

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 8 June 2015

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2015 AT 6:30 PM 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 2nd March, 15th April and the 21st May 2015.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone to make a statement on "Northampton: The Next Four Years".

9. CHANGES TO STATUTORY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES - AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

(Copy herewith)

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

This Council notes with concern the intention of the new Conservative government to revisit the fox hunting ban passed by Labour in 2004.

Council asserts that hunting with dogs for sport has no place in a civilised society, and resolves that it will never be allowed to take place on Council land.

Council further resolves to write to the Prime Minister stating our position to any repeal.

ii) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

Council recognises that Democracy is struggling in Britain today, with citizens feeling alienated from their Government at every level, with almost a third of people failing to vote at all in May's elections.

Council further recognises that this Council could be more accountable to residents, ensuring that they have a real voice in the way their town is run.

Council therefore resolves to begin producing plans to return to the Committee system, meaning an administration, while retaining their current level of control, would be more accountable to opposition members and, therefore, the town's residents.

iii) Councillor Marriot to propose and Councillor Russell to second:

"The council applauds the excellent work of the Returning Officer and all his staff for conducting three elections at the same time with superb efficiency and excellent customer care.

However we note that there remains a democratic issue in this town in three areas and resolve the following:-

1. We need to do further work to ensure maximum numbers of our citizens are registered to vote, particularly with full implementation of IER.
2. In our next review of polling stations we must ensure equal access for voters without cars, those who need wheel chair access and those not able to walk very far.
3. The methodology process of consultation of the polling station review needs to be approved by General Purposes Committee before it is carried out.

We further urge the Administration to think about Democracy Week and how we can use that week to further the aims of democracy in our town"

iv) Councillor Ashraf to propose and Councillor Stone to second:

“This Council notes that the well-being of the people of our town is often dependant on the services provided by Northamptonshire County Council. These services should not be provided in isolation but should be part of a robust partnership with Northampton Borough Council.

We therefore resolve to strengthen our partnership working around the following key issues:-

Planning for Sheltered Housing, Care Homes and End of Life Care.

Planning for the transitional needs of young people leaving care such as the housing needs.

Raising issues and awareness regarding the exploitation of vulnerable adults and children, through our Licensing function”.

v) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Cali to second:

“This Council notes that in April 2013 that Northamptonshire County Council set up a Sustainable Independent Living Scheme (SILS) due to the changes brought about by the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

This Council also notes that the purpose of SILS was to support vulnerable people to remain in or return to the community and sustain independent living. SILS was controlled through applications meeting the criteria so grants were given only to people under significant pressures such as people being rehoused after a period of homelessness.

However, this Council further notes that Northamptonshire County Council ceased the SILS with effect from 1st April 2015. There are no other sources of public service support of this kind and so people will have to turn to voluntary agencies, which are already under extreme pressures.

This Council believes that the closure of the SILS could result in increased poverty and personal debt.

This Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to Northamptonshire County Council calling for the reinstatement of SILS or temporary reinstated whilst a long-term satisfactory solution is found”.

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

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 at 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, 2 March 2015 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: Councillor Lane (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Aziz, Beardsworth, Begum, Bottwood, Eales, Eldred, Ford, Glynane, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant and Stone

The Chief Executive asked for nomination for a Chair of the Council meeting in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy.

Upon a vote, Councillor Lane was nominated as Chair of the meeting.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hadland declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Delapre Abbey Conservation Trust.

Councillor Ford declared a personal non pecuniary interest as his wife was a manager of Delapre Tea Rooms.

Councillor Meredith declared a personal non pecuniary interest as a frequent user of Delapre Tea Rooms.

2. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors Conroy, N Choudary, I Choudary Duncan and Yates.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

As the Mayor was absent, there were no Mayor's Announcements to be made. However, Council were informed by the Leader that his political assistant, Mr Gleich, had very recently welcomed a baby boy into his family and wished them all well.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Morcea Walker addressed Council and commented that Northampton Carnival would take place on the 13th June 2015, and noted that there had been a venue change to Abington Park. She noted that this year, they had arranged a 'proper' route, which had been extended and would therefore engage with more people in the Town and gave thanks to Councillor Eldred and the Town Centre Manager for their work.

John Townsend addressed Council and stated that the Council should be taking a zero tolerance approach towards drink and drug use in the Town Centre. He

commented that whilst alcohol was banned in designated areas in the Town, it was not being properly enforced which left some visitors to the Town Centre feeling intimidated and daunted.

5. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair advised that 6 questions had been received from Councillors and that the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

Questions and answers given were as tabled (included in an updated agenda on the website) unless where stated, supplementary questions were asked – detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 1, Councillor Mackintosh explained that the SORTED programme was not considered the best way forward, but that he would be quite happy to look into 'Budget Plus'.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 2, Councillor Hallam commented that the de-pedestrianisation of Abington Street was worth the money spent and many businesses had expressed their happiness with it.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 3, Councillor Hadland explained that the posters that had been displayed were an illustration of the Administrations achievements over the past 4 years and the cost of £2,444 was a small amount of money from the promotional budget.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 4, Councillor Markham commented that they had worked closely in all areas concerning overcrowding where problems had been identified and noted that 100 new council homes were to be built.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 5, Councillor Mackintosh explained that the camera's measuring footfall had not moved and therefore the figures provided were a like for like comparison.

6. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Mackintosh submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that since 2011 many projects had been bought to the Town with millions of pounds of inwards investments; this having been achieved during financially unstable times. It was noted that in order to achieve savings, there had been a reduction in senior management and an agreement with Local Government Shared Services to combine back office functions and thus saving a further £9.5 million over 5 years. It was noted that Chinese New Year had been celebrated on the 1st March which had encouraged people to celebrate the diversity of the Town. He listed some of the achievements of the administration over the past 4 years, from the establishment of the Northampton Partnership Homes to the introduction of the new register of HIMOs. Councillor Mackintosh expressed his thanks to his former deputy Leader, Councillor Caswell and his current deputy, Councillor Markham, for their hard work over the past years, and thanked his other Cabinet Members for the work undertaken as part of their respective portfolios and the Conservative Group.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Mackintosh explained that thanks had

been given to officers and they had now been left in a position where the strongest teams had been put in place. With regards to the crime figures, the Leader suggested that further information be gathered from the Police as they were partners of the Community Safety Partnership, with the relevant information. Responding to the suggestion that the Administration were taking credit for the work of others, it was explained that if the report were to be read in its entirety, it was clear to see that reference had been made to partnership working. A further suggestion that the Administration were taking the credit for work carried out with capital provided by WNDC and investment of the former Liberal Democrat Administration, the Leader suggested that all the Lib Dems could be attributed with, was drawing an outline on a map without the provision of buildings.

Councillor Markham submitted her Cabinet Member report and spoke of the achievements of the past 4 years. She spoke of the Housing Stock Options Review which had culminated in the establishment of an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) to manage the Council's Housing Stock which had been given cross party support. The ALMO, known as the Northampton Partnership Homes had commenced work in January 2015. It was further noted that the Decent Homes programme had carried out improvements to 5,392 homes with an investment of £49.6 million. It was further noted that the Administration had introduced an online register of HIMO's and noted that there were further improvements to be made. It was explained that the Empty Homes Programme had received an award of £1.9 million to get homes that have been empty for more than 6 months back onto the property market. She thanked the planning department who had worked hard to assist her on the programme and thanked officers and her Assistant Cabinet Members for their help over the past 4 years. In response to questions asked, Councillor Markham explained that NPH would be monitored and the location they chose to reside would be a decision for them to make. With regards to HIMO's she noted that additional licensing had been well implemented and that they continued to work closely with landlords through various forums. She further noted that she was saddened that other Councillors used the Council meeting to air concerns about tenants when they had not themselves informed the responsible Cabinet Member therefore adding a delay to resolving the problem. It was further reported that the building of the 100 new Council homes was due to begin in late March, early April 2015. Councillor Mennell, as a Council tenant, congratulated Councillor Markham and spoke on behalf of many residents who had expressed their happiness with the homes that had been bought up to standard.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and commented that they had continued to work in partnership with many industrial operators and businesses including Cosworth, Churches shoes and Carlsberg. It was explained that the free parking incentive to encourage people back into the Town Centre had been a part of their manifesto and had resulted in an increased number of cars and increased footfall in the Town. It was further reported that the Administration had rebuilt relationships with the Market Traders as the independent Market Advisory group had been established to improve the vitality of the Town Centre and to engage market traders with the Council and offer them support. It was further reported that Northampton had gained National recognition for numerous achievements from being one of the best places for new business start-ups to being named top for business.

Councillor Hadland thanked his Cabinet Assistant and officers who had assisted with the Administrations achievements.

In response to questions, Councillor Hadland explained that a provision of £700,000 had been made from the Capital Programme to be spent on the relocation of Delapre Tea Rooms. The provision of a new stand and new hotel at the Sixfields stadium, it was noted that the agreement had been signed in 2013 and any delay in the development of the site, with regards to the erection of the hotel and stand was between the owners of the site and the contractors. Councillor Hadland went on to champion the Northgate Bus Station and commented that whilst there had been a number of issues at the beginning, the Administration had delivered and would continue to make improvements, especially having recently announced the provision of a suitable couch hub.

Councillor Eldred submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. Due to time restrictions, he was unable to answer questions.

7. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Marriott, as Leader of the Labour Group, referred to the definition of the word 'environment' and commented that there were many aspect of environment that affected the people of Northampton. He stated that there was a necessity for there to be a sound economic environment that would suit and reward people and argued that better pay in the local economy would lead to growth of the economy and improve high streets. He commented that many children in the Town were living in child poverty, which he considered contributed to anti-social behaviour. He questioned what the Administration had done to tackle the increased number of violent crimes reported to Police. He further commented that other environmental issues such as littering and fly-tipping negatively impacted on residents and noted that Labour had opposed the contract with Environmental Services, noting that financial savings may have been made, but at a cost to the environment.

