

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Scrutiny Panel - Northampton Post Unitary

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at The Jeffrey Room,
The Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE on
29 November 2018 at 6pm

George Candler
Chief Executive

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, 01604 837408 ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Scrutiny Panel 3 - Northampton Post Unitary** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Panel

Chair	Councillor Brian W Sargeant
Panel Members	Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz) Councillor Paul Joyce Councillor Samuel Kilby-Shaw Councillor Jamie Lane Councillor Danielle Stone Councillor Graham Walker
Co-opted Member	Lee Mason Morcea Walker

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
7 February 2019 6:00 pm 25 March	All meetings to be held in the Jeffrey Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Scrutiny Panel 3 - Northampton Post Unitary Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1. 6:00pm	Apologies		The Chair to note any apologies for absence.
2.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
3.	Deputations and 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>
4.	Minutes	1 - 3	The Scrutiny Panel to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018.
5.	Witness Evidence	4 - 5	The Scrutiny Panel to receive a response to its core questions from a number of Expert Advisors:
5 (a) 6:05pm	Lord Lieutenant's Office	6 - 10	
5 (b) 6:25pm	High Sheriff's Office	11 - 13	
5 (c) 6:45pm	Freeman of the Borough	14 - 15	
5 (d) 7:05pm	The Chairman, Committee, Mayor's Fund for the Housebound		
5 (e) 7:25pm – 7:45pm	Representatives from Northampton Rotary Club	16	

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 3 - NORTHAMPTON POST UNITARY

Thursday, 20 September 2018

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Brian Sargeant (Chair), Councillors Aziz, Sam Kilby-Shaw and Jamie Lane

CO-OPTED MEMBER: Lee Mason

Witnesses Councillor Tony Ansell, Mayor of Northampton
Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council
Councillor Phil Larratt, Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Arthur McCutcheon, previous Mayor of Northampton
George Candler, Chief Executive

Councillor Dennis Meredith - observing

Officer Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

Press James Averill, Democracy Reporter

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Joyce (Deputy Chair), Councillor Danielle Stone and Morcea Walker (Co Optee.)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

3. DEPUTATIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2018 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

5. WITNESS EVIDENCE

Councillor Tony Ansell, Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Larratt, Deputy Leader and George Candler, Chief Executive, presented the written response to the core questions. The salient points were highlighted. Councillor Arthur McCutcheon, in the capacity as previous Mayor, addressed the Scrutiny Panel with his responses to the core questions also.

The Scrutiny Panel made comment, asked questions and heard:

- The Mayor is invited to other services and events, in addition to those provided in the written responses, such as the Laughery Ceremony and Diwali
- The significance of Oak Apple Day was emphasised and should be a key event, led by the Mayor of Northampton. Over the years a number of civic events have disappeared, it would be the opportune time to reintroduce some of these for example May Day celebrations
- In answer to a query regarding the expectations of the Mayor, Councillor Ansell advised that it is an honour and young people are often excited to meet the Mayor. He provided an example of when he met with young people recently.
- Civic tradition is very important within the town
- Lee Mason, co optee, and also previous Mayor of Northampton, commented that during her Mayoralty year she met with Groups that she did not know existed. She asked that information regarding the cost of the Mayoralty and the amount of income generated by the Mayoralty is costed and provided to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Panel. This information would be important in informing the evidence base.
- The Deputy Leader conveyed the view that the Mayoralty should continue into any new Unitary Council
- The need to retain regalia, such as that that is housed in the Mayor's Parlour was highlighted. The value of the Mace was highlighted.
- The Honorary Recorder has been recently appointed.
- The Scrutiny Panel queried how the role of Honorary Alderman would continue, post Unitary, as currently they are appointed due to their service to the Borough of Northampton. The Scrutiny Panel would like to see Honorary Alderman continuing in the new Unitary Council.
- Councillor McCutcheon advised that in his opinion the people of Northampton appear to want the Mayoralty. He gave an example of when he was Mayor and the excitement when the Mayoral car parked up at an event. He felt the Mayoralty could expand to include Mayor's events at different venues, the museum or Forum cinema, for example.
- 100th birthday acknowledgements are expanding and this now comes under the remit of civic Mayors. During his Mayoral year, Councillor McCutcheon had four 100th birthdays. The Mayor's visit to hospitals on Christmas Day really cheers patients and staff up, especially on the Children's ward. During his Mayoralty year, Councillor McCutcheon had promoted and made use of the town's Museums.
- The Scrutiny Panel acknowledged the marketing of the Mayoralty via the website but felt this could be done more proactively such as leaflets at places such as the train station and libraries. The Mayoralty needs to be published more. Social media could be used more too.
- A Community Governance Review is now being undertaken by the Borough Council with a view to creating a new town council for Northampton. This review is looking at different Mayoralty models and would look to continue the tradition of the mayor and wider civic events and be the custodian of the civic regalia.

