

CARRIED MOTIONS APRIL 2018

This Council notes the success of the night shelter in tackling rough sleeping in Northampton. We are aware that concerns remain with rough sleeping and hidden homelessness, and we are aware that women in this situation are particularly vulnerable. This Council therefore commits to: Successfully implementing “TOGETHER we change lives”, the borough’s 10-point multi-agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton; Exploring the options for establishing a permanent emergency nightshelter that has the capacity and facilities to provide men and women with shelter and support; Persuading local groups and services to do everything they can to help and encourage people to engage with local services and accept the help that they need in order to come off the streets and rebuild their lives; Considering the role that ‘Housing First’ can play in reducing rough sleeping in the borough; Working with partners to establish the true extent of hidden homelessness in Northampton and the way in which people with protected characteristics, physical and mental disability, addiction, forensic history and immigration are affected by hidden homelessness; and Ensuring that everyone who is homeless is provided with a personal housing plan, and that the homelessness service is a two-way process with service users fully consulted and involved with the provision of the services they use.

Ongoing

There is national concern about keeping our communities safe and the concern is widespread in Northampton. We are seeing alarming rates of crime, with increases in violent crime, sexual crime, trafficking, vehicle thefts, burglary and drug related crime. We are particularly concerned that young children and young people are being exploited and sometimes also drawn into crime. We have a duty of care to our citizens and we must do all we can to keep them safe. This Council will therefore take the following actions: Continue to work with the Police to receive regular performance information from the Police that drives our activity, supports our multi-agency approach and enables this Council to have a good understanding of the crime and anti-social behaviour issues in the town. Actively contribute to and support the Community Safety Partnership, which includes the Police and Police Crime Commissioner’s Office, and the three –year community safety strategy, including the following identified priorities: Reduce Crime; Reduce ASB and Hate Crime; Support Vulnerable People; Build Stronger and Resilient Communities; Safety in the Night-Time Economy. The full strategy can be found at <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/10006/ncsp-2017---2020>. Support the Government and the Home Secretary in delivering the new Serious Violence Strategy, including improving policing and visible policing, to break the deadly cycle of violence that devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities.

Completed

Northampton Borough Council calls for the continued support of our local market and market traders. Consequently, this Council is proud that our market participates in the Love Your Local Market campaign organised by the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA). Love Your Local Market is an international initiative and the UK’s largest annual celebration to promote retail and wholesale markets across the country. To coincide with this year’s initiative, and together with the Northampton Town Centre BID, the Council is organising workshops, street entertainment and other activities. This Council is delighted to be able to contribute to celebrating our town’s history, innovation, experience, entrepreneurship, food and culture in a festival of market activities and events running from 17th to 31st May, and urges the public to support these events and our towns market offer.

Completed

Northampton Borough Council welcomes the Government’s Serious Violence Strategy launched this week by the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd. The strategy stresses the importance of early intervention to tackle the root causes of serious violence and steer young people away from crime in the first place, while ensuring the police continue to have the tools and support they need to tackle violent crime. This Council has recognised the great importance of engaging with our young people early to help prevent them from being drawn into crime. This motion, therefore, calls for support of this Council’s collaborative work with the Police, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Youth Offending Service, University and Free to Talk in developing a training and awareness package that will be offered to schools, during our school’s event in October, youth clubs and youth groups. The package will include a video, drama production and training, as well as educational awareness packs.

