

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 18 April 2016

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 18 APRIL 2016 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 Meeting of the Council held on the 29th February 2016 and the Council Meeting held on the 7th March 2016.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Davenport to make a statement on "The Environment".

9. SPRING BOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

(Copy herewith)

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Beardsworth to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:
“NCC debated a motion calling for an independent study on the benefits of unitary council models in Northamptonshire. This Council notes the lengths to which the Conservative group went to ensure that motion did not include a requirement to bring on district and borough councils as joint commissioners, only as consultees.

Council notes that different unitary models could look more or less favourable depending on the scope and type of question asked, and that the best interest of the County as a whole is not necessarily the best interest in Northampton.

Council notes that its role is to bring about what is best for this town, not to prop up a failing County Council.

Council therefore resolves to commission its own independent report into the benefits of unitary models to the town of Northampton”.

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

“Many of our council tenants take pride in their environment and wish to personalise their communal areas. This council resolves to work with NPH on strategies that allow for this personalisation in such a way that doesn't contravene Health and Safety regulations”

iii) Councillor Davenport to propose and Councillor Ashraf to second:

This Council notes that the Discretionary Housing Payment is an important source of help for those struggling to make ends meet.

This Council believes not enough people are aware of DHP in Northampton.
This Council resolves to :-

- a) Work with and encourage NPH officers so they promote DHP. DHP should be promoted before someone faces eviction.
- b) To do much more to advertise DHP through housing letters, leaflets and so on.
- c) Make access to DHP as easy as possible.

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

“This Council notes that it is now Government policy to make every school an Academy school. We also note that in addition to the two new secondary schools in development in the town that there will be a requirement for a further 3 secondary schools and a number of new Primary schools by 2020. We therefore

resolve to work with partners to create a Northampton Town Academy Trust which will bid to become the provider of the next generation of new schools needed in the Borough”.

11. 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 MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 29 February 2016 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, Caswell, Choudary, Chunga, Eales, Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Hill, Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Markham, Marriott, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith, Stone and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Oldham declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest as a Council tenant.

Councillors Kilbride, Bottwood and Caswell declared personal non-pecuniary interests as board members of Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH)

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January 2016 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors King, Hadland, Culbard, Cali, Duffy, Davenport and McCutcheon.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that on the 6th March 2016 she would be attending the Clean for the Queen Spring Clean in Lings and Lumbertubs. The Mayor commented that this was part of a campaign to clear up Britain in time for the Queens 90th Birthday, to be officially celebrated in June and urged Members to get involved in making Britain tidier.

The Mayor proposed a suspension of standing orders under Rule 25 to enable the mover and seconders the opportunity to speak for a maximum of 10 minutes and that no other speech exceeds 5 minutes in relation budget reports, was agreed.

It was also noted that in accordance with the principles of the 2014 regulations, recorded votes would be held on all matters relating to the budget items 6,7,8,9, and 10 of the agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

6. CORPORATE PLAN

Councillor Markham submitted a report that sought approval for the Council's Corporate Plan for 2016 to 2020 and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council the authority to finalise the Corporate Plan and associated action plan in line with budget decisions, service plans and any other consequent changes.

Councillor Hallam seconded the report.

Councillor Stone proposed and Councillor Birch seconded an amendment to the Corporate Plan, on the attached supplementary document to the minutes.

There voted for the amendment; Councillors Ashraf, Birch, Choudary, Chunga, G Eales, T Eales, Gowen, Haque, Marriott, Russell, Smith and Stone.

There voted against the amendments: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Bottwood, Caswell, Eldred, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

There abstained the Mayor and Councillor Beardsworth.

The amendment was lost.

Council debated the recommendations within the report.

There voted for the recommendations: Councillors Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Birch, Bottwood, Caswell, Choudary, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Marriott, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith, Stone and Walker.

There voted against the recommendations Councillor Meredith.

There abstained the Mayor and Councillor Beardsworth.

The recommendations in the report were agreed:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Corporate Plan (2016 to 2020) attached to the report be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to finalise the Corporate Plan and associated action plan in line with the budget decisions, service plans and any other consequent changes.

7. ROBUSTNESS OF ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES REPORT.

Councillor Hallam submitted a report that advised Council of the robustness of the estimates in the budget and adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

Councillor Patel seconded the recommendations.

There voted for the recommendations: Councillors Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Birch, Bottwood, Caswell, Choudary, Chunga, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Marriott, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Shaw, Smith, Stone and Walker.

There abstained the Mayor and Councillors Beardsworth and Meredith.

RESOLVED:

That careful consideration be given to the content of the report with regards to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account prior to recommending the approval of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2016/21, the Revenue Budget for 2016/16, Capital Programme 2016/21 and Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17.

8. GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2016/17

Councillor Hallam submitted a report which reported the outcome report the outcome of the consultation process on the 2016/17 General Fund budget and the final formula grant settlement for 2016/17 and to agree the Cabinet's recommendations for the General Fund revenue and capital budgets, the level of Council Tax increase for 2016/17 and indicative levels for 2017/18 to 2020/21. It also sought approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Strategy attached to the report.

Councillor Markham seconded the report.

Councillor Gowen proposed and Councillor Stone seconded amendments, on the attached supplementary document to the minutes.

There voted for the amendments Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Choudary, Chunga, G Eales, T Eales, Gowen, Haque, Marriott, Meredith, Russell, Smith and Stone.

There voted against the amendments: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Bottwood, Caswell, Eldred, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

There abstained the Mayor.

The amendment was lost.

Councillor Beardsworth proposed and Councillor Meredith seconded amendments on

the attached supplementary documents to the minutes.

There voted for the amendments: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Choudary, Chunga, G Eales, T Eales, Gowen, Haque, Marriott, Meredith, Russell, Smith and Stone.

There voted against the motion: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Bottwood, Caswell, Eldred, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

There abstained the Mayor

The amendment was lost.

Council debated the recommendations contained within the report.

There voted for the recommendations: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Bottwood, Caswell, Eldred, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

There voted against the recommendations: Councillors Ashraf, Birch, Choudary, Chunga, G Eales, T Eales, Gowen, Haque, Marriott, Russell, Smith and Stone.

There abstained the Mayor and Councillors Beardsworth and Meredith.

The recommendations in the report were agreed:

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees be considered and welcomed (detailed at Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of attached Cabinet report).
- 2.2 That the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2016/17 of £29.6m (excluding parishes) be approved (detailed in Appendices 4, 5 and 6 of attached Cabinet report).
- 2.3 That Council does not increase the Council Tax for its own purposes, i.e. excluding County, Police and Parish Precepts, for 2016/17.
- 2.4 That Council approved the General Fund Capital Programme and proposed financing for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 7 of attached Cabinet report.
- 2.5 That Council confirmed the aim of maintaining a minimum level of General Fund reserves of £5.3m for 2016/17, having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment.
- 2.6 That authority be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director

and Cabinet Member to:

- Transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
 - Update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators Report and Treasury Strategy Report to Council, for any budget changes that impact on these.
- 2.7 That the draft Fees and Charges set out in Appendix 10 of the attached Cabinet report be approved, including immediate implementation where appropriate.
- 2.8 That Council approved the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016-17 at Appendix 11 of the attached Cabinet report: incorporating:
- (i) The Capital Financing and Borrowing Strategy for 2016-17 including:
 - The Council's policy on the making of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt, as required by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.
 - The Affordable Borrowing Limit for 2016-17 as required by the Local Government Act 2003.
 - (ii) The Investment Strategy for 2016-17 as required by the CLG revised Guidance on Local Government Investments issued in 2010.
- 2.9 That authority be delegated to the Council's Chief Finance Officer, in liaison with the Cabinet member for Finance, to make any temporary changes needed to the Council's borrowing and investment strategy to enable the authority to meet its obligations.
- 2.10 That Council approved the Capital Strategy for 2016 to 2021 as attached as Appendix 12 of the attached Cabinet report.
- 2.11 That Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive, Directors and Chief Finance Officer to implement all budget options and restructures.

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT- RENT SETTING, REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2016/17

Councillor Hallam submitted a report that sought the approval of the HRA 2016/17 budget and the HRA forecasts for 2017/18 to 2020/21, rent increases, service charges and other charges for 2016/17, including the Total Fee proposed for Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) to deliver the services in scope for 2016/17.

Councillor Hibbert seconded the report.

There voted for the recommendations: Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Bottwood, Eldred, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

There voted against the recommendations: Councillors Ashraf, Birch, Choudary, Chunga, G Eales, T Eales, Gowen, Haque, Marriott, Russell, Smith and Stone.

There abstained the Mayor.

The recommendations in the report were agreed:

RESOLVED:

2.1 That Council approved:

- a) An average rent decrease of -1% per dwelling, in line with the Government's national rent policy and proposed legislation, to take effect from 4th April 2016.
- b) The HRA budget for 2016/17 of £53.7m expenditure including options detailed in Appendix 1.
- c) The HRA capital programme for 2016/17, including future year commitments, and proposed financing as set out in Appendix 3.
- d) The proposed service charges listed in Appendix 4.
- e) That Cabinet be authorised, once the capital programme has been set, to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes during 2016/17, subject to the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council.
- f) The Total Fees proposed for NPH to deliver the services in scope for 2016/17 detailed in Appendix 5.

2.2 That the Council acknowledged the issues and risks detailed in the Chief Finance Officer's report on the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.

2.4 That the Council be recommended to confirm the reserves strategy of protecting balances wherever possible to allow the option of supporting future years' budgets, aiming for a minimum level of unallocated Housing Revenue Account balances of at least £5m for 2016/17 having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment and remaining at this level over the medium term.

2.5 That Council delegated authority to the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to implement any retained HRA budget options and restructures.

2.6 That authority be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Director and Cabinet Member to:

- transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves should that become necessary during the financial year.
- transfer monies to /from HRA working balances between the Council and NPH for cash flow purposes should that become necessary during the

- financial year.
- update the budget tables and appendices, prior to Council should any further changes be necessary.
- update prudential indicators in both the Prudential Indicators report and Treasury Strategy report, for Council for any budget changes that impact on these.

