

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 19 September 2016

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 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 18th July 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 McCutcheon to make a statement on "The Local Plan".

9. COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY

(Copy herewith)

10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

(Copy herewith)

11. DELEGATION OF PLANNING DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY IN RESPECT OF PINEHAM BUSINESS PARK

(Copy herewith)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor B Markham to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second:

“Council agrees to the setting up of a cross-party panel to look at the business case for the creation of a wholly-owned Housing Development Company, either as a joint venture with Northampton Partnership Homes or as a stand-alone concern.

The aim of such a company would be to increase the availability of affordable housing and to unlock value from under-used Council land.

To use permitted borrowing, capital receipts from completed developments and right to buy to fund a rolling programme of house building and improvements to existing Council stock.

Council asks that the composition of such a panel be delegated to party leaders and if possible be set up before the next meeting of this Council with the aim of reporting to Cabinet before Annual Council.”

ii) Councillor Davenport to propose and Councillor Haque to second:

“This Council recognises the importance of a tidy neighbourhood. Excessive untidiness over a period of time in a neighbourhood reduces pride in the area and ultimately attracts litter and rubbish.

This Council believes that tenancy agreements should ultimately be enforced to ensure gardens and landscaping is kept tidy and free of rubbish. This helps to increase pride in the neighbourhood.

Where people are unable to maintain their gardens (such as the very elderly and the disabled) they need to be given the appropriate support.”

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

“We firmly believe that we must reduce waste, reuse waste where we can but recycle what can't be reused.

As the Council responsible for waste collection we will ask the County Council for a firm and detailed business case to have a waste to energy plant in Northampton.

We need a firm business case to explain why there needs to be a waste disposal plant in Northampton.

This Council will work with the County Council to try and find a site for waste disposal that is both suitable and has the support of residents. The solution should not be landfill.

This Council welcomes the fact that Northamptonshire County Council does not want to put a Waste to Energy Plant at the Westbridge Depot in St James. This is a victory for common sense and local people.

Going forward this Council needs to consider how it would dispose of waste when it becomes a unitary authority.”

iv) Councillor Stone to propose and Councillor M Markham to second:

“This Council has a great sympathy for the plight of refugees and notes the concerns of many local residents who may wish us to be a town that welcomes Syrian refugees fleeing civil war, extremism and brutality. Northampton could be a place of sanctuary. Whilst we have many local organisations willing to offer assistance, NCC and NBC cannot provide all the support services needed to accommodate refugees in Northampton.

This Council also recognises that there are genuine concerns from local residents over housing and school places. These need to be acknowledged and addressed, for example, we are in the process of setting up a facility for homeless people and are tackling pressures on housing.

This Council will work with Northamptonshire County Council and other local organisations and review our capacity to deliver on a regular basis. In the meantime other areas within Northamptonshire will continue to provide places while they are able to accommodate the specific needs”.

13. 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, 18 July 2016 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kilbride declared a personal, non - pecuniary interest in Motion ii) as a Board Member on Northampton Partnership Homes.

Councillor Oldham declared a personal, non - pecuniary interest in Motion ii) as a Board Member on Northampton Partnership Homes.

Councillor Bottwood declared a personal, non - pecuniary interest in Motion ii) as a Board Member on Northampton Partnership Homes.

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

2. MINUTES.

With an amendment to the minutes, correcting Motion i) as having being carried the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2016 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors G Eales, Chunga, J Hill, Flavell, Parekh and Choudary.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that a memorial ceremony was held in the Courtyard in memory of Jo Cox MP, who tragically lost her life on the 16th June 2016. I wrote to the Mayor of Kirklees Council who thanked me for the letter sent expressing our deepest sympathy. Members were notified that on the 1st July the Mayor had attended an overnight vigil at Abington Park Museum in remembrance of those who fought in the battle of the Somme

The Mayor announced he had held a charity Curry night on the 3rd July at the Maharaja where a total of £415 for the Mayor's charity was raised. It was explained that the Mayor would soon be on his way to Marberg, as part of the Twinning Trip. This would be Verity's first time on plane with her new doggy passport. Other Verity related news; £300 was raised by staff and officers when he visited the Guildhall with the 'Puppies in training'.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Cross (WASPRA) commented that he was dissatisfied with the upkeep of Kingsthorpe Cemetery specifically with regards to the Litter Bins, the grass cutting and the cuts to services; his solutions were to use small bins that could be emptied more frequently, use bags to collect the cut grass and to extend the Town Boundary so those in Northampton boundary pay their Council Tax to Northampton Borough Council rather than Daventry District Council. He thanked Councillor Aziz for his support and assistance.

Ms Bartlett spoke of instances that had been reported to her via Facebook with regards to the poor service if grass cuttings and stated that many people had complained of disrespectful practices, broken benches, damaged grave stones and flowers and memorials being damaged by the weight of the long grass cuttings and asked that the Council improve its services and make improvements in a decent and respectful manner.

Mr Leach commented that since he last addressed Council he had discovered the number plate of the Mayor's car was more than he had thought and questioned the financial priorities of the Council.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 18 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 3, Councillor Nunn explained that there were multi-agencies working together to make the Town Centre cleaner, such as the Town Centre Strategic Partnership, including the Police and Town Centre Wardens.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 5, Councillor Hadland explained that the two proposed scheme for the Greyfriars sight had been well researched with regards to the potential impacts on the Town Centre and looked forward to the selection process of the proposal being carried out in September.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 8, Councillor King explained that there may be future commercial ventures which would benefit the local area of the Racecourse and noted that a lot of work had been carried out with residents and a de-brief would be held with the events team to discuss achievements.

In response to a supplementary questions relating to question 9, Councillor Hadland confirmed that there was not further guidance from the Secretary of State but assured Council it was on its way.

In response to a supplementary questions relating to question 10, Councillor Markham reported that the Council received no funding from the European Union and therefore Brexit would not directly impact on the finances of the Council.

In response to a supplementary questions relating to question 11, Councillor Hadland confirmed that there were no cemetery provision through section 106 monies.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Markham, as the Leader of the Council submitted her Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon. She noted that a Service Level Agreements was being developed with organisations that would be funded this year through the Partnership Grant. The Leader noted the commitment of the Administration of rejuvenating the Market Square to encourage and attract people and business into the heart of the Town. It was also reported that the final draft of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was out for consultation and subject to the results of the consultation, it was anticipated that the order would be in place by November 2016.

In response to questions asked, the Leader confirmed that the sustainability of the voluntary sector was being looked into and it was hoped that a 4 year plan could be an avenue to be explored. She further stated that they were working with Market Traders, through the Markets Advisory Group, to explore ways to improve the Market Square. It was confirmed that the benches that had been installed by the fountain in the Market Square had been removed due to issue with anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Nunn submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated further noting the achievements of the Town Centre Strategy Partnership which would focus on developing Town Centre with other stakeholders. He commented that he had recently met with the lead organiser of the Association of Far Cotton Enterprises (AFCE) who sought to bring together the commercial community of Far Cotton. He further noted that the Market Advisory Group had met twice since June 2016 with a lot of marketing and PR work being undertaken to advertise and promote the market.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Nunn commented that Members would be kept up to date with the developments of the AFCE.