Completed

<p>Cuckooing' is where gangs travel to towns and befriend vulnerable people in order to take over their home and use it to deal drugs. Northampton Borough Council recognised the seriousness of this problem and has so far, through its Case Management Meetings for Cuckooing, arranged two training sessions for 40 frontline officers across NBC, Adult Social Care, Probation and the Police. Further two sessions have also been fully booked, which will train additional 40 officers. This Council, working closely with the Police, calls on the public to help tackle the increasing problem of 'cuckooing' by looking for signs that their neighbours and friends are being abused. These can include the householder having new associates and increased visitors throughout the day and night, an increased number of vehicles outside the property including taxis or hire cars and bags of clothing or bedding around their property or other signs that people may be staying at the address. The support of the community is crucial for pursuing 'cuckooing' drug dealers and those who choose to engage themselves in the illegal supply of drugs and associated antisocial behaviour</p>	Completed
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CARRIED MOTIONS JUNE 2018	
<p>The letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government regarding submission for unitary authorities stated that they wanted "locally led proposals for establishing unitary authorities across the county which will be right for communities and people they serve. This Council acknowledges these requirements and will try and fulfil them on behalf of the residents in the Borough of Northampton. It is essential that Residents participate in the formal, county-wide consultation, because this will ensure that their views are taken into account, and this council will encourage them to do that. To achieve this end the Council commits to undertake consultation with local residents to explain the changes that are being proposed and to seek resident's views on the key issues and requirements of a new unitary council to serve Northampton residents. This is the most important decision regarding local government reorganisation since 1974 and all Councillor should make their best effort to help with the consultation so that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Governments call for proposals is delivered.</p>	Completed
<p>Obesity in Childhood is a growing problem. There are many causes of obesity. One is an issue that can be addressed by planning conditions. Tower Hamlets and other Local Authorities are leading the way by not allowing fast food outlets within a 400 metre radius of schools. Some authorities are additionally providing healthy food awards for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices. This council therefore commits to proposing, through the local plan process, a policy that there will be no new fast food outlets that fall within a 400 metre radius of schools. We will additionally consider creating a healthy food award for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices.</p>	Ongoing

CARRIED MOTIONS JULY 2018	
<p>"Whatever the boundaries of the new Unitary Councils, for Northamptonshire, those councils will take on responsibility for the care of older people in our community, from 2020. A recent study estimated that 35% of inpatients in local hospitals were there simply waiting for suitable after care to be available (so called Bed Blocking). This council asks scrutiny, working with NCC scrutiny and partners, particularly health service partners, to carry out investigation into Adult Social Care facilities in the area to identify future demand patterns, in order that the new Unitary Council is able to better plan for the needs of older people in the future".</p>	Ongoing

<p>“Our town is famous for the boot and shoe industry and for leather works. The Central Museum hosts our famous shoe collection and the town has in trust the National Leather Collection, currently located in the Grosvenor Centre. We note recent announcements of retail and other High Street closures and the Northampton Chronicle’s current Town Centre campaign. We know as a council that we need to support the regeneration of our town, increase footfall and to stimulate tourism. Leather goods manufacturers and our world renowned shoe makers can play a key role in this. his council therefore resolves to: Invite interest from shoe manufacturers and leather goods producers around the county and possibly beyond to be included in a retail shoe and leather goods outlet in Northampton Town Centre. This plan could see the development of one of the vacant sites in the middle of town become a show case for the sale of shoes and leather goods from our world class manufacturers. The vision being that the demand for our high quality shoes & leather goods, will contribute to making Northampton Town Centre an attraction for visitors into the town. This will aid regeneration and increase footfall. To make this offer work and make it viable for the businesses concerned, this council will work with them and make whatever concessionary offers are within its gift for a defined period and play an active role in the delivery of what will be a mutual heritage and commercial concern. This council will seek to include the BID and the University of Northampton in playing an active role in this initiative</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>“There are four community libraries in the town that are under threat of closure. This council recognises the value of libraries as community hubs. This council, therefore, resolves to work with the friends of the libraries to facilitate the libraries remain open for community use.”</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>“This motion calls for the Council to continue to a commitment to support mental health awareness and support to the Government’s Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health. The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across local authorities, the NHS, public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations and others. This Council is proud to actively support the campaign to make Northampton a ‘happy town’, including the launch of Northampton’s first ‘Happy Café’ in June. ‘Happy Cafés’ are being set up by supporters of the Action for Happiness movement in local communities, as a friendly and welcoming place to meet others with a shared interest in promoting happiness and well-being. As well as the ‘Happy Café’ launch, there was also be a celebration of the publication of ‘50 Ways to Feel Happy’, a new illustrated children’s book which helps children build skills and develop healthy habits for their daily lives, promoting resilience, well-being, self-confidence and emotional stability. This motion calls on the Council to further promote a prevention-focused approach to improving the public’s mental health , including supporting community based initiatives, for example, community choirs and health walks, which makes a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society”.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>CARRIED MOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2018</p>	
<p>This Council notes that graffiti is an unwelcome sight in most towns and cities across the country. A town is often judged by how it responds to graffiti, particularly that of a racist or offensive nature. Council notes that there has previously been a robust informal policy and stance adopted regarding this, but now resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Adopt a formal policy for the removal of graffiti in a quality manor, free of charge on private property where the appropriate permission has been provided in writing by the property owner; b) Prioritize and immediately tackle instances of racist or offensive graffiti; c) Continue the commitment to do all it can to remove graffiti in the town, including working closely with the police across the borough, Northampton Town Centre BID, Network Rail, and owners of other affected properties, to try and catch offenders; d) Relaunch the “name the tag” campaign and actively promote it within the Youth Forum and youth groups across the town; e) Urge people to report offenders and the location of graffiti on both public and private property when they see it, so it can be removed. 	<p>Completed</p>