10. COUNCIL TAX 2016-17

Councillor Hallam submitted a report that set out the final precept determinations from the major precepting authorities (Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner), parish councils, and the budget setting decision of the Council.

Councillor Markham seconded adoption of the report.

There voted for the recommendations: Councillors Ansell, Bottwood, Caswell, Eldred, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Lynch, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

There voted against the recommendations: Councillors Ashraf, Birch, Choudary, Chunga, G Eales, T Eales, Gowen, Haque, Marriott, Russell, Smith and Stone.

There abstained the Mayor.

The recommendations in the report were agreed:

RESOLVED:

Council Tax Resolution 2016/17

Northampton Borough Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council” in this resolution) calculated the following amounts for the year 2016/2017 in accordance with various regulations and RESOLVES for the financial year 2016/2017 to:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Note that on 25/01/2016 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2016/17: | | |
| | a) | for the whole council area as: | 64,358 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended) |
| | b) | for the parish precept area as: | 20,745 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a parish precept relates as in the attached appendix C. |
| 2 | Set the Council Tax Requirement for its own purposes for 2016/17 (including parish precepts) at £14,425,380. | | |

		£	
a)	Net Expenditure on Council Services including formula grant	13,380,659	
b)	Parish Council Precepts	1,044,721	
c)	Total Council Tax Requirement	14,425,380	
3	Set the following amounts in accordance with sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:		
a)	Relevant Gross Expenditure	124,767,705	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils
b)	Relevant Gross Income	(110,342,325)	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
c)	Council Tax Requirement	14,425,380	The Council Tax Requirement being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
d)	Basic Council Tax including Parish Precepts	224.14	being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).
e)	Total of Special Items	1,839,541	This represents the total of Parish precepts and other special items in accordance with s34(1) of the Act (as shown at 2 above).
f)	Basic Amount of Council Tax for dwellings in parts of the area to which no special items relate	195.56	Item (e) - (g) divided by tax base (resolution 2(a)) in accordance with s34(2) of the Act.

4 Note that the County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table at Schedule C.

5 Note that the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Act hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables at appendix 2 as the amounts of Council Tax for 2016/17 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

6 Note that the Council's basic amount of council tax for 2016/17 (for the Borough's own purposes and excluding special expenses) is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Schedules

Schedule A					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Council Tax Base	Special Expenses	Special Expenses Charge	Basic Amount of Council Tax excluding Special Expenses	Basic Amount of Council Tax including Special Expenses
		£	£	£	£
Area:					
Billing	2,627	170,373	64.86	195.56	260.42
Collingtree	514	18,140	35.29	195.56	230.85
Duston	5,448	459,535	84.35	195.56	279.91
Great Houghton	288	20,770	72.24	195.56	267.80
Hardingstone	782	41,401	52.92	195.56	248.48
Upton	2,617	32,400	12.38	195.56	207.94
Wootton	2,927	169,592	57.93	195.56	253.49
East Hunsbury	3,412	197,342	57.84	195.56	253.40
Hunsbury Meadows	505	14,695	29.08	195.56	224.64
West Hunsbury	1,625	7,255	4.47	195.56	200.03
Unparished Area	43,613	708,039	16.23	195.56	211.79
	64,358	1,839,541			

Schedule B	Basic Amount of Council Tax for each Council Tax band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Valuation Bands	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

Area:									
Billing	173.61	202.55	231.48	260.42	318.29	376.16	434.03	520.84	
Collingtree	153.90	179.55	205.20	230.85	282.15	333.45	384.75	461.70	
Duston	186.61	217.71	248.81	279.91	342.11	404.31	466.52	559.82	
Great Houghton	178.53	208.29	238.04	267.80	327.31	386.82	446.33	535.60	
Hardingstone	165.65	193.26	220.87	248.48	303.70	358.92	414.13	496.96	
Upton	138.63	161.73	184.84	207.94	254.15	300.36	346.57	415.88	
Wootton	168.99	197.16	225.32	253.49	309.82	366.15	422.48	506.98	
East Hunsbury	168.93	197.09	225.24	253.40	309.71	366.02	422.33	506.80	
Hunsbury Meadows	149.76	174.72	199.68	224.64	274.56	324.48	374.40	449.28	
West Hunsbury	133.35	155.58	177.80	200.03	244.48	288.93	333.38	400.06	
Unparished Area	141.19	164.73	188.26	211.79	258.85	305.92	352.98	423.58	

Schedule C Major Precepting Authorities Council Tax for each Council Tax band								
Valuation Bands	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northamptonshire County Council	740.83	864.31	987.78	1,111.25	1,358.19	1,605.14	1,852.08	2,222.50
Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner	136.64	159.41	182.19	204.96	250.51	296.05	341.60	409.92

Schedule D Aggregate Council Tax for each Council Tax band								
Valuation Bands	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Area:								
Billing	1,051.08	1,226.27	1,401.45	1,576.63	1,926.99	2,277.35	2,627.71	3,153.26
Collingtree	1,031.37	1,203.27	1,375.17	1,547.06	1,890.85	2,234.64	2,578.43	3,094.12
Duston	1,064.08	1,241.43	1,418.78	1,596.12	1,950.81	2,305.50	2,660.20	3,192.24
Great Houghton	1,056.00	1,232.01	1,408.01	1,584.01	1,936.01	2,288.01	2,640.01	3,168.02
Hardingstone	1,043.12	1,216.98	1,390.84	1,564.69	1,912.40	2,260.11	2,607.81	3,129.38
Upton	1,016.10	1,185.45	1,354.81	1,524.15	1,862.85	2,201.55	2,540.25	3,048.30
Wootton	1,046.46	1,220.88	1,395.29	1,569.70	1,918.52	2,267.34	2,616.16	3,139.40
East Hunsbury	1,046.40	1,220.81	1,395.21	1,569.61	1,918.41	2,267.21	2,616.01	3,139.22
Hunsbury Meadows	1,027.23	1,198.44	1,369.65	1,540.85	1,883.26	2,225.67	2,568.08	3,081.70
West Hunsbury	1,010.82	1,179.30	1,347.77	1,516.24	1,853.18	2,190.12	2,527.06	3,032.48
Unparished Area	1,018.66	1,188.45	1,358.23	1,528.00	1,867.55	2,207.11	2,546.66	3,056.00

**Parish & Town Council
Precepts**

	2015/16			2016/17			Council Tax Increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Billing	2,507	144,632	57.70	2,627	147,164	56.02	-2.9%
Collingtree	507	12,140	23.95	514	18,140	35.29	47.4%
Duston	5,358	415,035	77.46	5,448	443,101	81.34	5.0%
Great Houghton	284	20,770	73.03	288	20,770	72.24	-1.1%
Hardingstone	761	23,401	30.74	782	41,401	52.92	72.1%
Upton	2,181	27,000	12.38	2,617	32,400	12.38	0.0%
Wootton & East Hunsbury	6,258	327,100	52.27	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wootton	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,927	169,150	57.78	n/a
East Hunsbury	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,412	157,900	46.28	n/a
Hunsbury Meadows	489	14,220	29.07	505	14,695	29.08	0.0%
West Hunsbury	1,602	37,500	23.41	1,625	0	0.00	100.0%

Parish & Town Council Precepts including Special Expenses

	Precepts Band D (£)	Special Expenses Band D (£)	Total (£)
Billing	56.02	8.84	64.86
Collingtree	35.29	0.00	35.29
Duston	81.34	3.01	84.35
Great Houghton	72.24	0.00	72.24
Hardingstone	52.92	0.00	52.92
Upton	12.38	0.00	12.38
Wootton	57.78	0.15	57.93
East Hunsbury	46.28	11.56	57.84
Hunsbury Meadows	29.08	0.00	29.08
West Hunsbury	0.00	4.47	4.47
Unparished	0.00	16.23	16.23

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

There were none.

12. LABOUR ALTERNATIVE CORPORATE PLAN AND BUDGET BY LABOUR & LIB DEMS

The meeting concluded at 8.41pm

Labour Group – Amendments to the Corporate Plan

Report Background

3.1.2

Add *Protecting the well-being of our citizens*

Priority: Northampton Alive

Insert at point 12 - *“To explore all other options if development hasn’t happened by 31st December 2016.”*

Now reads, - *“Work towards completing the redevelopment of the St. Edmund’s site. To explore all other options if development hasn’t happened by 31st December 2016.”*

Insert at point 13 – *“In the long-term seek to incorporate all neighbouring SUEs on the edge of Northampton within the Borough boundary.”*

Now reads, - *“Planning policies to include infrastructure first and to oppose inappropriate development on the edge of the borough. “In the long-term seek to incorporate all neighbouring SUEs on the edge of Northampton within the Borough boundary.”*

Priority: Safer Communities

Insert as new point at the bottom – *“We recognise that the present level of violent crime is unacceptable and we will strive to reduce it with our partners”.*

Priority: Housing for Everyone

Insert at point 5- *“Explore the possibility of varying HMO thresholds for different communities. This would take into account differing housing density levels”.*

Now reads – *“Protect residents against in appropriate Houses of Multiple Occupancy and bring all planning applications to Committee. Explore the possibility of varying HMO thresholds for different communities. This would take into account differing housing density levels”.*

Insert at point 7- *“The Social Lettings Agency will be operational by December 2016.”*

Now reads - *“Create a Social Lettings Agency working with private landlords. The Social Lettings Agency will be operational by December 2016.”*

