

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 14 December 2015

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER 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 Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on the 2nd November 2015 and the Meeting of Council held also on the 2nd November 2015.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(Copy herewith)

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Ashraf to make a statement on the "Crisis in Social and Affordable Housing".

9. TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REPORT 2015-16

(Copy herewith)

10. NOMINATION OF MAYOR AS PRESIDENT OF NORTHAMPTON SEA CADETS

(Copy herewith)

11. DUSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

(Copy herewith)

12. CHANGE TO COMMITTEE PLACES

(Copy herewith)

13. EXTENSION OF THE 6 MONTHS RULE FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

(Copy herewith)

14. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

(Copy herewith)

15. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(Copy herewith)

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

- i) Councillor Birch to propose and Councillor Marriott to second:

“This Council recognises the ongoing problem of HIMO’s in many parts of the town.

It is further recognised that in recent times this Council has taken action (with cross party support) in tackling this ongoing problem.

This Council asks the relevant Cabinet members and the appropriate senior officers to investigate the possibility of having no more than 10 per cent of HIMO’S in 50 metres in the Article 4 area and 10% of 100 metres for the rest of the borough”.

- ii) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Ashraf to second:

“This council notes:

That the Housing and Planning Bill is currently being debated in Parliament, and if passed would threaten the provision of affordable homes for rent and buy through:

- forcing 'high-value' council homes to be sold on the open market
- extending the right-to-buy to housing association tenants
- undermining section 106 requirements on private developers to provide affordable homes.

That there is no commitment in the Bill that affordable homes will be replaced like-for-like in the local area.

That whilst measures to help first-time buyers are welcome, the 'starter homes' proposals in the Bill will be unaffordable to families and young people on ordinary incomes in most parts of the country; will not preserve the taxpayer investment; and will be built at the expense of genuinely-affordable homes to rent and buy.

That the Bill undermines localism by taking 32 new wide and open-ended powers for the secretary over councils and local communities, including the ability to override local plans, to mandate rents for social tenants, and to impose a levy on stock-holding councils, violating the terms of the housing revenue account self-financing deal.

That the Bill, whilst introducing some welcome measures to get to grips with rogue landlords, does not help with the high rents, poor conditions and insecurity affecting many of England's 11m private renters – including one in four families with children - and does nothing to help arrest the recent rise in homelessness.

This council resolves:

To analyse and report on the likely impact of the forced sale of council homes, the extension of right-to-buy and the 'starter homes' requirement on the local availability of affordable homes. Such a report should be presented to a Cabinet meeting.

To analyse and report on any further likely impacts of the Bill on the local area.

To use this information to:

1. Support the Leader of the Council in writing to the Secretary of State with our concerns about the Bill.
2. Set up an urgent meeting between the Leader of the Council, Leaders of the Labour and Lib Dem Groups and the Chief Executive with the local members of Parliament to raise our concerns.
3. Make public our concerns, including by publishing the above information on the council's website and promoting through the local press”.

iii) Councillor Davenport to propose and Councillor G Eales to second:

“This Council believes that all houses with gardens should have wheelie bins. Providing there is suitable access for both the wheelie bin to be brought to the front of the property and a refuse lorry.

This Council further believes it is more economical to have wheelie bins than pay for a truck following the contractor to collect the 'unofficial bags' and we now have a big problem with rats.

This Council also believes that Section 46 notices are important tool in tackling the problem of putting out too many sacks. However, the effectiveness is limited as usually people do not leave evidence and there are not the resources to police it.

This Council asks the Cabinet to cost how much it would be to ensure all houses with gardens (providing there is suitable access) have wheelie bins. Once this is done the Cabinet will seek to ensure this will happen once the present contract comes to an end and/or is renewed at the latest”.

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

“The Conservative party reportedly received £36,000 in donations on the run up to the

2015 General Election from individuals connected to the Cobblers loan.

Given that this loan money has currently gone missing, it is essential we retrieve as much as possible of the £10.25m, and that we avoid any perception of impropriety beyond what cannot be avoided.

Therefore, this Council resolves to formally request the return of all and any donations linked to anyone that could have financially benefitted from this loan to this Council from the Conservative Party, to be accounted against the NTFC loan”.

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

“Project Angel, the County Council’s new offices are expected to be complete by this time next year, Despite bringing thousands of extra workers into the town centre the project officers little new parking provision

At this moment in time, it is understood that NCC is in discussions with NBC regarding staff parking,

However, over the last several years we have seen a substantial reduction in parking capacity in the town centre, particularly in the South. At the same time, developments on these former parking sites increase pressure on the service

This Council therefore resolves to undertake a full audit of car parking capacity within the town centre, to ensure that future provision is adequate, to be presented to Council within 3 months”.

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

The Guildhall
Northampton

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

Public Participation

1. Comments and Petitions

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

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

NOTES

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

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

2. Member and Public Questions

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:
- be submitted in writing and delivered, faxed or e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
 - include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.
- 2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

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

NOTES

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

3. Motions

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

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

4. General

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

5. Contacts

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

Tel 01604 837722

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

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 2 November 2015 AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Malpas, Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Caswell, Choudary, Chunga, Davenport, Duffy, Eales, Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Hill, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Lynch, Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith, Stone and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eldred declared a personal non pecuniary interest in Item 4 as he was employed by HMRC.

2. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Larratt and Culbard.

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

Mr Tony Clarke addressed Council and stated that he was grateful to the opposition in calling the special Council meeting as there was limited time to address the issue. He commented that there had been various meetings with the Football Club, the Council and owners and questioned why the supporters or the club staff had not been involved. He further stated that if no action was taken, the club would be wound up within two weeks and asked the Council to leave the supporters with some hope. He further noted that whilst the Council had lodged an objection with the high court, it would be wrong of HMRC to wind up the club whilst the Council was still owed £10.25million. He further remarked that NTFC could be saved and that the Supports Trust were prepared to work with any new purchasers of the club and all other parties involved including the Council.

4. MOTION FOR EXAMINATION

The Mayor proposed a suspension of standing orders under Rule 25 of the Constitution that limited the length of each speaker, to be given a maximum of three minutes each which was agreed.

Councillor Stone proposed and Councillor G Eales seconded:

“This Council notes that Northampton Town Football Club owes this local authority £10.25 million and as yet has not repaid the debt. The club has missed three repayment deadlines and has been asked for the full amount to be repaid. This has

not been forthcoming.

This Council further notes that HMRC has issued a winding up petition against Northampton Town Football Club for unpaid taxes. This case will be heard in the High Court in London on November 16th 2015.

This Council resolves to,

1. Do whatever we can to help Northampton Town Football Club and the Supporters Trust.
2. Retrieve the £10.25 million of public money.
3. Ask Audit committee to review our policies and procedures and make recommendations necessary for implementation in business arrangements of this nature. The Audit Committee would then present any recommendations to Full Council”.

Council debated the motion:

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

The meeting concluded at 6.24

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 2 November 2015 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Malpas, Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Caswell, Choudary, Chunga, Davenport, Duffy, Eales, Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Hill, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Lynch, Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith, Stone and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hallam declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in item 10, Motion vii) as a nominated Trustee of 78 Derngate Trust.

Councillor Sargeant declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in Item 10, Motion vi) as a Trustee of Churches Charity on St Giles Street

Councillor Marriott declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in item 10, Motion vii) as a nominated Trustee of 78 Derngate.

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st September 2015 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Culbard and Larratt.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor addressed Council and wished, on behalf of the Council, best wishes to Councillor Culbard as she was currently unwell.

It was noted that there were a number of tickets still available for the Mayor's Gala Ball to be held at the Northamptonshire Cricket Club. It was noted that there were a number of Diwali events being held on the Market Square on the 7th November 2015. The Mayor also reminded Council that her Mayoral gig would be held at the Picturedrome on the 14th November 2015 for the Mayors Charity – Marie Curie featuring the Gingerpig jazz band and welcomed everyone to attend. She also noted that a service of Remembrance would be held at the All Saints Church on the 8th November 2015 and that it continued to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Hufferdine Smith addressed Council and stated that there was a need for people to examine the causes of anti-social behaviour. He commented that there were numerous problems such as the round the clock access to alcohol and the irregular strength of drugs that were available. He questioned whether the police were trained at recognising the difference between the behaviour of someone under the influence of drugs and those experiencing mental health problems and urged Councillors to have compassion.

County Councillor Glynane addressed Council and stated that the football club was extremely important to the people of Northampton. He mentioned that the previous leader had spoken of the importance of working with the owner of the football club who had also spoken favourably about working with the Council. He commented that apparently, the current Leader of the Council was not aware until weeks ago that the payments were not up to date and also questioned why the Cabinet recommendations of the meeting held July 2013 had not been to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that four questions had been received from Councillors and members of the public 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 states supplementary questions were asked – detailed below:

In response to a supplementary question asked, Councillor Hadland confirmed that a Viability Assessment was necessary, without which the development could not go ahead and that meetings continued with the applicants. He also stated that with regards to the proposed Waste to Energy Plant in the St James' Ward, any updated information received would be relayed to Councillor Ashraf, as Ward Councillor.

In response to a supplementary question asked, Councillor Hibbert commented that he did not have the budget information with regards to private housing, but asked that Councillor Gowen email him and he would respond in due course with the requested information.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Markham, as Leader of the Council, submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She spoke of the administration's commitment to supporting sports clubs in Northamptonshire and spoke of the recent loan that had been approved to the Northamptonshire Cricket Club. She commented that whilst there had been a Cabinet report, as referred to by County Councillor Glynane, at no point after the decision had been made, did he attempt to 'Call –In' the Cabinet decision. It was noted that the Council had undergone rapid changes recently and that consequentially there would be a review into the culture of NBC to ensure that staff are working in a positive and a productive environment. She congratulated the Customer Services Team who had achieved Customer Excellence Accreditation as part of the National Customer Service Week. Councillor Markham explained that she

had been out on the Night safe operation on Friday 16th October to experience the challenges faced by officers; she noted that there was a consultation on Public Spaces Protections Orders approved at the previous Cabinet meeting. She thanked those who had participated in the Landlords Forum and thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for Housing for their hard work.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Markham stated that the administration had delivered what the electorate had asked for and with regards to the Football Club, the only person whose integrity should be questioned was Mr David Cardoza. She also stated that she was aware that there were still numerous bad landlords, but that licensing of HMOs alongside establishing a Social Lettings Agency and exploring Planning Policy had reduced the numbers of bad landlords in the Town.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and commented that the Council currently had a balanced financial position for the next financial year. It was noted that the Revenues and Benefits departments was entering into a busy period as preparation was underway to prepare for a consultation on the 2016-17 Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS).

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hallam commented that the Football Club had missed 3 payments, but that they were in a good financial position to cushion the backdrop of the financial situation as they had been putting the finances in good order over the past 4 years. Councillor Hallam also stated that he would continue to assist Councillor Meredith with his bid for play equipment in Talevera. He also stated that there were a number of consultation events were being to be held with regards to the CTRS, but that it was too early to report any of the findings from that as they had yet to be published. He also stated that it was encouraging that there were a number of other people who were approaching NBC with regards to becoming more involved with LGSS.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that the exercise of expression of interest had been extended slightly the first phase of which would need to be submitted by 6th November 2015. He also mentioned that the judges from Great British High Street had visited as St Giles Street had been shortlisted alongside two other locations from 230 applications from around the country. In response to questions asked, Councillor Hadland commented that it was not the intention for Council staff to occupy any of the office spaces being built. He also noted that with regards to Dallington car park, he was still waiting to hear from the contractors for a start date. It was also noted that there would possibly be a referendum on the neighbourhood plan for Springboroughs.

Councillor King submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She explained that the engagement events at the University of Northampton had been successful and well attended. She also commented that a consultation was also being undertaken to consider proposals to adopt a Public Order Protection Order. She further elaborated on the work of the various forums.

In response to questions asked, Councillor King explained that there had been instances of homeless people being barred from Oasis house, which was as a result

of unwelcomed behaviour. She explained that there were multi agencies working with some of the problem street drinkers.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that Cabinet had approved establishing a Social Lettings Agency. In response to questions asked, he explained that the 100 new Council Houses would be let by the Council. He also commented that he would look at exploring the possibility of establishing a leaseholder's forum.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone stated the poverty was a growing phenomenon, the causes of which were numerous; from zero hour contracts and a substantial shift in allocation of benefits. She stated that the Council should adopt an Anti-Poverty Strategy which she considered to need cross party support and with multi agency involvement as this would ensure that those in poverty would know that help would be at hand. She reported that 37% of children in her ward were classified as living in poverty and spoke of their plight of going to bed hungry and cold.

In response, Councillor Markham explained that she had looked at other councils who had adopted an Anti-Poverty Strategy and noted that they all had very vague intentions. She noted that rather than having a strategy of good intentions, it would be more effective for the issue to be report to and examined by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. She commented that under the administration, she had helped ease poverty by agreeing to pay Council staff the Living Wage, establishing a Social lettings Agency and not increasing council tax.

Councillor Stone responded by explaining that people needed assistance in maximising their money. She also stated that there was an urgent need to get children out of living in overcrowded and urged the Council to consider an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

9. REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF PARISH

Councillor Nunn proposed a report which sought Council to consider a request to change the name of a Parish Council.

Councillor M Hill seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the request made by Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor Parish Council to change their name to Wootton Parish Council be considered and agreed to changing the name of the parish from Wootton, Wootton Fields and Simpson Manor to Wootton.
2. That authority be given to the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer to take any action necessary to effect this change of name of parish, including the notification and publication of the change as required by law.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr Hufferdine-Smith addressed motion i) and stated that some of the trollies had not simply been abandoned but they had been stolen and commented that they should not be burdened with costs as they were the victims of crime.

i) Councillor Davenport proposed and Councillor Smith seconded:

“This Council notes that abandoned trollies are still an ongoing problem in Northampton. They can be a real nuisance in our communities.

This Council therefore resolves the following,

- To note the success of the Trolleywise scheme, particularly their smartphone app.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to all local supermarkets to ensure they are part of the Trolleywise scheme.
- Suggest to the Cabinet that they consider how best the Trolleywise scheme can be promoted to the general public but also consider what other powers they have at their disposal to help eliminate this problem.
- This Council does not currently collect abandoned trollies. We ask the Cabinet Member to consider adopting a policy of collecting trollies (by our Neighbourhood wardens) and then charging the supermarkets for costs of removal, storage and disposal. We would like the Cabinet member to report back to full Council in his report on Monday 14th December 2015”.

Councillor Bottwood proposed and Councillor Eldred seconded an amendment:

Amended motion to read:

This Council notes that abandoned trollies can be a real nuisance in our communities.

This Council resolves the following:

- To note the success of the Trolleywise scheme, particularly their smartphone app.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to all local supermarkets to ensure they are part of the Trolleywise scheme
- Ask the Cabinet member to consider how best the Trolleywise scheme can be promoted to the general public.

Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

ii) Councillor Duffy proposed and Councillor Russell seconded:

“This Council agrees with the present Central Government policy of free schools meals in the first three years of primary school (Year R, Year 1 & Year 2).

This Council further agrees that healthy free school meals are of enormous benefit to young children in Northampton.

This council asks the Chief Executive to write to our local MPs (Northampton North, Northampton South, Northamptonshire South) asking them to lobby Central Government to keep this important policy for the long-term and safe from any Spending Reviews”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

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

“This Council notes that Central Government has announced it is introducing a ‘national living wage’ of £9 per hour by 2020.

This Council further notes the government rate is based on median earnings while the Living Wage Foundation rate is calculated according to the cost of living. Therefore the Living Wage Foundation rate is at present higher.

There is a concern that the benefits of the Government’s new national living wage will be outweighed by big cuts to tax credits.

This Council resolves to

- 1) Use the Living Wage Foundation rate in paying our staff.
- 2) Seek accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation. In order to be accredited we must pay all our directly employed staff the Living Wage and have a plan in place for contracted staff
- 3) Support the introduction of a Living Wage to all sub-contracted staff.
- 4) Use our influence as a major local employer and provider of services to urge other local employers to pay the Living Wage according to the Living Wage Foundation”.

Councillor Markham proposed and Councillor Hallam seconded an amendment.

Amended motion to read:

This Council welcomes that Central Government has announced it is introducing a

'national living wage' of £9 per hour by 2020

This Council notes the government rate is based on median earnings while the Living Wage Foundation rate is calculated on the cost of living. Therefore the Living Wage Foundation rate is at present higher,

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Continue to use the Living Wage Foundation rate in paying our staff
- 2) Seek accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation. In order to be accredited we must pay all our directly employed staff the Living Wage and have a plan in place for contracted staff
- 3) Support the introduction of Living Wage to all sub-contracted staff
- 4) Use of influence as a major local employer and provider of services to urge other local employers to pay the Living Wage according to the Living Wage Foundation

Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

- iv) Councillor Meredith to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second:

“Council notes that the lakes in the Eastern District are in an ever worse state, with dropping levels leading to higher pollution and an increasingly unattractive visage and smell.

Council further notes that these lakes are important to the area for a number of reasons, giving a leisure space to local residents and a home to local wildlife.

Council therefore resolves to assign a lead officer to solving the problems of the Eastern District lakes who will be empowered to investigate and action potential solutions, including but not limited to seeking that controlled sources of water be increased, and tackling inward pollution into the lakes from all sources”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

- v) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

“The “Changing Places” campaign states that “People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably.”

And further, that “Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with

a disability.”

Council desires Northampton to be an inclusive, accessible town with a diverse and vibrant community, and notes that accesses to basic facilities are essential for this end.

Council therefore resolves to work with developers to ensure that as many new developments in Northampton, and all developments in which the Borough Council is directly involved, will have “Changing places” accessible toilets”.

Councillor Hadland proposed and Councillor Hibbert seconded an amendment:

Amended motion to read:

The Changing Places campaign states that “People with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortable

And further, that Standard accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with a disability

Council desires Northampton to be an inclusive town with a diverse and vibrant community, and notes that access to basic facilities are essential for this end.

Council will encourage developments in which the Borough Council is directly involved to consider having “Changing Places” accessible toilets
Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

vi) Councillor Markham to propose and Councillor Hadland to second:

“This Council recognises that St. Giles Street offers a unique shopping experience with many independent and niche market businesses that local residents are rightly proud of.

St Giles Street is a vital part of Northampton town centre, and that is why this borough council is investing £3 million into improving the experience for visitors and businesses by widening pavements and installing additional parking bays.

This council:

- welcomes the achievement of St Giles Street in being shortlisted as a finalist in the 2015 Great British High Street competition;
- recognises the hard work of the traders and their co-operation with each other that helps make St. Giles Street the success that it is, and;
- calls upon all Northampton residents and businesses to back the campaign to make St Giles Street the winner in the City Location category of the 2015

Great British High Street competition”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

vii) Councillor Hallam to propose and Councillor Marriott to second:

“This Council recognises that 78 Derngate is a tremendous asset to Northampton and that the volunteers and team behind it do a fantastic job.

2016 is the 100th year of the refurbishment that Charles Renee Mackintosh carried out for W.J. Bassett Lowke. The Council re-affirms its commitment to 78 Derngate and to working to support plans for its 100th anniversary celebrations”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

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 8.39pm

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 1

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Rufia Ashraf

What is the number of rough sleepers in Northampton as of 1st December?

Response

A formal multi agency 'count' of rough sleepers is not due to take place until February 2016. However, based on the information provided by the Outreach Workers and local organisations, it is estimated that there are approximately 25 rough sleepers in Northampton at the moment.

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 2

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Rufia Ashraf

How many people are currently placed in Bed and Breakfast awaiting accommodation as of 1st December?

Response

38 households were living in Bed & Breakfast accommodation on 1st December. Of these 38 households, six had been offered suitable social rented housing, three were 'intentionally homeless' and one was about to move into more suitable temporary accommodation

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 3

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Danielle Stone

When does the Cabinet Member expect the Social Lettings Agency to be fully operational?

Response

I am expecting the Social Lettings Agency to be up and running by April 2016 and fully operational (with a full complement of staff and offering the full range of services) by October 2016...

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 4

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Danielle Stone

How many rogue landlords were prosecuted between 1st December 2013 1st December 2015?

Response

During this period, there were no prosecutions. At present, 12 landlords are the subject of criminal investigations by the Private Sector Housing Team. Since her appointment in September 2015, the Council's new Private Sector Housing Manager has started to make fundamental changes to the way in which criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords are identified and dealt with. A new Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy will be considered by Cabinet in February 2016.

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 5

Question to Cllr Mary Markham from Cllr Danielle Stone

Please can the leader tell us how far she has got in negotiations with the Government about Northampton receiving refugees?

Response

We are working with other local authorities, particularly Northamptonshire County Council, on having arrangements in place when Government decide to locate any to Northamptonshire.

This is a Government led programme and we will respond to the need as it arises.

Councillor Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 6

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Zoe Smith

Please could we have the up to date figures for voids as of 1st December. How many, and what is the average turn round time?

Response

On 1st December, 170 council homes were void and, of these, 112 were empty awaiting extensive modernisation or redevelopment. The average void turnaround time for the homes let during October 2015 was 28.30 days. I will provide you with November's average void turnaround time at Full Council on 14 December 2015.