In response, Councillor Hallam, the Cabinet Member for Environment, commented that a scrutiny panel had been established, where concerns about rubbish and letter could have been discussed and debated by Labour Group Members, but very few Labour Councillors had attended. He noted that they hadn't signed up to the contract, but that they were only able to look forwards and work with the contract they had. He also stated that he had been proud to see the green flag flying over Abington Park and noted that in 2014 they had been proud of the town's achievement in winning a Silver Gilt and 'most improved area' in the region– improving more than any of the other 62 cities, towns and villages who entered. He further responded by commenting that Labour had a very limited long term economic plan and that if people were to vote Labour, they would be left with very little.

Councillor Marriott responded by stating that the Town's best had yet to come and this would be achieved under a Labour Administration.

8. COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY

No report had been tabled at Council and was therefore no discussion ensued.

9. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Councillor Mackintosh submitted a report that sought Council's approval of the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2015/16.

Councillor Markham seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2015/16 attached at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Craig Ryan addressed Council on Motion i) and explained that the change in allocation policy was causing untold problems to many people, with couples who are expectant, being entitled to one bedroom flats and referred to figures provided by the Office of Statistics that stated that 36% of residents in Spring Boroughs do not have enough room in their property but would not be offered another property until they were found to be legally overcrowded. He further commented that this was exacerbated by the number of HIMOs which he argued both Officers and Councillors were supportive of.

i) Councillor Markham proposed and Councillor Mackintosh seconded:

'Council notes the important changes in housing in Northampton in the last four years.

'The Council's housing stock transfer to Northampton Partnership Homes in January was a major step forward for Council tenants and the quality of services provided to the town's tenants.

'Council commends the Housing Stock Options Review process which started in April 2012 with a Tenants' Panel, an Employee Focus Group, and a Housing Options Panel to look at the potential options for the future ownership, funding and management of the Council's housing stock, to examine which option would best deliver long term improvements needed to both homes and estates.

'Council thanks the tenants, employees and councillors who took part in the Housing Stock Options Review and the officers involved in the process to create the Arms Length Management Organisation, Northampton Partnership Homes, and wishes the organisation best wishes for the future.

'Council also notes important changes in housing policy with changes in the Allocation Policy, structure of the Housing Revenue Account and work done with private sector housing, and Decent Homes and Empty Homes improvements.

'Council welcomes the work done to combat homelessness and the achievements of organisations working in Oasis House which opened in May 2012 as a partnership between the Council and Midland Heart consisting of 48 accommodation units including 39 self-contained apartments, nine emergency units and four have dog kennels attached. There is also accommodation at Acorn House and the day-time drop in facilities at the Hope Centre. The scheme also includes the base for Northampton Association for Accommodation for Single Homeless (NAASH), a day centre, IT suite, arts and crafts centre, housing advice service and training facilities.

'Council recognises the increase in the last decade of Houses of Multiple Occupation and the negative impacts and concerns around the conversion of family homes this can cause in residential areas. Council welcomes work done by the Administration to introduce an online register of HMOs, new rules on the conversion of properties and additional licensing to help protect tenants from unscrupulous landlords by bringing smaller properties into the licensing regime that were previously not included.

'Council notes that the Landlords Forum, established by this Administration, has improved relations between the Borough Council and local landlords, and has made it easier for this authority to help protect private tenants in the town, particularly those living in houses of multiple occupancy.

'Council welcomes the Administration's decision to build 100 new council homes at Dallington Grange as the largest social housing development in Northampton for more than 20 years. This major development will be built on land owned by the Council and will be financed by selling a parcel of land in the area or with money received from ex-council houses sold under 'Right To Buy' legislation. Council is committed to increasing the number of council houses available for rent, and welcomes this scheme to provide 100 new homes for families in our town.'

'Council notes that in 2012 this authority was awarded £1.9 million government funding from the Empty Homes scheme to help meet the demand for affordable housing, enabling the Council to lease empty homes from their owners and help house those on the waiting list. Owners who take part in the scheme receive an interest free loan to help with the initial refurbishment costs and the continued maintenance of the property, both of which will be carried out by the Council. By bringing empty homes back into use, it contributes to the housing supply to meet local needs and help tackle homelessness.

'Council also notes that the Borough Council's Planning department has introduced incentives to encourage developers who have taken on commercial properties to create new one and two bedroom apartments.'

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Eldred, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Mennell, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Sargeant.

There abstained Councillors: Beardsworth, Ford, Glynane and Meredith.

The motion was carried.

ii) Councillor Hadland proposed and Councillor Mackintosh seconded:

'Council recognises the important steps forward for our town with the Northampton Alive regeneration programme which has delivered real change for Northampton.

'The many projects include:

- The new Northampton Castle Railway Station
- The North Gate Bus Station
- The Innovation Centre
- Opening up part of Abington Street to traffic
- The University relocation
- The St John's Halls of Residence
- The Skatepark
- Restoring Delapre Abbey
- The Ark restaurant
- Supporting The Saints, The Cobblers and The Cricket Club with development plans
- Helping major companies like Cosworth, Church's Shoes and Carlsberg
- Developing the Enterprise Zone to create 900 new jobs
- Supporting our Market Traders
- Demolishing Greyfriars
- Developing Abington Park Museum
- Supporting the restoration of St Edmund's
- The introduction of the Cycle CoNNect bike hire scheme
- Developing the Cultural Quarter by supporting The Royal and Derngate Theatres and The Errol Flynn Filmhouse, a new boutique hotel, expanding
- The Museum and Art Gallery, improving Guildhall Road, supporting the NN Arts Collective and bringing forward plans for the Vulcan Works creative industries hub with a new hotel on Albion Place

'Council also recognises the work done through the Business Incentive Scheme to support local businesses to help fill empty properties and support small businesses through a range of grants, helping to create hundreds of new jobs and unlocking over £1.6 million of private sector investment.

'Council welcomes the increase in visitors by 40% to the town's car parks following the introduction of the free car parking offer for the town's four multi-storey car parks which are free at weekends and for two hours on weekdays.

'Council notes the national recognition for Northampton. In March 2014, Experian called Northampton 'top for business' and The Centre for Cities in January 2015 called the town one of the best places in the country for new business start-ups. The Government also named Northamptonshire as the most enterprising place in Britain in 2012.

‘Council recognises the support of Government, the local enterprise partnerships, Northamptonshire County Council, the town's Members of Parliament and other partners to achieve this regeneration to ensure Northampton has a bright future alive with ambition, enterprise and opportunity.’

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Eldred, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Mennell, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Sargeant.

There abstained Councillors: Beardsworth, Ford, Glynane and Meredith.

The motion was carried.

iii) Councillor Bottwood to propose and Councillor Mackintosh to second:

‘Council recognises the big challenges faced in local government finance in recent years but commends the Administration's budgets since 2011 which have balanced the need to invest in the future of Northampton with supporting the hardworking people of the town and protecting the Council's frontline services.

‘This Council's share of Council Tax has been frozen since 2011 and savings have been made through back office savings and changes.

‘Council's decision in May 2013 to share the back office through Local Government Shared Services with Northamptonshire County Council and other authorities will enable savings of over £9 million to the taxpayer and has allowed further investment to frontline services across the Council.

‘The Administration has kept its manifesto commitment of reducing the number of senior managers and the costs has been reduced by 50% over the last four years. Since 2011, the number of senior managers has fallen from 21 to 10 and the Administration has cut the wage bill for senior management by over £800,000.

‘Council notes that this Conservative Administration has not increased any councillor allowances unlike the previous Liberal Democrat Administration who increased councillor allowances by up to 63% whilst they were in power.’

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Eldred, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Sargeant.

There abstained Councillors: Beardsworth, Ford, Glynane, Mennell and Meredith.

The motion was carried.

iv) Councillor Eldred to propose and Councillor Mackintosh to second:

'Council notes the important contribution made to its work by the Forums for Disabled People, Diverse Communities, LGBTQ, Pensioners, Women and Youth and recognises the role played in key events in the Council's annual calendar including World AIDS Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Chinese New Year, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, International Coming Out Day, International Women's Day and the introduction of the Inspirational Woman's Award. Council congratulates the Youth Forum for winning the National Diversity Award in 2012, and thanks the co-chairs of all the Forums for their hard work and support.

'Council notes the many events which have been staged in Northampton over the last four years including HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Torch relay, Games Time at Delapre Park and Godiva Awakes in 2012, On The Waterfront in 2013, and the Women's Cycling Tour and Firework's Display in 2014 which have all attracted visitors to the town and increased footfall in Northampton.

'These are in addition to annual events such as the Christmas light switch-on and partner events like Carnival and Diwali which continue to be popular and this year Chinese New Year has been included.

'Council recognises that the Administration saved the Delapre Beer Festival in 2013 by stepping in to run the event for two years and looks forward to the event this year being run by CAMRA and Phipps Brewery.

'Council commends the Administration for reinstating the popular St Crispin's Fair in 2012 which has now become a regular annual event for the town.

'Council also notes this Administration introduced the Alive at Delapre music concerts in 2013 which bring world class music acts like Paul Weller, The Wanted, James Morrison, Simple Minds, the best of the 80s, Boyzone, Jessie J and Alfie Boe to Northampton.

'Council welcomes the introduction of the Love Northampton website, app and tourism brochure to promote events and businesses in Northampton which continue to attract people into the town.

'Council notes the important work done to recognise our commitment to an Armed Forces Community Covenant for Northampton and the many events that have been held for military anniversaries including Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Sunday, the sixtieth anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War, the seventieth anniversary of D-Day, the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War and other events including the homecoming and Freedom of the Borough award for 9th/12th Royal Lancers. This Council remains committed to The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Northampton and continuing to recognise the dedication and service of the military, their families and veterans.

'Council notes that £2.2 million has been awarded in Partnership Grants to 96 organisations since 2011.

'Council recognises the introduction of the Councillor Community Fund where over £374,000 of funding has been allocated by councillors to more than 600 organisations to make a difference.

'Council welcomes the Administration's plans for expanding the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and Abington Park Museum after the successful sale of the Sekhemka statue in July 2014 with the Borough Council's share of around £8million which was ring-fenced for the Museum Service.

'Council also recognises the Administration increased opening hours for the museums despite the challenging financial situation.'

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Eldred, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Mennell, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Sargeant.

There abstained Councillors: Beardsworth, Ford, Glynane, and Meredith.

