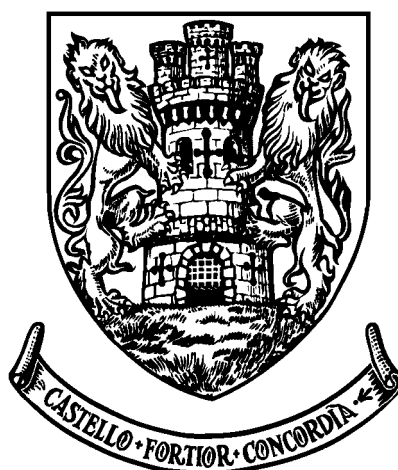


# NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



## COUNCIL

Monday, 24 April 2017

**YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 24 APRIL 2017 AT 6:30 PM WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED**

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**2. MINUTES.**

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meetings of the Council held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March and the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017.

**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 'Retail Job Losses'.

## 9. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

“This Council calls on the Administration to review the 2017/18 Council Tax increase levied on the Parished areas of Northampton”.

ii) Councillor B Markham to propose and Councillor Meredith to second:

“Given the clear public interest and concern expressed at the last council meeting regarding the inadequacy of the Northgate Bus Station and the congestion caused in the Drapery the Council is concerned that no Air Quality monitoring was undertaken in the vicinity of the Bus station during 2016.

To reassure the public that this Council is taking the traffic congestion and resultant air quality problems seriously we call on the Administration to bring a report to this Council twice a year detailing the trend in air quality readings and details of actions that are being taken to protect the public”.

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

“This Council notes that the Administration has included in the 2017 / 18 financial plan capital expenditure of £7 million to redevelop the Central Museum. This money will increase the council's borrowing at a time when interest rates are predicted to rise.

Council is extremely concerned that the administration has once again embarked on a major investment project without first having considered the business or financial case for such a large investment.

The Council therefore calls on the administration to bring a halt to this project until Scrutiny and all councillors have had an opportunity to consider a business plan”.

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

“That this council notes and supports the House of Commons Education Select Committee Report's conclusion that local councils should be allowed to sponsor academies.

This goes even further than the Local Government Association's recent call for councils to be permitted once again "to play a direct role in raising education standards and improving life chances" by setting up and running academy schools and, where necessary, taking on the running of failing academies.

Consequently, this council should:

- Press the Secretary of State for Education to amend the legal ruling which currently prevents local authorities sponsoring academy chains and setting up free schools
- Use its influence to remove unnecessary red tape that currently prevents high performing maintained schools from becoming academy sponsors
- Once this has been done, build this Borough Council's capacity to take on these responsibilities”

v) Councillor Smith to propose and Councillor McCutcheon to second:

“This Council believes it needs to open and as transparent to the public as much as possible.

This Council notes that Northamptonshire County Council does successful webcasting of its official meetings, including full Council and Cabinet.

This Council asks the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider whether introducing webcasting would be successful at the Borough Council. Paying particular attention to the need for being transparent to the public and costs. Once this has been done the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will report back with its views to Cabinet”.

## **10. 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](http://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](mailto: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, 13 March 2017 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

**COUNCILLORS:** Ansell, Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Caswell, Choudary, Chunga, Culbard, Duffy, G Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, B Markham, M Markham, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Kilby-Shaw, Smith, Stone and Walker

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mary Markham, Chunga, Bottwood, Kilbride and Ashraf declared personal non-pecuniary interests in item 13ii) as board members of Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH).

Councillor Flavell declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 13iii) by virtue of being a trustee at Northampton Leathercraft Museum.

Councillor Hadland declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of Delapre Abbey.

### 2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February were agreed and signed by the Mayor, save for the following addition to item 8.

Councillor Beardsworth addressed the Council and made a statement on the General Fund and Budget 2017/18.

### 3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Aziz, Terrie Eales, Davenport and Marriott.

### 4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that Item 9 on the agenda had been withdrawn and would be coming back to Council in three months.

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March the Tibetan Flag raising at the Guildhall took place and was well attended.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March the Mayor attended the Royal Navy Inspection evening and announced the future Mayor's Cadet who will take post in May.

On 16th March the Mayor was to attend the High Sheriff Lecture at Delapre Abbey.

The Mayor commented that there were still some tickets available for the charity dinners at the Saffron and Indian meal. To purchase tickets Councillors needed to speak to the Mayor's assistant

The Mayor confirmed that he had agreed to the holding of an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 3rd April on the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan, this needed to be adopted before 21st April and there was no Council meeting scheduled before this date.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS**

Dagmar King submitted a petition to the Council addressing concerns around inadequate facilities at Victoria Street coach station. She commented that the one toilet was regularly out of order and it was unacceptable for passengers to have to wait to use the coaches on board toilet facilities. Furthermore there were not enough benches for people to sit while waiting to depart and a sign indicating the location of nearby amenities would be useful.. It was considered that these improvements would deter rough sleepers. Mrs King asked officers to listen to residents and for councillors to support her petition.

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

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 1, Councillor Eldred stated that consultation on a bus station at Greyfriars had already been discussed and put forward.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 2, Councillor Hallam confirmed that work had now started on overgrown trees and shrubs in the town and would ensure that Councillors were kept up to date on progress in their wards.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 3, Councillor Hadland stated that there were two overflow car parks for the station, which were both underutilised. Officers were in the process of preparing a business case to be presented to Cabinet.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 4, Councillor Hadland commented that WNDC had been consulted on the possibility of provided a taxi shelter, however Northampton Borough Council were not the planning authority for the station, instead this was the responsibility of the rail company.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 6, Councillor Hibbert informed Council that he had been in regular contact with the volunteers working for the shelter.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 7, Councillor confirmed that he would provide a written answer as to how the apprentices at the Council were trained.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 8, Councillor King commented that the Chief Executive's boards discuss the allocation of money and she would endeavour to get the exact figures in a written response.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 9, Councillor King stated that community wardens had been out to assess the situations across communities.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 11, Councillor Nunn confirmed that he would provide a written answer on the breakdown of hours worked by the Council's apprentices.