Councillor Hadland submitted his Cabinet Member report and commented that a public information event was due to be help from the 18th to 20th July on the final submission from the developers on the Greyfriars site and encouraged Members to attend the event. He noted that the commercial kitchen at Delapre Abbey was due to open on the 27th October 2016.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hadland explained that there were no other plans to provide more public toilets as there was one at the Bus Station and that further provisions would have to be made through the commercial sector. On the matter of social housing, he confirmed that some providers struggled to 'pepper pot' the social housing in new developments as the management of properties could be difficult when spread about.

Councillor Eldred, submitted his Cabinet Member report and commented that the Councils Draft Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 had been signed off by the Chief Finance Officer and had been published in advance of the 30th June 2016 deadline and had been passed to the external Auditors (KPMG); the draft Accounts would be presented to the Audit Committee in July 2016.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Eldred commented that Brexit was unlikely to have a direct impact on the finances of the Council as they received no funding from the European Union. He noted that there had been an overspend on staff in the Revenue and Benefits department but that it was necessary to ensure that the workload was manageable. He also explained that the provision of £100,000 would help with the costs of the Tree Programme and tree maintenance.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated further by noting that on the 13th July 2016 the Leader had launched 'Together we change lives' – a multi-agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton. He noted that the Councillors private sector housing team had established a good practice alliance with the University of Northampton as part of the strategy to improve student housing.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hibbert stated that Housing Associations were contributing to social housing and that efforts were being made to organise more building of homes with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH). He also confirmed that there was a 'HIMOs hotline' and that Councillors would be emailed information relating to it.

Councillor Bottwood submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon and stated that he was unhappy with the service that had been provided by the contractors with regards to the cemeteries, mentioned by the public speakers. He noted that it was not purely environmental factors, such as the weather, that had impacted on the service but that there had also been some mechanical failures of machines. Responding to another question asked, Councillor Bottwood noted that there was no right to light or TV reception but that it could be a policy that could be adopted and he would explore ways in which this could be done.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Beardsworth made a statement as set out in the agenda. She listed the Manifesto pledges that had been made by the Conservative since 2011 and questioned why the administration had walked away from an agreement with Legal and General which would have massively benefited the Council as part of a Borough wide Planning policy. She also stated that the cost of opening up Abington Street to

traffic at £6 million was a waste of resources and money. Councillor Beardsworth went on to question the decision to close the award winning toilets on Sheep Street which resulted in a shortage of facilities. She also challenged the amount of fly-tipping and rubbish in the area and stated that it was continually getting worse but there was still no 'zero-tolerance' policy in place. She further criticised the Administration's pledge that they would '*listen to disabled people*' but then let them down over reduced funding to Shopmobility. Councillor Beardsworth referred to the football club and commented that there had been criticism of them not being involved in supporting sports clubs during the Liberal Democrat term in Administration and highlighted the financial problems that the Council now faced with regards to the loan to the football club.

Councillor Markham responded by stating that they had stuck to their original pledges and commented that financially, the Conservatives had much better controls over their budgets. She noted some of the achievements of the Administration of the past 5 years including the development of the new Bus Station, developments of Angel Street and Bridge Street. She further commented that almost 2000 jobs had been created in the Enterprise Zone in conjunction with Private Sector Investment in the area.

Councillor Beardsworth noted that when they had first been in Administration, the Council had been put in 'Special Measures' and that they had effectively lifted the Council out of the position. She further noted that they had been responsible for the sale of Cliftonville House and during her term 8 new Council houses had been built at sustainable level 5.

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

Councillor Markham proposed a report which sought Councils approval to appoint officers of the Council as Health and Safety Inspectors under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following officer posts of Northampton Borough Council be designated as Inspectors under Section 19 of the 1974 Act on the terms set out in Appendix 1 be designated to:

- *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. That approval be given 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.

10.CHANGES TO COMMITTEE PLACES AND CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Patel proposed and Councillor Oldham seconded a report that sought to confirm changes to Committee Places and Consultation Appointments.

RESOLVED:

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.

11.NOTICES OF MOTION

Anjona Roy addresses Council on Motion i) and commented that she welcomed the motion from Councillor King and stated that it was right and proper for Hate Crime to be stamped out and commented that there had been an increase in reported Hate Crime since Brexit. She went on to suggest that there be a Hate Crime Officer employed by the Council.

i) Councillor King proposed and Councillor Hallam seconded:

“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”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

ii) Councillor Meredith proposed and Councillor Beardsworth seconded:

“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”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

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”

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

Anjona Roy addressed Council on Motion iv) and commented that she was part of an organisation that was addressing hate crimes and urged the Council to work closely

with her and the campaign, called 'More in Common – Hope not Hate'

iv) Councillor Russell proposed and Councillor Haque seconded:

"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."

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

v) Councillor Stone proposed and Councillor Culbard seconded.

"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".

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, 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 9.14pm

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 1

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Beardsworth:

The standard of performance in maintenance of open spaces and the street scene, across the borough, has clearly fallen in recent months. Can the Cabinet Member tell me what sanctions have been placed on Enterprise and whether there is a recovery plan to improve performance over the remaining period of the contract?

Response

Grass cutting by Enterprise/Amey this year fell well below the required standard. Admittedly the weather was particularly favourable for grass growing but, nonetheless, the service we received was unacceptable. I therefore saw fit to use the default remedy mechanism, which led to the development of an improvement plan which eventually brought the service back on track.

However, other than for grass cutting, performance standards overall have not fallen in the past few months. Performance standards are dealt with through the contract's performance management framework which provides a range of mechanisms to tackle contract failures.

I continue, as ever, to closely monitor this challenging contract that my Administration has inherited and I do not hesitate to promptly use all or any of the mechanisms available to the council when I judge it necessary. Part and parcel of this monitoring activity, is to put pressure on Enterprise/Amey to raise the overall standards of cleanliness and maintenance in order to achieve improvement.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 2

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Beardsworth:

Can the Cabinet Member tell me why the method used for the roadside collection of recyclables has changed? Residents separate paper, glass and other materials but in many areas of the town this is then mingled together prior to being put in the collection vehicle?

Response

The weekly recycling collection methods have not changed.

Normally, the materials to be recycled are collected in a vehicle called a Kerbsider. This vehicle is specifically designed to be able to keep the different material streams separate on the vehicle and therefore remain separate when they are tipped at the depot. Unfortunately, when these vehicles breakdown they are very difficult to replace. Enterprise therefore often have to use a standard refuse freighter and this does mean that the recycling becomes commingled in the vehicle. However, the materials are still recycled, but have to be sorted by the material processor, before they are recycled.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 3

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Mr Adams:

The self-financing of council housing

The coalition government made a number of promises about the self-financing of council housing in the period before April 2012, in part to convince local authorities to accept the deal. The power to make changes to it rests solely with the Secretary of State, and offers no redress.

Given subsequent developments, it is now rather surprising to note that the settlement was essentially made 'in good faith' on the part of local authorities.

Question: Would you agree this was high level gullibility by this council?

Response

No

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 4

Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Stone:

What is the latest development on Station Car Park?

Response

The Council continues to work closely with Network Rail and the Department for Transport regarding the provision of a new multi-storey car park at the Railway Station.

A report on the outcome of these discussions will be presented to Cabinet shortly.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 5

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Haque:

How is this Borough Council going to support Spring Borough residents in defence of their Local Neighbourhood Plan, as the County Council seem determined to develop the Castle House site as they see fit?

Response

If a planning application is submitted for the redevelopment of the site, the Borough Council will assess the proposal and its impacts in light of national planning policy and adopted local policies, including any relevant adopted Neighbourhood Plans.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 6

Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Ashraf:

Has the feasibility study into Unitary Status been jointly agreed by the District Councils?