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 7

Question to Cllr Brandon Eldred from Cllr Jane Birch

Although there are financial challenges please can the Cabinet Member carefully consider keeping the funding for CEFAP at its present level?

Response

The council is currently actively reviewing its strategic business priorities. A key part of this work includes maximising the impact of the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The review is not yet complete, but I do not expect that it will result in any reduction to the pot of money that is currently distributed via the CEFAP pot. However I will be seeking ways to achieve better outcomes from the VCS in return for the money the council spends in that sector.

Councillor Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 8

Question to Cllr Brandon Eldred from Cllr Jane Birch

Please can we have a complete list of the funding Northampton Borough Council gives to the voluntary and community sector throughout the town?

Response

I have asked one of my officers to pull this information together for you into a single list and to send it to you directly.

Councillor Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 9

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Clement Chunga

Many of our residents live in overcrowded conditions. When will this Authority put in place realistic minimum standards for living room and bedroom sizes that recognises the need for everyone to have personal space and space for clothes and belongings?

Response

Although the definition of statutory overcrowding – and minimum bedroom sizes – is prescribed in legislation, I am very keen to ensure that the Council does as much as it can to tackle overcrowding in social rented housing by making changes to its Housing Allocations Policy. I want to make it easier for tenants to qualify for a transfer, for example, if they are severely overcrowded (lacking 2 or more bedrooms) or they are suffering severe hardship because an adult or child is having to share a bedroom with someone else even though they have a serious medical condition that means it is unreasonable to expect them to continue sharing a bedroom.

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 10

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Clement Chunga

Please can we have a map of the areas with high concentration of HIMOs?

Response

Yes. As the Planning Service is already mapping the location of licensed HIMOs, this information is already available on request. As part of the planned improvements to HIMO licensing, the Private Sector Housing Team will be publishing this information in a map on the Council's website and updating the map and HIMO Register every time that a new HIMO Licence is issued.

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 11

Question to Cllr Tim Hadland from Cllr Arthur McCutcheon

Is this authority aware that there are restrictions on the proximity of fast food outlets to schools?

Response

"There are currently no restrictions in national planning policy on the location of new fast food outlets near to schools. However, some councils (15 according to a recent survey) have adopted local policies with this aim. A report in 2013 by Public Health England, the Institute of Environmental Health and the Local Government Association (Obesity & the environment: regulating the growth of fast food outlets) advises that it is preferable to incorporate such policies in statutory local plans rather than producing supplementary planning policy. We have recently begun work on the Northampton Part 2 Local Plan so we will address the issue of fast food outlets in that plan."

Councillor Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 12

Question to Cllr Mary Markham from Cllr Arthur McCutcheon

Early this year Tory controlled Aylesbury Vale District Council said they wanted unitary status as 'they are the second largest district council in the country'. A unitary Aylesbury Vale would give them more bargaining power within SEMLEP. What does the Leader of the Council think of this?

Response

The Government is currently promoting better joint working between authorities under the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill. This legislation is intended to encourage authorities to find ways to combine their efforts through collaboration rather than by arguing over the structure and form of each Council.

Northampton has been very successful in gaining significant support from SEMLEP and from NEP, including being the first Enterprise Zone in both LEP areas and receiving financial support to key Alive projects. We are working closely with our SEMLEP and NEP partners and with all Councils across the area including Aylesbury Vale.

Unitary status is not currently on the agenda for most Councils nor for Government

Councillor Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 13

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Anamul Haque

Please can we have up to date figures for people using food banks?

Response

The food banks work independently of the Council and are not regulated by the Council. I suggest you approach them directly

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 14

Question to Cllr Alan Bottwood from Cllr Julie Davenport

In relation to the 'two green sacks only' policy, how many section 46 notices resulted in fines between 1st June to 1st December?

Response

To achieve compliance with the two green sack policy we have deployed a combined strategy of communication, education and enforcement.

While most people on sack collections have complied with the two green sack policy without the need for formal action, it has been necessary to issue over 6,000 section 46 notices. As is the intention, this has had a positive impact on the vast majority of residents who were previously not complying, so that in the main no further action has been necessary.

In accordance with the statutory process, we have though had to issue 107 second stage notices.

We monitor these second stage cases closely to check for ongoing infringement of the two green sack policy, as this would make the offender liable for a fixed penalty notice (FPN). However to date, none have been identified that are suitable for such further action, although there are a couple of cases currently in the pipeline.

Enforcement, along with communication and education, continues to be an important tool for us in our efforts to keep the town clean and tidy.

Councillor Bottwood
Cabinet Member for environment

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 15

Question to Cllr Mary Markham from Cllr Nazim Choudary

Do you think Northampton should remain a town or become a 'city'?

Response

This is not an option as the opportunity rarely arises and is then only by invitation of the Monarch

Councillor Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 16

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Beardsworth

This Council is owed £900,000 by CDNL for the relocation of the athletics track. Can you tell us what the impact you expect this to have on the capital program and the revenue budget?

Response

As was fully explained in the report to Cabinet the £900k was to be used to part finance the relocation of the athletics track scheme in the Council's Capital Programme (total cost £1,750k), with the remaining funds coming from section 106 contributions.

In the first instance the Council will seek to recover the full debt from CDNL through the liquidation process. However, CDNL may not have sufficient assets to settle the debt. If this is the case the shortfall in funding will need to be met from any proceeds arising from the capital receipt arising from the land development over and above £10.250m. If there are insufficient monies arising from the land the pressure will need to be managed within the existing capital programme funding envelope. There is only a minimal impact on the revenue budget arising from delayed cashflows.

Councillor Hallam
Cabinet Member for Finance

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 17

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Beardsworth

Aside from any plans to repay the capital balance of the NTFC loan, the Council will repay £1.3million in interest on the loan over that period. What effect do you anticipate this having on the revenue budget and on frontline services?

Response

As was fully explained in the report to Cabinet the interest accrues on the loan at approximately £275k per annum, it could rise to £1.3m in total if the land is not sold until 2020. The land maybe sold sooner in which case the interest cost would be reduced. This will be paid from within existing debt financing budgets until the loans mature. The loans previously provided to NTFC would be used to fund the Council's existing Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The reason the Council can afford the interest costs of these loans from within existing budgets is that the Council recently had two loans mature (paying an interest rate of 5.68% and 7.03% respectively, costing £950k per annum) and could refinance those loans using the loans transferred back from NTFC. The savings arising from refinancing of the CFR will be used to offset pressures the Council is facing in its Budget in order to maintain frontline services.

Councillor Hallam
Cabinet Member for Finance

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 18

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Beardsworth

In July of this year, a full review of the Conservative Area for Kingsthorpe was presented to the residents and the Conservation Committee. Since then, no work has been done to further this review. In the meantime, several planning applications that would have been within the Conservation area have been passed. After all this time, why have the findings of the review not been implemented?

Response

The information presented to the Conservation Area Advisory Group and in the leaflet distributed at the Group's Summer Fayre was a preliminary draft. In the light of feedback received and further consideration, it was agreed that further work was required before full public consultation on the final proposals. This work is underway and it is anticipated that it will be completed in the New Year so that public consultation can be carried out.

Councillor Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 19

Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr Meredith

3Market Square events have been taken over by a private company called "Stage Right", having previously been extremely effectively run in house by the Council . Can you please explain the tendering process that occurred prior to this contract being awarded?

Response

In 2014, expressions of interest (EOIs) for delivering support to the council's events programme, including events on the Market Square, were sought and three responses were received and evaluated. As a result of the evaluation process, an agreement was subsequently entered into with Stage Right Productions who were deemed to best meet the council's needs in terms of quality and cost.

Councillor Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 20

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Meredith

A motion passed with full support at NCC requiring them to work with Borough and District Councils to shorten the waiting time for improvements to people's homes under the Disability Facilities Grant program. What can NBC do to improve these waiting times?

Response

I welcome NCC's commitment to work collaboratively with the Borough and District Councils to minimise the amount of time it takes to assess and approve residents' applications for Disabled Facilities Grants. Although NBC has a well-funded Disabled Facilities Programme and does not operate a 'waiting list' for such grants, the main cause of the delay in this process is the extraordinary amount of time it is taking NCC's Occupational Therapy Service to assess applicants' needs and send the Council its recommendations. To improve waiting times, the Council's Head of Housing and Wellbeing has agreed to convene a meeting between the Manager of the Occupational Therapy Service and the relevant managers in the seven Borough and District Councils to explore better ways of working in order to shorten the process. These discussions will complement NBC's review of its own processes which is likely to lead to better case management and monitoring.

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 21

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Davenport

Garages are boarded up, never repaired, weeds growing all around them, graffiti on - it makes areas look run down. I understand there is yet another study going on to determine what to do with them.

When is this due to be completed? What have they determined so far?

Response

Northampton Partnership Homes has commenced a desktop review of all garages to confirm their suitability for garaging a car, their future demand, and their future investment requirements. NPH and the Council have agreed a protocol for discussing each garage site and these discussions will enable decisions to be made on future use and investment. At present, there is no fixed timeline for this and each site will be considered on a ward by ward basis.

Councillor Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 22

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Davenport

What safeguards are in place at the planning/permission stages to safeguard buyers of new homes from the liquidation of developers which can mean that streets in that development are not adopted by the Council?

Response

The construction of new roads on housing estates is the responsibility of the developer. If the roads under construction are to be adopted, it is Northamptonshire County Council's responsibility, as Highway Authority, to ensure that they are built to the appropriate standard and adequately lit and drained.

There are two ways that a new road may be offered to the Highway Authority for adoption to become maintainable at public expense:

1. The developer may complete the road and then offer it to the Highway Authority under Section 37 of the Highways Act 1980; or,
2. The developer may opt to enter into a legal agreement under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980

A Section 38 agreement is always supported by a bond or cash deposit calculated by the Highway Authority and based on the cost of the works proposed. This bond or cash deposit can be called upon if the developer goes into liquidation or otherwise defaults on his responsibilities. For this reason, most Highway Authorities prefer Section 38 to Section 37, which provides no safeguards in the event of a developer going into liquidation. Unfortunately, the Highway Authority cannot insist that a developer completes a Section 38 agreement.

In the absence of a Section 38 agreement, solicitors may advise house buyers to retain part of the purchase price of the property to cover possible future road charges in order for the roads to be adopted.

Councillor Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 23

Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Birch

Could the Administration look into the possibility of acquiring the student accommodation at Park Campus (obviously after the University relocates) so it could be used as NPH accommodation?

Response

The Council has granted planning permission for the redevelopment of the Park Campus to provide 800 dwellings. This involves the demolition of the existing university facilities, including the student accommodation. The proceeds to the university from the sale of the site for residential development are an important component of the funding for the new waterside campus.

Councillor Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 14 December 2015

Question 24

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Cali

The Council now hopes to retrieve the £10.25 million loan from NTFC by developing the surrounding land. Could the Administration give me an outline at this early stage in how it expects to do this?

Response

At the moment, the Council has commissioned some exploratory work on the site which will provide better information for developers, when the site is brought forward for development.

This will include work such as defining the reclamation works for the site.

Councillor Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Agenda Item 7

Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14 December, 2015



Northampton Town Football Club

The new Executive Chairman Kelvin Thomas has received a warm welcome at Sixfields. After many months of negotiation I am delighted the club can now move forward.

A special Cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday 24th November to agree in principle a “Memorandum of Understanding” with the new owner. NBC attended the High Court on 27th November to request an adjournment to the Administration petition on NTFC to allow the legal documents to be completed. The judge commended NBC for taking this action. NBC will return to court on 11th December and in the meantime the necessary legal paperwork to give legal force to the Memorandum is being prepared.

I have initiated three separate investigations into the NTFC loan

- Formal complaint and evidence presented to Northampton police to investigate the missing £10.25m
- External auditor will conduct an investigation into the loan agreement and review the contract and agreement set up by NBC. This report will be made public and any recommendations will be implemented.
- The Audit committee to investigate and prepare a report, and any recommendations, as decided at Council.

Budget

The Council is currently completing new budgets for 2015/2016 taking into account details from the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement.

Town Centre

We are pleased to announce Free Parking will now be available from 3pm daily. This is in addition to the 3 hour free parking and the free parking all day Saturday and Sunday.

The German market is back by popular demand and will continue to attract footfall to Abington Street.

Small Business Saturday

Members of the Cabinet visited 40 small local businesses on Saturday 5th December. These are vital to our economy and we continue to advise and support small businesses many of whom have benefited from the Business Incentive Scheme.

St Giles Street

It is official “St Giles Street” really is the Jewel in the Crown and I would like to congratulate all involved.

Northampton Partnership Homes

I was delighted to attend the first AGM of NPH and see how established it has become in its first year. I look forward to attending their first anniversary event on 5th January.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14 December, 2015

Finance

On 25th November the Chancellor set out the Government's spending plans for the period of this parliament. From a local government perspective these plans included investment in providing new housing, social care and infrastructure against a background of continued reductions in public sector spending.

The announcements have been high level with little detail. However, the Council is using its networks and intelligence sources to understand potential implications on both its finances and service provision.

At the time of writing the impact of these announcements are being assessed for their impact on our Budget 2016/17 and our Medium Term Financial Plan. It is anticipated further information, particularly for 2016/17, will be announced as part of the Local Government Finance settlement which is expected around mid December. Specific areas for the Council will focus on are:

- The future of New Homes Bonus. The Spending Review mentioned the current scheme would change with the potential for less resources overall and monies being transferred into social care.
- The profile of Government funding reductions. The figures released in the Spending Review suggest a greater reduction in the early years of the plan, with them tapering off in the later years.
- The future of Business Rates Retention. It has been announced that Government plans to give local government 100% of business rates. More details will be announced when the Chancellor announces the Budget 2016.
- Housing related changes, including the 1% rent reduction per annum.

The Council has been developing its medium term financial plans and draft budget for a number of months. Directorates have reviewed their budgets for the continuation of services, a process that will identify any cost pressures that may arise. In addition work is being undertaken to assess opportunities for efficiency savings in next years budget. Such efficiencies will give the Council a head start in meeting challenges it faces over the medium term.

The draft Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2016-21 for both the General fund and Housing Revenue Account will be presented to Cabinet on 16th December for consultation.

Revenues and Benefits

The service have supported a consultation on how changes to the 2016-17 Council Tax Reduction Scheme may affect them. The Council Tax Reduction scheme provides financial support for people on low incomes to help with their Council Tax bill. In Northampton the scheme helps around 16,000 people. The Council has looked at three options, which will support those who need it most, help people get back into work and protect the Council's finances. Each option looks at how much support should be offered to pay a proportion of the total Council Tax bill.

1. Reduce the maximum amount of support from 79% to 69%,
2. Do not change the level of support, currently 79%,
3. Or reduce the maximum amount of support over the next two years from 79% to 63%.

The consultation was made available on the Council's website and there have been four drop in sessions at the Guildhall for anyone interested in asking questions about the changes or looking to find out more about the scheme.

The results of the consultation will be made available during the early part of December 2015 and form part of the Council's recommendation for the 2016 – 17 scheme to Full Council.

The service have also been supporting the external audit of the 2014-15 Housing Benefit subsidy claim. This process is key in maximising income due back to the Council against housing benefit expenditure paid during the year. As complexity and transitions within the scheme continue, quality and accuracy have and will continue to come under pressure. Therefore this audit will help to inform the service on how it is progressing in this area and make relevant improvements where they have been highlighted.

Service performance against its key indicators remains high with LGSS Revenues and Benefits team expecting a high outturn performance as we move towards the end of Quarter 3 of 2015-16.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14 December 2015

Community Safety

Overall crime has increased by 4.2% (+783 crimes) since April 2015. Serious Acquisitive is showing a 1.2% decrease (-30 crimes). The primary performance issue relates to theft of motor vehicles, and more specifically motorcycles, which has risen by 27.7% since March 2015. Violence against the person has increased by 20.1% (+936 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour continues to show a good reduction, decreasing by 12.1% (-1602 incidents) since April 2015 with personal Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reducing by 11.2% (-500 incidents), nuisance by 10.3% (-712 incidents) and environmental by 20.7% (-384 incidents).

Consultation is underway on the proposals for Public Spaces Protection Orders. Proposals see the re-draft of the Designated Public Places Order for drinking in the street and Dog Control orders. It is also consulting on proposals to manage busking, tackle street begging, flyposting, urinating in the street and the illegal sale of cars on public land. All feedback is welcomed and the questionnaire can be found on the NBC website.

There are a number of crime prevention events and operations planned leading up to Christmas. This will see events being held in some of the community hubs/rooms and also specific police operations targeting shoplifters and the night time economy.

The bi-annual Domestic Abuse Conference was held at the Park Inn on 18 November, themed 'Behind Closed Doors', focussing on domestic and sexual abuse. The event was extremely well attended, seeing over 250 people in attendance from a range of agencies across the county. During the following week an information stand was located in the One Stop Shop during Domestic Abuse Awareness week.

Forums

November was a busy month for the forums supporting a range of events. The Youth Forum visited the Houses of Parliament and found it informative and valuable. The week of Action on Hate crime was supported with an event being held on the All Saints Piazza. An event was held in the Guildhall to commemorate 50 years of the Race Relations Act. Diwali was celebrated by a parade being held in the town centre and a community arts workshop being held with a range of agencies participating.

A ceremony in support of World Aids Day on 1 December 2015 was held in the courtyard of the Guildhall. A market place event was held in the One Stop Shop for International Day for People with Disabilities on 3 December 2015. This saw a range of voluntary organisations raising awareness and providing workshops.

Future events currently being planned are Holocaust Memorial Day in January and International Women's Day in March.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14 December 2015

Town Centre

Great British High Street Competition

We entered St Giles Street in this competition, and it was in a shortlist of three. The Judges' visit was particularly successful, with a terrific variety of businesses taking part. I attended the Awards ceremony in London, when we won the City category against very stiff competition. The competition involved the original entry, shortlisting, judging, a public vote, and the final assessment. This win is a great tribute to the hard work put in by everyone involved.

Car Parking

The new pay on foot parking machines are fully operational in St Michaels & St Johns multi-storey car parks providing our parking customers with a better service and extending credit card payment options into all council multi-storey car parks.

The refurbishment works on the Grosvenor car park lifts (A-floors next to Primark) are fully operational and have improved the service to customers using the car parks.

The free parking on Saturdays in all council car parks is proving popular alongside the free parking after 3.00pm on Thursdays.

The programme to replace surface car park payment machines with newer machines to accommodate the new coinage is on target and will be completed in spring.

Planning

Planning permission has recently been granted for the development of 1198 beds of student accommodation, supporting ancillary facilities at the University of Northampton, Nunn Mills and a new Community Centre off St. Crispin Drive, Upton.

A planning application has also recently been received for development of 10 industrial/warehouse units, two class A3 units and a day care nursery at land west of Caswell Road and Gowerton Road.

Duston Neighbourhood Plan – The Referendum on the Duston Neighbourhood Plan took place on Thursday, 5th November. Residents were asked “Do you want Northampton Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Duston Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?” 85.6% of those voting supported the use of the Neighbourhood Plan to decide planning applications. The turnout was 16.6%. The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is to be considered at this Council meeting.

In the seven months April to October 100% of Major and Minor Planning Applications were decided within the appropriate time limits, and 99% of other Applications

In the same period there were five Appeal decisions, and only one Appeal succeeded, giving an 80% success rate for the Department.

Following the last meeting of the West Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, when it was decided to apply to the Secretary of State to cancel the joint planning regime, we have been working to bring this into force and to drafting the necessary arrangements for the future

Economic Development and Regeneration

Greyfriars – Additional information has now been submitted by all parties, who have made submissions. Following a selection over the next few weeks, the short listed bids will be working up final details, which have to be submitted by the end of February, ahead of Cabinet making a final decision in April 2016.

Four Waterside – Discussions continue with Kier with view to a planning application being submitted for the site early in the new year.

BIS (Business Incentive Scheme) - For April 2015 – December 2015, £170,249 has been committed, resulted in 74 jobs being created, supporting 26 businesses with an additional £1.34 million private sector investment. This includes six vacant shop units in the town centre.

Asset Management

The Council has recently agreed the sale of premises in Fish Street. The premises are likely to be used for residential, with a restaurant underneath.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14 December 2015

Councillor Community Fund

A total of 134 grant payments have been made from the Councillor Community Fund since April 2015. The total amount of funding awarded at the end of October is £43,682, providing support to a wide range of local voluntary organisations and local projects.

Partnership Support

Since the grant year beginning July 2015, 5 grant payments have been made, totalling £14,307.36 from the £50,000 pot. The Community Grants panel continue to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and consider all applications. The next grant panel will be meeting in December to consider further small grants applications.

Planning for the launch of the 2016/17 Partnership Grants program has commenced. The process will be launched at the end of January 2016 at a CFAP grants information event being held in the Guildhall.

Community Centres

The Our Place project continues to progress. Meetings have been held with all community centres involved and their action plans have been refreshed. Various projects for the community centres are being supported by the Partnerships and Communities Team, such as the development of a bid to fund further youth work.

Events

There have been a number of significant events attracting thousands of people in the last few weeks starting with the sparkling Fireworks Display and Bonfire on the Racecourse (5th November) which attracted around 18,000 visitors; Remembrance Day (8th November); Christmas Light Switch-On and the opening of the German Market (19th November) which attracted people into the town centre.