## **7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS**

Councillor Nunn, the Leader of the Council, submitted a report and elaborated thereon. He noted progress made on Delapré Abbey, including a stakeholder event that attracted media attention. He also noted that the Council continued to tackle town centre traffic and that he had recently attended a Tourism Partners Briefing, with the view that tourism would become an important aspect of the town's economy. The Leader, along with the Cabinet Member for Environment, had been engaging with Amey to ensure that the Environmental Services contract continued to run smoothly until its end. Also, for the peace of mind of residents, a grass cutting schedule was being sought and would be made public in due course. The Leader commented that good progress had been made with the Governance Action Plan and that regular reports were being brought to the Audit Committee, further noting that an independent person was to be sought for Chair of Audit.

In response to questions asked, the Leader stated that higher emissions were a sign of increased traffic and whilst this was unfortunate, it did mean that more customers were coming to spend money in the town centre. He did agree that there was a need for the roads to be able to cope with heavy traffic in the case of an accident or road closure. The Leader stated that weeding around the town would likely take place at the same time as grass cutting.

Councillor Larratt, the Deputy Leader, submitted a report and elaborated thereon. It was noted that following storm Doris, several lights had to be removed from South Bridge, a locally listed structure and that NCC/Balfour Beatty were not looking at repairing, or even continuing to operate them, so the matter of retention and ongoing operation would be brought to the meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. It was further noted that the new lights around All Saints Church and Fish Street were temporary and that the permanent fixtures would be in place in due course. The Deputy Leader also stated

that there would be a Scrutiny training event on the 4<sup>th</sup> April and that all councillors were invited to attend.

In response to questions asked, members heard that Market traders had previously discussed its location; they were happy with where it was but the layout warranted looking at further and officers were working on plans. It was stated that the Licensing Department had been asked to monitor the Auctioneers pub and that market traders did have the option to formally request a review of the pub's licence. The Deputy Leader also informed members that while South Bridge was the responsibility of NCC/Balfour Beatty, the Council were looking at refurbishing it. He also stated that while he had received none so far, he welcomed invitations from any and all sports clubs regarding the Thorplands development. He noted that regarding councillor training, although attendance had been varied, the sessions had been mostly positive and that councillors were welcome to see the analysis of feedback given. Regarding the Cultural Strategy, the Deputy Leader stated that an initial discussion with officers had taken place but this was at a very early stage.

Councillor Hadland, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, submitted a report and elaborated thereon. He stated that footfall in the town centre for the period April 2016 to January 2017 was up 1.5% compared to the same period for 2015/2016.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hadland stated that there had been a sharp increase in the number of visitors to the town making use of the two hour free parking and in most cases people stayed for a third hour. Members were informed that the planning page on the council's website had been down for too long, however he was assured that this would be back up and running by the end of March.

Councillor King, the Cabinet member for Community Engagement and Safety, submitted a report and elaborated thereon. It was noted that 48 applications had been received for the Partnership Grant Application process and that a panel would be meeting in due course to consider these. Councillor King commented on the success of International Women's day and congratulated Pat Haslem for winning the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Inspirational Woman Award. She noted that recent events had gone well and they would all be planned for the coming year. It was also noted that Bands in the Park would be starting in April, as well as a new campaign starting on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March, helping to keep people safe while on nights out. This campaign had received support from the Police & Crime Commissioner.

In response to questions asked, Councillor King informed members that applications received always outweighed the money available but that Community Engagement were always working to find more funds. She also noted that when volunteer work took place in a councillor's ward, that councillor should be made aware and she would make sure this was the case going forward. Councillor King also noted that Belweather Homes had not formally bid for funding from the Councillor Community Fund for new play equipment at Falklands, but she would be happy to meet with them to look at the possibility of alternative funding.

Councillor Hallam, the Cabinet Member for Environment, submitted a report and elaborated thereon. He stated that following storm Doris, Amey had been extremely responsive regarding fallen trees and offered his thanks. He also stated that work



was ongoing to procure an enforcement service to tackle environmental crime and that an Environmental Provider would be appointed in due course.

In response to questions asked, members heard that there was no public involvement with regard to Environmental Services and Overview and Scrutiny because it was a working group made of members, not a panel open to the public. Councillor Hallam stated that he was happy for Overview and Scrutiny to carry on how they saw fit. He further stated that a 10 year contract was being looked at because that was the average length of time the waste collection vehicles lasted before needing to be replaced. He also commented that the Air Quality Scrutiny Panel would come back to councillors with recommendations in due course.

## **8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS**

Councillor Beardsworth addressed Council on Business Rate Revaluations. She commented that the business rates were a huge concern for a number of small independent traders within Northampton. With the rise in business rates many small businesses were now exploring running their business online, this would in turn create a number of empty shops in Northampton town centre. With spending tighter than in previous years it was clear that small businesses were struggling in the current economic climate. She urged the administration to write to the two local MP's and encourage them to bear in mind small shops in the town centre.

Councillor Eldred in response commented that out of 832 small businesses in the town 611 would pay nothing in business rates due to their rental valuation falling below £12,000 per annum. Of the 211 that were to be affected there was no further help available to 103 of them. The remaining would be able to claim transitional relief and the Council would do all they could to assist.

In reply Councillor Beardsworth stated that the Government were hurting small businesses and a discretionary relief would only prolong the inevitable. In addition she did not want to see any more empty shops in the town.

## **9. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

## **10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017-18**

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

Councillor Larratt seconded the report.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Council approved the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2017/18 attached to the report at appendix 1.

## **11. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2017-18**

Councillor Patel submitted a report that sought Councils approval of the meeting cycle for 2017/18.

Councillor Oldham seconded the report.

### **RERSOLVED:**

That the meeting cycle for 2017/18 attached at appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

## **12. CHANGES TO APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Patel proposed a change to appointments to outside bodies, that being Councillor Russell replace Councillor Chunga on the Northampton Partnership Homes Board.

Councillor Oldham seconded the report.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Russell replaced Councillor Chunga on the Northampton Partnership Homes Board be approved.

## **13. NOTICES OF MOTION**

i) Councillor Beardsworth proposed and Councillor Meredith seconded.

“The public continue to express concern about the facilities provided for travellers using the Victoria Street Coach Terminus.

Council is concerned that the administration's plans for coach facilities linked to the proposed Greyfriars's Development will fail to provide the, user friendly and convenient, modern facilities coach travellers arriving in town expect and deserve.

We call on the Council to carry out consultation with coach users, operators and the general public to ensure that coach facilities on offer in Northampton in the future are a credit to the town rather than an indictment of this council”.