Response

This is a continuous work in progress. I can inform you that our next meeting is in early October.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 7

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Chunga:

How many of our houses have been lost to RTB in the last 2 years and how many have been replaced?

Response

During the two year period ending 30 June 2016, a total of 202 of the Council's homes (flats and houses) were sold under the Right To Buy. During the same period, the Council acquired 10 homes.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 8

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Smith:

How is the Council dealing with the problem of overflowing commercial waste from Euro bins in the town?

Response

Under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), businesses have a duty of care in relation to the disposal of their commercial waste and it is a criminal offence to fail to comply with this duty of care. The responsibility includes the requirement to store waste safely and securely. If a business is reported for failing to comply with their duty of care by, for example, allowing their bins to overflow they will receive a visit from a neighbourhood warden who, in the first instance, will offer advice to the business about their duty of care responsibilities. This can then be followed up with legal action, resulting in prosecution, if the business fails to respond promptly and appropriately to this advice.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 9

Question to Cllr King from Cllr Birch:

Northampton Borough sold the Sekhemka Statue to pay for the town centre museum expansion. When will the expansion take place?

Response

Preliminary works for the museum expansion are currently underway. The feasibility report has been completed and planning documents are being prepared. Mobilisation of the project will commence in April 2017 and the refurbished museum will open in July 2018.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 10

Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr Marriott:

Its great news that we are bringing Human Resources and Legal back from LGSS. Just one query though, how much extra will it cost the Council to have these back in house?

Response

The Council is currently working through the implications of bringing back services from LGSS. In line with the Council's financial challenges over the medium term the intention is to reduce the cost of support services over this period.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 11

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Davenport:

What are smokers supposed to do with their cigarettes to put them out in town as their few facilities to put them out (bearing in mind that smokers are no longer able to smoke inside shops etc.)?

Response

Smokers have a responsibility to ensure their cigarettes are properly extinguished and placed in the nearest bin or other disposal facility. Appropriate disposal facilities are widely available throughout the town. In addition to facilities provided by the council, pubs, restaurants, etc. also provide for the proper disposal of cigarettes within their smoking areas. I am confident that responsible smokers have no great difficulty in complying with their responsibilities to dispose of their cigarettes appropriately when they are out and about in the town.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 12

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Davenport:

There are problems around the entire town with the lack of poo bins for dogs - how is this being addressed in the interim until new contract is implemented?

Response

Following changes to national guidance, there is not now a need to separate dog waste from other types of waste. There is therefore no longer a requirement to provide dedicated dog waste bins, as dog waste can now be placed in general litter bins. There are therefore no plans, under either the current or future contracts, to provide any more dog waste bins anywhere in the borough. However additional general litter bins are, and will continue to be, provided where the need is identified.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 13

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Davenport:

Is it true that the £100,000 extra funding for trees is just being allocated to ONE area, Ecton? If £100,000 is given each year to one area does this mean that currently held Labour wards will be financed in 26 years time? How are the areas to be tackled with this funding decided upon?

Response

In response to the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the council's Tree Policy has been reviewed and a proposal to improve the standard of tree maintenance across the borough has recently been shared with O&S. The proposal splits the town into just five areas. A programme of tree management and maintenance will be carried out in one area per year for the next five years, at a cost of £100,000 per year. At the end of the five year period the entire town will have been covered. The five area approach has been designed to ensure maximum impact from the level of resource expended. The programme is of course over and above tree work that is routinely carried out across the borough under the council's environmental services contract.

Full information about the revised tree policy and associated implementation plans were presented to O&S on 15th August and are available on the council's website.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 14

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Culbard:

Is an Article 4 directive going to be placed for the Far Cotton area?

Response

Officers are currently assessing the number of houses in multiple occupation in the Far Cotton area. If there is found to be a situation where the concentration of HMOs is, or could in the future, given the relocation of the University, affect the character of the area, then an extension of the existing Article 4 area would be considered. I am grateful to the local community for providing up to date information.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 15

Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Ashraf:

Now we now there will not be a waste to energy plant at Westbridge Depot, what are the plans now for the site?

Response

The Council has said that it will continue to work closely with Rolton Kilbride regarding the position of a Waste to Energy Plant.
There are no new plans for the Westbridge site at the current time.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 16

Question to Cllr Bottwood from Cllr Stone:

Following their recent cabinet meeting, Northamptonshire County Council is looking at charging borough and district councils for disposing of garden waste as part of a “harmonisation project”. This also includes “harmonisation of collection services”. What is Northampton Borough Council’s response to this?

Response

We have no intention of charging for green waste at this point, and we have told Northamptonshire County Council that that is the case. We are, however, in the process of under taking a detailed and wide ranging options appraisal and also an extensive public consultation exercise. All the data we have gathered will be fully analysed in the coming weeks and we will then be in a position to make some long term decisions on the future delivery of environmental services in the borough, including our policy on green waste collections.

Councillor Alan Bottwood
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 17

Question to Cllr Markham from Cllr Chunga:

The Labour Group has apologised for supporting the NTFC loan in July 2013. The Labour Shadow Cabinet should have asked more questions and done an Overview and Scrutiny “call-in” on it. We are sorry.

The Labour Group has apologised. Will the Conservative Group now also apologise?

Response

I believe I should make no apology for supporting NTFC or any other sports club. Supporting the town’s sports clubs was an important part of our manifesto in 2011 and again in 2015.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 19th September, 2016

Question 18

Question to Cllr Markham from Mr Croucher:

Given that Northampton now has, on its own, a higher incidence of deaths from conditions related to poor air quality, as compared to England as a whole and that St James is one such area singled out for special measures, and the recent concerns over air quality from the proposed gasification/incinerator, of which this council acknowledges residents' concerns and recognises the woeful consultation on this issue; will the leader give her assurance that residents who are directly affected by the site of any such waste plant and/or proposals that affect air quality, that those residents will have a strategic role to play in any discussions or review?

Response

As leader of the council, consulting and engaging with local people is of the utmost importance to me. I am happy to give assurances that the council will always do its best to involve and consult all of its communities on any project or initiative that affects them, no matter what it is.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19th September 2016

On 2nd August I have visited 4 new businesses in Derngate and Wellingborough Road (Foodies Rocks, Lighthouse, Ground Craft Coffee and Beer Guerrilla). Additionally, on 15th September I have visited another 2 new businesses (Edward Green Shoes and Sheep Street Butchers).

I am glad to report I have met with PwC to review the internal audit draft report. I welcome the recommendations which are being put in place. These include:

- Carrying out enhanced due diligence checks, including external scrutiny, for new loans issued, such as the loan to the University of Northampton
- Using a new checklist, on advice from KPMG, to ensure all aspects of loans are properly considered
- Initiating a thorough review, using external experts, of our governance, risk management and due diligence processes

Voluntary and Community Sector

In July I have, together with our Police and Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold, visited Northampton Hope Centre. The Centre is crucial to our town, working to relieve poverty and tackle the causes of homelessness. They focus on helping others to help themselves, providing support and services that will enable individuals to take back control of their own lives.