The motion was carried.

v) Councillor Hallam to propose and Councillor Mackintosh to second:

'Council notes that this Administration re-introduced Neighbourhood Wardens from 2011 when there were 9 wardens. There are now 15 wardens.

'Council also notes that three Park Rangers were introduced in September 2011 and the number was increased to 4 Park Rangers in 2012. The number was further increased in 2013 and there are now 6 Park Rangers.

'The Administration has invested over £250,000 additionally to the Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Ranger schemes since 2011 with a further investment planned in the next financial year.

'Council has continued to invest in Northampton in Bloom each year and was awarded 1st out of 62 towns, cities and villages for most improved area in 2014, and has extended this now through winter, spring and summer.

'Council recognises Northampton is blessed with beautiful parks and green spaces, and welcomes the Green Flag status awarded to Abington Park and Delapre Park.

'The Administration has maintained a zero tolerance approach to littering and fly-tipping. During the last four years, a total of 79 fixed penalty notices were served and 30 people were prosecuted.

'The Administration has taken environmental health matters seriously and 96 Noise Abatement Notices have been issued since 2011.

'The Licensing team has undertaken enforcement work with 229 vehicles receiving cautions, 371 vehicles were suspended until defects were rectified including 262 that were prohibited by VOSA since 2011.

'In keeping with a manifesto commitment, the Administration introduced Park Management Committees for Delapre Park, Abington Park, The Racecourse and Eastfield Park to allow park users and local groups to have a say in the management and future plans for the town's parks and green spaces.

'The Council has also taken the commitment to reducing Carbon emissions and the Carbon footprint has been reduced by 2,650 tonnes of CO2 since May 2011. Under this Administration, 118,713 tonnes of waste has also been recycled plus 8,306 tonnes of food waste.'

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Eldred, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Mennell, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Sargeant.

There abstained Councillors: Beardsworth, Ford, Glynane, and Meredith.

The motion was carried.

vi) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Glynane to second:

This Council agrees that over the past four years the Conservative administration has failed to live up to all of the "5 pledges" in their 2011 manifesto.

1. Put Northampton Back on Track.
2. Reduce waste to protect public services
3. Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods.
4. Demand better homes for the future
5. Empower communities with pride in Northampton

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Eales, Ford, Glynane, Gowen, Marriott, Mason, Mennell, Meredith and Stone.

There voted against the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Eldred, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, King, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Sargeant.

The motion was lost.

vii) Councillor Glynane proposed and Councillor Ford seconded:

This Council notes the failure of both the Borough and County Council

administrations to properly engage and integrate Northampton into this year's Magna Carta celebrations.

Councillor Mackintosh proposed and Councillor Eldred seconded an amendment:

The amended motion read:

This Council recognises the importance to both the Borough and County Council administrations to properly engage and integrate Northampton into this year's Magna Carta celebrations.

'Council recognises the events being planned to mark the anniversary in Northampton working with the Friends of Northampton Castle and the Battlefield Trust.

'The events include a talk on Magna Carta by one of the UK's foremost experts on the subject, Professor Nicholas Vincent, at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery on 9th May and a family event at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery on 26th May include making a Magna Carta Scroll.

'On 20th June, Northampton Battlefields Society and Friends of Northampton Castle will take a stall at the annual Spring Boroughs Festival and conduct tours from the nearby Hazelrigg House, taking in the importance of Northampton in the development of the Magna Carta and the siege of Northampton Castle in 1264.'

The proposed amendments were accepted and became the substantive motions:

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the substantive motion was carried.

viii) Councillor Glynane proposed and Councillor Ford seconded:

This Council notes the national and international interest in the War of the Roses, and the benefits to the town and the County to a proper understanding and celebration of our history.

Council further notes Northampton's pivotal role in this war, including the battle of Northampton fought at Delapre Abbey.

Recent discoveries, such as a cannon shot that may be the oldest found in England, highlight the potential for developing the historical and cultural offer of our town.

Council resolves to develop a 'National Centre' for the war of the Roses at Delapre Abbey.

Councillor Mackintosh proposed and Councillor Hadland seconded an amendment:

Amended motion to read:

'This Council notes the national and international interest in the War of the Roses, and the benefits to the town and the County to a proper understanding and celebration of our history.

'Council further notes Northampton's pivotal role in this war, including the battle of

Northampton fought at Delapre Abbey.

'Recent discoveries, such as a cannon shot that may be the oldest found in England, highlight the potential for developing the historical and cultural offer of our town.

'Council reaffirms its commitment to develop a "centre" for the War of the Roses at Delapre Abbey.

'Council notes that Cabinet agreed on 9th July 2014 to "the development of a Battlefield Visitor Centre to showcase the Registered Battlefield, the results of any further survey work and any associated archaeology and local history in association with interested parties and the community.'

The proposed amendments were accepted and became the substantive motions:

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the substantive motion was carried.

The Chair advised that the guillotine had been reached and advised that the remaining motion ix) could not be debated. A vote was put before Council and motion ix) was rejected.

11. 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 10.03pm

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Wednesday, 15 April 2015 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: THE DEPUTY MAYOR Councillor Flavell (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Begum, Bottwood, I. Choudary, N Choudary, Conroy, Eales, Eldred, Ford, Glynane, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Lane, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Marriott, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Stone and Strachan.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hadland declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust.

Councillor Ford declared a personal, disclosable pecuniary interest as his wife had worked as the catering manager of the Delapre Abbey tea room. He left the Chamber and took no part in the rest of the meeting.

Councillor Meredith declared a personal non pecuniary interest as he had used the Delapre Abbey tea room.

2. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the Mayor (Councillor Caswell) and Councillors Duncan, Hill, Larratt, Nunn and Yates.

The Deputy Mayor stated that she was chairing the meeting as the Mayor was unwell. The Council joined her in passing best wishes to the Mayor.

3. TO GIVE DIRECTIONS ON PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS RELATING ONLY TO THE MOTION ON THE AGENDA

The Deputy Mayor stated that the issue of public speakers had been discussed at the pre-meeting earlier in the day and it had been agreed that the seven speakers who had asked to speak on the motion contained on the agenda should be asked to do so for up to three minutes each, as per the usual practice.

The speakers registered, in order were:

Mr Huffadine-Smith
Mr Giddins
Mr Jwanczuk
Mr McKeever

Ms Davenport
Mr Spears
Mr Townsend

Mr Huffadine-Smith addressed Council as summarised herewith. He was sad to see the item brought to a special meeting of the Council. He had checked with the Chief Executive who had confirmed that the meeting was not a breach of Purdah. Mr Huffadine-Smith thought that the intention was mischievous and conveyed no dignity to the election process or fair play. He was aware of the publicity surrounding Delapre tea rooms so that no one really knew what had happened there. He wished that the issue could be left until after the elections and then be dealt with fairly in the public eye.

Mr Giddins, Chair of Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust (DAPT) and member of Friends of Delapre Abbey (FoDA) addressed Council as summarised herewith. Consultation on the proposals for Delapre had been very extensive and people had been aware of what was proposed and Council members at the organisation's AGM in late 2014 had indicated there was cross party support. It had been known that buildings would be lost as part of the proposals. FoDA and DAPT had worked hard to keep people informed. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant had been made jointly to NBC and to DAPT for the restoration of Delapre Abbey. The issues were a distraction for the officers and for the project when £800,000 had to be raised through fundraising activity. A restaurant would be provided and money raised would be put into making the project sustainable. NBC had met its commitments, now including the provision of a pop-up catering facility. Mr Giddins paid tribute to the Trustees of FoDA who had had to leave office. It was proposed to establish a new Delapre Alliance to support the restoration of the Abbey.

Mr Jwanczuk addressed Council as summarised herewith. He was the chair of a community group in Far Cotton. He referred to a letter from the Leader of the Council he said many people had received, stating that NBC had not closed the tea rooms but had stepped in to provide a facility when they had been closed. Mr Jwanczuk said the letter referred to the costs of running the tea rooms, which he disputed and said the tea rooms had contributed financially to the project which they could not have done had they run at a loss, and to "scare stories" being circulated. Mr Jwanczuk stated that FoDA had made decisions contrary to their constitution and had produced no minutes since January 2015. He implored members not to be "whipped" and to overturn the decision regarding the tea rooms.

Mr McKeever addressed Council as summarised herewith. He welcomed the regeneration of Delapre Abbey and felt the community should be at the centre. There was great sadness at the divisions currently. He paid tribute to the work of FoDA and hoped they would be the preferred bidder for the restaurant. He stated that any facility in the stable block was bound to fail. He considered the motion and second amendment to be a reasonable way forward.

Ms Davenport addressed Council as summarised herewith. She had been a volunteer in the FoDA office and said she had every day met people outraged with the proposals. She stated that FoDA had stifled democratic debate, including

amongst its staff, telling them it put the HLF grant at risk. She stated that the HLF had not been informed of the depth of feeling in the town by the Council and therefore thought people were happy with the decision and she believed this had put the HLF grant at risk.

Mr Spears addressed Council as summarised herewith. He had written two books on Delapre Abbey and been involved in a study of the Abbey. He believed the community centre aspect was key. He appreciated NBC giving rooms in 2007 for use as tea rooms. This had become a community focal point. He was looking forward to FoDA volunteers working with DAPT. DAPT was around the third such body in approximately eight years. Council officers had lodged figures for the HLF grant and with volunteers had met the HLF and similar bodies and this had led to the grant awarded to NBC.

Mr Townsend addressed Council as summarised herewith. He stated that since he returned to the town ten years ago many features had been swept away and money wasted. He stated that the tea rooms should have been kept open and money spent on them. He stated that the facility had been closed and a lot of money wasted on it.

4. MOTION FOR EXAMINATION

Councillor Glynane proposed and Councillor Beardsworth seconded that:

“This Council recognises that the proposals of this administration as regards Delapre tea rooms are inadequate on a number of levels, and recognises the failure of this administration to consult adequately with the local community.

This Council notes the huge local and town wide interest in this issue, and acknowledges the significant anger with the administration regarding their handling of it.

Council further recognises that proposals to relocate the tea-room to "dog poo alley" and to reduce the seating from 130 to 28 would make the tea-room unviable, forcing its closure. We further recognise that according to the charity commission's website, where accounts are lodged, the tea rooms made a profit last year, despite statements to the contrary.

