

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at The Jeffrey Room,
The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on
Wednesday 12 July 2017 at **6:00pm**

D Kennedy
Chief Executive

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, telephone 01604 837408 (direct dial), email ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor Jamie Lane
Deputy-Chair	Councillor Graham Walker
Committee Members	Councillor Brian W Sargeant Councillor Tony Ansell Councillor Rufia Ashraf Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz) Councillor Alan L Bottwood Councillor Vicky Culbard Councillor Janice Duffy Councillor Elizabeth Gowen Councillor Christopher Malpas Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Cathrine Russell Councillor Samuel Kilby-Shaw Councillor Zoe Smith

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
25 September 2017 6:00 pm 16 November 29 January 2018 30 April 25 June	All meetings to be held in the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Item No	Title	Pages	Action required
1	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitution
2	Deputations/Public Addresses		<p>The Chair to note public address requests.</p> <p>The public can speak on any agenda item for a maximum of three minutes per speaker per item. You are not required to register your intention to speak in advance but should arrive at the meeting a few minutes early, complete a Public Address Protocol and notify the Scrutiny Officer of your intention to speak.</p>
3	Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
4	Call In of Cabinet Decision of 21 June 2017: Item 8: Delapre Abbey Restoration Project	1-16	<p>Called in by Councillors Danielle Stone and Julie Davenport (copy attached.)</p> <p>Item 8: Delapre Abbey Restoration Project:</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>Cabinet approved the additional capital expenditure of up to £490,000 in order to meet the costs of additional works that need to be undertaken to enable the full public opening of Delapre Abbey.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed to amend the capital programme for 2017/2018 in order to provide for additional capital expenditure of up to £490,000 for Delapre Abbey funded by £120,000 of 2016/17 underspends and a reduction of £370,000 to the block capital programmes 2017/18 as detailed in 4.2.3 of the report.</p> <p>Cabinet delegated authority to approve, control and monitor expenditure to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, as appropriate, acting in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer.</p> <p>Procedure for the Call-In Hearing</p> <p>Public speakers will be asked to address the Committee; a maximum of three minutes is given to each to make comment.</p> <p>The Call-In Authors, Councillors Danielle Stone and Julie Davenport, will be invited to expand upon their reasons for concern, following which the</p>

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

		<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee will question the Call-In Authors.</p> <p>Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council, and Councillor Tim Hadland, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Regeneration and Planning, will be invited to make a presentation outlining his main reasons for the decision. The Committee will then put questions to the Cabinet Member and Officers.</p> <p>Officers will be invited to give evidence and respond to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's questions. The Officers will be asked to give their reasons for any recommendations or advice to Members. A question and answer session will follow.</p> <p>The Call-In Authors will then be given the opportunity to add any points of clarification before any resolution or recommendation is moved.</p> <p>The Chair will then sum up the findings regarding the Cabinet decision. If there are still concerns, the Chair will lead in the determination of the recommendation with reasons for consideration by Cabinet. At the conclusion of the debate and following response to all matters raised, the Chair will ask the Committee to vote to determine whether or not it upholds the decision of the Cabinet.</p>
5	<p>Exclusion of the Public and Press</p>	<p>The Chair to Move:</p> <p>“that the public and press 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 the appropriate paragraph of Schedule 12a to such act.”</p>

Call-In

We wish to “call in” the Cabinet Decisions of Item 8 “Delapre Abbey” taken on Wednesday 21st June 2017.

We are concerned that there is insufficient financial control and information in order for Cabinet to make informed decisions regarding the Delapre Abbey Restoration Project.

Cabinet continue to authorise additional expenditure (above the original budget and agreement with HLF) without a new up to date project plan in place.

We want to be certain that any additional expenditure is based on sound project management and detailed information. We must have a much better understanding of any likely additional costs in the future.

Better project management will predict and manage escalating costs.

We also need to understand the impact of this decision on the proposed additional capital expenditure.

Call In authors

Cllr Danielle Stone

Cllr Julie Davenport

Recent history of additional capital costs approved by Cabinet. (This is just capital expenditure not additional revenue costs incurred by the Council).

