

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 18 July 2016

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 18 JULY 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 6th June 2016.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(Copy herewith)

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Beardsworth to make a statement on "Manifesto promises made by the

Conservative Administration in 2011 and 2015”

9. APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORS - THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT 1974

(Copy herewith)

10. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE PLACES AND CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS

(Copy herewith)

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor King to propose and Councillor Hallam to second

“This Council recognises the excellent work that has been undertaken by our forums, inter-faith groups and partner organisations to help promote community cohesion within the Town.

In particular Council recognises the excellent “Stamp Out Hate Crime” campaign previously undertaken by the Youth Forum and pledges to work with these groups to look at future campaigns which help promote community cohesion within the Town.

This Council also notes the Prime Minister’s recent announcement of the work the Government is doing in this area and the extra funding that is being made available.

This Council is committed to helping further this good work to ensure Northampton continues to be a diverse and tolerant town and one in which can be proud to live”

ii) Councillor Meredith to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second

“Council recognises its ongoing obligation to the social housing tenants of Northampton, highlighted by Council member’s membership of the board of Northampton Partnership Homes.

Council notes with concern the many recent instances of poor quality repairs and maintenance of the housing stock.

Council resolves to work with Northampton Partnership homes to improve delivery of their contracts, the standard of maintenance work, and the general satisfaction of tenants”

iii) Councillor Smith to propose and Councillor Davenport to second

“One of the issues for shopping and retail areas in the town is commercial waste. Traders are responsible for taking out contracts with private waste collection services. These great big commercial bins have lids that should be kept locked.

However they are an eyesore and are visible all over the town. The lids are often not locked

and bins are often overflowing with rubbish. The bins attract other refuse and so we often see fly-tipping and black sacks around the commercial bins. This in turn attracts vermin, rats, foxes, cockroaches.

This Council believes this cannot go on. This Council therefore agrees to take the following steps:-

1. Instruct planning officers not to allow new applications where waste bins cannot be kept off the street.
2. Work with existing traders to ensure their bins are labelled and locked.
3. To survey where the bins are left out on the streets and come up with local solutions agreed with traders to provide bin storage areas”

iv) Councillor Russell to propose and Councillor Haque to second

“We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our town. We condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Northampton Borough will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia. We are a town of many of faiths.

We reassure all people living in Northampton that they are valued members of our community and this will long continue.”

v) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor Culbard to second.

“This Council recognises the importance of Trade Unions in this local authority. They have played a crucial role in helping members of our staff.

As a good employer Northampton Borough Council welcomes the role of public sector unions looking after the interests of the staff. It is good for us as a council to have a way of negotiating pay and conditions with the staff. We do this through negotiations with union officers.

It is often through the unions that members of staff let us know if there are issues at work that need to be addressed. It is with this in mind that we would like to go on record as being an employer that encourages staff to join a public sector union.

We believe Trade Unions should play a big role in the Cultural Change programme currently being undertaken”.

12. 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 at the Annual Council Meeting or other civic or ceremonial meetings.)

NOTES

- i. *Comments may be on one or more subjects but each person has no longer than three minutes to have their say.*
- ii. *The same person may make a comment and present a petition on different subjects. In such instances that person will have three minutes to make their comment and a separate three minutes to present a petition.*

2. Member and Public Questions

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:

- be submitted in writing and delivered, faxed or e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
- include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.

- 2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

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

NOTES

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

3. Motions

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

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

4. General

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

5. Contacts

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

Tel 01604 837722

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

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 6 June 2016 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hadland declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in Item 7 – Cabinet Member Presentations as a Trustee of Delapre Abbey Conservation Trust.

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th April and the 19th May 2016 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Golby, Aziz and Lynch.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that he had attended a court tea party for the Queen's Birthday and had attended a function at Buckingham Palace.

The Mayor reminded Council that the Northampton Carnival would to be held on Saturday 11th June – with his Guide Dog Verity and urged Councillors and members of the public to attend the event.

The Mayor also announced that a Curry Night was being held at the Maha Raja on Sunday 3rd July 8pm and asked for those interested in attending to contact the Mayor's Office.

The Mayor finally requested Members to donate items for an auction to be held on the 3rd September 2016 for the Mayor's charity.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Norman Adams addressed Council and expressed his concerns in relation to the increased crime rates, specifically violent crimes. He further commented that the

funding cuts to 'Shopmobility' were unfair and that it created a false economy.

Mr Phil Leach commented that a recent tragic accident had resulted in the death of 4 young adults and that asked that shrines and memorials left in remembrance had been cleared by the Council after 2 days and asked that in the future, they be left for a week as a means of respect. He further commented that the funding cuts to 'Shopmobility' would result in disabled people being punished.

Mr David Green stated that cuts in funding to 'Shopmobility' were disgraceful and would further disadvantage people with disabilities. He further commented that accessibility to the Town was important to those less able bodied and urged the Council to reconsider the funding cut.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 15 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 update agenda on the website) unless where stated, supplementary questions were asked, as detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 1, Councillor Hibbert explained that homeless people were housed in Council properties and not through private lettings agencies. He also noted that the Council had introduced a Social Lettings Agency to assist with housing issues.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 2, Councillor Hibbert explained that the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) was set by central Government and that the level reflected the lowest 30% of these rents.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 7, Councillor Bottwood explained that they were working hard to ensure all areas of the Town Centre were being cleaned and cleared up.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 13, Councillor Bottwood explained that the clearing up of the Racecourse after events would be the responsibility of the events holders, officers, the Council and EMS.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Markham, as the Leader of the Council, submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She explained that she was committed to working with Leaders of all Councils in Northamptonshire to review and promote consideration of

local government reorganisation. She further noted that LGSS would continue to provide Finance, Revenues and Benefits and IT Services, noting that the delegation of HR and legal services would end in 2017. She further elaborated on the Rough Sleepers Strategy which would be considered by Cabinet on the 8th June, to manage the issue of rough sleepers in Northampton.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Markham confirmed that the Greyfriars site would not accommodate any buses. She further noted that the potential development of the site was not going to be a temporary job, but that the longevity of the development was of utmost importance. Responding to further questions it was explained that with regards to LGSS, the contract entered into had been partly for cost-cutting reasons, but that there was the need to realign the service.

Councillor Nunn submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted the commitment of the Council to the improvement of the Town Centre, stating it was a top priority. He stated that Northampton were very lucky to have major sporting teams and welcomed all of their achievements.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Nunn stated that boosting retail in the Town Centre was a priority, but explained that the current financial climate was unfortunate but that the Administration were committed to making the Town Centre as attractive, clean and as safe as possible for visitors and residents. Responding to further questions, he confirmed that he would be urging the sports clubs to take on apprenticeships and would encourage and try to facilitate sports clubs working with schools. He commented he would be happy to discuss, with the Ward Councillor, the situation of Thorplands Club 81 and the possibility of arranging a pavilion. He further commented that he would work with the Ward Councillor in East Hunsbury to look at proposed changes to the football pitches.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. In response to questions asked, he confirmed that he would be working with the Railway Station to ensure the safety of disabled people using the facilities.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and reported that a night time economy weekend multi-agency hub had been established in partnership with McDonald's at their premises on the Drapery. It was also noted that the Town Centre BID was also funding 'Street Wardens' who would provide additional support in key areas of the Town Centre.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hallam explained that there were numerous reasons for increased overall crime figures including an increased number of thefts from motor vehicles due to expensive technology being left on display to changes in the reporting of some crimes such as domestic abuse. He further explained that tackling violent crime was a priority of the Council and that the collaborative working with streets pastors would help to ensure safety.