Councillor Hadland proposed and Councillor Larratt seconded an amendment.

Amended motion read:

“The public continue to express concern about the facilities provided for travellers using the Victoria Street Coach Terminus.

This Council notes that the developer of the Greyfriars site has been fully informed about the need to provide a user friendly, convenient, modern coach facility and the Council will seek the provision of nothing less than what Northampton expects and deserves.

The Council will carry out consultation with coach users and operators, taxi providers and the general public to ensure that coach facilities on offer in Northampton in the future are a credit to our town”.

Council debated the amendment.

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

Council debated the substantive motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

ii) Councillor B Markham proposed and Councillor Beardsworth seconded.

“Councillors from all parties have spoken recently about the crisis in social housing and there is a belief that we need to start building council houses again.

With this in mind, we ask the Administration to explain why the proposal from Northampton Partnership Homes to build upwards of 1, 000 council houses over the next 10 years , which they have had since September 2016 , has yet to be evaluated”.

Councillor Hibbert proposed and Councillor Nunn seconded an amendment.

Amended motion read:

“Councillors from all parties have spoken recently about the crisis in social housing and there is a belief that we need to start building council houses again.

With this in mind, a New Housing Board, which involves officers of both Northampton Borough Council (NBC) and Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), is working on a number of projects and programmes to help increase the amount of new affordable housing within Northampton.

NPH has progressed the regeneration of Little Cross Street with 34 units under construction. An application has also been submitted to build 45 flats for older people at Lakeview House. In the last two years the Council has acquired 15 buy-backs and spot purchases and the Council is acquiring a further 6 properties on the same basis as part of a development by a social housing provider.

Since 2011, the Administration has seen over 900 affordable homes completed. While some of the planned developments have had to be temporarily put on hold, the Council continues to work with DCLG on the possible use of Local Growth Fund borrowing to deliver further development of new homes over an extended period.

This Council, therefore, recognises and understands the need for housing on Northampton and affirms its commitment to build more council houses”.

Council debated the amendment.

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

Council debated the substantive motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

iii) Councillor Flavell proposed and Councillor Larratt seconded.

“This Council is extremely proud of the National Leather Collection (NLC) based in Northampton - the heart of the UK’s leather and footwear industry, and congratulates the NLC Trust on establishing their new home in The Grosvenor Centre. The Collection’s history, education and heritage is of a tremendous importance to our town, and we very much look forward to it becoming accessible to the public.

This motion confirms this Council’s continued support for the NLC Trust in their work. Northampton Borough Council and Councillors will continue to work collaboratively with the Trust to ensure its ongoing short and long term success in town”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

iv) Councillor Nunn proposed and Councillor Larratt seconded.

“This Council notes that South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) has completed Part 2A Issues and Options stages of its Local Plan, and is now preparing the Draft Plan for consultation.

To address the 5 year housing land supply shortfall in the Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA), SNC has resolved to allocate a reserve development site in its Local Plan Part 2. Two sites have been submitted to SNC’s Local Plan Call for Sites at the Issues and Options stages. The two sites are:

- East Wootton – About 1,200 houses
- Land at South East Northampton – About 1,000 houses

This Council strongly objects to any further development to the South and South East of Northampton due to the impact it will have on local services, the lack of road infrastructure improvements and the impact on the A45 and local road network without adequate mitigation.

The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits were approved as a Special Protection Area (SPA) in April 2011, due to the range of habitat and the varied topography of the lagoons providing valuable resting and feeding conditions for major concentrations of wintering water birds, especially ducks and waders. The area was also designated a Ramsar site, as it regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds and regularly supports 1% of the bird individuals of Mute Swan and Gadwall. Some species also spend time feeding and roosting on surrounding agricultural land outside the SPA.

Therefore, this Council also expresses concerns regarding the two sites being put forward for development as they have been identified as optimal and sub-optimal sites for Golden Plover and / or Lapwing activity.

This motion calls for SNC to take fully into account the views of Natural England – a statutory committee – and other relevant wildlife organisations, in developing and preparing its Local Plan, especially with regard to sites in the NRDA”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

v) Councillor Haque proposed and Councillor Birch seconded.

“This Council notes there is a growing recognition of the detrimental impact of air pollution on human health.

This Council believes it must be proactive in reducing air pollution where it is practical to do so.

In order to educate young people in our town this Council asks Cabinet to purchase air quality testing kits for each secondary school within the Borough.

This can help children understand the level of air pollution in their area and will provide useful data for the Borough Council to take action”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was lost.

vi) Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Ashraf seconded.

“This Council recognises the benefits of having a “Young Mayor” and of having a youth representative to the UK Youth Parliament.

The benefits of a Young Mayor.

- Power and influence
- Getting youth voices heard
- Understanding and development
- New skills

We will work with the youth forum to develop this role.

The benefits of having a UK Youth Parliament representative

The UK Youth parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their

elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

The UK Youth Parliament, has chosen 'votes for 16 and 17 year olds in all public elections and referenda' as its national campaign for 2017. A 'curriculum for life; was also chosen as the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaign for England for a second time.

In January a total of 276 Members of Youth Parliament aged 11-18 took part in the debates, the subjects for which were voted for by 978,216 young people across the UK.

This Council recognizes it will be a benefit to have Northampton represented in the Youth Parliament".

Councillor King proposed and Councillor Golby seconded an amendment.

Amended motion read:

"The Northampton Borough Council (NBC) recognises the great importance of involving young people in current affairs in our town. We, therefore, have a very active and involved youth forum in Northampton and have been working with them on a large number of issues.

Members supported Happy Day at the racecourse, gathering feedback specifically around mental health and well-being, which has been identified by the forum as a key priority for young people. They also provided support to the Guildhall with the Heritage Tours at capacity of 120 people, the opening event of the Hate Crime Week with more than 60 people attending and the Holocaust Memorial Event. The forum has been working on several ongoing projects, including the Oral history project encouraging the crucial intergenerational integration and Hate Crime work.

Furthermore, the youth forum are holding international youth day on the 12th August and cake and debate for UK Parliament Week on 17th November.

The NBC, therefore, believes that having a youth mayor would undermine the youth forum chair's position.

The Council, however, also recognises the calls for electing a youth representative to the UK Youth Parliament.

