

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 10 July 2017

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 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 Meeting of the Council held on the 19th June 2017.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

(Copy herewith)

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Ashraf to make a statement on "More and Better Housing".

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

(Copy herewith)

10. CHANGES TO CONSULTATION APPOINTMENTS

(Copy herewith)

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

“This council makes the following commitment to all tenants living in Council buildings

All council residential blocks of 5 or more storeys, with enclosed stairwells, will be fitted with fire sprinkler systems as soon as possible and by the 31st July 2018 at the latest”.

- ii) Councillor Haque to propose and Councillor Smith to second:

“This Council notes the proposed large scale housing growth as outlined in the West Northants Joint Core Strategy.

This Council also notes the need for additional school places to meet this population growth.

We note the damaging impact of air pollution on human health as outlined in the Low Emissions Strategy and note that Northampton has air pollution levels above the national average.

We therefore propose:

- a) To do what we can as a local authority to lower air pollution near schools.
b) That Air quality testing is regularly conducted around Northampton schools.”

- iii) Councillor Birch to propose and Councillor Duffy to second:

“This Council notes there is a growing and serious problem with social overcrowding in council houses.

This Council believes that the national statutory overcrowding regulations are insufficient. Children in particular are affected as there is a lack of space to study, store their clothes and toys, play with siblings, and invite friends over.

This Council will therefore determine a local standard to include the right to a minimum floor space, storage for clothes and personal effects.

We further ask the Cabinet to investigate ways to help families living in socially overcrowded conditions to move on to appropriate accommodation as their family needs develop.

- iv) Councillor King to propose and Councillor Nunn to second:

“There are 5,000 people at any one time in the UK with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), it can affect any adult of any age and nearly 2,200 people die from this rare but fatal neurological disease each year.

MND describes a group of diseases that affect the nerves (motor neurones) in the brain and spinal cord that tell your muscles what to do. With MND, messages from these nerves gradually stop reaching the muscles, leading them to weaken, stiffen and waste.

Motor Neurone Disease is a devastating condition. Progress has been made through research but much more needs to be done.

This motion, therefore, calls for this Council to adopt the MND Charter and thereby support achieving quality of life, dignity and respect for people with MND and their carers.

The Charter:

- 1) People with MND have the right to an early diagnosis and information.
- 2) People with MND have the right to access quality care and treatments.
- 3) People with MND have the right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect.
- 4) People with MND have the right to maximise their quality of life.
- 5) Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well supported.”

v) Councillor Larratt to propose and Councillor Nunn to second:

“This Council welcomes the development of plans for the Northern Orbital Road around Northampton, from the A43 at Moulton to the A4500 near Harpole. We also welcome the consultation on the emerging plans.

This Council confirms its support for the provision of this road for many reasons, not least to alleviate traffic congestion in the Kingsthorpe area, and wishes to see its construction as soon as possible.

To provide the road at the earliest opportunity, while recognising that its provision is dependent on developer contributions, this Council requires that all further development sites, not currently included within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, but attributed to the growth of Northampton, are concentrated in the vicinity of the proposed road so that they can contribute to the delivery of this much needed infrastructure and secure its early delivery”.

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

“In light of recent events, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) have already instructed the installation of sprinklers in their only high-rise Council building, St Katherine’s Court. The Council will continue a review of the other 10 buildings in conjunction with the Fire Service and any further Government guidance.

To ensure those in private buildings are also suitably protected, this Council resolves to undertake an urgent review of the planning policy with regard to residential developments and provisions for sprinkler systems in all new residential buildings of 5 storeys or above”.

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

The Guildhall
Northampton

D. Kennedy Chief Executive

Public Participation

1. Comments and Petitions

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

(Public comments and petitions will not be taken 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, 19 June 2017 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Caswell, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, T Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Gowen, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, M Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, B Markham, M Markham, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Smith, Stone and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eldred declared a personal non-pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Northampton Town Football in the Community Charity.

2. MINUTES.

The minutes of the Council meetings held on the 24th April and the 18th May 2017 were agreed and signed by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Malpas, Marriott, Cali, Choudary, McCutcheon and Kilby-Shaw.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor announced that he had attended many events since his appointment in May 2017 including a garden party held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace and the Northampton Carnival in the beginning of June. The Mayor announced that sadly, there had been several vigils held to remember those recently killed in the terrorist attacks, both in Manchester and London and to remember those who had perished and been affected by the Grenfell fire.

The Mayor further reported that his Mayoral Northampton Facebook Page increased from just over 400 'likes' to near 1,100. The Mayor also noted that Saturday 24th June 2017 would be Armed Forces Day noting that all members should have received an invite and also noted that Sunday 9th July would be the Civic and Charity Sunday at All Saints Church and encouraged Councillors to attend.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Martin Price addressed Council and spoke as a member of Northampton 'Men with Sheds' and explained that it was a movement had been established 10 years ago to offer friendship and companionship with other mature gentlemen (and women) running workshops and craft activities. He noted that the organisation ran on

donations and thanked Councillors who had donated through their Councillor Empowerment Fund. It was explained that 40% of over 65's lived alone and that loneliness impacted on people mentally and physically and that 'shedders' worked together within communities and stated that he would like to continue to work with the Council in partnership with Age UK.

Mr Tony Mallard spoke as the Chair of the Residents Association and commented that the recent electioneering campaigns had seen Councillors engaging with local residents but that since then, there seemed to be a lack of communication with Members and commented that some did not respond to phone calls and/or emails and further commented that elected Members were there to serve the community.

Ms Nua Zantah addressed Council and explained that she was from Syria and had lived there from birth, but due to the recent conflict she had travelled and studied in various countries and had been granted residency in the UK. She encouraged the Council to support refugee week which was referenced in Motion ii) and hoped that there would be cross party support for it.

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 7 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 Council's website) unless were stated, supplementary questions were asked as detailed below:

In response to a supplementary questions asked relating to question 1) Councillor Hadland stated that the £7.592m spent on the bus station was the final capital expenditure, which included the cost of the roof.

In response to a supplementary questions asked relating to question 2) Councillor King stated that final design work was being carried out and would be available for public viewing in the near future and that the final date would be known once all necessary tests were completed.

In response to a supplementary question asked relating to question 3) Councillor King stated that there was no commitment to go to phase 2 of the museum project and additional expenditure for future phases would be funded from external pots and fund raising.

In response to a supplementary questions asked relating to question 5) Councillor Nunn stated that the work towards a mutually satisfactory conclusion but that there had been a lack of capacity to prioritise the issue any further.

In response to question 6) Councillor Hibbert confirmed that he concurred with the figures relating to the Homeless Accommodation Charges in the first 2 months of the financial year.

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Nunn, Leader of the Council, submitted a report and elaborated thereon and noted that there had been a permanent appointment to the position of Governance and Risk Manager who would ensure the Governance Action Plan would be delivered. He reported that there had been cross Council workings with Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Oxfordshire to ensure that infrastructure developments across the region could be developed. In response to questions asked, Councillor Nunn stated that a meeting had been arranged with residents and members of Friends of Delapre Abbey (FoDA) on the 25th July 2017. He further explained that since the recent insurance pay-out for an accident in 2002 he had been assured by the Leisure Trust Manager that lessons had been learned and process put in place to ensure that anything similar could be avoided in the future.

Councillor Larratt submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that the Markets Advisory Group were to meet on the 27th June 2017. It was noted that meeting of officers and members working group had recently taken place and priority remained to establish a complete and accurate register of NBC/NPH) owned street lights and progress in the area was being made. In response to questions asked Councillor Larratt confirmed that Councillor Training could include procurement processes. He also noted that he would look at putting a training programme on to look at achieving a 'dementia friendly' Town. Responding to a further question, Councillor Larratt confirmed that consultation with Market Traders would happen prior to any reconfiguration of the Market and that the funding was already in place.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and elaborated thereon and recognised the work that was done by 'Men with Sheds'. He updated Council on the refurbishment that was being undertaken at Eleanore House and further noted the high number of referrals made from the nightshelter to assist with housing needs. In response to questions asked, Councillor Hibbert commented that following the Grenfell fire, NPH would be sending out letters to residents and confirmed that he was confident that there were enough procedures in place to ensure that major incidents could be dealt with effectively and efficiently.

Councillor King submitted her Cabinet Member report and noted that she had attended the Domestic Violence Homicide event held at the Guildhall. She further reported that the consultation on the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the Marble Arch area was still open should anyone wish to make comments or representations. She also noted the 32 projects and organisations that had been allocated funding through the Councillor Community Fund. In response to questions asked, Councillor King stated that she would look at initiatives with the Police to prevent illegal motorcycling, which had recently resulted in a 3 year old child being seriously injured. Responding to further questions, Councillor King reported that there had been over 60 delegates at the IDAHO event and that the feedback had been received but not yet put into a meaningful format. She further reported the presentation of information relating to Community Safety and Crime would be looked at and that there would be a new phase of CCTV introduced in the future which is anticipated would help reduce and deter shoplifting from shops.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted that the Environmental Enforcement report was due to go to Cabinet in June 2017 and in response to questions asked confirmed that the Kettering Road and the Wellingborough Road would be cleaned. He further confirmed that officers had worked hard to move on the travellers that were in Kingsthorpe.