<p>“This Council recognises the concerns of residents and Parish Councils in areas where management companies are responsible for open space and other amenities. Council resolves to support residents and Parish Councils in resolving their concerns. This Council also resolves to make it clear that, it too, has significant concerns regarding the establishment of management companies to manage open space and other facilities on new housing developments in the borough of Northampton, rather than them being formally adopted. While resisting management companies, this Council will encourage developers to consider all the alternatives available for managing the facilities on new developments in the borough and Northampton growth area, including seeking for developments to be adopted with sufficient resources to ensure that the maintenance of these pieces of land is fully funded”</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>“This Council notes the Government’s aims in encouraging a modal shift of freight from road to rail, which is a key aspect of its transport policy, and recognise that with effective implementation this modal shift can result in a reduction of carbon emissions, shorter and more efficient journeys, and fewer road casualties. This Council further notes that the delivery of a national network of Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges (SRFIs) forms a key part of recognising this aim, and the criteria for these are set out in the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy Guidance documents. This Council also notes that the NPSNN is clear that there is a need for an expanded network of large SRFIs across the regions to accommodate the long-term growth in rail freight, and that new rail freight interchanges, especially in areas poorly served by such facilities at present, are likely to attract substantial business, generally new to rail. However, the NPSNN also states that existing operational SRFIs and other intermodal RFIs are situated predominantly in the Midlands and the North, and that SRFI capacity needs to be provided at a wide range of locations, to provide the flexibility needed to match the changing demands of the market. This Council believes that, as there is already around 39m sq. ft of SRFI-related warehousing either under construction or being proposed in the East Midlands alone, not including the existing SRFI warehousing capacity already present nor other SRFIs in the wider Midlands region, it is unclear whether the proposed local developments, Rail Central and Northampton Gateway, are compliant with the NPSNN. This Council, therefore, resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask for an urgent review of the NPSNN, and all other associated policy guidance, to ensure that SRFI capacity is deployed as a national network across the country, rather than being built in areas where developers have pre-existing land options”.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