The Council supported the Diwali Celebration of Light (7th November) in the town centre and the Santa Run (13th December) in Becketts Park.

Culture & Heritage

A major museum collections move took place in November and December. Collections based in the store at Fetter Street moved to mezzanine and basement areas in the Guildhall and a storage unit at Blackthorn. The move included the boot and shoe and costume collections, archaeology and social history as well as large boot and shoe machinery. Prior to the move, a team of 20 volunteers spent a number of weeks assessing and packing each artefact under the supervision of a member of curatorial staff.

The exhibition 'Whose Round Is It?' continued to appeal to visitors at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and is open until 31 January 2016. Gift packs of the 150th 'Museum IPA' brewed by museum staff continue to sell well in the museum shop. The 102nd Northampton Town & County Art Society opened in late November – the exhibition features work from talented graduates and non-members alongside the best of Northamptonshire artists. The majority of the work is for sale and the museum receives 20% commission from any sales.

Looking forward, 'How Does your Garden Grow? The Art of the Garden' opens at the end of January – the exhibition includes work of Anthony Ashworth Jackson-Stops, Francis Ferdin, Maurice Cook and Lucien Pissarro.

£5,000 sponsorship has been agreed with Shoosmith Solicitors towards national marketing of the Shoosmith art exhibition scheduled for 2016.

The project 'Conflict & Community Northampton Remembers the First World War' held a Northampton Local History Symposium in October at the Royal & Derngate and Guildhall which attracted 76 people and included a high profile keynote speaker, Professor Lloyd Clark University of Buckinghamshire.

The fourth Christmas Craft Fair at Abington Park Museum took place in November and attracted 43 stallholders selling a wide range of crafts, food and drink. A Spring Food and Drink Fair is planned for early April 2016 which will expand stallholder areas into a marquee in the courtyard for hot food sellers.

During Quarter 3, both museums were hired out to the following: a paranormal organisation for three events; a local engineering company for a lunch; a local law firm for their Christmas party and a town centre wine merchant for a Christmas wine tasting event.

October saw volunteers offering over 560 hours of their time to various projects and events at the Museum (excluding WW1 project). In addition, the Virtual Shoe project funded by the Arts Council England commenced in April and 111 hours were completed by volunteers during October.

Customer Services

Customer Services has been awarded the Customer Excellence Accreditation. In a recent assessment, NBC's Customer Services were not only recognised as fully compliant in all areas but also received a 'Compliance +' rating, the highest score you can receive, in four areas: empowering staff; performance management; partnership working; supporting local communities.

The Assessor said: Northampton Borough Council is "a step above the rest and has a key commercial focus.....in a good way."

He spoke to customers who were very positive and complimentary about the service and was impressed by the focus we continue to put on providing good customer service in times of financial austerity.

In addition, a superb week was had celebrating National Customer Services everyday Heroes who go above and beyond to provide an excellent service. This included Managers and Councilors going back to the floor experiencing first-hand what it is like to be a Customer Information officer. Barclays Digital Eagles were working in the OSS all week promoting their training programme and providing support and upskilling members of the public in the use of technology and online services. The commitment from Barclaycard is ongoing and they have been using our facilities to run training sessions once a month.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14 December 2015

Environmental Health

On Tuesday 10 November the operators of Baltika 143–145 Kettering Road were found guilty of a health and safety offence relating to the guarding of an area that was being used for storage. Fines totalling £2106.12 were imposed by the Court.

During November the Food Team have joined in the Food Standards Agency's campaign to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. By checking the rating of a food business, customers can be reassured that they have chosen a business that takes food safety seriously. Ratings are updated on a monthly basis and can be checked via a link from the NBC website or by checking the green and black stickers displayed in food businesses.

Environmental Services

The winter bedding has been planted and the winter barrier baskets installed.

Following consultation with the local football leagues, the senior pitches at Errington Park and Round Spinney have been replaced with 2 x 9v9 pitches.

Hedge cutting has been completed at Kingsthorpe, Duston and Towcester Road cemeteries.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

The number of black sacks being left out on the highway have been reducing considerably, as the customers start to get the message that the practice of putting out black sacks instead of the official green sacks is not acceptable and that they face being fined.

Unfortunately, there are a few people that continue to fly-tip and remove all their identification from the sacks, so as not to get caught. The Neighbourhood Wardens are monitoring those areas and working with residents to try and catch those responsible.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Housing

Northampton Borough Council

14th December 2015

Tackling Modern Day Slavery

Officers are working with the Police, Northamptonshire County Council and other agencies to tackle modern day slavery and people trafficking in Northampton.

On 18th November 2015, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) provided training for 50 frontline staff from Housing, Environmental Health and Community Safety on the role of the GLA, how to recognise the signs of modern day slavery and people trafficking, and why organisations need to work together, and share intelligence, to identify, disrupt and prevent such abuse.

Improving Northampton's Private Rented Sector

In order to support the Council's strategy for tackling criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords, I have asked Officers to develop a new Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy and HMO Fees Policy for consideration by the Cabinet in February 2016.

As well as encouraging and incentivising good behaviour, these two new policies will ensure that criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords are not only prosecuted for their offences but are also required to meet the full cost of any enforcement action taken by the Council and are granted a shorter licence if they fail to license their HMOs on time.

A series of focus groups, involving a range of stakeholders including landlords and letting agents, has been arranged for 15th & 17th December 2015 and will inform the Council's new approach.

Reducing Rough Sleeping

The recent sharp and visible increase in the number of people sleeping rough in Northampton requires a fresh and more innovative, multi agency approach to what is a very complex problem.

Over the next 3 months, the Council's Housing & Wellbeing Service and Community Safety Team will work with a broad range of local organisations (including charities, faith groups, health professionals, advice and support providers and the Police) to develop a Rough Sleepers Strategy that encourages everyone to work together to not only help rough sleepers to get off the streets but also to tackle the main causes of rough sleeping in Northampton.

Informed by a formal rough sleepers 'count' in February 2016, the new Rough Sleepers Strategy will be published in April 2016 and will ensure that all organisations are doing everything they can to tackle, prevent and reduce rough sleeping in the borough.

In the meantime, the SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) Project – a partnership between the Council, NAASH and the Hope Centre, based at Oasis House – will operate again to provide rough sleepers with emergency shelter, food, advice and support when temperatures drop to below freezing and are forecast to remain that low for at least 3 consecutive nights.

Bringing Empty Homes Back into Use

At present, there are almost 1,500 empty privately owned homes in Northampton and, of these, around 185 (one in eight) have been empty for at least two years. Although the number of empty homes has fallen in recent years, it is still far too high.

There are lots of reasons, of course, why homes are left empty. However, in order to increase the supply of affordable housing in the town, support the work of Northampton's social lettings agency and provide lasting solutions to the problems that local neighbourhoods are being caused by 'eyesore' properties, the Private Sector Housing Team is planning to contact the owners of all homes that have been empty for at least 12 months to establish the owners' intentions and offer them any information, advice and assistance they require to bring their homes back into use.

Although every effort will be made to persuade owners to re-occupy, let or sell their empty homes, doing nothing is not an option and the Council will take all necessary action (including enforced sales and compulsory purchase) to bring problematic and long-term empty homes back into use.

Making the most of Disabled Facilities Grants

Disabled Facilities Grants help fund the cost of home adaptations that make it easier for disabled people to get in and around their home, such as widening doors, providing ramps, improving bathroom or kitchen facilities, and installing stairlifts and level access showers.

As well as improving residents' independence and quality of life, Disabled Facilities Grants play a vital role in reducing the number of avoidable admissions to hospital and residential care.

The Private Sector Housing Team is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the way in which the Council's Disabled Facilities Grants scheme is publicised and promoted in order to maximise the take-up of Disabled Facilities Grants.

On completion of the review – which will involve consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including people who have previously applied for a Disabled Facilities Grant – the Council's webpages and standard letters will be re-written, a new suite of leaflets will be produced and a series of briefings will be arranged with local support groups and advice and support providers.

Preparing for the Rollout of Universal Credit

Universal Credit arrived in Northampton on 23rd November 2015.

Although it will eventually be rolled out to all working age claimants, Universal Credit will initially only apply to single people without dependent children who are making a new benefit claim.

Housing costs will normally be paid direct to the claimant (rather than their landlord, if they have one) as part of their Universal Credit which will be paid monthly in arrears. Claimants will need to make, and manage, their Universal Credit claim online and have access to a bank account.

Prior to the introduction of Universal Credit in Northampton, a substantial amount of work was undertaken by the Council, the DWP and Northampton Partnership Homes to ensure that everything runs smoothly and that claimants are able to manage their finances and rent payments. A multi agency Universal Credit Partnership Group, chaired by the Head of Housing and Wellbeing, has been established to ensure the effective co-ordination of local services.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

<p>Appendices</p> <p>1</p>



NORTHAMPTON
B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

COUNCIL

14 DECEMBER 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: LGSS

Report Title	TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2014-15
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1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a mid-year update on the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16, approved by Council in February 2015.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council note the treasury management activities and performance for the period 1 April to 30 September 2015.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 See Cabinet report attached

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 See Cabinet report attached

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 See Cabinet report attached

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 See Cabinet report attached

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 See Cabinet report attached

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 See Cabinet report attached

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

Bev Dixon, Finance Manager (Treasury) - LGSS), 01604 363719

Appendices:

3



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REPORT 2015-16
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AGENDA STATUS:

PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	9 December 2015
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	LGSS
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Mike Hallam
Ward(s)	Not Applicable

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide a mid-year update on the Treasury Management Strategy 2015-16, approved by Council in February 2015.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Note the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2015-16
- b) Recommend the report to full Council

3. Issues and Choices

Report Background

3.1 Treasury Management is governed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code). The Code has been developed to meet the needs of Local Authorities and its recommendations provide a basis to form clear treasury management objectives and to structure and maintain sound

treasury management policies and practices.

3.1.1 The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (“the Treasury Management Code of Practice”).

3.1.2 The Treasury Management Code of Practice and the associated guidance notes for local authorities include recommendations on reporting requirements, including the requirement for an annual mid-year report on treasury activities.

3.1.3 Unless otherwise stated the figures and commentary in the report cover the period from 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015.

3.2 Issues and Choices

Summary of Key Headlines

3.2.1 The main highlights for the mid-year report are:

- The average rate of investments to the end of September was 0.73%, which is 0.37% above the benchmark average 7 day Libid of 0.36%.
- The debt financing budget is currently reporting a saving of £439k in 2015-16, due to the postponement of external borrowing and to higher than anticipated cash balances being available for investment.
- A loan of £300k has been made to Unity Leisure to facilitate the purchase a soft play facility in the town.
- Legal steps are under way to recover outstanding monies due to the Council on third party loans to the football club.
- Compliance with agreed policies and practices has been monitored during the year to date. There have been no reported breaches.

Economic Environment and Interest Rates

3.2.2 A detailed economic commentary is provided in Appendix 1. This information has been provided by Capita Asset Services (CAS), the Council’s treasury management advisors.

3.2.3 The key UK headlines from this analysis are:

- UK GDP growth rates in 2013 and 2014 were the strongest growth rates of any G7 country, and the 2015 growth rate is likely to be a leading rate in the G7 again, possibly being equal to that of the US. The Bank of England August Inflation Report had included a forecast for growth to remain around 2.4% to 2.8% over the next three years, driven mainly by strong consumer demand. However worldwide economic statistics and UK consumer and business confidence have distinctly weakened since then, and it is anticipated that the next Inflation Report in November may cut those forecasts.
- CPI inflation has fallen to, or near to, zero over the last quarter.
- There are considerable risks around whether inflation will rise in the near future as strongly as had previously been expected; this will make

it more difficult for the central banks of both the US and the UK to raise rates as soon as was being forecast until recently.

Summary Portfolio Position

3.2.4 A snapshot of the Council's debt and investment position is shown in the table below. The figures exclude borrowing to fund loans to third parties, and finance leases.

	TMSS Forecast for March 2016 (As agreed by Council Feb 2015)		Actual as at 31 March 2015		Actual as at 30 September 2015		Revised Forecast to March 2016	
	£m	Average Rate %	£m	Average Rate %	£m	Average Rate %	£m	Average Rate %
Long term borrowing								
PWLB	196		190		190		193	
Market	9		9		9		9	
Other	9		9		9		9	
Total long term	214		208	3.28	208	3.28	211	3.27
Short term borrowing	0		0		0		0	
Total borrowing	214	3.34	208	3.28	208	3.28	211	3.27
Investments	27	0.70	64	0.66	84	0.75	75	0.75
Total Net Debt / Borrowing	187		144		124		136	

3.2.5 Further analysis of the Council's borrowing and investments is covered in the following two sections.

Borrowing

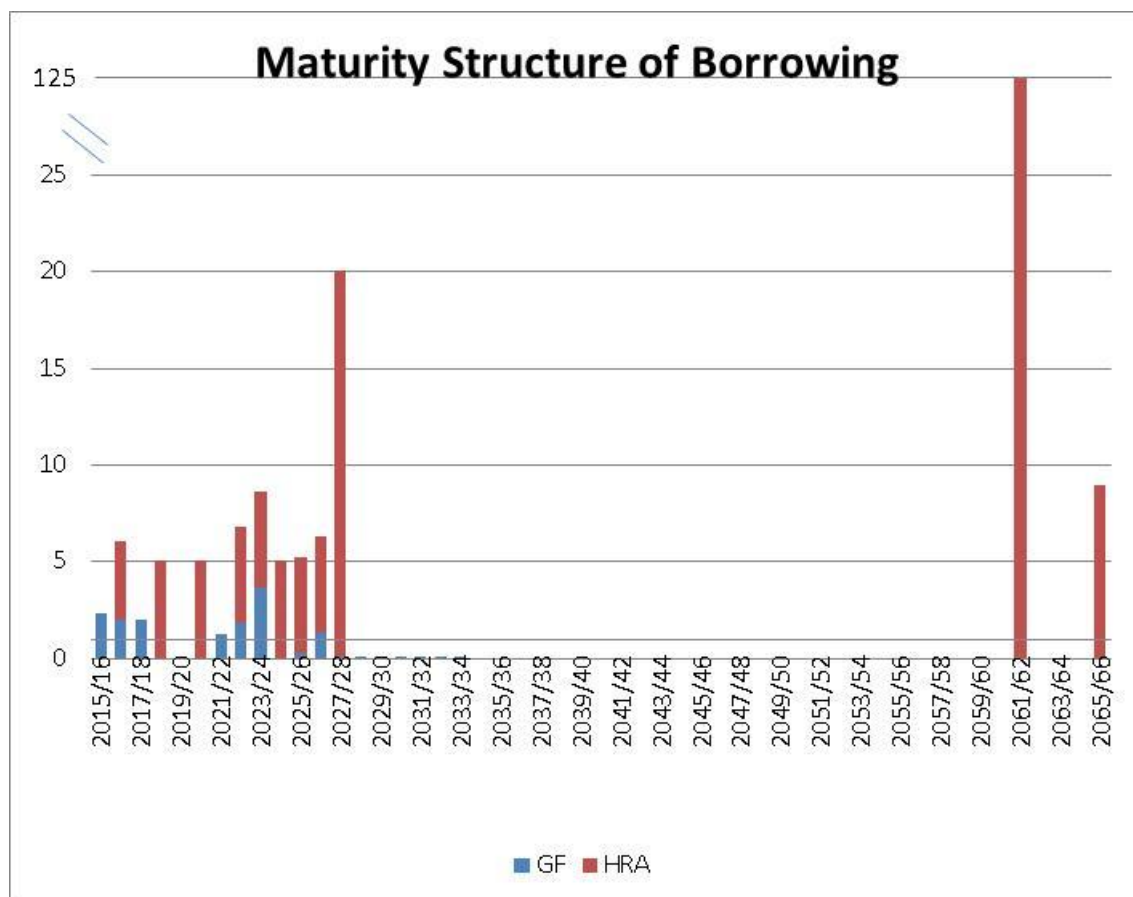
3.2.6 The Council can take out loans in order to fund spending for its Capital Programme. The amount of new borrowing needed each year is determined by capital expenditure plans and projections of the Capital Financing Requirement, forecast reserves and current and projected economic conditions.

New loans and repayment of loans

3.2.7 No new borrowing has been undertaken so far this financial year. Repayments of loan principal under annuity and EIP (Equal Instalment Payments) loan arrangements, mainly but not exclusively relating to borrowing to fund third party loans, have totalled £150k in the year to date.

Maturity profile of borrowing

3.2.8 The following graph shows the maturity profile of the Council's mainstream loans (excluding borrowing for third party loans) split by HRA and GF. All the loans are at a fixed interest rate, which limits the Council's exposure to interest rate fluctuations. The weighted average years to maturity of the portfolio is 33.2 years.



3.2.9 The maturity structure presented above differs from that in the treasury indicators in Appendix 2 in that LOBO loans are included at their final maturity rather than their next call date. In the current low interest rate environment the likelihood of the interest rates on these loans being raised and the loans requiring repayment at the break period is extremely low

Loan restructuring

3.2.10 When market conditions are favourable long term loans can be restructured to generate cash savings, reduce the average interest rate and/or enhance the balance of the portfolio by amending the maturity profile and/or the level of volatility (determined by the fixed/variable interest rate mix.)

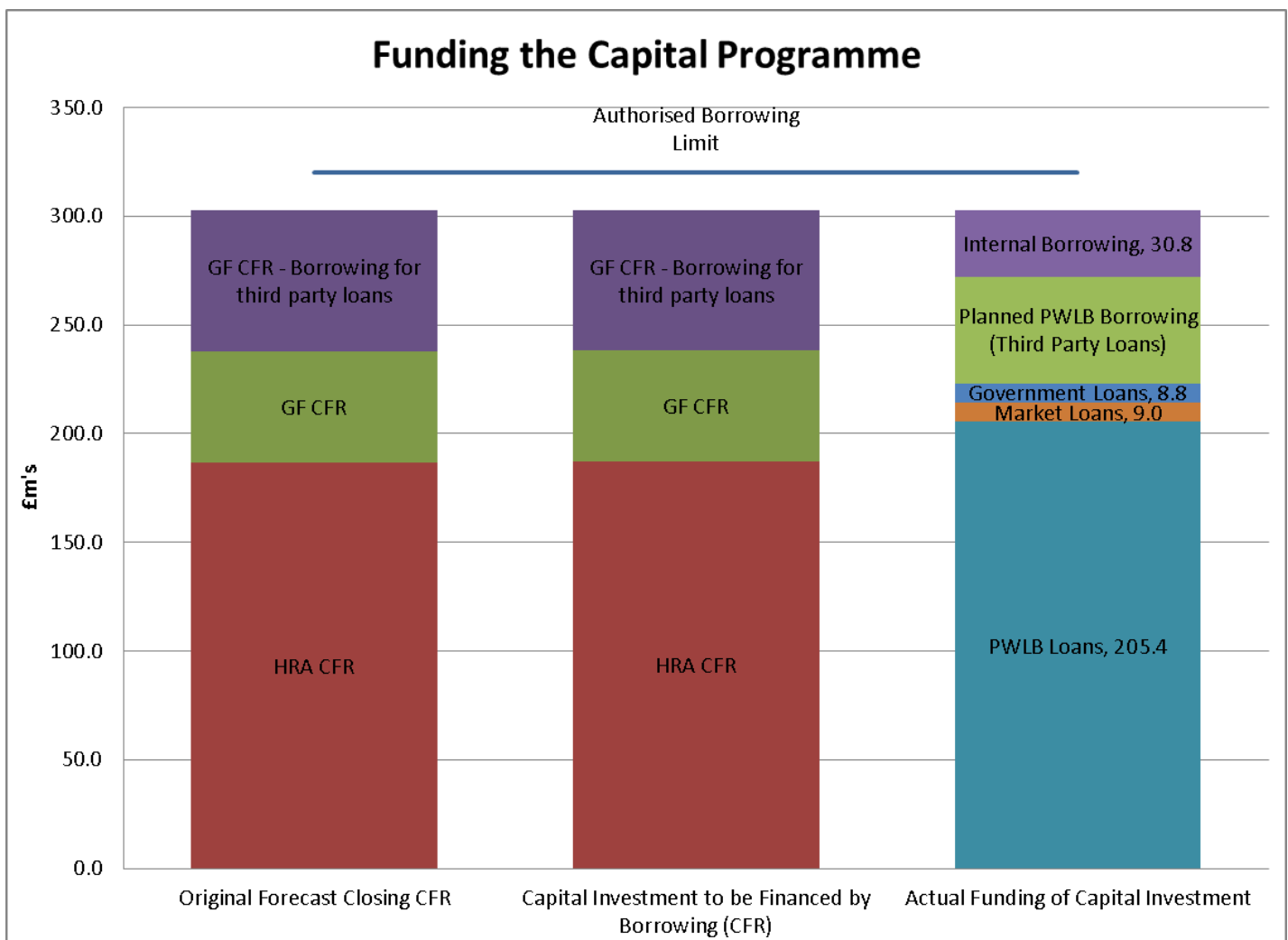
3.2.11 During the first six months of 2015-16 there were no opportunities for the Council to restructure its borrowing, due to the position of the Council's borrowing portfolio compared to market conditions. Further debt rescheduling will be considered subject to conditions being favourable but it is unlikely that opportunities will present themselves during this year. The position will be kept under review, and when opportunities for savings do arise, debt rescheduling

will be undertaken to meet business needs.