At this juncture, Councillor Larratt proposed the suspension of Council procedural rule 25 to extend the period of time for the Cabinet Member Presentations. This was seconded by Councillor Beardsworth. This was voted upon and was carried.

Councillor King elaborated on her Cabinet Member report and explained that whilst there had been a reduction in the amounts that some organisations had received, the funding was limited. In response to questions asked, Councillor King commented that she would work with officers and members of the Disabled People's Forum to explain the position of reduced funding to Shopmobility and commented that she had already assisted some people by helping them apply for grant applications. Responding to further questions, Councillor King explained that she would be happy to share the Equality Impact Assessment information with regards to those awarded funding to gather information regarding age, sex and ethnicity. In response to a further question, Councillor King commented that an urgent Forum meeting would be arranged which she would attend to address and answer any concerns.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone made a statement as set out in the agenda. She questioned where the money had gone from the Sixfields loan and spoke of the cost of the Hardingstone appeal. She referred to the LGSS contract and stated that a plan was needed to end the unsuccessful venture and that consideration should be given to the financial deficit of Northamptonshire County Council. She stated that there was a need to make a contribution to the migrant crisis in Northampton and spoke of the biggest challenge was the lack of housing in the Town.

The Leader responded by stating that LGSS had not been an unsuccessful venture as it saved the Council money, but that there was a need for some of the services to be bought back in house. Councillor Markham also stated that the Council were not helping migrants, but that it had been made clear by Northamptonshire County Council that there was a lack of funding, school place and social care in place for increased capacity.

In response, Councillor Stone commented that she welcomed the information that migrants were not unwelcome.

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Councillor Lane, as the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, proposed a report to note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16 and thanked the Scrutiny Officer for their work.

Councillor Sargeant seconded the report and spoke in favour of the cross party working that had been undertaken as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Council noted the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16.

10. CHANGES TO CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Patel proposed a report that sought confirmation to changes to the

membership of the Community Enabling Fund Advisory Group.

Councillor Oldham seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Kilbride replaces Councillor Sargeant on The Community Enabling Fund Advisory Group.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr Norman Adams addressed Council on Motion i) and stated that he supported the motion as the housing stock was being diminished and that there was no economic sense in the Right to Buy Scheme.

Council noted that the proposer of Motion i) had agreed to incorporate the amendments submitted by the Conservative Group and agreed to the alteration (as below).

- i) Councillor Ashraf proposed and Councillor Chunga seconded:

“This Council notes in April 2012 the Coalition Government increased the discounts available for council tenants who buy their home using Right To Buy. This Council notes it was also announced that receipts from RTB would be used to replace the housing stock. This Council believes that RTB has been beneficial to tenants. We currently have plans to replace those lost under RTB. Since the announcement in March 2014 to build 100 new homes in Dallington we have lost at least 202 properties but plans are near completion to replace these in line with the Government requirement within 3 years.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

- ii) Councillor Davenport to propose and Councillor Cali to second:

“This Council believes we need to secure more temporary / emergency accommodation of an appropriate standard in Northampton.

This Council must strive, as far as reasonably possible to secure accommodation within Northampton. The Council must try to place an applicant as close as possible to their social networks.

This Council believes it is not acceptable that some vulnerable people are placed in Wellingborough, particularly if they have children who go to school in Northampton.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet to explore ways of increasing the supply and the quality of our temporary and emergency accommodation offer within the next two

years.”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a requisition for a recorded vote;

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

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

There abstained the Mayor.

The Motion was lost.

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

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 8:52 pm

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016**Question 1****Question to Cllr Alan Bottwood from Brian Calder, On behalf of #NoMoInNoHo Campaign in Northampton for No Monster Incinerator**

Concentrations of NO₂ in air quality monitoring areas across Northampton including St James have exceeded legal limits consistently over a period of in excess of 10 years. Will councillor Bottwood immediately release the councils air quality action plan for public consultation prior to the council progressing its Northampton Local Plan and prior to the council considering as a consultee any plans for a waste incineration plant or gasifier in St James which will only exacerbate air quality problems within the town?

Response

The low emission strategy will be released for public consultation within the next 2 weeks to seek views of local Northampton people and its businesses.

The gasifier proposed for St James will be subject to an independent assessment required as part of the planning process which is being administered by Northamptonshire County Council.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 2

Question to Cllr Alan Bottwood from Brian Calder, On behalf of #NoMoInNoHo Campaign in Northampton for No Monster Incinerator

Will councillor Bottwood publish the air quality management figures in total for the period 2005 – 2016 indicating which air quality monitoring areas have exceeded legal limits and explain what actions the council have taken to date to reduce these illegal levels of emissions?

Response

Data on air quality monitoring across Northampton will be made available on the Council's website. Where the Council has a recognised issue with air quality these locations have been declared as air quality management areas. This includes locations such as Victoria Promenade, St James area (immediately around the junctions of Harlestone Road, Weedon Road and Spencer Bridge Road) and Harborough Road. These locations are subject to annual monitoring. The results from this monitoring will be made available on the Council's website.

To address emissions the Council has developed a draft low emission strategy which will be going out for public consultation in the near future. This approach integrates the actions to deal with emissions in the coordinated manner through planning and transportation rather than taking isolated actions which risk displacing problems to other locations.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 3

Question to Cllr Jonathan Nunn from Cllr Samuel Shaw

Cleanliness

The summer holidays are about to start and the town centre is going to be even busier than normal.

Question: Can you tell me what is being done to make sure it remains clean and that litter is dealt with throughout the summer?

Response

We have three enforcement officers and have up to 1 July 2016 served a total of 669 Fixed Penalty Notices. I am confident that we have an active, hardworking and efficient team that will look after our town centre to the best of their abilities.

Additionally, we have also recently purchased a Suction Sweeper - a big green street cleaning machine. This device is excellent at removing cigarette buds and ideal for areas such as sidewalks, stations, cycle lanes, pedestrian areas, parking etc.

This Council recognises the great importance of maintaining a visible presence in town centre, therefore, for the first time in a very long time, we have a team of four operating the machine 7 days a week.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Town Centre & Sports Clubs

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 4

Question to Cllr Alan Bottwood from Cllr Tony Ansell

Northampton in Bloom

We heard that the Britain in Bloom judges came to Northampton and we have all seen floral displays in town.

Question: Can you explain, reassure us that Northampton in Bloom has the impact on the whole town and not just the town centre?

Response

The town centre is of course important. It attracts shoppers, working people, families, visitors, businesses, investors, people with economic prosperity and, therefore, it is our showcase. However, Bloom is about far more than only the town centre, as it encourages schools, community groups, residents and businesses across Northampton to get involved in horticulture and community projects.

Participants in the project represent most of our town, from Duston, Far Cotton, Hunsbury, Eastern District, to Abington, Kingsthorpe etc. All in all, the Town centre is just a part of the bloom experience. Northampton in Bloom truly is an event where our whole town and community come together to keep the area look welcoming.