Council affirms its thanks for the hard work of the local community and the membership of Friends of Delapre Abbey over a number of years, and recognises that without their input the heritage lottery bid would not have been successful, and resolves the local community and FoDA members will be fully included and meaningfully consulted with regards to developments and changes to Delapre Abbey.

Council further resolves to honour the promise to offer the FoDA tea room a rolling lease in their current location, including access and provision for seating in the walled garden, up until the time work makes the location uninhabitable. During this period, Council will ensure there is a suitable alternative provision prepared for the tea rooms during the works. Council resolves that in this context, "suitable" must be signed off by a free vote of the members of FoDA.”

Councillor Glynane accepted an amendment proposed by Councillor Marriott and seconded by Councillor Stone, as revised from the original amendment tabled to the meeting:

Insert at the end of the motion,

“So this Council therefore resolves,

1. To confirm its aspiration to have a non-profit / social enterprise organisation operating the tea-rooms, preferably FoDA. The tea rooms must have the capacity and surroundings so users can keep enjoying the tranquillity of Delapre Abbey.
2. Acknowledges a ‘pop-up facility’ was not available over the Easter Holiday, despite promises to the contrary. The Council will now provide an estimate as to the loss of revenue, an explanation of why it was late and details of the tender process for these temporary tea rooms.
3. Believes that the future of Delapre Abbey depends on strong partnership working between Friends of Delapre Abbey, Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust, Northampton Borough Council, Far Cotton Residents Association and the general public. Strong partnership working will mean the successful restoration of Delapre Abbey.”

The motion as amended then became the substantive motion.

Councillor Hadland, as proposer of the amendment, stated that he did not accept the substantive motion and amended his amendment to exclude the words from “So this council therefore resolves” to the end of the substantive motion. Councillor Hadland proposed and Councillor Markham seconded that the motion be amended as follows:

Delete:

“proposals of the administration as regards” and “are inadequate on a number of levels, and recognises the failure of this administration to consult adequately with the local community.”

Insert:

“have now closed following a decision taken by the Friends of Delapre Abbey. The Council understands this was due to large staffing costs and notes that an employee was the wife of a Liberal Democrat councillor. This Council notes that any councillor with a personal and pecuniary interest must declare this at meetings of the Full Council and may be advised they are unable to take part. This Council also notes, coincidentally, that there is currently an election campaign underway with elections on 7th May.”

Delete:

“the significant anger with the administration regarding their handling of it.”

Insert:

“this must have been a difficult decision taken by the FoDA Board.”

Delete:

“to “dog poo alley” and to reduce the seating from 130 to 28 would make the tea-room unviable, forcing its closure. We further recognise that according to the charity commission’s website, where accounts are lodged, the tea rooms made a profit last year, despite statements to the contrary.”

Insert:

“are now being re-considered by the administration to allow for discussions with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust, in consultation with FoDA.”

Insert:

“Council recognises that a new refreshment facility has been organised by the Borough Council to allow people to continue using the Walled Gardens over the summer whilst longer term plans are discussed with Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust, in consultation with FoDA.”

Delete:

“Council further resolves to honour to the promise to offer the FoDA tea room a rolling lease in their current location, including access and provision for seating in the walled garden, up until the time work makes the location uninhabitable.”

Insert:

“of redevelopment at Delapre Abbey” after the words “During this period”

Delete:

“Council resolves that in this context, “suitable” must be signed off by a free vote of the members of FoDA.”

Delete:

“So this Council therefore resolves,

1. To confirm its aspiration to have a non-profit / social enterprise organisation operating the tea-rooms, preferably FoDA. The tea rooms must have the capacity and surroundings so users can keep enjoying the tranquillity of Delapre Abbey.

2. Acknowledges a ‘pop-up facility’ was not available over the Easter Holiday, despite promises to the contrary. The Council will now provide an estimate as to the loss of revenue, an explanation of why it was late and details of the tender process for these temporary tea rooms.

3. Believes that the future of Delapre Abbey depends on strong partnership working between Friends of Delapre Abbey, Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust, Northampton Borough Council, Far Cotton Residents Association and the general public. Strong partnership working will mean the successful restoration of Delapre Abbey.”

Council then debated the amendment.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote:

There voted for the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Begum, Bottwood, Choudary I, Eldred, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, King, Lane, Lynch, Mackintosh, Malpas, Markham, Oldham, Parekh, Patel and Sargeant.

There voted against the motion: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Choudary N, Conroy, Eales, Glynane, Gowen, Marriott, Mason, Mennell, Meredith, Stone and Strachan.

There abstained the Deputy Mayor.

The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Upon a vote the substantive motion was carried, as set out below:

This Council recognises that the Delapre tea rooms have now closed following a decision taken by the Friends of Delapre Abbey. The Council understands this was due to large staffing costs and notes that an employee was the wife of a Liberal Democrat councillor. This Council notes that any councillor with a personal and pecuniary interest must declare this at meetings of the Full Council and may be advised they are unable to take part. This Council also notes, coincidentally, that there is currently an election campaign underway with elections on 7th May.

This Council notes the huge local and town wide interest in this issue, and acknowledges this must have been a difficult decision taken by the FoDA Board.

Council further recognises that proposals to relocate the tea-room are now being re-considered by the administration following the closure of the FoDA tea rooms to allow for discussions with the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust, in consultation with FoDA.

Council recognises that a new refreshment facility has been organised by the Borough Council to allow people to continue using the Walled Gardens over the summer whilst longer term plans are discussed with Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust, in consultation with FoDA.

Council affirms its thanks for the hard work of the local community and the membership of Friends of Delapre Abbey over a number of years, and recognises that without their input the heritage lottery bid would not have been successful, and resolves the local community and FoDA members will be fully included and meaningfully consulted with regards to developments and changes to Delapre Abbey.

During this period of redevelopment at Delapre Abbey, Council will ensure there is a suitable alternative provision prepared for the tea rooms during the works.

The meeting concluded at 7:43 pm.

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON THURSDAY, 21ST May 2015 AT SIX THIRTY O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith, and Walker

1. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

Councillor Larratt proposed and Councillor Lane seconded: “That Councillor Penelope Ann Flavell be elected Mayor of the Borough of Northampton for the ensuing year”.

The motion was carried and Councillor Penelope Ann Flavell was appointed Mayor and accepted office by making and delivering, to the Chief Executive, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Mayor then took the Chair.

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYOR AND MAYORESS

Councillor Hadland proposed and Councillor Golby seconded: “That the thanks of the Council be given to Councillor John Caswell and Mrs Cheryl Caswell for the able and courteous manner in which they have discharged their duties as Mayor and Mayoress”.

The motion was carried.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor M Hill proposed and Councillor King seconded: “That Councillor Christopher John Malpas be appointed to the office of Deputy Mayor”.

The motion was carried and Councillor Malpas was appointed Deputy Mayor and accepted office by making and delivering, to the Chief Executive, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Gowen and Lynch.

5. LONG SERVICE

The long service of the employees shown in paragraph 5 of the agenda was noted with appreciation.

6. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP

Councillor Hadland announced that Councillor Markham had been appointed Leader of the Conservative Group and that Councillor Hallam had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group.

7. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION GROUP

Councillor Russell announced that Councillor Stone had been appointed Leader of the Labour Group and that Councillor Eales had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Labour Group.

8. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Councillor Meredith announced that Councillor Beardsworth had been appointed Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and that he had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

9. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Hallam proposed and Councillor Hallam seconded: "That Councillor Markham be elected Leader of the Council to hold office until the day of the post-election Annual Council Meeting which follows Councillor Markham's election today, unless before this date she resigns from office, she ceases to be a Councillor or she is removed from office by resolution of the Council".

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Markham be elected Leader of the Council.

10. DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET

The Leader of the Council announced the following appointments:

Councillor Hallam	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor Bottwood	Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor Eldred	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement
Councillor Hadland	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Councillor Hibbert	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor King	Cabinet Member for Community Safety

11. COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY

Councillor Markham submitted a report that sought Council's approval of the group proportionality of seats on each Committee.

Councillor Hallam seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approved the number of seats on each Committee as set out in the report.
2. That the representation of the political groups be set out as in the report
3. That the number of Committee places on Planning be increased by one, from 11 to 12, and the Borough Secretary be authorised to amend the Constitution to reflect the change

12. APPOINTMENT OF POLITICAL ASSISTANTS

Councillor Markham submitted a report that sought Council's approval for the re-establishment of the posts of Political Assistants for groups fitting the necessary criteria.

Councillor Hallam seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED:

That posts of Political Assistants be re-established under the terms of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 with effect from Annual Council of 21st May 2015 until the Annual Council in May 2019, or such earlier date as the Council may determine, and allocated to the Conservative and Labour Groups.

13. COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Mayor announced that the next Annual Meeting of the Council take place on 19th May 2016 and that other meetings of the Council take place on the 8th June, 20th July, 21st September, 2nd November, 14th December 2015, 25th January, 22nd February, 7th March, 18th April, 6th June and 18th July 2016.

14. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Councillor Markham submitted a report which updated Members about the requirement to review the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Councillor Patel seconded adoption of the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That Members' Allowances be frozen at the current rate pending conclusion of a review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme by an Independent Remuneration Panel.
2. That power be delegated to the Borough Secretary to establish an

Independent Remuneration Panel either as a Council Panel or as a joint panel, whichever would be the most cost effective.

3. That it be noted that a further report would be brought to Full Council with recommendations from the Remuneration Panel when established

15. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Councillor Patel submitted a report that sought Council's approval of the meeting cycle for 2015/16.

Councillor Hallam seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Meeting Cycle for 2015/16 be approved.

16. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

Councillor Markham submitted a report that set out the detailed appointments to Committees for 2015/16.

Councillor Hallam seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the appointments to Committees for 2015/16 set out in the report be confirmed.

17. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Markham submitted a report that sought the confirmation of Council to the appointments to Outside Bodies for 2015/16 with an amendment that Councillor Larratt replace Councillor Bottwood on the Strategic Flood Risk Management Committee.

Councillor Hallam seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the appointments to Committees for 2015/16 set out in the report, apart from the aforementioned amendment be confirmed.

18. CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Markham proposed the Consultation Appointments as set out at Item 18 of the agenda.

Councillor Hallam seconded the adoption of the Consultation Appointments.

RESOLVED:

Civic Matters (Chief Executive)

The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, The Immediate Past Mayor, the Leader, Councillors M Hill and Duffy.

Community Enabling Fund Advisory Panel (Chief Executive):

Councillors Nunn (Chair) and Councillors Parekh, Sargeant, Birch and McCutcheon

Constitution Review Working Party (Borough Solicitor)

Councillors Oldham, Hallam, Culbard, Russell and Beardsworth

Markets Advisory Panel

Councillor Nunn, Hadland and Haque

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel

Councillor King (Cllr Eldred – Substitute)

Councillor Stone (Cllr Birch - Substitute)

Discretionary Housing Payments Review Panel (Chief Executive)

Councillor Bottwood and Hibbert

Councillor Ashraf and Davenport

Councillor Beardsworth

The meeting concluded at 11.51am

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 1

Question to Councillor Stephen Hibbert from Mr Norman Adams

2014/15 NBC only spent 39% of its Disabled Facilities Grant budget; delays are leaving disabled people stuck sleeping in their lounge, washing at their kitchen sink or at risk of falling down the stairs and needing hospital treatment.

Are you content with this situation?

Response

The Council is committed to doing everything it can to help people with disabilities to remain in their own homes through the provision of amenities, aids and adaptations.

To this end, we have ensured that, in Northampton, the Disabled Facilities Grant budget is sufficient to meet demand and that there are enough Officers to process and approve grant applications as efficiently and as quickly as possible.

Although it is currently taking longer than intended for the County Council's Occupational Therapists to assess people's needs and provide NBC with their recommendations, the Head of Housing and Wellbeing has met with the Chief Executive of Olympus Care to explore ways of reducing the amount of time it is taking to complete the Occupational Therapist assessments.

I am satisfied that, although it is very important to reduce the amount of time it is taking the Occupational Therapists to issue their recommendations, there are no backlogs in the Council's processing and approval of DFG applications.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing**

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 2

Question to Councillor Stephen Hibbert from Councillor Danielle Stone

Please can we see the plans for the Social Letting Agency promised by the Conservative Group during the election campaign and how is it going to be funded?

Response

Work is underway to set up a social lettings agency that will let and manage private rented accommodation, on behalf of landlords, in return for a set management fee.

Northampton's social lettings agency will raise standards, increase the supply of good quality, lower cost private rented housing, prevent homelessness and reduce the Council's use of expensive temporary accommodation.

At its meeting on 21 October 2015, the Cabinet will consider a report on the options available to the Council in setting up a not-for-profit social lettings agency. The report will describe the relative merits of each option and provide details of how the new agency can be funded through the management fees and the savings achieved from the borough's reduced use of temporary accommodation.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 3

Question to Councillor Stephen Hibbert from Councillor Rafia Ashraf

When are the 100 new Social Housing Units planned for Dallington being built and how are they going to be funded?

Response

The planning application for the 3,000 dwellings at Dallington was submitted in March 2015. The build will be subject to planning permission and the necessary infrastructure work, but it is hoped the 100 homes will be completed by March 2017.

The costs are principally being met by a DCLG-approved increase in the borrowing cap of the Housing Revenue Account to meet the construction costs. The rental income has been modelled to meet the anticipated repayments required.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 4

Question to Councillor Stephen Hibbert from Councillor Rafia Ashraf

When does the Cabinet envisage all NPH properties will meet the new 'Northampton Standard'?

Response

The "Northampton Standard" is set out in 2 key strategic documents, firstly the "2015-2020 Delivery Plan" which has a requirement to improve properties to the Northampton Standard but has no set date but refers to the second strategic document the "Asset Management Strategy" (AMS). The AMS, section 3.8 sets out the requirement for all Northampton properties to achieve the standard within 10 years, i.e. 2025.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 5

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Councillor Enam Haque

I understand there was a recent plan to bring new traders into the market square, can we have an update of how many new traders there are since 1st January 2015?

Response

There have been 22 new traders join the market since 1st January 2015. 14 of these traders are still trading. Initiatives have included advertising in trade magazines, promotion as part of National Love your Market Campaign and attractive initial rates for unique lines. We have also promoted the grants for small business start-ups. Additionally, four weeks free rent is offered for unique lines starting up

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 6

Question to Councillor Stephen Hibbert from Councillor Muna Cali

When approximately will the Conservative Administration introduce "a star rating system for the private rental sector in Northampton..."?(page 12 of the Conservative Manifesto).

Response

The Council has a vital role to play in supporting and improving Northampton's thriving private rented sector. It is for this reason that we have introduced an Additional HMO Licensing Scheme, we are planning to set up a Social Lettings Agency and we remain committed to prosecuting rogue landlords.

No decisions will be made on how the star rating system will operate and when it will be introduced until after the Council has consulted with the National Landlords Association, the University of Northampton, local landlords and other stakeholders. This consultation is likely to take place during the second half of 2016.

I believe that we can learn a lot from the 'scores on the doors' hygiene ratings that are already being displayed by restaurants and food premises. As well as helping tenants to make informed decisions about the landlords from whom they let, a star rating system will provide official recognition for those landlords who are managing and maintaining their properties to a good standard whilst at the same time identifying and incentivising those landlords whose standards need to improve

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing**

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 7

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Councillor Arthur McCutcheon

The Conservative Manifesto says "...will remain opposed to plans by neighbouring authorities to impose housing developments around the town." (page 8).

i. Can the Conservative Administration confirm it is now opposed to all of the following,
POLICY N3 - NORTHAMPTON NORTH SUE POLICY N4 - NORTHAMPTON WEST SUE
POLICY N6 - NORTHAMPTON SOUTH OF BRACKMILLS
POLICY N8 - NORTHAMPTON NORTH OF WHITEHILLS SUE

ii. Can the Cabinet member confirm that the Conservative dominated 'West Northamptonshire Joint Core Planning Committee' has not been serving in the interests of Northampton?

Response

i) On 19th January, the Council voted unanimously to confirm objections to the allocation of 1,000 and 1,300 dwellings respectively in the Northampton South (Policy N5) and Northampton South of Brackmills (Policy N6) SUEs and to the limited provision of the North West By Pass in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. With these exceptions, the Council voted (unanimously) to support the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy. It therefore follows that the other SUEs listed by Cllr. McCutcheon were not opposed by the Council and they cannot be described as having been imposed by neighbouring authorities.

Nevertheless, the Administration will continue to campaign to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is provided in advance of these developments, and that no additional burden falls in the already fully committed services provided for the residents of Northampton.

The Council will, of course, continue to oppose the development of the Northampton South and Northampton South of Brackmills SUEs at the forthcoming appeal public inquiries.

ii) As is clear from my answer to Cllr. McCutcheon's first question, there has been cross-party opposition in Northampton to some of the decisions made by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee. Now that the Joint Core Strategy has been adopted, the further role and direction of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee will be the subject of discussion between all parties. Please be assured the Administration will continue to fight Northampton's corner in any future meetings of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 8

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Councillor Julie Davenport

I would like to thank the Borough Council for arranging another container for Friends of Delapre Abbey (FoDA) to store all their items in. How does the cabinet Member plan to involve FoDA in the coming weeks in relation to the restoration of Delapre Abbey?

Response

FoDA remain a key partner to the restoration of Delapre Abbey. The Chair of FoDA is invited to the Joint Programme Board along with the Borough Council and DAPT. The role of the Joint Project Board is to oversee the progress and performance of the restoration works. The Board is also responsible for reviewing potential future restoration phases.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 9

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Councillor Julie Davenport

In light of recent developments, will the premises allocated to FoDA for a Tearoom now be available for FoDA's new office?

Response

The original premises which were identified for a tea room, but ultimately declined by FoDA, remain in the License of the "Pony Club". The license informs all parties as to their rights and responsibilities. NBC will need to review more permanent facilities for FoDA in light of expected future restoration phases for the 19th Century Stable Block, it would be short sighted and not represent value for money should a facility be adapted for use which potentially is then part of a future restoration. Northampton Borough Council remain committed to keeping FoDA onsite within Delapre Abbey/Park and we continue to look at all options in relation to this.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 10

Question to Councillor Alan Bottwood from Councillor Gareth Eales

In the next three years this Administration will need to decide whether to continue with the present Environmental Services contract. Will the Cabinet member agree to a cross party working group to decide whether to renew the present contract, go with a new provider or bring it back in house?

Response

It has already been established that our contract with Enterprise Managed Services (EMS) will come to an end in 2018. This is because our partner, Daventry District Council, has advised NBC that it does not wish to continue our joint arrangement once the initial seven year period expires in three years time and for the contract to be extended for a second period of seven years both councils need to agree to do so.

I intend commencing the process to replace EMS in about 18 months, in good time for new arrangements to be put in place in 2018. This process will include a detailed options appraisal which, amongst other things, will give full consideration to bringing all or part of the service back in house.

I would suggest the best way for councillors to support this process might be by providing pre-decision scrutiny under the auspices of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was the approach that was taken prior to the awarding of the current contract and it proved very effective.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 11

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Councillor Janice Duffy

What is happening about Silver Horse Pub in Goldings as it is an eye sore? I appreciate it is privately owned but can pressure be applied?

Response

We have maintained regular contact with the private owner of the former Silver Horse pub about the re-development of the premises. We understand that substantive works of demolition are proposed within the next month and we will monitor the position. There is an existing planning permission in place for a combination of new retail and residential property.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 12

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Councillor Naz Choudary

It is great news that councillor allowances continue to be frozen. When will an Independent Remuneration Panel be set up as to their future?

Response

The Council is investigating the best value option for having a Remuneration Panel review of our members allowances. We aim to appoint a panel by October with a report back to council around 6 months thereafter with recommendations. However the timetable for a report back to council will be driven by the Remuneration Panel themselves. I shall ask the Borough Secretary to update group leaders on progress periodically.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 13

Question to Councillor Mary Markham from Councillor Naz Choudary

Freedom of the Borough ceremonies cost money and we have had a few now since 2012. Will the Leader agree not to have any more from now until May 2019?