At this juncture of the meeting, the Mayor informed Council that the allocated time had been met and no further Cabinet Member reports would be heard.

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone stated that there were numerous broken promises made by the Administration and very little had been delivered from their manifesto. She commented that there was a need for a mechanism to be put in place to ensure there was transparency with work that had been achieved and what was outstanding and noted that whilst senior officers were distracted by Sixfields, there were a number of motions that had been passed by the Council that had not been actioned; a time frame was needed to allow Councillors to monitor progress and that a commitment was needed to ensure the integrity of motions.

Councillor Nunn, in response commented that he agreed that more could be done to improve the progress of Motions but suggested that the Council meeting was not an appropriate forum to discuss the matter and that it would have been better to use the opportunity to debate something meaningful.

Councillor Stone concurred that debating could be improved; she asked that information be supplied after council meetings on what advice/processes were in place for implementing requests made through motions.

9. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Councillor Nunn proposed a report to approve the draft revised Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure, which had been approved by Cabinet on the 10th May 2017.

Councillor Larratt seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure that is appended to the Cabinet report be approved;
2. That authority be delegated to the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer to include the details of the external whistleblowing hotline provider in the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure approved by Full Council once a provider has been appointed, and to make any other necessary minor amendments to the Policy and Procedure, prior to its publication; and
3. That the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer be instructed to ensure that training is provided to Councillors and Council staff about the new

Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure, alongside a campaign to raise awareness of whistleblowing arrangements.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Davenport proposed and Councillor Ashraf seconded:

“This Council welcomes the 30th Anniversary of the Call Care Service which was set up in 1987.

The Call Care system is operated 365 days a year and 24 hours a day and responds to hundreds of daily alarm calls from sheltered housing tenants. It allows vulnerable people to live life independently but can obtain assistance when needed.

This Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Call Care staff to pass on our congratulations for their work and our acknowledgement of this important milestone.

This Council hopes to see the Call Care System to be in place for another 30 years”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried

ii) Councillor Birch proposed and Councillor Russell seconded:

“This Council notes Refugee Week on 19 - 25 June 2017.

Refugee Week is a nationwide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities.

This Council hopes refugee week is a great success across the UK.

This Council asks the relevant Cabinet Member to look at how Northampton can play a part in refugee week next year”.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried

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

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 8.11pm

Question for Full Council Monday 10th July, 2017

Question 1

Question to Cllr Larratt from Cllr Haque:

We keep hearing that the market is to get a facelift. How much consultation has taken place, when will we know what is being planned, where is the money coming from?

Response

Consultation has taken place with Market Traders over the last couple of years. There is a Market Advisory Group which meets on a regular basis. The Group is made up of officers, traders and businesses who all have an interest in the market square. This group continue to be consulted and involved. An action plan has been developed and the majority of the improvements have been implemented including regular deep cleansing, summer and winter activities and stall improvements.

During this financial year, all the market stall canvas covers are being replaced. This is being paid for from the Council's Capital Programme.

In addition, we are consulting regarding a reconfiguration of the market, including the possibility of creating a second main aisle. At a recent meeting of the Market Advisory Group a Steering Group, comprising mainly of Traders, was established to take this forward. Traders have been given plans of the existing Market layout and have been asked to produce their own suggestions for reconfiguration. A truly bottom up process. The suggestions of the Traders will be considered by the Steering Group with a view to obtaining consensus and agreement of a revised layout that will be implemented later in the year when the stall covers are replaced. At this stage, costs are expected to be minimal as the only costs will be re-routing some cabling although further ideas may be suggested as the work of the Steering Group proceeds and the funding of any such ideas will have to be considered.

Councillor Phil Larratt
Deputy Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 10th July, 2017

Question 2

Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Haque:

Deep cleansing takes place, sometimes, in the town centre. When will we have deep cleansing in other shopping areas and in our wards?

Response

Deep cleans are not restricted to the town centre and are carried out anywhere in the town. In fact, there have been many deep cleans carried out outside of the town centre.

A deep clean is where a team is targeted to a specific area, in order to thoroughly clean that area of litter and detritus and bring it up to a Grade A standard. This is not the same as the enhanced cleansing that is carried out in the town centre on a daily basis. The Town Centre and Market Square being heavily commercial have very high footfall and as a result need more regular deep cleaning than other areas.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question for Full Council Monday 10th July, 2017

Question 3

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Birch:

Please can we have an assurance that the deputy leader of the County Council fully supports this Council's Cross Party call for unitary status for Northampton?

Response

I am aware that the Deputy Leader of the Northamptonshire County Council wants the best local government arrangement for our residents.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 10th July, 2017

Question 4

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Birch:

Please may we have an update on how we are progressing the Councils motion on unitary status for Northampton? When can we expect to see the consultation document that has been commissioned by the joint authorities?

Response

There is an update in the Leader's report on Unitary for this and every Full Council meeting.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 10th July, 2017

Question 5

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Duffy:

We have accident hot spots in our town, especially around junctions in residential areas and around school gates. What steps are being taken by this Council, working in partnership with the County and with the Police, to improve road safety around the town?

How can we improve monitoring, reporting and the clearing up after non-fatal accidents?

Response

Whilst roads and road safety are the responsibility of the County Council, my Group tell me that they regularly get involved in road safety campaigns in their wards, including with local schools, and they also work with their local Neighbourhood Policing teams and parish councils, where they exist. They have also used their empowerment funding to support local speed initiatives and highways safety measures, contributing to VAS speed signs, etc.

Conservative Members also report that they have requested junctions to be considered for waiting restrictions where there are visibility issues through the County Council's Annual Review of Parking Restrictions.

Personally, I have for example worked with local County Councillors to borrow the 'Kill Your Speed' signs, and secured them to lampposts in my ward as part of such campaigns.

I'm surprised that this question has come forward, as I would have expected Labour Councillors to have been doing the same.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council

Question for Full Council Monday 10th July, 2017

Question 6

Question to Cllr Hibbert from Mr Adams:

When the government expanded right-to-buy in 2011, ministers said they were committed to “one for one replacement”. However, councils have consistently warned that they are unable to keep up with the loss of housing under right-to-buy.

Northampton having ONLY started to build or acquire 25.82% of them:

Would you like to say sorry to people on the housing waiting list?

Response

The rate at which homes are being sold under the Right to Buy scheme does, indeed, make it difficult for councils to keep up with the replacement of homes that are lost through sales.

Without an increase in the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap, we need to use our resources wisely and to strike a careful balance between investing in the construction of new homes and investing in the improvement of our existing homes. That is why the Council has commissioned expert independent advice on how best to fund and deliver a large-scale development programme of new council homes over the next 10 years.

I do, of course, apologise to the people on the housing register who are in need of a move to better housing and have to wait longer because of the difficulties that the Council has had in replacing the homes that have been lost under the Right to Buy. I would like to assure them, however, that I am doing everything I can to speed things up and remain committed to prioritising those in the most urgent need.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

Question for Full Council Monday 10th July, 2017

Question 7

Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr J Hill:

Millions of pounds have been spent in the Delapre ward on the renovation of the historic Delapre Abbey. Whilst this is an excellent investment in the town's heritage, and something that the town's residents and especially Delapre residents have wanted for many years, can the Leader of the council explain why one of the local ward members seems especially determined to frustrate the completion of this important project, and has now called in the Cabinet decision to fund the completion of the restoration?

Also, given the delay that this same Labour member for the Delapre ward has caused the restoration project and therefore the opening of the Abbey by calling in the Cabinet decision, can the Leader please advise what the cost of the delay is, as a result of the expected August opening date not being met and the opening now being delayed until the autumn, following the call in?

Response

Many of us would welcome this level of investment being undertaken in our own wards, so I am disappointed that one Labour member seems so unhappy about this happening in her ward, especially as many members of the Friends of Delapre Abbey, who have kept the dream of restoring the Abbey alive for so long, are resident within her ward.

With regard to the cost, August would have been a key month for income for the Abbey, and so it is estimated that this call in may have cost the Abbey in the region of £60,000 - £80,000. As the council has stated that it does not intend to make further funding available to the Abbey, this represents a sad, unnecessary and major blow to the viability and sustainability of the Abbey, particularly when the same local ward member stated at the Cabinet meeting that she too would have voted in favour of the funding to complete the Abbey restoration work.

Opposition members opposing just for opposition's sake is their right, and like all Councillors I fully respect the scrutiny process. But on this occasion it has to be acknowledged that this has had very significant implications for this impressive restoration project and for the Trust that will be running it.

**Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council**

Agenda Item 7

Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 2017



This report is written less than two weeks after our previous full council meeting, but since that last meeting, I have worked with Cabinet Members, Directors, and Officers across every area of the council. Specific items include those below.

Unitary Status

All of the Leaders and Chief Executives of the Boroughs and Districts in the county met with Deloitte to hear of the progress of their work on 22nd June. As I have previously highlighted, the current climate requires all councils involved in a unitary proposal to agree on the proposal, and currently there is no single proposal on which all do agree, but as Deloitte now commence a fuller analysis of the financial implications of unitary options, we have asked them to advise us as soon as they feel they are at a suitable stage to deliver a briefing event to all NBC councillors.

The overall timescale for the completion of the work is likely to be within the next couple of months, although it would be likely that the Councillor Briefing takes place within a month.

Governance

Following the report going to the Audit Committee regarding an independent Chair, this issue is being further progressed.

Town Centre Traffic

The Traffic Orders relating to the Drapery and Sheep Street traffic improvements are out to consultation.

Economic Development & Other Activity

We have met with potential investors to the town, discussing with them not only commercial investment, but also investment in such areas as housing and infrastructure projects.

I also felt that it was important to meet with the new Investors in Northampton Town Football Club, and so arranged to welcome them to the Guildhall for a discussion on the day their investment was announced.

Amongst the other things I have been involved in, I am sure that all those who were able to attend would agree that Armed Forces Day was a splendid event, giving us all an opportunity to show our respect and thanks towards the Armed Forces. I was particularly delighted to attend a ceremony following the parade in which two local Servicemen were recognised with award medals.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 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

A meeting of the Market Advisory Group took place on 27th June. The meeting was quite well attended by Traders.

Due to the amount of work and consultation required over the coming period, the meeting agreed to the establishment of a Steering Group of about six Traders to take this forward with the Council.

Traders have been given plans of the Market layout as it currently exists and have been asked to come up with their suggestions for its reconfiguration. These will be discussed at the first meeting of the Steering Group in July. Once a preferred option is agreed all Traders will be consulted. It is hoped that changes to the configuration will not require the re-location of any Traders.

When the new configuration is agreed it will be implemented, and new covers will be installed throughout the market. As previously reported, this is something that has been budgeted for in the current financial year.

Traders are very keen to modernise and have lock up stalls / units, and the Steering Group will investigate the possibility of this, although if there were to be such stalls / units they would have to be budgeted for in a future year.

Councillor Training

A meeting of the Councillor Development Group took place on 28th June where it was agreed that the following be included in the Councillor Development Plan 2017/18:

- A briefing on FGM
- A briefing on Benefits, particularly Housing Benefits
- Social Lettings Agency
- Section 106 Agreements and CIL and what they deliver
- First Aid Training
- Personal Safety Training

Training specifically for Planning Committee, Licencing Committee, and Audit Committee Members will be provided as required.

The Scrutiny Officer will liaise with the Borough secretary and Monitoring Officer regarding the sessions proposed by the Standards Committee.

Councillor Development and Briefing Sessions already scheduled are as follows:

- **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 in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Corporate Programme Delivery Manager.
- **20/09/17 - Safeguarding Refresher** open to all Councillors. Two identical 2 hour sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Head of Housing & Wellbeing.

- **30/10/17 - Councillor Briefing session Social Lettings Agency** open to all Councillors. Two identical sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Head of Housing & Wellbeing.
- **12/02/18 – Data Protection Training** open to all Councillors. Two identical sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Senior Information Governance Officer.

Further details regarding these sessions can be obtained from Tracy Tiff.

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

Scrutiny

Cabinet will be received three Scrutiny Reports on 21st June:

- Emissions Strategy
- Homelessness
- Child Sexual Exploitation

These will be given full consideration and responded to as soon as practically possible. Due to the urgency surrounding Air Quality issues, some of the recommendations contained in the Emissions Strategy will be implemented more or less immediately, and a response to the strategy will be brought back in the near future.

Web Casting

Meetings are taking place to implement the Councils decision to Web Cast its meetings. We are working closely with Northamptonshire County Council who are re-procuring their service as their current contract expires in December. Milton Keynes Council is also considering Web Casting. If Milton Keynes Council resolves to Web Cast then they will become a part of the procurement process as well. This joint procurement process will ensure greater value for money. We should be able to start Web Casting either late in 2017 or early 2018.

Street Lighting

A further meeting of the Officer / Member Working Group took place on 19th June. Notes of the meeting are available.

The priority remains to establish a complete and accurate asset register of NBC / NPH owned street lights. Balfour Beatty are assisting in this. The records of NBC and NCC (Balfour Beatty) are currently being examined and duplicate records are being removed.

Once the asset list is complete and accurate it is proposed to commission a contractor to complete a condition survey of the lights, subject to budget provision. This will inform how we go forward to ensure that NBC and NPH have safe, efficient, and well maintained lights

The Working Group will consider the replacement of the missing ornate lights on South Bridge at its next meeting.

Councillor Phil Larratt
Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 2017

Members will recall that at June's meeting we ran out of time before my presentation, and so I thought I would run it again to give an opportunity for questions.

The Mayor didn't tell me whether or not I could carry my unused 3 minutes forward, but I will manage without them

Previously in Regen, Enterprise and Planning.....

Planning

Development and Building Control

Planning permission for application N/2015/1454 (development of site for 235 dwellings and restoration of clock tower) at St Crispin was issued on the 8th of May, following finalisation of the S106 agreement.

Planning and Listed Building Consent applications N/2016/1428 and N/2016/1388 for the development of a creative industrial hub at Vulcan Works 34-38 Guildhall Road have been granted permission following approval by the Planning Committee in April 2017.

Planning application N/2016/1425 (new four storey building to provide shared office space and creative new small medium sized enterprises) at Linnells Motors, Fetter Street was approved by the Planning Committee in April 2017.

Planning permission for application N/2016/1091 (development of 80 specialised supported living apartments) at United Trades Club, Balmoral Road issued on 28th April 2017, following finalisation of the S106 agreement.

Planning application N/2016/1050 (construction of a Lidl Store at 9-15 Gambrel Road) was approved in principle, subject to a legal agreement, by the Planning Committee on 9th of May 2017.

Building Control is now registered with the Planning Portal therefore Building Regulation applications can now be submitted electronically via the Portal.

The following Full plan applications have been received this month:

- FP/2017/409 Alterations to existing retail unit to provide new retail, storage and staff administration areas at Unit A2B , 6 - 7 Fairground Way.
- FP/2017/597 Erection of 44 apartments with associated parking and landscaping at Victoria Business Park, St James Park Road
- FP/2017/566 Proposed 2no. 1⁷ bedroom apartments at Land Rear of 122 St Georges Avenue, Northampton.

- FP/2017/543 - Redevelopment of land to provide 45no. 1 bedroom flats for the elderly with associated facilities, demolition of 10no existing garages to the north of site to create overall 31no car parking bays (inc3 acc. bays).
Creation of new access into Shap Green at Lakeview House Old Persons Home, 88 Churchill Avenue.

Planning Policy

Local Plan Part 2

The planning policy team is making good progress in assessing housing and employment sites for inclusion in the Sites Consultation, which will take place later in the summer

Enterprise

Business Incentive Scheme

In the 2016-2017 financial year, the Business Incentive Scheme supported 33 businesses, creating 269 jobs and leveraging over £1.3m in private sector investment. 2017-2018 funds have already seen 9 applications committed to funding with several in the pipeline over the coming months.

Networking events

The second Wellingborough Road business breakfast was held on 5th May at Dapper Sandwich. More new business faces were present with the Police and Retail Crime Initiative on the agenda.

A second Enterprise Zone Breakfast meeting took place on 25th May at Longthorne Gunmakers, aiming to encourage collaboration and sense of identity amongst the businesses. Attendance was excellent.

Regeneration

Upton County Park

Work is starting to take shape to deliver Phase 2 of Upton County Park to provide better access linking new paths to existing, provide new signage and interpretations and encouraging education around biodiversity in the area. Surveys will start taking place in the coming weeks.

Street lights

Work continues on NBC Street lighting ensuring all are registered and maintained. Options will be considered later in the year.

Castle Project

The expanded Virtual reality app will be completed by end of June. The survey work on the Castle area using Ground penetrating radar has been completed and the results are awaited.

Town Centre Signage

The designs have been completed and work will begin shortly

Assets

Recent work has included:-

- Installation of a new insulated roof to the kitchen at Semilong Community Centre.
- New LED lighting and controls to the Mayorhold MSCP.
- Commissioned feasibility report concerning the plant room at the Guildhall.
- Repairs to the Royal Theatre roof.
- Investigations into path edge slippage into the main Abington Park Lake.
- Preparatory work for concrete repairs at the Grosvenor MSCP during June and July.

