schedule of expansion was through Highways but CIL related to other types of infrastructure.

Councillor Jamie Lane requested an update in the spring 2015.

Richard Palmer, Planning Policy team Leader, confirmed that the GMS scheme was an arrangement with other councils and the Highways Department which allowed contributions to come forward. If CIL was not implemented then there would be only 5 obligations for infrastructure projects. The Committee asked if clarification could be given regarding the infrastructure funding gap of £150.7 m that has been identified across West Northamptonshire as reported in the in the action for recommendation 2 of the Overview and Scrutiny report.

In response to a question from Councillor Mick Ford, Councillor Tim Hadland confirmed that the circumstances for Section 106 monies changed as a result of the recession. As a Local Authority they kept assessing viability to get the best performance and the product delivered ie development going.

Richard Palmer confirmed that they would ensure that the correct infrastructure was in place so traffic did not grind to a halt. They were working with others to get the best deal around new development.

AGREED: (1) That the report be noted and that further monitoring of this Overview and Scrutiny report takes place in the spring 2015.

(2) That clarification be provided to the Committee regarding the infrastructure funding gap of £150.7 m that has been identified across West Northamptonshire as reported in the in the action for recommendation 2 of the Overview and Scrutiny report.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP) PERFORMANCE

Councillor David Mackintosh addressed the Committee and confirmed that the Partnership

had worked well with other agencies and were now developing health and care plans for vulnerable street drinkers in the town centre. There had been Street Drinkers and these are being addressed, but the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, that came into force in October 2014 will strengthen how these issues can be dealt with. A paper would be presented to Cabinet in December about the new Act, it was suggested that it would be useful for Overview and Scrutiny to receive a copy of this report, when it is published.

Adam Simmonds, Police Crime and Commissioner confirmed that the CSP Performance in Northamptonshire showed that violence had increased by 14% and Serious Acquisitive Crime had decreased by 20% which had outperformance elsewhere in the County. Good progress had been made and the Police had been working with other agencies. There were challenges around the PCSOs although they had 154 Special Constables who worked 4000 hours per month and 23000 hours in the last 6 months. This was a large contribution from people in this town outside their day jobs.

Martin Jelley, Deputy Chief Constable, confirmed that in the last five years he considered that Northampton had moved onto a new level with the help of Superintendent Mick Stamper and Chief Inspector Mark Evans. Street drinking and dispersal orders had been very positive.

Julie Seddon, Chair of the CSP, confirmed that she endorsed what had been said and confirmed that although there were challenges which still needed to be responded to, they had an effective Safety Community Partnership which was the key to making progress.

In response to a question from Councillor Brendan Glynane, Councillor David Mackintosh confirmed that the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014 would make the threshold for evidence lower and could see action being taken on suspicion/concerns rather than evidence. The Cabinet report had a summary of changes and would be made available to all Members.

Councillor Aziz made reference to the Asian gold issue and Councillor David Mackintosh confirmed that a lot of work had been done around this problem. A joint seminar had taken place at the Bangladesh Association where advice had been given to the community and intelligence made available to the Police which had been productive.

Adam Simmonds confirmed that confidence in the Police had increased to 85% and was still rising but forces were still under pressure. Street drinking and violence had decreased by 20% in the last two years which made the Town Centre safer but there was still work to do in the daytime and the Asian area.

Martin Jelley, Deputy Chief Constable advised that they were aware of the Asian gold issues and had put a lot of effort into the community at the time with extra patrols and community meetings to work on prevention. Predictive policing had also worked well and had seen a 20% reduction in burglaries although not specific to Asian communities but made areas safer.

Councillor David Mackintosh advised that they had seen issues with people who had moved here from the EU where they had a different culture in relation to drinking. If Councillors were aware of any issues in their wards then to report to him and he would look into it.

Councillor Tony Ansell praised the work Adam Simmonds had carried out as Police Crime Commissioner so far and had confidence Adam would tackle the issues. He expressed concerns over too many licenced shops in one area for example the Wellingborough Road.

Adam Simmonds confirmed he shared his view on the licensing issues and hoped to tighten the rules in licensing as in some areas where the night-time economy effected the daytime.

In response to a question from Councillor Rufia Ashraf, Adam Simmonds confirmed that they would not be reducing the number of PCSOs but their target was to increase the amount of Special Constables to 900 by 2016. They wanted to bring back the concept of a village Constable who would be warranted and fully trained and increase the visibility of the Police.

Councillor Phil Larratt thanked Adam Simmonds for the Special Constable in Hunsbury and the residents were very happy with their high visibility. It worked well and urban areas needed their own Specials as well.

Adam Simmonds confirmed that Northampton was on a journey to becoming the safest place and there were 1000 Police across the county who were working on behalf of the residents to keep them safe.

In response to a question from Councillor Brendan Glynane, Martin Jelley confirmed that sexual offences had increased as there were historical offences being reported. There was also a Police Operation which would start next week to give preventative messages to the public about car crime and robbery.

AGREED: That the update be noted.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY

Councillor Mike Hallam presented the report to the Committee and confirmed that they had been working with the contractor to address the issues. They had seen a change in food recycling as this had decreased since it was first introduced as people were wasting less food. In response to a question he confirmed that if people needed to reorder bin bags then they should call the Contact Centre. People were given two bags each week to drive down the amount of waste sent to landfill. There was a national shortage of getting replacement food bins and orders were currently taking 4 weeks.

In response to a question from Councillor Brendan Glynane, Councillor Mike Hallam confirmed that food waste had been introduced in March 2011. He also confirmed that there were periodic checks as part of the contract to check if homes with bigger bins still required them.

Councillor Jamie Lane referred to the Motion made at Full Council in September which was carried:

‘There are many areas of the Eastern District where historic planting of the wrong kind of tress in the residential areas cause a number of problems for residents – from light being blocked from homes, to fallen debris, to damage to property from roots.

‘This Council resolves to develop a plan to consider removing trees that are identified as problematic and consider replacing them with smaller tress more suited to residential areas.

‘This Council recognises this issue is complex and many trees are located on housing land that will soon be managed by Northampton Partnership Homes so therefore refers this matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider.’

Councillor Mike Hallam confirmed he would provide an update to the Committee at the next meeting.

AGREED: (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That an update on the tree policy for the borough; including any maintenance programme be provided to the January 2015 meeting of this Committee.