Cabinet 21st October 2015 / Item 12: Delapre Abbey Restoration Project

Decision -

2.1 Cabinet gave approval for the Council to increase the capital contribution towards the restoration of Delapre Abbey, and approved the funding sources as identified in table 1 of the report. The existing capital contribution during the restoration was £5,650,000. Additional monies of £525,000 would be required to ensure that the project be delivered successfully.

2.2 Cabinet gave approval for the provision of capped revenue funding to the sum of £150,000 in the form of a grant required by DAPT prior to their operational phase. This would firstly to be funded from any regeneration underspends in the current 15/16 budget, then from the Regeneration Directorate revenue reserves if required.

2.3 Cabinet gave approval for the provision of revenue funding to the sum of £100,000 in the form of a capped loan facility required by DAPT to ensure that in-year deficits within their Business Plan are cash-flowed in the initial stages of their operation. This would be funded from existing NBC resources, which would be replenished by the repayments received from DAPT.

2.4 Cabinet approved to cash flow the £812,000 fundraising requirements which form part of the overall Phase 1 works, in the short-medium term which would be the responsibility of DAPT to fundraise prior to opening. The monies would have to be repaid by DAPT from future operational surpluses.

A capital contribution of £525,000

Cabinet 13th April 2016 / Item 7: Delapre Abbey – Restoration Program

Decision -

2.1 Cabinet approved the increase of £934k to the capital programme towards the restoration of Delapre Abbey to enable successful completion of the original project.

A capital contribution of £934,000

Cabinet 7th December 2016 / Item 8: Delapre Abbey

Decision -

1. That the delay in the completion of the restoration project due to the delayed connection of utilities into the Abbey be noted.
2. That the delay in completion of the project had led to increased costs that would represent an overspend against the approved capital budget be recognised.
3. That it be agreed that a detailed financial assessment of the project including resultant implications of the delay would need to be completed.
4. That an increase to the capital budget of £65,000 authorised by the Chief Executive to enable the urgent procurement of a servery for the café/restaurant area of the Abbey by the way of a virement of available funds within the existing capital programme be noted.

A capital contribution of £65,000

Cabinet 8th February 2017 / Item 10 Delapre Abbey financial position

Decision -

1. Cabinet approved an additional sum up to £650,000 to complete the construction works at Delapre Abbey to be funded from underspends identified elsewhere in the capital programme as part of the overall monitoring for 2016/17.
2. Cabinet offered their assistance to the Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust (DAPT) to ensure a successful opening and ongoing viability of the restored Abbey.

A capital contribution of £525,000

Cabinet 21st June 2017 / Item 8: Delapre Abbey

Decision:

Cabinet agreed to amend the capital programme for 2017/2018 in order to provide for additional capital expenditure of up to £490,000 for Delapre Abbey funded by £120,000 of 2016/17 underspends and a reduction of £370,000 to the block capital programmes 2017/18 as detailed in 4.2.3 of the report.

A capital contribution of £490,000

Appendices:

None



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title	DELAPRE ABBEY RESTORATION PROJECT
---------------------	--

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	21 June 2017
Key Decision:	Yes
Within Policy:	Yes
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Tim Hadland
Ward(s)	Delapre and Briar Hill

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for additional expenditure for various works that will support the operation of Delapre Abbey, improve the visitor experience and enable Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust to maximise commercial potential.

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 On the balance of options, approves the additional capital expenditure of up to £490,000 in order to meet the costs of additional works that need to be undertaken to enable the full public opening of Delapre Abbey.
- 2.2 If approval is given under 2.1, above, agree to amend the capital programme for 2017/2018 in order to provide for additional capital expenditure of up to £490,000 for Delapre Abbey funded by £120,000 of 2016/17 underspends and a reduction of £370,000 to the block capital programmes 2017/18 as detailed in 4.2.3 of this report.