In this month's Episode.....

Planning

Development and Building Control

Planning Applications received and decided include:-

- Planning application N/20170127 for the erection of 40no. dwellings with car parking and ancillary retail space at the former Sofa King, Towcester Road was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 13th of June, subject to a S106 agreement to secure 35% a and affordable housing and off-site open space provision.
- Planning application N/2017/1138 for the erection of 60no. residential units at the former St Giles Clinic, St Giles Street was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 13th of June, subject to a S106 agreement to secure town centre improvements.
- Reserved matters application N/2017/0318 for the erection of a Class B8 distribution unit for 43,469 sq. m. at Prologis Pineham Phase 2 at Upton Valley Way North was approved on the 9th of June.
- Planning application N/2017/0669 for the demolition of the existing building and erection of a 18,210 sq. m. storage and distribution warehouse at the Sovereign House site, Rhosili Road has been submitted to the Council on 31st May .

Planning Policy

Members of the Semilong and Trinity local communities would like to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Before the opportunities offered by Neighbourhood Planning can be taken up, there must be a designated Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Area. These applications have been received and comments are invited for a period of 6 weeks from 13th June to 25th July 2017. All representations received will be considered and it is anticipated that Cabinet will consider the applications in September 2017.

Cabinet decided on Wednesday 21st June to permanently remove permitted development rights for change of use from C3 Dwellinghouses to C4 Houses in Multiple Occupation in parts of Far Cotton and Delapre (Immediate Article 4

direction). The public consultation received four responses, none of which was an objection to the making of the Order.

A further Article 4 Direction covering parts of Far Cotton, Delapre and Cliftonville continues to progress with consultation taking place during the summer. If confirmed by Cabinet later this year, the same permitted development rights will also be removed in this area.

Enterprise

WE have held meetings with companies wishing to consider investing in Northampton

The Business Incentive Scheme continues to support local business, with recent grants covering Empty Units, extending trading space, and shopfront improvements.

13 Businesses have been supported this financial year to date These businesses are creating 35 jobs and will be investing over £800k

Assets

Recent work includes:-

Various repairs to community centres (roofing, guttering etc)

Grosvenor concrete repairs commenced 12.06.17

Repairs to Delapre fencing

Investigations and testing to Delapre Abbey lifts and electrical installation
Upgrading works to Delapre Cottages

Billing Brook Lakes. Presentation by consultants on 15.06.17 outlining history and proposed options for water management.

Regeneration

Vulcan Works

The invitation for quotations to demolish Amalgamated Tyres as part of an enabling package has been sent out

Early demolition will enable Archaeological investigation to be carried out ahead of schedule on this site

RIBA Stage 4 design works are ongoing

A pack of pre-commencement planning conditions is to be submitted to planning for discharge before the end of the month

The review of main contract tender submissions is ongoing with external quantity surveyors.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 2017

Councillor Community Fund

Since the beginning of April 2015, a total of £193,107 has been spent on local projects that have been supported through the Cllr Community Fund.

Partnership Support

End of year monitoring reports for the Partnership Grant 2016-17 are due at the end of this month. The Service level Agreements and monitoring for the 2017-18 grants have all been drafted and being worked through for the 32 organisations we are funding this year.

Forums

Members of NBC's Youth Forum engaged directly with the community at Northampton's Carnival on Saturday 10th June, using a questionnaire that they have developed, looking into the attitudes and behaviours of young people in Northampton with regards to gambling. Planning underway for Srebrenica on 11th July and also International Youth Day, which will be held at Northampton Racecourse on Saturday 12th August.

Volunteers

Volunteers Week supported, 5th June – 9th June. Visits made to regular volunteer placements, including Spencer Dallington Community Centre Café. The visits were promoted on social media throughout the week, promoting the work of our volunteers and presence had in the One Stop Shop, on the screens and officers as a point of contact.

Events

Bands in the Park continues to be deliver quality performances enjoyed by the many visitors to the Park.

The Music Festival (Sunday 18th June) saw thousands of visitors come in to the town centre to listen to a variety of music genres on the Market Square, All Saints, Guildhall Courtyard, Abington Street and 9 Guildhall Road.

Armed Forces Day (Saturday 24th June) saw marching bands, military vehicles and troops parading around the town centre and attracted thousands of visitors along the parade route. On the Market Square we had music from the cadet band alongside stalls and other entertainment.

The Town Festival returned to the Racecourse on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July and attracted thousands of visitors who enjoyed a variety of entertainment throughout the weekend.

Over the next few months we have the Mela Community Event in Becketts Park (30th July); Circus on Midsummer Meadow (3rd – 8th August); Umbrella Fair on the Racecourse (19th & 20th August); Funfair on the Racecourse (including Bank Holiday weekend); Colour Fun Run in

Abington Park (27th August) and the Half Marathon in the town centre and Delapre Park (3rd September).

Culture & Heritage

A series of six Over 60s talks was well received. All talks took place at the Guildhall whilst the decorating work at Abington Park Museum was underway and three of the talks sold out within the first two weeks of going on sale.

Half term workshops included bug hunts and nature themed crafts and were attended by 51 children.

During June, a Willow Weaving workshop and two pasta making workshops were held and were well attended.

Museum Expansion Project

Work is now beginning on the concept design stage for the exhibition galleries.

The architects are updating the base plans following comments from the design team and have begun constructing the computer 3D model.

Information from the survey work undertaken is being fed into this process once all is received.

Museum Trust

Consultants have held meetings with a number of bodies, including the delayed meeting with the Arts Council to discuss their response to potential governance options. A workshop was held with NBC officers to review the proposed options and criteria against which to evaluate the options.

Customer Services

Customer Services saw an increase of 4100 calls in May compared to April. Through excellent planning and forecasting the team managed the additional General Elections enquiries of 3659, achieving 93.5% of all calls answered against a target of 90%.

We opened the phone lines 7am to 10pm on the day of the Election and dealt with 700 enquiries.

Community Safety

Overall crime has seen a 0.3% increase (+210 crimes) since April 2017. Serious Acquisitive Crime has seen an overall increase of 2.7% (+101 crimes) and the increase is slowing down. Within this vehicle crime has risen by 102 crimes. Domestic burglary continues the reduction seen in the second half of 2017/18 with 25 less crimes, and due to the arrest of some key offenders this reduction is expected to continue. Close working with the police continues, focussing on specific crime types, with a partnership focus being taken.

In order to further develop and improve partnership working, enabling a multiagency approach to issues, Partnership Problem Solving training has been delivered to Sector Police officers, PCSO's, Community Safety staff and Neighbourhood Wardens.

The CSP hosted a Domestic Homicide learning event for professionals. The event focussed on the 2 reviews completed in 2016/17, sharing the process, outcome and learning to help inform future working. The event was well attended and received by a wide range of partner agencies.

Weeks of Action are planned for Kings Heath, Briar Hill, Thorplands and Semilong. There will also be focussed pieces of work taking place throughout the year on the town centre addressing issues such as begging, street drinking, knife crime, personal safety etc.

Consultation is currently taking place on the proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order for Marble Arch, Semilong. All feedback is welcomed and the questionnaire can be found on the NBC website.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety



Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 2017

Environmental Services Re-Provision

The Environmental Services Re-Provision project is progressing satisfactorily.

The first stage of the procurement process (selection stage) is now completed. Nine Potential Providers submitted a request to participate in response to the Authority's call for competition and completed the selection questionnaire.

Following the assessment of the information provided, the Authority invited five Potential Providers to proceed to the next stage of the procurement process, Invitation to Submit Initial Tenders (ISIT). Three Potential Providers accepted our invitation and our continuing with the competitive process. The ISIT stage started in May 2017 and we expect submissions of Initial Tenders proposals in July 2017. Evaluation of these submission will then follow.

Unless the Authority is able to award the contract on the basis of the Initial Tenders, it is envisaged that a negotiation period will take place during late summer.

Environmental Services (Direct Services)

- New play equipment has been installed at Abington Park. The "Train" has been reintroduced after the two previous trains were wrecked by arsonists. This time, the train has been made out of metal and should be robust enough to give the children and their parent's year's fun. An open day for the official launch of the train is to take place at Abington Park on 10th June, where there will be a magic show and face painting.
- Bollards have been installed at Becketts Park, Acre Lane and Midsummer Meadow to help prevent vehicles driving on to the grass and causing damage.
- Victoria Park has had its children's play area extended and additional play equipment installed.
- This month, thirteen additional litterbins have been installed at various locations around the town, to name a few, the Racecourse, Dallington Park, Abington Square, Becketts Park, Delapre Park and London Road.

Environmental Health

Officers from the food team are supporting the Food Standards Agency campaign to promote safe summer food.

The Environmental Protection Team are working with colleagues to progress the development of the Low Emissions Strategy Action Plan.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment



Cabinet Member Report for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 2017

Finance

The Finance team have been focussed on producing the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2016/17. The draft Accounts were published by the statutory deadline of 30th June, at which time 6 weeks of public inspection commenced. The draft Accounts were presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting on 3rd July, with the external audit by KPMG commencing on 10th July.

The end of year position for 2016/17 was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 21st June and continues to show the Council is in a positive financial position. The provisional General Fund outturn position as an underspend of over £1m which is proposed to be added to reserves to provide the Council with resources to deploy in ensuring its financial sustainability over the medium term.

The impact of the recent Queen's Speech on the Council's financial position is currently being assessed. Potentially the most significant change is the omission of a Local Government Finance Bill in the Queen's Speech which is likely to mean the previous Government's intentions to implement 100% Business rates Retention are expected to be delayed from the previously envisaged start date of April 2019. The Council will continue to monitor the position and reflect assumptions in its medium term financial plans.

Revenues & Benefits

The Service has had a very positive start to the new financial and performance year. Our Revenues and Benefits call centre continues to deliver on the benefits of the improvement plan that has been in place and continues to increase our response rate to our customers. The service remains focused on achieving continuous improvements and has already made great progress against the operational improvement plans for 2017/18.

The service is continuing to review any impacts of the 2017/18 CTRS scheme to ensure there is the right balance between recovery and customer support.

Further to this the service has finished a county wide review of Single Person discount claims. The purpose of these reviews are to reduce the risk of fraud within the system and increase the collectable revenue within the tax base. The two year review has successfully raised an additional £1 million of collectable revenue across 6 of the 7 districts and borough councils in Northamptonshire, including Northampton.

Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance



Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th July 2017

Northampton Landlord Forum

On 13th June 2017, the Private Sector Housing Manager provided a well-attended Landlord Forum with a comprehensive overview of the Council's plans to update its Housing Enforcement Policy and adopt a Private Sector Housing Civil Penalties Policy. Landlords and managing agents expressed strong support for the Council's approach to Civil Penalties and Rent Repayment Orders and the action the Council is taking to ensure that offenders meet the cost of enforcement.

Billy Gill (the Northamptonshire representative of the National Landlords Association) provided the Landlord Forum with an excellent overview of national developments affecting private landlords and managing agents, including the tax changes on mortgage interest payments and the potential implications of the Government's plans to impose a ban on charging letting fees to tenants.

Housing Strategy 2018-2021

On 6th July 2017, I will be attending a couple of workshops that have been organised to inform the development of Northampton's overarching Housing Strategy.

Multi Agency Rough Sleepers Workshop

On 13th July 2017, I will be attending a half day workshop that has been organised to support the implementation of 'TOGETHER we change lives', our multi agency strategy for ending the need to sleep rough in Northampton.

Northampton Partnership Homes

Since the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower on 14th June 2017, Northampton Partnership Homes has continued to work very closely with Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service and tenants and leaseholders to ensure that the fire safety arrangements it has put in place are appropriate and provide the necessary assurance.

All of the Fire Risk Assessments in the properties managed by NPH are complete and up to date.

There has been a lot of speculation regarding the refurbishment of St Katherine's Court, the Council's only high-rise block. The cladding that is being installed at St Katherine's Court is not the same as the cladding installed at Grenfell Tower; it is a layered composite enamel that is deemed to be a non-risk product, so was not required to be submitted for testing by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Whilst we are satisfied by the type of construction materials used, fire safety is also very much about the actions taken to pro-actively manage fire risk, such as testing alarms, detection systems and emergency lighting in blocks. Although the current law does not require us to do so, a sprinkler system will be installed in the fire exits and communal areas of St Katherine's Court, as part of the current improvements that are due to be completed in the Autumn.

Northampton Partnership Homes has kept the Council fully informed of the action it has been taking in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire. I feel assured by Northampton Partnership Homes' approach to fire safety and compliance, and I am grateful to its Officers for the considerable efforts they have gone to in reassuring residents at this difficult time.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

Council - 10 July 2017

Report Title	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017, as attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017.

3. Background and Issues

- 3.1 Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, requires the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report annually to Council on its workings and make recommendations for further work programmes, and amended working methods if appropriate. Attached at Appendix A is the eleventh Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council, covering the Municipal year 2016/2017. It aims to provide a succinct summary of the work of the Scrutiny Panels appointed, as well as the main issues scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the course of the year.

4. Options

- 4.1 This report is for information and therefore there are no options for decision.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Priorities

- 5.1.1 Effective Overview and Scrutiny arrangements leading to improvements in service design and delivery contribute to achieving the ambition of being a well managed Council where the customer is at the heart of what we do.

5.2 Policy Framework

5.2.1 The work of Overview and Scrutiny plays a major part in the development of the Council's policy framework. This is identified in the Annual Report.

5.3 Resources and Risk

5.3.1 Not applicable.

5.4 Legal

5.4.1 Statutory power to undertake the proposals as set out in the report

5.4.1.1 The duties to undertake Overview and Scrutiny are set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

5.5 Equality

5.5.1 Overview and Scrutiny carries out Community Impact Assessments for its Reviews.

5.6 Consultees (Internal and External)

5.6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2016/2017 has been consulted on the content of the Annual Report.


6. Background Papers

Key background information: -

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee agendas and minutes
- Overview and Scrutiny Review reports

Report Author and Title: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Jamie Lane , Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Telephone: : 0300 330 7000



Report of the
Overview & Scrutiny
Committee

Annual Report
2016/2017

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

A Message from Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Annual Report is a summary of just some of the work Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) has done this year, what has worked well and what issues we need to concentrate more on next year.

It has been another extremely busy year for O&S with four comprehensive reviews being undertaken:

- Museum Trust (Pre Decision Scrutiny)
- Homelessness (Pre Decision Scrutiny)
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Emissions Strategy (Action Plan)

The O&S Committee set up a Working Group that undertook a short, sharp review - NBC Owned Street Lighting. This Working Group completed its findings early in the Municipal Year 2016/2017 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

The O&S Committee also set up a Working Group - Re-provision of the Environmental Services Contract.

Overview and Scrutiny work is member-led and evidence-based. It is vital that the work of scrutiny adds value and improvement and I feel the conclusions and recommendations from the in-depth Reviews undertaken this year have really demonstrated that. The findings of the Review – Museum Trust (Pre Decision Scrutiny) has been considered by Cabinet and its response will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the summer 2017. The other three Scrutiny Panels have completed their reviews and the findings will be presented to Cabinet early in the Municipal year 2017/2018.

Again this year, we asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny reviews. There were approximately fifty five suggestions from the public. Councillors carefully considered the suggestions at a workshop held in April 2017. From these ideas, Cabinet's priorities for the year and suggestions put forward by Councillors, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved its Work Programme 2017/2018 at its May 2017 meeting.

The Committee scrutinised the Council's budget proposals by delegating work to its Reporting and Monitoring Working Group who identified three budget proposals for the Committee to scrutinise in-depth. This Working Group will continue to meet during the Municipal year 2017/2018.

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported Scrutiny over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank my colleagues who chaired the Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups last year. These achievements are recognised in this report. I would also like to convey my thanks to the many witnesses and the three Co-Optees that have contributed to scrutiny's work this year. Their participation brings knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm to the work of Scrutiny.

Instead of a complete commentary of all that O&S has achieved over the year this Annual Report provides a summary of the key highlights of the work O&S has been engaged in during 2016/2017. I hope it reflects what I feel has been a very productive year in Overview and Scrutiny. I do hope that you find this report informative and interesting.



**Councillor Jamie Lane
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Achievements

How was this impact made during 2016 - 2017?

The Scrutiny Panels carry out in-depth Scrutiny reviews, whilst the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee concentrates on strategic issues, including holding the Cabinet to account, performance management and scrutiny of crime and disorder. This structure attracts increased public participation and the involvement of non-Executives in Scrutiny reviews.

Involvement of Non- Executives (not Scrutiny Members) in Overview and Scrutiny

The O&S structure enables non-Executives, who are not members of the O&S Committee, to be fully involved in the O&S process.

All of the four Scrutiny Panels this year had non-Executive Councillors who were not O&S Councillors as members of the Panels.

Key Example: The Scrutiny Panel that investigated how it could be ensured Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was made up of ten non-Executives, of which four were not O&S Councillors, demonstrating involvement of non-Executives in the O&S process.

Co Optees to Scrutiny Panels

Two of the Scrutiny Panels – Homeless (Pre Decision Scrutiny) and Emissions Strategy (Action Plan) benefitted from the expertise and knowledge of co optees. A representative from Homeless Link sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Homelessness (Pre Decision Scrutiny)) and representatives from community groups sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Emissions Strategy (Action Plan)).