8. SCRUTINY PANELS

8.A SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

Councillor Jamie Lane confirmed that it was Domestic Abuse Awareness week in week commencing 24th November 2014. 25 November 2014 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the Scrutiny Panel, along with Officers from Community Safety and Women's Aid will man a stand located in the Spencer Percival area of the Guildhall between 11.30am and 1.30pm and an information pack given to Councillors to highlight the campaign in their wards.

AGREED; That the brief be noted.

8.B SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - POVERTY IN THE TOWN

A Briefing Note was supplied.

AGREED: That brief be noted.

8.C SCRUTINY PANEL 3 - KEEP NORTHAMPTON TIDY

Councillor Tony Ansell confirmed that there had been four meetings for Keep Northampton Tidy and the attendance had decreased to 38% at the last meeting. There were two further meetings on 26th November 2014 and 26 January 2015 with evidence gathering on 9th March for the panel to approve the report. Nikki Ive taken this out but you may want to add something – Cllr Ansell referred to the number of Neighbourhood Wardens and the number of fixed penalty notices that they had issued; which he perceived to be around 1.5 each. He had visited other towns and cities for a comparison and wanted Northampton to be a spotless town every day.

Councillor Jamie Lane gave thanks to Councillor Tony Ansell for his hard work on the matter and was disappointed at the attendance numbers. He reminded Councillors that they were Councillors for the Borough as well as their wards and had a responsibility to attend the meetings.

A reminder would be sent to the Members detailing the dates of the next meetings.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTING AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP

Councillor Jamie Lane confirmed that there had been 100% attendance for this meeting and the next one would be on 5th January 2015. A report would be submitted to the Committee on 25th January 2015.

AGREED: That the Terms of Reference for the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group 2014/2015 be approved.

10. REPORT BACK FROM NBC'S REPRESENTATIVE TO NCC'S HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A briefing note was submitted to the Committee and it was confirmed that the next meeting would be in March.

It was proposed by Councillor Phil Larratt and seconded by Councillor Tony Ansell that it be requested that Councillor Brendan Glynane be the Council's representative on this Committee.

Councillor Jamie Lane confirmed he would take this proposal to the Leader of the Council for consideration.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

11. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY

Councillor Phil Larratt proposed to reiterate to Cabinet on CILs.

AGREED: That this be noted.

12. URGENT ITEMS

Councillor Jamie Lane referred to the motion that was unanimously carried at full Council at its meeting in October 2014:

"This Council recognises the exceptional parking problems that residents and tenants regularly encounter in St James as a result of match day parking. But the problems in St James are not only match day parking. The people coming into St James taking up residents' and tenants spaces include people coming into the area to work and some people parking at the flats and walking to the station to avoid the parking charges there. This council therefore resolves to do the following:

1. Look into the possibility of issuing tenants in NBC homes that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits. The properties considered would be: Cordwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House, although this list is not exhaustive. This measure would ensure that premium allocated parking is not occupied by people from the outside area. This should be supplemented with sufficient enforcement to tackle inappropriately and incorrectly parked vehicles.
2. This council also agrees to consult with Northamptonshire County Council, the Police and Highways to look at the possibility of extending free parking permits into other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town which may then replace the current parking permit scheme which is presently under review and thus remove the need to financially penalise the people of St James simply because people from the outside area come to park in St James, as a successful sports club is located on their door step.
3. This Council resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a detailed investigation to look at these options for Cabinet to consider."

The Chair suggested that the Committee will set up a Working Group entitled "Match Day Parking" which would not meet in public session.

It was confirmed that Councillor Brian Sargeant would be Chair, with Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Tony Ansell, Brendan Glynane and Mick Ford on the Working Group.

The terms of reference for the Working Group would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in January 2015 for approval.

AGREED: That .the Match Day Parking Working Group be set up, with membership as detailed above.

The meeting concluded at 7:37 pm



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26 JANUARY 2015

BRIEFING NOTE: Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring
Working Group – Council Wide Draft Budget 2015-2020

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group met on 5 January 2015 to review the draft budget details and identify proposals that it considered merited closer scrutiny.

2 UPDATE

2.1 All the items in the revenue and capital budget proposals for the General Fund, (GF), and Housing Revenue Account, (HRA) were discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group. The Working Group agreed a number of priority items forward for closer scrutiny by the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 The items chosen for closer scrutiny are:

Saving Options and Budget Risks

Area For Further Scrutiny	GF / HRA Saving Option or Budget Risk
1. Contributions to reserves in forecasting potential risks – medium term savings in respect of the Environmental Services Contract and links to the proposals contained within the budget of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) regarding a proposed saving of £7 million on waste and how this could potentially impact on NBC in the region of £1.7 million	GF Budget Risk
2. Implementation of service reviews, restructures and employee costs review to ensure that they are deliverable	GF and HRA Saving Option
3. Creation of the Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) budget - to ensure that they have been allocated in the right way	HRA Budget Risk
4. Business rates retention scheme – to ensure the right level of forecasting etc. and how the business rates have changed over the years	GF Budget Risk

- 2.3 Cabinet Members and Officers have been asked to attend this meeting to support the scrutiny of these proposals.
- 2.4 Comments raised by Overview and Scrutiny will form part of the Cabinet considerations for agreeing the final budget proposals to Council. They will be provided to Council as an Appendix to the Cabinet report so that they can also be taken into account in approving a final budget.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees its comments and observations to be included as an Appendix to the Cabinet report; and for consideration by Cabinet in agreeing a final budget proposal.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 Budget Consultation (NBC internet).

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group

6 January 2015

Implementation of Service Reviews, Restructures and Employee Costs
Review to Ensure That They Are Deliverable

Brief description of option

The deletion of posts and proposed reduction in salary will result in efficiency savings required. The majority of the posts offered up have been vacant for at least a few months, for some longer, during which time a more fundamental assessment of their need has been able to have been undertaken and impact on overall service assessed. Apart from efficiencies related to new Information Technology being brought in, the vast majority of the work associated with the posts has been transferred to other post holders which has required a focus on the key service delivery areas to be undertaken, whilst elements of work that that are not essential to KPIs and statutory functions have been reduced.

The table below shows the savings to be achieved.

