



Cabinet Member Report for Planning, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 5th November 2018

Town Centre Operations

The two hour free parking figures for April – September period show 467,753 visitors taking advantage of the free parking in multi-storey car parks.
In the same period, Saturday visitor numbers in the Council's MSCP's were 156,018 and on Sunday's visitor numbers were 70,537.

The footfall figures in Abington Street and Market Square through April – September 2018 were 6,403,315.

Regeneration

Business Incentive Scheme

Businesses have been supported this financial year to date, leveraging over £170,000 private sector investment and creating 29 jobs

2 further applications are under consideration.

Vulcan Works

Archaeological investigations on the old Amalgamated Tyres site opposite Angel Square has now completed. Angel Square uncovered findings that caused delay to the project, therefore these works at Amalgamated Tyres were programmed ahead of construction to avoid delay- These works have completed ahead of schedule with no significant findings.

Tenders are being analysed by our Consultants and more information will be available before the Council meeting

Eleanor Cross

Specialist advisors have recommended a spring start for repair and conservation work to Northampton's Eleanor Cross.

During investigations carried out in the past few months, the expert team working on the project discovered that the primary issue of masonry movement has been caused by degraded iron cramps which are more than a century old.

In order to properly preserve the structure, it is likely that at least some of these will need to be replaced with stainless steel equivalents. All work will be carried out in line with Historic England's requirements.

The specialists brought in to assess the monument and commission the work have advised that, for the most durable results, all of the work should be carried out between April and September, when lime mortar has the best chance to cure properly.

As work is set to start within months, the team's structural engineer - a very experienced conservation specialist - has confirmed that no intermediate work is required over the winter, nor is any special protection required.

Four Waterside

Proposals for this site, with a mixed use development centred on a new office building are progressing, and a Planning Application is expected early in the New Year.

Rail Station multi-storey Car Park

There have been constructive meetings with Network Rail and the franchisee aiming to bring this forward as soon as possible, following the delays caused by the re-franchise process.

Central Museum Contract

The Main Contractor, Wild Goose has started on site with view to complete around October 2019. Exhibitions will be fitted out over the 2019 Christmas period and opening is expected in February 2020.

Capital and repair works

- Repairs and cleaning of the bus station roof structure and integrity testing fish sculpture.
- Serving of dilapidations notices on Enterprise Managed Services on premises they occupied.
- Security measures to empty Rectory Farmhouse.
- Ongoing clearance of watercourses in various locations to mitigate against future flooding.
- External redecoration of 9 community centres.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning