

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 3 - NORTHAMPTON POST UNITARY**

**Thursday, 14 June 2018**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Brian Sargeant (Chair), Councillors Aziz, Vicky Culbard, Sam Kilby-Shaw, Jamie Lane and Danielle Stone

**Officers** George Candler, Chief Executive  
Laurie Gould, Solicitor  
Marianne McCarthy, Solicitor  
Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed all those present to the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Panel.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joyce and Walker.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**4. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESS**

There were none.

**5. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW**

The Scrutiny Panel considered in depth, the draft scope for this Scrutiny Review, making updates and suggestions.

AGREED: That the scope of the Scrutiny Review is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 June 2018 for approval.

**6. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The background information was noted.



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

### SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – NORTHAMPTON POST UNITARY

#### 1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

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

#### Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding and overview of the civic pride, events and ceremonies (compiling a formal list) that currently take place within the Borough of Northampton
- To gain an understanding of how Northampton's civic events and ceremonies are marketed
- To understand the role of the Mayor of Northampton
- To understand the roles of both the previous Northampton Borough Council and other partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough
- To consider how the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority.

#### 2. Outcomes Required

- To recommend an action plan how civic pride, events and ceremonies can be protected.

#### 3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data (if applicable)
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses

- Site visits (if applicable)

#### 4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
  - Presentation to set the scene: a summary of the civic pride, events and ceremonies that currently take place within the Borough of Northampton and information; links with communities, role of the Mayor
  - Relevant Legislation, for example the Localism Act 2011
  - Statistics: including:
    - Number of Mayoralty events, civic ceremonies etc.
    - Supporting Charities (previous Mayor's)
- Best practice external to Northampton/Case Study examples
- Internal expert advisors:
  - The current Mayor of Northampton
  - Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council
  - Chief Executive
- External expert advisors:
  - Representative of the Northampton Rotary Club
  - Freeman of the Borough
  - Expert Historian
  - The Chairman, Committee, Mayor's Fund for the Housebound
  - Lord Lieutenant's Office
  - High Sheriff's Office
  - Previous Mayor of Northampton
  - Representative of All Saints Church, Thomas White, Blue and Orange School
  - Chair, NIFF
  - Town Clerk from a Town Council, such as Sutton Coldfield, Chester

#### 5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings

- Desktop research
- Site visits (if applicable)
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice/case studies
- Witness Evidence:-

➤ Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

## 6. Co-Options to the Review

Lee Mason, previous Mayor of Northampton, to be approached to be co-opted to the Review

Deputy Lieutenant to be approached to be co-opted to the Review

## 7. Community Impact Screening Assessment

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review

## 8. Evidence gathering Timetable

June 2018 – March 2019

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • 14 June 2018    | - Scoping meeting       |
| • 4 July          | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 20 September    | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 29 November     | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 7 February 2019 | - Evidence gathering    |
| • 25 March        | - Approval final report |

Various site visits will be programmed during this period, if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

## 9. Responsible Officers

Laurie Gould, Solicitor

Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

**10. Final report presented by:**

Completed by March 2019. Presented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

**11. Monitoring procedure:**

Review the impact of the report at the appropriate time.