The UK Youth parliament provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

The UK Youth Parliament, has chosen 'votes for 16 and 17 year olds in all public elections and referenda' as its national campaign for 2017. A 'curriculum for life; was also chosen as the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaign for England for a second time.

In January a total of 276 Members of Youth Parliament aged 11-18 took part in the

debates, the subjects for which were voted for by 978,216 young people across the UK.

This Council confirms that it will work further with Northamptonshire County Council, who previously held the UK Youth Parliament seat, to explore the option of having Northampton represented in the Youth Parliament again”.

Council debated the amendment.

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

Council debated the substantive motion.

Upon a vote the motion was carried.

**14. 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 Time Not Specified

## MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 3 April 2017 AT SIX THIRTY O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

**COUNCILLORS:** Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Chunga, Culbard, Duffy, Eldred, Hadland, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, M Markham, Marriott, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Kilby-Shaw and Smith

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor King declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 4 by virtue of having taken part in the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan consultation process.

Councillor Meredith declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item 4 by virtue of being on the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum.

### 2. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors G Eales, T Eales, Flavell, Parekh, Caswell, Hallam, Cali, Davenport, Stone, Gowen, McCutcheon, B Markham, Bottwood, Choudary, Golby and Walker.

### 3. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There were none.

### 4. GROWING TOGETHER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hadland submitted a report and elaborated thereon. The report sought to “make” the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan, following on from initial community engagement between 2012 and 2014 and culminating in a referendum held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017. Councillor Hadland extended his thanks to the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum and all of the officers involved. He noted that the Neighbourhood Plan would be a great asset for the local community in the future.

Councillor Larratt seconded the report.

Councillor Chunga, as the Ward Councillor, addressed Members and offered his thanks to Forum members and officers who made the Plan happen.

Councillor Duffy stated that the Neighbourhood Plan would fix a lot of problems in the area and echoed the praise given by previous councillors.

Councillor Meredith reported that after four years of planning, the Plan had been very



successful, thanking Forum members and Officers. He noted that he only regretted that the Plan did not cover a larger area.

Councillor Birch commented that the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan was in the true spirit of the Localism Act. She noted that there seemed to be higher levels of cohesion and enthusiasm amongst residents who were grateful for the opportunity to be involved.

Councillor Beardsworth noted that it had been essential that feedback given at the start of the process had been fully considered and welcomed the involvement local residents.

Councillor Hadland noted that although the budget for the 23<sup>rd</sup> February referendum was in the region of £25,000, the final cost was much closer to £15,000.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council “makes” the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan, in accordance with Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
2. That the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan and the Decision Statement be published on the Council’s website, and paper copies be provided in locations where people live, work and carry on business in the area can view them.
3. That the Decision Statement and details on how to view the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan be sent to the qualifying body (Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum) and any person who asked to be notified of the Council’s decision.
4. That the Growing Together Neighbourhood Forum be congratulated on the successful outcome of the referendum and the making of the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan.

The meeting concluded at 6:47 pm

**Question for Full Council Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

**Question 1**

**Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf:**

Please can you include a report from NPH in your cabinet members report?

We need to have regular updates on - Waiting lists, Voids, Arrears, New Build completions, Refurbishments and their Environmental Improvements.

***Response***

I have now included some NPH highlights in my Cabinet Member Report.

With regard to your request for regular updates on operational issues, you are well aware (as a member of NPH's Board of Directors) that NPH already provides monthly updates on voids and lettings, tenant satisfaction, rental income and arrears, gas safety, repairs performance and fly-tipping. Due to the nature of investment works, quarterly and/or annual reports are presented for refurbishment and environmental works. Regeneration and new build performance are reported on an ad-hoc basis as and when properties are completed.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert  
**Cabinet Member for Housing**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

### **Question 2**

#### **Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Haque:**

Have you consulted the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management yet about the Environmental Service we are developing for 2018? If not why not?

#### ***Response***

The focus of the consultation we undertook to inform the design of new environmental services for the town were the public. The public consultation undertaken included a letter to every household in the borough, an Ipsos Mori survey of 1000 individuals, and a number of consultation events with ward councillors and a wide range of community groups. It was by far the most successful consultation the council has ever undertaken.

Although we are members of CIWM, we decided to commission professional and technical advice from Eunomia.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

### **Question 3**

#### **Question to Cllr King from Cllr Haque:**

Are you aware that Cllr. Stone and I have recently negotiated a Saturday Service for communities registering a death? This means that communities of all faiths, once the notification of death has been registered, may take bodies to a place of worship for ritual washing and prayers. This will be of great comfort to families in the town. Please can the Councillor make sure the Diverse Communities Forum know about this? I have a phone number for the Saturday Service that I am happy to pass on.

#### ***Response***

For the sake of accuracy and other wider implications that could arise from the communication of misinformation, I do need to point out that you have not negotiated this service, but I do thank you for the suggestion you have made. Thank you also for your suggestion regarding the Diverse Communities Forum, I will pass it to the chair and vice chair for their consideration.

Councillor Anna King

**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

### **Question 4**

#### **Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Gowen:**

What is the Borough doing to support the staff who have lost their jobs because of the closure of Oliver Adams?

#### ***Response***

The Borough Council does not have a remit to assist with redundancies, however has been in touch with the Job Centre and Oliver Adam's to offer assistance.

Councillor Tim Hadland

**Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

### **Question 5**

#### **Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Gowen:**

With yet another business going from our town, what are we doing to fill the void?

#### ***Response***

The Borough Council offers an investment support service that proactively seeks out new inward investment. This year 13 new businesses and over 300 jobs have been created in the Enterprise Zone alone.

Councillor Tim Hadland

**Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**

### **Question 6**

#### **Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Duffy:**

Our town centres and shopping centres are becoming dominated by food outlets. Isn't it time we put a cap on how many we allow on anyone street?

#### ***Response***

Policy 13 of the Central Area Action Plan already seeks to resist non retail uses when these would result in retail uses making up less than 80% of the frontage in primary frontages and 60% in secondary frontages. In other locations, including district and local centres, Policy S2 of the Joint Core Strategy requires that careful consideration is given to planning applications for change of use, including hot food takeaways, in particular relating to how the proposal would impact on the vitality and viability of these areas, as well as in terms of their impact on the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

Town centre economies have changed immensely over the last 5 -10 years and the retail mix of a town centre is a reflection of the changing shopping habits of the population within the catchment area. A restriction of use classes will not change the shopping trends, or indeed the economy.