- 2.3 Delegates authority to approve, control and monitor expenditure to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, as appropriate, acting in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The restoration of the Grade II* Listed Delapre Abbey (the Abbey) is a key heritage project for the Council and will see the Abbey opened to the public for the first time in its 900 year history.
- 3.1.2 The Abbey will, when fully open, provide educational spaces, a shop, exhibition space and a cafe/restaurant. It will also offer a specific exhibition about the Battle of Northampton; part of the Wars of the Roses, which was fought in Delapre Park in 1460.
- 3.1.3 The Abbey will enhance the public park in that it will include improved public convenience toilets and increase the usage of the park, attracting more local as well as regional and national visitors to Northampton.
- 3.1.4 Practical completion was achieved with the main contractor Robert Woodhead Limited on the 27th February 2017. A list of snagging items are currently being completed by the main contractor.
- 3.1.5 The Cafe opened to the public on Monday, 3rd April 2017 and has been very well received by the public.
- 3.1.6 Cabinet will be aware that the Council was awarded £3.6m of Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) towards the overall project costs, the restoration works and activity costs.
- 3.1.7 Cabinet previously considered and approved reports on 21st October 2015, and 13th April 2016, 7th December 2016 and 8th February 2017 regarding project progress, funding and necessary decisions.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 As reported to Cabinet in February 2017, a cost assessment has been completed to establish a final account position with regards to the construction works at the Abbey. The construction works are split between the contracted works being undertaken by Robert Woodhead Limited (RWL) and the further works that are being procured by the Council and delivered by other contractors.
- 3.2.2 At that meeting, Cabinet approved a maximum additional amount of £650,000 to complete the contracted works by RWL and to complete additional works including; the car park, CCTV, a water tank and external lighting.

3.2.3 Following further safety audits, specifically regarding fire safety and DDA compliance, additional works are required to ensure the building complies with regulations and can be signed off for operation. These are items that were not in the original scope of works to be undertaken by Robert Woodhead Limited or in any further works by others.

3.2.4 £490,000 is being requested to complete the Delapre Abbey Project. The proposed works can be categorised, for ease of reference into three groups:

- 1) Regulatory/Health and Safety Requirements;
- 2) Operational enhancements;
- 3) Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust (DAPT) requests.

These categories are further outlined in the following paragraphs.

3.2.5 1) Regulatory and Safety Requirements

The Regulatory/Health and Safety items are required to ensure the appropriate sign-off on all necessary regulations to allow the permanent operation of the site, including those arising from the Council's and DAPT's insurers. This includes some items that were gaps of omission within the scope of the main building contract or were presumed at the scoping stage to be delivered by the operator of the building. This includes things like fire refuges, some statutory signage and alarm upgrades.

3.2.6 These are essential items and should have been included within the original scope and are necessary to deliver the original objectives.

3.2.7 2) Operational Enhancements

Essential operational enhancements will support and build on the successful opening of the Abbey Café and on the early bookings that have already been made, prior to full opening. This will assist the Abbey to fulfil its commercial potential. Items here include, for example, measures to improve the existing car-parking provision and additional security measures, such as CCTV, to better protect the Abbey from potential anti-social behaviour and vandalism, as well as to promote its safe operation over time.

3.2.8 Further provision is required as the previous estimates were based on a car parking design which has now been changed to reflect a separation between visitors parking and delivery vehicles. A new planning application is being submitted.

3.2.9 3) Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust (DAPT) Requests

Some of these works were originally intended to be implemented in a later phase, but given the very favourable public reaction to the restoration and the desirability of avoiding future disruption to the operation of the Abbey, DAPT believe that it would be appropriate to undertake these works now. Proposed expenditure here includes completion of room finishes, some building enhancements, additional decoration, improvements to exhibitions and the provision of additional gates and control barriers.

3.2.10 These items could be provided at a later time as part of an additional phase to the Abbey, supported through fundraising.

3.2.11 Cost Apportionment

3.2.12 Table A represents a high level cost apportionment for the works which are yet to be tested in the market and therefore represent estimates with a contingency of 15% being included.

Table A: Cost Apportionment for Works to be market tested.

	Category	Cost Estimate
1.	Regulatory/Health and Safety Requirements	£150,000
2.	Essential operational enhancements	£200,000
3.	Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Delapre Abbey Preservation Trust (DAPT) requests	£140,000
	TOTAL	£490,000

3.3 Choices (Options)

3.3.1 Option 1: The Council to approve the £490,000 additional budget. The Abbey would benefit from enhancements to the Abbey that will include the CCTV and security, carpark and internal items. The additional works would considerably enhance the experience of the Abbey and enable full opening to the public.

3.3.2 Option 2: The Council choose to approve a lesser amount of money. This would amount to either £150,000 for Category 1 works, or £350,000 for Category 1 and 2 works. This would deliver less of an impact to the overall renovation scheme and also the visitor experience. It could also leave the Abbey exposed to certain security issues and also limit the capacity of available parking for visitors. Depending on the amount of money approved, the Abbey may not achieve regulatory sign offs and therefore not be able to open fully to the public.