Men's Sheds

The Council took the initiative in July to meet with Northampton Men's Sheds representatives. There is a growing need for measures that will reduce social isolation of older men. It is recognised that many older men find it difficult to enjoy companionship with their peers than older women. Social research has shown there to be a clear relationship between social isolation and the progression of mental and physical decline. The experience of the Men's Shed movement (in The UK, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand) is that men relate most successfully when engaged together, working on projects 'shoulder to shoulder'. In March this year a committee to establish a Shed (later Sheds) in Northampton was formed and grant of £5000 (2016/17) has been awarded from the NBC Partnership Fund. The meeting addressed issues relating to identification of suitable premises in Northampton for use as 'Men's Sheds'. With the help of community, the existing partnership between NBC and NMS will work on supporting the association's needs.

Charities

The Council is proud to announce a further step towards raising awareness of local projects by dedicating one stall a day on our busy market for communities and charities to use. The stall will be free for charities and community organisations to use during trading times of 9am to 4.30pm during Tuesday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays. A number of organisations are already taking advantage of this free space including students from the National Citizenship Service, Cats Protection and Animals in need and we will continue doing our best to attract more interest in the scheme.

Overview and Scrutiny

On 11th August we held a Call in on Sixfields with the purpose to give an update on recovery of Sixfields Loan Money.

I am delighted to report that 8 properties in Gold Street have now signed up to the improvements programme introduced by Northampton Borough Council's Business Incentive Scheme. The council has so far committed more than £50,000 for improvements, with landlords in turn contributing more than £300,000 towards enhancing their buildings.

Delapre Abbey

I have visited Delapre Abbey visited on 8th August to look at progress on the restoration. I was delighted to find 6 weddings booked ahead of completion.

Landlords Breakfast

On 7th September we hosted our commercial Landlords' Breakfast. The purpose of the meeting was to understand the market and exchange ideas. We discussed town centre transformation, ongoing and upcoming schemes, as well as trends and feedback from clients. I was delighted with the high number of attendees and to see strong aspiration from all sides to move forward together.

Vision for 2029

The strategy sets out a vision for how the Borough can plan for sustainable growth in both housing and the economy, balancing that with a need to promote and protect our heritage and the environment. Councillor Hadland reports that the Local Plan will set out a vision for Northampton, and a strategy for how we work towards that vision. It will guide how to meet the town's needs to provide housing and jobs and ensure that development takes place in the areas where the Council and the community would like it to be. It also needs to be ensured that we have the infrastructure in place to meet the demands of increased growth. A draft Local Plan will be ready in March 2017, when further consultation on its proposals will take place.

Councillor Mary Markham
Leader of the Council



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19th September, 2016

Since my last report, I have continued to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council, and can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

Town Centre Strategy Partnership

The 21st July saw a very successful Town Centre Strategy event take place at the museum, to which we were delighted to welcome a wide range of town centre businesses, including representatives of the Town Centre Business Improvement District, and other stakeholders that included the Police, the Police & Crime Commissioner, NCC, our Theatres, and others.

Although the event was a clear demonstration of the council's commitment to further continual improvement to the town centre, our use of an independent facilitator for the event was highly effective in ensuring that all those present were able to fully share their views on the current town centre, and their aspirations for the future.

Since this event, I have been working with Cabinet colleagues and Officers to look at how we begin to shape the strategy, and at good practice adopted by other locations, and in October we intend to bring back together representatives that attended the July event to progress that work further, having first shared our progress with the Town Centre BID, who are our key partners in the development of the strategy.

Market

The Beach on the market square has again been very successful during this summer, established as it now is as a fun attraction for families, and a successful way of bringing more visitors to the market.

The market square saw the 'Summer of Fun' entertainment on three different Saturdays during the holiday period, which also took place in Abington Street and All Saints Plaza, an initiative organised between the council and the Town Centre BID, which added to the vibrancy of the square.

July saw the launch of the local food producers market, which now runs on the last Saturday of every month. Producers attending have included The Good Loaf, Phipps Brewery, Frog Island Brewery, Fleur Fields Vineyards, All Fixed Up, Brown's Gourmet Sausages, and Donna Lulu Cooks, and their comments regarding the success have been positive, and we are seeking to grow this further as an attraction for visitors to the market and a great way for local food producers to sell and publicise their products.

Councillor Training

Further to my announcement in my last report that the Councillor Development Group will be re-convened, I can confirm a meeting of this cross-party group on 14th September.

Sports Clubs

We were, of course, highly delighted and extremely proud that Northamptonshire County Cricket Club won the National T20 Blast Trophy, and very pleased to be able to mark this with an open top bus and civic reception event on 10th September.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

PLANNING UPDATE

N/2015/0479 – St James Community Centre at 35-37 St James Mill Road – the application was approved in principle by the Planning Committee, and after referral to the Health and Safety Executive the application was approved on 20th July 2016.

N/2015/0673 – Planning Application for the conversion and alterations of the former Hawkins Shoe Factory to 105 apartments was approved by the Planning Committee on 26th July 2016. The corresponding Listed Building Consent application was approved in principle by the Planning Committee and has been referred to the Secretary of State, decision awaited.

N/2016/0383 – Planning application for the change of use of the former British Rail Social Club to a night shelter has been received.

N/2016/0015 and N/2016/0178 – 7C Edgar Mobbs Way at the Enterprise Zone – both of the outline and full planning applications for the erection of industrial units were approved following finalisation of S106 agreements to secure highway improvement works.

N/2016/0856 - 14 Fish Street – planning application received for the conversion and extension of former council office building to restaurant and hot food takeaway, retail unit and 24 new student units and three self-contained living accommodation units, and outdoor seating area.

Northampton Local Plan

The responses received to the Local Plan Issues consultation have been considered by the Local Plan Cabinet Advisory Group and informed an Options Paper. The responses and options report were considered by Cabinet on 7th September and the Options Paper was approved for consultation which will last for 6 weeks from 21 September until 2 November 2016.

We will ensure that the widest possible consultation is conducted for this paper which is so important for the future of our town.

Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan

The Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted for Examination. The Council is currently publicising the Plan for comments. An independent examiner will be appointed who will review the proposed Plan and any comments received in order to test whether the Plan meets the basic conditions and other legal requirements.

REGENERATION UPDATE

St.Crispin's Community Centre and New Allotments

- Community centre is on programme and budget Dec 2016.
- Allotments – design complete, contract drawn up and signed by contractor.

- Start before end of Sept and a 16 week programme

Greyfriars

Cabinet considered the two schemes which were the subject of public exhibition in July 2016. After considering the technical and other assessments which had been carried out, Cabinet decided that Scheme 1 by developers Carter Endurance should proceed as the preferred scheme. This scheme involves improved links to the Grosvenor Centre and the rest of the town centre, a leisure hub to include a multiplex cinema with an onsite bistro and residential accommodation comprising 500 students apartments, 150 residential flats for letting and 81 retirement apartments bringing a potential 1,500 new residents to the town centre Other facilities will include a health & fitness gym, a 110 bed hotel, retail kiosks and commercial studios for local companies. There will be large area of pedestrianisation and much improved coach facilities.

Business Incentive Scheme

- To date the BIS have assisted 107 businesses, leveraged nearly £5m private sector investment and created nearly 500 jobs.
- This financial year we have already committed to supporting 23 businesses which include 9 on Gold Street alone
- These commitments are leveraging nearly £900,000 private sector investment and creating over 170 jobs.
- Parallel projects include Rail Enhancement works to remove graffiti as you approach Northampton Station.

Delapre Abbey

- Project is on target to open commercial spaces on the 1st November. Remaining Abbey will be complete on 10th November and open to public in Feb 2017.
- Car Park received non material amendment approval at Planning Committee. Works to be onsite this calendar year.