CARRIED MOTIONS NOVEMBER 2018	
<p>The Council recognises that in 18 months’ time that responsibility for the regeneration of Northampton Town Centre will pass to the newly formed Unitary Authority. The Council also recognises that delays implementing regeneration projects in Northampton may occur if the new authority does not have a clear understanding of the stakeholders’ vision for Northampton. Building on the good work of the Business Improvement District and its recent consultation, as well as the work of others, this council agrees to set up a cross party working group, working with a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties to produce a “Peoples Plan for Northampton” to enable the new Unitary Council to prioritise projects in its first year. This Council requests that the working group produces its report by September 2019.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>The council notes that in spite of the fact that two firms of consultants have been appointed to produce a development scheme without success, the site of the former Greyfriars Bus Station has stood empty since March 2015 and adds to the sense of decline in Northampton Town Centre. The council notes the appointment of a new consultant to produce a development scheme and calls on the administration to ask this consultant to draw up options for the site to be brought into a temporary use as a matter of urgency for the publics benefit. While accepting that this is an interim measure pending the long-term development of the Greyfriars site, whatever happens in the short term must not be to the detriment of a long term permanent development.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>The technological advancements of recent decades have much in common with the effects of the Industrial Revolution in the latter part of the 18th century. Specifically, both movements accelerated the displacement of workers by machines that could perform tasks faster, more accurately and 24/7. While technology enables business owners to reduce overhead by downsizing their workforce, individuals whose skill sets are now obsolete have limited options for employment if their current jobs are eliminated. Given that Northampton has a large proportion of warehousing and transport as its employment base, both of which face the introduction of new technology and automation in the near and medium future, this equates to at least 37% of workers in fear of their job.</p> <p>Working in partnership with other appropriate bodies such as local colleges, the University of Northampton, and relevant industry training bodies and organisations, the council will start to prepare and identify the finances to allow for upskilling of workers. The partnership will assist with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training through employers and other agencies • Planning for the future to deal with the implications of new technology as it is introduced. • Organising a Symposium on the future of employment and the local economy with the university and employers. 	<p>Not Started</p>
<p>We note with concern the effects of holding commercial events on our town parks resulting in damage to the grass and terrain. The damage to the parkland is taking months to repair and meanwhile our residents are not able to enjoy the full use of these public open spaces. This Council resolves to introduce a legally binding contract with commercial hirers, including fairs, to ensure the full restoration of the site and land impacted upon by the event, at the expense of the hirer, requiring a deposit to cover the likely cost of this work should it be deemed necessary. Council also resolves to liaise through Park Management Committee's regarding events in individual parks. As we move towards Unitary status parishes may wish to take on the responsibility of their parks and these issues need to be regularised.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Northampton Borough Council resolves to join with the Government in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance guidelines on antisemitism which define antisemitism thus: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities." This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Acknowledge the importance of tackling anti-Semitism in all its forms, to support the growing Jewish community in our town and across the county. 2) Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism in all its manifestations 3) Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism. 4) Asks the Executive to look to adopt similarly agreed definitions to confront and challenge all forms of racism and discrimination that exist within our society. 	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>There is an increasing number of reports received by Northampton Borough Council (NBC) regarding abandoned shopping trolleys. These are often abandoned in roads, on walkways and in parks, where they have the potential to cause accidents and are an eye sore within the community. Although many of local supermarkets try to take effective action to prevent the abandonment of shopping trolleys, it is too often the case that they do not act quickly enough on reports received. This Council, therefore, resolves to investigate whether it ought to use legal powers available to it to more effectively tackle the problem by charging supermarkets a fee for each trolley collected by NBC. This set charge would be solely to recover the cost of collecting a shopping trolley that is found by an NBC authorised officer on 'any land in the open air' (including watercourses), and that appears to them to be abandoned. The Council would have to comply with certain statutory procedures in order to set up such a scheme, including a requirement to consult with supermarkets and other shops which offer the use of shopping trolleys to the public. This Council notes that officers will commence the necessary preparatory work with a view to preparing a report for the Executive so that it may make a decision as to whether or not to introduce such a charge throughout the entire Borough and, if so, what amount that charge should be set at. Abandoned trollies are a real nuisance and NBC is hoping that if such a scheme is created, rather than paying fees, supermarkets will take more responsibility for collecting their trolleys and, consequently, help reduce the number of such incidents.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>There has been a growing understanding of the positive impact that taking part in the arts can have on health and wellbeing. By supplementing medicine and care, the arts can improve the health of people who experience mental or physical health problems. The arts can improve healthcare environments and benefit staff retention and professional development. There are many case studies and a wealth of evidence in Creative Health report, conducted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, to support three key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The arts can help keep us well, aid in our recovery and support longer lives better lived. • The arts can help meet major challenges facing health and social care: ageing, long-term conditions, loneliness and mental health. • The arts can help save money in the health service and social care. <p>Northampton Borough Council (NBC) expresses its strong support for the report's ten recommendations to increase awareness of how engaging in the arts can bring benefits to health and wellbeing. This Council notes the recommendation 3 of the report, which encourages all local authorities to designate an individual to take cross-sector responsibility for arts, health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