Councillor Tim Hadland

**Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning**

## Report of the Leader of the Council

### Northampton Borough Council

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017



#### **Unitary Status**

NBC have been leading on the commissioning of independent work to assess the options for a possible future Unitary Councils model for Northamptonshire.

This work is being supported by financial contributions from other Districts and Boroughs in the county, and the contract for the work has been awarded by a panel from across the councils to Deloitte.

Deloitte will be assessing all aspects of local government in their work, including the cost to residents of different options, but with a strong focus on local representation which ensures the delivery of the best quality services.

#### **Town Centre Traffic**

Our commitment to lead on relieving traffic issues around the town centre, has led to a number of improvements being agreed with the County Council. Work is progressing on the regulations that are needed for these to be implemented, with a focus on the Drapery and Bus station area, such as Bradshaw Street being made one way, so that separate lanes are available to buses turning left and right, enforcement of the buses and taxis only restrictions on the Drapery to reduce the congestion, and alterations to yellow box junctions and signage. Other partners working with us include the Park Inn Hotel, who are using their alternative entrance off St. Katherine's Street, removing the need for their guests to use Sheep Street to reach the hotel.

We will continue to look for further ways in which traffic flows can be improved, to reduce the dreadful delays that we know some residents have had to suffer at peak times.

#### **Delapré Abbey**

It has been wonderful to see Delapre Abbey welcome visitors daily, following the opening of the café on 3rd April. I'm not sure there has ever been a better time for the Abbey in its nine hundred year history, not just because of the excellent condition the building is in following the restoration, but also because of the fact that so much of the building is now accessible to visitors, whether they are visiting the immediately accessible areas such as the café, or participating in something in the village hall area, or attending a wedding or corporate event.

We are now working closely with Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust to finalise the last remaining items of the restoration, which sit outside of the work of the Main Contractor, and of course focusing on the promotion of the Abbey and the operational plan so that the Abbey can be fully opened as soon as possible. I'm pleased to report that there are a significant number of bookings and enquiries for the use of the facilities, as this forms a vital part of the Abbey's future income and sustainability.



## **Governance**

Neale Burns has joined the council to fulfil the Governance & Risk Manager role. This is on an interim basis for the time being, but it has meant that the important work of this role is underway. The 'Licence to Practice' training that those managing projects and budgets within the council must attend has also begun.

I have mentioned to Council before that we have an aspiration to move to an Independent Chair of the Audit Committee, and as a first step to progress this a report will be going to the Audit Committee for their consideration.

## **Economic Development**

Amongst the recent activities in this area, we were delighted to run a business breakfast event on the Wellingborough Road on 17th March. This was driven by a number of new businesses in the area, including our hosts for the event; The Dapper Sandwich. It is a commitment of the Administration to continue to seek to work with businesses across the borough, and the enthusiasm amongst the businesses at this event was extremely encouraging, with future meetings due to take place on how we work together to improve the area.

The Council is a member of the Northamptonshire Business Alliance, an organisation set up to bring together key businesses and organisations to help shape the future of business in Northamptonshire, and I was delighted to recently agree with the Chamber of Commerce our continued commitment to being involved with the Alliance, and separately to attend an event with other members on 20th March.

It was a particular pleasure to be accompanied at this event by Stephen Hing, our new Director of Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning. Stephen has made a tremendously positive impact during his first few weeks in the job, and I would like to congratulate him on the way that he really has 'hit the ground running'!

## **Night Shelter**

I recently visited the Night Shelter for the first time since it opened. This made me feel extremely proud of the positive and innovative work that the council is undertaking, with partners, in the area of homelessness. The way in which the Shelter is giving its visitors a welcoming and helping hand to take a positive direction with their lives, and the way in which they are responding to that help, is so very uplifting, and I am extremely grateful to all the volunteers and council staff who have dedicated their time to preparing, opening, and running the Shelter.

## **Other Activity**

Amongst the many other things I have recently been pleased to be involved in are:

Meeting with St. James Residents' Association and members of the Management Team at the Doddridge Centre, to discuss with them ways of supporting further their work for the local community.

Being involved in the launch of the Northamptonshire Surprise tourism campaign, in which we intend to play an active part in the future.

Meeting with Community Spaces Northampton, to better understand the great work that they do, and how we can ensure the best possible working relationship between the council and CSN.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

**Leader of the Council**



## Cabinet Member Report for Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have been continuing 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.

### Market

Options to reconfigure the Market Stalls are currently being drawn up and will be presented to the new Sub Group when they are complete. There will then be full consultation with all Traders before any decision is made on which option to take forward for implementation.

A meeting of the Market Advisory Group will be arranged for June 2017

### Councillor Training

The Councillor Development Group met on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, when we reviewed the recent training sessions. The following is the ongoing programme of events at the time of writing:

- **26/04/17 – Social Media Training** open to all Councillors. Two sessions one at 2.00 pm and the other at 6.00 pm. Provided by an external training provider.
- **24/05/17 - Dementia Friends Information Session** open to all Councillors. Two identical 2 hour sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm. To be delivered by Louise Musson
- **29/06/17 - Safeguarding Refresher** open to all Councillors. Two identical 2 hour sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm. To be delivered by Phil Harris.
- **17/07/17 - Performance Management** open to all Councillors. Two identical 1 hour sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm. To be delivered by Alice Turrell.

Further details regarding these sessions, all of which will be held in the Jeffery Room, can be obtained from Tracy Tiff.

Members are asked to register to attend these events with Tracy Tiff as soon as possible.

The following further topics for training were suggested and will be pursued:

- Audit training, when appropriate
- Further Personal Safety for Councillors

- Universal Credit
- Dementia Friendly Town
- Social Lettings Agency
- Section 106 Agreements and what they deliver

All Members are being asked through their individual groups for any further needs or ideas they have for further / future training and I would urge all Members to respond to this.

### **Sports Clubs**

I have recently met with Sileby Rangers FC at Fernie Fields, and, along with Councillor Duffy, Thorplands Club 81. Sileby Rangers have needs with regard to the standard of their facilities while Thorplands Club 81 needs a permanent home with proper facilities. I'm working with Officers and colleagues to see how we can work with these valued and popular Clubs to help them meet their various needs.

