

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, 11 August 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair); Councillor Brian Sargeant (Deputy Chair);  
Councillors Tony Ansell, Rufia Ashraf, Terrie Eales, Elizabeth Gowen, Phil  
Larratt, Dennis Meredith, Samuel Shaw and Graham Smith

**CALL IN** Councillor Danielle Stone  
**AUTHORS** Councillor Arthur McCutcheon

**INTERNAL** Councillor Mary Markham, Leader of the Council  
**WITNESSES** Councillor Brandon Eldred, Cabinet Member for Finance

Glenn Hammons, Chief Finance Officer  
Francis Fernandes, Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer

**OBSERVING** David Kennedy, Chief Executive  
Councillor Brian Markham  
Councillor Jonathan Nunn  
Councillor Suresh Patel  
Gary Youens, Political Assistant

**OFFICERS** Mebs Kassam, Solicitor  
Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

**PUBLIC** Jim and Anne Wishart  
**ATTENDEES**

**PRESS** Sam Read, BBC Northampton  
Callum Jones, Chronicle and Echo

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Janice Duffy, Nilesh Parekh and Zoe Smith.

## **2. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

Councillor Brian Markham addressed the Call-In Hearing. He commented he was mindful that the call-in was in respect of the sum of £500,000 in relation to the recovery of the Sixfields loan money. He felt that the actual loan was an issue of public concern and how the tax payers money was being used. He referred to the original decision in respect of the loan commenting that he was surprised this had not been called-in at that time. Councillor Markham welcomed the call-in because in his opinion it gave the opportunity for wider discussion. He asked the Committee to consider if £500,000 had not been available from reserves to pursue the loan, how the money could be pursued and the issue was not just about the recovery of the money but the process.

Councillor Markham was thanked for his address.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)**

There were none.

## **4 CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION OF 13 JULY 2016; ITEM 7:- UPDATE ON RECOVERY OF SIXFIELDS LOAN MONEY**

The Chair advised the reasons for the Call In Hearing.

## **5 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

It was moved that the Press and Public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure to them of such categories of exempt information as defined by Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 as listed against such items of business by reference to paragraphs 3,5, and 7 of schedule 12a to such act.

## **6. CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION OF 13 JULY 2016; ITEM 7:- UPDATE ON RECOVERY OF SIXFIELDS LOAN MONEY**

Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, explained the procedure for the Call-In Hearing.

The Committee heard representations from the Call In Authors, Cabinet members and Officers and made and reached a decision with regards to any further action to be taken.

### **Findings and Conclusions**

It was proposed by Councillor Shaw and seconded by Councillor Walker that the Call In Hearing would not be upheld.

Upon a majority vote it was resolved that:

After all the evidence had been heard the Call-In was not upheld and the original cabinet decision of 13 July 2016 was upheld on the grounds that:

- 1 A structured and clear breakdown of the figures in relation to the sum of £500,000 and associated costs had been provided .
- 2 The Committee is confident in the Council pursuing the recovery of the Sixfields loan money.
- 3 The Committee was reassured that the recovery of the Sixfields loan money was value for money.
- 4 The Committee hoped that further information would be provided to Cabinet on the recovery of the Sixfields loan money, even if the meeting would move to private session for debate.
- 5 Liquidators would examine the books of all those involved in the Sixfields loan money and will it is expected provide answers as to where the money has gone.
- 6 Council will pursue the recovery of costs at every opportunity.
- 7 Legal costs will be pursued and its recovery will also be pursued
- 8 Answers have been supplied at this Call In Hearing to the questions raised by the Call-In Authors in respect of expenditure in relation to the recovery of the Sixfields loan money.

The meeting concluded at 19:20hrs

The meeting concluded at 7:20 pm