<u>General Fund MTP Savings Options</u>		
MTP Reference	MTP Option Description	2015/2016 £
Borough Secretary		
B119	Implementation of 2014 Employee Cost Review	(103,170)
	TOTAL Borough Secretary	(103,170)
Customers & Communities		
B119	Implementation of 2014 Employee Cost Review	(606,180)
B146	Service Reviews	(705,000)
	TOTAL Customers and Communities	(1,311,180)
Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning		
B119	Implementation of 2014 Employee Cost Review	(248,290)
B145	Service Reviews	(184,349)
	TOTAL Regeneration Enterprise and Planning	(432,639)
Housing		
B143	Service Review	(150,000)
B119	Implementation of 2014 Employee Cost Review	(210,960)
	TOTAL Housing	(360,960)
	SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES TOTAL	(2,207,949)

Business Rates Retention Scheme Overview

Previously

Local Government finance system is one of the most centralised in the world

Over 50% of funding is received direct from Central Government

All business rates income was collected by billing authorities but paid direct to Government

This was redistributed to local government via a VERY complex formula

Current

Shift in financial responsibility for business rates
Councils given the ability to keep at least 50% of growth in future business rates

A proportion of the income collected is retained
(only part is paid out to other government bodies)

50% Government

10% County Council

40% Retained

A mix of “top-ups” and “tariffs” equalise funding across local government

Pooling

Northamptonshire Councils entered into a pooling arrangement to retain even more of the growth
As a result of pooling the Council gets back some of the 50% growth it had to pay to Government

Businesses within the Borough

Northampton currently has 6,347 businesses within the borough with a rateable value of £245m
87% (5,528) of these businesses have a rateable value (RV) of less than 50,000 which accounts for 26% (£63m) of the RV.

This means 13% (819) businesses accounts for 74% (£181m) of the total RV.

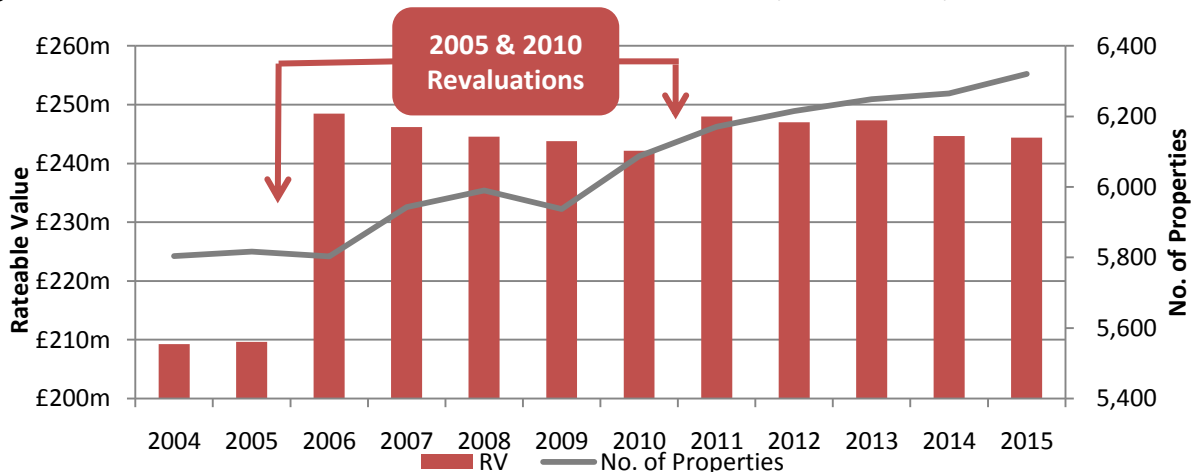
A small proportion of total businesses make up the majority of the Rateable Value.

The last 10 years

The graph below shows the total value of business within Northampton (bars) and the total number of businesses (line) over the last 10 years.

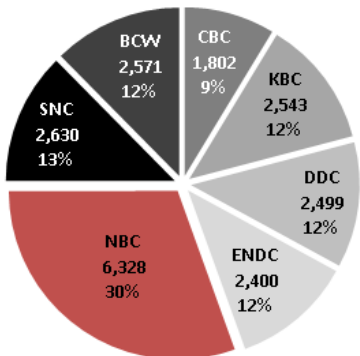
As can be seen there were 2 significant events in 2005 and 2010 which had a significant impact on the value of businesses in Northampton. The revaluations which took place in these years increased the values of businesses, as demonstrated by the increases. The value of businesses since each of the valuations has seen a decline.

During this time the number of businesses has increased from around 5,800 to over 6,300.



Comparison with our Neighbours

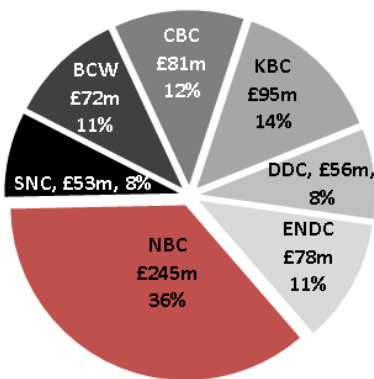
No. of Properties



Northampton makes up around 30% of the total number of businesses across the County.

The volume of businesses within the borough makes it more difficult to predict the volatility and changes in circumstances that arise.

Rateable Value



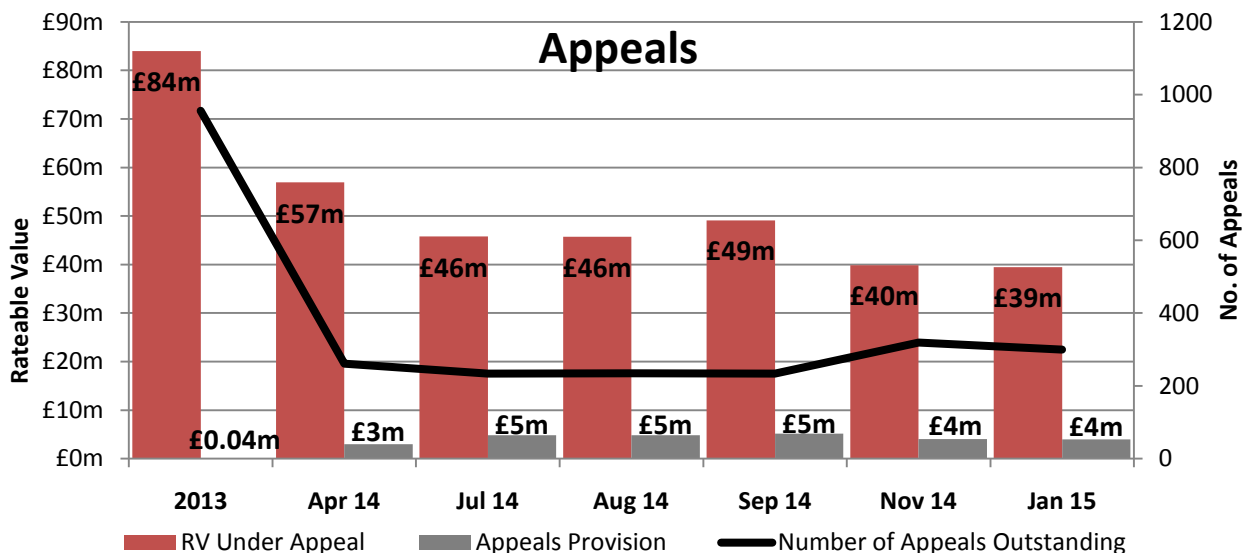
Northampton makes up around 36% of the total value of businesses across the County.