Response

This administration will continue to recognise the service and commitment of individuals in this manner when it is deemed fit and proper to do so.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 14

Question to Councillor Tim Hadland from Councillor Janice Duffy

Could the cabinet member tell us the current situation installing a children play area at Foxcovert Wood in Overstone Lodge (it was part of Growing Together Fund)? There seems to be a delay.

Response

The Council made a contribution of £195 to Growing Together to fund a planning application for the play area you refer to. The planning application has been received and is currently being considered.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 8th June 2015

Question 15

Question to Councillor Stephen Hibbert from Mr Norman Adams

March 2015 the Cabinet approved the principle of the acquisition of buildings and land for the potential development of sheltered accommodation. It also approved funding of up to £750,000 to support the acquisition subject to further investigation, due diligence and production of the business case.

Has this acquisition taken place?

Response

Although the acquisition has not yet been completed, it is proceeding in accordance with the decision made by the Cabinet in March 2015.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing**

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

8th June, 2015

I would like to welcome all new Councillors to the Council. I look forward to working with all councillors to further develop Northampton and serve the citizens of the Borough.

Following my appointment as Leader of the Council, I am working with my Cabinet team to progress the commitments made in our manifesto, and to continue the good work of the previous Administration. I am also meeting key partners to discuss our plans and matters of mutual interest.

My colleagues on Cabinet have highlighted matters in their reports within their areas of responsibility. I am pleased to see that since the last ordinary Council meeting on the 2nd March excellent progress has been made. I would like to highlight some particular developments for the Council.

On the 15th March, the former Greyfriars Bus Station, Offices and Multi-Storey car park was demolished through a “blowdown”. This was a key stage in the process of clearing this site for development to enhance the town centre.

Also in March, work commenced on the restoration of Delapre Abbey. I congratulate all those involved in bringing this excellent project to the point of delivery. I am sure we all look forward to the restored Abbey being even more at the heart of Northampton’s heritage and community.

The 100th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli were marked by a ceremony at Towcester Road cemetery. The Council worked with the Western Front Association and other partners to make this year’s anniversary a particularly significant occasion, and were pleased to be supported by representatives of the New Zealand High Commission and the Australian High Commission.

The 70th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day was marked by a special civic Service at All Saints, followed by the marking of the National Silence and Remembrance at the Town and County Memorial.

Plans are currently under discussion with regard to the marking of the 70th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day.

On the 1st April, the Council implemented the Living Wage for employees employed by the Council and implemented revised rates for Apprenticeships. Council has requested a review of further actions that the Council can take to implement the Living Wage, and I have asked the Chief Executive to bring forward this review for consideration by the General Purposes Committee.

Also on the 1st April, the Council implemented new terms and conditions for all employees as agreed by the General Purposes Committee. This was the conclusion of a 16 month programme of discussion, consultation and decision-making involving all employees of the

Council, led by the Management Board working with the support of LGSS. These changes have meant that the Council now has modern terms and conditions that enable the Council to deliver fair employment alongside the best services that can be afforded for the citizens of Northampton. These changes are being closely monitored.

On the 7th May, as we all know, Northampton held the largest and most complex elections that have ever been held in the Borough with combined Parliamentary, Borough and Parish elections. I would like to congratulate the Elections Team on rising to this challenge, and once again congratulate those who were elected in all these elections.

Finally, Council will also be aware that a new Government was elected on the 7th May. A demanding legislative programme was announced on the 27th May in the Queen's Speech. Bills have been announced which are of particular interest to the Borough Council and I will be working with my Cabinet,, the Chief Executive and colleagues to take the opportunities available from this new legislation as it is enacted.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

8th June, 2015

Finance

Creating a stable and sustainable financial position continues to be a primary aim of the Council. Since 2010 Government funding received by the Council has reduced by around 40% and, although specific allocations for this Council are not yet known for future financial years, it is expected that further reductions will continue until at least 2018. The new Government announced it will be having a second Budget for the current year which will be presented to the House of Commons on 8th July 2015. Whilst it isn't expected that allocations will be announced for individual councils (these are expected later on in the financial year), it is anticipated the Chancellor will announce plans for a Comprehensive Spending Review that would set the overall funding envelope for Local Government and also outline how further savings to public expenditure, including welfare budgets, will be delivered.

The uncertainty around our funding position remains a risk and as set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan approved by Council in February 2015 places the Council in a good financial position for the next two years. This is due to the savings programme agreed in the 2015/16 budget. However, over the medium term as Government funding is expected to reduce further a deficit of £7m is anticipated by 2019/20. The Council will need to continue its approach to robustly managing its finances by making itself more efficient, as well as increasing its revenue streams by growing the local economy to balance its budget.

Currently the Council is in the process of delivering its savings of £2.5m as set out in the 2015/16 budget. Progress of this savings programme is on track to deliver and updates will be reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

In addition the Council is preparing its accounts for the 2014/15 financial year. These will be passed across to the Council's external auditor by 30th June, who will then audit them and then signed off the Accounts by 30th September. Audit Committee in July will consider the draft Accounts and sign them off at their meeting in September.

Revenues and Benefits

LGSS Northampton has had another successful year with the service achieving its targets for both performance and efficiency. This also included national recognition for their work in training and developing its team (IRRV award winners). This recognition is important in raising its national profile to support increasing the membership of the service in the future. Taken against a backdrop of continued national reform and increased workloads the team continues to improve its level of performance during this challenging period.

In 2015-16 the service are expecting to manage locally new welfare reforms, highlighted during the election campaign. Managing these effectively, alongside priority projects aimed at delivering further improvement and efficiency will again present the service with significant challenges. The Governments Universal Credit programme is also expected to begin its roll – out in Northampton from September 2015. The service is fully prepared for the impact of the new benefit, although at this stage the impact on service in 2015 – 16 is expected to be minimal. The team will continue to ensure that officers and members are fully informed of national reforms, as and when information is made available.

Other Projects underway include a countywide single person discount review, which aims to increase collectable Council tax within Northamptonshire but more importantly ensure support is going to those that are entitled.

A project to support resilience in Northampton will contribute to managing increased workloads and also remove any remaining reliance on the private sector during peak periods. This will build on the implementation of shared telephony between our Norwich and Northampton operations and will ensure our customers continue to be supported during busy periods.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 8 June 2015

Town Centre Operations

We have extended the credit card payment option into the Mayorhold MSCP our largest car park. Further work is being undertaken to improve the parking provision across the boroughs car parks.

We have refurbished another lift in the Grosvenor Centre Car Park next to Sainsbury improving the service for customers using the car park which is especially helpful on Saturdays with the free parking attracting more and more visitors.

Empty homes Programme

All funding has been spent under the Empty Homes Programme 14/15 and

All 30 units were completed by the end of March 2015

Business Incentive Scheme

In 2014/15 we assisted 58 businesses, making grants of £501,050. This leveraged private sector funding of £1,991,521, and created 203 jobs.

Delapre Abbey

The restoration works continue to programme

The Activity Plan by DAPT is underway with first 'Progress talks and 'Open Weekends' completed. The Trust will be appointing an Operations Director shortly.

Abington Street

The works are now complete, and the changes have been well received by businesses.

The Drapery Bus Shelter Extensions

The works are complete and the shelters are in operation

Greyfriars Demolition

The clearing operation continues, and to date:

- Crushing and removal of arisings 65% complete.
- Fencing work commences 1st June on Greyfriars lane.
- Highway repairs commence 1st June (including traffic light repairs after impact damage)
- Ground investigations are 80% complete
- Filling in basements 50% complete

Vulcan works

The site will be fully vacated shortly and utilities disconnections and diversions have been ordered.. Various pre-contract surveys are being undertaken.

The planning permission and listed building consent for the development at Vulcan Works (34 Guildhall Road) were issued on 11th May 2015 following prior referral to the Secretary of State. The development includes the change of use to provide a community arts hub including 57 workshops, meeting spaces and associated amenities including alterations and

refurbishment of existing buildings, erection of three storey building and demolition of existing structures and associated external works.

Planning

The appeal in relation to the proposed extension of opening hours for the Co-operative Store (Former Ashtree Service Station at 237 Main Road Duston) was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

The outline planning application for Kings Heath SUE (Dallington Grange) for the development of up to 3,000 dwellings was validated on 27th March 2015.

The reserved matters applications for the University of Northampton buildings at Waterside including the pedestrian bridge were approved by the Planning Committee in March 2015.

The planning application for the redevelopment of Travis Perkins headquarter buildings in Lodge Farm for up to 24,000m² floor space was received in April 2015.

The Public Hearing into the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedules for Northampton, Daventry & South Northants took place on 13 May

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 8 June 2015

Councillor Community Fund

The Councillor Community Fund is open for applications for 2015/16. Training for Councillors on how to use the Councillor Community Fund will be delivered on Thursday 28th May.

Partnership Support

The CEFAP panel met on the 26th and 27th of February to assess the 49 applications received for the Partnership Grant 2015/16. Out of the 49 applications received, 24 were awarded funding. Service Level Agreements will be developed with the successful organisations ready for the start of the grant award in July.

Community Centres

The Our Place programme continues to develop – all 7 pilot centres have now had Our Place engagement activities take place, with great responses from the local community. Stakeholder groups for each centre will be meeting over the coming months, to develop action plans where they do not already exist, and to build upon the work that has already taken place.

An annual review has been carried out with the management organisation of the community centres.

Events

The VE Day Commemoration Church Service and 3 minute silence was very well received and supported by visitors in and around the Memorial Gardens at All Saints.

Bands in the Park season is in full flow offering music and entertainment in Abington Park for visitors of all ages.

The main events season has started and already we have seen the Beer Festival at Delapre Park and the Race for Life at Abington Park with more high profile event to follow.

The council has provided support and assistance to community & charitable groups in the borough looking to deliver events in our parks & open spaces.

Culture & Heritage

April saw the opening of three exhibitions at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. 'Fibre to Fabric' showcases work by the Northamptonshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers; 'Cinderella' showcases the shoes that inspired the glass slippers in the new Disney film 'Cinderella' and 'Making Presence Felt' curated by artist Fiona Candy explores human identify and the sensory experience of presence. The following month, three exhibitions opened at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. 'Love in the Time of the Italian Baroque' and 'For the Love of Venice' both of which draw works from the art collections of the museum and finally, 'Change "maker"' explores The University of Northampton's Ashoka U 'Change "maker" Campus status in relation to solving local, global, social and environmental problems.