3.3.3 Option 3: The Council choose not to approve the funding. The construction of the Abbey would still be completed to the original scope of works, however, would not open fully to the public as it would not achieve the required regulatory sign offs. It would also not benefit from additional enhancements to the CCTV and security, carpark and internal items (including enhanced decoration).

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1.1 Policy

4.1.1 The recommendations within this report do not set policy or have implications on existing policies.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Risks

- 4.2.1 Some of the additional capital works are required to satisfy fire safety, building regulations and the ongoing functionality of the Abbey post-opening. Non-completion of these works would mean that the Abbey would not be able to comply with all of the necessary regulations. This would mean that the Abbey would not be able to fully open to the public.
- 4.2.2 Failure to complete the restoration to the standard required by the HLF, as specified within their funding approval, could result in the HLF seeking repayment of some or the entire grant amount. The Council would, in this scenario, be required to fund any repayment that may be requested. The HLF are currently committed to £3.6m of funding.

Resources

- 4.2.3 This report seeks approval for additional capital expenditure on Delapre Abbey of £490,000 in 2017/2018. This will be funded from £120,000 of underspends carried forward from 2016/2017, and £370,000 from a pro-rata reallocation (taking capital programme board approved allocations into account) of the 2017/18 block capital programmes as shown below in Table B;

Table B: Funding of Proposed Additional Capital Expenditure

	16/17 Carry Fwd £000	17/18 Budget £000	Less Approved Allocations £000	Total Unallocated 17/18 £000	Delapre - Pro-rata Allocation £000	Residual Unallocated Budget £000
Capital Improvements - Regeneration Areas Parks/Allotments/ Cemetery Enhancements	322	50	-240	132	50	82
Operational Buildings - Enhancements	377	250	-370	257	98	159
Commercial Landlord Responsibilities	383	50	-36	397	151	246
	1,082	550	-660	972	370	602

- 4.2.4 The total approved budget to date is £7,799 m. Should Cabinet be minded to approve the additional expenditure requested in this report, the total forecast expenditure would be £8.177 m.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 The outstanding statutory and regulatory requirements relating to Health and Safety and the Disability Discrimination Act must be fully addressed if the Abbey is to open fully to the public.

- 4.3.2 The procurement and appointment of any contractor to undertake any of the proposed works must comply fully with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 4.3.3 Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission must be secured prior to the commencement of works that affect the character and/or appearance of the Abbey.
- 4.3.4 The Council has wide powers under the General Power of Competence, in the Localism Act 2011 enabling it to approve the payments outlined in this report. As well as this the Council has a fiduciary duty to the tax payer and needs to ensure that any monies that are approved to be utilised towards the Abbey are consistent with this duty

4.4 Equality and Health

- 4.4.1 Some of the proposed additional works are to ensure that people with disabilities have full access to the building with appropriately designed refuge points which are compliant with all statutory requirements.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 Council officers, the DAPT Director and LGSS Finance have all collaborated within the review of the additional capital works required and there has also been regular liaison with DAPT Trustees and HLF officers.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

- 4.6.1 The successful restoration of the Grade II* listed Delapre Abbey is the key heritage priority for the Council.

4.7 Other Implications

- 4.7.1 None

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Cabinet Reports dated 8th May 2013; 21st October 2015; April 2016; 7th December 2016; 11th January 2017 and 7th February 2017.

Report Author: Stephen Hing
Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning
Ext. 7287

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Nunn (Chair); Councillor Larratt (Deputy Chair); Councillors Eldred, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert and King

1. APOLOGIES

There were none.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May 2017 were agreed and signed by the Leader.

3. INTENTION TO HOLD PART OF THE MEETING IN PRIVATE

The Leader explained that there was one item to be heard in private – Item 15 – redevelopment of Toms Close and an appendix to Item 13 – Disposal of Land at Lancaster Way that would be heard in private for the reasons set out in the agenda.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Mr Jamie Seamark addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 13- Disposal of Land at Lancaster Way as a representative of Buckingham Fields Community Action Group and commented that a previous Cabinet report had 4 conditions attached to the disposal of land, not all of which had been adhered to. He expressed concern that there had been a significant delay in the signing of the Section 106 Agreement from the approved 'in principle' planning consent.