### **Scrutiny**

There are no Cabinet responses to Scrutiny Reports currently outstanding. Cabinet considered its response to the following report at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March:

- Match Day Parking

Cabinet recommended that a Working Group be established, led by NBC, in partnership with NCC as the lead transport authority, to assess the recommendations made by O&S Group and their implementation where appropriate. This will be set up in the near future and include relevant Councillors.

A Scrutiny Planning event was held on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, but I believe that the outcome of the event is a very good and relevant programme of work for 2017/18

### **Street Lighting**

The first meeting of the Officer / Member Working Group took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Minutes of the meeting are available.

The priority is to establish a complete and accurate asset register of NBC / NPH owned street lights. The Working Group will consider how best to achieve this at its next meeting. When the timescale for completing the register is known, it may be necessary to review the timescale for the Working Group to deliver its required outcome.

All Members, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and the BID's will be contacted to ask if they know of or have any problems with street lights that are or may be NBC owned in their respective areas.

## **Tourism**

Tourism is an important aspect of the town's economy.

I was pleased to attend the launch of Northamptonshire – Britain's Best Surprise on 27<sup>th</sup> March. This initiative, led by the County's Lieutenancy, is promoting the County as a tourist destination. It is promoting many tourist venues in Northampton, e.g. our parks, museums, festivals, churches, theatres, major sports clubs, Delapre Abbey, and 78 Derngate etc. I would urge members to visit <http://www.northamptonshiresurprise.com/> I will work with this new organisation to promote our town as a major tourist destination within the County.

I was also pleased to attend the Nene Valley Annual Stakeholder event, organised by Destination Nene Valley, at Delapre Abbey on 29<sup>th</sup> March. This organisation promotes the Nene Valley, from Northampton to Peterborough, as a tourist destination. It also promotes many tourist venues and events in Northampton. See <http://www.nenevalley.net/>

This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the renovated Abbey and its wonderful facilities. The Leader of the Council welcomed those attending the event and talked about the restoration of the Abbey.

**Councillor Phil Larratt**

**Deputy Leader of the Council**

## **Cabinet Member Report for Finance**



### **Northampton Borough Council**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

#### **Finance**

The Council is currently preparing its Accounts for 2016/17. The year-end financial position reported to Cabinet during the year has shown an underspend which has primarily arisen from higher income streams in development control and parking, and also from proactive management of debt financing costs. The final outturn report is planned to be presented to Cabinet in July 2017. The Statement of Accounts is on target to be published for inspection by the public and audit by KPMG by 30th June in accordance with the statutory timetable.

The Council's work developing options and proposals to deliver its Efficiency Plan continues to progress through the Efficiency and Medium Term Financial Strategy Board. The outcome of this work will be reported to Cabinet later in 2017.

#### **Revenues & Benefits**

The Revenues and Benefits Service at Northampton are in the process of procuring new technology, aimed at increasing the speed it processes New claims and changes to benefit claims. This technology will support our decision makers to assess the level of evidence required prior to the assessment of a claim but will also flag cases where additional scrutiny will be required.

The service have just completed our annual billing process, with the successful issue of over 115,000 items of correspondence and subsequent customer contact. The impact of this peak has been minimised on the team and users of the service, through the support of the LGSS Revenues and Benefits Resilience team. This team is funded by ad hoc additional Government grants provided to support the delivery of new burdens (welfare reforms) and were on hand to support the increased contact.

The agreement that will lead to the formation of the LGSS Revenues and Benefits Joint Committee are now in draft and both officers and members from Northampton Borough Council and Milton Keynes Council will be working together in order to finalise this arrangement. Transitional projects have begun to be assessed to start to shape how this shared service will operate and these projects will commence early in the first quarter of 2017 – 18, with projects to select a single line of business system, how we work with enforcement agents, automation of processes and shaping our digital solutions among the highest priorities for the partnership.

**Councillor Brandon Eldred**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**



## Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

24 April 2017

### Town Centre Operations

The council re-opened the fully refurbished Midsummer Meadow car park on the 1<sup>st</sup> April including credit card payment options.

The two hour free parking in the council's multi-storey car parks for the April 2016 to February 2017 period saw 931,089 customers taking advantage of the offer an increase of 88,775 (10.5) in comparison with the same period in 2015/16.

The free Saturday parking for the April 2016 to March 2017 period saw 438,727 customers taking advantage of the offer, an increase of 12,847 (3%) in comparison with the same period in 2015/16.

The annual footfall for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 was 15,648,303 a slight fall in comparison with 2015/16 of 0.48%. This is still an increase of 1,000,000 on 2014/2015.

### Planning

#### Article 4 Direction Far Cotton / Delapre Area

This Article 4 Direction came into effect on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017. It removes the permitted development right to convert Class C3 dwelling houses into Class C4 houses in multiple occupation. Public consultation on the Direction closes on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Neighbourhood Plans

At the meeting of Full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, the Growing Together Neighbourhood Plan was made covering Blackthorn, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge.

N/2016/1649 – planning application for the development of 45no. flats for the elderly at Churchill Avenue (Council owned land) was approved by the Planning Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The first Northampton South SUE (Collingtree) Stakeholder Group meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> March and attended by Officers, Developers, Parish Council and Local Representatives. The meeting was very well received by the Members of the Group and a positive public consultation exercise.

Building Control worked closely with the Errol Flynn Filmhouse to ensure that the Occupation Certificate was issued in time for it to opening on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Building on the success of Errol Flynn One, this second screen is a welcome addition to the Cultural Quarter.

### **Developers' Forum**

We held the first Developers' Forum on 10<sup>th</sup> March. It was a very useful session all round, and will become a regular feature of our engagement with the Development Industry.

### **Business Breakfasts**

We held a very successful Business Breakfast in Wellingborough Road, to support local businesses who wish to work more closely together and promote the area.

A follow-up breakfast is planned for the St James Mill Road area, to hear about progress on the issues raised at the previous meeting.

### **Castle Area Project**

This is gathering momentum, and in the next few weeks will include a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the area, and an augmented Virtual Reality representation of the Castle

### **Delapre Abbey**

The cafe was opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, in time for the school holidays. It has been very well received.

The team continues to work closely with DAPT and contractors to complete the final works prior to the full opening of the Abbey.