Councillor Alan Bottwood

Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 5

Question to Cllr Tim Hadland from Cllr Andrew Kilbride

Greyfriars

Question: Can you reassure us that the schemes put forward by developers of the Greyfriars, which you announced this morning, represent the very best for the future of Northampton?

Response

The proposals that have been put forward came from very experienced commercial developers. The two bids are mix-use schemes, including residential, commercial, daytime and evening uses, retails etc. They are both of a very high quality and will no doubt help attract people to that part of the town.

The plans for the site include a coach facility and vitally both potential developers have been in contact with Legal and General about linkages through the Grosvenor Centre to the Greyfriars.

I am confident we have two excellent schemes and whichever is selected in September will be a great asset to not only the town centre but Northampton as a whole.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 6

Question to Cllr Tim Hadland from Cllr James Hill

St Giles Street

We've seen that the works in St Giles Street have been underway for months now and all members would have witnessed the disruption if they come to the car park. With the first phase completed and second phase started, there is still some time to go before this work is finished.

Question: Can you update us on whether and how businesses and public are being kept informed about what is going on?

Response

I am pleased to say that the works are moving ahead very quickly.

The workmen are being extremely considerate and helpful to businesses to make sure they can get deliveries and other access to their premises.

We have regular fortnightly meetings with the steering group of St Giles St businesses and we have started visited businesses not just in St Giles St but wider area, including Dergate, Castilian Street etc. in order to pick up quickly on any potential problems and put them right at the earliest possible stage.

We know how important St Giles St is to the economy of the Town centre and Cultural Quarter, that is why we worked hard to become the Best British High Street and we are now trying to improve it even further.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 7

Question to Cllr Alan Bottwood from Mr S Miller

Following the result of the EU Referendum, could the councillor please confirm that the public consultation on the Low Emissions Strategy will go ahead as planned, and would he be able to confirm when this consultation is expected to begin.

Response

The public consultation on the NLES will go ahead as planned, and is anticipated to commence within the next 2 weeks.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 8

Question to Cllr Anna King from Cllr Jane Birch

In relation to the Town Show, popular with residents, the Racecourse was used by commercial organisation. What income does that bring into this Council?

Response

As this was the first year for this event and was free entry to the general public the council did not charge a fee on this occasion.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 9

Question to Cllr Tim Hadland from Cllr Arthur McCutcheon

Does the Borough own land that we can produce a master plan for and then offer small plots for housing on to small developers?

Response

Thank you for your question. It may be helpful if I set out how these things are required to be considered.

The **Housing & Planning Act 2016** confers a duty on local planning authorities to ‘...give suitable development permission in respect of enough serviced plots of land to meet the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding in the authority’s area...’

This type of housebuilding, perhaps never likely to be the main source of new housing, can still make a contribution to local housing supply.

Note

Serviced plot of Land is defined in the Act as:

(a) Land that has access to a public highway and has connections for electricity, water and wastewater; or

(b) Land that can be provided with those things in specific circumstances or within a specified period.

The **Self Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015** says that evidence of demand for such house-building will be provided via a register of individuals and associations of individuals who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in the authority’s area in order to build houses for those individuals to occupy as homes.

The Council’s website already enables people interested in this form of development to register their interest via the submission of an on-line pro-forma (at the time of writing only four people have done this).

A **DCLG Technical Consultation**, dated February 2016 suggests that a published list of small sites would make it easier for developers and individuals interested in this form of housebuilding to identify suitable sites for development and it would seem that something along the lines of a small sites register may be envisaged. At this point we await further guidance in the matter as the form of any such register may be prescribed by the Secretary of State.

So the approach being taken by Government is one that seeks to secure suitable land for self-build and custom housebuilding irrespective of ownership, largely through the operation of the planning system. This would seem to be an appropriate approach especially given the level of registered interest at the moment.

The Council, which in its capacity as property owner/manager has a duty to secure best value, will continue to be mindful of the needs of self-build and custom housebuilders if it is considering the possible disposal of land for housing.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 10

Question to Cllr Mary Markham from Cllr Danielle Stone

Do we receive any European funding. If so what for? How will Brexit impact?

Response

The Council currently does not have any European Union funding.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 11

Question to Cllr Tim Hadland from Cllr Arthur McCutcheon

Do we have a problem in the borough with land banking?

Response

As land banking, where builders buy land in advance of actually wanting to build on it, or in the expectation that prices may rise in the future, is a commercial decision, the Borough Council is not able to say definitively whether there are a large number of 'banked' sites.

However, the Planning and Regeneration teams do take a very proactive approach towards bringing forward housing and regeneration schemes, working closely with land owners and developers to ensure that suitable schemes are approved and then delivered on site as quickly as possible. Unimplemented planning permissions are also regularly monitored.

Through the Core Strategy and local plan process, land owners are encouraged to identify sites with development potential, which are then assessed and, where appropriate, highlighted as future development sites.

The Borough Council has also recently participated in a pilot scheme to produce a register of brownfield land which will provide house builders with up-to-date and publicly available information on all brownfield sites available for housing locally. The register will help housebuilders identify suitable sites quickly, speeding up the construction of new homes.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 12

Question Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Rufia Ashraf

Rising homeless -do we have the ability to build affordable and social housing?

Response

Although the Council received 9% fewer homelessness applications in 2015/16 than in 2014/15, it accepted a housing duty towards 11% more homeless households in 2015/16 than it accepted in 2014/15. This increase is consistent with what is happening elsewhere in the country and across most of Northamptonshire.

Yes, the Council does have the ability to build affordable and social housing and this is an area we are actively seeking to develop with NPH. Housing associations are also continuing to build new affordable housing in Northampton.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert

Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 13

Question to Cllr Tim Hadland from Cllr Arthur McCutcheon

In an era of growth how are we to match homes to work force need?

Response

In planning for strategic growth and development, the provision of new homes takes account of several factors which assist in matching housing supply to need. These factors include:

- An assessment of the overall quantity of new homes to be provided and an assessment of the types of housing that will be needed. The West Northamptonshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment and related Technical Papers assessed housing requirements including the overall amount and type of housing required. The Northamptonshire Strategic Employment Land Assessment and related Technical Papers assessed the requirement in terms of jobs growth for the area including the economic prospects for the area and labour force growth projections. The population, household and labour force growth projections informed the number of new homes to be provided in Northampton as set out in the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 (2014).
- Consideration of price and affordability, for both market housing and affordable housing. Whilst the planning system cannot typically regulate sale prices, the plan-led system requires local planning authorities to identify enough land to meet the broadly identified housing needs. An up-to-date development plan can therefore contribute to the overall availability of land and provides a degree of certainty which reduces the degree of risk for new development. The amount and mix of affordable housing that is provided by new development can also be considered, subject to viability.
- Location of new homes & jobs: this can affect commuting levels, commuting patterns and access to employment. The planning system cannot control where people work compared with where they live but the plan-led system can provide greater choice of jobs and/ or means of travel to work.

Consideration of the above factors helps to ensure that a balanced supply of housing is provided reflecting the identified local needs.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration Enterprise & Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 14

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Rufia Ashraf

To prevent homelessness we need to end short hold tenancies. How are we going to do that?

Response

I am sorry, but I do not understand your question.