Changes to value of businesses can have a significant impact upon business rates collected within the Northampton.

The business rates retention scheme has highlighted the need to better understand movements and changes to businesses within the borough.

Changes and Volatility

The main reason for reductions in rateable value over the past few years has been as a result of appeals lodged by businesses to the Valuation Office. The level and impact of appeals has been volatile and difficult to predict. The graph below sets out the number and level of appeals and the provision the Council is making to mitigate the risks of future successful appeals.



Forecasting Future Business Rates

The impact of other changes and volatility could have a significant impact upon the level of business rates collected by the authority. Additional work is currently being undertaken to better understand the impact during 2014/15 and assess potential impact for future years.

Due to the amount of volatility being experienced in recent years the Council is ensuring that it has the right information to support future growth projections.

The Council has set up a Business Rates Forecasting Group. This is made up of officer from Planning, Economic Development, Revenues and Finance.

The aim of the group is to gather and analyse the business intelligence that is available to the Council and seek to forecast the amount of income the borough can retain in the future.

Further progress of this group will be reported to Management Board and will be incorporated into the Council's budget and MTFP.

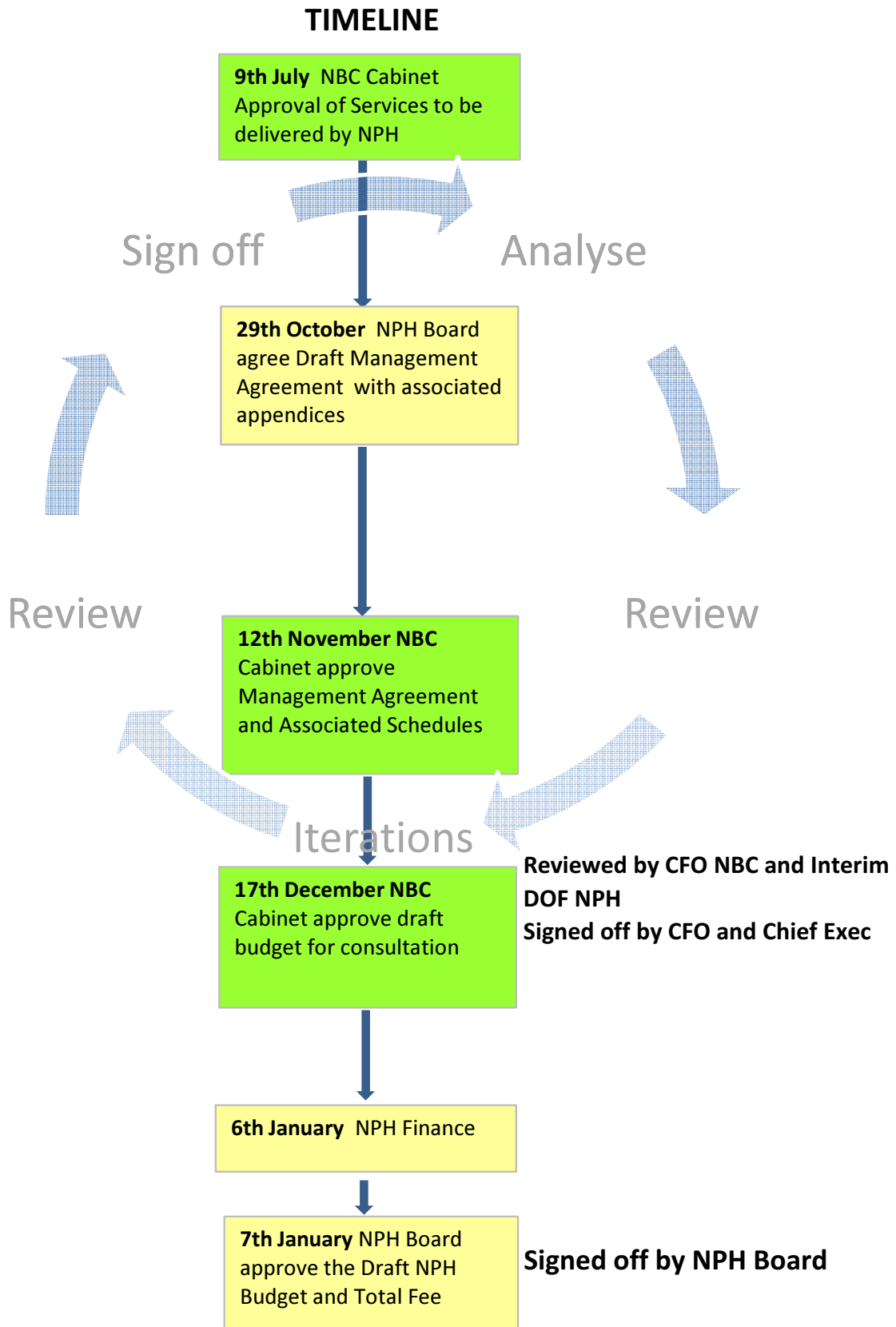
Budget and MTFP

Due to the amount of uncertainty and volatility that surrounds business rates forecasting, the Council currently has the baseline funding only included in the funding projections of the MTFP.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Baseline Funding	£6,252,252	£6,377,297	£6,504,842	£6,634,940	£6,767,639
Additional Grant	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
Growth	Further work being undertaken by the Business Rates Forecasting Group to further develop these forecasts for Growth within Northampton				
Pooling Benefit	£187,000	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000
Total	£7,439,252	£7,577,297	£7,704,842	£7,834,940	£7,967,639

Since the draft budget was set the Council has undertaken additional work to try to reach a forecast position which can be included in the final MTFP for February 2015. The Council is currently completing its business rates forecast for submission to Government by the end of January 2015. Completion of this form has enabled the Council to identify the amount of grant due, arising from the business rates measures announced by Government, such as the doubling of Small Business Rate Relief and localism reliefs. It is uncertain how long the grant will continue before this income forms part of general business rates funding in the future. As a result of this work, the Council expects to include the grant into its forecasts over the medium term.