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



## Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### Northampton's Emergency Nightshelter

I am delighted to report that, since opening on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017, the Nightshelter has been making a huge difference to the lives of people who would otherwise have needed to sleep rough.

During the first couple of months, the Nightshelter accepted 61 referrals, provided emergency shelter for 50 homeless men, and helped 22 people to move on into suitable accommodation.

In order to build on the success of the Nightshelter, we will soon be establishing a series of 'task and finish' groups that will focus on the achievement of the other 9 objectives in 'TOGETHER we change lives', our multi agency strategy for ending the need to sleep rough in Northampton.

Anyone wishing to support the Nightshelter (by becoming a volunteer or making a donation) should visit the Northampton Nightshelter webpage on the Council's website:

[www.northampton.gov.uk/northamptonnightshelter](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/northamptonnightshelter)

### Proposed Changes to Private Sector Housing Enforcement

In previous reports, I have described the changes we have made to the way in which we tackle criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords, and I have explained how we have equipped the Officers with the necessary skills, confidence and tools to successfully prosecute offenders.

Since February 2016 – when the Cabinet approved a new Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy – the Government has introduced a series of measures (set out in the Housing & Planning Act 2016) to help local authorities to tackle rogue landlords and managing agents.

As the Government has now issued its guidance on the use of Civil Penalties and Rent Repayment Orders – two of the key measures in the Housing & Planning Act 2016 – we will be developing a Private Sector Housing Civil Penalties Policy (and updating our Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy) for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting in July 2017.

In order to inform our decisions on the content of the new policies, we will be holding a series of landlord focus groups – for landlords, managing agents, regulatory authorities and a wide range of other stakeholders – in the Guildhall on 26 & 27 April 2017.



Northampton is one of only a small number of local authorities that have been working with the Government to develop the guidance on the use of Civil Penalties and Rent Repayment Orders, and the Home Office and DCLG have expressed a lot of interest in our intelligence-led, risk based approach to housing enforcement and tackling criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords.

### **Social Lettings Agency**

I am very pleased to report that the recruitment process is now complete.

Two of the 4 roles (the Social Lettings Agency Manager and the Lettings Negotiator) have been filled by candidates who have extensive experience of working in residential lettings businesses.

The Social Lettings Agency will support the Council's efforts to improve housing standards and management in the borough's private rented sector, bring empty homes back into use, prevent homelessness and reduce the number of households living in bed and breakfast accommodation.

In my next report, I will be providing more information about the action we are taking to set up a private sector leasing scheme (to reduce the Council's use of bed and breakfast) and to persuade property owners to employ the Social Lettings Agency to let and manage their accommodation.

### **Northampton Hospital Discharge Scheme**

The 'Hospital 2 Home' (H2H) hospital discharge scheme was set up in May 2015 and provides holistic interventions that enable patients' safe and timely discharge from hospital.

Officers from the Council's Housing & Wellbeing Service attend weekly discharge meetings at Northampton General Hospital and Berrywood Hospital and work with the health and social care professionals (and local services and organisations) to assess patients' needs and facilitate their safe discharge from hospital. This frees up hospital beds that can then be used for other patients.

The primary outcomes of the H2H Scheme are to reduce the length of stay, and prevent readmission and homelessness. The secondary outcomes are to improve the customer experience of hospital discharge and to provide a wrap-around service when people leave hospital.

During its first 22 months, the H2H Scheme has dealt with 150 patients (87 men and 63 women), 88% of whom were under pensionable age. Almost two thirds of the people assisted under the scheme (including 19 patients who had previously been sleeping rough) were homeless.

## **Northampton Partnership Homes**

NPH's annual Delivery Plan, published within the last few weeks, sets out very clearly the ALMO's achievements to date and its ambitious strategic objectives for the coming year.

I was very pleased to learn that, following a comprehensive tender process which involved extensive tenant involvement, NPH has now appointed a new investment contractor (Keepmoat), on a partnering basis, to deliver our planned investment works to the Council's existing council homes and estates for a period of up to 10 years.

I am delighted, also, that planning consent has been granted for the development of a brand new older persons housing scheme (comprising 45 homes) at Lakeview Close, and that the go-ahead is likely to be given soon for the installation of PV (photo-voltaic) panels to be installed on approximately 5,000 council homes in order to reduce tenants' fuel bills and tackle fuel poverty.

Working closely with the Council, NPH is undertaking a comprehensive review of service charges.

**Councillor Stephen Hibbert**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing**



## **Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety**

**Northampton Borough Council**

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Councillor Community Fund**

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £193,657.14 has been spent on local projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund, approximately 475 projects have been delivered across the neighbourhoods in the Borough.

### **Partnership Support**

Funding has been allocated and will support 33 projects and organisations that will deliver positive outcomes for the community. Organisations will be made aware of the allocations in the coming weeks. Four organisations will receive a three year grant.

### **Forums**

Planning underway for IDAHO, conference on 17th May, to be held at the Royal and Derngate. Youth Forum are currently making plans for International Youth Day to include Gambling Awareness. Srebrenica visit confirmed for September 2017. Through the Pensioners Forum, engaging Digital Eagles a Tea Dance was Held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The event was very well attended.

### **Volunteers**

50 University students have worked in two community centres (Bellinge and Blackthorn), they have painted fences, tidied up gardens, weeded, trimmed shrubs and varnished outdoor toys.

Olympus Care have completed some litter picking in Victoria Park and some epicormics growth removal in Becket's Park.

The Girl Guides are working with Weston Favell Parish Hall and Travis Perkins will be bringing 10 staff to another one of our community centres to carry out painting and decorating later this month.

### **Events**

The Bands in the park season commenced on the Sunday 2 April and runs throughout the summer until the middle of September.

The annual HMS Laforey Parade on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the Terry Wire Memorial Harley Davidson on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April were well received and enjoyed by the public in the town centre. We saw the circus back on Midsummer Meadow for the first time in almost two years and the return of the fair to Kingsthorpe Rec.

The plans for the food festival in Becket's Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May have been approved and we continue to work closely with the event organisers for the Beer Festival (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> June), Pretty Muddy & Race for Life (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June), Carnival (10<sup>th</sup>

June), Speedy Cup (17<sup>th</sup> June), Music Festival (18<sup>th</sup> June) and Armed Forces Day & Parade (24 June), Race for Life and more.