“I really enjoyed the experience of getting involved with the scrutiny review into homelessness. Having worked in the sector for a number of years it was really positive to see a Local Authority co-opt somebody external onto the Panel to provide their views and support the process. The panel itself was very well managed with the information provided by both the Local Authority and partners allowing suitable debate and challenge. I hope that moving forward the recommendations are fully adopted, scrutinised and create even wider partnership working in Northampton at a really crucial time for homelessness prevention.”

Pete Smith
Head of Partnerships
Homeless Link

“I have enjoyed very much my time being co-opted on to the Overview & Scrutiny panel 4 -Emissions Strategy. The facility to be co-opted is very important for community groups, as it gives them a direct input into local authority policy, thus giving them and their wider community a voice within the corridors of decision making. Community members bring their concerns to us in meetings or directly

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

from impromptu meetings in the street and here it is being relayed directly into a meeting which will form the authority strategy. This importance of this conduit cannot be overstated.

The whole process has been very informative and also gives us a better understanding of local government, and how it works, again this is important because we can then relay that information back the other way to community members.

I particularly enjoyed the testimony of the expert witnesses and the ability to ask questions to them directly which is a very valuable experience in itself, as normally community groups would never get an audience with people like this, as communication would be confined to e-mail alone, with its obvious limitations.

I do hope our contribution has been of use to the panel, and we look forward to being included again if required in the future, but moreover I hope it gives the panel the confidence and encouragement to invite other community groups to shape local authority decision making, by inviting them along.”

Graham Croucher
Chair, St James Residents’ Association

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

Key Example: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny is an example of excellent working relationships between non-Executives and partners.

The scrutiny of crime and disorder was formalised in 2010, putting in place clear working arrangements between the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Committee. A bi-annual report from the CSP informs the O&S Committee of work undertaken; non-Executives decide whether further review or scrutiny is required. This report focuses on the levels of performance in the light of reduced resources, if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. This demonstrates excellent working relationships between non-Executives and partners.

It is important that the issues that most effect our communities are explored and addressed. The work of Overview & Scrutiny ensures that focus is kept on key areas of concern, supporting and informing the work of Community Safety.’

Debbie Ferguson
Community Safety Partnership Manager

The O&S Committee has also looked at:

- Unitary Status
- Sheltered Housing Update
- Emissions Strategy, including hotspots
- Drugs - The Law, Prevention and General information
- Customer Services
- Cemeteries
- Sustainable Play Equipment

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Performance Management Scrutiny

A process enabling the Committee to identify key performance measures earlier on was introduced in 2013/14. The Committee informs the Chair prior to a meeting of the O&S Committee of performance measures that it feels warrant future scrutiny.

The scrutiny of specifically identified measures is included on the agenda of meetings of the O&S Committee. This results in measures being reviewed on an exception basis with relevant Cabinet Members being called to present information to the Committee. Cabinet Members are scrutinised on performance, the causes of underperformance and the corrective actions being taken. Active debate is undertaken and support and challenge is offered to the recommendations being made to deliver service improvements.

Key example: Performance management scrutiny of:-

- Council Tax arrears

Critical Friend to Cabinet

Call-In

At Northampton call-in is used sparingly. During 2016/2017 there were two Call-In Hearings. One of the Call Ins was upheld and the other fell.

Following one of the Call-In Hearings, the Working Group – Re-Provision of the Environmental Services Contract commenced its Scrutiny activity.

Influencing Policy Development

Four in-depth Scrutiny reviews were undertaken during 2016/2017:

- Museum Trust (Pre Decision Scrutiny)
- Homelessness (Pre Decision Scrutiny)
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Emissions Strategy (Action Plan)

Review work of 2015/2016 has received Cabinet's response. Almost all of the recommendations were accepted, which highlights that Overview and Scrutiny is continuing to make significant influence of Council policy, both in terms of holding the Cabinet to account and contributing to policy development, and the well-being of the citizens of Northampton.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Raising the profile of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton

The profile of O&S has continued to be raised with a number of important and successful reviews carried out during 2016/2017. O&S is keen to keep this up and invites suggestions for the work programme from various partners, Agencies and members of the public.

The Scrutiny review process at Northampton is widely recognised both within the Council and amongst the citizens of Northampton.

The O&S Work Programme received extensive press coverage, locally, which just under 50 individuals responded to, suggesting around 55 ideas for future Scrutiny review.

Paperless Overview and Scrutiny

As reported in last two year's Annual Reports, the innovation attracted national interest. External interest in the innovation has again continued this year, with a number of enquiries regarding the success of the innovation.

Public engagement within the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton

O&S has included various issues referred to it from the public onto its Work Programme. The details below provide key points of how O&S work has reflected the concerns of service users.

Key Example of review work during 2016/2017:

Museum Trust (Pre-Decision Scrutiny)

The report of the Museum Trust (Pre Decision Scrutiny) was presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2016/2017. The O&S Committee will begin monitoring of the accepted recommendations early in 2017/2018.

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to undertake pre-decision Scrutiny - Scrutiny of the establishment of the Museum Trust to ensure the best outcome for the future of the Museum Service and Cultural Quarter. The purpose of the report of the Panel was to notify Cabinet on the outcome of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panel that undertook the above pre-decision work in response to the decision by Cabinet to consider Trust Status for Northampton's Museums.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Museums had advised the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming event in March 2016 that work was underway regarding investigating the feasibility and benefits of establishing a Museum Trust. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to include a review of Museum Trust (Pre-decision Scrutiny) in its Work Programme 2016/2017 and commissioned Scrutiny Panel 2 to undertake the review. A short, sharp review commenced in May 2016 and concluded in July 2016. This review linked to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority 1 – Northampton Alive - A vibrant town for now and the future.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

The pre-decision scrutiny activity was a focussed piece of work that linked to the Council's corporate priorities and examined a range of information. The Scrutiny Panel looked at what the needs for the provision of Museums were within the Borough of Northampton and the need for a Museum Trust for Northampton. Baseline information was received.

This short sharp Scrutiny pre-decision activity took place between May 2016 and July 2016.

Councillor Jamie Lane
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2

Co-Opted Members

This year, the Scrutiny process chose to engage the expertise and knowledge of co-optees in its review process for two of its reviews. It also fully utilised expert advisors in the witness evidence process. Further details are contained at page 2 of this Annual Report.

Review work 2016/2017

O&S at Northampton has undertaken some excellent review work again this year.

The best practice Scrutiny review work has continued to be built upon. Over the last year, Scrutiny reviews have attracted interest from both external organizations and the public.

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton continues to be Councillor-led and focuses on the major issues affecting the town. It has therefore carried out some very high profile reviews this year, the impact of which will be reported in next year's O&S Annual Report:

Scrutiny Panels

The Scrutiny Panels obtain information to inform the Review through a variety of methods, including:

- Research and briefings commissioned from officers
- Select committee-style meetings with external experts and relevant officers
- Informal interviews
- Site visits
- Surveys

Some meetings of the Scrutiny Panels are often held in a 'Select Committee' format, with the Scrutiny Panels seeking evidence through a question and answer session with senior officers, Cabinet Members, external experts, representatives of interested groups or members of the public who have relevant experience.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Child Sexual Exploitation

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to ensure Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations, and the Police to address these issues
- To investigate how NBC contributes to the above work
- To raise awareness of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton
- To explore best practice elsewhere in identifying and providing support to victims of CSE
- To understand what NBC is doing outside the Scrutiny process in relation to human trafficking and domestic slavery of children

The recommendations of the Review are around:

- Making Public Spaces Safer
- Communication and E-Safety
- Training and Awareness Raising

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2017/2018.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in April 2016, agreed to include a review that would look at how NBC played an active role in tackling CSE. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in May 2016 and concluded in March 2017.

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority 2 – Safer Communities – Making you feel safe and secure.

It was a very interesting and informative Review; with clear evidence received. I would like to extend my thanks to those that have taken the time to contribute to the extensive evidence base of this Scrutiny Review, by either attending a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, or by submitting written evidence where this was not possible.

The Scrutiny Panel held interviews with the Cabinet Members, Senior Staff at Northampton Borough Council and a number of external expert witnesses. Desktop research was carried out by the Scrutiny Officer.

Child sexual exploitation is still a largely hidden crime and the Scrutiny Panel acknowledge that the way to tackle this is for Agencies to work together. I highlight that from the wealth of evidence received it became apparent that Agencies are working together in Northamptonshire on this.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Our recommendations have been based on the evidence that was submitted to us over this ten month thorough period of putting the Review together.

Councillor Dennis Meredith
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1

Homelessness (Pre Decision Scrutiny)

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review how the Borough Council and its partners prevent homelessness and to respond to those without homes in the borough.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by Northampton Borough Council (NBC), partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations to address homelessness
- To assess the extent of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough assess the initiatives currently in place to tackle homelessness
- To examine the Council's Severe Weather Provision
- To gain an understanding of the effect on the health, wellbeing and the safety of homelessness people, including rough sleepers
- To gain an understanding of the causes and barriers to support homelessness
- Identify any specific groups that are not accessing services

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in April 2016, agreed to include a review around how the Borough Council and its partners prevent homelessness. An in-depth review commenced in May 2016 and concluded in March 2017.