TIMELINE AND PROCESS OF SPLITTING NBC BUDGETS OUT TO NPH TOTAL FEE



Summary Table of Total Fee to NPH for 2015/16

Total Fee	NPH Management Fee £k
Management - HRA	14,039
Management - GF Housing	246
Maintenance - Managed Budget Responsive	11,084
Maintenance - Managed Budget Cyclical	3,311
Capital - Managed Budget Improvement to Homes	23,778
Capital - Managed Budget Improvement to Environment	2,214
Capital - IT Capital	600
Total	55,272

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ACTION PLAN: SCRUTINY PANEL 1

Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel (1 – Improving the Town’s parks) completed in January 2014.

Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations

Report received by Cabinet	Response received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
12 March 2014	7 April 2014	10 November 2014	

Recommendation 1: Communication with Friends Groups is enhanced by improved links with Northampton Borough Council’s webpage and Groups’ webpages, coupled with improved communications with Enterprise Management Services (EMS); such as the of maintenance schedules for parks.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by:	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
To improve communications with Friends Groups by improving links with NBC and Groups’ webpages. Improve	The Community Development Officer/Manager will update the NBC website for the Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of, etc, and will including links to individual sites.	NBC Website NBC Officer Time Park Management Committees	Ongoing	Completed

communication links with EMS regarding the maintenance schedules for parks	Enterprise Managed Services (EMS) work to their contractual specification, which is output based, so there isn't any schedules except the seasonal change overs from grass cutting, shrub pruning, pitch maintenance, etc.	EMS contractual obligations	Ongoing	Completed
Recommendation 2: A programme of community events is produced in association with all stakeholders, published on the Council's webpage and promoted to the community.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
To produce a programme of community events in association with all stakeholders to be published on the Council's webpage and promoted to the community.	The formation of the Parks Management Committees enables all users to be aware of future events on individual parks and promote them through their own groups to their local communities; including the use of their own individual websites. NBC Events will promote big events through the Council's website.	Management Committees NBC Officer Time NBC Website Individual Group Websites	Ongoing	Completed

Recommendation 3: Information relating to facilities available in the town's parks is accessible on the Council's webpage.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Review the facilities in the town's parks and ensure the information is accessible on the Council's webpages.	The Parks Management Committees make their own decisions on the facilities within their own local parks. These are then promoted in the same way as in recommendation 2. Abington Park , Becketts Park, Delapre Park, The Racecourse – updated on the Council's web pages www.northampton.gov.uk/parks	Parks Management Committees NBC Officer Time NBC Website Individual Group Websites	Ongoing	Completed
Recommendation 4: A uniform on-line booking process for sports pitches and events is introduced.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Implement an improved booking process for NBC's Parks and Open spaces.	Access to booking the parks facilities has been made easier by introducing online and over the phone card payments.	NLT Staff Time NBC Officer Time	Ongoing	Completed

Recommendation 5: The town's parks are clearly identifiable on Internet search engines, such as Google, and highlighted as points of interest on satellite navigation software, such as Garmin and Tom Tom.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Ensure the towns parks are identified on internet search sites.	Search engines, such as Google, are locating the parks, if searched for. The information on the webpages are kept up to date as recommendations 1 & 2	NBC Officer Time NBC Website Individual Group Websites	Ongoing	Completed
Recommendation 6: Obsolete signs, in place around the town's parks, are removed and all relevant signage and visitor information is in situ clearly visible.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Remove obsolete signs around the town's parks. Review visitor signage around the parks.	Park Management Committees are now identifying obsolete signs and requesting new or additional signs through the Community Development Officer/Manager and the Council's Partnership Unit	Park Management Committees NBC Officer Time	Ongoing	Completed

Recommendation 7: The Highways Agency and the Highways Authority is asked to update its brown tourist signage that details points of interest across the town; specifically ensuring that signage for the town's parks is clear.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
NCC Highways to be asked to update its brown tourist signs and also to increase the number of brown tourist signs to point visitors to local parks that are currently not sign posted	Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of, to identify areas where they would like to see brown tourist signs located. This needs to be discussed at their meetings and feedback given to the Community Development Officer/Manager	Park Management Committees NBC Officer Time NCC Highways (Funding Required)	2015	Item added to agenda for Park Management Committee meetings in 2015
Recommendation 8: The Scheme "Dog Watch" organised by Northamptonshire Police is promoted.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Promote the scheme "Dog Watch" Issue or fit "Dog Fouling" signs at parks that request	Park Management Committees to discuss at their local meetings on how each Committee wishes to take this action forward with the Police. Community Development Officer/Manager to take forward	Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of NBC Officer Time		Item added to agenda for Park Management Committee meetings in 2015

them.	their actions The NBC Partnership Unit has recently fitted or given a number of dog fouling signs to Park Management Committees, who have requested them.			
Recommendation 9: Cabinet is asked to ensure that where appropriate, initiatives and ideas from parks are monitored in order for them to be mirrored in others.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Cabinet is asked to ensure initiatives and ideas are mirrored in other parks	The newly formed Park Management Committees all meet twice a year to discuss each other's achievements / initiatives / ideas, etc. Community Development Officer/Manager to take forward their suggestions.	Park Management Committees NBC Officer Time		Completed
Recommendation 10: Appropriate sources of funding are identified for the restoration and contingency of scheduled monuments.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Identify funding for the restoration and	There is a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) which		A Hunsbury Hill Management	

contingency of scheduled monuments.	was commissioned jointly by NBC and English Heritage – the NBC Conservation Officer has been working with the Friends of Hunsbury Country Park for funding for the Scheduled monument Hunsbury Hillfort.		Committee is due to be set up in March 2015.	
Recommendation 11: Lighting and footpaths are well maintained in the town's parks and upgraded where necessary.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Assess lighting/footpaths in the towns parks Maintain as necessary	Most of the footpaths in the parks have recently been surveyed by NBC. There have been a large number of repairs carried out in 2013/14. The NBC Partnership Unit is responsible for the upkeep of the parks internal footpaths that belong to NBC (some of the internal footpaths are NCC). A set budget is set aside each year for the maintenance and repairs. The budget is limited, so priority must be given to footpaths that have become a	Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of NBC Officer Time		Item is discussed at Park Management Committees