At Abington Park Museum, Art in the Park opens in May and has attracted exhibits from over 80 artists across the county. During May, an 'Aubers Ridge' event took place at Abington which explored Northamptonshire's First World War History. During the event 'The Slaughter of The Steelbacks' talk attracted an audience of 42.

March saw the third Battlefield Talk, 'The Battle of Edcote' which attracted an audience of 57 generating net profit in excess of £180. Ukulele workshops aimed at Beginners and Improvers took place during March, April and May and continue to be well attended, each one making a net profit of between £187 and £250. During March, a Shoe Making workshop with Hetty Rose was fully booked and made a profit of £734 – the workshop was so popular that another date was booked in July which is also sold out. A third workshop is now booking for August.

Easter workshops at both museums attracted 166 young people and an Easter Egg Trail at Abington Park Museum was enjoyed by over 500 children. Further workshops are programmed for the May half term holidays at both sites along with a Pasta Making workshop for adults.

During April 27,634 footwear photographs were taken of around 4,000 pairs of shoes for the Virtually Shoes project funded by The Arts Council England. In the same month, talks were delivered by the Access and Development Officer and the Shoe Resources Officer to over 465 people at various history and heritage groups.

Several talks took place at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery in May including 'Northampton's Place in the Magna Carta Story', 'The Finds of Roman Northamptonshire' and 'The Knight's Tale' all of which proved popular with the public. June sees two talks linked to the Italian art exhibitions

Customer Services - Service Improvements March/April

Adjustments have been made to both the drop in service and the staff rota within the one stop shop and contact centre. This has enabled us to optimise resources throughout Customer Services reducing wait times in both areas, increasing overall customer experience and satisfaction.

Contact Centre

Customer Services Partnership working continues to grow in strength. We welcomed two new partners into the OSS, The Armed Forces, promoting Army recruitment and The Sunflower Centre, supporting victims of domestic abuse.

The DWP came to a joint meeting with NBC, NPH and LGSS to promote the Work coach available within the OSS. This has already resulted in increased referrals and awareness. Our partners include:

- CAB – advising on benefits and support available
- Bromford – Life skills, training and tenancy support
- CAN – Health, abuse and addiction
- Community Law - advising on benefits and support available
- Mayday Trust – Support with difficult life transitions
- Delos Community – Support with learning difficulties
- TVC – employment and training services
- The Sunflower Centre – Support for Victims of Domestic abuse.
- The Armed Forces – Army recruitment.

Our Partners help us provide a joined up service to the public working together to provide enhanced service for our vulnerable customers.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 8 June 2015

Environmental Health

Since 1 April 2015 a total of 24 fixed penalty notices have been served, 16 for littering, 5 for smoke free offences and 3 for waste offences. There are a number of prosecutions pending for waste offences.

The Council has supported Noise Action Week and Food Safety Week, publicising national campaign information in support of the education and enforcement work undertaken.

Northampton in Bloom

Preparations for Bloom are continuing. It is expected that the installation of the barrier baskets and hanging baskets together with the summer planting of the flower beds will be taking place in early June. The three tier planters will also be installed at this time.

Neighbourhood Wardens

We have introduced a new Town Centre route for the Neighbourhood Wardens to patrol twice a day. This is to provide a uniformed high profile presence in key areas by patrolling a programmed list of streets; once in the morning and again in the afternoon. The Neighbourhood Warden will encourage and engage with the local businesses, residents and shoppers to facilitate positive changes in any anti-social behaviour.

The Neighbourhood Warden will be in radio contact with the Council's CCTV Control Room, so that they can be diverted immediately to any instance that might arise.

Already they are regularly engaging with street drinkers and beggars, as well as arranging for the removal of fly-posters, fly-tipping and waste out early.

It is hoped that after a few weeks, those that act in an anti-social manner in the town centre will know that they will be dealt with and that their behaviour will not be tolerated. This will lead to a more inviting town centre for all to enjoy, as we move towards the summer months.

Councillor Alan Bottwood

Cabinet Member for Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 8 June 2015

2014/15 has seen a varied performance between crime types. There has been a notable reduction in Serious Acquisitive Crime of 13.1% (-387 crimes). This saw good reductions in all four crime types within this area, and particularly domestic burglary, which saw a reduction of 16.9% (-197 crimes). Overall violence has been a performance issue during the year, seeing a significant increase of 59.7%. However, changes in recording practices nationally have impacted upon this, and in turn on figures for all crime. Perception of Anti-Social Behaviour has improved during the year, with 3 out of 5 targets being exceeded. There have been reductions in reports of anti-social behaviour from all sectors within Northampton, with an overall reduction of 2.8% (-429 incidents)

The 5 planned Partnership Weeks of Action for 2015 were completed in March at Spring Boroughs. The Weeks of Action provided excellent community engagement opportunities for all partners and resulted in key face to face communication with over 1,400 residents. This approach will continue into 2015, with 4 areas identified.

New Anti-Social Behaviour legislation came into force in October 2014 providing new/additional powers. Officers are working closely with partners to ensure the best use of the powers, and ASB meetings have been reviewed and updated to ensure a positive response to this new legislation.

Forums

Youth – have successfully completed a workshop on Illegal Money Lending with Trading Standards and will feedback the information to the schools they attend.

LGBTQ – Recently were involved the IDAHOT 1 minutes Noise to stand up against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia at The Guildhall supported by Stonewall and the Fire Service.

Other forums are still to meet and I will report back next time.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Housing and Wellbeing Service

The new staffing structure for the Housing and Wellbeing Service is now in place and Phil Harris (the new Head of Housing and Wellbeing) started work in March 2015.

We are in the process of recruiting a Housing Options Manager and a Private Sector Housing Manager, and filling a number of other vacant roles. It is hoped that all posts will be filled by the beginning of September 2015.

One of the priorities of the Housing and Wellbeing Service is to improve multi agency working and to develop a new and ambitious overarching Housing Strategy.

More Money for Refuge Services

A Northampton-led funding bid – which was supported by the refuge providers, Northamptonshire Police and all of the local authorities in Northamptonshire – has resulted in the Government awarding extra, one-off funding of £434,276 to help strengthen and improve the services that tackle domestic abuse in the County.

The extra funding will be used to create additional bed spaces, increase resettlement support and improve the availability of the out of hours service, as well as improving the sustainability of services by developing shared operations and joint working between the three refuge providers (Northampton Women's Aid, Wellingborough and East Northants Women's Aid and the Nene Valley Christian Family Refuge).

Community Wellbeing Company

Following Northamptonshire County Council's decision to set up a Community Interest Company that will commission and deliver Countywide community wellbeing services, Officers from the Housing & Wellbeing Service have continued to work closely with the County Council, NBC's partners and other stakeholders to support and influence the development of the new company and operating model.

Although it is too early in the process to report any significant progress, the County Council has commended NBC for its positive approach to developing new ways of delivering services and it has acknowledged that the Council and the Northampton Wellbeing Partnership have much to offer in terms of experience, ability and capacity, and that they have shown the willingness to innovate to deliver key wellbeing services across the borough and the County.

Social Lettings Agency

Work is underway to set up a social lettings agency that will let and manage private rented accommodation, on behalf of landlords, in return for a set management fee.

The primary purpose of the agency is to raise standards, increase the supply of good quality, lower cost private rented housing, prevent homelessness and help people who are unlikely to qualify for social rented housing.

Northampton's social lettings agency will invite landlords to hand over responsibility for their properties to the Council, which will then rent them out. In return for these properties, the Council will guarantee the rent (even if the property is empty) and ensure that the property is well-managed throughout the tenancy.

By entering into long-term management agreements with landlords, the Council will be able to lead by example and encourage longer-term lets lasting at least 2 years.

Northampton's social lettings agency will be created with the involvement and support of the National Landlords Association and local landlords.

Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation

At present, 223 three storey Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are licensed under Northampton's mandatory licensing scheme.

Since introducing its Additional HMO Licensing Scheme on 23rd November 2014, the Council has licensed a total of 96 two storey HMOs and is currently in the process of licensing a further 174 two storey HMOs.

Officers are working closely with the Fire Service and other agencies to identify licensable HMOs and are currently undertaking a programme of checks and visits to establish the status of more than 450 properties that are thought to be licensable.

A failure to licence will lead to prosecution and other enforcement activity.

100 New Council Homes

In March 2015, Barratt Homes and Persimmon Homes completed the option to purchase the Council's land in Kings Heath Ward. The option to purchase has been drafted to protect the Council's interest, and the Council can either seek to utilise the developers to build the homes and infrastructure or seek another contractor to build the homes if that provides better value for money.

The developers have submitted a planning application which is currently being given full consideration. When the process is complete, a full report will be presented to the Planning Committee. Officers are currently working on the mix and specification of the homes to be built with a start on site expected in this financial year should the planning application be approved.

Landlords Forum

Arrangements are being made for Officers and Members to meet with private landlords and agents to obtain their feedback on the introduction of Northampton's Additional HMO Licensing Scheme and Article 4 Direction, and to consult with them on the Council's plans to establish a social lettings agency in the town.

Disabled Facilities Grants

We continue to support the provision of amenities, aids and adaptations to enable people with disabilities to remain in their own homes.

Although the DFG budget is more than sufficient to meet demand and the Council has enough Officers to process and approve grant applications in an efficient and timely manner, it is taking longer than intended for the Occupational Therapists to issue their recommendations and, even after the DFGs have been approved, the improvements may be delayed further until the contractor is available to start work.

The Head of Housing and Wellbeing has met with the Chief Executive of Olympus Care to explore ways of reducing the amount of time it is taking to complete the Occupational Therapist assessments.

Positive Working Relationship with NPH

As expected, a very positive working relationship has developed between the Council and Northampton Partnership Homes. The NPH Board is operating well and its Chief Executive and Management Team are working very collaboratively with the Council's Officers and Members to improve services and make a real difference.

I have been especially impressed by the way in which the Housing and Wellbeing Service and Northampton Partnership Homes have dealt with the separation of roles and are working together to deliver better outcomes for residents and communities.