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority 3 - Housing for Everyone - Helping those that need it to have a safe and secure home

The recommendations of the review were around the themes:

- Multi Agency Working
- Improving access to homelessness services
- Improving access to health services
- Temporary accommodation

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2017/2018.

The review was a focussed piece of work that linked to the Council's corporate priorities and examined a range of information. The Scrutiny Panel looked at evidence from Local Authorities noted for best practice, heard from Authorities, organisations and groups regarding the assistance that they provide to homeless people and rough sleeper. Interviews with the Cabinet Members and senior staff from Northampton Borough Council and various external witnesses were held. Baseline information was received and desktop research carried out.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Homelessness is a growing problem, more and more people face the prospect of living in temporary accommodation or just sofa surfing with their friends or relatives. Homelessness is due to a number of factors, further details are provided within the report of the Scrutiny Panel.

Evidence received showed that being homeless is physically and mentally difficult and that homeless people are among the most vulnerable.

Councillor Zoe Smith
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3

Emissions Strategy (Action Plan)

The objective of the Scrutiny Review was to provide Scrutiny input into the Action Plan for the Council's Emissions Strategy

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To increase Councillor and public understanding of air quality issues in Northampton
- To understand the causes and impact of air pollution
- To understand the actions being taken to reduce air pollution in Northampton
- To understand the actions being taken by partners to reduce air pollution in Northampton
- To provide recommendations for the production of the Action Plan for the Council's Emissions Strategy, which will identify ways of improving air quality in Northampton
- Examine all current air quality management areas to ensure they are performing.
- To see if they can be improved and consider all other factors and future factors in moving forward

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a briefing note regarding the Emissions Strategy, including hotspots, at its meeting held on 15 August 2016. Following consideration of this information it was agreed that a Scrutiny Review would commence to investigate the Air Quality Action Plan and how Scrutiny could provide input into this. An in-depth review commenced in October 2016 and concluded in April 2017.

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority – protecting our environment - A clean and attractive town for residents and visitors.

The recommendations of the Review were around the themes:

- Emissions Strategy Action Plan
- Councillor and Public Awareness of Air Quality Issues
- Partner Agencies

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2017/2018.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Scrutiny holds a specific and important role in the oversight of significant issues affecting the population and this review was a focussed piece of work that linked to the Council's corporate priorities and examined a range of information.

During its Review the Scrutiny Panel realised that moderate. Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.

The recommendations made in this report address a wide range of issues raised throughout the Review, regarding pollution and emissions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers of the Council who attended meetings and gave an informative presentation and provided critical information in response to the core questions of the Panel; and the key Agencies and partners who gave up their time to contribute to this Review in such a meaningful way.

Councillor Sam Kilby-Shaw
Chair, Scrutiny Panel 4

Museum Trust (Pre Decision Scrutiny)

Please refer to page 4 for a precis of this review.

NBC Owned Street Lighting

The purpose of this Scrutiny activity was to differentiate between Northampton Borough Council (NBC) and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) owned street lighting.

Key lines of Enquiry

- Investigate all NBC owned street lighting, not just those in situ on housing land
- Differentiate between Northampton Borough Council (NBC) and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) owned street lighting
- How the public can report problems and issues with street lighting
- Cost of NBC owned street lighting and energy consumption
- On-going costs for NBC street lighting

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 29 July 2015, received a briefing paper on street lighting from Northampton Partnership Homes. Following discussion of this briefing paper, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a Working Group to investigate NBC owned street lighting. A short, sharp Scrutiny activity commenced in September 2015 and concluded in May 2016.

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority 2 - Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods - Creating an attractive, clean and safe environment

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Cabinet received the report in the summer 2016 and Overview and Scrutiny will monitor the implementation of the accepted recommendations in the spring 2017.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up the Working Group following receipt of an initial briefing paper on NBC owned street lighting on housing land. NBC owned street lighting has been an on-going issue for approximately four years. It had begun when Northamptonshire County Council had upgraded certain street lights and the query arose regarding ownership of some lighting columns. It is an historical issue. Previously, NBC street lighting had been mapped on the NCC mapping system but this is no longer the case.

Over a series of four meetings, the Working Group received various pieces of key information that informed this Scrutiny activity. A site visit took place to various locations in the borough so that Councillors could have sight of examples of NBC owned street lighting columns.

Councillor Phil Larratt
Chair, Street Lighting Working Group

Re Provision of the Environmental Services Contract

A Working Group of Councillors from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is undertaking Scrutiny activity and the work has not yet concluded. It will report its findings in the Municipal year 2017/2018.

How has the work of the Scrutiny Panels made a difference to the Council and our residents?

Accepted recommendations from previous Scrutiny reviews, undertaken during the previous year, are being monitored by the O&S Committee.

Key examples

Tree Maintenance

Following a motion that had been carried at full Council at its meeting on 15 September 2014:

"There are many areas of the Eastern District where historic planting of the wrong kind of trees in the residential areas cause a number of problems for residents - from light being blocked from homes, to fallen debris, to damage to property from roots.

'This Council resolves to develop a plan to consider removing trees that are identified as problematic and consider replacing them with smaller trees more suited to residential areas.

'This Council recognises this issue is complex and many trees are located on housing land

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that will soon be managed by Northampton Partnership Homes so therefore refers this matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider.”

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that an Overview and Scrutiny Working Group would be set up to look at tree maintenance issues.

The recommendations were around:

- Right to light
- Reporting mechanisms
- Tree Inspection Programme
- S106/CIL process
- Revised Tree Maintenance Policy

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations within the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitored the implementation of the accepted recommendations. Monitoring was completed in February 2017.

Match Day Parking Working Group

Following a motion that was unanimously carried at full Council at its meeting in October 2014:

“This Council recognises the exceptional parking problems that residents and tenants regularly encounter in St James as a result of match day parking. But the problems in St James are not only match day parking. The people coming into St James taking up residents’ and tenants spaces include people coming into the area to work and some people parking at the flats and walking to the station to avoid the parking charges there. This council therefore resolves to do the following:

- 1. Look into the possibility of issuing tenants in NBC homes that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits. The properties considered would be: Cordwainer House, Stitchman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House, although this list is not exhaustive. This measure would ensure that premium allocated parking is not occupied by people from the outside area. This should be supplemented with sufficient enforcement to tackle inappropriately and incorrectly parked vehicles.*
- 2. This council also agrees to consult with Northamptonshire County Council, the Police and Highways to look at the possibility of extending free parking permits into other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town which may then replace the current parking permit scheme which is presently under review and thus remove the need to financially penalise the people of St James simply because people from the*

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

outside area come to park in St James, as a successful sports club is located on their door step.

3. This Council resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a detailed investigation to look at these options for Cabinet to consider.”

A Working Group was set up to carry out this Scrutiny activity.

The purpose of this Scrutiny activity was to undertake a review, to gain a better understanding of residential parking problems, as detailed in motion that was unanimously carried at full Council on 27 October 2014. In doing this, the Working Group:

- Investigated the possibility and viability of issuing tenants in NBC homes (including Corwainer House, Stichman House, Stirup House, Lapstone House, Eyeletter House, Abbey House, Melbourne House, Devonshire House) that have allocated parking areas with free parking permits.
- Investigated the possibility and viability of extending free parking permits to other parts of St James, Upton, Duston and other parts of the town

The Working Group heard from a number of key expert advisors and its recommendations are around:

- Residents' Parking Permits
- Car Parking
- Season Ticket Holders - buses

The report was presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2015/2016 and the Committee will monitor the effectiveness of the accepted recommendations in 2017.

Health Check of the Local Economy

The purpose of the review was to look at how partners locally, including the private sector, can work together to influence the local economy.

Key lines of Inquiry:

- How can schemes, such as Apprenticeship Programmes, be developed and expanded so that they deliver for both local employees, employers and local residents?
- What is the vision for skills and learning issues, particularly low skills?

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

- What support is there for those that are in long term unemployment?
- What are the areas for potential growth in jobs?
- What can other organisations/groups/individuals do to help?
- Whether a mapping skills gap exercise has been undertaken to identify the type of skills that are in short supply; and what the findings of this exercise are
- How specific servicers can be used to generate business investment
- How can the offer of commercial land in the borough be improved to ensure a steady stream of quality premises that are accessible by new and established organisations?
- What could feasibly be done to improve the physical infrastructure in and around the town?
- How it can be ensured that those who are seldom heard or isolated are engaged with?