St Giles Street

- Works are 2 & ½ weeks ahead with a completion date of 21st October 2016.
- Works are within financial parameters
- Quality of work is receiving positive public comment.
- Resurfacing works will also be complete by 21st October 2016.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Fish Street

We have received an acceptable offer for the disposal of the Councils interest in this property and after extensive negotiations involving treatment of sub tenancies have negotiated a deal enabling Charter Land to submit a planning application for conversion and extension of the basement restaurant, creation of new A3/A5 retail unit and 27 student units and 4 flats.

Should the planning application be successful we will proceed with the sale.

Guildhall

Following problems with water penetration a survey was carried out on the roof of the Guildhall. This identified the requirement for major repairs. A programme for the repairs is being produced in conjunction with the facilities department to minimise disruption to events and inconvenience to staff. Details of this programme, once agreed will be publicised to all.

The free parking offer continues to attract visitors to the council's multi-storey car parks with June's figures for 2 hour free parking showing a 15% increase in comparison with June 2015 figures. The two hour free parking figures for June and July 2016 has seen 174,563 customers take advantage of the offer.

The Saturday free parking for June and July reached 73,063 which was 2.3% more than in 2015.

Footfall figures for July 2016 show an increase of 185,325 in comparison with July 2015. This equates to a 13.3% increase. The footfall cameras are located in Abington Street and Market Square.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Finance

The Council's Accounts for 2015/16 were signed off by the Audit Committee at their meeting on 5th September. KPMG, the Council's external auditor, stated in their report that they are anticipating issuing an unqualified opinion on the Accounts and a qualified opinion for Value for Money in advance of the statutory deadline of 30th September.

The Council has continued work in developing its Efficiency Plan for submission to Government in October. The Efficiency Plan will set out the Council's approach to managing the financial challenges it faces over the medium term. This Efficiency Plan will include the strategies being pursued to manage the financial gap, financial targets for each of these strategies, identification of the associated risks and proposed governance arrangement for its delivery. The Efficiency Plan is proposed to be considered by Cabinet at a future meeting.

Revenues & Benefits

The Revenues and Benefits service has seen a successful start to Business Rates collection – following complete migration from the Wellingborough consortium in April 2016. LGSS continues to provide the focus required in delivering this additional service, to ensure service excellence as well as maximised collection due to the Borough, which is currently ahead of target. This focus continues throughout the Revenues and Benefits service as we continue to make excellent improvements on performance within the customer contact centre. Despite the ongoing and at times increased high volume demand within this service area, 2016 has seen an increase on the monthly answer rate, with the month of August exceeding target.

The service has sustained fantastic levels of performance within our Benefits service in terms of our response rate to benefit claims and support to the most vulnerable customers of the Borough with our Discretionary Housing Payment priority service.

In addition to improvements and sustained performance, the Northampton Borough Council and LGSS Revenues and Benefits partnership has been shortlisted for the IRRV - Excellence in Partnership Working award of which the results will be announced Mid October.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

19th September 2016

Ending the need to sleep rough in Northampton

Since the launch of '**Together we change lives**' (the borough's multi-agency strategy for tackling, preventing and reducing rough sleeping) in July, excellent progress has continued to be made.

During a half day Workshop on 7th September, representatives from a wide range of services and organisations were briefed on recent developments (including the work being done to set up a temporary nightshelter in the town, reduce the number of people sleeping rough and prepare for the next Rough Sleepers Count in November) and they continued to develop the action plan.

Our fresh, multi agency approach is already having an impact and it is estimated that the number of people now sleeping rough in Northampton is around 15, compared to approximately 25 in February 2016. Furthermore, of the 21 people found sleeping rough during our last Rough Sleepers Count in March 2016, only 4 are believed to be now rough sleeping in Northampton.

I am immensely proud of the generosity, goodwill and commitment that so many local people, groups, organisations and businesses have shown in relation to the new nightshelter. It is fantastic to see such a diverse group of people working together to change and improve people's lives.

Tackling criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords

The Council's Private Sector Housing Team is continuing to meet regularly with the University of Northampton, the Students Union, DASH (Decent and Safe Homes) and the Northampton Student Landlords Network to encourage good quality, well managed housing and to identify and tackle unsafe and substandard housing. For the first time, these 5 organisations will have a shared stand and distribute jointly branded literature at the University's Freshers Fair on 26th & 27th September.

On 26th July, two Policy Advisers from the Rogue Landlords Team at the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) spent the day with the Housing & Wellbeing Service to find out more about Northampton's innovative approach to criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords. During their visit, the two Advisers met with Officers and Members, were briefed on the Council's Private Sector Housing Policies and observed Officers accessing a property by warrant. The Policy Advisers were extremely impressed by Northampton's approach and have asked the Council to have an input into the development of national guidance on the relevant Private Sector Housing parts of the Housing & Planning Act 2016.

On 27th September, the Head of Housing & Wellbeing and the Private Sector Housing Manager will be speaking at a Rogue Landlords Conference in London, organised by Inside Government.

Improving hospital discharge and wellbeing

As I have explained in previous reports, the Housing & Wellbeing Service is actively involved in a wide range of initiatives (large and small) that are designed to improve residents' wellbeing. One of those initiatives – involving the planned discharge of people from Northampton General Hospital and, more recently, from Berrywood Hospital – has been running for just over a year. The 'Hospital 2 Home' (H2H) scheme is designed to provide vulnerable patients with a holistic, wrap-around support service that is tailored to their specific needs and enables them to be discharged from hospital in a way that is planned, safe and reduces the likelihood of readmission.

Officers from the Housing & Wellbeing Service attend weekly discharge meetings at both hospitals, assess each patient's needs and then work proactively and collaboratively with local housing and support providers – members of the Northampton Wellbeing Partnership – to prepare for, and facilitate, vulnerable patients' safe discharge from hospital.

Northampton's hospital discharge scheme is not only delivering better outcomes for patients, but it is also proving to be a very cost effective way of providing streamlined and effective services. The scheme frees up hospital beds that can then be prioritised for those with a medical need rather than for patients with housing and/or social issues that prevent a safe discharge into the community. It provides comprehensive support for people with complex needs and prevents people from being readmitted to hospital in an emergency.

Health professionals at the two hospitals have embraced the 'Hospital 2 Home' scheme and have welcomed the involvement of the Housing & Wellbeing Service and Northampton Partnership Homes in the hospital discharge process. The scheme has substantially strengthened the working relationship and co-ordination between Housing, the hospitals and the wellbeing partners. As at 1st September 2016, the 'Hospital 2 Home' scheme has helped 61 vulnerable patients to be discharged safely into the community. Only 2 of these patients have been readmitted to hospital.

It is clear that, by working together and providing a guaranteed and trusted response, we can provide services that deliver better outcomes at a much lower cost to the public purse.

This is the model that is being developed using the Wellbeing IT System that the Council has purchased to encourage and support collaborative multi agency working in Northampton. In future, the customer's story will only need to be captured once, a holistic support plan will focus on outcomes, and services will be aligned in a way that is designed to deliver the plan. Free to members of the Northampton Wellbeing Partnership, the Wellbeing IT System is expected to 'go live' in Summer 2017.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2016, 122 projects, totalling £49,659 have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

Service Level Agreements have been finalised for 18 of the 29 organisations that have been funded through the Partnership Grant for 2016-17.

The end of year monitoring for 2015-16 partnership grants are currently being collated.

