

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 1**

#### **Question to Cllr Hallam from Mr Miller**

I understand that replacement bins will soon be delivered to homes across Northampton to support the new recycling contract. Could the Councillor please confirm what arrangements have been made to efficiently dispose of the recycling crates from the previous contract?"

#### ***Response***

Householders of properties in the town that are going to be provided with a new wheel bin for their recycling, will be given the choice of keeping their recycling boxes for their private use or having them collected. Arrangements for the collection of unwanted boxes will be communicated in due course.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 2**

#### **Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Stone**

When will there be an estimate of the total revenue budget requirement for a West Northants authority and what the total revenue deficit is likely to be?

#### ***Response***

As Councillors are aware, on the agenda this evening is a Council paper on Local Government reorganisation in Northamptonshire and you will note within that is a request to create a budget of £100,000 to be used for the future work that will be required both in terms of developing the proposal and the consultation that will need to be undertaken but also future work as the project progresses over the next 18 months.

In terms of what the total revenue budget requirements will be for a West Northants authority and what the total revenue deficit is likely to be, this is too early to say at this stage. In terms of how any deficit will be managed, this will be part of the overall proposal that will be coming to this Council at the end of August for approval before being sent to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Councillor Nunn  
**Leader of the Council**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 3**

#### **Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Stone**

We have at last an independent Audit chair. When will there be an audit meeting?

#### ***Response***

The next scheduled meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting dates and other meeting information are available on the website:

<http://www.northamptonboroughcouncil.com/councillors/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=529>

Councillor Nunn  
**Leader of the Council**

## Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Question 4

#### Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Stone

Shops in the town and in the town centre continue to close. Why? When will we have a strategy to support small businesses and retailers?

#### *Response*

This part of a nationwide trend, and it is widely recognised that Town Centres are no longer the only option for shopping and trade. Whereas in previous times all shops and most businesses were located in the Town Centre, and Northampton had a busy town centre including a cattle market that brought the outlying farming community into town, businesses now locate out of town. This is the case in many towns and not just in Northampton, but in line with the nationwide move towards out of town shopping and online shopping, Northampton's out of town shopping locations are busy and thriving, and many Northampton businesses are also successfully trading online.

Under this administration, the council has pursued a strategy of supporting small businesses and retailers, including through its business incentive grant programme. During the past three or so years, this scheme has provided grants to small businesses, particularly those occupying otherwise empty units, to a total of over £6 million, enhancing the offer to shoppers and creating 695 jobs in the town, with a total of 144 businesses having received this support. Alongside the grants, businesses have received some business support advice and been directed to other sources of support.

With the cost of rents and business rates being outside of the council's direct influence, the key priority is to strive to maximise the number of people visiting the town, and the council does this through promoting the town centre through various media including the Town Guide.

The council has also invested in Delapre Abbey, which is already bringing people to Northampton who might not otherwise have visited, is supporting the National Leather Collection to promote itself and increase its accessibility to the public, is working to make the new-look museum as good as it possibly can be when it re-opens, and continues support for the Royal & Derngate theatres. All of these provide reasons for visitors to come to Northampton, given that they often prefer to shop elsewhere.

9,000 residents told us that as a priority they wanted to see the town cleaner, to make it more attractive to visit, and so today marks the start of a much improved service through a far greater investment in environmental maintenance, supported by the Environmental Enforcement contract that has been successfully reducing littering for some months now.

The administration believes that the Greyfriars site must deliver something that will have maximum positive impact on the town, and that we must look more holistically at that whole area, but that we cannot make decisions on what that is until we have a complete understanding of future traffic movements in that area and across the town centre, and so work is underway to give us that clearer understanding.

Through our work with the Business Improvement District we are supporting them in their promotion of the town's shops and businesses, and the events that they run to attract visitors, and this activity, as well as work with other partners, saw Northampton achieve the Purple Flag Award very recently.

Finally, a key priority for our recruitment of our new Chief Executive has been successfully achieved in employing someone with proven capability in driving forward the town and the town centre offer. He is also supported by a strong team in this area.

Councillor Nunn  
**Leader of the Council**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 5**

#### **Question to Cllr Hill from Cllr Birch:**

Will there be a review of the Boroughs new parking fee strategy? How is it going?

#### ***Response***

There are no immediate plans to review the parking strategy but the Council will review all its Service areas as part of its annual budget management process. Throughout the year, parking performance will be monitored and reported.

The Council has figures for April (part month) and are currently collating May's figures. The Council will review the parking figures on a quarterly basis and report these to Cabinet.