Funding the Capital Programme

3.2.12 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) sets out the plan for treasury management activities over the next year. It identifies where the authority expects to be in terms of borrowing and investment levels. When the 2015-16 TMSS was set, it was anticipated that the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), the Council's liability for financing the agreed Capital Programme, at year end would be £303m (including borrowing to fund third party loans). This figure is naturally subject to change as a result of changes to the approved capital programme and the optimisation of financing.

3.2.13 The graph below compares the maximum the Council could borrow in 2015-16 (the affordable borrowing limit) with the forecast CFR at 31 March 2016 and the forecast of how this will be financed. The figures in the graph include both HRA and GF borrowing, including borrowing to fund third party loans. The majority (£193m) of external borrowing relates to the HRA, arising from the HRA self-financing reforms in March 2012, whereby the Council was required by central government to take on the debt associated with its housing stock.

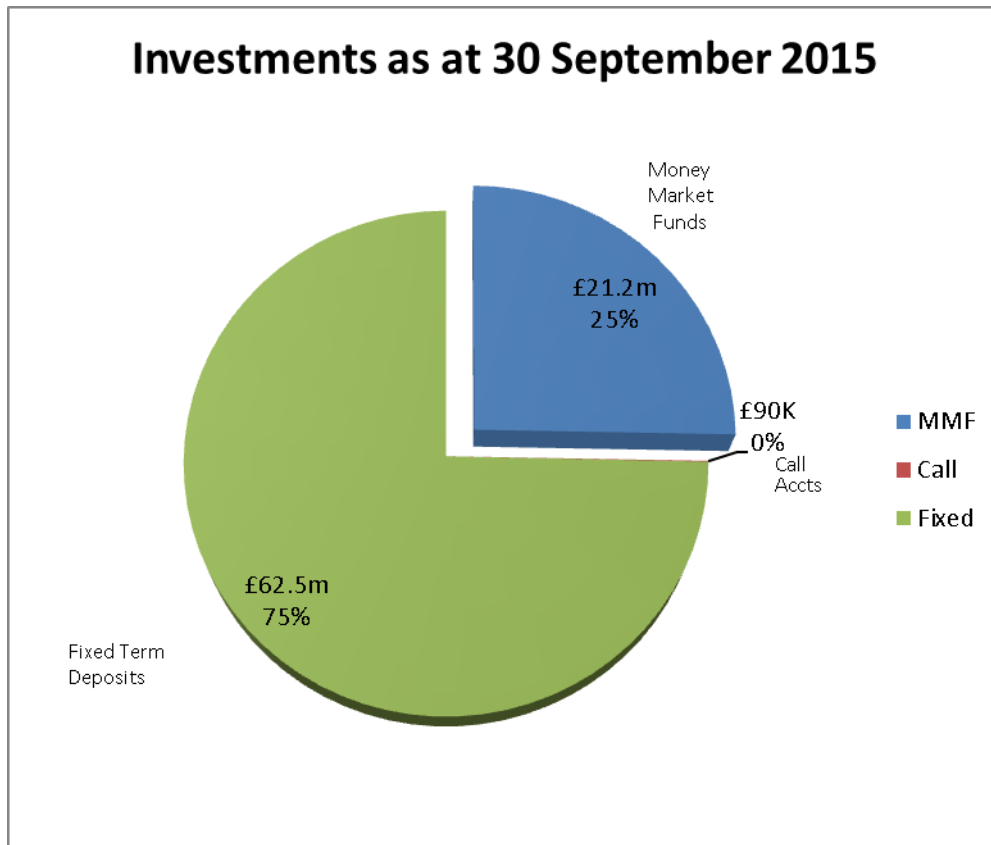


- 3.2.14 The graph shows that the Council's planned capital investment funded by borrowing is £17m below the Authorised Borrowing Limit set for the Council at the start of the year.
- 3.2.15 The graph also shows how the Council is planning to fund its 31 March 2016 borrowing requirement. £49m of external borrowing from the PWLB is expected to be undertaken to fund loans to third parties (primarily the University of Northampton); and £31m of internal borrowing is forecast by the end of the year, to finance capital investment. Internal borrowing is the use of the Council's surplus cash to finance the borrowing liability instead of borrowing externally.

Investments

- 3.2.16 Investment activity is carried out within the Council's counterparty policies and criteria, and with a clear strategy of risk management in line with the Council's treasury strategy for 2015-16. This ensures that the principle of considering security, liquidity and yield, in that order (SLY), is consistently applied. The Council will therefore aim to achieve the optimum return on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. Any variations to agreed policies and practices are reported to Cabinet and Council.
- 3.2.17 The strategy currently employed by the Council of internal borrowing also has the effect of limiting the Council's investment exposure to the financial markets, thereby reducing credit risk.
- 3.2.18 As at 30 September the level of investments totalled £83.7m. The level of cash available for investment is as a result of reserves, balances and working capital the Council holds. These funds can be invested in money market deposits, placed in funds or used to reduce external borrowings.
- 3.2.19 All investments are made according to the requirements of the Council's Investment Strategy and agreed credit worthiness criteria. A breakdown of investments by type (Fixed Term, Money Market Funds, Call Accounts) are shown in the pie chart below.

Investments as at 30 September 2015



3.2.20 The table below compares the investment returns achieved over the six month period with 7 day Libid rate, which is used to benchmark performance.

Investment Returns			
	7 day Libid	Average rate	Uplift to 7 day Libid Rate
	%	%	%
Apr-15	0.36	0.69	0.33
May-15	0.36	0.72	0.36
Jun-15	0.36	0.73	0.37
Jul-15	0.36	0.75	0.39
Aug-15	0.36	0.74	0.38
Sep-15	0.36	0.73	0.37
Average to end of September	0.36	0.73	0.37

3.2.21 From the table, it can be seen that average rate of investments over the period was 0.73%, which is 0.37% above the average 7 day Libid of 0.36%.

3.2.22 Where appropriate, investments have been locked out for periods of up to one year with suitable counterparties, including the UK part nationalised banks, at higher rates of interest. In a rising interest rate environment it is appropriate to keep investments fairly short in duration so as to take advantage of interest rate rises as soon as they occur. The weighted average time to maturity of investments at 30 September is 138 days, and 191 days when excluding Call

Accounts and Money Market Fund investments.

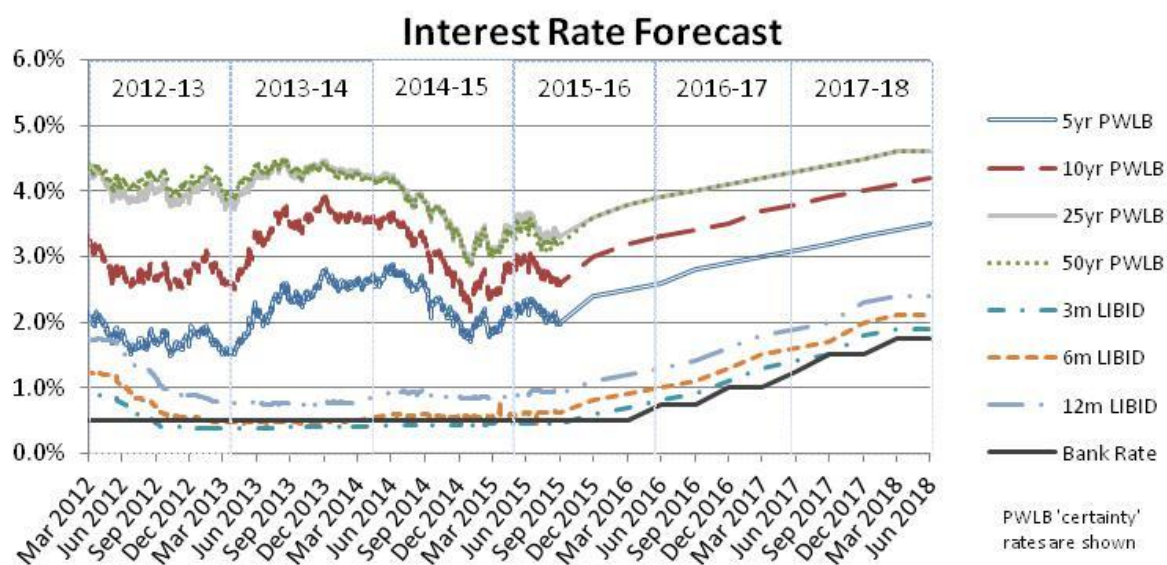
3.2.23 Leaving market conditions to one side, the Council's return on investment is influenced by a number of factors, the largest contributors being the duration of investments and the credit quality of the institution or instrument. Credit risk is a measure of the likelihood of default and is controlled through the creditworthiness policy approved by Council. The duration of an investment introduces liquidity risk; the risk that funds can't be accessed when required, and interest rate risk; the risk that arises from fluctuating market interest rates. These factors and associated risks are actively managed by the LGSS Treasury team together with the Council's Treasury Advisors.

3.2.24 During the six month period, two of the Council's counterparties with live investments have been affected by changes that have resulted in downgrades by Capita to the recommended investment period.

- Lloyds/ Bank of Scotland – The government announced its intention to continue to reduce its stake in the Lloyds banking group, and this resulted in a reduction in the Capita approved investment period from 12 months to 6 months, and a reduction in the NBC total approved exposure from £20m to £15m. NBC has reduced its exposure since May 2015 from £20m to £12m as at 30 September; of which £2m still remains outside the 6 month limit (maturing 26 April)
- Standard Chartered Bank – In late September, due to an upward trend in its CDS (Credit Default Swap) price this counterparty was removed from the Capita recommended counterparty list. The bank still currently has a relatively strong credit rating, but the CDS overlay in the credit rating methodology provided by Capita provides more current market intelligence around credit worthiness. NBC has a total of £7m invested with Standard Chartered Bank in the form of CDs (certificates of deposit), with maturity dates of 2 Nov 2015, 10 March 2015 and 4 May 2016. Currently there are no plans to sell these CDs before maturity, but treasury staff are monitoring the position and will take action if required. The Council will no longer place deposits with this bank unless or until the Credit Default Swap improves.

Outlook

3.2.25 The current interest rate forecast from Capita Asset Services is shown in the graph below.



3.2.26 The forecast for the first increase in Bank Rate remains in quarter 2 of 2016. However there are risks to this central forecast as the economic recovery in the UK is currently finely balanced.

3.2.27 Recent demands for the safe haven of gilts have depressed gilts yields and PWLB rates recently. Geopolitical events make forecasting PWLB rates highly unpredictable in the shorter term. It is assumed that these fears will subside and that safe haven flows into UK Gilts will unwind and rates will rise back again over the coming quarters.

3.2.28 The overall longer run trend is for gilt yields and PWLB rates to rise, due to the high volume of gilt issuance in the UK, and of bond issuance in other major western countries. Increasing investor confidence in eventual world economic recovery is also likely to compound this effect as recovery will encourage investors to switch from bonds to equities.

3.2.29 From a strategic perspective, the Council is continually reviewing options as to the timing of any potential borrowing and also the alternative approaches around further utilising cash balances and undertaking shorter term borrowing which could potentially generate savings subject to an assessment of the interest rate risks involved. Cash flows in the last couple of years have been sufficiently robust for the Council to use its balance sheet strength and avoid taking on new borrowing. New external borrowing will be required at some point in the near to medium term to support the Councils capital programme.

Third Party Loans

3.2.30 As at 30 September a total of £17.1m of third party loans to local organisations were in place, of which £15.4m were funded by PWLB borrowing.

3.2.31 Unity Leisure – A loan of £300k was made Northampton Leisure Trust (NLT) in July 2015 to facilitate purchase a soft play facility, based in Northampton. The loan is repayable over 5 years on an EIP basis.

3.2.32 University of Northampton –The Council has worked with the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) to secure the LEP project rate from PWLB for a loan facility of £46 million to support the creation of a waterside campus. The loan is expected to be drawn down during the last quarter of 2015-16. Alongside this Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) has worked with Northamptonshire County Council to secure a further £14m at the LEP project rate from PWLB for the same project.

3.2.33 The Cabinet received a report at its meeting on 24th November about the future of the loan to Northampton Town Football Club. Legal steps are under way to recover outstanding monies due to the Council on £10.2m of third party loans to the football club. The loans were granted to support stadia expansion and associated development.

3.2.34 Interest and principal repayments for all other loans have been paid in accordance with the loan agreements.

Regular monitoring

3.2.35 An investment register is maintained, and updated on a daily basis, showing current investments and deposit account balances with counterparties used, investment durations and interest rates achieved.

3.2.36 Monthly reconciliations are completed for outstanding investment principal, interest received, outstanding borrowing principal and interest paid to ensure all transactions have been made and recorded accurately.

3.2.37 The debt financing budget has been monitored monthly since the start of the year, with any significant variances reported as part of the corporate financial performance reports.

3.2.38 Prudential and treasury indicators are monitored on a regular basis, and any variances or breaches of the indicators are reported to Cabinet and Council on a timely basis.

Debt Financing Budget

3.2.39 The debt financing budget is currently forecast to underspend by £439k, as set out in the table below.

DEBT FINANCING BUDGET 2015-16	As at 30 September 2015		
	Budget	Forecast	Variance to Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Debt Financing & Interest			
Interest Payable	1,119	885	(234)
Interest Receivable	(670)	(1,116)	(445)
Soft Loan Adjustments	0	0	0
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,229	1,204	(26)
Recharges from/(to) HRA - Interest on cash balances	102	367	266
Total Debt Financing & Interest	1,780	1,341	(439)

3.2.40 The forecast underspend is primarily due to the following:

- **Interest on borrowing (£242k)** – The anticipated timing of new and replacement borrowing has been postponed from the budgeted assumption of 1 April, due to the availability of cash resource to fund internal borrowing.
- **Investment interest (net of HRA recharge) (£173k)** - Investment balances are significantly higher than budgeted. Work is being carried out to scrutinise and verify the cash balances position.
- **MRP (£26k)** – There was a lower level of funding by borrowing in 2014-15 due to carry forwards in the capital programme.

Compliance with Treasury Limits and Prudential Indicators

3.2.41 With effect from 1st April 2004 The Prudential Code became statute as part of the Local Government Act 2003 and was revised in 2011.

3.2.42 The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of the Council are affordable, prudent and sustainable. To ensure compliance with this the Council is required to set and monitor a number of Prudential Indicators.

3.2.43 During the financial year to date the Council has operated within the treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) and in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices. The Prudential and Treasury Indicators are shown in Appendix 2. There have been no breaches of any indicators during the first half of the financial year.

Variations (if any) from or to agreed policies and practices

3.2.44 Compliance with agreed policies and practices has been monitored during the year to date. There have been no reported breaches in the first six months of this year.

Bank Overdraft Facilities

3.2.45 A cost-benefit exercise was undertaken in late 2014-15 to determine what level of overdraft facility represented best value for money for the Council, based on a risk assessment of possible overdrawn scenarios. As the Council maintains very tight control of its cash balances, it was determined that the most cost effective approach was not to renew the overdraft facility when it came up for renewal in April 2015. This change to the Council's Treasury Strategy was approved by the Chief Finance Officer.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The Council is required to adopt the latest CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, and to set and agree a number of policy and strategy documents. These policy documents are reported to Cabinet and Council as part of the budget setting process. The Council's Treasury Strategy for 2015-16 was approved by Council on 23 February 2015.

4.1.2 This report complies with the requirement to submit a mid-year treasury management review report to Council.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The resources required for the Council's debt management and debt financing budgets are agreed annually through the Council's budget setting process. The latest debt financing budget position is shown in the body of the report.

4.2.2 The risk management of the treasury function is specifically covered in the Council's Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), which are reviewed annually. Treasury risk management forms an integral part of day-to-day treasury activities.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Council is obliged to carry out its treasury management activities in line with statutory requirements and associated regulations and professional guidance.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out on the Council's Treasury Strategy for 2015-16, and the associated Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) and the Schedules to the TMPs. The EIA assessment is that a full impact assessment is not necessary, as no direct or indirect relevance to equality and diversity duties has been identified

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Consultation on treasury management matters is undertaken as appropriate with the Council's treasury advisors, Capita Asset Services, and with the Portfolio holder for Finance.

4.5.2 Under the regulatory requirements, the Audit Committee has been nominated by Council as the body responsible for ensuring effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy, policies and practices. This role includes the review of all treasury management policies and procedures, the review of all treasury management reports to Cabinet and Council, and the making of recommendations to Council. This report will be presented to Audit Committee at their meeting of 18 January 2016.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Management of performance in relation to treasury management activities supports the Council's priority of making every £ go further.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 No other implications have been identified.

5. Background Papers

None

Glenn Hammons, Chief Finance Officer 0300 330 7000

**Economic Update provided by Capita Asset Services for the period to 30
September 2015**

UK

UK GDP growth rates in 2013 of 2.2% and 2.9% in 2014 were the strongest growth rates of any G7 country; the 2014 growth rate was also the strongest UK rate since 2006 and the 2015 growth rate is likely to be a leading rate in the G7 again, possibly being equal to that of the US. However, quarter 1 of 2015 was weak at +0.4% (+2.9% y/y) though there was a rebound in quarter 2 to +0.7% (+2.4% y/y). Growth is expected to weaken to about +0.5% in quarter 3 as the economy faces headwinds for exporters from the appreciation of Sterling against the Euro and weak growth in the EU, China and emerging markets, plus the dampening effect of the Government's continuing austerity programme, although the pace of reductions was eased in the May Budget. Despite these headwinds, the Bank of England August Inflation Report had included a forecast for growth to remain around 2.4 – 2.8% over the next three years, driven mainly by strong consumer demand as the squeeze on the disposable incomes of consumers has been reversed by a recovery in wage inflation at the same time that CPI inflation has fallen to, or near to, zero over the last quarter. Investment expenditure is also expected to support growth. However, since the report was issued, the Purchasing Manager's Index, (PMI), for services on 5 October would indicate a further decline in the growth rate to only +0.3% in Q4, which would be the lowest rate since the end of 2012. In addition, worldwide economic statistics and UK consumer and business confidence have distinctly weakened so it would therefore not be a surprise if the next Inflation Report in November were to cut those forecasts in August.

The August Bank of England Inflation Report forecast was notably subdued in respect of inflation which was forecast to barely get back up to the 2% target within the 2-3 year time horizon. However, with the price of oil taking a fresh downward direction and Iran expected to soon re-join the world oil market after the impending lifting of sanctions, there could be several more months of low inflation still to come, especially as world commodity prices have generally been depressed by the Chinese economic downturn.

There are therefore considerable risks around whether inflation will rise in the near future as strongly as had previously been expected; this will make it more difficult for the central banks of both the US and the UK to raise rates as soon as was being forecast until recently, especially given the recent major concerns around the slowdown in Chinese growth, the knock on impact on the earnings of emerging countries from falling oil and commodity prices, and the volatility we have seen in equity and bond markets in 2015 so far, which could potentially spill over to impact the real economies rather than just financial markets.

USA

The American economy made a strong comeback after a weak first quarter's growth at +0.6% (annualised), to grow by no less than 3.9% in quarter 2 of 2015. While there had been confident expectations during the summer that the Fed. could start increasing rates at its meeting on 17 September, or if not by the end of 2015, the

recent downbeat news about Chinese and Japanese growth and the knock on impact on emerging countries that are major suppliers of commodities, was cited as the main reason for the Fed's decision to pull back from making that start. The nonfarm payrolls figures for September and revised August, issued on 2 October, were disappointingly weak and confirmed concerns that US growth is likely to weaken. This has pushed back expectations of a first rate increase from 2015 into 2016.

EZ

In the Eurozone, the ECB fired its big bazooka in January 2015 in unleashing a massive €1.1 trillion programme of quantitative easing to buy up high credit quality government and other debt of selected EZ countries. This programme of €60bn of monthly purchases started in March 2015 and it is intended to run initially to September 2016. This already appears to have had a positive effect in helping a recovery in consumer and business confidence and a start to a significant improvement in economic growth. GDP growth rose to 0.5% in quarter 1 2015 (1.0% y/y) but came in at +0.4% (+1.5% y/y) in quarter 2 and looks as if it may maintain this pace in quarter 3. However, the recent downbeat Chinese and Japanese news has raised questions as to whether the ECB will need to boost its QE programme if it is to succeed in significantly improving growth in the EZ and getting inflation up from the current level of around zero to its target of 2%.

Prudential and Treasury Indicators as at 30 November 2014

Prudential Indicators

Affordability

a) Estimate of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream

Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Estimate %	Forecast as at 30 September 2015
General Fund	7.04%	5.30%
HRA	35.94%	35.45%

b) Estimate of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the council tax

Estimates of incremental impact of new capital investment decisions on the Council Tax	
	2015-16
	Estimate £.p
General Fund	0.47

This indicator is set before the start of the financial year, in the context of the budget setting process, which feeds into the setting of Council Tax and Housing Rents. As these are set and fixed for the financial year ahead, any capital investment decisions made during the year cannot impact on the existing Council Tax and Housing rent levels. This means that new capital investment plans approved during the year must be funded externally or from within existing resources.

c) Estimate of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on the housing rents

Estimates of incremental impact of new capital investment decisions on weekly housing rents	
	2015-16
	Estimate £.p
HRA	20.10

This indicator is set before the start of the financial year, in the context of the budget setting process, which feeds into the setting of Council Tax and Housing Rents. As these are set and fixed for the financial year ahead, any capital investment decisions made during the year cannot impact on the existing Council Tax and Housing rent levels. This means that new capital investment plans approved during the year must be funded externally or from within existing resources.