Support for Shopmobility continues. Grants have been submitted to ensure sustainability until March 2017.

Community Centres

Regular meetings continue to take place with the centres and support offered across all of them to access funding, develop processes and policies and engage with the community.

Condition surveys, with a series of recommendations are being carried out on each of the centres. Works will then be prioritised; there remains a large number of outstanding maintenance issues, which is a priority for many of the older centres.

Forums

Civic ceremony and flag raising event held in the Courtyard on 11th July to mark Srebrenica 2016. Community groups, leaders and the community, especially from our Diverse Community Forum, were invited to help Northampton Borough Council commemorate Srebrenica 2016, approx 40 attendees.

Our Youth Forum supported the Heritage Tours at the Guildhall, during the weekend of the 11th September. Working with Screen Northants, 5 youth forum members refreshed the DVD which supported promotion of the Tours.

Our LGBTQ Forum supported a tent of its own at the Umbrella Fair on 20th and 21st August 2016, at the Racecourse. The LGBTQ Forum supported the Q-performance tent with a packed line-up of live music and film screenings throughout Saturday and Sunday.

There was also LGBT community information and representation from local groups such as FAN and the Northampton Outlaws inclusive rugby team.

Planning for Hate Crime Awareness Week commencing 8th October continues and International Mens Day which will be held on Friday 18th November in the Market Square.

Volunteers

We continue to support our community centres and the friends/park management committees with volunteers. We have managed to recruit and place 5 volunteers, as well as finding a community project for 25 volunteers from Travis Perkins and a local church group.

Events

The council has supported partners to deliver the Fun Colour Run in Abington Park on the 24th July, the Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse on the 20th & 21st August and the Half Marathon from the town centre to Delapre Park on the 4th September.

The council has received numerous compliments for the Bands in the Park programme on Abington Park Bandstand which finished on Sunday 11th September.

This year's Fireworks Display will be on Saturday 5th November and includes a large bonfire, children rides, food and entertainment alongside a magnificent fireworks display.

The Christmas light switch-on will be Saturday 19th November and the rest of the Christmas plans are well underway and will be promoted and advertised to increase attract more visitors into the town.

The council continues to support partners including the Street Fair in the town centre on the 22nd – 25th October, Diwali in the town centre on the 29th October and the Santa Run at a venue to be determined on the 11th December.

Culture & Heritage

September sees 'Scream and Scream Again: The Golden Age of British Horror' opening at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery – the exhibition takes a look at films from the 1970s and how they were marketed abroad through a collection of rare, original lobby cards and posters from around the world.

Abington Park Museum was hired during July and August by the Masque Theatre for their Shakespeare summer production, Henry V which generated net profit.

Summer holiday workshops for children were held at both museums, many of which were associated with the 'Animal Tales' and 'Beauty and the Beach' exhibitions at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery. Over 600 children and families attended the workshops and feedback was excellent.

Abington Park Museum was the venue for an 'Archaeology Day' which attracted over 500 visitors. The Museum Service teamed up with the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) to deliver a day of archaeology-themed discovery and hands-on activities. Visitors had the rare opportunity to learn about the archaeology of human remains and to have a close-up view. Activities included the discovery of bones and the other things that archaeologists find during excavations of burial grounds.

'Step Back in Time – Meet the Tudors Day' was held at Abington Park Museum and attracted over 500 visitors to the museum along in addition to the 500 who engaged with activities sited in the park. Visitors were entertained by falconry displays, re-enactors, Tudor games, archery and craft activities for children.

Customer Services

We have 3 new partnerships within the One Stop Shop:

Health watch

Started 26th July 2016

10am-1pm 3rd Tuesday of each month in One Stop Shop

Health Watch allow members of the public to tell their experiences of using health and social care in Northamptonshire. Furthermore they can get information on any aspect of health and social care. Health watch will also be theming pop up shops during certain national weeks and developing themed information packs which will be produced with partners.

Voluntary Impact

Starting September

Date and times TBC

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire works to improve the quality of life for all of Northamptonshire's communities by supporting voluntary and community action across the county. They will provide a wide range of support and services to groups, helping those that are starting up, as well as organisations that are already established. In addition to support for groups, they will support individuals, particularly volunteers, and offer regular drop-in surgeries.

Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire is a member of the [National Association for Voluntary and Community Action \(NAVCA\)](#).

First for Wellbeing

New service starting 2nd September 2016

Every Friday in One Stop Shop times TBC

First for Wellbeing currently run a great weekly Stop Smoking service in the One Stop Shop. In September they'll be offering new wellbeing services, facilities and programmes designed to help live the best life possible. They will cover the following;

- Weight management
- Emotional wellbeing
- Social Inclusion
- Alcohol
- Employment and adult learning

The Roll out of green sacks has commenced with minimal `disruption to business as usual operations. The Contact Centre have worked with EMS to improve customer services during this roll out and is currently working well.

Customer Services are currently busy recruiting for new Customer Information Officers. We held assessment days week commencing 12th September.

Councillor Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Community Safety

Overall crime continues to increase seeing a 2.8 (+563 crimes) since the beginning of April 2016. Serious Acquisitive Crime is showing an increase of 12.4% (+342 crimes) with vehicle crime rising by 17.4% (+61 crimes), domestic burglary by 14.1% (+140 crimes), but robbery has started to reduce seeing a .6% decrease from the baseline. The rate at which violence against the person is increasing continues to slow in comparison to 2015/16 with an increase of 2.7% (+159 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Police have increased by 3.4%, but it remains less than the same period last year. Environmental ASB reports have decreased by 0.4%, personal by 0.7%, nuisance ASB has seen an increase of 6.8%. However figures are still lower than the same period last year.

On 11th August I had an extremely useful interesting meeting with Voice Northamptonshire to hear about the great work they do with Victims of Crime, Voice have kindly agreed to hold an awareness and training session for all Councillors on the work that they do and a date will be announced shortly for this and I will be encouraging all Councillors to attend.

The 'Nights out Northampton' campaign starts in earnest over the next few weeks. The first in a range of articles will be run in line with Fresher's Fortnight and will focus on providing advice, and raising awareness on how to ensure you have an enjoyable night out in Northampton. There will be a focus on our excellent Street Pastors and Street Marshals, with articles on personal safety, alcohol awareness and the correct method for booking and using private hire and hackney taxis to follow.

The multi-agency Weeks of Action continue with Lings/Weston Favell taking place last week. A range of events took place over the week resulting in excellent engagement from the community. The Weeks of Action programme continue to see great involvement and engagement from residents and a range of public and voluntary sector agencies. The next Week of Action will be taking place next month in Semilong/Regents Square, with a varied timetable of events taking place.

Consultation on the final draft of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is coming to an end, finishing on 23/09/2016. Subject to the consultation results, it is anticipated that the PSPO will be in place by November 2016 at the latest.

The 8th October 2016 sees the start of Hate Crime Awareness week. NBC in partnership with Northamptonshire Race Equality Council, Northants Police and Voluntary Impact Northants will be delivering or supporting a range of awareness raising events.