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in June 2015, agreed to include a review of the health check of the local economy. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in July 2015 and concluded in March 2016.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel were around the themes:

- Raising the profile and the economic growth in Northampton.
- Raising the profile of organisations assisting with the economic growth of the town.
- Addressing the future skills requirements of each sector of the local economy within Northampton.
- Raising the profile of apprenticeships and vocational training in Northampton.
- Developing a Skills Strategy for Northampton.

The report was presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2015/2016. Monitoring of the accepted recommendations contained within this report is taking place.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Effectiveness of the Enforcement of the Licensing Policy for Taxis and Private Hire

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to investigate the pattern of provision of licensing in respect of taxis and private hire.

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To review the policies and strategies for licensing
- To assess the effectiveness of the legislation for licensing
- To raise awareness of the licensing and planning framework around the regulation of private hire and taxi licensing
- To assess what mechanisms are in place for the exchange of information between the Council, the Police and licence holders.
- To examine what options are available and any best practice or solutions that other Local Authorities have successfully implemented
- To assess the provision and usage of taxi ranks in the borough

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in June 2015, agreed to include a review of the effectiveness of the enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 3 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in July 2015 and concluded in March 2016.

A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising five Councillors.

The review attracted interest from the public, with a number of members of the public attending meetings of the Scrutiny Panel.

Recommendations of this Scrutiny review were around the themes:

- Provision and Usage of Taxi ranks in the borough
- Policies and Strategies for Licensing and the effectiveness of the legislation for licensing
- Information Exchange
- Raising the awareness of the licensing and planning framework around the regulation of private hire and taxi licensing
- Taxi Marshals
- Highways

This report was presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2016/2017 and monitoring is complete.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Keep Northampton Tidy

The purpose of the review was:

- To undertake a review regarding implementing a 'Keep Northampton Tidy' campaign with an accent on preserving wildlife and encouraging children (and adults) to take an interest in their surroundings, to include Community Clean Ups and 'Northampton in Bloom.'
- A review of the problem of littering and fly-tipping, particularly in un-adopted roads and the gateways into the town.
- To explore opportunities to enhance the gateways into the town.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel were around the themes:

- Keep Northampton Tidy
- Keep Northampton Tidy Campaign
- Gateways into the town
- Purple Flag Accreditation

Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations within the report and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee began the monitoring process in June 2016 and it is expected that it will be complete in the spring 2017.

Budget Scrutiny

Each year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sets up the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group to:

- Review the revenue budget proposals and the Council's medium term financial plans.
- Recommend a short list to Overview and Scrutiny for detailed consideration.
- Consider suggestions from the public and other Councillors for items to be included in the short list for scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny finds it helpful for a small Working Group of Councillors to take a brief overview of all the budget proposals and bring a small selection to the Committee for detailed scrutiny.

This year the Working Group comprised six Councillors from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in February 2017, undertook budget scrutiny of the following issues:

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

- Budget pressures on temporary and bed and breakfast accommodation and the plans in place to mitigate this.
- How NPH are delivering within the total fee for Housing Services that NBC provides to them, details around Government funding proposals and developing new housing stock and the possible use of existing garage sites.

Looking ahead

The Work Programme for 2017/2018 was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the spring 2017. Three Scrutiny Panels will be set up and will scope the reviews:

- Cemeteries
- Dementia Friendly Town
- Culture and Tourism

Details of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/2018 will be published on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#) as soon as it is finalised.

What are our Challenges for 2017 2018?

- To build on Overview and Scrutiny's achievements by setting stretching targets to broaden our impact. An example would be to ensure the Committee continues to undertake pre-decision scrutiny activities.
- To ensure that Overview and Scrutiny continues to make a positive contribution to the development of policy and the continuous improvement of the Council's operations.
- To continue to ensure the O&S work programme reflects concerns of service users, community and public – ensuring that a wide range of organisations, partners and the public are consulted with for suggestions for scrutiny review and then on the actual work programme.
- To ensure O&S is able to respond effectively to legislative requirements, such as the new powers, for example, wider powers to influence policy and public service delivery in their area – for example investigated issues beyond its traditional remit but affect local people.
- To continue to ensure O&S works with the community and key partners to respond to concerns.
- To continue to ensure that the work of O&S has a positive effect on decision-makers and provide evidence that it has made a real difference.
- To continue to increase public participation in O&S at Northampton by increased public suggestions for scrutiny review and increased attendance at O&S Committee and Panel meetings. This process has continued to increase year on year.

Glossary of Terms

Call-In

The process by which the O&S Committee considers whether a decision is properly taken or is the right decision.

Cabinet (Executive)

The Executive body responsible for the day-to-day running of the Council and the development of policy. Cabinet Members have portfolios or areas of responsibility (e.g. Housing) for which they take executive decisions.

Councillor (Member)

An elected local representative on the Council, a Councillor represents the interests of the people who live in their ward and Northampton as a whole

Pre-decision Scrutiny:

O&S may inform Executive decisions on topics on the Forward Plan by making evidence based recommendations or advice prior to formal decision by the Executive.

Review

A study led by Scrutiny Councillors on a current issue, selected by the Committee. It aims to identify areas of good as well as poor practice, compare performance with other Councils' countrywide, and challenge existing practice where relevant.

The review will lead to recommendations for improvements to relevant Cabinet Members as well as outside agencies, such as health trusts. While these are not obliged to support the recommendations, effective consultation has been proven to lead to consensus and to Cabinet support for reviews undertaken.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

Contact details for more information

Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, is always very happy to speak to local people about the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. If you have any comments or queries, or would like to suggest areas which may be appropriate topics for future work, you can speak to her by calling 0300 330 7000 or by [email](#).

You can view recent agendas and minutes on the Council's website at www.northampton.gov.uk or by contacting [Democratic Services](#)

Overview and Scrutiny has its own dedicated website within the Council's website. The current work of Overview and Scrutiny and the reports already published are available on this site. The address is www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Suggest an item for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate?

Do you have any suggestions for issues for inclusion onto the Overview and Scrutiny future Work Programme? If so please complete the form overleaf and return to: -

Overview and Scrutiny
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](#)

Suggest an item for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate

Do you have any suggestions for issues for inclusion onto the Overview and Scrutiny future Work Programme? If so please complete the form opposite and return to: -

Overview and Scrutiny
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](mailto:Scrutiny@northampton.gov.uk)

Just as Overview and Scrutiny has considerable influence when used in the right way, there are times when other procedures are more appropriate.

Overview and Scrutiny cannot help in the following areas:

Individual complaints about specific issues - these should be taken up through Northampton Borough Council's Customer Care Procedure.

Proper accounting for money of the Council - this is the responsibility of the Audit Committee - for information, contact 01604 837722

The conduct or behaviour of a councillor or officer - this is the responsibility of the Standards Committee - for information, contact 01604 837722.

It cannot be guaranteed that items raised in this way will actually be considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

Suggested Issue for Overview and Scrutiny

Name:

Email:

Telephone

Issues suggested for inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

If English is not your first language and you need help in translating this document please contact Tracy Tiff on 01604 837408.

Jesli angielski nie jest Twoim jezykiem ojczystym
a potrzebujesz pomocy w przetlumaczeniu tego
Если английский не Ваш родной язык и Вам
нужна помощь с переводом этого документа,
то свяжитесь с Трайсу Тиф.Тел. 01604 837408

Haddii afka Ingriisigu aanu ahayn luuqad-daada
kowaad oo aad u baahan-tahay in lagaa caawiyo
turjumidda warqaddan fadlan kala xidhidh Tracy
Tiff tilifoonka 01604 837408

如果英語不是你的主要說用語言而需要幫助將這
份文件翻譯，請致電 01604 837408 向 Tracy Tiff
提出要求。

যদি ইংরেজী আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হয় এবং এই দলিলটি অনুবাদে
আপনার সাহায্যের দরকার হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে ট্রেইসি টিফ-এর
সাথে 01604 837408 এই টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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If you would like this document as large print or as a tape recording please call
01604 837408

<p>Appendices: 0</p>



COUNCIL
10th July 2017

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Borough Secretary

Report Title	Changes to Outside Bodies and Consultation Appointments
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1. Purpose

1.1 To confirm the changes to Outside Bodies and Consultation Appointments.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the appointments to Outside Bodies and Consultation Appointments set out in the report, be confirmed.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1 At the Council meeting on the 18th May 2017, the following were appointed to the **Community Enabling Fund Advisory Panel (CEFAP)**: Councillors Kilbride (Chair) and Councillors Walker, Malpas, Birch and Stone.

3.1 Council are being asked to ratify the following changes to Outside Bodies and Consultation Appointments:

Councillor Sargeant to replace Councillor Malpas on CEFAP

3.2 Appointments to all other Committees and Consultation Appointments agreed by Council on the 18th May 2017 remain unchanged.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 N/A

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 N/A

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 There are no legal implications

4.4 Equality

None

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 N/A

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

**Emma Powley
Democratic Services**