Councillor Tony Ansell, Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Larratt, Deputy Leader and George Candler, Chief Executive, and Councillor Arthur McCutcheon were thanked for their informative address.

6. SITE VISITS

The Chair presented the briefing note detailing the findings of the recent site visits. He advised that Morcea Walker, Co-Optee, had expressed the following view *“following the site visits to Raunds and Higham Ferrers, I am very keen for Northampton to find a way to secure its heritage and position in the new Unitary. We have over 800 years of very important history which needs to take pride of place as we move on. Centre of attention (in a positive way) is certainly what I would like to see as we progress”*

The Scrutiny Panel welcomed the findings from the site visits.

AGREED: That the information provided informs the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.

7. DESKTOP RESEARCH

The Scrutiny Panel received a report that detailed the findings from desktop research. The salient points were noted.

AGREED: That the information provided informs the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – NORTHAMPTON POST UNITARY

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review: Northampton Post Unitary

The purpose of the Review is

- To look at Northampton, (being mindful of the potential Unitary Authority), giving particular consideration to how civic pride and ceremonies can be preserved

CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. Please can you provide details of civic pride, events and ceremonies that currently or previously took place in Northampton for the Scrutiny Panel's consideration for inclusion of its formal list
2. How are Northampton's civic events and ceremonies marketed?
- 3 Please provide suggestions how you feel the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority.
- 4 **Question to internal witnesses:** What is role of Northampton Borough Council in civic events and ceremonies within the borough ?
- 5 **Question to external witnesses:** What is the role of partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough ?
- 6 In your opinion, how can all assets, including Museums and their contents, in the borough be preserved and secured?
- 7 Do you have any other information you are able to provide in relation to civic pride in Northampton



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2. How are Northampton's civic events and ceremonies marketed?

Need fuller promotion and marketing both within unitrees and in London

Need to make link with Surprise campaign – Excellence in Food and Drink in Northamptonshire is 2019 campaign

Enhance American connections with the shoe and leather industries

- 3 Please provide suggestions how you feel the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority.
- 4 **Question to internal witnesses:** What is role of Northampton Borough Council in civic events and ceremonies within the borough ?

Lead but could be considerably expanded and enhanced.

- 5 Question to external witnesses:** What is the role of partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough?

Chivalry – LL

NCF is very good

University is good and to be expanded

Education in the Borough should be celebrated

Musical education is extremely good and should be strongly featured (NMPAT)

- 6** In your opinion, how can all assets, including Museums and their contents, in the borough be preserved and secured?

There is a potential for excellence but it is not fully developed yet. If more development takes place, preservation, security and sustainability should be enhanced.

It is imperative that it is ensured that the Leather Museum is a firm feature and fully linked in as are the related City Liveries and Guilds. We need to 'seduce' these bodies to make a major investment, not just as partners but as co-owners. Similarly, links with the National Museum of Justice in Nottingham should be further explored and secured.

Northampton's key links to King John and the Magna Carta should be considerably expanded – and this is more than just visitor boards around the Castle. There are other events in history that should also be further developed such as the Danish invasions which led to considerable movement around the centre of Northampton. I am sure there are other areas where Northampton played a key role in our island and Commonwealth's history.

- 7** Do you have any other information you are able to provide in relation to civic pride in Northampton

Very happy to fit in on any panel to ensure any development post unitary.

Key dates for the Lieutenancy

End January – Royal Garden Party deadline

February – UN mid-year Graduations

28th March 2020 – Event for new Lord-Lieutenant with first ‘ceremony’ at NCC/NBC celebrating Northamptonshire’s links with the Lieutenancy

14th May 2019 – ‘Seasons’ Ballet with Birmingham Royal Ballet. The LL is sponsoring the event and gave artistic inspiration. Inaugural performance of what LL hopes will be annual cultural event – either ballet or opera

May – Mayoral elections

29th May – Oak Apple Day: Restoration of the Monarchy

End June – Armed Forces Day; typically last Saturday in June

End July – UN Graduations

3rd September – Merchant Navy Day

September – Lord-Lieutenant’s Lecture

25th October – St Crispin’s Day

November – Installation of ‘Recorder’; possibility of making County event + visit of High Court Judges and swearing in of new magistrates

11th November – Remembrance Service in Memorial Garden, with 2-minute silence at 11 am

Remembrance Sunday – 10 am service in All Saints Church, Northampton

High Sheriff

March – Induction of High Sheriff

October – High Sheriff’s Court Service

High Sheriff Lecture

University

Multi functions

OAK APPLE DAY – 29th May

Restoration Day, more commonly known as **Oak Apple Day** or **Royal Oak Day**, was an English public holiday, observed annually on 29 May, to commemorate the restoration of the English monarchy in May 1660.