Are you saying that the Council should take positive action to bring assured shorthold tenancies to an end, or are you saying that the Council should stop assured shorthold tenancies being used in Northampton?

If the Council takes positive action to encourage landlords to bring assured shorthold tenancies to an end, this would actually cause (rather than prevent) homelessness.

Assured shorthold tenancies have been in existence for almost thirty years, since the enactment of the Housing Act 1988. As this is national legislation, the Council is not able to stop assured shorthold tenancies being used in Northampton.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 15

Question to Cllr Brandon Eldred from Cllr Elizabeth Gowen

Are we going to sign the municipal bond framework?

Response

The current capital investment plan and borrowing position for the Council does not require additional financing at this point in time over and above that already approved. However, if the borrowing needs of the council change then consideration will be given to other financing vehicles, including the Municipal Bond framework.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 16

Question to Cllr Mary Markham from Cllr Danielle Stone

Please can we have an update on the progress towards a Dementia Friendly Town?

Response

We have joined the national and local Dementia Action Alliance groups and have developed three actions which are currently being worked on. These are:-

- To deliver dementia awareness training to all customer facing staff and encourage them to register as Dementia Friends
- Engaging with town centre retailers to encourage them to become dementia friendly
- Considering those living with Dementia when planning new projects and in the renewal and re-design of current environments (where NBC have control over those) Examples would include lighting, signage and design and placement of seating etc.

An officer steering group has been formed and they arranged activities which were undertaken during Dementia Awareness Week in May. Further involvement and activities are being planned for World Alzheimers week during September.

The steering group are working closely with the Alzheimers Society and developing a training programme for all staff and for local businesses who have indicated an interest.

We are also actively reviewing how the Guildhall and other council buildings could become more dementia friendly which includes designing signage to meet the needs of people living with Dementia.

We are now active members of the Northamptonshire Dementia Action Alliance which will enable us to influence and be involved in what is happening locally to further develop the action plan towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Town.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 17

Question to Cllr Stephen Hibbert from Cllr Rufia Ashraf

Can we have an update on progress in setting up a Social Lettings Agency?

Response

Although it was hoped that the Social Lettings Agency would have been up and running by now, Officers in the Housing & Wellbeing Service have needed to spend a lot of their time on other priorities, including the development of fresh and more innovative approaches to rough sleeping, HMOs and housing enforcement.

The Head of Housing & Wellbeing and I have agreed that, in order to set up the Social Lettings Agency as soon as practicable, we need to secure the services of an additional member of staff who has the skills, experience and capacity to get things done and, guided by the Head of Housing & Wellbeing, put everything in place in readiness for the recruitment of a team that will run the Social Lettings Agency.

Although I am disappointed by the time it is taking to set up this important initiative, I am confident that the extra resources will help the team make good progress over the coming months. I am happy, of course, to meet with you and the Head of Housing & Wellbeing to brief you on what has already been done, and what still needs to be done, to establish a viable and effective lettings agency in the town.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 18th July, 2016

Question 18

Question to Cllr Jonathan Nunn from Cllr Anamul Haque

There is a growing conflict of interest between inner town centre residents and businesses that offer services through the night. What are we going to do about it?

Response

I am not aware of specific evidence of growing conflict of interest between residents and businesses. If residents are experiencing problems with particular businesses they should contact the Environmental Health and Licensing team who have powers to take enforcement action to deal with specific problems.

The Police monitor the night-time economy and flag any emerging or concerning issues with NBC through established partnership meetings. Should a response be required, a partnership approach is adopted.

Additionally, we are also in the process of setting up a Night Time Economy Strategy with which we would like to meet the vision of a safe town and attractive town centre with a diverse night time economy, accessible to all.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Town Centre & Sports Clubs



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18th July 2016

Jo Cox MP Memorial Service

A ceremony in memory of Jo Cox MP took place in the courtyard of The Guildhall on the morning of 20th June. A horrifying attack like this strikes not only at an individual, but at our freedom. I would like to thank the Mayor, Councilor Christopher Malpas for leading the ceremony as well as my other colleagues for paying tribute to this determined and passionate MP.

Voluntary and Community Sector

The Council is proud to say that Service Level Agreements are being developed with each of the 29 organisations that are being funded this year through the Partnership Grant; this includes developing performance monitoring against the outcomes that will be delivered by each of the organisations.

Councillor King reports of the links that are being made through the community centres with Health services, including Nene Clinical Commissioning and also First for Well Being, to explore opportunities to deliver services from community centres.

The Council helped deliver the Day 5 of the Women's Cycle Tour, which started outside the Guildhall on Sunday 19th June and supported the Royal British Legion to deliver the Armed Forces Day on the Market Square and Parade in the town centre on 25th June.

In June we saw the 'Landmark: Photos of Northampton' open at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. This open exhibition showcases photographs taken by local photographers of some of Northamptonshire's most iconic buildings. 'Beauty and the Beach' opened mid-July and explores the style, design and inspiration of women's swimwear during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. A display to mark the section of The Women's Tour from Kettering to Northampton went on show at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery in June.

Councillor Hallam reports that the final draft of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is now out for consultation. The 'Order' covers a range of Anti-Social Behaviour, namely alcohol, illegal drugs, psychoactive substances, urinating/defecating in a public place, begging, busking, dog fouling and dogs being kept on leads in certain public areas. Subject to the consultation results, it is anticipated that the PSPO will be in place by November 2016 at the latest.

Shoe Industry

Northamptonshire's heritage is inextricably bound to the shoe trade, and the Council strongly believes that much more can be made of this. Therefore, we took the initiative and on 27th June organised lunch amid the fantastic shoe collection at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, to bring together leading figures in the local footwear industry: Horace Batten Bootmakers, Joseph Cheaney Shoes, Church & Co, Edward Green Shoes, Jeffrey-West & Co, Crockett & Jones, Loake Brothers, R E Tricker, Sargent Shoes and Geo J Cox. The University of Northampton has announced a collaboration with Northampton Borough Council to turn the former Vulcan Works in Guildhall Road into a centre for leatherworking excellence. This was an excellent timing for a discussion about how we can all capitalise on the cultural opportunity this presents.

Chinese Delegation Visit

On 6th June, together with some of my colleagues, I welcomed to our town the Chinese delegation from Deyang. This is a mostly industrial city and the high-tech industry contributing to its healthy economy. Although Deyang is primarily based on industry, it is remarkably clean with the local government vigilant. Delegation included representatives from the Foreign and Overseas Affairs Office of Deyang, High-Tech Industry Development Zone Administrative Committee, Municipal Bureau of Commerce and Municipal Investment Promotion Bureau. We walked down Guildhall Road and introduced them to some of our incredible and notable places and plans, such as the Museum and Gallery with 9 Guildhall Road and the idea of enhancing the town centre's cultural offer, Boutique Hotel, Royal and Derngate, Vulkan Works plans, Project Angel, The University and St Johns Student Accommodation, Train station and Innovation entre, Cosworth, the Sixfields opportunity, Saints Stadium and others. During a tour through the town they were able to see some of our major development sites, regeneration projects and job creation plans as well as potential opportunities for investment.

Market Square

Together with the Deputy Leader, I have visited some of the other markets nearby to explore ideas, possibilities and opportunities to improve our Market Square. We have stopped at the markets in Nuneaton and Wellesbourne. I am delighted to say that this Council will put its best effort into rejuvenating Market Square, developing it into an even more stimulating space at the heart of the town. This is part of the ongoing work to regenerate the town centre and support local businesses. Market Square is important to our town and this Cabinet, as well as the Council, would like to refurbish it into a vibrant and welcoming public space that Northampton people can be proud of. In order for this positive change to happen, a number of ideas, proposals and options will be considered and we will continue working in conjunction with Market traders.

Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

The initial interviews have been held for the role of Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning. This role is vital for regeneration and growth of Northampton. We do not believe we have found a candidate who would match the high standard criteria so far; therefore, we will advertise the position again. Nevertheless, I am pleased to advise you that Steven Boyes has agreed to stay with us until Christmas, which will give us additional time to find a replacement.

Parking

The free parking offer, which this Council introduced, continues to attract visitors to the Council's multi-storey car parks with May's figures for 2 hour free parking showing a 18% increase in comparison with May 2015 figures. The two hour free parking figures for April & May 2016 has seen 158,785 customers take advantage of the offer.

The Saturday free parking for April & May reached 75,617 which was 6.1% more than in 2015.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18th July

Town Centre Strategy Partnership

On 21st July, we will be hosting a Town Centre Strategy Partnership stakeholder meeting, to shape a new partnership that will create a clear strategy for town centre improvement. As a vision for the town that we all seek to achieve, this strategy will embrace all aspects of the town centre including the night-time economy. Led by the Borough Council, the ongoing work of the partnership will be to drive the strategic improvement of the town, through the engagement, commitment, cooperation, and accountability of all partners. Those attending will include Town Centre BID representatives, local businesses from all sectors and all areas of the town centre, stakeholders from the market and shopping centres, and all those public bodies providing services in the town centre from the Police to Enterprise.

Other Activity

Since my last report, I have supported the Leader and Cabinet colleagues to progress a number of areas and new initiatives, such as meetings with local charitable groups to assist them, a broad range of Environmental issues, welcoming the judges for East Midlands in Bloom, supporting the Landlords Forum, events and plans for Christmas, supporting the lunch held to engage with and support shoe sector employers. I have also met and liaised with the Brackmills and Town Centre Business Improvement Districts, attended the Town Centre BID AGM, and maintained contact with the town's professional sports clubs.

Association of Far Cotton Enterprises

Recently I met with the lead organiser of the Association of Far Cotton Enterprises, a new initiative that is seeking to bring together the commercial community of Far Cotton, and which is already enjoying the support of the three NBC Ward Councillors. The group is seeking to form an association along the lines of a Business Improvement District, or something similar. As a board member of our two Business Improvement Districts, I was able to guide them on experiences of Brackmills and the Town Centre BID, as well as the other parts of the town that have looked at operating similar groups, ahead of the group's public meeting which is to be held on 11th July.

Market

The Market Advisory Group has met twice since my last report, maintaining an active and constructive dialogue between the council and the market traders. Marketing and PR for the market has continued to be undertaken, including through social media, where the market Facebook page has now received 1,359 'likes', and with poster advertising and leaflet activity, and during the past month we have welcomed five new traders to the market. The Local Producers food market will be held on 30th July, and the last Saturday of each month thereafter, and we are delighted that the list of local producers who will be attending and offering their food products continues to grow.

Councillor Training

Training support for all our Councillors is vital to assist them to serve the town and their communities to the best of their abilities. The cross-party Councillor Training Working Group will therefore be meeting to assess the ongoing training needs of all Councillors.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18th July

Planning

N/2015/1249 – full planning application for the erection of 64 dwellings at Ecton Brook Playing Fields was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 14th of June, subject to S106 agreement.

N/2015/1074 – The application for the erection of 81 dwellings at the former St Mary's Middle School was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 10th of May, subject to S106 agreement.

The Local Plan Issues consultation closed on Friday 10 June. Responses to the consultation are currently being registered and reviewed.

The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan is expected to be submitted in July. The Council will then publicise the Plan for 6 weeks.

Upton Country Park

We have completed the transfer of Phase 2 of Upton Country Park. This comprises fishing lakes, open space and agricultural land occupied under various agricultural tenancies.

72 St. Giles Street

There has been a lot of interest in this prominently located property and a decision will be taken shortly.

University Waterside Campus

We are conducting various negotiations with the University to facilitate their development and occupation of the new campus including the completion of agreement for highway improvement works between Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council and the University of Northampton. Permission has been granted by NBC for crane to over-sail the River Nene and consent has been granted by NBC for National Grid to relocate gas governor & main.

Billing Brook Lakes

A working group to address issues with the lakes has met including local Ward Members and representatives from the Environment Agency and growing together. Estates attended this meeting and will act on the Council's behalf.

Home Farm

Extensive repairs to the listed building, Home Farm, are to be completed imminently.

Greyfriars

Preparations are in hand for a public information event to be held from 18th – 20th July on the final submissions from the developers.

Vulcan Works

Continued negotiations with the University are ongoing following the Cabinet decision to grant an option to lease on the existing Vulcan works building.

St Giles Street

The Phase II works from Castilian Street to St Giles Square started on 21st June on the south side of road adjacent to Games Workshop.

Phase II will be complete before the Christmas shopping period.

The works will deliver enhanced public realm to St. Giles Street, with enhanced footpaths and other surfaces, and trees in planters will be placed at the bottom of Fish Street.

Revisions to the St. Giles Street/Derngate junction which will improve pedestrian safety.

The narrow footpaths on the north side will be widened, improving public safety, and improved lighting is to be installed.

Business Incentive Scheme

2016-2017 Update:

- 20 Businesses committed
- Supporting 146 new jobs
- Leveraging £521,968 Private Sector Investment

The successful Mentoring Workshops continue

A new Website has been created and e-form applications created

St James Mill Road Link

Outline design proposals have passed safety audit round 1.

Discussions are taking place with two adjacent businesses concerning access.

Station Phase 2 Multi-Storey Car Park

Site and ground investigations are now complete, as are the discussions with Anglian water concerning the Victorian sewer that crosses the site

Outline designs and business case preparation are ongoing, and due to complete in September.

Delapre Abbey

The commercial kitchen and restaurant to open 27th Oct.

A new footpaths to be installed between London Road and the Abbe, and the works will run from 27th June for 3 months

A new gas main is to be installed during August.

Enterprise Zone

Site 7C had planning permission approved at Planning Committee, subject to Section 106 funding for Phase 1. This phase will see the investment of Hellermannntyton and will bring circa 150 jobs to the Enterprise Zone.

Phase 2 has outline permission approved subject, again, to a Section 106 agreement. This phase is likely to involve the development of smaller industrial units, addressing the pent-up demand for such unite in the Enterprise Zone

Site 2A/B is now on the market and has attracted a large amount of interest.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 July 2016

Finance

The Council's draft Accounts for 2015/16 were signed off by the Chief Finance Officer and published in advance of the 30th June deadline. They have been passed to KPMG, the external auditor, to undertake their annual audit. The draft Accounts will be presented to the Audit Committee at their meeting on 25th July. In addition the Accounts are available for public inspection for a period of 30 working days from 1st July 2016.

The Council is continuing its work towards developing its Efficiency Plan for submission to Government in October. As part of this work the Council is in the process of assessing the implications of "Brexit" from the European Union on both its finances and also its service provision.