### **Culture & Heritage**

Art in the Park exhibition opens at Abington Park Museum on 29 April. The open exhibition is in its 56<sup>th</sup> year and showcases the work of Northamptonshire artists.

Two Over 60s talks in March were sold out and were attended by 142 visitors. A Spring series of talks is planned for April to July and will be held at The Guildhall due to decoration work at Abington Park Museum.

Easter workshops were held at Abington Park Museum and were well attended. Over the Easter weekend an Easter Egg Trail was very popular with young families.

During a five week period in February and March, 62 volunteers gave 577 hours of their time to assist curatorial staff in assessing and packing 3,125 objects from the displays and stores at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. An afternoon tea was held on 31 March to thank volunteers for their time and was attended by over 50 volunteers.

### **Museum Expansion Project**

The museum has taken possession of the Old Goal Block building and invasive survey work is now underway. Initial gallery design concepts have been developed with the exhibition designer in advance of full Concept Design stage. A collaborative planning session was held, led by the main contractor, Wates, and involving the key contractors on the project to develop the formal project plan and agree submission dates and interface issues.

### **Customer Services**

The national statistics confirm that 1 in 4 people suffer from a Mental Health condition.

Customer Services have arranged Remploy, a leading charity whose mission is to transform society and the lives of disabled people, to deliver Mental Health awareness training to Managers within Customers and Communities. The objective of the training includes:

- Understand what is meant by mental health
- Awareness of different types of mental health conditions and their potential impact at work
- Consider the relationship between stress, mental wellbeing and performance
- How to create a supportive climate and have conversations about mental health
- Workplace adjustments and practical tools to use
- Where and how you can access support services

The feedback from the managers who attended this course was extremely positive and managers commented that they felt confident in identifying early signs of mental health and knew the possible adjustments and support to offer. Health and Safety and HR also attended these courses and have received feedback. HR are looking to offer further training to all NBC manager.

### **Community Safety**

Overall crime has finished the year with a 10.7% increase (+1,617 crimes) since April 2016. However, on a positive note the increase has been slowing down since December 2016. Serious Acquisitive Crime has seen an increase of 45.3% (+1,232 crimes) with vehicle crime rising by 72.5% (+1,061 crimes), domestic burglary by 5.5% (+54 crimes). However, domestic burglary has continued to show a reduction in the

second half of the year. The rate at which violence against the person continues to show an increase, but is still less than this period last year with an increase of 8.7% (+97 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Police have increased by 6%, and the last 3 months have seen a reduction. Environmental ASB reports have increased by 10.5%. Personal ASB has reduced by .7%, and nuisance ASB has increased by 9.4%.

The Nights Out Northampton campaign continues to pick up momentum, with a number of town centre pubs and clubs displaying the mirror wraps in their rest rooms. Regular 'Tweets' and 'Facebook' messages are also being shared.

The Community Safety Priority Locations for Weeks of Action have been identified and agreed for 2017/18. The first Week of Action took place on St David's week commencing 3 April 2017 and was extremely well supported by agencies and the local community. Further Weeks of Action are planned for King's Heath, Briar Hill, Thorplands and Semilong.

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



## Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### **Environmental Services Re-Provision**

The environmental services re-provision process continues apace. The OJEU notice and associated documentation have now been published. This marks the formal commencement of the procurement process, in readiness for contract award in the autumn.

The public consultation on the re-provision of environmental services has now closed. I am delighted to say that nearly 8,000 responses were received. This is the biggest response the council has ever had to a consultation exercise.

Work is now underway to analyse all the consultation that has been undertaken and to draw conclusions from it that will inform the design of the new service.

The working group established by Overview and Scrutiny Committee is underway. Their role will be to ensure the procurement process is robust. They will also ensure that key messages from the consultation are used to help shape bids from potential service providers.

### **Environmental Services (Current Contract)**

Towcester Road Cemetery - During December 2016 and January 2017, a new road surface was laid around the Chapel and approaching roads. The old surface had become severely worn revealing deep potholes and other tripping hazards.

Delapre Abbey Park – A new road surface was also laid over the top of the old one that leads from the entrance of Delapre Abbey Park down to the Model Engineers Club. The Club had been waiting a number of years for the worn out road to be replaced.

Gold Street / Marefair – The broken and bent stainless steel litterbins that have been an eye sore for some time have been replaced with the uniformed Black & Gold Victorian Style type litterbins. They have the cigarette stub and ash tray on the top of the bin to encourage smokers to use the bins and not to throw the cigarette butts on the pavement, which make the streets look untidy.

The Abington Park Aviaries have had their bases refurbished and new drainage installed to enable them to be cleaned more efficiently.

Abington Park Boating Pond – The Pond is currently being dredged to clear years of dead leaves and silt from the bottom. This debris has hindered the enjoyment of the Pond, which is hired by the Model Yacht Club, Water Walking Balls and Paddle Boats.

### **Tree Maintenance**

The enhanced maintenance program was delayed due to the damage to trees caused by storm Dora. The teams were moved onto emergency work to clear fallen and

dangerous trees, but then resumed the work to complete the enhanced maintenance program.

### **Grass Cutting**

The grass cutting season has now started with the first cut having been completed.

### **Enforcement Service**

The procurement process for a service to provide targeted enforcement to address littering and other environmental crime is progressing. A report will be presented to Cabinet in the near future providing more information about the planned service.

### **Air Quality**

Scrutiny panel 4 are due to report on their review of the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Northampton Low Emissions Strategy.

### **Food and Safety**

Enforcement action has been taken in relation to a number of food businesses where inspections have revealed issues with cleaning and unfit food.

### **Park Management Committees**

There are lots of projects being developed through the PMCs. Some of which include:

- Abington, Becketts and Eastfield Friends groups have community Litter Picks planned to support the Keep Britain Tidy weekend of 4th and 5th March.
- Through Becketts PMC we are working closely with the University and other partners to create a well-being park, including an application that has been submitted by the Chair of Buddies of Becketts for a projects park officer to Northampton's Community Foundation Well-Being funding pot.
- The parks are working collectively to arrange activities across the parks, on different days during love my parks week in July. As part of the week they will be holding a showcase event on the Market Square, which will be an opportunity for the public to see what our parks can offer.

**Councillor Mike Hallam**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**