Councillor Phil Larratt  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 6**

#### **Question to Cllr Larratt from Cllr Birch:**

The trial of Caseworker seems to have stalled, the Electoral register has not been loaded. Are we paying for a service? Will there be further training?

#### ***Response***

Unfortunately there has been an issue with ward data. While the electronically held list of all electors was provided on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, a secondary file to link the polling districts to the correct wards had not been provided. Our Data Protection Officer sent this missing file on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Individual licences have been budgeted for and are paid for annually.

There are still 6 Councillors who have not had the full training on Caseworker. This is rescheduled for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 4pm. Any Councillor who requires additional or refresher training, including setting up the forwarding rule from their outlook account, can attend between 6pm and 8pm on that evening.

Councillor Phil Larratt  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 7**

#### **Question to Cllr Larratt from Cllr Birch:**

We hear very little about the town's sports clubs these days. What involvement does the Borough have with the clubs?

#### ***Response***

This Council recognises and values the benefit major sports clubs bring to the town. It also recognises the benefits to the community of local sports clubs. We regularly liaise with our major sports clubs in order to maintain a good relationship with them, although matters pertaining to Sixfields are dealt with by others.

This year we are supporting Fernie Fields Sports Club through capital investment. This was approved by the Council in the budget process. The purpose of this investment is to ensure that the facilities of the Club meet the new standards of the Football League in order that teams such as Sileby Rangers can continue to play in senior leagues. Fernie Fields is owned by this Council so we are investing in our own asset.

With the Interim Head of Regeneration and assets, I recently met with a representative of Thorplands 81. We are seeking to establish a long lease on some sports pitches near Round Spinney for the Club that has many children and young people's football teams. This lease of a minimum of 25 years will enable the Club to attract external funding to develop a permanent base with appropriate facilities, that will also serve the community.

We remain open to working with any Sports Clubs in the Borough where it is considered we can be of assistance.

Councillor Phil Larratt  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**



## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 8**

#### **Question to Cllr King from Cllr Duffy**

How is the impact of our community safety team measured and who evaluates the effectiveness of the community safety partnership?

#### ***Response***

The Community Safety Partnership has a statutory duty to produce a strategy each year, detailing how partners are going to work together to reduce crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour. Northampton's Plan can be viewed at <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/10006/ncsp-2017---2020> Sitting underneath this strategy is an action plan, setting out what NBC and its partners are going to do to ensure the strategy is implemented.

The CSP Officers group meet bi-monthly, the action plans are the key focus for the group, they detail various projects, some examples include; knife crime project, weeks of action, taxi-marshalling scheme and our nights out campaign, all of these examples, are projects being led by our Community Safety & Engagement Team.

An annual overview of the work of the CSP is presented to the overview and scrutiny committee by the Chair. .

Councillor King

**Cabinet member for Community Safety & Community Engagement**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 9**

#### **Question to Cllr King from Cllr Duffy**

Please can we have the last 6 months figures and trends for serious acquisitive crime, vehicle crime, domestic abuse, sex related offenses? (Can these be broken down by wards)

#### ***Response***

<https://www.police.uk/search/?next=policing%3Aforce%3Aneighbourhood%3Acrime%3Aindex>

The above link takes you to a national website, where you can search crime stats by postcode, crime type, ward and year.

Councillor King

**Cabinet member for Community Safety & Community Engagement**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 10**

#### **Question to Cllr King from Cllr Duffy**

Is there an issue with Country Lines- involving child exploitation, in this town?

#### ***Response***

Serious Organised Crime, including Child Sexual Exploitation is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. NBC are working with the Police and other partners including NCC, Free to Talk, Police Crime Commissioners Office and the youth offending service to raise awareness and support potential victims and also tackle the offenders. Some examples of the work we have been doing include:

- Established a case management meeting, chaired by the Community Safety & Engagement Manager, for cuckooing
- Delivered an educational session at the Deco, with partners to over 500 students (11 schools) re grooming and child sexual exploitation
- Working with Free2Talk on developing a funding application to the Home Office for early intervention to work with those on the periphery of being groomed into gangs

Councillor King

**Cabinet member for Community Safety & Community Engagement**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 11**

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

The town continues to be filthy and people in the town are really angry about it. How much has been spent since January on cleaning up?

#### ***Response***

The cost of our environmental services contract January – April is approximately £2.5m. Our enforcement contract is cost neutral in that it is funded from the revenue it generates.

As you know, our new contract went live today and I am optimistic that it will quickly bring significant improvements to the overall cleanliness and maintenance of the town. Also, in January I put in place a really effective enforcement contract which is clamping down on those who choose to drop litter – over 4000 FPNs have been issued to date. I am currently considering how to further escalate enforcement activity to ensure ongoing improvement.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 12**

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

When will the big clean up costing £2million pounds begin?