In 1660, Parliament passed into law "An Act for a Perpetual Anniversary Thanksgiving on the Nine and Twentieth Day of May", declaring 29 May a public holiday "for keeping of a perpetual Anniversary, for a Day of Thanksgiving to God, for the great Blessing and Mercy he hath been graciously pleased to vouchsafe to the People of these Kingdoms, after their manifold and grievous Sufferings, in the Restoration of his Majesty..."

The public holiday was formally abolished in the Anniversary Days Observance Act 1859, but the date retains some significance in local or institutional customs. It is, for example, still observed as Founder's Day by the Royal Hospital Chelsea, which was founded by Charles II in 1681.

Events still take place to celebrate this day. At All Saints' Church, Northampton, a statue of Charles II is garlanded with oak leaves at noon every Oak Apple Day, followed by a celebration of the Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer.

MERCHANT NAVY DAY – 3rd September

Since 2000, Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September has honoured the men and women who kept our 'island nation' afloat during both World Wars and celebrated our dependence on modern day merchant seafarers who are responsible for 95% of the UK's imports, including half the food we eat.

The Red Ensign - the UK Merchant Navy's official flag - can be flown on 3rd September on civic buildings and landmark flagpoles across the UK. Parish, community, town, city, district and borough councils are all invited to take part, along with higher-tier local authorities and governments. In 2018, ceremonies took place in a number of locations in Northamptonshire including Northampton.

ST CRISPIN'S DAY – 25th October

County Day of Northamptonshire. It is the Feastday of St. Crispin who is the Patron Saint of Northamptonshire and also of Cobblers, Curriers, Tanners, and Leather Workers.

In 2018, it was celebrated with a Choral Evensong in All Saints, Northampton, in the presence of the Lord-Lieutenant and the Master of Leathersellers' Company of the City of London.

REMEMBRANCE DAY – 11th November

Service in Memorial Gardens, Northampton, during which hold two minutes silence at 11 am. Remembrance Sunday service is held in All Saints, Northampton at 10 am.



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CORE QUESTIONS:

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1. Please can you provide details of civic pride, events and ceremonies that currently or previously took place in Northampton for the Scrutiny Panel's consideration for inclusion of its formal list

Northampton is the established venue for **The High Sheriff of Northamptonshire's Courts Service**, a high profile ceremonial occasion which can be traced back centuries.

This annual church service at All Saints' Church, Northampton is a significant civic occasion which, among other things:-

- Recognises and celebrates publicly the vital work of all those involved in the administration of Justice (including the enforcement of law and order) in the County.
- Offers an opportunity for the High Sheriff (on behalf of the Sovereign) and those representing the communities of the Borough and the County to express their gratitude for this work.
- Provides an occasion when those involved in the administration of Justice) can reflect on and recommit themselves to their purpose, with the support of the communities they represent.
- Offers a unique occasion for all the agencies involved in the administration of justice to connect and converse (network) with each other and with those who represent the communities of the Borough and County.

- Enables the Borough and the County to provide hospitality to distinguished visitors (including senior Judges and High Sheriffs of other counties) and present Northampton and Northamptonshire's credentials in a highly favourable way.
- Represents the historical convention of a church service provided for a visiting High Court Judge, which would herald the opening of the Assizes.
- Supports (through gifting) a relevant charity or charities operating in the County

The event will be commonly attended by, amongst others:

- High Court/Court of Appeal/Supreme Court Judges
- Locally sitting Judges: Circuit and District Judges
- Magistrates
- HM Coroner
- The Chief Constable
- Members of the Bar
- Solicitors
- Other legal professionals
- Senior clergy (all denominations), including the Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese, Bishops and the Dean of Peterborough Cathedral

Guests include:

- o HM Lord-Lieutenant,
- o The Mayor and Councillors of the Borough
- o Deputy Lieutenants of the County and visiting High Sheriffs of other counties
- o Representatives of County, District and other local authorities of the County
- o Representatives of other agencies within the Justice system (eg Probation Service, Victim Support etc)
- o Representatives of other agencies in the county (eg Chief Fire Officer)

2. How are Northampton's civic events and ceremonies marketed?

The event is principally by invitation (not marketed)

3 Please provide suggestions how you feel the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority.

The 'suite' of heritage buildings comprising the Guildhall, the Judges Lodgings, the Sessions House and All Saints' Church, their configuration and their relationship to each other provides a unique and unrivalled context for hosting the historically significant Courts Service. Their preservation has significant value for both pride and history of the Borough and County.

- 4 **Question to internal witnesses:** What is role of Northampton Borough Council in civic events and ceremonies within the borough?
- 5 **Question to external witnesses:** What is the role of partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough?