Prudence

d) Gross debt and the capital financing requirement (CFR)

Gross external debt less than CFR				
	Excluding third party loans		Including third party loans	
	2015-16 Budgeted	2015-16 Forecast at 30 Sep 2015	2015-16 Budgeted	2015-16 Forecast at 30 Sep 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Gross external debt at 30 Sep 2015	206,850	207,366	222,396	220,508
2014-15 Closing CFR	236,473	235,714	253,738	251,229
Changes to CFR:				
2015-16	1,533	2,433	49,082	51,732
2016-17	910	8,760	657	8,508
2017-18	7,379	7,230	7,125	6,976
Adjusted CFR	246,295	254,137	310,602	318,445
Gross external debt less than adjusted CFR	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Capital Expenditure

e) Estimate of capital expenditure

Capital Expenditure		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Estimate £000	Outturn Forecast at 30 Sep 2015 £000
General Fund	13,187	21,203
HRA	26,593	36,148
Total	39,780	57,351
Loan to Third Parties	47,800	49,550
Total	87,580	106,901

f) Estimates of capital financing requirement (CFR)

Capital Financing Requirement (Closing CFR)		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Estimate £000	Forecast at 30 Sep 15 £000
General Fund	51,203	50,744
HRA	186,803	187,403
Total	238,006	238,147
Loan to Third Parties	64,814	64,814
Total	302,820	302,961

External Debt

g) Authorised limit for external debt

Authorised Limit for external debt		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Boundary £000	Actual as at 30 Sep 2015 £000
Borrowing	315,000	223,404
Other long-term liabilities	5,000	496
TOTAL	320,000	223,900

h) Operational boundary for external debt

Operational boundary for external debt		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Boundary £000	Actual as at 30 Sep 2015 £000
Borrowing	305,000	223,404
Other long-term liabilities	5,000	496
TOTAL	310,000	223,900

i) HRA Limit on Indebtedness

HRA Limit on Indebtedness	
2015-16	2015-16
£000	Forecast Closing HRA CFR 31 March 2015 as at 30 Sep 2015 £000
290,001	187,403

i) Adoption of the CIPFA code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services

The Council has adopted CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (the Treasury Code). The adoption is included in the Council's Constitution (Feb 2013) at paragraph 6.10 of the Financial Regulations.

Treasury Indicators

1a. Upper Limits on interest rate exposures – investments

Upper limits on interest rate exposures - Investments		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Limit %	Actual as at 30 September 2015 %
Fixed Interest Rate Exposures	100%	75%
Variable Interest Rate Exposures	100%	25%

1b. Upper limits on interest rate exposures – Borrowing

Upper limits on interest rate exposures - Borrowing		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Limit %	Actual as at 30 September 2015 %
Fixed Interest Rate Exposures	100%	96%
Variable Interest Rate Exposures	100%	4%

Figures exclude borrowing for third party loans

1c. Upper limits on interest rate exposures - Net borrowing

Upper limits on interest rate exposures - Investments and Borrowing		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Limit %	Actual as at 30 September 2015 %
Fixed Interest Rate Exposures	150%	110%
Variable Interest Rate Exposures	150%	-10%

Figures exclude borrowing for third party loans

2. Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days

Upper limit on investments for periods longer than 364 days		
	2015-16	2015-16
	Upper Limit £000	Actual at 30 Sep 2015 £000
Investments longer than 364 days	4,000	2,500

3. Maturity Structure of Borrowing

Maturity structure of borrowing			
	2015-16	2015-16	2015-16
	Lower Limit %	Upper Limit %	Actual at 30 Sep 2015 %
Under 12 months	0%	20%	5%
1-2 years	0%	20%	3%
2-5 years	0%	20%	3%
5-10 years	0%	20%	13%
10 -20 years	0%	40%	15%
20-30 years	0%	60%	0%
30-40 years	0%	80%	0%
Over 40 years	0%	100%	60%

The table shows the maturity structure of Council's mainstream loans (excluding borrowing to fund third party loans).

The guidance for this indicator requires that LOBO loans are shown as maturing at the next possible call date rather than at final maturity. The Council's LOBO loan is therefore included in the figure maturing in less than 12 months.

NBC Investment Portfolio as at 30 September 2015

Class	Type	Deal Ref	Start / Purchase Date	Maturity Date	Counterparty	Profile	Rate	Principal O/S (£)
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/LT/77	16/12/14	16/12/16	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Maturity	0.9300%	-2,500,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/79	07/01/15	06/01/16	Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	1.0000%	-2,500,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/82	16/02/15	15/02/16	Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	1.0000%	-2,500,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/83	20/02/15	19/02/16	DBS Bank Ltd	Maturity	0.7000%	-3,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/84	26/02/15	25/02/16	Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	1.0000%	-3,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/93	26/03/15	24/03/16	Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	1.0000%	-2,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/95	15/04/15	15/10/15	Nationwide Building Society	Maturity	0.6600%	-3,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/96	28/04/15	26/04/16	Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	1.0000%	-2,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/97	01/05/15	02/11/15	Standard Chartered Bank	Maturity	0.6900%	-2,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/98	06/05/15	06/11/15	Nationwide Building Society	Maturity	0.6600%	-3,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/99	06/05/15	04/05/16	Standard Chartered Bank	Maturity	0.8700%	-2,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST100	14/05/15	13/05/16	Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	0.8700%	-5,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/101	01/06/15	27/05/16	Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	Maturity	0.8100%	-5,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/102	04/06/15	02/06/16	Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	0.8900%	-5,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/106	09/06/15	09/12/15	DBS Bank Ltd	Maturity	0.6000%	-4,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/107	10/06/15	10/03/16	Standard Chartered Bank	Maturity	0.7800%	-3,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/108	24/06/15	18/12/15	Goldman Sachs International Bank	Maturity	0.7650%	-2,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/109	04/08/15	02/08/16	Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	Maturity	0.7700%	-3,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/110	09/09/15	07/09/16	Royal Bank of Scotland plc	Maturity	0.9400%	-5,000,000.00
Deposit	Fixed	NBC/ST/111	10/09/15	10/03/16	Landesbanken Hessen-Thuringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	Maturity	0.7700%	-3,000,000.00
Fixed Total								-62,500,000.00
Deposit	Call	NBC/CE/1	31/03/14		HSBC Bank plc	Maturity	0.0500%	-90,000.00
Call Total								-90,000.00
Deposit	MMF	NBC/CE/3	31/03/14		SLI Sterling Liquidity/CI 2	Maturity	0.4997%	-6,170,000.00
Deposit	MMF	NBC/CE/4	31/03/14		Insight Liquidity Sterling C3	Maturity	0.4585%	-155,000.00
Deposit	MMF	NBC/CE/63	01/07/14		LGIM Sterling Liquidity 4	Maturity	0.4861%	-14,850,000.00
MMF Total								-21,175,000.00
Deposit Total								-83,765,000.00

Appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
14 December 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	NOMINATION OF MAYOR AS PRESIDENT OF NORTHAMPTON SEA CADETS
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1. Purpose

1.1 To consider an invitation that the Mayor of the Borough of Northampton should become, ex-officio, President of Northampton Sea Cadets should be accepted.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Council gratefully accepts the invitation from Northampton Sea Cadets that the Mayor of the Borough of Northampton become, ex-officio, President of Northampton Sea Cadets.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 Northampton Sea Cadets have invited the Council to accept on behalf the Mayor of the Borough of Northampton an invitation to hold the office of President of Northampton Sea Cadets.

3.1.2 In 2012, the Borough Council bestowed the Freedom of the Borough of Northampton to Northampton Sea Cadets and the Unit Management Committee felt that the position of President for the incumbent Mayor would keep the ties between the Unit and the town strong.

3.1.3 Each unit of the Sea Cadet Corps is encouraged to appoint a President who should ideally be an influential local figure. The appointment is honorary. The President is frequently able to advise on difficult problems and is often the most suitable person to take the chair at an Annual or Extraordinary General

Meeting. The President does not have a vote or any executive power. Units may also, if they wish, appoint one or more Vice Presidents, whose positions will also be honorary and without a vote or executive power.

3.1.4 The Mayor would not be a Trustee of Northampton Sea Cadets and would not have any financial or legal responsibilities for the business of Northampton Se Cadets, the position is entirely honorary.

3.1.5 As accepting this invitation would bind future Mayors to hold the position ex-officio, the decision of the Council is sought to doing so.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are no new policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are no resource implications and as the position is honorary it is not considered to have any risks to the Office of Mayor of the Borough of Northampton.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Mayor would not be a Trustee of Northampton Sea Cadets and would not have any financial or legal responsibilities for the business of Northampton Se Cadets, the position is entirely honorary.

4.4 Equality

There are no specific equality implications from this proposal.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 This will enhance the Borough Council's relationship with the Northampton Sea Cadets.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Invitation received from Northampton Sea Cadets

David Kennedy, Chief Executive, 837726 or extension 7726

Appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
14 December 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Report Title	Duston Neighbourhood Plan
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To make the Duston Neighbourhood Plan following the referendum held on the 5 November 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council ‘makes’ the Duston Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2.2 That the Duston Neighbourhood Plan and the Decision Statement (Appendix 1) be published on the Council’s website and paper copies be provided in locations where people who live, work and carry on business in the area can view them.
- 2.3 That the Decision Statement and details on how to view the Duston Neighbourhood Plan be sent to the qualifying body (Duston Parish Council) and any person who asked to be notified of the Council’s decision.
- 2.4 That Duston Parish Council be congratulated on the successful outcome of the referendum and the making of the Duston Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Duston Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) was prepared by Duston Parish Council, which is the relevant body for the purposes of neighbourhood plan preparation. The application to designate the Duston neighbourhood area for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan was made to the Council in

May 2013. On the 11 September 2013, following a 6 week consultation period, Northampton Borough Council agreed the designation of the Duston Neighbourhood Area. The map of the Neighbourhood Area can be found in the Plan.

- 3.1.2 Following community engagement and an issues and options consultation in May/ June 2014 a pre-submission draft Plan was prepared. This pre-submission Plan was published for consultation between 17 November 2014 and 9 January 2015. The Plan was revised and updated to reflect the consultation responses received. The Plan and its accompanying documents were then submitted to the Council for publication and examination on 23 February 2015. The submitted Plan was published for public consultation between 26 February and 14 April 2015. Comments received during the consultation period were sent to the appointed Independent Examiner, Mr John Parmiter FRICS FRSA MRTPI, for examination.
- 3.1.3 The Examination was conducted through written representations and the Examiner's report was published in May 2015. The Examiner concluded that once modified to meet all relevant legal requirements the Plan should proceed to referendum. The Examiner made various recommendations to modify policies and text to ensure that making the Plan will meet the Basic Conditions and legal requirements. The Plan was modified accordingly.
- 3.1.4 The referendum of the Plan took place on 5 November 2015. The Regulations state that if the majority of those who voted (more than 50%) are in favour of the Plan then it must be made (brought into legal effect) by the local planning authority. There is no minimum turnout for the referendum to be valid.
- 3.1.5 In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012 residents were asked the following question:

Do you want Northampton Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Duston Parish to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?
- 3.1.6 At the referendum on 5 November 2015 1,796 residents voted Yes (85.6% of those voting) and 302 voted No (14.4% of those voting). 8 ballot papers were rejected. Turnout was 16.6%.
- 3.1.7 Once a neighbourhood plan has successfully passed all the stages of preparation, including an Examination and Referendum, it is made by the local planning authority and forms part of the Development Plan, meaning that it will be a material consideration when deciding planning applications.

3.2 Choices (Options)

- 3.2.1 Once a neighbourhood plan has been supported by a majority of those voting in a referendum the Council is obliged to proceed to make the Plan under section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Council is not subject to this duty if the making of the Plan would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU obligation or any of the convention

Rights. The Plan does not breach and would not otherwise be incompatible with the conventions or obligations.

3.2.2 There are, therefore, no other options than to make the Plan so that it will form part of the Northampton Development Plan.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan. Neighbourhood plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than is set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies. In Northampton the strategic policies are set out in the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1).

4.1.2 Once a neighbourhood plan has successfully passed all of the stages of preparation, including an examination and referendum, it is made by the local planning authority and forms part of the Development Plan, meaning that it will be a material consideration when deciding planning applications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The majority of the costs of preparing a neighbourhood plan are the responsibility of the neighbourhood planning group, in this case Duston Parish Council. The Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 place duties on local planning authorities with regards to neighbourhood planning, including the role associated with supporting local neighbourhood forums in preparing their neighbourhood plans. To assist the Department for Communities and Local Government has made available grants to local planning authorities up to £30,000 for each neighbourhood plan which are paid in stages in accordance with the progress of the Plan. This funding is intended to cover staff time and other costs associated with the Council's statutory duties. In addition the Council has identified a small annual budget for Neighbourhood Planning to provide additional resources to meet the Council's statutory duties in relation to neighbourhood planning including publicity and administration costs such as referendums.

4.2.2 Publicity costs associated with making the Neighbourhood Plan will be met within the existing Neighbourhood Plans budget and staff resources to implement the Plan will come from the Council's existing staff - primarily within the Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning Directorate.

4.2.3 On 21 September 2015 the Council approved the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule for the Borough and that this will take effect from 1 April 2016. Once the Plan is made, Duston Parish Council, as the qualifying body, will be eligible to receive 25% of the CIL receipts from development within Duston parish. The administrative arrangements between the Borough Council and the Parish Council will be agreed as part of the introduction of the CIL charge.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to bring forward planning proposals at local level, as outlined in Section 116 of the Localism Act 2011. The Act and the subsequent Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (known as the 2012 Regulations) confer specific functions on local planning authorities in relation to neighbourhood planning and sets out the steps that must be followed in relation to neighbourhood planning.

4.3.2 The Plan has been consulted on and subjected to a referendum in accordance with the 2012 Regulations.

4.3.3 As with any planning decision, there is a risk of a legal challenge to the Plan and/ or judicial review of the Council's decision to make the Plan. The risk is managed by ensuring that the requirements set out in the 2012 Regulations are followed. Once the Plan is made it carries significant weight and the local planning authority is obliged to consider proposals for development against the policies in the Plan.

4.3.4 In accordance with the 2012 Regulations the Council, must as soon as possible after deciding to make the neighbourhood plan:

i. Publish on the website and in such other manner as is likely to bring the Plan to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:

- (1) The decision document
- (2) Details of where and when the decision document may be inspected

ii. Send a copy of the decision document to:

- (1) The qualifying body [in this case Duston Parish Council] and
- (2) Any person who asked to be notified of the decision.

In addition, the Council will, as soon as possible after deciding to make the neighbourhood plan:

iii. Publish on the website and in such other manner as is likely to bring the Plan to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area:

- (1) The Duston Neighbourhood Plan; and
- (2) Details of where and when the Plan may be inspected.

iv. Notify any person who asked to be notified of the making of the Plan that it has been made and where and when it may be inspected.

4.4 Equality and Health

- 4.4.1 The Plan contains policies which seek to address a range of equality issues which were identified through the community engagement and evidence gathering stages of the Plan's preparation including the type and design of housing (including housing for older people and people with disabilities); access to public transport; protection and enhancement of local shopping and services; retention and enhancement of open space; and enhancement of existing and creation of new community facilities.
- 4.4.2 In addition, the Plan preparation process required the production of a Basic Conditions Statement which includes the need to assess whether the plan is compatible with the Human Rights Act and other relevant national and European obligations. The independent Examiner to the Duston Neighbourhood Plan concluded that the Plan meets the Basic Conditions, as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 4.4.3 In order to meet the Basic Conditions, the making of the Plan must:
- Have due regard to national policies and advice;
 - Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
 - Be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan for the area; and
 - Not breach, and be otherwise compatible with, European Union obligations and the European Convention on Human Rights.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 In accordance with the 2012 Regulations Duston Parish Council has undertaken community engagement and public consultation at every stage of the Plan preparation process. A summary is provided in Section 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan. Full details are available in the Duston Neighbourhood Plan Statement of Community Involvement which is a background paper to this report.

4.6 How the proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

- 4.6.1 The policies contained in the Plan contribute to the delivery of the following priorities as provided in the Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015: Priority 2 (Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods); Priority 5 (Better homes for the future); Priority 6 (Creating empowered communities); and Priority 7 (Promoting health and well-being).
- 4.6.2 In particular, Priority 6 of the Corporate Plan states that the Council will encourage individuals, communities and groups to get involved and contribute to activities within their local neighbourhoods in order to promote integration and cohesion within communities and foster a sense of pride across the Town.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Duston Neighbourhood Plan

5.2 Duston Neighbourhood Plan: Report of Examination (May 2015)

5.3 Duston Neighbourhood Plan: Statement of Community Involvement (February 2015)

Appendix 1 - Decision Statement

Noreen Banks, Senior Planning Officer, Extension 7835

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

DUSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DECISION STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this Decision Statement is to set out Northampton Borough Council's decision on the making of the Duston Neighbourhood Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Duston Parish Council, as the qualifying body, successfully applied for the civil parish of Duston to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011), which came into force on 11 September 2013.
- 2.2 Following the submission of a draft of the Duston Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, the Plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and other stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 14 April 2015.
- 2.3 Northampton Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr John Parmiter FRICS FRSA MRTPI, to review whether the draft Plan should proceed to Referendum. The Examiner's report was published in May 2015. The Examiner concluded that once modified to meet all relevant legal requirements the Plan should proceed to referendum. The Examiner made various recommendations to modify policies and text to ensure that making the Plan will meet the Basic Conditions and legal requirements. The Plan was modified accordingly.
- 2.4 The referendum of the Duston Neighbourhood Plan took place on 5 November 2015. The turnout was 16.6% and 85.6% of those votes cast were in favour.

3. NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL DECISION

- 3.1 The Council makes the Duston Neighbourhood Plan part of the Northampton Development Plan.
- 3.2 The Council agrees to the Decision Statement and the Duston Neighbourhood Plan being published on our website and in other manners to bring them to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area; and for the Decision Statement and details of how to view the Plan to be sent to the qualifying body and any person who asked to be notified of the decision and/ or the making of the Plan.

Appendices:
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NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

14th December 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Changes to Committee Places
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1. Purpose

1.1 Council is asked to ratify changes to the membership of Licensing Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Councillor Stone replaces Councillor Culbard on the Licensing Committee.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1 The Labour Group wish to makes changes to Committee places, specifically the Licensing Committee

3.2 Appointments to all other Committees agreed by Council on the 21st May 2015 remain unchanged.

3.3 Because it is a like for like swap, proportionality will not be affected.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 N/A

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 N/A

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no legal implications

4.4 Equality

None

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 N/A

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

**Emma Powley
Democratic Services
01604 837089**

Appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
14th December 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Approval of Councillor non-attendance at meetings
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1. Purpose

1.1 To ask Full Council to approve Councillor Vicky Culbard’s reason for non-attendance at meetings of the authority

2. Recommendations

Full Council is recommended to:

- approve Councillor Vicky Culbard’s reason of ill-health, as a reason for non-attendance at meetings of the authority, pursuant to section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that if six consecutive months elapse from Councillor Culbard’s last attendance at a meeting of the authority, she will not cease to be a member of the authority through failure to attend.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that, subject to some limited exceptions, *“if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority”*.

3.1.2 Councillor Vicky Culbard has since her election to the Council in May 2015, been attending meetings of Full Council, Licensing Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee. However, Councillor Culbard has advised that she has an illness that is likely to prevent her from attending meetings of the authority for a considerable period of time.

- 3.1.3 The last qualifying meeting that Councillor Culbard attended was [Licensing Sub-Committee on 29th October 2015]. (Section 85(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that attendance at a meeting of any sub-committee of the authority shall be deemed to be attendance at a meeting of the authority for the purpose of section 85(1)).
- 3.1.4 In order to ensure that Councillor Culbard does not automatically cease to be a member of Northampton Borough Council as a result of not attending any meeting of the Council for a consecutive period of six months, Full Council are asked to approve Councillor Culbard's reason of illness as a reason for absence.
- 3.1.5 If Council accept the recommendation and approve Councillor Culbard's reason for absence this would mean that if six consecutive months do elapse from Councillor Culbard's last attendance at a meeting on 29th October 2015 (that is, if 28th April 2016 is reached) where Councillor Culbard has not been able to attend any meetings of the authority through illness, she will **not** cease to be a member of the Council through failure to attend. If Council do accept the recommendation, it will not prevent Councillor Culbard from returning to meetings at any time.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

The report does not have any policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4.3 Legal

The legal implications are outlined in the body of this report.

4.4 Equality

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

4.5 Other Implications

None.

5. Background Papers

None.