#### ***Response***

The new contract started today. There will be a period of intense activity over the next three months aimed at significantly raising standards of cleanliness and maintenance in the town.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 13**

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

Shisha bars continue to operate while breaking the conditions of their planning agreements. They have smoking areas that are completely covered in, often using combustible material. Why?

#### ***Response***

The matters you raise are potentially serious. Please provide me with specific details of each of the Shisha Bars you are referring to so that I can have them investigated.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Question 14

#### Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Ashraf

Everything seems to have gone quiet about the Social Lettings Agency. Can we have an update please?

#### **Response**

Establishing a successful and sustainable social lettings agency remains one of my top priorities as the Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing. Along with effective housing enforcement, it is the best way to fix Northampton's broken private rented housing market.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to recruit an Empty Homes Officer and, because of the sharp rise in the number of households in temporary accommodation, we have had to devote most of the social lettings agency's staff and resources to the management and letting of Northampton's portfolio of temporary accommodation.

Although this has been extremely frustrating, the extra focus the social lettings agency has given to temporary accommodation has enabled the Council to procure a large stock of self-contained temporary accommodation in Northampton, reduce its use of Bed & Breakfast and out-of-borough accommodation and, through effective negotiations with housing suppliers, secure significant reductions in the prices it pays for nightly-purchased accommodation.

To date, private landlords and investors who are offering good quality accommodation have been very resistant to the social lettings agency's request for them to charge sub-market rents because they know that, with such high demand, they will always achieve the market rent. Many tell us that they are able to secure a much better return from letting their properties to other local authorities, including those in London.

The Head of Housing & Wellbeing has recently approved a number of changes to the operating model of the social lettings agency (including the rents that will be paid for accommodation that is managed or leased by the Council) with the intention of making the social lettings agency's 'offer' more attractive to landlords without compromising its ability to provide residents with access to good quality private rented housing at sub-market rents.

I am aware that you are meeting with the Head of Housing & Wellbeing later this week and I know that he will be happy to brief you further, and answer any questions, when you meet.

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

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 15**

#### **Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Ashraf**

When will we know the result of the work done by Loughborough University on HIMO's in Northampton?

#### ***Response***

We envisage that the final report will be published on the Council's website early in July, and the existing policy reviewed after that.

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



## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 16**

#### **Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr McCutcheon**

This authority is suffering from staffing issues in two important departments in your portfolio. I refer to asset management and to planning and regeneration. Why does this continue to be a problem and what are you doing about it?

#### ***Response***

The asset management and regeneration teams have indeed faced some staffing issues, but despite this they are driving forward on some significant regeneration and property related projects. We have recently appointed an additional surveyor on the asset management side, and we are reviewing the whole structure to see if further changes need to be made in advance of the move to unitary status. In terms of the planning service, it regularly reviews its use of resources in light of changing demand and income. Officers are currently analysing the most recent annual figures relating to the volume of applications received, performance and progress on producing statutory policy documents, and, if necessary, will look to re-assign staff resources to meet priority areas, and consider bidding for additional resource to ensure that the current level of services are maintained, and that the delivery of strategic planning documents are not delayed

Councillor Tim Hadland

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

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 17**

#### **Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr T Eales**

When will Cabinet and full council receive a full report on treasury management, Capital requirements and borrowing. What is the predicted revenue position for this year?

#### ***Response***

Full Council received and approved the 2018/19 Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Budget, Revenue Budget and Housing Revenue Account Budgets at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This includes the revenue position for 2018/19, two months into the financial year, we anticipate the outturn being on budget.

<http://www.northamptonboroughcouncil.com/Budgets 2018-19>

Councillor Brandon Eldred  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 18**

#### **Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr T Eales**

When will the budget for 2016/17 be signed off?

#### ***Response***

As reported previously to Full Council, the budget for 2016/17 was signed off by Full Council on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Councillor Brandon Eldred  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 19**

#### **Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr T Eales**

What is the present staffing capacity in our finance teams? Do we have enough staff capacity to close down the 2017/18 budget efficiently?

#### ***Response***

NBC contracts with LGSS to provide our Finance Function, we are advised that there is sufficient capacity to close down our 2017/18 budget efficiently and a Budget Outturn Report will be presented to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Councillor Brandon Eldred  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 20**

#### **Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr Davenport**

Could you please advise me of any progress that has been made on the motion Cllr Haque and I put to Council concerning a deposit/refund scheme for recycling to reduce litter, as it has now been decided by Central Government to proceed with this type of initiative? With regards to littering, could you please advise me of any response you received from Veolia concerning my question to them asking how long it will take - from being reported - to collecting flytipping?

#### ***Response***

The deposit scheme being consulted on by the government, is to be a national scheme run by a single body made up of manufacturers and retailers and monitored by the government. The details of the scheme will be decided on as a result of the consultation, with set up costs for a scheme expected to be around £15million. Ongoing operating costs of a scheme would be met by a levy on producers.

The council will support any initiative to increase the amount of plastic, glass and metal containers that are recycled, in line with government recommendations.

Fly tipping will be removed within 2 working days of it being reported.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Question 21

#### Question to Cllr Hibbert from Cllr Davenport

I have increasing concerns as to what is happening with sheltered housing - reclassification. I have been made aware of one case of a young mum, with a small baby, being put in a sheltered housing bungalow even though there are no mobility issues; this takes away precious sheltered stock from the most vulnerable of society and the noise children undoubtedly generate, through no fault of their own, causes anxiety for residents within the environment.

Can we as Councillors please be updated as to what is happening in sheltered housing to ensure we all receive clarification on the requirements for this type of accommodation?

#### **Response**

On 7 September 2016, the Cabinet approved the rebranding of the Council's 'sheltered housing' as 'older persons' housing' and approved the reclassification of its stock of bungalows (previously classified as 'general needs housing') to 'older persons' housing' in order that all future lettings could be made to people who are either aged 55 or over or have a disability, require accessible housing and are under the age of 55.

At the same meeting, Cabinet approved 'in principle' the reclassification of up to 600 flats and bungalows from older persons' housing to 'general needs housing' and agreed that Northampton Partnership Homes would consult with the affected residents in order to establish their housing preferences and their current and future needs.

Since September 2016, Northampton Partnership has consulted with, and assessed, a total of 163 tenants and, to date, 31 moves have been completed. It has also re-designated, as 'older persons' housing', any general needs bungalows that have become empty.

Eleonore House has also been reconfigured and refurbished, the Council has secured tenancy nomination rights to a new Extra Care housing scheme in Upton and, as I have explained in previous reports, construction of Lakeview House (the Council's newest older persons' housing scheme, comprising 45 one-bedroom flats) is progressing well.

Northampton Partnership Homes has confirmed that, since the Cabinet decision in 2016, older persons' housing has only been let to people who are under the age of 55 if they have a disability and are able to demonstrate a need for accessible housing.

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

## Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Question 22

#### Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr Davenport

I am finding that the procedures in place for the application for funds accessing a DHP, which has always been strict, is tightening up even more due to funding being cut. Are we satisfied that people are not suffering unduly due to the cut in this funding?

#### **Response**

The service seeks to contain expenditure within the Government contribution where possible but use all the available money on the most vulnerable residents. The funding 2015-2017 increased, as a result of the impact of the Social Sector Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax) and Benefit Cap round 1 or round 2. The funding we have had available is as follows

2015 £316,083

2016 £399,599

2017 £545,641 + £14,000 NBC contribution

2018 £501,613

The service has met its remit spending almost all the Government contribution each year, however, the impact of the Benefit Cap really came into effect last year and the DHP payments exceeded the Government fund. NBC allocated a further £14,000 at the end of the year to support the higher demand.

As an administration we are keen to support our most vulnerable residents and will consider what additional funds might be made available later in the year from existing budgets.

Councillor Brandon Eldred  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 23**

#### **Question to Cllr Nunn from Cllr Beardsworth**

Last July you announced that the Council and Northampton BID were working on a Masterplan for regeneration of our Town Centre. With the planned closure of yet another major retailer in the town and continuing issues with air pollution and traffic clogging up major streets can he tell me when consultation on this Masterplan is likely to start?

#### ***Response***

Successive administrations have written a great many documents regarding the town centre. This administration has grasped the major key aspects that needed addressing, and is progressing them, as described in the answer to question 4. This involves working closely with the BID on the most urgent agreed priorities.

We have recently commissioned a Town Retail Study, which will provide much needed up to date evidence to underpin future strategy and assist in targeting potential town centre operators, particularly in areas where the offer is currently underdeveloped, and with the new Chief Executive and Economic Development team in place, we are now in a better position to bring forward a borough wide growth strategy and within it a Town Centre Strategy is important.

Overall, the re-invention of the town is not something that the council alone can solve, and we are also engaging with landlords, and with the relatively high number of organisations and developers that continue to enquire about all areas of the borough.

Councillor Nunn  
**Leader of the Council**



## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 24**

#### **Question to Cllr Hadland from Cllr Beardsworth**

In April you told us that it was not feasible to use Albion House as part of plans to increase parking around Derrnate Theatre and that converting the building for use as temporary accommodation for homeless people did not make financial sense.