Following on from the success of the summer Killing with Kindness event held on Market Square a further event will be taking place on Wellingborough Road on 22 September 2016. This will see the Police, members of NBC Community Safety and Homelessness teams and the voluntary

sector raising awareness around begging issues, highlighting the help and support that is available to this vulnerable group of people.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 19 September 2016

Environmental Health

Northampton Borough Council has formally become a primary authority partner with Travis Perkins and its 21 companies (including; Travis Perkins, Wickes, Tile Giant, PTS, Tool station etc.). The partnership was applied for through BRDO and was finally nominated by the secretary of state late July and now service arrangements are being agreed and established. This means that NBC Environmental Health will be acting as a direct partner and advising, ratifying policy and working alongside TP corporate health and safety professional within each of TPs four divisions to help deliver their new 5 year health and safety plans.

NBC have been working informally with TP in a lead authority partnership scheme role for over 8 years, but now this new legally binding partnership allows NBC to claim a fee, as this service is fully rechargeable.

This is a hugely beneficial for NBC as it demonstrates our Regulatory Services are offering a business working relationship with one of Northampton's key businesses. Environmental Health are also influencing TPs health and safety culture and helping create a safer more compliant business and offering a single point of contact between all other branches in the UK and their respective enforcing authorities, so making liaison more consistent, streamlined and ensure business advise has continuity.

A total of 906 Fixed Penalty Notices have been served for littering between mid-April and the end of August.

New play equipment has been installed in Southfiels Park. Additionally, two items of equipment suitable for disabled children have been installed at Hunsbury Meadows Park.

Environmental Services

Work is continuing on the re-provision of environmental services after the current contract ends. There has been an extensive amount of engagement with the community, through a number of workshops. This work is also being supplemented by a survey being carried out by IPSOS Mori.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

- The Cobblers Last in Abington Street has had a facelift, as it was looking a little rundown after years of use.
- A new footpath has been installed at St Crispin Park to give safe access to users that live on the Berrywood Road side of the park.
- The footpath at the Recreation Ground in Hardingstone has been renewed.
- New play equipment has been installed at Southfields.

<p>Appendices: 0</p>



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
19th September 2016

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive's

Report Title	Committee Proportionality
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1. Purpose

1.1 This report seeks Council's approval of the number and Group proportionality of seats on each Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the number of Committee places on Planning be increased by one, from 12 to 13

2.2 That the overall number of allocated Committee places be increased from 69 to 70 and that the Borough Secretary be authorised to amend the Constitution to reflect the changes.

2.3 That the representation of the political groups be as set out in this report

3. Issues and Choices

3. Report Background

3.1 Following the resignation of Matthew Lynch from the Conservative Group and the election of Councillor Brian Markham to the Liberal Democrat Group on the 21st July 2016, subsequent changes to composition of the political groups and the proportionality of Committee places for each group are needed.

3.2 The current composition of the Groups is 25 Conservative Members, 17 Labour, and 3 Liberal Democrats.

3.3 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, requires the Council, at its annual meeting, or as soon as practicable afterwards

following any changes to its political makeup, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocation of seats (ie proportionality). The rights of the various political groups are specified in relevant regulations.

4. Allocation of Committee Places

4.1 The following principles need to be applied in allocating Committee places:

4.1.1 That not all seats on any Committee or Sub – Committee are allocated to the same political group

4.1.2 that the majority of seats on all Committees and Sub- Committees are allocated to the political group that has a majority of the Council’s membership or as otherwise reflects the make-up of the Council;

4.1.3 that subject to 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 above, the number of seats for all main Committees which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the main Committees as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Council; and

4.1.4 subject to 4.1.1 the numbers of seats on the individual Committees and Sub Committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of seats of that Committee as is borne by the number of members of that group to their membership of the Council.

4.1.5 There are currently 69 allocated Committee places. Having reviewed the revised composition of the Council and seeking to achieve the best proportionality it is proposed to increase the size of the Planning Committee to 13 members and for the total number of Committee places to thereby be 70.

4.1.6 The allocation of seats between the Committees is as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>Total</u>
Audit	4	3	0	7
O&S	8	6	1	15
Planning	7	5	1	13
Licensing	6	4	1	11
Appointments and Appeals	4	2	0	6
General Purposes	5	3	1	9
Standards	5	3	1	9
Totals	39	26	5	70

5 . Implications (including financial implications)

Policy

5.1 None

6. Resources and Risk

6.1 Legal

6.1.1 The Council is required to act under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its associated regulations, to review the representation of political groups and determine the allocations of seats.

6.2 Equality

6.2.1 None specifically arising from the changes.

6.3 Other Implications

6.3.1 None

7. Background Papers

7.1 None

**Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary
0300 330 7000**

<p>Appendices: 0</p>



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
19th September 2016

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Chief Executive's

Report Title	Appointments to Committees
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1. Purpose

1.1 To seek the confirmation of Council to the appointments to Committees for following the bye-election on 21st July 2016.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the appointments to Committees set out in the report be confirmed following changes to the proportionality of Committee places.

3. Issues and Choices

3. Report Background

3.1 The memberships of Committees be as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

(15 members – 8C, 6L, 1 LD)

Councillor Lane (Chair) Sargeant (Deputy) Larratt, Ansell, Caswell, Walker, Aziz Shaw, Ashraf, Duffy, T Eales, Gowen, Smith, Culbard and Meredith

Appointments and Appeals Committee

(6 members 4 C, 2 L)

Councillors M Markham (Chair) Nunn (Deputy) Patel , Eldred, Birch and Stone.

Audit Committee

(7 members - 4 C, 3L)

Councillors Flavell (Chair) J Hill (Deputy) Golby, Parekh, Chunga, Marriott and Stone

General Purposes Committee

(9 members - 5 C, 3 L, 1LD)

Councillors Sargeant (Chair) Kilbride (Deputy) M Hill, Parekh, Aziz, Marriott, Russell, Stone and Beardsworth

Licensing Committee

(11 members – 6C, 4L, 1 LD)

Councillors Larratt (Chair) Sargeant (Deputy) Caswell, Ansell, M Hill, Flavell, Culbard, Choudary, Duffy, G Eales and Beardsworth

Planning Committee

(13 members 7C, 5 L, 1 LD)

Councillors Oldham (Chair) Golby (Deputy) Walker, J Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Shaw Gowen, Birch, Davenport, Haque, McCutcheon and B Markham

Standards Committee

(9 members – 5 C, 3L, 1LD)

Councillors Patel (Chair) Oldham (Deputy) Kilbride, Parekh, M Hill, Smith, Marriott, Russell and B Markham

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 n/a

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 None

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The Council has a legal requirement to formally appoint members to Committees to enable it to operate lawfully

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 None

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

**Francis Fernandes
Borough Solicitor
0300 330 7000**

Appendices



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL
19th SEPTEMBER 2016

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Report Title	Delegation of planning decision making authority in respect of Pineham Business Park
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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek the approval of Full Council to the delegation of the Council’s decision making authority as local planning authority to South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) to enable SNC to determine an anticipated cross-boundary Section 73 planning application to vary planning conditions in respect of outline planning permission S/2015/1798/EIA and anticipated subsequent reserved matters application for Plot 2A of the development at Pineham Business Park.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Full Council delegate it’s decision making authority as local planning authority to SNC in respect of:
 - (i) the determination of an anticipated cross boundary planning application pursuant to Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 in respect of outline planning permission S/2015/1798/EIA and
 - (ii) the approval of subsequent reserved matters for Plot 2A of the development at Pineham Business Park.

3. Issues and Choices

Report Background

- 3.1 The Prologis site at Pineham, adjacent to the M1, has gradually developed over the last few years and is now an established employment site.