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

Appendices: 1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
14 December 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW
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1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to report Council on the decision taken by General Purposes Committee on 17 November 2015 in relation to the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places and to request that these decisions now be published and implemented.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Council is asked to note the decision taken by General Purposes Committee on behalf of the Council following the recommendations from the Local Returning Officer.

2.2 Council is asked to authorise the publication and implementation of these revised arrangements following the decision of General Purposes Committee.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 The attached report to the General Purposes Committee was approved at the General Purposes Committee on the 17th November and explains the background to the review.

3.1.2 The recommendations of the Local Returning Officer are attached to the Committee report and have been updated to take account of the decisions made by the Committee at its meeting.

3.1.3 Each Political Group of the Council has been provided with a large scale map showing the detailed locations of boundaries and polling places, which members may consult.

3.1.4 Following the conclusion of the local authority's review, certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission. The Commission may direct the authority to make any alterations to the polling places that they think necessary.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 As per attached General Purposes Committee Report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 As per attached General Purposes Committee Report.

4.3 Legal

3.1.5 As per attached General Purposes Committee Report.

4.4 Equality

3.1.6 As per attached General Purposes Committee Report.

4.5 Other Implications

3.1.7 As per attached General Purposes Committee Report.

5. Background Papers

3.1.8 As per attached General Purposes Committee Report.

David Kennedy, Chief Executive, 837726 or Extension 7726

Appendices:
1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Committee Meeting Date:	17 th November 2015
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Chief Executive

1. Purpose

1.2 To present to the Committee final recommendations from the Local Returning Officer relating to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places under The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and seek the Committee's approval to adopt.

2. Recommendations

2.3 That the Committee approve the final representations of the Local Returning Officer.

2.4 That the Committee approves the amendments to be included in the register due to be published on 1st Dec 2015

3. Issues and Choices

3.2 Report Background

3.2.1 The introduction of The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires each local authority to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places every fifth year after 1st October 2013.

3.2.2 The initial review was completed but following representations made to the Electoral Commission that the review had not been completed fully, the Commission requested that a further full review be conducted as soon as possible.

- 3.2.3 The Local Returning Officer initiated a full review of Polling Districts and Polling Places immediately following the Parliamentary and Local Elections held on 7th May 2015.
- 3.2.4 The scope and methodology of the review and consultation was agreed by General Purposes committee on 7th July 2015
- 3.2.5 Since the meeting in July the draft Guidance on the holding of a Referendum on Membership of the European Union has been published. This recommends, based on experience at the Scotland Referendum in 2014, that Local Returning Officers should, for that purpose, seek to have Polling Districts with less than 1,500 voters in person as far as that is possible and practicable. This draft Guidance has been considered when drawing up the attached recommendations and has had the effect of increasing the number of Polling Stations likely to be required.
- 3.2.6 The attached proposals have also been shaped by representations made around the May 2015 elections, reports from Polling staff at the May 2015 elections, informal preparatory consultation, and inspections of existing and potential Polling Places. The process of consultation and inspection will continue during the rest of the review period.
- 3.2.7 The proposals have been subject to a full public consultation which ran from 7th October to 3rd November following approval from this committee on 6th October 2015.
- 3.2.8 Specific feedback from the consultations, which included representations from elected members, has been reviewed and any appropriate changes have been made to the original proposals. These are detailed in the attached final recommendations report, which also attaches the consultation responses received in summary.
- 3.2.9 The Committee is recommended to approve the proposals attached.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.6 Resources and Risk

- 4.6.1 Additional resources will be required to manage and run any additional Polling Stations required following proposed reductions in the size of some Polling Districts. European, National, Police, County and Parish elections, ballots and referendums are not funded by the Borough Council but costs are reclaimed from the responsible body. The Borough Council is responsible for its own elections and for specified local ballots such as Community Planning Referendums or any Mayoral Referendum.
- 4.6.2 Additional costs will be incurred by increasing the number of Polling Places. The proposals attached increase the numbers of Polling Districts and Polling Places, and also the number of mobile units which have a higher unit cost.

	May 2015	Proposed	Change
Polling Districts	100	124	+24%
Polling Places	80	96	+20%
Mobile Units	7	11	+57%
Polling Stations	106	Maximum 131	Up to +24%

4.6.3 The number of Polling Stations within each Polling Place is a matter for the discretion of the Returning Officer at each election. In the attached recommendations a number of Polling Districts are identified as potentially having two Polling Stations.

4.6.4 The costs of establishing a larger number of Polling Places, with attendant increase in Polling Stations, will depend on the nature and costs of the Polling Places used and the size of the Polling Stations. Under Electoral Commission guidance there are minimum staffing levels depending on the number of voters in person at each Polling Station. It does not therefore follow that one Polling Station becoming two is double the cost, it is usually less than double.

4.6.5 The arrangements proposed in this paper will be reviewed again in 2018/19 in preparation for the 2020 Parliamentary Constituency General Election, which will be on new boundaries.

4.7 Legal

4.7.1 Formal guidance from the Electoral Commission is being followed for the review which ensures that all parts of the legislation are adhered to.

4.8 Equality

4.8.1 Advice has been sought from specialist groups and agencies relating to access needs of protected groups, specifically those with a disability.

4.8.2 Full inspections of Polling Places have taken place which included accessibility and incorporated any initial advice given by the groups above.

4.9 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.9.1 Consultation has been carried out both informally and formally with the general public, and specifically the groups mentioned in 4.2.2 below.

4.9.2 Compulsory consultees are stated in the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and include the following:

- Candidates and agents for the parliamentary, local and Parish elections held on May 7th, 2015
- Elected representatives (County Councillors, MEP's etc)
- (Acting) Returning Officers from neighbouring authorities (e.g. South Northamptonshire)
- Electors
- Council officers with relevant experience

4.10

Other Implications

4.10.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places files and records, held by the Borough Secretary's department.

David Kennedy
Chief Executive and Local Returning Officer
Ext 7726

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER TO NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The following report outlines final proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places in Northampton following formal consultation with the public and interested parties.

The proposals attached are presented to the Council's General Purposes Committee for the Committee to resolve upon.

Attached appendices show the recommended Polling Districts and Polling Places. The following narrative explains the reasons for these recommendations.

General Comments

The structure of Polling Districts used in any election needs to take account of the legal requirements laid down in Statute and the requirements of the Electoral Commission.

In addition, polling districts need to be set in such a way that the Electoral Register can be structured to deliver any individual election. Polling Districts are the basic building block of the Register and therefore are always the smallest division of electors in the Register.

This means that the boundaries of Polling Districts are firstly determined by the boundaries of the Borough, Parliamentary Constituencies, County Council Divisions, and then by Borough Council Wards, Parish Councils, and Parish Council Wards where applicable. It is not possible to establish a Polling District that, for example, crosses the boundary of a County Council Division as this would mean that the Register would not be, as required, capable of delivering a County Council election in those Divisions.

As a result, many Polling District boundaries are effectively determined by these higher-ranking geographies. Areas which fall between these boundaries may be subdivided into Polling Districts on the decision of the Borough Council (subject to the right to appeal to the Electoral Commission) and this should be considered with due regard to making Polling Places and Polling Stations accessible and convenient for voters in person. The exact shape or size of a Polling District can be affected by the availability of suitable Polling Places.

Polling Places are locations within which a Polling Station is to be established by the relevant Returning Officer for an election. Polling Places may, if possible, contain more than one Polling Station and serve more than one Polling District.

The Electoral Commission has guided that no Polling Station may have more than 2,500 voters in person assigned to it. This does not mean that a Polling District cannot be larger than 2,500, but if so then it will need a number of Polling Stations, which may of course be in the same Polling Place.

In recent draft guidance relating to the forthcoming referendum on the nation's membership of the European Union, the Commission has drawn on experience in Scotland in 2014. In light of the very high turnouts achieved in Scotland and in consideration of planning for such in the EU Referendum, the Commission has suggested at the Referendum Local Returning officers should try not to exceed 1,500 voters in person whilst recognising that on occasion this will be necessary and appropriate.

As mentioned above, public consultation has been carried out in preparing these draft recommendations. All comments have been considered where relevant and a summary of the comments made is attached in the appendices to this document.

In addition, a programme of inspecting actual and potential Polling Places has been undertaken in order to inform these recommendations. As far as possible, alternative proposals have been subjected to inspection.

Proposals are presented, for ease of reference, Borough Council Ward by Borough Council Ward. Details of Polling District boundaries and projected numbers of voters in person are contained within the Appendices.

Abington Ward

Abington Ward currently has 5 Polling Districts. One Polling District falls within the Northampton South Constituency and has less than 1,000 projected voters in person in 2020.

It is proposed to reshape the other four Polling Districts into five in accordance with the attached ward map. The boundary changes are significant and intended to increase accessibility and balance numbers of voters better between Polling Places.

The proposed Polling Places are: Abington Avenue Reformed Church, Stimpson Avenue Academy (for 2 Polling Districts), Old Northamptonians, Barry Primary School, and Vernon Terrace Community Centre. All of these Polling Places are currently used at elections. In the case of the Old Northamptonians this use is currently for Rushmills Ward.

Representations have been made about the arrangements for a Polling Station within Barry Road Primary School (Gym Annex). A further inspection has been undertaken and it is proposed to designate Barry Road Primary School rather than the Gym Annex on accessibility grounds.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Abington Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Billing Ward

Billing Ward contains a number of Parish Wards. As a result there is limited discretion as to the arrangements within this Ward.

There are currently four Polling Districts and four Polling Places in this Ward and it is proposed to make no changes to this. However it is noted that the projected voters in person in two Polling Districts will exceed 1,500 in 2020.

The proposed Polling Places are: the Institute in Great Billing, St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School, Bellinge Community Centre, and All Saints Church. All of these Polling Places are currently used at elections.

The Polling District served by the Institute in Great Billing is projected to reach around 1,650 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place is not considered able to hold two Polling Stations but no suitable alternative has been located. Representations have been received that Bernard Weston Pavilion could be a suitable alternative. Having considered this location it is recommended that as it is further from the South of this District it should be discounted on accessibility grounds.

The Polling District served by St Andrew's CEVA Primary School is project to reach around 1,900 voters in person in 2020. Inspection shows that, should it be considered necessary by the Returning Officer, it possible to host two Polling Stations in this Polling Place.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in Billing Ward and recommended on that basis.

Boothville Ward

Boothville Ward currently contains two Polling Districts with two Polling Places.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements but adjust the boundary between the two Polling Districts to improve convenience for voters. After this adjustment one Polling District is projected to have around 1,700 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place for this Polling District could, if required, hold two polling stations serving this Polling District.

The Polling Places in this ward are: King's Meadow School and Boothville Community Centre, both currently in use at elections.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Boothville Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Brookside Ward

Brookside Ward currently contains three Polling Districts at three Polling Places.

It is proposed to retain these arrangements as they match the geography of the Ward very well. One Polling District is projected to reach just under 1,800 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place, Lings Primary School, could accommodate two Polling Stations if considered necessary at an election, although the School would prefer not to be used. It has not been possible to identify another suitable premise to serve this area as a Polling Station.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Brookside Ward and recommended on that basis.

Castle Ward

Castle Ward currently contains five Polling Districts and five Polling Places.

Projections of numbers of voters in person in 2020 demonstrate that two of the existing Polling Stations would exceed 2,200 by then. It is proposed therefore to reshape the Polling Districts into seven in accordance with the attached ward map. The boundary changes are significant and intended to increase accessibility and balance numbers of voters better between Polling Places.

The proposed Polling Places are: Castle Community Hub (in place of Spring Lane Primary School), The Guildhall, Victoria Road Congregational Church, Mounts Baths, Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust (for 2 Polling Districts), and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Two of these Polling Places are not currently designated as Polling Places. Castle Community Hub and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church are new.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Castle Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Delapre and Briar Hill Ward

Delapre and Briar Hill Ward currently contains of four Polling Districts served by four Polling Places with a total of six Polling Stations.

Delapre and Briar Hill is a geographically dispersed and large ward. Projections of numbers of voters in person in 2020 demonstrate that two of the existing Polling Stations would exceed 2,000 by then. In order to provide more local access it is proposed to reshape the Polling Districts into eight in accordance with the attached ward map and increase the number of Polling Places. The boundary changes are significant and intended to increase accessibility and balance numbers of voters better between Polling Places.

A key change is to include the area to the west of Briar Hill as a distinct Polling District with a more local Polling Place. This can only be achieved by the use of a mobile unit, and a location has been identified at the junction of Hunsbarrow and Ironstone Road.

The area to the south of the ward has also been adjusted in order to manage the number of voters in person at Gloucester Avenue Nursery School. A new Polling District with a Polling Place at Abbey Primary School is proposed.

To the north-east of the ward is an area of planned new development at Ransome Road and the University Campus. It is proposed to establish a Polling District which serves some existing housing and these planned development sites, served by a Polling Place at a mobile unit in Asda's Car Park on London Road/Ransome Road. Should development happen faster than expected then it would be possible to accommodate a second Polling Station at Asda. At next review in 2018/19 it should be possible to consider a location at the University.

The remaining three Polling Districts are proposed to be served by a Polling Place at Far Cotton Recreation Centre, with one of these Districts projected to just reach 1,500 voters in person in 2020. Whilst the Centre could accommodate four Polling Stations it is not considered likely that this will be needed before next review.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Delapre and Briar Hill Ward and are recommended on that basis.

East Hunsbury Ward

East Hunsbury Ward contains six Polling Districts with four Polling Places.

Following representations from a local councilor, a review of the boundaries of Districts was undertaken and this have bene adjusted to better match the geography of the Ward.

Representations from the same councilor that Danes Camp Leisure Centre would have accessibility issues if used as a Polling Place, has been responded to by placing that Polling Place at Abbey Centre Baptist Church which will revert to holding two Polling Districts.

In relation to the Polling Place at the Pro-Shop, Collingtree Golf Club, we have been informed that the Pro-Shop may not be available in the future, but there are other locations within the Golf Club. Therefore the Polling Place is now stated as Collingtree Golf Club.

The other Polling Place is East Hunsbury Primary School which is currently used.

The proposed arrangements are considered to be the best possible in East Hunsbury Ward and recommended on that basis.

Eastfield Ward

Eastfield Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

One Polling District is projected to reach just over 2,000 voters in person in 2020. It is proposed to retain the existing boundary to this area but to split that Polling District into two with both new Polling Districts being served by St Albans Jubilee Hall which sits on the boundary between the two Districts, as the Polling Place.

The other Polling District is proposed to remain unaltered and served by Eden Close Community Room as the Polling Place.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Eastfield Ward and recommended on that basis.

Headlands Ward

Headlands Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

The current arrangements in this ward work well, and it is proposed not to make any changes. One Polling District is projected to reach over 1,600 voters in person in 2020 and if this becomes significant the Polling Place is able to accommodate a second Polling Station.

The two Polling Places are Headlands United Reformed Church and Abington Community Centre.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Headlands Ward and recommended on that basis.

Kings Heath Ward

King's Heath Ward has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places operating three Polling Stations.

One Polling District covers the King's Heath Estate and Dallington Heath. The other covers the Ryehill area. These arrangements match the topography of the area and the location of the Polling Place on the Estate is a good central location for that District, containing two Polling Stations.

The only proposed change is that the area designated in the Local Plan for new Housing on Dallington Heath be included in the Polling District that contains Ryehill. This is proposed as it will better reflect the current expected development phasing on the sustainable urban extension.

The two Polling Places are Montague Crescent Community Room and King's Heath Community Centre, both of which are currently used.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in King's Heath Ward and recommended on that basis.

Kingsley Ward

Kingsley Ward currently has three Polling Districts operating from three Polling Places.

One of these Polling Districts is projected to reach over 1,800 voters in person by 2020. Therefore it is proposed to adjust the boundaries between two Polling Districts to balance numbers more evenly between them.

In addition, this Ward contains an area that falls in a different County Division. The land involved is currently undeveloped and expected to remain so. This Polling District will therefore have no voters in person and for technical purposes only will be allocated to the Polling Place at a Mobile Unit in Fulford Drive.

The other two Polling Places are: Kingsley Primary School and Kingsley Park Methodist Church. All the Polling Places in this ward are currently used.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Kingsley Ward and recommended on that basis.

Kingsthorpe Ward

Kingsthorpe Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts at two Polling Places. The boundary between these Polling Places is determined by a County Council Division boundary.

It is proposed to retain the current arrangements with the facility to have two Polling Stations at Kingsthorpe Community Centre if necessary at any election. The Polling District at that Polling Place is projected to have around 1,900 voters in person in 2020.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Kingsthorpe Ward and recommended on that basis.

Nene Valley Ward

This ward is geographically widely spread. It currently contains five Polling Districts with three Polling Places and six Polling Stations.

For Parish election reasons, and for accessibility, there are Polling Districts at Hardingstone and at Collingtree which will need to remain in place. Hardingstone is currently projected to have just under 1,500 voters in person in 2020. Should development of housing proceed within the Hardingstone Parish it may in time be necessary to consider a second Polling Station there.

Following representations from a local councilor that Wootton Memorial Hall is not sufficiently accessible as a location for a Polling Place, it is proposed to revert to the existing arrangement whereby four Polling Districts all vote at Wootton Community and Sports Centre. The recommendation of this review is to establish four Polling Districts, with all having Wootton Community and Sports Centre as the Polling Place.

The Polling Place at Hardingstone is the Village Hall, and at Collingtree the Village Room. Both are currently used. Representations were received from the Parish Council that Collingtree Village Room/Hall is very suitable.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Nene Valley Ward and are recommended on that basis.

New Duston Ward

New Duston Ward currently has seven Polling Districts, the boundaries of which are largely determined by Parish and County Council boundaries, served by four Polling Places.

It is proposed to retain the Polling Districts in their current configuration. This reflects the different boundary requirements and also the geography of the ward. Two Polling Districts are projected to have over 1,700 voters in person in 2020. If necessary at elections it would be possible to locate double Polling Stations at the Polling Places for these Districts.

The Polling Places proposed are: Mobile Unit on Errington Park (2 Districts), Mobile Unit at Bordeaux Close, Mobile Unit at Park Lane Island, Duston Community Centre,

and Duston Eldean Primary School (2 Districts). All these Polling Places are current although Duston Community Centre is currently only used for Old Duston Ward in which it is located. This recommendation transfers a Polling District away from the Primary School and thereby would create space for when two Polling Stations are considered necessary for one District served by the School.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in New Duston Ward and recommended on that basis.

Obelisk Ward

Obelisk Ward contains two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places. One District, covering mainly the Park Campus of the University, is determined by County Council Division boundaries.

There are no proposed changes to the arrangements for this ward. However it should be noted that, whilst Reynard Way Evangelical Church is a very well located and accessible central point in the Polling District that includes it, that District is projected to have around 1,900 voters in person in 2020. The Polling Place can take two Polling Stations and this may be necessary at some elections.

The other Polling Place is the Sunley Management and Conference Centre at the University.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Obelisk Ward and recommended on that basis.

Old Duston

Old Duston Ward currently has four Polling Districts, the boundaries of which are largely determined by Parish and County Council boundaries, served by three Polling Places.

One of the existing Polling Districts is projected to increase to nearly 2,000 voters in person by 2020. As a result the review proposes that the number of Polling Districts be increased to five.

In response to consultation proposals were made for use of the new St Luke's Community Centre as a Polling Place and it is proposed to have the Centre serve two Polling Districts. Two further Polling Districts are proposed to be served by the Duston Community Centre (which will, with New Duston, serve three Districts), then one at Chiltern Primary School which is currently not used, and finally at Lyncrest Primary School.

Representations have been made about accessibility issues at Lyncrest Primary School. This has been reinforced by comments from a local councilor in the consultation.

The Polling District it serves is defined by County Council Division and Parish boundaries, and is bounded by major roads. The only premises identified in this District are those at the Primary School. A meeting was held with the Head Teacher to discuss how a Polling Station will operate in this school, and to improve

accessibility. New arrangements for the Polling Station have been agreed and therefore it is proposed to maintain this school as the Polling Place.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Old Duston Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Park Ward

Park Ward currently has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

It is proposed to make a minor change to the Polling District boundary to balance voters in person between them. Each is projected to have around 1,500 voters in person in 2020. Otherwise no changes are proposed and the Polling Places are proposed to remain as at present: St Peter's Church Hall, and Bridgewater Primary School.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Park Ward and recommended on that basis.

Parklands Ward

Parklands Ward currently has two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

Representations have been made about an area off Talavera Way to the north of this Ward which is served by Parklands Community Centre as its Polling Place. This is considered by the people making the representation to not provide sufficient accessibility.

Having considered these representations it is proposed that a third Polling District is established to the north of the ward incorporating the Darnell Way area. The Polling Place is proposed as Boothville Community Centre as there are no suitable alternatives within the District.

The remainder of the Ward is proposed to be two Polling Districts as at present with a small adjustment to the boundary to assist balance between them.

The other two Polling Places are proposed to be as now: Parklands Community Centre and Parklands Nursery School and Childrens Centre.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Parklands Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Phippsville Ward

Phippsville Ward is divided into two Polling Districts with the boundary between them determined by a County Council Division. These are served by two Polling Places.

No changes are proposed to Polling Districts and Polling Places. The larger of the two Polling Districts is projected to have around 1,900 voters in person by 2020. It is proposed that this District will be served by two Polling Stations within the existing Polling Place, which has the capacity and good accessibility.