Multi Agency Working at Oasis House

The Council is working closely with the Hope Centre, Midland Heart Housing Association and NAASH to strengthen and improve multi agency working in preparation for the planned expansion of services at Oasis House and the development of a new multi agency Rough Sleepers Strategy that will tackle the problem of rough sleeping more effectively than ever before.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Appendices: 1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
8th June 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Amendments to Standing Orders
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The *Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015* (the “2015 Regulations”), which came into force very recently introduced changes which require the Council to amend its Standing Orders relating to procedures for disciplining and dismissing Statutory Officers, which are the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer). There is a statutory requirement for the changes to be brought to Full Council at its first ordinary meeting, which is this meeting of Full Council.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the amendments to the Council’s Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Delegate to the Monitoring Officer, the power to make any changes required to the Constitution to implement the decision of Full Council.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The *Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001* (the “2001 Regulations”) introduced a degree of statutory protection for the Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer (the “protected officers”) in relation to disciplinary and dismissal action. These officers have statutory obligations to discharge and as such the law provided them a degree of statutory protection.
- 3.1.2 The Coalition Government had concerns about the complexity and cost to the taxpayer of implementing the disciplinary procedures as they were applied by

the 2001 Regulations, in particular, concerns about using the Designated Independent Person (DIP). This resulted in changes to the law, which are outlined below.

3.1.3 The 2015 Regulations which came into force on 11th May 2015 amend the 2001 Regulations and introduce changes to the statutory procedures for dismissing protected officers. They require local authorities to amend their Standing Orders to incorporate the new arrangements no later than the first **ordinary** meeting of the Council after 11th May 2015. Therefore, it is necessary for the changes to be made at this meeting of Council.

3.1.4 The 2015 Regulations are not particularly well drafted and remain silent on a number of key areas, for example the impact and the interrelationship between the Regulations and the Statutory Officers' contracts of employment. There has been and continues to be a lot of national comment on the Regulations and clarity is being sought from the relevant government department on key aspects. However, this report does consider the main elements required for implementation and compliance.

3.2 Issues

3.2.1 Prior to the introduction of the 2015 Regulations, the *Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001* required the use of a Designated Independent Person ("DIP") in relation to the discipline and dismissal of the protected officers. **The 2015 Regulations have amended the 2001 Regulations and removed the requirement for a DIP.**

3.2.2 The key features of the DIP process were as follows:

- a) The DIP had to be a person agreed between the protected officer and the Council (or where agreement could not be reached, a person nominated by the Secretary of State).
- b) No disciplinary action could take place other than in accordance with a recommendation in a report made by a DIP. (Disciplinary action in this context had a broad definition and included disciplinary action short of dismissal).
- c) Any suspension for the purposes of investigating the alleged misconduct had to be on full pay and be for no longer than two months, unless specifically extended following a recommendation from the DIP.
- d) The dismissal of the Head of Paid Service (but not the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer) needed to be approved by the Council itself.

3.2.3 **The statutory DIP process will now be replaced by the arrangements in the 2015 Regulations** in respect of disciplinary action against the protected officers. The key features of the new arrangements are as follows:

- a) The statutory requirement for a DIP is removed.

- b) Instead, the dismissal of a protected officer must be approved by way of a vote at a meeting of the authority (ie. Full Council), provided they take into account:
- any advice, views or recommendations of a Panel, which is to be a committee of the Council;
 - the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal; and
 - any representations from the protected officer.
- c) The Panel must appoint at least two Independent Persons, who are defined in the 2015 Regulations as persons who have been appointed by the Council (or another authority) pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 in relation to the Member Code of Conduct regime.

3.2.4 The Council's Independent Persons will now be asked to perform two separate functions; one will be to sit on the Panel dealing with any proposed dismissal of a protected officer, when required. The other function will be continued involvement in the Councillor Code of Conduct regime pursuant to the Localism Act 2011.

3.2.5 If it became necessary to operate the new arrangements, Full Council would need to appoint the Panel, and relevant Independent Persons would be invited to be considered for appointment to the Panel. In accordance with the requirements of the 2015 Regulations, the Panel would be appointed at least 20 working days before the meeting at which the Council considers whether or not to approve the proposed dismissal.

3.2.5 The Council is required to include Standing Orders in its Constitution which deal with the appointment and dismissal of staff. The Standing Orders relating specifically to disciplinary and dismissal procedures in relation to senior officers are in the Council's Constitution in the Employment Procedure Rules.

3.2.6 Appendix 1 sets out the amendments to the Standing Orders required by the 2015 Regulations. Council is recommended to approve the amendments in Appendix 1 for incorporation into the Constitution.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are no policy implications arising from this Report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The 2015 Regulations state that the remuneration, fees or allowances paid by the Council to an Independent Person appointed to the Panel must not exceed the level payable to that person in respect of their role under the Localism Act 2011. This aspect of the Regulations is to ensure that the new arrangements will not involve additional costs to the Authority.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The legal implications are outlined in the body of the Report.

4.4 Equality

None arising specifically pursuant to this report.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1.1 None.

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer
0300 330 7000

EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES

1. RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT

1.1 Declarations

1.1.1 The Council will draw up a statement requiring any candidate for appointment as an Officer to state in writing whether they are the parent, grandparent, partner, child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of an existing Councillor or employee of the Council; or of the partner of such persons.

1.1.2 No candidate so related to a Councillor or an Officer will be appointed without the authority of the relevant Director or an Officer nominated by him/her.

1.2 Seeking support for appointment

1.2.1 Subject to Rule 3, the Council will disqualify any applicant who directly or indirectly seeks the support of any Councillor for any appointment with the Council. The content of this Rule will be included in any recruitment information.

1.2.2 Subject to Rule 3, no Councillor will seek support for any person for any appointment with the Council.

2. RECRUITMENT OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND CERTAIN OTHER OFFICERS

Where the Council proposes to appoint a Head of Paid Service (to be styled Chief Executive), a Director, Chief Finance Officer or Monitoring Officer or other Officer within the definitions referred to in paragraph 3 of Part II of the First Schedule to the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) Regulations 2001 ([as amended](#))-and it is not proposed that the appointment be made exclusively from among their existing Officers, the Council will:

2.1 draw up a statement specifying:

2.1.1 the duties of the Officer concerned; and

2.1.2 any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed;

- 2.2 make arrangements for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it; and
- 2.3 make arrangements for a copy of the statement mentioned in Rule 1 to be sent to any person on request.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Full Council will approve the appointment of the Head of Paid Service following the recommendation of such an appointment by a committee or sub-committee of the Council. That committee or sub-committee must include at least one member of the Cabinet.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICERS AND CERTAIN OTHER OFFICERS**

- 4.1 A committee or sub-committee of the Council will appoint the Officers referred to in Rule 2 and Deputy Chief Officers (Heads of Service). That committee or sub-committee must include at least one member of the Cabinet.
- 4.2 An offer of employment to such Officers shall only be made where within a specified period of time no well-founded and material objection from any member of the Cabinet has been received.

5. **OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

5.1 **Other Officers**

Appointment and dismissal of other employees (excluding assistants to political groups) is the responsibility of the Head of Paid Service or their nominee, and may not be made by Councillors.

5.2 **Assistants to political groups**

Appointment of an assistant to a political group shall be made in accordance with the wishes of that political group.

6. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

~~6.1 Suspension~~

~~The Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer may be suspended whilst an investigation takes place into alleged misconduct. That suspension will be on full pay and will last no longer than two months.~~

6.1 Dismissals of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer

In respect of disciplinary action (as defined in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended), the following provisions apply:

6.1.2 The Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer may not be dismissed by the Council unless the procedure set out in the following Rules is complied with.

6.1.3 The Council must appoint a Panel for the purposes of advising the Full Council on matters relating to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer. The Panel must be a committee of the authority. The Council must appoint the Panel at least 20 working days before the meeting of Full Council to consider whether or not to approve a proposal to dismiss the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer.

6.1.4 The Council must invite relevant Independent Persons as defined in Rule 6.1.5 to be considered for appointment to the Panel, with a view to appointing at least two Independent Persons to the Panel.

6.1.5

a) An Independent Person means an Independent Person who has been appointed under section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011 (in relation to the Members' Code of Conduct);

b) A relevant Independent Person is an Independent Person who has been appointed by the Council or where there are fewer than two such persons appointed by the Council, such Independent Persons as have been appointed by another authority or authorities as the Council considers appropriate.

6.1.6 The Council must appoint to the Panel such Independent Persons who have accepted an invitation issued in accordance with Rule 6.1.4, in accordance with the following priority order:

- a) a relevant Independent Person who has been appointed by the Council and who is a local government elector;
- b) any other relevant Independent Person who has been appointed by the Council;
- c) a relevant Independent Person who has been appointed by another authority or authorities

6.1.7 The Council may appoint more than two relevant Independent Persons in accordance with Rule 6.1.6, but is not required to do so.

6.1.8 Before Full Council takes a vote on whether or not to approve a dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer, the Council must take into account, in particular:

- a) any advice, views or recommendations of the Panel;
- b) the conclusions of any investigation into the proposed dismissal; and
- c) any representations from the Officer in question.

~~6.2 Independent person~~

~~No other disciplinary action may be taken in respect of any of those employees except in accordance with a recommendation in a report made by a designated independent person.~~

~~6.3 Councillors will not be involved in disciplinary action against any Officer other than the foregoing except where such involvement is necessary for any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct, though the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures as adopted from time to time may allow a right of appeal to Members in respect of disciplinary action.~~

7. APPOINTMENT AND DISMISSALS

7.1 Appointments and Dismissals of Officers within Rule 2 must further comply with the formalities and procedures contained in Part II of the First Schedule of the Local

Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) Regulations 2001 [\(as amended by the Local Authorities \(Standing Orders\) \(England\) \(Amendments\) Regulations 2015\)](#) so far as applicable to such appointment or dismissal.

8. **DISMISSAL**

Councillors will not be involved in the dismissal of any Officer other than the foregoing except where such involvement is necessary for any investigation or inquiry into alleged misconduct, though the Council's disciplinary, capability and related procedures, as adopted from time to time, may allow a right of appeal to Councillors in respect of dismissals.