General Fund Budget Summary 2016 - 2021

Key

Lab Alternative Budget Proposal



Description	Appendix	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
		£	£	£	£	£
Service Base Budget		28,208,491	28,895,011	29,598,504	30,507,129	31,089,471
<i>Medium Term Planning Options</i>						
Savings and Efficiencies	2					
- Borough Secretary		(121,239)	(121,239)	(121,798)	(122,363)	(122,935)
- Customers and Communities		(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)
- Regeneration Enterprise and Planning		(185,783)	(186,193)	(186,605)	(187,022)	(187,443)
- Housing and Well Being		(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
Total Savings		(767,022)	(767,432)	(768,403)	(769,385)	(770,378)
Growth	3					
- Borough Secretary		130,000	130,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
- Customers and Communities		479,187	473,239	313,301	257,374	251,458
- Housing		35,781	36,139	36,500	36,865	37,234
Total Growth		644,968	639,378	439,801	384,239	378,692
Total MTP Options		(122,054)	(128,054)	(328,602)	(385,146)	(391,686)
Gross Revenue Budget		28,086,437	28,766,957	29,269,902	30,121,983	30,697,785
Corporate Budgets						
Debt Financing - Current		1,825,693	1,986,693	2,024,693	2,160,693	2,160,693
Recharges from General Fund to HRA		(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)
Parish Grants		(20,611)	(20,611)	(20,611)	(20,611)	(20,611)
Parish Precepts		1,044,721	1,044,721	1,044,721	1,044,721	1,044,721
Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Reserves		2,806,056	2,535,759	2,938,963	3,116,098	3,144,216
Total Corporate Budgets		2,710,952	2,601,655	3,042,859	3,355,994	3,384,112
Net Budget		30,797,389	31,368,612	32,312,761	33,477,977	34,081,897
Funding						
Revenue Support Grant		(3,256,382)	(1,792,976)	(886,014)	0	0
Transition Grant		(23,746)	(23,672)	0	0	0
Business Rates Retention Scheme		(7,452,252)	(7,595,224)	(7,803,698)	(8,034,281)	(8,050,071)
New Homes Bonus		(4,910,199)	(4,112,679)	(3,292,591)	(2,870,990)	(2,448,891)
Total Government Funding		(15,642,579)	(13,524,551)	(11,982,303)	(10,905,271)	(10,498,962)
Council Tax						
Band D Council Tax		207.91	207.91	207.91	207.91	207.91
Tax Base		64,358	65,002	65,652	66,308	66,971
NBC Council Tax		(13,380,659)	(13,514,466)	(13,649,611)	(13,786,107)	(13,923,968)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme frozen at 21%		125,749	125,749	125,749	125,749	125,749
Increase Council Tax every year by £5		(321,790)	(650,015)	(984,773)	(1,326,161)	(1,674,278)
Parish-related Council Tax		(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)
Total Council Tax		(14,621,421)	(15,083,453)	(15,553,356)	(16,031,240)	(16,517,218)
Surplus on Collection Fund		(533,389)	0	0	0	0
Total Funding		(30,797,389)	(28,608,004)	(27,535,659)	(26,936,510)	(27,016,180)
Savings to be identified		(0)	2,760,608	4,777,103	6,541,467	7,065,717



General Fund MTP Savings Options

MTP Reference	MTP Option Description	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Borough Secretary						
	Borough Secretary Review	(53,739)	(53,739)	(54,298)	(54,863)	(55,435)
Lab Alternative	Community Fund reduced from £3,000 to £1,500 per Councillor	(67,500)	(67,500)	(67,500)	(67,500)	(67,500)
	TOTAL Borough Secretary	(121,239)	(121,239)	(121,798)	(122,363)	(122,935)
Customers & Communities						
	Events Restructure	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)
	Customers and Communities Directorate Review	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
	Review of lease/management agreement with Northampton Leisure Trust	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
	Increased marketing of the Guildhall to generate additional income	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
	Reduction in funding to the Royal and Derngate Theatre	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
Lab Alternative	Reversal of Fireworks Display	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)
	TOTAL Customers and Communities	(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)	(360,000)
Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning						
	Reduced Contribution to Joint Planning Unit	(28,000)	(28,000)	(28,000)	(28,000)	(28,000)
	Regeneration Enterprise and Planning Directorate Review	(157,783)	(158,193)	(158,605)	(159,022)	(159,443)
	TOTAL Regeneration Enterprise and Planning	(185,783)	(186,193)	(186,605)	(187,022)	(187,443)
Housing and Well Being						
	Increased Houses in Multiple Occupation fee income	(70,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)
	New funding arrangements for homelessness prevention	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)
	TOTAL Housing	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
	SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES TOTAL	(767,022)	(767,432)	(768,403)	(769,385)	(770,378)



General Fund MTP Growth Options

MTP Reference	MTP Option Description	2016/2017 £	2017/2018 £	2018/2019 £	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £
Borough Secretary						
	Individual Electoral Registration	80,000	80,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Annual Canvass	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
		130,000	130,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Customers & Communities						
46	Fireworks Display	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
	Christmas Market	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Cost of delivering Northampton in Bloom all year round	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Extend current opening hours of Abington Museum during the winter months	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Enhanced tree management programme	100,000	100,000	50,000	0	0
Lab Alternative	2xFTE Neighbourhood Co-Ordinator Posts	73,650	74,387	75,130	75,882	76,640
Lab Alternative	Dementia Friendly Town	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Lab Alternative	Comingled Collection - Pilot Park Ward	104,000	104,000			
Lab Alternative	Licencing Enforcement Officer	31,537	31,852	32,171	32,493	32,818
Lab Alternative	Pest Control	35,000	28,000	21,000	14,000	7,000
		479,187	473,239	313,301	257,374	251,458
Housing						
Lab Alternative	Private Sector Housing Officer Post	35,781	36,139	36,500	36,865	37,234
		35,781	36,139	36,500	36,865	37,234
Total Growth		644,968	639,378	439,801	384,239	378,692

Key

Lab Alternative Budget Proposal

Project Title	2016-17 £	2017-18 £	2018-19 £	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	Total £
Housing - General Fund						
Disabled Facilities Grant (updated profile)	1,875,000	1,475,000	1,475,000	1,475,000	1,475,000	7,775,000
Self-funded						
IT Infrastructure	215,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	815,000
New Scheme - Car Parking Enhancements - subject to business case	1,330,000					1,330,000
New Scheme - CCTV Technology Upgrade	200,000					200,000
Town Centre Improvements						
New Scheme - St Giles Street	2,200,000					2,200,000
Superfast Broadband	45,000	205,000	162,000			412,000
Heritage & Culture						
Vulcan Works	3,940,000	2,860,000				6,800,000
Delapre Abbey Restoration	595,031					595,031
Delapre Abbey Parklands Infrastructure	100,000					100,000
Central Museum Development	495,000	5,773,000	300,000			6,568,000
New Scheme - Abington Park Museum - Renewal of Displays	210,000					210,000
Block Programmes - specific schemes to be agreed						
Town Centre Realm improvements					370,000	370,000
Capital Improvements - Regeneration Areas	250,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	500,000
Parks/Allotments/Cemeteries Enhancements	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,250,000
New Scheme - Car Park Lifts	250,000	250,000	200,000			700,000
Operational Buildings - Enhancements	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	300,000	1,300,000
Commercial Landlord Responsibilities	120,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	320,000
Enterprise Zone						
New Scheme - St James Mill Link Road	1,000,000	1,000,000				2,000,000
Other						
St Crispins Community Centre	1,150,000					1,150,000
Planning IT Improvements	17,000	17,000				34,000
Duston Art Project	40,000					40,000
Dementia Friendly Town	50,000					50,000
Co-mingled Collection - Pilot Park Ward	40,500					40,500
Total General Fund Capital Programme	14,622,531	12,330,000	2,887,000	2,225,000	2,695,000	34,759,531

* as previously reported to Cabinet

Proposed General Fund Capital Funding	2016-17 £	2017-18 £	2018-19 £	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	Total £
Grants & Contributions:						
Disabled Facilities Grant - External Funding	594,000	594,000	594,000	594,000	594,000	2,970,000
Heritage Lottery Funding - Delapre Abbey	339,168					339,168
HPDG	17,000	17,000				34,000
Local Growth Fund - Vulcan Works	3,290,000	2,860,000				6,150,000
Local Growth Fund - St James Mill Link Road	562,000					562,000
Section 106	1,260,000					1,260,000
Other Grants and Contributions	70,000					70,000
Sub-total Grants & Contributions	6,132,168	3,471,000	594,000	594,000	594,000	11,385,168
Capital Receipts - Heritage	595,000	5,773,000	300,000			6,668,000
Capital Receipts - Other	1,655,413	305,000	162,000			2,122,413
Growing Places Fund and Local Infrastructure Fund (to be repaid from EZ business rate uplift)	438,000	1,000,000				1,438,000
Self-funded Borrowing (incl Loans)	1,745,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	2,345,000
Corporate Borrowing	4,056,950	1,631,000	1,681,000	1,481,000	1,951,000	10,800,950
Total Funding	14,622,531	12,330,000	2,887,000	2,225,000	2,695,000	34,759,531

General Fund Budget Summary 2016 - 2021

Key

Lib Dem Alternative Budget Proposals



Description	Appendix	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
		2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
		£	£	£	£	£
Service Base Budget		28,208,491	28,895,011	29,598,504	30,507,129	31,089,471
<i>Medium Term Planning Options</i>						
<u>Savings and Efficiencies</u>						
	2					
- Borough Secretary		(53,739)	(53,739)	(54,298)	(54,863)	(55,435)
- Customers and Communities		(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)
- Regeneration Enterprise and Planning		(185,783)	(186,193)	(186,605)	(187,022)	(187,443)
- Housing and Well Being		(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
Total Savings		(664,522)	(664,932)	(665,903)	(666,885)	(667,878)
<u>Growth</u>						
	3					
- Borough Secretary		130,000	130,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
- Customers and Communities		446,790	431,790	381,790	331,790	331,790
- Housing and Wellbeing		100,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
Total Growth		676,790	676,790	586,790	536,790	536,790
Total MTP Options		12,268	11,858	(79,113)	(130,095)	(131,088)
Gross Revenue Budget		28,220,759	28,906,869	29,519,391	30,377,034	30,958,383
<u>Corporate Budgets</u>						
Debt Financing		1,818,000	1,979,000	2,017,000	2,153,000	2,153,000
Recharges from General Fund to HRA		(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)	(2,944,907)
Parish Grants		(20,611)	(20,611)	(20,611)	(20,611)	(20,611)
Parish Precepts		1,044,721	1,044,721	1,044,721	1,044,721	1,044,721
Contribution to General Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0
Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Reserves		2,805,176	2,535,759	2,938,963	3,116,098	3,144,216
Total Corporate Budgets		2,702,379	2,593,962	3,035,166	3,348,301	3,376,419
Net Budget		30,923,138	31,500,831	32,554,557	33,725,335	34,334,802
<u>Funding</u>						
Revenue Support Grant		(3,256,382)	(1,792,976)	(886,014)	0	0
Transition Grant		(23,746)	(23,672)	0	0	0
Business Rates Retention Scheme		(7,452,252)	(7,595,224)	(7,803,698)	(8,034,281)	(8,050,071)
New Homes Bonus		(4,910,199)	(4,112,679)	(3,292,591)	(2,870,990)	(2,448,891)
Total Government Funding		(15,642,579)	(13,524,551)	(11,982,303)	(10,905,271)	(10,498,962)
<u>Council Tax</u>						
Band D Council Tax		207.91	207.91	207.91	207.91	207.91
Tax Base		64,358	65,002	65,652	66,308	66,971
NBC Council Tax		(13,380,659)	(13,514,466)	(13,649,611)	(13,786,107)	(13,923,968)
Increase Council Tax every year by £5		(321,790)	(650,015)	(984,773)	(1,326,161)	(1,674,278)
Parish-related Council Tax		(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)	(1,044,721)
Total Council Tax		(14,747,170)	(15,209,202)	(15,679,105)	(16,156,989)	(16,642,967)
Surplus on Collection Fund		(533,389)	0	0	0	0
Total Funding		(30,923,138)	(28,733,753)	(27,661,408)	(27,062,259)	(27,141,929)
Savings to be identified		(0)	2,767,078	4,893,149	6,663,075	7,192,872



General Fund MTP Savings Options

MTP Reference	MTP Option Description	2016/2017 £	2017/2018 £	2018/2019 £	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £
Borough Secretary						
	Borough Secretary Review	(53,739)	(53,739)	(54,298)	(54,863)	(55,435)
	TOTAL Borough Secretary	(53,739)	(53,739)	(54,298)	(54,863)	(55,435)
Customers & Communities						
	Events Restructure	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)	(75,000)
	Customers and Communities Directorate Review	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
	Review of lease/management agreement with Northampton Leisure Trust	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
	Increased marketing of the Guildhall to generate additional income	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
	Reduction in funding to the Royal and Derngate Theatre	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
	TOTAL Customers and Communities	(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)	(325,000)
Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning						
	Reduced Contribution to Joint Planning Unit	(28,000)	(28,000)	(28,000)	(28,000)	(28,000)
	Regeneration Enterprise and Planning Directorate Review	(157,783)	(158,193)	(158,605)	(159,022)	(159,443)
	TOTAL Regeneration Enterprise and Planning	(185,783)	(186,193)	(186,605)	(187,022)	(187,443)
Housing and Well Being						
	Increased Houses in Multiple Occupation fee income	(70,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)	(70,000)
	New funding arrangements for homelessness prevention	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)
	TOTAL Housing	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
Corporate						
	TOTAL Corporate	0	0	0	0	0



General Fund MTP Growth Options

MTP Reference	MTP Option Description	2016/2017 £	2017/2018 £	2018/2019 £	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £
Borough Secretary						
	Individual Electoral Registration	80,000	80,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Annual Canvass	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
		130,000	130,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Customers & Communities						
	Fireworks Display	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
	Christmas Market	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
	Cost of delivering Northampton in Bloom all year round	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Extend current opening hours of Abington Museum during the winter months	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Enhanced tree management programme	100,000	100,000	50,000	0	0
Alternative	Additional CFAB contribution	196,790	181,790	181,790	181,790	181,790
Alternative	Additional Licencing Administrative Assistant	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
		446,790	431,790	381,790	331,790	331,790
Housing and Wellbeing						
Alternative	County Traveller contribution	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Alternative	Vulnerable People Discretionary Fund	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
		100,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	115,000
Total Growth						
		676,790	676,790	586,790	536,790	536,790

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 7 March 2016 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, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, Eales, Eldred, Golby, Gowen, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Hill, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Stone and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors G Eales, Choudary, Smith, Hadland and Lynch.

3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that on Wednesday 24th February, she had attended an awards service for long service achievers of the 118 RECOVERY COMPANY 104 FORCE SUPPORT BATTALION REME. This was held at the Army Reserve Centre and was for military personnel involved in peace-making, anti-terrorism activities, humanitarian aid provision and other related operations.

The Mayor reminded members that her fashion show was to be held on Thursday 10th March in the Great Hall at 7pm, to raise money for the Mayors Charity and a few tickets were still available from the Mayor's Office.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Culbard to the meeting who had returned to Council following a time of illness.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions.

5. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that nine 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 where stated, supplementary questions were asked, as detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 3, Councillor Markham responded that if Councillors had specific training needs, they should contact her and she would look at resolving training issues.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 7, Councillor Markham responded by stating that there were a number of reasons for the poor turnout of voters in student areas such as NNOL2 as some students could chose to register to vote at home or at the university residency.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 8, Councillor Bottwood responded by saying he was not fully briefed about the details of the historically deceased person found in undergrowth but that he would report them back to Councillor Meredith when he had further information on the matter.

6. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

The Leader of the Council submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She noted the economic success of Northampton and reported that the Centre for Cities outlook had ranked Northampton as the highest performing town or city outside London for business start-ups and the second highest employment rate. She further announced that the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning was leaving and thanked him for his word and reported that he would be leaving a real legacy in the Town. She reported that Cabinet had adopted new policies for the regulation and enforcement of standards in the private rented sector and noted the cross party support and backing from the Landlords Forum. The Leader thanked all the Councillors who had supported her at the Big Sleep Out and noted that she had raised £1,439 in donations, with a couple of late donations having increased the total amount.

In response to questions asked, the Leader stated that pollution in the town centre had been an area flagged up by Councillor Bottwood as being an issue to be referred to Overview and Scrutiny. Responding to a further query, the Leader stated that the Social Lettings Agency (SLA) should be in place by the end of September 2016. In response to another question, the Leader stated that she would be attending a number of meetings with Leaders of other Councils and the Chief Executive to discuss unitary council status.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that the Council was currently in a good financial position. He noted that as shown in the Medium Term Financial Plan that there were significant financial challenges that would face the Council and asked that if any Members had any suggestions to bridge the projected funding gap that they should speak to him so that they could be costed. In

response to a question asked, Councillor Hallam explained that all information relating to the Northampton Town Football Club loan had been made available in the Cabinet report.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. He stated that the mowing season was to start imminently and that it was hoped that there would be an increase in the number of parks awarded the green flag status to two additional parks. In response to questions asked, Councillor Bottwood confirmed that there would be a number of small events that would run alongside the Clean-Up for the Queen campaign. In response to a further question he stated that work was currently being undertaken to examine dredging the lakes at Thorplands and that the Council were engaged with a number of agencies to resolve the water flow issue.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and commented that it was hoped that the new multi-agency Rough Sleepers Strategy would be published in June 2016. He noted that he had received very positive feedback from those Councillors who had received HIMO training. He spoke of the harrowing insight that had been provided for Councillors in raising awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation in Northampton and the training given to practical action that the Council could take. In response to questions asked Councillor Hibbert explained that a rough sleeps count was supposed to have been carried out in February but that it had been delayed, another one having been scheduled to take place in the very near future. In response to questions asked, Councillor Hibbert stated that the administration was looking into the provision of emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. In response to a further question asked relating to safeguarding children in HIMOs, Councillor Hibbert stated that the matter of this was dealt with my multiple agencies. He further noted that the temporary accommodation provided by the Council as fit for purpose and that if any Councillor were aware of properties that were not should contact him immediately.

Councillor Markham, in Councillor Hadlands' absence, submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. In response to questions asked, the Leader confirmed that there was continued work with Network Rail for work to commence on the car park. With regards to work being undertaken at Greyfriars, it was noted that maps would be made available to the public in April 2016.

Councillor Eldred submitted his Cabinet Member report and explained that there were loads of events planned for 2016 including Music365, Race for Life and Diwali. It was further noted that the family of the artist Roberta Booth had donated "Earthworks 2", one of her critically acclaimed pieces of work to the Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. In response to questions asked, Councillor Eldred confirmed that the Citizens Advice Bureau would be moving into the 1 stop shop in the near future.

Councillor King submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She explained that International Women's Day plans had been finalised that 4 winners had been shortlisted for the Inspirational Woman Award.

The Mayor, at this point, confirmed that period of time set aside for this item had been reached.

7. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Russell made a statement as outlined on the agenda. She explained that work needed to be undertaken to make the Town safer. She noted that there had been some successes, such as the small decrease in serious acquisitive crime but reported that the overall crime figure had risen by 4.8% over the previous year. She reported that the volume of crime in Northampton was too high and that a stronger Police presence was a necessity. She noted that work was being carried out with victims of domestic violence and abuse but that there needed to be more education about substance and alcohol abuse to reduce levels of crime. She urged consideration of protecting funding in the voluntary sector and stated that there was a real problem of violent crime in Northampton.

Councillor King, as the relevant Cabinet Member stated that the administration echoed some of the concerns and priorities that she had highlighted. She reported that the implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order would reduce crime and noted the excellent work carried out by the Community Safety Team.

In response to the comments made by Councillor King, Councillor Russell commented that her Majesties Inspectors of Constabularies had stated that the Police were committed to reducing crime and urged the administration to improve work with partner organisations to help reduce crim figures.

8. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY

Councillor Sargeant submitted a report that sought the adoption of the Statement of Gambling Policy following three yearly review required by the Gambling Act 2005.

Councillor M Hill seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Policy attached to the report be approved for publication as the Council's Statement of Gambling Principles Policy under Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 for the three year period commencing 7th March 2016.

9. CHANGES TO LABOUR GROUP AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Councillor Russell submitted a report that sought to note changes to the Deputy Leader of the Labour Group and to agree to a change in Committee places.