The Polling Places are: St Matthew's Parish Centre, and Cedar Road Primary School. There was representation that the school should not be used due to disruption to its operation but no alternatives have been identified.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Phippsville Ward and recommended on that basis.

Rectory Farm Ward

Rectory Farm Ward is currently made up of three Polling Districts. One is determined by Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. These are served by two Polling Places.

It is proposed to adjust the borders between the two Polling Districts served by Rectory Farm Community Centre as their Polling Place, to balance the number of voters in person projected in 2020 to around 1,400. No other changes are proposed.

The other Polling Place is Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre. Although concerns were expressed about this Polling Place before the last elections, problems were not experienced on the day and no better alternative location has been identified.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Rectory Farm Ward and recommended on that basis.

Riverside Ward

Riverside Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts served from a single Polling Place, Standens Barn Community Centre.

Projections of voters in person have indicated that one of the two Polling Districts would reach over 1,900 voters in person by 2020. In light of this it is proposed to split the ward into three Polling Districts all served from the same existing Polling Place which is near the meeting point of all three Polling Districts.

It would be possible to adjust the boundaries between the two existing Polling Districts but this would have created two each with about 1,500 voters in person each in 2020. On balance a set of three Districts is preferred.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in Riverside Ward and recommended on that basis.

Rushmills Ward

Rushmills Ward is currently divided into four Polling Districts. One District is determined by the Parish of Great Houghton and a Parliamentary Constituency boundary. These are served by four Polling Places. The ward is geographically widespread.

Following comments in response to the initial consultation it is proposed to use Old Scouts as the Polling Place for one District, replacing Old Northamptonians which is now proposed to be used in Abington Ward.

It is also proposed to reallocate part of the District that vote at Old Northamptonians to the District that votes at Vernon Terrace Community Centre for convenience and accessibility reasons.

The existing Polling District served by Bridgewater Primary School is still proposed to have the School as its Polling Place but in the further consultation we would ask for further comments on potential alternative Polling Places, for accessibility and convenience reasons.

The Polling Place at Great Houghton is Parsons Memorial Hall and is not proposed to change.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Rushmills Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Semilong Ward

Semilong Ward currently contains four Polling Districts, significantly affected by Parliamentary Constituency and County Council Division boundaries. These are served by three Polling Places.

No changes are proposed to these arrangements. One Polling District is projected to have around 1,500 voters in person by 2020.

The Polling Places for Semilong Ward are Holy Trinity Church Hall (2 Districts), Semilong Community Centre and Alliston Gardens Youth and Community Centre.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Semilong Ward and recommended on that basis.

Spencer Ward

Spencer Ward currently contains two Polling Districts, each using Spencer Dallington Community Centre as the Polling Place.

In order to provide better accessibility to the north west of this Ward it is proposed to establish a Polling District there served by the Dallington Lawn Tennis Club. The remainder of the Ward is proposed to be two Polling Districts served by Spencer Dallington Community Centre.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Spencer Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Spring Park

Spring Park Ward currently contains two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

On current projections, one Polling District would have around 1,800 voters in person in 2020. This Polling District is served by Parsons Community Centre and if necessary at elections in the future will have two Polling Stations. No changes to

boundaries or Polling Places are proposed. The other Polling District is served by St Mark's Church Hall.

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Spring Park Ward and recommended on that basis.

St David's Ward

St David's Ward currently contains two Polling Districts each based at one Polling Place.

Representations were made at and after the 2015 elections that the topography of this ward requires a different arrangement with more Polling Places and by implication Polling Districts. As one of the current Polling Districts is projected to have around 1,700 voters in person in 2020, there is a case to make changes on these grounds and in response to representations.

It is therefore proposed to create three Polling Districts with three Polling Places. The Polling Places would be the Liburd Community Room, the Kingsthorpe Grove Lower School and the currently used St David's Church Room. The former two are not current Polling Places and views are sought on the suitability of these Places. It has not yet been possible to inspect Kingsthorpe Grove Lower School, but this will take place over the next few weeks.

The locations of these three Places, at the lower, middle, and upper part of the ward respond to the comments made regarding accessibility.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in St David's Ward and are recommended on that basis.

St James Ward

St James Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts at two Polling Places.

There is new development of housing planned in this Ward at Sixfields that is remote from the Polling Place for that District. It is therefore proposed to establish a new Polling District at the west end of this Ward. Initially this District will have no voters in person. However once voters register in this area, the proposed Polling Place that they will vote in is proposed to be Sixfields Stadium. This could include a mobile option for a Polling Station within the Stadium Car Park.

The remainder of the Ward is proposed to be unchanged as the arrangements work well and the Polling Places are suitable and accessible. One District is projected to have just over 1,800 voters in person by 2020 and thus there may be an additional Polling Station at Franklins Gardens, which is the Polling Place. The other Polling Place is the Doddridge Centre.

The proposed arrangements, which involve minimal change, are considered to be the best possible in St James Ward and recommended on that basis.

Sunnyside Ward

Sunnyside Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts served by one Polling Place. One Polling District is determined by the County Council Division boundary.

Representations were made that the Polling Place at Hinton Road Community Rooms was too small and inaccessible at the time of the elections. The point on accessibility is not accepted, but it is recognised that the level of use of this Polling Place with two Polling Stations is relatively high for its size. It also needs to be noted that the projected number of voters in person in one existing Polling District in 2020 is around 2,000.

It is therefore proposed to increase the number of Polling Districts to three, with three Polling Places. The proposed Polling Places are the Sunley Management and Conference Centre at the University, Hinton Road Community Rooms and a proposed mobile unit at Bective Road.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Sunnyside Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Talavera Ward

Talavera Ward currently consists of five Polling Districts served by five Polling Places. One Polling District is required to meet Parliamentary Constituency boundaries and the Ward is also affected by County Council Divisions.

Representations have been made that the current arrangements, particularly with regard to the Polling District served at Goldcrest Community Rooms are not sufficiently accessible. It is therefore proposed to move to six Polling Districts served by six Polling Places and in particular to move the Polling Place in the Goldings area. The existing Polling District is proposed to be split along Lings Way, with the western part served in the future by Lodge Farm Community Centre, and the eastern part served in the future by a mobile unit at Goldings Shopping Centre.

The other Polling Places are proposed to be unchanged as: Thorplands Primary School, Southfields Community Centre, Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre, and Rectory Farm Community Centre.

Two Polling Districts, served by Southfields Community Centre and Thorplands Primary School, are projected to have over 1,700 voters in person in 2020. Given the geography of the Ward this cannot be mitigated by boundary changes without compromising accessibility.

In consulting on this Ward, comments are particularly welcome with regard to potential alternatives to Thorplands Primary School where accessibility has been an issue in the past.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Talavera Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Trinity Ward

Trinity Ward currently consists of two Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

The current arrangements work well and it is not planned to make any changes.

The Polling Places are: The Newton Building at the University Avenue Campus, and Holy Trinity Church Hall

The proposed arrangements, which involve no change, are considered to be the best possible in Trinity Ward and recommended on that basis.

Upton Ward

Upton Ward currently consists of three Polling Districts served three Polling Places. This is an area of significant expected housing growth over the next few years. The boundary of one Polling District is affected by a Parish boundary.

Development is taking place at an area called Dragonfly Meadows to the south of this ward. Existing Polling Places are not accessible from this estate. Therefore an additional Polling District served by a Polling Place in the form of a mobile unit on the slip road to the Park is proposed. The projected numbers of voters in this District is very low initially and the form of mobile unit will reflect this.

To the north of Weedon Road, substantial housing growth requires consideration of an additional Polling District and one served by St Crispin Social Club is proposed, as a new Polling Place. The remainder of the area north of Weedon Road will continue to be served by St Crispin Retirement Village, and the remaining area to the south of Weedon Road will continue to be served by the Elgar Centre.

The proposed arrangements are intended to deal with growth and to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Upton Ward and are recommended on that basis.

West Hunsbury Ward

West Hunsbury Ward consists of two Polling Districts served by Parsons Mead Community Room and a mobile unit at Ladybridge Park.

Amendments to the boundary between the two Polling Districts are proposed in order to better reflect the geography of the Ward. This will create a larger Polling District to be served by Ladybridge Park, and will require two Polling Stations. Locations for a Polling Place to the north-west of this Ward have been sought, but without success. A representation was made by the Chair of the Parish Council that the ward should have only one Polling Place but this would not meet accessibility requirements. It was also suggested that the Community Centre be used but again this would reduce accessibility.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in West Hunsbury Ward and are recommended on that basis.

Westone Ward

Westone Ward currently consists of three Polling Districts served by two Polling Places.

To improve accessibility it is proposed to assign a third Polling Place at Headlands United Reformed Church, and reshape the Polling Districts accordingly.

The other Polling Places are: Weston Favell Parish Hall, and a mobile unit at Northampton College.

The proposed arrangements are intended to provide more accessible voting arrangements for electors in Westone Ward and are recommended on that basis.

List of Appendices

2015 Polling Place Review – Summary

2015 Polling District Review – Maps by Borough Ward

Summary of Responses received to consultation (7.10.15 to 3.10.15)

David Kennedy
Local Returning Officer
Borough of Northampton

November 2015

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Abington			7859	6665
1	NNAB1	Abington Avenue Utd. Reformed Church	1787	1512
2	NNAB2	Stimpson Avenue Academy	1444	1227
3	NNAB3	Stimpson Avenue Academy	1318	1116
4	NNAB4	Old Northamptonians Association	1224	1039
5	NNAB5	Barry Primary School	1221	1034
6	NSAB6	Vernon Terrace Community Centre	865	737
Billing			7166	5751
1	NSBL1	The Institute	2054	1653
2	NSBL2	St Andrew`s CEVA Primary School	2392	1918
3	NSBL3	Bellinge Community Centre	1130	905
4	NSBL4	All Saints Church	1590	1275
Boothville			3660	2884
1	NNBV1	Kings Meadow School	2150	1695
2	NNBV2	Boothville Community Centre	1510	1189
Brookside			4171	3423
1	NNBR1	Lumbertubs Primary School	1410	1161
2	NNBR2	Lings Primary School	2173	1779
3	NNBR3	Arlbury Road Community Room	588	483

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Castle			9558	8192
1	NSCT1	Castle Community Hub (New)	1591	1368
2	NSCT2	The Great Hall	1372	1183
3	NSCT3	Victoria Road Congregational Church	1174	1006
4	NSCT4	Mounts Baths	1328	1134
5	NSCT5	Northamptonshire Music Trust	1323	1133
6	NSCT6	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (New)	1470	1253
7	NSCT7	Northamptonshire Music Trust	1300	1115
Delapre & Briar Hill			10733	8921
1	NSDB1	Mobile Unit - Hunsbarrow/Ironstone Rd (New)	1351	1126
2	NSDB2	Briar Hill Community Centre	1599	1337
3	NSDB3	Far Cotton Rec Centre	809	672
4	NSDB4	Mobile Unit - Far Cotton Asda (New)	1521	1263
5	NSDB5	Far Cotton Rec Centre	1092	906
6	NSDB6	Far Cotton Rec Centre	1828	1515
7	NSDB7	Gloucester Nursery School	1197	994
8	NSDB8	The Abbey Primary School (New)	1336	1108
East Hunsbury			8384	6652
1	SNEH1	Collingtree Golf Club (New)	363	290
2	SNEH2	Blackymore Community Centre	1458	1157
3	SNEH3	Blackymore Community Centre	2303	1825
4	SNEH4	East Hunsbury Primary School	1287	1021
5	SNEH5	Abbey Centre Baptist Church	1775	1409
6	SNEH6	Abbey Centre Baptist Church	1198	950

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Eastfield			3664	2946
1	NNEF1	St Albans Jubilee Hall	1476	1181
2	NNEF2	St Albans Jubilee Hall	1132	913
3	NNEF3	Eden Close Community Room	1056	852
Headlands			3829	3143
1	NNHD1	Headlands United Reformed Church	2026	1661
2	NNHD2	Abington Community Centre	1803	1482
Kings Heath			3509	3009
1	NSKH1	Montague Crescent Community Room	592	509
2	NSKH2	Kings Heath Community Centre	2917	2500
Kingsley			4241	3482
1	NNKG1	Mobile Unit - Fulford Drive	874	719
2	NNKG2	Kingsley Primary School	1614	1326
3	NNKG3	Kingsley Park Methodist Church	1753	1437
4	NNKG4	Mobile Unit - Fulford Drive	0	0
Kingsthorpe			3979	3109
1	NNKT1	The Pastures Community Centre	1561	1218
2	NNKT2	Kingsthorpe Community Centre	2418	1891
Nene Valley			8780	7002
1	SNNV1	Hardingstone Village Hall	1854	1477
2	SNNV2	Wootton Community & Sports Centre	2426	1937
3	SNNV3	Wootton Community & Sports Centre	1189	945
4	SNNV4	Wootton Community & Sports Centre	1587	1265
5	SNNV5	Wootton Community & Sports Centre	1160	928
6	SNNV6	Collingtree Village Room	564	450

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
New Duston			8398	6687
1	NSND1	Mobile Unit - Bordeaux Close	2247	1793
2	NSND2	Mobile Unit - Errington Park	675	538
3	NSND3	Mobile Unit - Park Lane Island	1635	1299
4	NSND4	Duston Eldean Primary School	2207	1755
5	NSND5	Mobile Unit - Errington Park	799	637
6	NSND6	Duston Community Centre	835	665
7	NSND7	Duston Eldean Primary School	0	0
Obelisk			2612	2205
1	NNOL1	Reynard Way Evangelical Church	2284	1928
2	NNOL2	Sunley Conference Centre	328	277
Old Duston			7131	5778
1	NSOD1	Duston Community Centre	1394	1128
2	NSOD2	Chiltern Primary School (New)	1614	1306
3	NSOD3	St Lukes Community Centre (New)	1211	979
4	NSOD4	St Lukes Community Centre (New)	1314	1072
5	NSOD5	Lyncrest Primary School	1598	1293
Park			3968	3020
1	NSPK1	St Peter`s Church Hall	1980	1507
2	NSPK2	Bridgewater Primary School	1988	1513
Parklands			3978	3006
1	NNPL1	Parklands Community Centre	1710	1293
2	NNPL2	Parklands Nursery School & Childrens Centre	1982	1496
3	NNPL3	Boothville Community Centre	286	217

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Phippsville			3355	2744
1	NNPH1	St Matthew`s Parish Centre	2411	1971
2	NNPH2	Cedar Road Primary School	944	773
Rectory Farm			3997	3210
1	NSRF1	Rectory Farm Community Centre	1689	1356
2	NSRF2	Rectory Farm Community Centre	1769	1421
3	NNRF3	Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre	539	433
Riverside			3644	2954
1	NSRV1	Standens Barn Community Centre	1170	945
2	NSRV2	Standens Barn Community Centre	1198	972
3	NSRV3	Standens Barn Community Centre	1276	1037
Rushmills			3530	2816
1	SNRM1	Parsons Memorial Hall	551	444
2	NSRM2	Bridgewater Primary School	1463	1167
3	NSRM3	Old Scouts (New)	761	604
4	NSRM4	Vernon Terrace Community Centre	755	601
Semilong			3736	3224
1	NNSM1	Holy Trinity Church Hall	620	536
2	NNSM2	Holy Trinity Church Hall	214	185
3	NSSM3	Semilong Community Centre	1126	970
4	NSSM4	Alliston Gardens Youth & Community Centre	1776	1533
Spencer			3898	3097
1	NSSP1	Dallington Lawn Tennis Club	1486	1187
2	NSSP2	Spencer Dallington Community Centre	1075	852
3	NSSP3	Spencer Dallington Community Centre	1337	1058

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Spring Park			4058	3252
1	NNSP1	The Pastures Community Centre	1171	937
2	NNSP2	The Pastures Community Centre	1298	1042
3	NNSP3	St Mark`s Church Hall	1589	1273
St Davids			3488	2844
1	NNSD1	Kingsthorpe Grove Lower School (New)	1272	1033
2	NNSD2	St David`s Church Room	1307	1065
3	NNSD3	The Liburd Rooms (New)	909	746
St James			3678	3043
1	NSSJ1	The Saints "Heroes Room"	2219	1836
2	NSSJ2	Doddridge Centre	1459	1207
3	NSSJ3	Sixfields Stadium (New)	0	0
Sunnyside			3469	2778
1	NNSU1	Sunley Conference Centre	887	714
2	NNSU2	Hinton Road Community Room	1599	1279
3	NNSU3	Hinton Road Community Room	983	785
Talavera			8296	6760
1	NNTV1	Thorplands Primary School	2136	1742
2	NNTV2	Southfields Community Centre	2106	1717
3	NNTV3	Lodge Farm Community Centre (New)	911	743
4	NNTV4	Mobile Unit - Goldings Shopping Centre (New)	1736	1415
5	NNTV5	Blackthorn Good Neighbours and Childrens Centre	1088	885
6	NSTV6	Rectory Farm Community Centre - Mobile in Car Park	319	258
Trinity			3286	2717
1	NNTR1	The Newton Building (rear entrance)	1719	1423
2	NNTR2	Holy Trinity Church Hall	1567	1294

2015 Polling Place Review - Summary

Ward/Map Ref	New District Code	Polling Place	2020 - Projected Total Electorate	2020 - Projected In Person
Upton			5192	4187
1	SNUP1	Mobile Unit - Banbury Lane	935	753
2	SNUP2	Mobile Unit - Dragonfly Meadows, sliproad to Park (New)	14	12
3	SNUP3	The Elgar Centre	1890	1526
4	SNUP4	St Crispin Retirement Village	1582	1273
5	SNUP5	St Crispin Social Club (New)	771	623
West Hunsbury			3826	2986
1	SNWH1	Parsons Mead Community Room	1430	1117
2	SNWH2	Mobile Unit - Ladybridge Park	2396	1869
Westone			3846	2961
1	NNWT1	Mobile Unit - St Gregory Street	849	656
2	NNWT2	Headlands United Reformed Church	1137	876
3	NNWT3	Weston Favell Parish Hall	1860	1429
Grand Total			166919	135448

Name	Position	Ward/Constituency	Polling Place	Comments	Issues?
Mike Hallam	Borough Councillor	Parklands		As a Borough and County Councillor I am happy with the current arrangements in both my Borough Ward and County Division and would be reluctant to change these, given the changes made the other year.	Yes
Danielle Stone	County Councillor	Abington	Barry Road - Gym Annex	Thank you for all the work the has been to date on the Polling Stations review. I will encourage the Labour Cllrs. to respond. My comment re Abington is please can we look again at Barry Road? The very long walk down from the road to the gym behind the school means it is not accessible for people with mobility issues.	Yes
David Mackintosh	MP	Northampton South		Many thanks for your email and for sending me details of the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places. I have reviewed those in wards within my constituency of Northampton South and have no issues to raise with you. Should I notice any issues following future elections then I will bring them to the attention of the Returning Officer for future reviews.	No
Tim Hadland	Borough Councillor	Old Duston	Lyncrest School	If the access is retained as previously, it is steep and unlit, and entirely unsuitable for the elderly or disabled who wish to vote in person	Yes
Phil Larratt	Borough Councillor	East Hunsbury	Danes Camp Leisure Centre	As Borough Councillor for East Hunsbury and County Councillor for Nene Valley I have a few observations on the proposals for these areas. Firstly, East Hunsbury. Can I please suggest that Polling Districts SNEH5 and SNEH6 are merged. SNEH6 was only established as it used to be in West Hunsbury Ward and was a separate ward within Wootton & East Hunsbury Parish Council – Grange Ward. As this is all now East Hunsbury Ward and is not a ward within East Hunsbury Parish it is not necessary and should be a part of SNEH5. I note you propose that SNEH5 vote at Danes Camp Leisure Centre, while SNEH6 vote at the Abbey Centre. I'm not very happy about the use of Danes Camp Leisure Centre as the car park there gets very full and congested at certain times during the day. People arriving to vote by car may well be put off doing so if they cannot easily access the car park. The Abbey Centre has more parking and does not get as congested as Danes Camp. My alternative suggestion for both The Abbey Centre and Danes Camp Leisure Centre would be Simon de Senlis Primary School that is central to Polling Districts SNEH5 and SNEH6.	Yes