Revenues and Benefits

During the early part of the new financial year the Revenues and Benefits service have been focused on recovering from the busy year end period and annual billing process. Alongside this major activities have been completed that include the finalisation of the transfer of the business rates service into LGSS. In the past this service was provided by the Borough Council of Wellingborough via a consortium arrangement and it's transfer to Northampton has been managed very carefully to minimise any impact on the collection of this income. In addition the service have completed a large scale recruitment process, with the aim of supporting the service over the coming months, but also to build resilience for the future, including the appointment of 3 modern apprentices. The officers recruited will be deployed mainly to support our customer contact via the telephone and aims to ensure the service answer 90% of all calls to the service, even during high volume periods which sees demand on the telephones more than doubling. Efforts to reduce demand during these periods are also underway and the service in 2016 has increased the online take up of the Councils Citizen account by over 3,000 users from 17,000 at the turn of the year

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

18th July 2016

Ending the need to sleep rough in Northampton

On 13th July 2016, the Leader of the Council launched '**Together we change lives**', the borough's ambitious, multi-agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton.

During the Workshop that followed, around 60 participants – representing more than 30 services and organisations – worked together on the development of a comprehensive 3 year action plan that will underpin our strategy for tackling, preventing and reducing rough sleeping.

Although rough sleeping is a very complex and difficult problem to resolve, I have been impressed and inspired by the work that is being done and the difference it is making to people's lives. It has been fantastic to see what can be achieved when services work, develop and improve together.

Improving the management of student housing

As part of our strategy for improving student housing, the Council's Private Sector Housing Team has established a **good practice alliance** with the University of Northampton, the Students Union, DASH (Decent and Safe Homes) and the Northampton Student Landlords Network.

This new alliance has been set up in order to improve multi-agency working, share information, provide landlords and students with consistent messages about their rights and responsibilities, and improve the management of privately rented student housing. It will also make it much easier for the Council to identify and deal with properties that are unsafe, substandard, badly managed or operating as an HMO without a licence and/or planning permission.

Members of the alliance have agreed to produce new leaflets and posters (bearing the logos of all five organisations), review the content of all of their literature and webpages (to ensure that all messages and advice are consistent) and host a joint stand at this year's Freshers Fair.

Tackling anti-social behaviour in HMOs

In order to secure the support of the Police in preventing illegal evictions, the Council's Private Sector Housing Manager has provided training for more than 70 Police Officers in the borough.

These training sessions have not only improved the way in which the Police respond to tenancy disputes and illegal evictions but they have also encouraged the Police to contact the Private Sector Housing Team for help in addressing anti-social behaviour in licensed HMOs.

As it is a condition of the HMO licence that the licence holder takes effective action to prevent and manage any anti-social behaviour caused by the tenants of their HMO and/or their tenants' visitors, the Private Sector Housing Team will invite the licence holder to a case conference attended by the Police, any neighbours affected by the anti-social behaviour and, where appropriate, Environmental Services and/or the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

At the case conference, the licence holder is held to account for what is happening in their HMO and warned that, if they fail to resolve the problem, the licence may be revoked or not renewed. Sometimes, a member of the Northampton Student Landlords Network will attend the meeting to explain what good, responsible housing management looks like and offer the licence holder advice on what action they need to take to resolve the problem and manage their HMO better.

Rogue landlords and the Housing & Planning Act 2016

The Act received Royal Assent on May 12th 2016 and applies to landlords and property agents in England. It includes six measures designed to tackle rogue landlords and agents:

- Introduction of Banning Orders for the most prolific offenders
- Creation of a national database of rogue landlords and agents
- New powers to impose civil penalties of up to £30,000
- Extension of Rent Repayment Orders
- A tougher 'fit and proper person' test for landlords
- New data sharing arrangements to enable local authorities to identify landlords and private rented housing, using data held by the tenancy deposit protection schemes.

The various sections of the Act are due to come into force over the next 18 months.

Housing Conference 2016

In June 2016, the Head of Housing and Wellbeing and I attended the Chartered Institute of Housing's annual, 3-day Housing Conference in Manchester.

The Conference provided me with further insight into the wide range of products, services and innovative practice that have been introduced to improve the housing conditions, life chances and engagement of residents and communities. I was especially interested in the sessions on local authority housebuilding, joint ventures, modular construction, estate regeneration, fixed term tenancies, homelessness, welfare reform and the housing association right to buy pilots.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 July 2016

Environmental Health

The Food Safety Team in Environmental Health supported Food Safety Week from 4th – 10th July. This year's theme was Eat It Cook it Freeze It. Information on our website and social media posts encouraged residents to reduce food waste by eating, cooking and freezing food within the use by date.

The 3GS enforcement officers continue to have a high profile around the town. They supported the launch of the St James Litter Free Zone and up to 1 July 2016 they have served a total of 669 Fixed Penalty Notices.

The Council has entered into two Primary Authority Partnerships with Travis Perkins plc and Poundland. Staff within Environmental Health will be providing consistent, tailored and assured advice to these companies on Health and Safety and Food Hygiene.

Environmental Services

The combination of rain and high temperatures has caused the grass to grow at a faster pace than usual for this time of year and has caused problems for the EMS grass cutting service. I have done my best to get the service back on track but it has been a major challenge for me that I continue to grapple with.

Work is progressing well on the re-provision of environmental services after our current contract with Enterprise/Amey comes to an end in June 2018. A key part of the process is understanding the views of the community and lots of activity is currently underway to engage them in the design and development of the new service.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

The Tango Machine (Applied Sweeper) was delivered and was operational from Monday 27th June 2016, after the operative training was carried out. The machine will be concentrating in the core town centre streets to help eliminate the cigarette butt issues.

The East Midlands in Bloom Judging took place on the 5th July 2016. The judging route this year is in the South West and Central areas of the town.

The Green Flag Judges have been to inspect and judge Abington Park and Bradlaugh Fields. The results should be available from mid-July.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 July 2016

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2016, 47 Projects, totalling £20,022 have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

Service Level Agreements are being developed with each of the 29 organisations that are being funded this year through the Partnership Grant, this includes developing performance monitoring against the outcomes that will be delivered by each of the organisations.

Community Centres

Through the community centres, links are being made with Health services, including Nene Clinical Commissioning and also First for Well Being, to explore opportunities to deliver services from community centres.

Support is being provided to Kings Heath Community Centre as part of the Week of Action. Spencer/Dallington is also being supported to help re-instate the youth club and Briar Hill is being supported with a programme of community engagement activities.

Forums

Joint meeting held with the Mayor across the forums, to develop opportunities to work together.

Support offered to an individual to establish Can-Care Northampton (group supporting individuals living with Cancer). First meeting held this month, meeting first Thursday in every month, 1-3pm at the Cripps Centre.

Volunteers

We have recruited and found placements for 4 volunteers since April. We will continue to develop and promote opportunities through the Park Management Committees, the Community Centres and the Residents Associations.

Events

The council helped deliver the Women's Cycle Tour (Day 5) which started outside the Guildhall on Sunday (19 June) and supported the Royal British Legion to deliver the Armed Forces Day on the Market Square and Parade in the town centre (25 June).