The High Sheriff's Courts Service is held with the kind permission of the Mayor of Northampton (it is included as a Borough event for public liability insurance purposes) and the Borough has conventionally offered facilities at the Guildhall for the Reception which has traditionally followed the Service. For its part, the County Council has conventionally offered the facilities of the Judges Lodgings/Sessions House and has supported the occasion with the requisite Road Closure. All Saints Church provides the venue for the Service and the Northampton & County Club on George Row is commonly the venue for an invitation dinner which follows the Reception at the Guildhall. Northamptonshire Police assists with managing the road closure for the Processions (from Guildhall to Lodgings to Church and back).

- 6 In your opinion, how can all assets, including Museums and their contents, in the borough be preserved and secured?
- 7 Do you have any other information you are able to provide in relation to civic pride in Northampton

The High Sheriff (variously with the assistance of the Under Sheriff) arranges other events in Northampton during a Shrieval year (from April to March). These will include:

- The High Sheriff Declaration ceremony (usually held in Open Court at the Combined Courts Centre, Lady's Lane)
- Hospitality events arranged by the High Sheriff for those involved in the civic and charity life of the county (invitation receptions and dinners)
- Lectures arranged in conjunction with the University of Northampton (by invitation)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – NORTHAMPTON POST UNITARY

Reply from Phil Ager (Chairman) & Terry Sibley (Archivist), Freemen of Northampton Trustees:-

CORE QUESTIONS:

1. Please can you provide details of civic pride, events and ceremonies that currently or previously took place in Northampton for the Scrutiny Panel's consideration for inclusion of its formal list

The Trustees of the Freemen of Northampton attend all Mayoral civic engagements within the borough, specifically Mayor Making, Mayoral Charity Sunday, Arms Services, Oak Apple Day, Crown Court Service and Remembrance Sunday. The Freemen provide the Sword Bearer for all Civic processions and when required the Mace Bearer.

2. How are Northampton's civic events and ceremonies marketed?

Make more use of IT Media and networking with kindred organizations such as Chamber of Trade, Rotary, Youth Organisations, Theatre, English Heritage, National Trust, etc.

3. Please provide suggestions how you feel the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority.

Keep the Mayoralty and civic functions and ceremonies. Encourage the general public of Northampton and beyond by greater publicity and networking as previously outlined to attend these historic occasions. By using the jewel of Northampton ie the historic Guildhall, as a focal point for visitors to attend and processions to start and finish from. Thus enhancing the public's perception and pride in the town and further enhancing the role of the new Unitary Authority within this structure.

The Borough of Northampton was created by Royal Charter and hence will continue to exist even after the Borough Council is dissolved.

All Civic Regalia to be retained for use in Civic and Mayoral functions as the Borough of Northampton will continue to exist as will its heritage, even if the Borough Council does not.

- 4 **Question to internal witnesses:** What is role of Northampton Borough Council in civic events and ceremonies within the borough ?
All councillors to attend all civic ceremonies without prejudice. Thus enhancing the historic role and pageantry of Mayor events and hopefully by so doing create deeper pride in the town of Northampton and the council.
- 5 **Question to external witnesses:** What is the role of partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough ?
The collective role of all partners in civic events and ceremonies within the Borough is to enhance, publicise and support Northampton in all aspects of the civic events and thus encouraging tourism and commerce into Northampton for the greater good.
- 6 In your opinion, how can all assets, including Museums and their contents, in the borough be preserved and secured?
By publicity.
- 7 Do you have any other information you are able to provide in relation to civic pride in Northampton
Share more information regarding the functions and history and make it more available to the general public by publicity. Make the Horrible History of Northampton displayed last August in the Grosvenor Centre a permanent display.



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SCRUTINY PANEL 3 -

NORTHAMPTON POST UNITARY

29 NOVEMBER 2018

RESPONSE TO THE CORE QUESTIONS: ROTARY CLUB OF NORTHAMPTON

“On behalf of the Rotary Club of Northampton I would like to refer to our long association with the Mayors Fund for the Housebound.

We have supported the Mayors Fund since it’s inception and wish it to continue in its existing format supporting Northamptonians within the existing Borough boundaries.

Our Club hopes that the Northampton Mayoralty will continue in the future. Historically Northampton has been the major county town and the centre of our County.

Our Northampton Rotary Club Secretary and Mayors Fund Deputy Treasurer Rotarian Jackie Brame , Rotarian Lynda Tomlinson (Mayor’s Fund Secretary) and Rotarian Philip Saunderson will attend the planned meeting on the 29th November at 6:00pm as we wish to participate fully in the Scrutiny's Panel’s enquires. “

Jackie Brame

Secretary Rotary Club of Northampton