Name	Position	Ward/Constituency	Polling Station	Comments	Issues?
Phil Larratt	County Councillor	Nene Valley	Wootton Memorial Hall	<p>As to Nene Valley. I note that you have re-introduced Wootton Memorial Hall as a Polling Station. A significant number of electors in SNNV2 that will vote there come from Simpson Manor and Turners Court off Newport Pagnell Road. Many people voting at the Polling Station from these areas will therefore go by car as it is a fair distance to walk and parking in the vicinity of the Memorial Hall is extremely poor, especially at the start and end of the school day with pupils being dropped off and picked up from Wootton Primary School. The Memorial Hall is only 200 yards away from the Community Centre where there is significant parking available and it is within easy walking distance. I would therefore suggest that all four Polling Districts SNNV2, SNNV3, SNNV4 and SNNV5 all vote at Wootton Community Centre. There is a new development off the western end of Berry Lane. (I'm afraid I can't remember the name of the road!). Berry Lane is in SNNV2, but the development off it will fall into SNNV5. It should be in SNNV2 as it is part of the Berry Lane community and has no connection with SNNV5. The boundaries of these two Polling Districts need to be amended to allow for this. I also wonder why there is the need for so many Polling Districts covering Wootton Fields and would suggest that SNNV3 and SNNV4 could easily be merged.</p>	Yes
Stephen Tomlinson	Chairman Parish Council	West Hunsbury	Parsons Meade and Ladybridge Park	<p>Our Clerk has asked councillors to feedback to you their views on this review – these are my personal thoughts – if nothing else may stimulate some discussion Elections are I guess costly events and we should bear this in mind with any suggestions. West Hunsbury is a fairly compact area and routinely has 2 polling stations - One at Parsons Meade Centre which is a building - One in Ladybridge park which needs temporary buildings and toilet facilities The area has a very high [proportion of postal voters It may be worth looking at the possibility of consolidating the 2 stations into one to minimise costs - Possibly the Parsons Meade centre but perhaps slightly more accessible would be the Community Centre behind the Hill Shop or possibly even use the Ironstone Railway facilities.</p>	No

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Name	Position	Ward/Constituency	Polling Station	Comments	Issues?
*redacted	Northampton Resident	Billing	The Institute	<p data-bbox="1478 212 2644 275">Thank you for your letter of 9th October referring to the above subject to which I have a short point to make in response.</p> <p data-bbox="1478 323 2644 583">At the last election I thought the Station in Great Billing, the Church Hall had deteriorated somewhat and was, in my opinion not entirely fit for purpose. Basically the rooms have seen better days, in need of refurbishment perhaps, and on the latest occasion to be used as a polling station, the main door remained locked closed with voters expected to enter and leave through the back door, through the kitchen area. For those from the further reaches of the ward or visiting whilst "in transit", parking could also be better, there is no designated parking associated with this building, only (narrow) on street parking.</p> <p data-bbox="1478 632 2644 737">As a suggestion, perhaps Billing Parish Council could be approached for use of the Bernard Weston Pavilion for future elections. There is plenty of parking, plenty of space in the well kept building, with adequate facilities and connected by safe walkways to the area.</p> <p data-bbox="1478 785 2644 848">I hope this helps but should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get back to me.</p>	Yes

8/14

Summary of responses received to consultation (7th October 2015 to 3rd November 2015)

Please tell us the name of your ward and proposed polling station (if known) or enter your postcode below:	Will the proposal change the location where you would go to vote in-person on polling day?	Is the proposed polling place for your area suitable for you to go to vote in-person on polling day?	Please explain...	If your proposed polling station is not suitable, please suggest alternate location(s) :	Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the proposals?	Are you responding as an individual, or on behalf of a group or organisation?	Please tell us the name of the group / organisation.
Nene Valley - Collingtree Village Hall	No	Very suitable				Organisation	Collingtree Parish Council
NN4 9UR	Don't know	Don't know	I duno wer it iz	Me house	I duno	Individual	
					Suggest its not split into e.g. Cherwell DC. Have worked on many elections & this year the admin was a jumble ! NBC do it well, better to keep it with the people who can manage it well.	Individual	
NN4 6BE	Don't know	Don't know	Couldn't see Wootton on the list so presume it is not changing? The information is not clear at all		Would be nice to know if only those with proposed changes are listed - a statement saying if ward not listed then will be remaining the same would have made thing much clearer	Individual	
SNNV6	No	Very suitable	Has always been used as the polling station and is fine			Individual	
kingsthorpe nn2	No	Suitable	Although would be nice to be able to go to the pastures community centre where there is adequate parking and its just up the road. The kingsthorpe community centre has really inadequate parking and difficult to cut accross traffic.			Individual	
	No	Very suitable				Individual	
NN1 5HP	No	Very suitable	Very close to home address, plenty of space to queue, plenty of space to place vote, friendly & helpful local volunteers.	n/a		Individual	
Phippsville	No	Very suitable			My comment is not in relation to my polling station, which is fine (St Matthew's Parish Church). I wish to request that the other polling station in the division Cedar Road Primary School is not used as a polling station as it necessitates the closing of the school for the day. As a working parent, this is a considerable inconvenience. There are many other buildings in the immediate area that would be equally suitable.	Individual	
NN3 9TL	yes	Suitable	I suggest using the Bernard Weston Pavilion in Great Billing in place of the catholic church rooms. This has easy access and car parking spaces. The building has good heating, toilet and kitchen facilities.			Individual	
Old Duston Lyncrest School I am a Ward Councillor, Tim Hadland	Don't know	Very unsuitable	If the access is retained as previously, it is steep and unlit, and entirely unsuitable for the elderly or diabled who wish to vote in person	Provide an alternative access to the same Polling Station		Individual	






NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

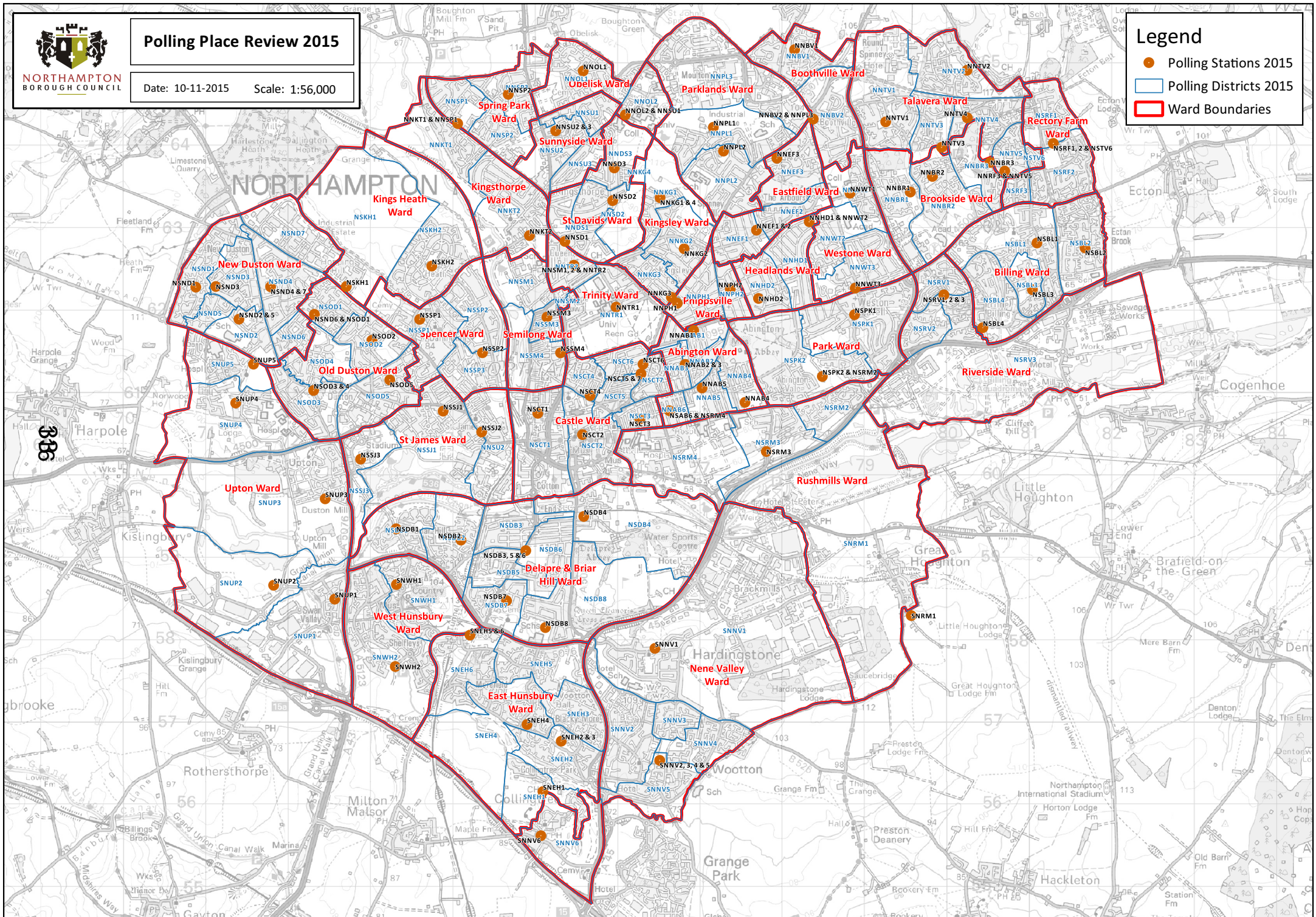
Polling Place Review 2015

Date: 10-11-2015

Scale: 1:56,000

Legend

-  Polling Stations 2015
-  Polling Districts 2015
-  Ward Boundaries



Appendices: 2



NORTHAMPTON
B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

COUNCIL
14th December 2015

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive

Report Title	PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL
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1. Purpose

1.1 To request the Council to call new elections for the Parishes of Duston and Upton due to administrative errors in the elections held on 7th May 2015

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council direct the holding of new elections for the Parishes of Duston and Upton for all wards in each parish and fixes the date of such elections as 11th February 2016.

2.2 That the Returning Officer be requested to make arrangements for these elections to be called and carried out in accordance with relevant statute and regulations.

2.3 That the Chief Executive be authorised to complete and seal the formal Orders directing the elections in Duston and Upton parishes.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 In 2012/13 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England undertook a review of the Electoral Arrangements for Northamptonshire County Council.

3.1.2 Contemporaneously the Borough Council carried out a Community Governance Review (CGR) looking at the arrangements for Parish Councils in Northampton.

- 3.1.3 The Borough Council CGR concluded that there should be no changes to the electoral arrangements for Duston Parish Council, nor for Upton Parish Council. A small addition was made to the geographic area that is covered by Upton Parish to include the area known as Upton Grange within the Parish. These decisions were encompassed in the Northampton Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order 2013 made on the 13th February 2013.
- 3.1.4 The Boundary Commission review determined the number and then boundaries of County Council Divisions in Northamptonshire and within that, Northampton. This included the creation of a Division of Duston West and St. Crispins which includes parts of both Upton Parish and Duston Parish.
- 3.1.5 As part of their review the Commission had due regard to statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The Schedule provides that if a Parish is to be divided between different Divisions or Wards it must also be divided into Parish Wards, so that each Parish Ward lies wholly within a single Division or Ward.
- 3.1.6 As a consequence the Northamptonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2013, made on the 16th January 2013, contains provision that :
- The existing wards of the parish of Duston are abolished
 - The parish of Duston is divided into three wards, named respectively:
 - New Duston East, with two councillors
 - New Duston West, with four councillors
 - Old Duston, with six councillors
 - The parish of Upton is divided into two wards named respectively:
 - Upton North, with eight councillors
 - Upton South, with three councillors
- 3.1.7 The attached map (Appendix 1) shows the various boundaries involved. The amendments to the County Council Divisions were properly implemented by the Borough Council and applied in the 2013 County Council elections. However the changes to Parish Council arrangements contained in the Northamptonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2013 were not implemented.
- 3.1.8 The matter is being investigated and can only be explained as an oversight. It would appear that, with the CGR having included no changes to electoral arrangements in Duston and Upton, it was not realised that changes had in fact taken place through the Boundary Commission Review.
- 3.1.9 The Parish Council elections held on the 7th May 2015 were therefore held under pre-existing electoral arrangements. In Duston the elections were on the basis of the two previously existing Parish Wards. In Upton the elections were

for the whole Parish area (including the Upton Grange area added to the Parish in consequence of the CGR) and not warded.

3.1.10 The Borough Council has consulted with the Electoral Commission who have advised as follows:

It is the Commission's opinion that lawful parish council elections were not held in either the Duston or Upton parishes in May 2015 as legislation requires there to be a separate election for each ward (section 16(5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

We have reached this decision because the elections to both parishes in May 2015 should have been held using the new electoral arrangements as set out in the Northamptonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2013). Therefore, for the purposes of the elections in May 2015, Duston Parish Council was divided into three new wards. A lawful election was not held for any of these three wards. Upton Parish Council was divided into two wards. A lawful election was not held for either ward.

Under section 39(4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 where an election was either not held or where it was defective (and therefore the parish council is not properly constituted) the High Court or the district council is able to order a new election and fix the date for it. In addition, sections 39(4), (5) and (6) contain further provisions about how the subsequent election should be run. For example, the district council may by order make any appointment or do anything which appears to them necessary or expedient for the proper holding of such an election and properly constituting the parish council. It also confirms that the parish election rules will apply to the new election. Our view is that the District Council should now make an order for the elections in these two parishes to be re-run so that the correct warding arrangements can be given effect.

3.1.11 In light of this advice, which was received on the 25th November 2015, it is recommended that the Borough Council should call new elections under the correct electoral arrangements for the Parishes of Upton and Duston in all wards within the Parishes. (Draft Orders directing these elections be held are at Appendix 2).

3.1.12 It is further recommended that the date on which these elections are held is 11th February 2016.

3.1.13 The additional area of Upton Grange, which was unparished prior to the Borough Council's CGR, is not designated to either Upton North or Upton South by the Northamptonshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2013 due to the timing of the conclusion of the CGR process in relation to the timing of the conclusion of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England review. It is proposed that electors in Upton Grange would be included within the Upton South Ward. Advice of the Electoral Commission has been taken on this point.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The report has no new policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 At the May 2015 elections the two wards in Duston Parish were uncontested. Upton Parish was contested.

4.2.2 Any uncontested election has minimal costs which will be absorbed in normal budgets.

4.2.3 It is estimated that if elections are held in each ward of Duston Parish, the costs will be approximately £32,000. It is estimated that if elections are held in each ward of Upton Parish the costs will be approximately £10,000.

4.2.4 The costs will therefore vary according to the number of contested wards.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Section 16(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 states –

“Where a parish is divided into parish wards there shall be a separate election of parish councillors for each ward”.

Therefore, a separate election of parish councillors must be held for each ward in Upton parish and each ward in Duston parish in accordance with the current parish ward boundaries.

4.3.2 The Borough Council has a power under section 39(4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (the ‘RPA 1983’) to direct the holding of an election and fix the date for that election, in the following circumstances:

“(a) if any difficulty arises with respect of an election of parish ... councillors, or an individual parish ... councillor, or to the first meeting of a parish ... council after an ordinary election of parish ... councillors, or

(b) if a parish ... council is not properly constituted because an election is not held or is defective or for any other reason”

4.3.3 It is considered that the Parish Councils of Duston and Upton are not properly constituted because the election to each body in the circumstances was defective, (as separate elections were not held in May 2015 for each of the current parish wards in Duston and Upton parishes). Therefore, the Borough

Council can exercise its power under section 39 of the RPA 1983 to direct that new elections be held in each of the Parish wards.

- 4.3.4 This is a highly complex area of law and specialist advice has been sought. Although section 39(4) of the RPA 1983 does not specify how soon the new elections should take place, the elections should take place as soon as practicable to ensure that the position is regularised without undue delay, as this is in the public interest. It is advisable for the elections to take place within 35 days of the date of the Orders made by the Council directing that the elections be held. Therefore it is recommended that the Orders be made shortly after this Full Council meeting and the elections be held on 11th February 2016.
- 4.3.5 It is a general principle of the law that administrative acts are taken as valid unless and until they are set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction. Further the Local Government Act 1972 provides that acts and proceedings of a local authority shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any defect in the election or qualifications of any member thereof. It can be asserted that these principles apply to the decisions taken by the Parish Councils of Upton and Duston since the May 2015 elections.

4.4 Equality




There are no new equality issues as a result of this report

5. Background Papers

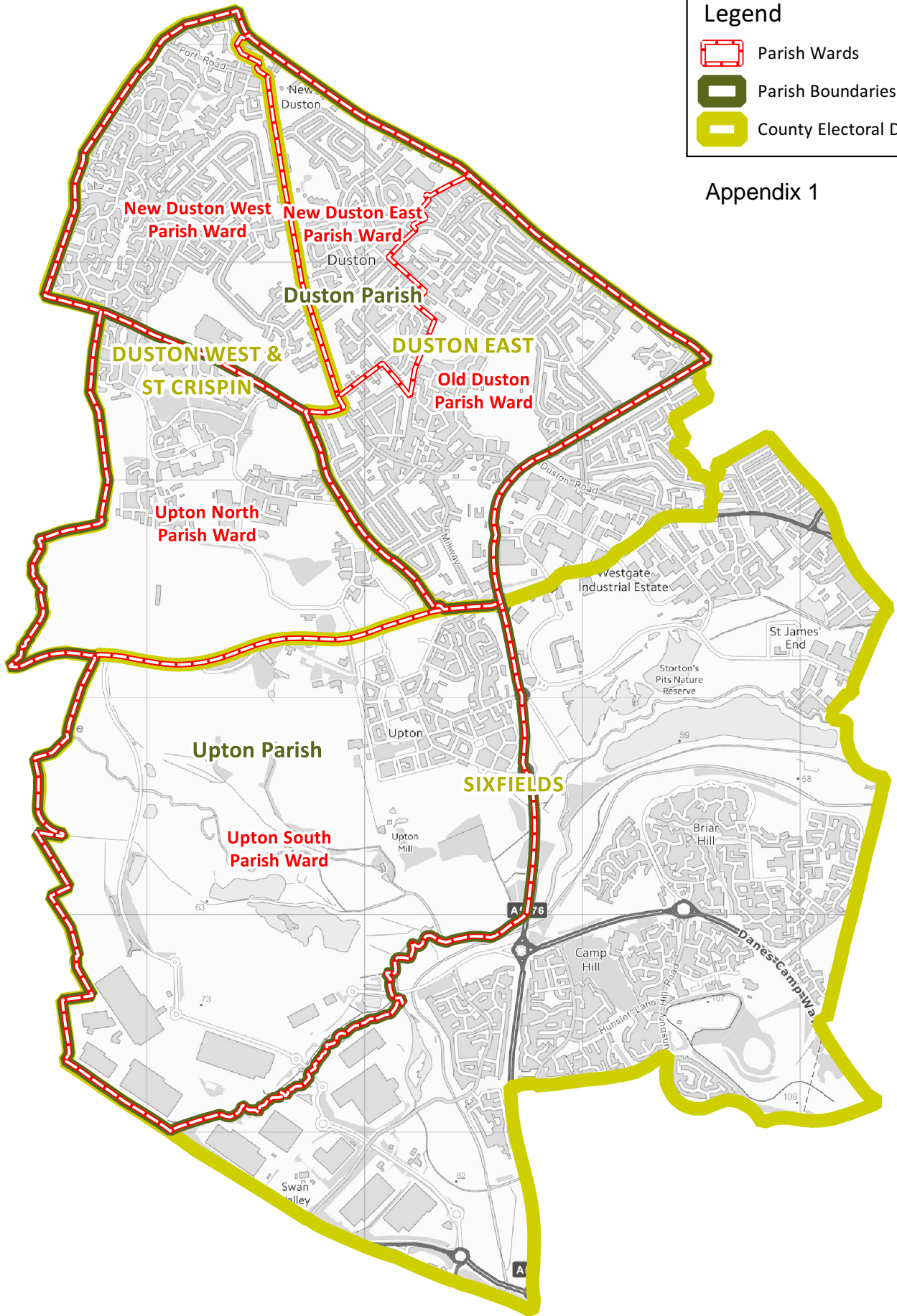
- 5.1 Background File held by Chief Executive

David Kennedy, Chief Executive, 01604 837726 (or extension 7726)

Legend

-  Parish Wards
-  Parish Boundaries
-  County Electoral Divisions

Appendix 1



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title: Western Northampton

Date: 02-12-2015

Scale: 1:25,000

Drawn by: -----

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**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983 (“The 1983 Act”)
DUSTON PARISH COUNCIL ORDER 2015**

WHEREAS

- A. By Section 39(4) of the 1983 Act if a parish council is not properly constituted because an election is not held or is defective or for any other reason the district council,
 - (i) may by order make any appointment or do anything which appears to them necessary or expedient for the proper holding of such an election and properly constituting the council, and
 - (ii) may, if it appears to them necessary, direct the holding of an election and fix the date for it.
- B. By article 5 of the Northampton (Electoral Changes) Order 2013 (“the Electoral Changes Order”) the existing wards of the parish of Duston were abolished and the parish was divided into three wards named, respectively, New Duston East, New Duston West and Old Duston. It provides that 2 councillors are to be elected to the New Duston East ward, 4 councillors are to be elected to the New Duston West and 6 councillors are to be elected to Old Duston ward.
- C. These electoral changes were in force when the elections for Duston Parish Council took place on 7 May 2015 (“the election”).
- D. Those elections were conducted under the arrangements which existed before the Electoral Changes Order came into force.
- E. Owing to this, Duston Parish Council is not properly constituted because the election was defective.

THEREFORE

- 1. In pursuance of the power conferred on them by Section 39(4) of the 1983 Act, Northampton Borough Council hereby direct that an election will be held for the New Duston East, New Duston West and Old Duston wards of Duston Parish Council on _
2016.
- 2. This order may be cited as the Duston Parish Council Order 2015 and shall come into force on the date of this Order.

Dated this the December 2015

**THE COMMON SEAL OF
NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Was hereunto affixed in the
Presence of:-

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