	<p>potential hazard.</p> <p>The above also applies to the lighting in the parks – So belong to NBC and some belong to NCC. The ownership is normally established as and when a fault is reported by the Park Management Committee or member of the public.</p>			
Recommendation 12: Footpaths are installed in the town's smaller parks to improve disabled access.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Install footpaths in the towns smaller parks to improve disabled access	There is a set budget for maintenance and repairs to the NBC owned footpaths in the parks. There isn't a budget for new footpaths. To introduce new footpaths in to parks funding would have to be sourced. Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of, would need to seek grants with the help of the Community Development Officer/Manager.	Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of NBC Officer Time (Funding Required)		Item is discussed at Park Management Committees

Recommendation 13: Responsibility for the bridle way that runs through West Hunsbury Country Park is clarified.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Find out who is responsible for the maintenance of the bridle way that runs through West Hunsbury Country Park	The bridle ways through the park belong to NCC (HW14, HW15 & HW13) – This can also be seen on NCC’s interactive mapping at http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/Pages/HomePage.aspx	NII	N/A	N/A
Recommendation 14: The mowing schedule for West Hunsbury Country Park and Cherry Orchard, Hardingstone, clearly states that the whole area is not be mowed, only the informal walkways.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Review the mowing schedule for West Hunsbury Country Park, Cherry Orchard and Hardingstone	EMS cut the grass normally from February to September, but this is dependent on the seasonal weather, as the grass cutting could be slightly extended or shortened. However, the EMS contract is output based and the contractors will only cut the	NBC Officer Time (Funding Required)		Ongoing monitoring by Partnership Unit

	grass when it has reached a certain length. There would be a cost to NBC should we increase the frequency of grass cutting outside of the scope of the contract. The contract is monitored by the Partnership Unit.			
Recommendation 15: The pond in Ecton Brook Pocket Park is cleaned out and the condition of other water features in the town's parks is assessed and appropriate action taken.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Review the pond in Ecton Brook Pocket Park and assess the condition of other water features in the town's parks and ensure appropriate action is taken.	Funding needs to be sourced to task Asset Management with the job to find a surveyor / consultant to carry out the necessary tests and work, if required.	NBC Officer Time (Funding Required)		Investigation into possible funding sources continues

Recommendation 16: Where present in the town's parks, hard standing tennis courts are refurbished				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Refurbish the hard standing tennis courts where present in the towns parks	All the parks tennis courts have been refurbished this financial year (2014/15).	Partnership Unit Asset Management	June 2014	Completed Abington, Kingsthorpe Rec, Racecourse, Becketts Park
Recommendation 17 Where possible, litter and dog bins are located side by side in the town's parks.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Locate litter and dog bins side by side in the towns parks	When new litterbins are required at park locations, every effort should be made to locate them near dog bins, where practicable. Example, a play area will need a litterbin, but it would not be practicable to put a dog waste bin next to it. The dog waste bin would need to be near the park exit. It would not be cost effective to have an additional	Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of NBC Officer Time (Funding Required)		To be actioned whenever new bins are installed. Park Management Committees involved in decisions about placing of bins.

	litterbin just to meet this requirement. The requests from the Park Management Committees / Groups / Friends Of would normally go through the NBC Partnership Unit.			
Recommendation 18 Bins with lids/slots are installed in some parks, such as West Hunsbury Country Park, to prevent wildlife accessing the contents of the bins.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
In relevant parks install bins with lids/slots	All litterbins that are now purchased are closed top and normally have a cigarette tray on the top. To purchase and install a litterbin costs approximately £500. EMS will only replace a litterbin, at their cost, if it has been damaged beyond repair. Funding would be required to replace any litterbins that are not damaged. Replacements for damaged litterbins are normally done directly by EMS. Additional litterbin requests are managed through the NBC Partnership	EMS Partnership Unit (Funding Required)		Enterprise advised that when new or replacement bins are installed they should be the Derby type.

	Unit.			
Recommendation 19: Picnic areas and permanent hard standings for BBQs are installed in some of the town's parks, together with litter bins and measures to prevent fire and damage.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
<p>Install picnic areas and permanent hard standings for BBQs</p> <p>Install litter bins and measures to prevent fire and damage</p>	<p>The matter has been discussed by Park Management Committees. Some trial sites have been suggested, however not all practical due to constraints on land use. Suitable trial sites to be identified by Park Rangers over winter 2014/15 and trial to commence in Spring 2015 with a view to wider installation</p>	<p>NBC Officer time</p> <p>Materials (slabs, bins and fire protection measures)</p>	<p>Sites to be identified by 31 March 2015 for installation during April.</p> <p>Trial to be carried out April – July</p> <p>Decision about further installation during summer 2015</p>	<p>Identification of trial sites</p> <p>Installation of slabs and bins</p> <p>Completion and evaluation of trial</p> <p>Decision on whether to install areas on a wider basis.</p> <p>Progress being made in line with outlined timescale</p>

Recommendation 20 A set standards for the provision of toilet facilities within the town's parks is introduced.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Identify the set standard for the provision of toilet facilities within the town's parks.	EMS are contracted to clean and maintain a cleansing standard, as per contractual agreement. NBC Asset Management are responsible for maintaining the infrastructure of the buildings, fixtures and fittings, etc. The Partnership Unit is responsible for the monitoring of the contractors cleansing.	EMS NBC Officer Time		Toilets cleaned in accordance with contract standard.
Recommendation 21 The opening times of the toilet facilities within the town's parks are advertised.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Advertise the opening times of the toilet facilities within the town's parks	There are only three public toilets in the town's parks. Two at Abington Park and one in Delapre Abbey. The one in Delapre Abbey is managed by			Signage in place at Abington Park toilets

	<p>the Friends Of Delapre Abbey.</p> <p>One of the two toilets in Abington Park, near the play area, is 24 hours. The other toilets in Abington Park are near the bowling greens, which has seasonal opening hours.</p> <p>Partnership Unit are currently revising these hours and once agreed will arrange for opening times to be erected at both locations.</p>			
Recommendation 22: A funding pot is identified to be allocated to Community Groups that maintain toilets within their local park.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Allocate funding to Community Groups to maintain toilets within their local park	Racecourse toilets, within the Pavilion are being made available to the public, being co-ordinated by the Umbrella Fair Organisation, utilising Volunteers	Umbrella Fair Organisation	End of November 2014	FODA took over the toilet facilities at Delapre Abbey

Recommendation 23 In order to make contact with the Park Rangers easier, a central office, located close to the town's Parks, or the provision of regular advertised surgeries in the park is provided.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Display of contact information for Park Rangers Provision of regular surgeries Investigation into development of suitable Park Ranger Office	Notice boards with Ranger contact numbers have been installed at Abington Park and numbers provided on information boards at other parks. Rangers have begun a programme of regular surgeries and dog walker cafes around parks, details are advertised in parks and on NBC website. To date no suitable location of park ranger officer has been found	Notice boards Officer time	Boards in place Surgeries etc ongoing	Boards in place Surgeries are taking place.