The council have supported the Carnival Parade in the town centre and on the Racecourse (11 June), Go Skate Day at the Skate Park (18 June), Music Festival in the town centre (19 June), Northampton Festival on the Racecourse (2 & 3 July) and the Mass Cycle Ride at Delapre Park (17 July).

The Bands in the Park season on Abington Park Bandstand continues to be well supported with various bands & groups performing every Sunday.

Looking forward the council is preparing for Fireworks Night (5 November), Remembrance Sunday and our Christmas plans.

The council is supporting partners with the Fun Colour Run in Abington Park (24 July), Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse (20 & 21 August), Gift Fayre in Abington Park (27 August) and the Half Marathon from the town centre to Delapre Park (4 September).

Love parks week.

Several events to take place at Abington, Bradlaugh and Eastfield to celebrate love parks week 17-24th July. To include keep fit, yoga, welly walks.

The Freedom Parade on 30th July. The 2nd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment will exercise the Freedom of the Borough on this date, with a Parade, and the Mayor and the Lord Lieutenant will inspect the Parade.

Culture & Heritage

June saw 'Landmark: Photos of Northampton' open at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. This open exhibition showcases photographs taken by local photographers of some of Northamptonshire's most iconic buildings. 'Beauty and the Beach' opened mid-July and explores the style, design and inspiration of women's swimwear during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. A display to mark the section of The Women's Tour from Kettering to Northampton went on show at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery in June.

A Vintage & Craft Fair at Abington Park Museum on 18 June attracted over 30 stallholders and 1,000 visitors.

An Overnight Vigil marking the Somme Centenary was held at Abington Park Museum at the end of June in association with the Western Front Association.

A four-day Bronze Casting series of workshops took place at Abington Park Museum. Attendees were guided by Abi Edwards from the Vulcan's Foundry. Further high value workshops will be planned in the future.

The popular Over 60s sessions continue at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery three talks attracting an audience of 200 in June and July.

Customer Services

Earlier this year we saw both Citizens Advice (CA) and Community Law Services (CLS) relocate their advice service within the OSS. Since the move both agencies have seen an increase in referrals enabling them to support more people.

NBC are the first Council to co-locate both agencies and this has proven to be successful seeing increased referrals between CLS and CA ensuring the customer receives the right advice. We liaise closely with our partners and are already planning for the increased impact that the Benefit Cap will bring later this year.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 July 2016

Community Safety

On June 29th, I had an extremely useful and informative first meeting with the new Police and Crime Commissioner where we discussed a wide range of issues. The meeting was an excellent starting point to our working relationship and I look forward to working closely with him over the coming months and years.

Overall crime has increased marginally by 0.8% (+156 crimes) since the beginning of April 2016. Serious Acquisitive Crime is showing an increase of 4.5% (+125 crimes) with vehicle crime rising by 4.2% (+61 crimes), domestic burglary by 5.4% (+54 crimes) and robbery by 3.2% (+10 crimes). The rate at which violence against the person is increasing has slowed in comparison to 2015/16 with an increase of 1.6% (+35 crimes) during April and May. There continues to be a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Police, with environmental reports decreasing by 2.7% (-35), personal by 0.5% (-19 incidents) and nuisance ASB remaining at the same level as at the end of the last financial year.

During 2015/16 Northampton saw a 21.28% reduction in reported Hate crimes and incidents (686 to 540). Despite some area's reporting a recent spike in Hate Crimes, I am pleased to report that Northampton/Northamptonshire has seen no volume increase in recent weeks. This is an issue that we take extremely seriously and will continue to monitor closely. In the past year, we have been focusing on increasing the level of reporting of these incidents to ensure that all incidents are captured and reported on the NBC reporting system. Staff have been utilising the updated online training module during the year and further training sessions have been arranged for 2016/17.

The multi-agency Weeks of Action continue with Kingsheath being held during the final week of June. A range of events took place over the week resulting in excellent engagement from the community. The 'Hub' on Park Square continues to be well used by agencies, and formed the central point for the week's activities. Planning is now well underway for St David's, Lings/Weston Favell Centre and Semilong/Regents Square weeks.

A media campaign focussing on the night time economy entitled 'Nights Out Northampton' has commenced. This will see a range of articles covering a range of topics such as Street Marshalls and Street Pastors, personal safety, alcohol awareness and the correct method for booking and using private hire and hackney taxis.

Final draft of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is now out for consultation. The 'Order' covers a range of Anti-Social Behaviour, namely alcohol, illegal drugs, psychoactive substances, urinating/defecating in a public place, begging, busking, dog fouling and dogs being kept on leads in certain public areas. Subject to the consultation results, it is anticipated that the PSPO will be in place by November 2016 at the latest.

A number of important training sessions have been held within the council over the past few months. 'Prevent' Counter Terrorism Awareness training, which is a statutory

responsibility, has been delivered to all Northampton Borough Council staff. Excellent feedback was given on these sessions by all staff. Domestic Abuse Awareness training for Councillors has also been delivered on 29 June 2016 and 6 July 2016. The sessions were well received by the Councillors that attended.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Appendices: 1



COUNCIL
18th July 2016

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Customers & Communities

Report Title	Appointment of Health and Safety Inspectors – The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
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1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to appoint officers of the Council as Health and Safety Inspectors under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (the '1974 Act').

2. Recommendations

Full Council is recommended to:

2.1.1 Designate the following officer posts of Northampton Borough Council as Inspectors under Section 19 of the 1974 Act on the terms set out in Appendix 1:

- *Environmental Health and Licensing Manager*
- *Senior Environmental Health Officer*
- *Health and Safety Officer*
- *Senior Food & Safety Officer*

and to delegate authority to the Director of Customers and Communities to sign the written instruments appointing individual Inspectors.

2.1.2 Approve as a Council policy, the indemnification by the Council, of Health and Safety Inspectors appointed by the Council under the 1974 Act in circumstances where an action is brought against an Inspector in respect of an act done in the execution or purported execution of any of the relevant statutory provisions, against the whole or part of any damages and costs or expenses which the Inspector may have been ordered to pay or may have

incurred, in cases where the Council is satisfied that the Inspector honestly believed that the act complained of was within his powers and that his duty as an inspector required or entitled him to do it, providing the Inspector was not wilfully acting against instructions.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 Regulatory Services Officers from within the Customers and Communities Directorate are responsible for enforcement of a multitude of legislation and have a wide remit of public protection responsibilities.

3.1.2 Recent and ongoing resource challenges have led to restructuring within the Customer and Communities division. Where change takes place it is important to ensure that officers charged with an enforcement responsibility remain duly authorised. The recommendations in this report have therefore been put forward as part of a general review of officer powers and authorisations within the Customers and Communities Directorate.

3.1.3 It is important that competent Officers are properly authorised to undertake the various functions prescribed by a particular piece of legislation. It is also vital that officers are empowered, where applicable, to enter and inspect premises.

3.1.4 To meet its duty under the 1974 Act, the Council as an enforcing authority must make adequate arrangements for enforcement within its area, of the relevant statutory provisions to the extent that it is responsible for their enforcement.