Ms Antonella Mitchell also addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 13- Disposal of Land at Lancaster Way and questioned what the flood attenuation plans were for the area and when and where surveys would be undertaken with regards to the flood plans as she had concerns that there had been a lack of communication with affected residents. She further commented that to sell the proposed land would be a significant loss to local residents and that to approve development on the green space would have a detrimental effect on the area.

Ms Sara Gravett also addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 13- Disposal of Land at Lancaster Way and commented the area of land was the only green space for residents to use and that any development on the land would create a significant loss of wildlife and would leave children very little space to play. She commented that the area was covenanted for leisure use and urged the Council to reconsider their proposals.

Mr Alec Burt addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 13- Disposal of Land at Lancaster Way as Chairman of the Buckingham Fields Residents Committee and commented that it was not Council owned green space that was being disposed of but tax payers; the Council raised money through Council Tax and as Council tax payers the land could be perceived as being owned by residents and tax payers.

The Leader thanked the public speaker for their comments and it was clarified that the report would be brought to a future Cabinet meeting as per recommendation 2.1 (3) of the report.

Mr Colin Bricher addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 6A - Recommendations of the

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Emission Strategy (action plan) and commented that the carbon emissions in Northampton were too high and that there were very concerning levels of air pollution. He voiced his support for Park and Ride, but stated that this had previously only happened for specific events. He further suggested that incorporating it into a Light Rail Network would be a more suitable option to consider and suggested the introduction of community it could be done piecemeal, starting with Buckton Fields to Castle station

Councillor Hallam, as the responsible Cabinet Member commented that there was a misnomer in the belief that new roads did not improve Carbon Emissions and that often it reduced pollution as it decreased areas of congestion.

Mr Steve Miller (Green Party, Northamptonshire) addressed Cabinet in respect of Item 6A - Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Emission Strategy (action plan) and noted that he had attended and participated in the Scrutiny Panel and thanked the panel members for their work and inclusion. He commented that the proposed increase in electric vehicle charge points was very welcome but that there needed to be a lot more consideration given to providing realistic alternatives to car use and urged the Council to set a good example and to take a lead.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Nunn declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Item 13 - Disposal of land at Lancaster Way as he had stood as a Councillor alongside Barry Howard and had also undertaken training with Mr Howard through his training company.

Councillor Hibbert declared a personal non pecuniary interest in Item 6A - Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Emission Strategy (action plan) as a member of the Northampton Rail Users Group.

6. ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

6.A RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - EMISSION STRATEGY (ACTION PLAN)

Councillor Stone commented that she was disappointed with the scrutiny report and stated that she considered the recommendations to be insufficient and the scoping was not adequate. She did not consider the Administration to be recognising the urgency of dealing with the high levels of emissions in Northampton especially in comparison to other areas and argued that the recommendations did not go far enough to deal with air pollution and emissions and suggested the use of a free hop-on, hope-off bus service and there should be an enforcement of the law on idling vehicles and testing air quality around schools..

Councillor Hallam as the Cabinet Member for Environment stated that the scope of the panel was removed from any influence of the administration and that it was a cross party panel who were independently examining the Emission Strategy (action plan). It was also noted that the provision of a free bus service would be extremely expensive and questions were raised as to why she had not made direct recommendations to the scrutiny panel.

Councillor Lane as the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Kilby-Shaw (Chair of the Scrutiny Panel) submitted the report and noted that there had been an extensive amount of work undertaken by cross party members. He noted that that Northampton were lacking behind other authorities but that the report provided a sound starting point and improvements would soon be made. Councillors Lane and Kilby-Shaw thanked the members of the Scrutiny Panel and the Scrutiny Officer for their hard work

Councillor Hallam reported that there were a number of recommendations that would be started imminently and Councillor Larratt noted that a Cabinet report would be brought back in the near future.

The Leader reiterated thanks to the Panel Members and Scrutiny Officer and those who had participated in the review.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6.B RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Councillor Smith as a member of the Scrutiny Panel commented that this was an excellent piece of work and that the scoping exercise had been very informative. She thanked officers involved and commented that education was needed to ensure that children and young people were educated on the dangers of technology and sexting and she further noted that the work that had been undertaken had been completed very sensitively.