Has any consideration been given to transferring the property to the Housing Revenue Account and conversion to apartments for people on our housing waiting list?

#### ***Response***

Our initial view was that converting the building for any sort of residential use would not be cost effective. However, the pressures on all forms of housing are such that we are re-visiting this along with considering other options.

Councillor Tim Hadland

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

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 25**

#### **Question to Cllr Eldred from Cllr B Markham**

Northamptonshire County Council recently released the audit report for 2017/18 . Given the issues this highlighted and the “minor” anomalies and questions about the 2016 /17 raised by this council's auditors is he concerned that 7 scheduled meetings of our Audit Committee have either been postponed or cancelled since May last year?

#### ***Response***

I agree that the continued highlighting of issues by the external auditor for NCC is of interest to NBC.

I acknowledge that having meetings postponed is inconvenient, and yes meetings cancelled or postponed is on the face of it a concern. The latter deferment is in fact one meeting postponed several times and with the knowledge of our external auditor. But I note that the Audit Committee did still meet in that period on seven occasions, so am not concerned that we have not held sufficient meetings.

Councillor Brandon Eldred  
**Cabinet Member for Finance**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 26**

#### **Question to Cllr Hallam from Cllr B Markham**

The Council started measuring Air Pollution levels around the Northgate Bus Station in March 2013 but stopped in Dec 2015. Measurements resumed in February 2017 at 4 locations split between Bradshaw Street and Sheep Street.

The Drapery is effectively an extension of the Bus Station with buses discharging their exhaust fumes and particulates into this important Town Centre Street.

Why is no Air Quality monitoring undertaken in the Drapery?

#### ***Response***

Air quality monitoring is carried out in locations selected to measure relevant exposure to air pollution in accordance with DEFRA technical guidance. The monitoring locations in Bradshaw Street and Sheep Street are in close proximity to residential properties which reflect exposure to traffic around the bus station. The monitoring locations were subject to further review in late 2017 and an additional monitoring location has been added in the vicinity of County Chambers in The Drapery to monitor exposure at this residential location.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

### Question 27

#### Question to Cllr Hallam from Mr Sawyer

Michael Gove the Environment Secretary published a Clean Air Strategy on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 stating that :-

“Air pollution is the fourth biggest threat to public health after cancer, obesity and heart disease and the new government strategy sets out how we will go further and faster than the EU in reducing human exposure to particulate matter pollution.”

Northampton Borough Council has submitted its ASR 2018 report to DEFRA showing the 2017 monthly diffusion tube monitoring results and the historical performance from 2013 to 2017.

The historical results show that in many of the major arterial roads leading to the town centre the “distance corrected” annual readings are still stubbornly above the 40m gram threshold.

The council’s policies to protect public health appear to be failing

Can the Portfolio holder advise the public

- when he expects to see a down turn in the current dangerously high readings?
- In respect of Location No 9 on the Harborough Road where the readings have been as follows what action is being taken to address the worst Air Pollution Health location in Northampton?

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
53.4	42.7	54.9	62.7	54.7

#### **Response**

As indicated by the air quality results quoted, levels can vary significantly year on year, due to a range of factors including weather conditions, changes in traffic profiles, roadworks etc. It is therefore not possible to give precise forecasts as to when air quality levels will improve. However, the aim of the air quality management actions working together with national air quality management initiatives is to secure a sustained reduction in air pollution levels across Northampton

The Northampton Low Emission Strategy outlines a range of actions to address exceedances of air quality standards. Progress with these actions is already being made. Policies limiting emissions from taxis and private hire vehicles were implemented in early May. Planning conditions and obligations are being imposed requiring air quality mitigation measures such as the provision of electric vehicle charging points in new developments. Dialogue is ongoing with partner agencies including the Highway authority, bus companies and road haulage operators to progress measures to reduce pollution from vehicles. In implementing these measures it is vital to take a joined up approach to ensure that solving a problem in one location does not result in creating pollution hotspots elsewhere.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

## **Question for Full Council Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### **Question 28**

#### **Question to Cllr Hallam from Mr Sawyer**

Last September, the Cabinet agreed to adopt a Town Centre wide Air Quality Management Area, a decision reinforced by the approval of the Low Emissions Strategy last December. Could you please provide a progress update on this and an estimated date for declaring that AQMA?

#### ***Response***

I can confirm that the necessary technical work required ahead of the formal declaration of an AQMA is being progressed. It is planned that the formal declaration will be made before the end of 2018.

Councillor Mike Hallam  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**