- 3.2 An expansion of this site was proposed by Prologis to the west and north-west of the existing development on 34.15 hectares of green field land.
- 3.3 In April 2014, Full Council resolved to delegated decision making powers on an outline planning application for the expansion of the Pineham Business Park to South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) under Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.4 This decision was taken as the application site straddled the boundary between SNC and Northampton Borough (NBC) with the larger part of the application site within SNC. In such circumstances, under the provisions of the National Planning Practice Guidance, identical applications should be submitted to the two authorities concerned, with the application fee payable to the authority in which the larger portion of the site is located. In this instance the application fee would therefore have been payable to SNC. Due to the relatively small proportion of the overall site within NBC, to avoid NBC incurring the cost of processing an application with no associated fee and to ensure a more cohesive approach to the outline application, decision making powers were therefore devolved to SNC. This decision related purely to the outline planning application.
- 3.5 An outline planning application S/2014/1603/EIA for 105,000 square metres of floorspace (divided into 3 development plots) for Classes B1 (Business), B2 (General Industrial) and B8 (Storage and Distribution) uses was subsequently approved by SNC, subject to conditions, in February 2015.
- 3.6 In September 2015, Full Council resolved to delegate decisions on whether to devolve development control powers to neighbouring authorities on cross boundary planning applications to the Planning Committee to the end of the municipal year i.e. end of April 2016.
- 3.7 In November 2015, the Planning Committee agreed to devolve development control powers to SNC in respect of potential reserved matters applications that may involve buildings that substantially fall within SNC as well as for a Section 73 application to vary condition 3 of the outline planning permission S/2014/1603/EIA in respect of Plot 1 of the Pineham development.

Current Situation

- 3.8 Following the approval of the outline planning application, Prologis has secured a commitment from a warehouse occupier (Class B8) for part of Plot 2 on the site and will be submitting a reserved matters application for this plot to SNC to enable a start on site in early 2017. However, the reserved matters details necessitate a number of amendments to the extant outline planning permission including:
- Minor adjustment to red line boundary
 - Minor adjustment to on plot site areas and boundaries
 - Minor adjustment to the configuration of the illustrative landscape bund between Plots 1 and 2
 - Revision to maximum haunch height in part of Plot 2 from 15m to 18m

- Revision to maximum building height in part of Plot 2 from 92.25 AOD to 93.00 AOD
- To allow for roof plant, relative to building height
- Minor amendment to approved access arrangement off Style Way

3.9 Prologis is currently in the process of preparing a Section 73 planning application to be submitted to SNC. The majority of the site lies within SNC's administrative area. The developer is seeking confirmation from NBC that their decision making powers, in relation to the proposed Section 73 application will once again be delegated to SNC.

3.10 In addition, they are also seeking confirmation from NBC that the reserved matters submission for Plot 2a, will be also be determined by SNC only without a duplicate application to NBC.

3.11 Due to the nature and extent of the proposed development associated with the expansion of the Prologis site at Pineham that falls within Northampton Borough's administrative boundary, it is recommended that Full Council delegate its development control powers to SNC in respect of the forthcoming Section 73 application to vary planning conditions for the outline planning permission as well as the subsequent reserved matters application for Plot 2a (the majority of the site falls within SNC's administrative boundary) in accordance with Section 101(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 This has no policy implications.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 Costs for public consultation and associated administrative costs would be borne by SNC. Council should note that no planning application fee would be payable to the Borough and in the event that this Council decides not to delegate its decision making powers the full cost of the administration of the application would fall to the Council.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 None

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no equality issues all sections of the population will be consulted by SNC

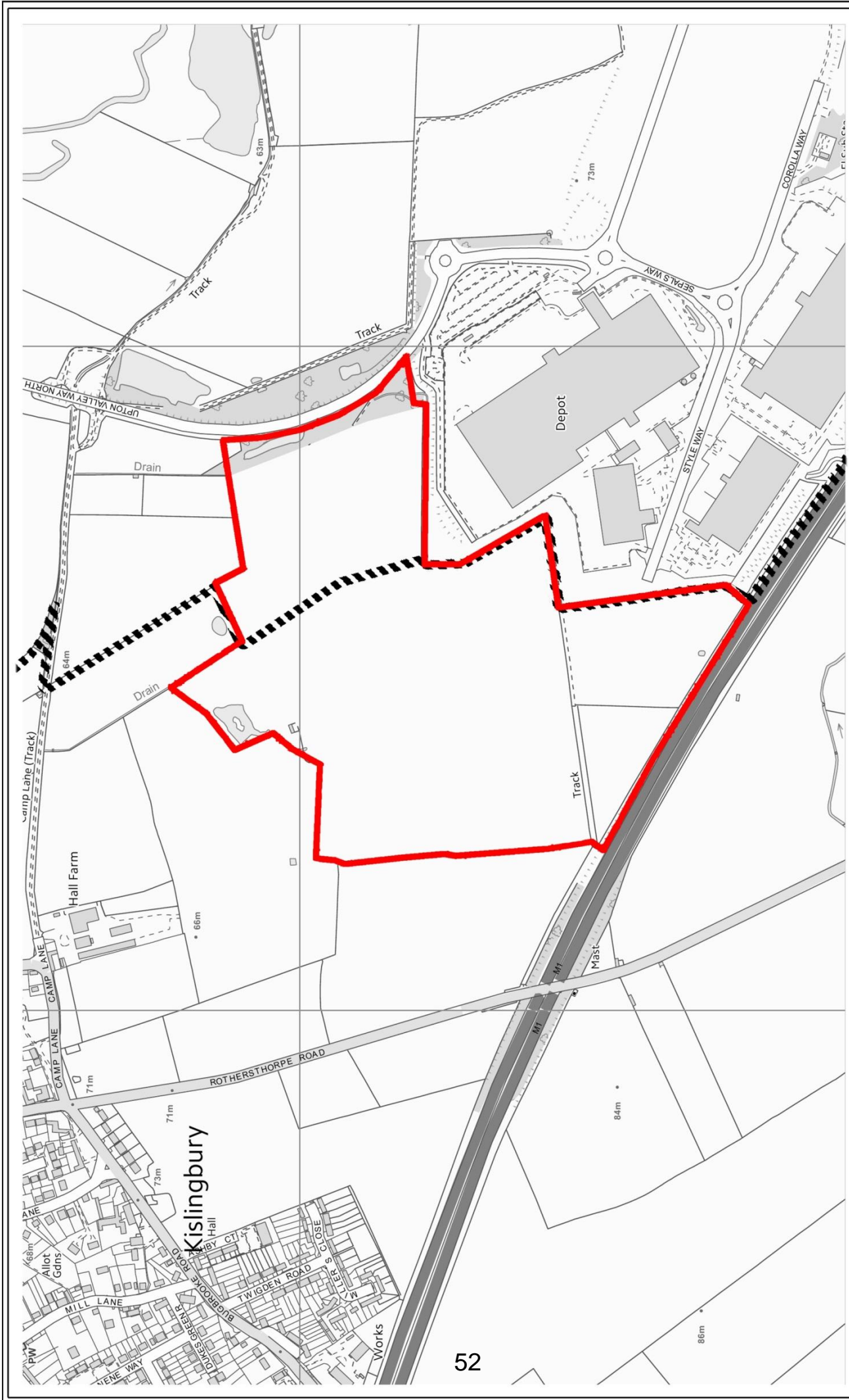
4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy.

David Kennedy
Chief Executive



Pineham Business Park

1:7500 @ A4
8th April 2014

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Site Boundary
 NBC Boundary