Councillor Lane as the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny concurred with Councillor Smith and commented that it had been a very hard piece of work and it had been harrowing. He thanked the Scrutiny Panel Chair for his hard work and noted the extensive recommendations contained within the report.

Councillor King, as the relevant Cabinet Member thanked the members and officers who had been involved.

Councillor Larratt stated that he would ensure that the topic would be put high on the agenda for future Councillor training.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6.C RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - HOMELESSNESS (PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY)

Councillor Lane as the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Smith (Chair of the Scrutiny Panel) submitted the report and reported that they welcomed the report and the recommendations that were numerous. It was noted that the Panel were aware of the challenges of providing housing and the associated difficulties but welcomed the work that was being carried out to prevent homelessness from occurring. It was noted that there was of multi-agencies working successfully together and that they looked forward to a detailed response in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

7. IMMEDIATE ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION - HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO) IN FAR COTTON AND DELAPRE

Councillor Davenport addressed Cabinet and noted that she welcomed the recommendations contained within the report as this was an issue that had significant impacts on her ward.

Councillor Hadland, as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted his report and elaborated thereon. He explained that there had been a consultation to the Notice of Making of an Immediate Article 4 Direction in parts of Far Cotton and Delapre. He thanked officers for their hard work and noted that the Direction had to be confirmed by the 22nd September 2017 or it would expire.

RESOLVED:

That the making of an Immediate Article 4 Direction, which permanently removed permitted development rights for change of use from C3 Dwellinghouses to C4 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for 3 to 6 unrelated people in parts of Far Cotton and Delapre, as shown on Map 1 of the report be confirmed.

8. DELAPRE ABBEY

Councillor Davenport addressed Cabinet and commented that people in her ward had struggled to have bins provided but that that millions of pounds were being spent by the administration and could have been better spent on the housing crisis. She stated that there had been a lack of consultation with both Ward Councillors and Groups and noted that whilst she supported the restoration of Delapre Abbey she questioned the cost.

Councillor Eldred, as the Cabinet Member for Finance, commented that Members had been consulted by way of the Budget and that at no point did opposition members raise concerns or objections.

The Leader commented that the approval of an additional budget would enhance the Abbey further and would include CCTV, security and car parking.

Councillor Hadland as the relevant Cabinet Members submitted the report and elaborated further noting that the end product would be significantly better than first predicted and that the additional budgets would ensure a better capacity for parking needs to be met.

Councillor Larratt commented that the Abbey was a great asset to Northampton noting that a few years ago there had been public concern that the Abbey was falling derelict.

Councillor Eldred commented that consideration needed to be given to the wider reaching positive effect on the Town including increased employment opportunities and increased tourism.

RESOLVED:

That the additional capital expenditure of up to £490,000 in order to meet the costs of additional works that need to be undertaken to enable the full public opening of Delapre Abbey be approved.

That it be agreed to amend the capital programme for 2017/2018 in order to provide for additional capital expenditure of up to £490,000 for Delapre Abbey funded by £120,000 of 2016/17 underspends and a reduction of £370,000 to the block capital programmes 2017/18 as detailed in 4.2.3 of the report.

That authority to approve, control and monitor expenditure be delegated to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, as appropriate, acting in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Councillor Hallam as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted a report and noted that this had been delayed in being brought to Cabinet due to the recent election and that it was now time to press ahead with the procurement of an environmental enforcement contract.

The Leader concurred with the Cabinet Members commitment to starting the process as soon as possible,

RESOLVED:

1. That the process of the procurement, at no direct cost to the Council, of an environmental enforcement contract, that entailed the issue of fixed penalty notices for littering and other environmental misdemeanours, and included an option for the provision of other enforcement services, as set out in the draft service schedule document attached at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities, in consultation with the Borough Secretary and the Cabinet Member for Environment, to select a contractor and award the aforementioned contract for a maximum period of three years, with an option to extend for a further period of up to two years, following the procurement process.
3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Customers and Communities to authorise any contractor appointed pursuant to paragraph 2.2 of the report and employees of the contractor, to issue fixed penalty notices on behalf of the Council in accordance with the contract, where relevant legislation permits such authorisation.