CARRIED MOTIONS DECEMBER 2018

<p>Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (formerly women's aid) do valuable work to support victims of domestic abuse. They currently run 5 refuges with 21 beds, which will not be funded from April 2019. Partner organisation Eve is at risk of losing 13 beds. NDAS have launched a fundraising campaign to raise £100k by March to keep the refuges open for 12 months. Losing these refuges will mean that the responsibility of helping these victims out of abusive homes will fall onto NBC. We therefore call upon this council to not only recognise NDAS for the service they have been providing to domestic abuse victims but to give some much needed financial assistance</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>"This Council recognises the value of openness and transparency in communicating with the public about air quality and the steps that it is making to monitor and to reduce air pollution. This Council notes that other authorities, such as Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Council, make effective use of corporate websites to share information about air quality monitoring in an accessible way, including regular monthly publication of raw data from air quality monitoring tubes. Northampton Borough Council resolves to review the accessibility, frequency of update and timeliness of the air quality data and activity published on its own website in order to match the openness and transparency achieved by other local authorities. This Council also notes that it is important that members of the public understand that the raw data can only be properly analysed and trends assessed after a 12 month period to take account of any seasonality or specific in-month events that might skew the data such as road traffic closure. Council also notes that this is a highly complex and technical area of work and resolves to work openly with all those with appropriate expertise in this area.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

CARRIED MOTIONS JANUARY 2019

<p>This Council recognises the importance of retaining good members of staff over the next 15 months to ensure that skilled staff are available to transfer to a new Unitary authority to continue to provide good local government services to the residents of Northampton. The Council has HR policies and procedures in place, which of course need to be understood and adhered to, in order to achieve the goal of retaining good members of staff. The Council recognises that there will always be staff who choose to move on, but during the past 18 months, in order to make NBC an attractive place for good staff to work, has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced the standard work hours from 40 to 37, to be competitive with other employers, with part-time staff reducing their by the same percentage if they chose to. • Removed the no pay for the first day of sickness • Improved various HR policies • Used the discretions policy on sick pay to honour commitments under the TUC 'Dying to work' charter • Anticipates a likely 2% pay award for 2019/20 • Enhanced staff discounts and benefits arrangements • Maximised the use of apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy • Transferred a significant proportion of the interim contract staff to more permanent types of fixed contract arrangements • Recruited a Learning and Development Manager to support personal development • Brought the HR service back in-house to be closer to the employees that it supports <p>Council thanks its hard working staff for their dedication to supporting the town and serving its residents, and reaffirms its commitment to ensure that NBC is an attractive place for good staff to work.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Northampton has a strong and proud history of manufacturing, including its boot and shoe trade and heavy to medium engineering. Despite the demise of such important companies such as British Timken, Express lifts, Northampton Machinery Co, RHP Bearings and Plessy, we do still have centres of excellence with Cosworth, AMG Powertrain, Churches shoes, Trickers and many others. This Council is already very pleased to buy products and services from many local companies, and as part of continually seeking to get best value for the local taxpayer, is keen to work with more local companies and employers. There are now two national campaigns to promote manufacturing, the GMB Union "Making it" and "The Made in Britain" which is run for manufacturers. This Council therefore recognises both of these campaigns, and agrees to promote their membership to local companies, along with continuing to encourage potential manufacturers to site within the town. The Council will, wherever possible and cost effective, use local suppliers to support the local economy.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>The Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review with the intention of establishing two tiers of local government across Northampton when the new Unitary arrangements come into force. This will constitute a major change to the way that services are delivered to local communities and the level of council tax that households are expected to pay in the currently unparished areas of the Borough. This Council therefore expects that in any literature provided to the public, setting out proposed new Parish / Town Council arrangements, will detail the options for service delivery by the new councils and give an indication as to the initial precept / council tax that will be levied, while recognising that going forward this will be a matter for the elected members of the new councils.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

The Disability Confident scheme, run by the national government, promotes a disability-inclusive culture among employers across the UK. The scheme helps employers:

- draw from the widest possible pool of talent
- secure high quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working
- improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating that all employees are treated fairly

Disability Confident employers are changing behaviour and cultures within their organisations, networks and communities. Northampton Borough Council is serious about equal opportunities and proud of its proven track record of being an Equal Opportunity employer and, as such, it already carries out numerous actions to make a difference for disabled people. Nevertheless, we are aware this is only a part of a much broader journey. Therefore, this motion calls on the Council to commit to signing up as Disability Confident Committed and taking the necessary steps to become a Disability Confident Employer, playing an active role in changing attitudes for the better. Under the Disability Confident scheme, this Council will further commit to carry on learning and strengthening the networks it will need to continue to improve its offer to existing and future disabled employees.

Completed