Councillor Marriott seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That Council noted the announcement that Councillor Birch as the Deputy Leader of the Labour Group.

That Councillor Birch replaced Councillor G Eales on the Appointments and Appeals Committee

10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Councillor Hallam submitted a report, required by the Localism Act 2011 that requires every local authority to annually publish a Pay Policy Statement.

Councillor Patel seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That Council approved the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2016/17 attached to the report at appendix 1.

11. EXEMPTION FROM CALL-IN AND URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Councillor Markham submitted a report for Council to note the use of the special urgency procedure and the power contained in the Constitution to exempt an executive decision from Call –in when the decision being taken is urgent.

Councillor Hallam seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

12. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2016-17

Councillor Patel submitted a report that sought Councils approval of the meeting cycle for 2016/17.

Councillor Oldham seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the meeting cycle for 2016/17 attached at appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

The Mayor informed Council that all groups had agreed to change the wording of Motion i) which had been tabled and distributed to all Members.

- i) Councillor Haque proposed and Councillor Stone seconded:

“There are two major environmental issues affecting this town that we can deal with through action by the Borough council.

We therefore call on the administration to take action to:

Designate refuse sacks that are put out too early as a form of litter (before 7pm the night before). This will allow on the spot fines to be levied as a deterrent.

Work with the County Council to remove the build outs in roads. This will free space

for more parking and take away the sites presently used for fly tipping”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

Mr Phil Leach addressed Council and stated that he supported motion ii). He commented that accepting 50 families was not enough, and that Northampton should be welcoming refugees from war-torn countries, many of whom would go on to successfully contribute to society.

Mr Ron Mendell spoke in favour of motion ii) and stated that the submitted motion was not political but a humanitarian request to deal with the refugee situation. He urged the Council to work with multi-faith and other agencies which could reduce the financial costs to the Council.

Ms Kate Scott also spoke in favour of the motion and spoke of her experience having previously helped and supported Somalian refugees and urged all Members of the Council to support the motion.

Councillor Stone proposed and Councillor Birch seconded:

“The Syrian Refugee crisis is a global crisis where we are witnessing the biggest movement and the biggest need for resettlement of people since the Second World War. This Borough must play its part in the Government’s resettlement programmes.

We resolve to work with the county to take 50 families over the next 4years.

Resettled families will receive all the support they need to find accommodation, school places, medical care and access to training and employment.

We propose to take 5 families in year 1, 10 in year 2, and 15 in year 3 and 20 in year 4”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote;

There voted for the Motion: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Cali, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, T Eales, Gowen, Haque, Marriot, McCutcheon, Meredith, Russell and Stone.

There voted against the Motion: Councillors Aziz, Bottwood, Caswell, Eldred, Golby, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Sargeant and Walker.

There abstained the Mayor and Councillor Ansell.

The Motion was lost.

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

The Mayor reported to Council that a matter of urgency had arisen and needed to be considered at the meeting. The Mayor explained that a report had been circulated to them and a hard copy placed in front of them. The Mayor explained she had consented to the matter being placed on the agenda as a matter of urgency as there were meetings taking place that week with other local authorities to determine the position in Northamptonshire going forward.

Councillor Markham submitted a report which sought Council's support to the simplification of local government structures in Northamptonshire including a unitary council for Northampton.

Councillor Hallam seconded the report.

Councillor Beardsworth commented that for 20 years she had supported Unitary authorities and urged Councillors to consider saving money whilst working together without taking on other Council's budget deficits.

Councillor Stone commented that she supported the proposal.

Councillor Larratt stated that he was happy to support the proposal. He commented that one key aspect was allowing the Borough Council to have control over their destiny and there was a need for the authority to focus entirely on the needs of Northampton.

RESOLVED:

:

- 2.1 That work be carried out with other Councils in Northamptonshire to seek to propose a simplification of local government within Northamptonshire to include the creation of a smaller number of unitary councils carrying out the duties of existing Borough and District and County Councils, including a unitary council for Northampton.
- 2.2 That work be carried out with the other Councils in Northamptonshire, to identify and plan for areas in which services will be best delivered through sharing capacity between or across unitary councils or through a combined arrangement.
- 2.3 That work be undertaken with all Councils in membership of SEMLEP, and those of neighbouring LEP areas, to establish combined authority arrangements on matters requiring wide-area co-ordination and on which devolution proposals can be agreed with Government.
- 2.4 That resources be committed as necessary from the Council's Improvement Reserve to support the development of a robust business case for these proposals and to gain the necessary agreement of Government to the proposals

arising.

- 2.5 That authorisation be given to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to take such steps as are necessary to promote local government simplification in Northamptonshire including a unitary council for Northampton.

The meeting concluded at 8.52pm

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 1

Question to Cllr Hadland from Councillor Meredith

The Cabinet approved in November 2014 the purchase in principle of Albion House for redevelopment. What was the purchase price and what was the market valuation at the time of purchase?

Response

The purchase price was £500,000. The valuation was below this price, but as was highlighted in the Cabinet Report "the terms reflect the additional worth of the property to the Council as a strategic landowner and the fact that the property wasn't advertised for sale on the open market

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 2

Question to Cllr Hadland from Councillor Beardsworth

Can the administration update the council on the plans to develop Albion House to provide "additional car parking capacity" linked to the existing St Johns Multi Storey car park?

Response

Work is underway to look at the potential costs of developing the car park.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 3

Question to Cllr Hallam from Councillor Meredith

Since the purchase of the Albion House please advise the rental income from any tenants and the value of Business Rates paid by NBC up to 31st March 2016?

Response

Rent received to date is £24,713. The total amount of business rates we have paid up to 31st March 2016 is £20,007.32.

Councillor Michael Hallam
Cabinet Member for Finance

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 4

Question to Cllr Markham from Councillor Beardsworth

In answer to my question at the last council meeting the Leader assured the council that steps were being taken to improve the level of voter registration at the University. Can the Leader advise the Council what action has been taken in the last 4 weeks and what improvement in registration has been achieved in Polling District NN0L2

Response

The Elections Team have continued to promote and advertise registration of all electors across the Borough and this has been helped by a significant national campaign. Canvassers have been active in all parts of the Borough including in the University and in areas where many students live. The most recent student focussed activity, a presence in a communal area used by many students for one day, delivered 3 additional immediate registrations and about 100 students took away details on how to register themselves.

As at the 5th April 2016 there were 86 voters registered in Polling District NN0L2, which is a 100% increase since December and a 20% increase since last Council. As explained at the last Council this figure is lower due to national changes in the method for registering students at their place of study as part of the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration.

In September 2016, a new intake of students will join the University and the Elections Team are making arrangements for a registration presence at Freshers' Week and to canvass University halls of residence as the new students take up their places.

However it is no longer the case that students can be automatically registered at their place of study and it is a matter of choice for each student as to whether they wish to take up their right to be registered at their place of study instead of or as well as their place of family residence.

I commend the Elections Team for their hard work to encourage all to register, including students. I would advise Councillor Beardsworth and all other Councillors that if they have further questions on electoral registration these may be addressed to the Electoral Registration Officer (the Chief Executive) at any time.

**Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 5

Question to Cllr Markham from Councillor Beardsworth

The Boundary Commission require equality of representation but allow a variance of plus/minus 10%, currently 9 Councillors or 20% of the Council represent wards where the variance is greater than 10%. Does the Leader anticipate another Boundary review or will the Council take action to address the level of under registration of voters which is causing this problem?

Response

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England decides when to carry out Periodic Electoral Reviews of local authority electoral arrangements within existing principal area boundaries. They monitor the levels of electoral imbalance across all principal local authorities in England annually, and those that meet their published criteria will, at some point, be included in their review programme. This decision is taken by the Commission and not by this Council.

To correct your question, the criteria published by the Commission for initiating a review are as follows:

- more than 30% of a council's wards having an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority; and/or*
- one or more wards with an electoral imbalance of more than 30%; and*
- the imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period.*

Based on electoral data as at 5th April this year, there are 8 wards out of 33 where there is an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for the Council, or 24%. Therefore the first criteria has not yet been met.

Based on electoral data as at 5th April this year, there is one ward which has an electoral imbalance of more than 30%. Therefore the second criteria is currently met.

The ward that meets the second criteria at present includes the University Park Campus. As has been previously reported, changes in the method for registering students to vote has reduced the number of students registered at their place of study, here and around the country. As in the answer to your previous question, numbers of students registering has improved and further work is in hand on this. At the same time, over the next few years, new housing development is planned for Park Campus following the move of the University to its new campus. It is therefore likely that registration levels will rise significantly over time in this ward. It would be for the Commission to judge whether the third criteria therefore has been met or not.

As development takes place around the Borough, there will I am sure come a time when the Commission will decide to conduct a Periodic Electoral Review and we will of course work constructively with the Commission when they decide that the time has come for that to happen.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 6

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Davenport

When NBC or NPH next write to residents and tenants could they also encourage them to keep their area free of litter? Is there a local campaign NBC can run such as 'Best Kept Streets' or 'love Northampton, clean Northampton' and encourage people and resident associations to take?

Response

Thank you for your suggestion, it is most welcome. As you know, I am very keen that everyone plays their part in keeping Northampton clean and tidy. I am always open to ideas on how we can improve the cleanliness of the town. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss your suggestion in more detail and also what else councillors can do as leaders in their communities to positively impact their local environment.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 7

Question to Cllr King from Cllr Davenport

There is a problem with street drinking in Clinton Road/Delapre Street/Abbey Road (both day and night). There is also a problem with motor bikes off road in Briar Hill as well as in Far Cotton and Delapre. What can the Borough Council, in conjunction with the Police, do about this?

Response

Thank you for bringing it to my attention. The local Neighbourhood Warden is linking in with the local policing sector officers to discuss and scope the issues you have highlighted.

Street Drinking - A robust approach will be taken and alcohol will be removed and warnings issued. Names will be taken of any repeat offenders and referrals made to the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit.

Off road motorcycles - We are currently liaising with the police on off road motor cycle issues, and are in the process of designing warning signage for the hot spot locations across the town. The police are also deploying their off-road motorcycle officers in these locations in order to disrupt and deter, and if required take relevant enforcement action.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 8

Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Stone

We have a LAC champion. Who is it and what are they doing to support our Looked After Children?

Response

Councillor Stephen Hibbert is the Council's Looked After Children Champion. He has recently been responsible as Cabinet Member for the development, led by NBC, of an accommodation protocol for care leavers which has been adopted by all local authorities in the county.

**Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 9

Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr Stone

LAC Children's forum have requested a free leisure card for LAC. How can we facilitate this?

Response

Northampton Leisure Trust are currently looking into this request positively and we support them doing so.

**Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 10

Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Stone

Cllr Stone to Cllr Markham. Do we have any apprenticeships we can offer Care Leavers?

Response

The Council offers apprenticeships and is able to consider any applications we receive. I am sure that we would welcome any applications from care leavers.

**Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 11

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Marriott

Why is the Borough paying for Highways that are the statutory responsibility of the County Council? I refer to Abington St, Guildhall Rd, St Giles, St Peters Way?

Response

The Borough Council investment within the public realm is done in partnership with the County Council. Regarding Abington Street, numerous traders have publicly supported the project and acknowledged that it has brought in additional visitors and shoppers to the town centre. The Guildhall Road project enhances an important area of the "Cultural Quarter" and has recently been a primarily enabler to the Theatre being able to apply for planning permission for outdoor seating linked to their new restaurant and bar.

St. Giles Street was awarded "Great British High Street of the Year" in 2015 and the planned improvements in the public realm was a key commitment as part of that successful application. The public realm works to St. Giles Street continues to receive considerable support from traders and businesses alike.

The County Council work in partnership by delivering the works and then accepting the maintenance liability of the upgraded materials used as part of our public realm works.

Councillor Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 12

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Chunga

Cllr How many people are on our housing waiting list?

Response

There are currently 4,076 households on Northampton's Housing Register.

Of these, 374 households are seeking sheltered accommodation and 3,702 households are seeking general needs housing.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 13

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Chunga

How many people coming to us for housing in the last 12 months for housing have been directed to the Private Sector?

Response

During 2015/16, 2,848 households approached the Housing Options & Advice Service for advice and assistance. Each of these households was given advice on all of their housing options and was encouraged to consider private rented housing.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 14

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Birch

How much does it cost a motorist who takes advantage of the 2 hour free parking if they park for 2 hours and 15 minutes?

Response

Any vehicle parking beyond the 2 hours free parking offer will be charged £2.40 which is the standard charge for 3 hours parking.

**Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 18

Question to Cllr King from Cllr Birch

What can the Borough Council do about selling legal highs as they can be a problem?

Response

Unfortunately as current legislation stands there is very little we as a Local Authority can do to prevent the sale of legal highs from retail outlets, as they are currently not illegal.

However, the Government have taken the issue very seriously and the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 gained royal assent in January. This piece of legislation will make the over-the-counter sales of these substances illegal. It was due to come into force on 6 April 2016. Unfortunately this has now been put on hold and a new date is awaited.

We do however have control over what is sold on our Market and the sales of these substances from market stalls was stopped in 2014. This was further added to with the banning of the sale of 'poppers' too.

The situation and associated problems regarding these substances continue to be monitored by all relevant partners, and if at all possible, enforcement action will be taken whenever and wherever agencies can do so.

**Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Safety**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 17

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Davenport

With safety in mind, can we please investigate the possibility that all our wardens, and park rangers, are equipped with cameras on their jackets like traffic wardens and other enforcements officers?

Response

Neighbourhood wardens are currently trialling two body cameras in the town centre and will consider how we progress matters once the pilot is over and impact has been assessed.'

**Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 16

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Duffy

New fire precautions prevent mobility scooters being kept in flats. At a pensioner's forum recently it was suggested that mobility scooters could be kept in garages. What is the policy on this?

Response

With advice and support from the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, NPH has recently agreed a Fire Safety Policy that ensures that the Council and NPH comply with their statutory obligations under the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005.

The Fire Safety Policy requires communal areas to be kept clear at all times, and means that mobility scooters and other items cannot be stored in communal areas.

Permission can be given to store mobility scooters inside flats, but on condition that this is done safely, for example it is charged during the daytime. Advice on safe mobility scooter storage is available from NPH's Housing Officers and Fire Safety Officer.

Although mobility scooters can be kept in garages, they would probably need to be charged safely elsewhere as garages do not normally have any charging facilities.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 15

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Duffy

Dangerous derelict empty garages are a concern. How many have asbestos roofs? What is council policy regard to vandalised garages?

Response

Although the Council holds only limited information about the number and location of garage roofs that include asbestos containing materials, it is normal practice to assume the presence of asbestos before carrying out any repair or refurbishment work and to arrange a 'pre work' asbestos survey to inform the workforce.

The data that the Council and NPH hold in relation to the garages is improving and NPH has embarked on a full asbestos survey on the garage blocks at Kings Heath. This approach will be repeated in other sites where appropriate.

As NPH is responsible for managing the Council's stock of garages, it has a duty to ensure the integrity and safety of the garages. However, in past years, there has been only limited investment in the garages and, coupled with acts of vandalism and the damage caused by cars colliding with the garage blocks, some garages are marginally viable due to the scale of the repair / improvement costs.

The problem is compounded, of course, by the fact that many of the garages are unpopular and remain empty because they are perceived to be insecure and/or too far away from tenants' homes, or they are just too small for modern day cars.

For those garage sites that are unpopular and/or unsustainable, the Council and NPH will be considering different solutions and/or uses.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing**

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 19

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Norman Adams

On 10th March 2014 the Cabinet Member for Housing stated the following " The 16 "Airey" type properties in Toms Close are to be decommissioned so that we can create a cleared site for the development of new homes.

Question:

Have NBC created a cleared site for the development of new homes?

LINK TO MARCH 2014 statement

<https://northamptondefendcouncilhousing.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/cabinet-member-report-for-housing-10-03-14.pdf>

Response

No

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 20

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Norman Adams

Having seen a number of reports about NBC using some land at Dallington Grange for the building of 100 Council houses

Question: What safe guards will be put in place (if any) to protect any new build from 'Right to Buy' discounted sales of up to 70% of the market value?

Response

As the Council will own the 100 council homes that are built at Dallington, tenants who are eligible will be entitled to purchase their home in accordance with the Right to Buy legislation and scheme

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 18th April, 2016

Question 21

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Mr S Miller,

The Council has previously advised me that the Low Emissions Strategy is complete and will go out for public consultation shortly before adoption by the Council later in 2016. Please could the councillor advise of the timetable for this process and when he would hope this strategy will be formally adopted.

Response

A report will be presented to Cabinet in the early summer to launch the public consultation on the Low Emissions Strategy. This consultation will take place over the summer and the finalised strategy should be presented for formal adoption before Christmas.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet member for Environment



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

18th April, 2016

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SIMPLIFICATION

The County Council have announced that they will be undertaking a study into the options for unitary local government in Northamptonshire and that they have commissioned particular consultants to do this work. The Borough and District Councils were not consulted on the brief for this work, nor the choice of firm to carry out this study. There is clearly little intention from the County Council to work collaboratively on this vital matter.

The seven Borough and District Councils are however working collaboratively together and have agreed to develop a joint commission for a study to look at the options and will consult the County Council on the content of this brief before seeking potential experts to conduct the review for us all.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

At the time of writing this report, the Cobblers are standing at the top of League Two and on the edge of promotion with excellent prospects to be crowned Champions. This is well deserved position for the team, who have had a fantastic season. I look forward to being able to congratulate the club on their achievements in the near future.

Sport is very important to the Northampton community and economy. Success by our sports teams breeds confidence in our town and brings in investment and jobs. This Administration will continue to lend its support to Northampton's sporting success.

CABINET ADVISORY GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Cabinet Advisory Group has met for the first time and work is now to proceed on gaining expert advice, engaging with potential providers of services and engaging with the community on the arrangements for these services after June 2018. Each Political Group is represented on this Panel.

ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

The Elections Team are currently gearing up for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner elections and the EU Referendum. Work continues on boosting registration, supported by national campaigns by the Electoral Commission. In Northampton, canvassing continues across the Borough, and promotional campaigns are being run including using street furniture advertising, advertising in shops, and at key locations around the town.

As at the 5th April the Register stood at 152,812, compared with 148,646 on the 1st December. This increase of just under 3% reflects what is happening nationally and the work undertaken locally to raise public awareness.

CIVIC MATTERS

Oak Apple Day this year falls on Sunday the 29th of May, and arrangements are being made to mark this important occasion on All Saints Plaza on that day. The Lord Lieutenant and the Cadet Forces will be involved.

Armed Forces Day will again be marked by a Parade organised through the Royal British Legion on 25th June.

The Mayor's Annual Charity Service will be held on Sunday 12th June at All Saints.

There will be a marking of the Battle of the Somme at Abington Park Museum on the evening of the 30th June, followed by an All-Night Vigil and a short ceremony followed by the Act of Remembrance on the morning of the 1st July, which was the first day of this important conflict within the First World War. This event is being supported by the Western Front Association and the Royal British Legion.

Members are encouraged to attend each of these important civic events.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 April 2016

Finance

Since the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) was approved by Council in February the Government has published the Budget 2016 and there have been further announcements with regards to the Government's Four Year Funding Offer. The impact of announcements affecting the Council in the Budget 2016 are currently being assessed and will be reported to Cabinet as part of an update to the MTFP.

The Council is currently assessing whether it will be taking up the Government's Four Year Funding Offer. In accepting the Offer the Council would also need to submit an Efficiency Plan, effectively the Council's MTFP, which sets out how the Council will manage its financial position over the medium term. The Council's Management Board are currently developing strategies that would deliver a balanced financial position over the medium term to inform the Efficiency Plan. If the Council were to take up the Offer a report would be brought to Cabinet in advance of the 14th October submission deadline.

The Finance team and budget managers are also focussed on closedown and production of the Statement of Accounts for 2015/16.. The draft Statement of Accounts are planned be produced in advance of the statutory deadline of 30th June and the Council is working closely with KPMG to ensure a smooth process. The draft Accounts will be presented to the Audit Committee at their meeting on 25th July, with the final Accounts requiring sign off by KPMG by 30th September. It is also worth noting that by 2018 the Council will have to sign off its Accounts by two months earlier by 31st July. To ensure a smooth transition the Finance team are accelerating the closedown timetable in the current year and making the approach more efficient.

Revenues & Benefits

The Revenues and Benefits service have just completed the annual billing of Council Tax and Business Rates payers. During this period nearly a 100,000 bills and benefit notifications have been issued and as a result the team have experienced a huge increase in customer contact. In parallel with the annual billing process this year, the service have also completed the transfer back of the Councils Business Rates collection service. Business rates collection has been under the administration of the Council's business Rates consortium with the Borough Council of Wellingborough for the last 10 years. However this partnership ends in April 2016 and therefore LGSS, on behalf of the Council have been managing the system migration and recruitment of local staff to administer the service going forward.

Both of these critical areas of work have progressed well and the service have been successfully managing the peak in customer contact.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

18th April, 2016

Environmental Health

The pilot provision of fixed penalty enforcement carried out by our partners 3GS has commenced. The staff have been educating businesses and visitors to the town centre about their role and have now begun to issue fixed penalty notices. More information will be provided about the progress of their work at the next meeting.

Officers from the Environmental Health team have recently executed a warrant under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 to seize equipment from an unregistered tattooist who has been operating from a house and presenting a risk to public health.

Environmental Services

Grass cutting started in the middle of March.

The long process to ensure re-provision for our environmental services once our current contract comes to an end in June 2018 is now underway. A key part of this process is stakeholder engagement, which will include parish councils, resident associations, park management committees, staff and councillors.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

1. Clean for the Queen – 4/5/6 March 2016 - The “Clean for the Queen” litter picking campaign was a big success with over 40 volunteer groups participating across the town. Over six tonnes of litter was collected during the campaign.
2. Litter picking Industrial Estates - There are a number of businesses on industrial estates that are adjacent to grass verges and hedges that are covered in litter. Most of this land is private and it is also difficult to find out who owns it. This land does not come under the Environmental Services Contract, so it does not get litter pick and the rubbish is allowed to accumulate. We are looking at ways to try and encourage volunteers from business on these industrial estates to have their own litter picking events to tidy up their estates. Their Local Neighbourhood Wardens will assist them with such events and provide them with litter pickers and sacks.
3. Northampton In Bloom - Preparations are well on the way for staging the Northampton in Bloom 2016. The judging route this year will be in the southern part of the town, such as St James, Far Cotton, Hunsbury, Upton and Duston; and the All Saints part of the Town Centre.
4. The Green Flag Judges are going to visit and inspect Abington Park and Bradlaugh Fields on 13 May 2016.
5. New welcome signs have been erected at the entrances in the lower part of Abington Park. Also, a new planter has been installed at the entrance to the park near the old Police Box to make that entrance more inviting to park users. These were recommendations of the Green Flag Judges on one of their previous visits.
6. The footpath that leads up to the Barn in Bradlaugh Fields has been resurfaced, as the old footpath had become a tripping hazard.
7. Harlestone Road and St. David’s Allotments have had new fencing erected to help improve security at both sites.

8. Bollards have been fitted around The Green in Farmfield Close, to stop vehicles driving over it and keeping users of The Green safe.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

18th April, 2016

Community Safety

There is no update on crime figures for this period due to a change in crime data recording systems. A complete overview of crime figures for 2015/16 will be provided in the next Cabinet Member report.

Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) has been completed and is now available on the NBC website. The PSA has helped to inform the priority locations for the Weeks of Action for 2016/17 and highlighted the key crime issues for the town.

Weeks of Action areas for 2017/18 are Bellinge, Kings Heath, Lings / Weston Favell Centre, Semilong / Regent Square, St David's. There will also be focussed pieces of work will also be taking place throughout the year on the town centre and with Billing Aquadrome. The first week of Action took place in Bellinge 11/04/2016 to 16/04/2016, which saw multi-agency work and activities taking place, supported by a range of agencies. It was extremely well received by the community.

A number of 'Personal Safety' talks have been delivered in partnership with town centre police officers to the Hairdressing College and The Bridge Project. These were well received by the staff, students and clients and will continue to be delivered to new groups as and when required.

As part of the ongoing multi-agency action plan for Kings Heath, consultation has taken place with residents and businesses about the painting of the shopping area, providing them with the opportunity to decide on the colours, style etc. This piece of work is being supported by Travis Perkins, who is providing the paint and a team of workers. It is anticipated this work will be undertaken in June 2016.

The two Domestic Homicide Review are currently being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) are now nearing completion. The final reports will be signed off by the CSP Board and submitted to the Home Office for their approval by the end of April.

Community Forums

International Women's Day – event held in the Great Hall, 25 organisations providing services to women attended the event to promote their services and the support they could offer. Performances were given, by local women's groups, including Egyptian dancing and the women's Rock Choir. The Inspirational Women's award was also presented for 2016. There was a lot of media coverage for the event, particularly through BBC Radio and social media. There were approx. 250-300 people in attendance.

Health and Well Being Day – scheduled to take place on the Racecourse on 2nd June. More than 20 community and voluntary organisations involved with the day. This is a mix of information stalls, performances/activities, with a focus around well-being.

Across the forums we continue to see an increase in engagement, particularly with organisations that are delivering services to the community, the forums are action focussed and delivering key events and projects in partnership. The average attendance across the forums is 14 people.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

18th April, 2016

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of May 2015, a total of £71,544 has been spent. This totals just over 50% of the overall allocation for the year (2015/16). The unspent funding will be carried over, into the new financial year.

Partnership Support

42 applications have been received for the Partnership Grant for 2016/17. The grants total £1.25 million. There are applications from 12 new organisations. The grant panel have met to assess the applications and organisations will find out if they have been successful or not this month.

Community Centres

Annual reviews with each of the community centres are in the process of being carried out. The Our Place programme continues, as a way to prioritise the support that is offered to the centres. Focussing on pulling together local stakeholders and developing a set of action plans, highlighting improvements to the centre, including activities that are influenced by the community. The following centres will be prioritised for support; Briar Hill, Bellinge, Semilong/ Aliston Gardens, Kings Heath and Spencer/Dallington.

Events

The council has provided support to partners delivering events like the Sports Relief Mile in Becketts Park (20 March); HMS Laforey Parade in the town centre and Market Square (3 April) and the April Fools Harley Run in Abington Street (9 April).

The Bands in the Park season on Abington Park Bandstand commenced on Sunday 4th April and the programme runs every Sunday until the middle of September.

Looking forward the council is working with partners the District Scouts St Georges Day Celebration & parade in the town centre and Becketts Park (24 April); Food Festival in Becketts Park (14 & 15 May); Beer Festival in Delapre Park (19 – 22 May); Speedy Cup on the Racecourse (4 June); Pretty Muddy (4 June) & Race for Life (5 June) in Abington Park; Carnival Parade from the Racecourse and around the town centre (11 June); Music Festival in the town centre (19 June) and the Women's Cycling Tour 2016 in the town centre (19 June).

Planning for Northampton Festival, Mass Cycle Ride, Delapre Food Festival, Diwali, Fireworks, Christmas continue.

The council are working with the Royal British Legion (RBL) on Armed Forces Day on the Market Square with the Parade starting at Eastgate and processing along Abington Street to the Market Square on Saturday 25 June.

Culture & Heritage

April saw two new exhibitions showcasing at Northampton Museums: 'Bees – Pollinators of the World', an exhibition which introduces visitors to the life of the honey bee through stunning photography opened at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and 'Art in the Park' the 55th annual open art exhibition opened at Abington Park Museum.

The last of the winter series of Over 60s talks in April was fully booked and feedback was exceptionally positive. Easter workshops for children were held at both museums and the popular Easter Egg Trail attracted many young families to Abington Park Museum over the Easter weekend. A Beginners Ukulele workshop led by Sara Spade took place in March and once again was very popular and well attended.

A start up meeting was held with the main contractor to begin the development of the new museum.

Customer Services

Providing more of our services on line is one of the council's priorities and it is essential that we are promoting digital inclusion throughout the authority. I am pleased to advise that we have agreed a permanent partnership with Barclays Digital Eagles who have increased their support from once a month to weekly and from February there will be two digital Eagles present within the OSS every Monday from 10:00 – 16:00. They are there to support customers whilst using the self-serve computers and to promote future training sessions to help increase confidence whilst using web services.

Community Law Services moved into the OSS in February. Feedback has been extremely positive and they are pleased with the accommodation and how welcome they have been made to feel. They have seen an increase in referrals resulting in customers receiving the support they need under the one roof.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Housing

Northampton Borough Council

18th April 2016

Northampton's Rough Sleepers Count

On 24th March 2016, I took part in a borough-wide count of rough sleepers, organised by the Council's Housing Options & Advice Manager and a multi agency steering group.

A total of 32 volunteers (representing a broad range of organisations, including the Hope Centre, NAASH, Midland Heart, the Probation Service and the Council) took part in the count, which covered all of the wards in the borough and was carried out between Midnight and 3.00am.

Although it was too unsafe to enter the derelict St Edmund's Hospital site to check for rough sleepers, the volunteers observed a total of 21 people 'bedded down' in the borough.

The intelligence gathered during the count will help us develop our new Rough Sleepers Strategy.

Northampton's next rough sleepers count will take place in November 2016. I am hoping that, by then, our fresh approach to the problem will be bearing fruit and that the number of rough sleepers in the borough will have reduced to less than 10 and be as close as possible to zero.

Tackling, Preventing and Reducing Rough Sleeping

In my last report, I provided details of the half day Workshop that the Council organised in February to kick-start the development of Northampton's Multi Agency Rough Sleepers Strategy.

During the Workshop, everyone agreed that all services and organisations need to work more effectively with one another, deliver a consistent message and actively encourage rough sleepers to engage with housing and support providers and leave the streets. Everyone also agreed that more emergency accommodation is needed in the town.

Since the Workshop, the Council has recruited a couple of excellent Outreach Workers whose supportive, but assertive, approach to rough sleepers is already making a difference. Outcome focused and passionate about their work, our new Outreach Workers are playing a vital role in encouraging services to be more responsive, helping rough sleepers off the streets and, wherever possible, persuading destitute rough sleepers to return to their area or country of origin.

In order to provide more emergency accommodation in the town, the Council is planning to use the former British Rail Social Club in St Andrew's Road – which it has recently purchased as part of a long-term project to celebrate Northampton's heritage – as a temporary facility providing emergency overnight shelter for people sleeping rough in the town. Officers are now consulting with key stakeholders on the role that the nightshelter will play in reducing rough sleeping, the services that it will provide, how it will be run and how it will be funded.

Building on the success of the first Rough Sleepers Strategy Workshop in February, the Council's Housing & Wellbeing Service and Community Safety Team have organised another half day

Workshop – which is taking place on 29th April 2016 – to agree on the key themes, objectives, outcomes and actions that will underpin our new 3 year Multi Agency Rough Sleepers Strategy.

Consequences for landlords who fail to license their HMOs on time

When I introduced the new Housing Enforcement Policy and Fees & Charges Policy at Cabinet in February 2016, I said that the new policies were designed to change the behaviour of owners, landlords and agents by ensuring that offenders bear the full cost of any enforcement action and that, if an HMO is not licensed on time, the licence will cost more and it may not last very long.

Since 1st April 2016, any landlord who has been operating a licensable HMO for more than 26 weeks without a licence will be issued with a 2 year HMO licence, rather than the standard 5 year HMO licence. Furthermore, where the Council's inspection of that HMO identifies a Category 1 hazard and/or a breach of the HMO Management Regulations, the Private Sector Housing Team will ensure that the landlord is served with a Notice and issued with only a 1 year HMO licence.

One of the landlords who has recently fallen foul of the new rules has just paid £650 more for a 3 year HMO licence than they would have paid for a 5 year licence under the old system. By applying for a licence several months late, the landlord will be paying more than 3 times as much over the next 5 years as they would have done if they had applied for their licence on time

The Council's new multi agency, intelligence-led approach to licensing and enforcement is helping us identify and target the owners, landlords and managing agents who are flouting the law, ruining local neighbourhoods and putting tenants' health and wellbeing at risk. As part of this approach, the Private Sector Housing Team is working closely with the University of Northampton, the Northampton Student Landlords Network and DASH (Decent And Safe Housing) to identify, tackle and prosecute landlords and agents who are operating licensable HMOs without a licence.

Northamptonshire's Housing Protocol for Care Leavers

Following the successful implementation of the County's Homelessness Protocol (16 & 17 Year Olds) in November 2015, the Housing & Wellbeing Service has again played a pivotal role in the drafting and approval of Northamptonshire's Housing Protocol for Care Leavers.

This new Protocol – signed by the County Council's Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executives of the County Council and the 7 Borough & District Councils – is designed to ensure that 'looked after' children are prepared for independent living, leave care when they are ready and move on to settled housing (which may include social rented housing) in a planned way.

Effective from 4th April 2016, the Housing Protocol (Care Leavers) sets out the roles and responsibilities of Children's Social Care, the Leaving Care Team, the seven local Housing Authorities and the social housing providers. It describes the action that the young person needs to take to apply for social rented housing and what each Housing Authority will then do to ensure that the young person receives an offer of suitable housing when they are ready to leave care.

The Protocol also sets out what advice and support social landlords, Children's Social Care and the Leaving Care Team are required to provide in order to ensure that, when a care leaver is offered the tenancy of suitable social rented housing, they are able to sustain it.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing



Cabinet Member Report for Planning, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

18th April, 2016

PLANNING

Planning permission was granted for the proposed retail and residential development on the former Chronicle and Echo site following completion of a S106 agreement in March 2016.

Planning permission was granted for proposed 44 apartments at the former Victoria Business Park, St James Park Road following completion of a S106 agreement in March 2016.

Planning permission was granted for the New Community Centre at St Crispin Drive in March 2016.

Planning permission was granted for the proposed car park extension at Delapre Abbey in March 2016.

Local Plan Cabinet Advisory Group

The Group has considered the documents and arrangements for the first public consultation on issues in relation to the Local Plan Part 2. Cabinet will consider these at its meeting on 13 April 2016 and the consultation will start on 27 April for six weeks.

Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan

The Referendum on the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan took place on Thursday 10th March. Residents were asked "Do you want Northampton Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Spring Boroughs to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?". 93.7% of those voting supported the use of the Neighbourhood Plan to decide planning applications. The turnout was 19.5%. The making of the Neighbourhood Plan is to be considered at this Council meeting.

ENTERPRISE

Business Incentive Scheme

The year-end outputs were:-

No of business supported 30

Grant monies committed £212k

Jobs created 113

Private Sector Investment leveraged £1.99m a ratio of £9 for every £1 invested by the Council

Retail Mentoring Service:

The feedback has been excellent, and the programme has been extended to include both existing and new businesses. The mentors` contract has been renewed for further 12 months

No of businesses owners on mentoring programme: 43

No of mentoring workshops delivered: 8

REGENERATION**Delapre Abbey**

The scope of the works to present the rich heritage of the scheme has been increased, resulting in a revised completion date of October 2016.

This work is additional to the original programme which is progressing as planned

St James Mill Road

Network Rail/NBC & NCC are jointly moving the project forward.

NCC has been commissioned to generate design and move through to delivery.

The planning application expected before Christmas, with works expected on-site early in the New Year.

St Giles Street

Phase 1 works are on programme

Continuous business liaison is ongoing via the business liaison group, and regular individual contact by officers.

Phase 2 is currently being planned to follow on from phase 1

Car Parks

The 20 new surface car park pay machines have been installed with 15 offering credit card payment options in Chalk Lane, Commercial Street, Doddridge, Ridings, St Peters and Upper Mounts car parks. Commuters, visitors and shoppers have already taken advantage of the credit card payment option.

The lift refurbishment works in the Grosvenor car park are complete offering visitors and shoppers a smooth ride and improving customer satisfaction.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
18 April 2016

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Report Title	Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To make the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan following the referendum held on the 10 March 2016.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council ‘makes’ the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 2.2 That the Spring Boroughs 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 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan be sent to the qualifying body (Spring Boroughs Voice – the Neighbourhood Forum) and any person who asked to be notified of the Council’s decision.
- 2.4 That Spring Boroughs Voice be congratulated on the successful outcome of the referendum and the making of the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) was prepared by Spring Boroughs Voice (the Neighbourhood Forum), which is the relevant body for the purposes of neighbourhood plan preparation. The applications to designate the Spring Boroughs neighbourhood area and the Neighbourhood Forum to be known as Spring Boroughs Voice for the purposes of preparing a neighbourhood plan were approved made to by Cabinet on 11 December 2013. The map of the Neighbourhood Area can be found in the Plan.
- 3.1.2 Following community engagement and an issues consultation between 2012 and 2014, a pre-submission draft Plan was prepared. This pre-submission Plan was published for consultation between 23 March and 11 May 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 21 July 2015. The submitted Plan was published for public consultation between 24 July and 7 September 2015. Comments received during the consultation period were sent to the appointed Independent Examiner, Mr Christopher Edward Collison BA (Hons) MBA MRTPI MIED MCMI IHBC, for examination.
- 3.1.3 The Examination was conducted through written representations and the Examiner's report was published in September 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 10 March 2016. 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 Spring Boroughs to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?***
- 3.1.6 At the referendum on 10 March 2016, 237 residents voted Yes (93.7% of those voting) and 16 voted No (6.3% of those voting). No ballot papers were rejected. Turnout was 19.5%.
- 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 within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998. 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 Spring Boroughs Voice. 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 all liable developments granted planning permission, including those allowed by an appeal decision, and submitted on or after 1st April 2016 will need to pay the Levy. Once the Plan is made the Council will engage with the community to agree how best the 25% of the CIL receipts from development within Spring Boroughs should be spent.

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 Spring Boroughs Voice] 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 Spring Boroughs 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 requirements for affordable family housing with gardens; new play and community facilities; better routes for pedestrians and cyclists through and into/ out of the area; and protecting and making the most of heritage assets and open spaces.

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 Spring Boroughs 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 Spring Boroughs Voice has undertaken community engagement and public consultation at every stage of the Plan preparation process. A summary is provided in the section "How we have/ want to involve people" of the Neighbourhood Plan. Full details are available in the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Statement 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 2016 – 2020: Priority Safer Communities; Priority Housing for Everyone; and Priority Love Northampton.
- 4.6.2 In particular, Priority Love Northampton of the Corporate Plan states:
“Northampton to have a great community spirit, with people actively participating in local democracy, taking pride in Northampton, its environment and its communities.”

4.7 Other Implications

- 4.7.1 None.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan
- 5.2 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan: Report of Examination (September 2015)
- 5.3 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan: Statement of Community Involvement (July 2015)

Appendix 1 - Decision Statement

Noreen Banks, Senior Planning Officer, Extension 7835

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SPRING BOROUGHS 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 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Spring Boroughs Voice (the Neighbourhood Forum), as the qualifying body, successfully applied for Spring Boroughs 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 December 2013.
- 2.2 Following the submission of a draft of the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan to the Council, the Plan was publicised and comments were invited from the public and other stakeholders. The consultation period closed on 7 September 2015.
- 2.3 Northampton Borough Council appointed an independent Examiner, Mr Christopher Edward Collison BA (Hons) MBA MRTPI MIED MCMi IHBC, to review whether the draft Plan should proceed to Referendum. The Examiner's report was published on 18 September 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 Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan took place on 10 March 2016. The turnout was 19.5% and 93.7% of those votes cast were in favour.

3. NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL DECISION

- 3.1 The Council makes the Spring Boroughs Neighbourhood Plan part of the Northampton Development Plan.
- 3.2 The Council agrees to the Decision Statement and the Spring Boroughs 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.