10. INSURANCE TENDERING EXERCISE

The Leader submitted a report which sought approval to award and enter into a contract with other partners of LGSS.

RESOLVED:

That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Borough Secretary to award and enter into a contract with the successful provider as part of the joint tendering process with LGSS partners

11. QUARTER 4 - PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Deputy Leader submitted a report and noted that there had been some very positive work carried out specifically relating to 'Households prevented from being homeless' and the high performing area relating to 'Major Planning Applications'. It was further noted that there had been a slight underperformance in Freedom of Information (FoI) requests being responded to within 20 working days due a number of data quality issues and case complexity. Councillor Larratt explained that he had undertaken a considerable amount of work with officers to ensure that the presentation of the figures were more understandable and meaningful.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the performance report be noted
2. That performance report be approved for presentation to Audit Committee.

12. FINANCE AND MONITORING OUTTURN 2016/17

Councillor Eldred, as the relevant Cabinet Members submitted a report and elaborated thereon and highlighted the proposed use of the 2016/17 underspend. It was further noted that the HRA outturn position shows an underspend on controllable spending of £249K. It was further noted that the Council faced on going challenges and risks which included reduced government funding and increased service costs but that they had successfully managed a balanced budget.

RESOLVED:

- 2.1. That the provisional outturn for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2016/17 as set out at Appendix 1 and Appendix 5 of the report be noted
- 2.2 That the use of and contributions to General Fund Revenue Earmarked Reserves as shown in paragraph 3.2.4 and Appendix 3 of the report be approved.
- 2.3 That the proposed revenue budget carry forwards detailed in paragraph 3.2.8 of the report be approved
- 2.4 That the net movement in Housing Revenue Account Reserves and working balances as set out at Appendix 6 of the report be approved.
- 2.5 That the outturn for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes for 2016/17 and how the expenditure was financed as set out at Appendix 4 and Appendix 7 of the report be noted.
- 2.6 That the proposed capital carry forwards into 2017/18 set out in Appendix 4 and Appendix 7 of the report be approved.
- 2.7 That the outturn for Northampton Partnership Homes for 2016/17 as set out at Appendix 8 of the report be noted.

13. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT LANCASTER WAY

Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 13 at this juncture of the meeting the Leader left the meeting.

In the Leaders absence, the Deputy Leader took the Chair

Councillor Davenport addressed Cabinet and questioned the amount of time that this had taken to resolve and commented that it was unfair that the residents had come up with solutions but that the administration had ignored them. She noted that many people, including children, used the green space and that the loss of it would have a negative effect on local residents. She urged the Council to reconsider the sale of the land and urged them, if necessary, to offer it to the open market.

Councillor Hadland as the relevant Cabinet Members submitted a report and noted that he recognised that it have been a long and drawn out process and noted residents' concerns over the loss of green space. However, through the disposal of the land, the Council could ensure green space for more residents and noted that the recommendation was for the approval 'in principle' of the disposal and noted condition 3 of recommendation 2.1 which was to note objections arising from the process being considered by Cabinet prior to any disposal taking place.

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That “in principle” the disposal of the freehold interest in the land at Lancaster Way, shown coloured red on the Plan at Appendix 1 of the report, to Xcite Projects Limited conditional upon (1) the grant of planning permission, (2) subject to the intended disposal being advertised in accordance with statutory requirements; and (3) to any objections arising from this process being considered by Cabinet prior to any disposal taking place be approved.
- 2.2 That the sale price set out in Confidential Appendix 2 of the report be agreed.
- 2.3 That the advertisement of the proposed disposal of the public open space in accordance with the requirements of Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended be authorised.
- 2.4 That it be authorised that in the event of there being no objections received to the proposed disposal of public open space, the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, acting in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, to negotiate terms and conclude the sale, subject to the provisions of recommendation 2.1 of the report

The Leader re-entered the meeting and resumed his position of Chair.

14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chair moved that the public and Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that there was 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 the appropriate paragraph of Schedule 12A to such Act.

The Motion was Carried.

14.A DISPOSAL OF LAND AT LANCASTER WAY - PRIVATE APPENDICES

15. REDEVELOPMENT OF TOMS CLOSE, COLLINGTREE

Councillor Hibbert as the relevant Cabinet Member submitted a report and elaborated thereon.

Cabinet discussed the report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations set out in the private report be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 7.39pm