Recommendation 24 Administrative support is provided for the Park Rangers to enable them to spend more time in the town's parks.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Develop measures to allow Rangers to maximise the amount of time spent on parks	Rangers have been provided with remote access to emails. Measures to allow remote website access are being investigated. Tasks undertaken have been streamlined to minimise time required to be spent in office. Team meetings are often held in parks.	Officer time	Initial measures in place Spring 2014 Further work to streamline processes is ongoing	Analysis of ranger working patterns to be completed in Spring 2015. Work progressing in line with timescale above
Recommendation 25: Contact details and a report of the activities of the Park Rangers are published on the Council's webpage and promoted to all stakeholders.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Website content updated to include Ranger Contact details, information about their roles	Content on website updated by Rangers and Departmental web author	Officer time	By end Nov 2014	Website content updated and kept under review.

and reports of activities				
Recommendation 26 The role of the Park Ranger is clarified and details disseminated to all stakeholders.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Information on Ranger role to be added to website and shared with Park Management Committees	Details of Ranger role added to website and rangers attend management committees to give report on activities	NBC officer time	Web content to be updated by end Nov 2014 Reports to committees ongoing	Website content updated and kept under review.
Recommendation 27 The key roles of the Park Management Committees includes:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing, implementing and maintaining Management and Action Plans • Park management • Monitoring role • Organising events and activities • Oversee the maintenance of parks • Provide support to voluntary groups • To seek and maintain funding for the parks, where appropriate, work with Friends Groups in securing external funding • Promoting of the park and its facilities • Create Strategies for the local management of the parks, linking to the Council's wider policies and strategies • Debating issues, such as how volunteers in the town's park can work alongside the maintenance contract • A listening role 				

- Intelligence gathering

The Scrutiny Panel highlights the need for meaningful and outcome driven terms of reference for the Park Management Committees and has produced a draft terms of reference, as attached at Appendix (i) for Cabinet's consideration.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
	Each of the Park Management Committees have used the draft terms of reference as a starting point to agree their own Terms of Reference, all match very closely to appendix (i)	NBC Officer time		Park Management Committees have agreed terms of reference

Recommendation 28: In addition to Park Management Committees, an annual Park Forum is held.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
	A meeting has been held with the Cabinet Member, Cllr Hallam and the Chairs of the Park Management Committees to discuss common problems and strategic issues across the parks. These meetings will be held twice yearly.			Meeting held, to continue to be held twice a year.

Recommendation 29: Membership of the Park Management Committees consists of around ten members, typically drawn from representatives from:

- Friends Groups
- Ward Councillor(s)
- Parish Council representatives where appropriate
- Park User Group representatives and individuals that manage areas of parks
- Park users
- Park personnel
- Young people representatives
- Representatives from Agencies
- Representative from Enterprise Management Services (EMS); for example, Manager/Team Leader
- Representative from Northampton Borough Council
- Representatives from Sports Clubs
- Residents' Associations

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
	<p>Across the Park Management Committees representation of the above groups is starting to be established.</p> <p>The police are attending meetings which is proving useful.</p> <p>Unfortunately Amey have yet to attend any of the parks meetings.</p>	<p>Input from the organisations listed above</p>		<p>Attendance at the meetings continues to be good, a number of partners and stakeholders are attending with an interest in the parks.</p>

Recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation 30: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Included onto the O&S Monitoring Work Programme 2014/2015	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and Scrutiny Committee	n/a	Monitoring to take place in November 2014 Monitoring took place in November 2014; further monitoring scheduled for the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 26 January 2015	



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2015

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one further evidence gathering meeting of the Scrutiny Panel has taken place with a further scheduled.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 1 December 2014, the Panel received evidence from a variety of core expert advisors:

- Sunflower Centre
- Relate
- Northampton Women's Forum
- Red Cross
- Northampton Women's Aid

- 2.2 The Scrutiny Panel also received details from a Domestic Violence in Faith Communities Conference that a representative of the Scrutiny Panel had attended and information regarding Domestic Violence Awareness Raising Week. 25 November 2014 was International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The Scrutiny Panel hosted, together with officers from Community Safety, an information stand at the Guildhall on this day. Representatives from Northampton Women's Aid also provided information at the stand. The Scrutiny Panel was pleased to note that a number of individuals visited the information stand. A report back on the recent site visits was also received.

- 2.3 Further background papers were received by the Scrutiny Panel:

- Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)'s Policy Briefing: Domestic Violence that was published in October 2014

- 2.4 At the final evidence gathering meeting scheduled for 22 January 2015, the Scrutiny Panel will receive responses to its core questions from further expert advisors. The results of a desktop research exercise will be received along with details regarding honour based abuse. The Scrutiny Panel will also receive a variety of anonymised case studies to inform its evidence base.
- 2.5 It is envisaged that the review will conclude in March 2015; with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 23 March 2015.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Interpersonal Violence

2 December 2014



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 January 2015

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 - POVERTY IN THE TOWN

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, two further evidence gathering meetings of the Scrutiny Panel have taken place.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 24 November 2014 the Scrutiny Panel received a response to its core questions from a variety of key expert advisors:

- Cabinet Member for Housing, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Cabinet Member for Finance, NBC
- Head of Revenues and Benefits, Local Government Shared Services (LGSS)
- Chair, Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

- 2.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel was revised:

Councillor Elizabeth Gowen (Chair), Councillor Brian Sargeant (Deputy Chair), Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Lee Mason, Councillor Beverley Mennell, Christopher Malpas, Dennis Meredith and County Councillor Winston Strachan, co-optee.

- 2.4 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 8 January 2015, the Scrutiny Panel received further information from key expert advisors:

- Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
- Community Law
- Community and Voluntary Sector via Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire

Central and East Northamptonshire Citizens' Advice Bureau will provide evidence to the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel on 12 February 2015.