3.1.5 Section 19 of the 1974 Act states:

- (1) *Every enforcing authority may appoint as inspectors (under whatever title it may from time to time determine) such persons having suitable qualifications as it thinks necessary for carrying into effect the relevant statutory provisions within its field of responsibility, and may terminate any appointment made under this section.*
- (2) *Every appointment of a person as an inspector under this section shall be made by an instrument in writing specifying which of the powers conferred on inspectors by the relevant statutory provisions are to be exercisable by the person appointed; and an inspector shall in right of his appointment under this section—*
 - (a) *be entitled to exercise only such of those powers as are so specified; and*
 - (b) *be entitled to exercise the powers so specified only within the field of responsibility of the authority which appointed him.*
- (3) *So much of an inspector's instrument of appointment as specifies the powers which he is entitled to exercise may be varied by the enforcing authority which appointed him.*
- (4) *An inspector shall, if so required when exercising or seeking to exercise any power conferred on him by any of the relevant statutory provisions, produce his instrument of appointment or a duly authenticated copy thereof.*

3.1.6 The effect of section 19 is that the Council's Health and Safety Inspectors must be specifically appointed to enable them to carry out their enforcement duties and their appointment must set out which powers they may exercise.

The Council's Inspectors must be able to produce their instrument of appointment, when exercising their powers. In practice, Inspectors will carry an authorisation warrant card, which will specify the powers conferred on them. In order for the Council's health and safety enforcement functions to be carried out legally and in a robust manner, the Council needs to ensure that suitably qualified officers are appointed as Inspectors and that authorisation warrant cards are up to date.

3.2 Decision details

3.2.1 Council is recommended to designate the following Officer posts of Northampton Borough Council as Inspectors under Section 19 of the 1974 Act on the terms set out in Appendix 1 and to delegate authority to the Director of Customers and Communities to sign the written instruments appointing individual Inspectors:

- *Environmental Health and Licensing Manager*
- *Senior Environmental Health Officer*
- *Health and Safety Officer*
- *Senior Food & Safety Officer*

In effect, this will renew the appointment of Officers who have been previously appointed, appoint new Officers as Health and Safety Inspectors and ensure consistency in the form of these appointments.

3.2.2 The powers that would be conferred on an Inspector through this appointment, would permit them to deal with health and safety failings that may be encountered during routine complaint investigations or inspection work. This may involve service of a prohibition notice for imminent and severe issues or an improvement notice for less serious matters still requiring action. The powers conferred will also enable Inspectors to act in accordance with section 20 of the 1974 Act, (for example to exercise powers of entry, inspection and investigation) and to exercise powers conferred on Inspectors by Regulations made under the 1974 Act.

3.2.3 It is considered that the Officers holding the Officer posts recommended for appointment as Inspectors will have the relevant knowledge, experience and qualifications to effectively discharge the duties of a Northampton Borough Council Health and Safety Inspector. Appointment will be based on guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive in Local Authority Circular number 22/8 (*'Guidance on the appointment of Local Authority Inspectors to enforce the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974'*), requiring suitable management arrangements to be in place. Management arrangements will require Officers to have suitable qualifications, satisfy a competency framework, and demonstrate competence before executing powers under the 1974 Act.

3.2.4 Management arrangements will ensure certain criteria are met before a health and safety inspector is appointed. These criteria include a suitable health and safety qualification, equal to Level 3, as a minimum. A competency framework will need to be filled out to prove an officer has the technical knowledge and experience necessary for specific topic areas (as listed in the Regulatory Development Needs Assessment – RDNA). Officers then need to demonstrate

this knowledge and experience. This competency framework is an integral part of the assessment criteria.

3.2.5 Full Council is asked to approve as a policy the indemnification by the Council, of Health and Safety Inspectors appointed by the Council under the 1974 Act in circumstances where:

- an action is brought against an Inspector in respect of an act done in the execution or purported execution of any of the relevant statutory provisions,

against the whole or part of any damages and costs or expenses which the Inspector may have been ordered to pay or may have incurred, in cases where the Council is satisfied that the Inspector honestly believed that the act complained of was within his powers and that his duty as an inspector required or entitled him to do it, providing the Inspector was not wilfully acting against instructions. The Health and Safety Executive guidance recommends that every local authority issue a statement along these lines explaining that it is the policy of the authority to indemnify inspectors in these circumstances.

3.2.6 Situations could arise when an action is brought against a Health and Safety Inspector arising out of their Inspector's duties. Section 26 of the 1974 Act therefore allows local authorities to indemnify a Health and Safety Inspector provided they are satisfied the act complained of was honestly believed to be within the powers of the Inspector and their duty as an Inspector required or entitled them to do it. If Full Council approve the recommendation at paragraph 2.1.2, the power to indemnify will be used when it becomes operative (ie. when an action is brought against an inspector and the Inspector is not legally entitled to require the Council to indemnify him/her).

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 None

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The purpose of this report is to appoint Health and Safety Inspectors. No additional resource is required to facilitate this.

4.2.2 Where a local authority has not authorised Inspectors, it cannot intervene in matters where there is or have been significant health and safety failings. This may include dealing with complaints from members of the public, accident investigations or dangerous occurrences. Not having adequate arrangements in place to deal with health and safety matters within its remit could adversely affect the reputation of Northampton Borough Council and result in complaints being made to the Local Government Ombudsman.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Where Northampton Borough Council has not made adequate arrangements for enforcement of inspectors it would not be compliant with its duty under Section 18 of the 1974 Act that makes it a duty of every local authority to make adequate arrangements for the enforcement within their area of the statutory provisions that they are responsible for enforcing. Appointment of Health and Safety inspectors is a necessary part of ensuring compliance with this duty.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 The basic foundation of health and safety law is to promote the health, safety and welfare of persons at work. Where the Council has no appointed Inspectors it would be unable to promote equality (workplace welfare provisions) and health in light of any complaints, incidents or accidents.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

Ruth Austen
Environmental Health and Licensing Manager



I hereby certify that is a duly appointed of Northampton Borough Council and is appointed by the Borough Council as an Inspector under Section 19 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 to exercise the powers conferred on inspectors by the following statutory provisions in so far as they are within the field of responsibility of the Borough Council:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974:
 - **Section 20 (Powers of Inspectors)**
 - **[Section 21 (Service of Improvement Notice);]**
 - **[Section 22 (Service of Prohibition Notice);]**
 - **[Section 23 (Supplementary Provisions);]**
 - **Section 25 (Imminent danger);** and
- any Regulations made under Section 15 of the Act.

Signed:

Julie Seddon
Director of Customers and Communities

Date:

<p>Appendices: 0</p>



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
18th July 2016

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Changes to Committee Places and Consultation Appointments
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1. Purpose

1.1 Council is asked to ratify changes to the membership of the Committees listed below and to Consultation Appointments.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Councillor Ansell replaces Councillor Lynch on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 That Councillor Patel replaces Councillor Lynch on the Audit Committee.

2.3 That Councillor Kilbride replaces Councillor Sargeant on the Community Enabling Fund Advisory (CEFAP) Panel.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1 The Conservative Group wish to makes changes to Committee Places and Consultation Appointments.

3.2 Councillor Lynch resigned on the 8th June 2016 and therefore the Committee places he was appointed to are subsequently vacant. Proportionality has not been affected and until the bye-election, the Conservative Group have selected other members to be appointed.

3.3 Appointments to all other Committees and Consultation Appointments agreed by Council on the 19th May 2016 remain unchanged.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 None

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 None

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no legal implications

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no Equality implications

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

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