- 2.5 At this meeting, the Scrutiny Panel also received a research paper detailing best practice initiatives.

- 2.6 An evidence gathering meeting is scheduled for 12 February 2015; key expert advisors are scheduled to provide evidence to this meeting. Further expert advisors to inform this Scrutiny review were identified by the Scrutiny Panel:- financial organisation (Nationwide Building Society) and the Northampton Pensioners' Forum. Both can provide evidence to the February meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

- 2.7 It is envisaged that the review will conclude in March 2015; with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 23 March 2015.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.
- 3.2 That the revised membership of the Scrutiny Panel is approved.
- 3.3. That expected evidence from additional expert advisors, Nationwide Building Society and the Northampton Pensioners' Forum, to this Scrutiny review is noted.



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2015

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – KEEP NORTHAMPTON TIDY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, two evidence gathering meetings of the Scrutiny Panel have taken place.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting held on 26 November 2014, the Scrutiny Panel received information from a variety of key expert advisors:

- Highways Authority
- Highways Agency

- 2.2 The Scrutiny Panel also received information regarding Street Drinkers from the Community Safety Manager.

- 2.3 At the meeting scheduled for 15 January 2015, the Scrutiny Panel will receive any responses received to its core questions from:

- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Northants Police
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Network Rail and London Midland
- Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, Northampton Borough Council (NBC) and the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, NBC
- Northampton BID
- Highways Authority – regarding signage
- Canal and River Trust
- Parish Councils

2.4 Briefing notes detailing the following will be received by the Scrutiny Panel:

- The findings from various site visits
- The Purple Flag Accreditation
- Shop Front Cleaning Orders (Community Protection Notices)

2.5 It is envisaged that the review will conclude in March 2015; with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 23 March 2015.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the update is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Tony Ansell, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3 – Keep Northampton Tidy

28 November 2014



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 JANUARY 2015

BRIEFING NOTE: O&S PARKING WORKING GROUP

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on Monday 10 November 2014, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up the Parking Working Group.
- 1.2 Membership of the Working Group comprises:

Councillor Brian Sargeant (Chair)

Councillors Tony Ansell, Rufia Ashraf, Mick Ford and Brendan Glynane

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A motion was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014:

“This Council recognises the exceptional parking problems that residents and tenants regularly encounter in St James as a result of match day parking. But the problems in St James are not only match day parking. The people coming into St James taking up residents’ and tenants spaces include people coming into the area to work and some people parking at the flats and walking to the station to avoid the parking charges there. This council therefore resolves to do the following:

1. Look into the possibility of issuing tenants in NBC homes that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits. The properties considered would be: Cordwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House, although this list is not exhaustive. This measure would ensure that premium allocated parking is not occupied by people from the outside area. This should be supplemented with sufficient enforcement to tackle inappropriately and incorrectly parked vehicles.

2. This council also agrees to consult with Northamptonshire County Council, the Police and Highways to look at the possibility of extending free parking permits into other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town which may then replace the current parking permit scheme which is presently under review and thus remove the need to financially penalise the people of St James simply because people from the outside area come to park in St James, as a successful sports club is located on their door step.
3. This Council resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a detailed investigation to look at these options for Cabinet to consider.”

2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a short, sharp review and convened a Working Group as detailed in paragraph 1.2) to undertake this piece of Scrutiny work.

3 CONCLUSIONS

3.1 The Parking Working Group set its scope at its inaugural meeting on 3 December 2014, the purpose being:

To undertake a review, to gain a better understanding of residential parking problems, as detailed in motion that was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014. In doing this, the Working Group will:

- Investigate the possibility and viability of issuing tenants in NBC homes (including Corwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House) that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits.
- Investigate the possibility and viability of extending free parking permits to other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town.

3.2 In discussing the rationale for the review, the Working Group felt that the required outcomes should be:

- An understanding of the residential problems as detailed in the motion that was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014.

- To make informed recommendations on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the parking problems.

3.3 Further meetings of the Working Group will be scheduled during February and March 2015. The final report will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2015.

4 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Parking Working Group, as attached at Appendix A.

4.2 That the Chair of the Working Group reports its findings, key conclusions and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2015.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Brian Sargeant, Chair, O&S Parking Working Group

4 December 2014



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

PARKING WORKING GROUP

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Working Group

- To undertake a review, to gain a better understanding of residential parking problems, as detailed in motion that was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014. In doing this, the Working Group will:
 - Investigate the possibility and viability of issuing tenants in NBC homes (including Corwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House) that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits.
 - Investigate the possibility and viability of extending free parking permits to other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town.

2. Outcomes Required

- An understanding of the residential problems as detailed in the motion that was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014.
- To make informed recommendations on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the parking problems.

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data

- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Site visits (if applicable)

4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
 - Current Policies and Strategies
 - Car parking statistics, in particular on match days
- Best practice external to Northampton
- Internal expert advisors:
 - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
 - Cabinet Member for Housing, NBC
 - Interim Head of Landlord Services, NBC
 - Interim ALMO Managing Director
- External expert advisors:
 - Town Centre Commander, Northamptonshire Police
 - Director, Northamptonshire County Council – Highways and Parking Services
 - Senior Manager, London Midland
 - Stage Coach
 - Director, Northampton Saints
 - Director, Northampton Town Football Club
 - Northampton Saints Supporters Football Club
 - Northampton Town Supporters Football Club

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-

- Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Working Group

None identified for this Scrutiny review.

7 Equality Impact Screening Assessment

- An Equality Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Working Group's review

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

December 2014 – March 2015

- 3 December 2014 - Scoping meeting
- 2 February 2015
- 9 February
- 26 February
- 12 March

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 5.00 pm

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officers Steven Boyes, Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Steven Boyes, Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by March 2015. Presented by the Chair of the Working Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2015/January 2016)



Northampton Borough Council

(Section 5 & 9 of The Local Authorities – (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012)

Decision Maker: [Cabinet](#)

Directorate:	Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Report of:	Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Public or Private	PUBLIC
Expected Date of Decision:	11 February 2015
Title of Expected Decision	Update on the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone (NWEZ)
Record of the expected decision to be made:	🔑 Approval to bring sites forward for development.

Where indicated a decision or part of a decision may be made in Private – details regarding this can be found by [clicking here](#). Anyone wishing to make representations that this matter should be discussed in public, should do so by not later than 12 Calendar Days prior to the meeting, using the details below:
 The Monitoring Officer c/o The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE or
 email: democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk