

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held in The Jeffrey Room,
St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE. on
Thursday 2 February 2017 commencing at 6:00pm

D Kennedy
Chief Executive

If you need any advice or information regarding this agenda please phone Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, telephone 01604 837408 (direct dial), email ttiff@northampton.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your enquiry. For further information regarding **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** please visit the website www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Members of the Committee

Chair	Councillor Jamie Lane
Deputy-Chair	Councillor Graham Walker
Committee Members	Councillor Brian W Sargeant Councillor Tony Ansell Councillor Rufia Ashraf Councillor Mohammed Azizur Rahman (Aziz) Councillor John Caswell Councillor Vicky Culbard Councillor Janice Duffy Councillor Terrie Eales Councillor Elizabeth Gowen Councillor Dennis Meredith Councillor Nilesh Ramesh Parekh Councillor Samuel Kilby-Shaw Councillor Zoe Smith

Calendar of meetings

Date	Room
27 March 2017 6:00 pm 8 May 26 June	All meetings to be held in the Jeffrey Room at the Guildhall unless otherwise stated

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Item No and Time	Title	Pages	Action required
1 6:00pm	Apologies		Members to note any apologies and substitution
2	Minutes	1 - 5	Members to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2017.
3	Deputations/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	Declarations of Interest (Including Whipping)		Members to state any interests.
5 6:05pm	Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group – General Fund MTFP 2017/2018 - 2021/2022, draft Council wide draft budget 2017-2018, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Rent Setting 2017/18 and Budget Projections 2017/18 to 2021/22	6 - 7	The Committee to under budget scrutiny items as recommended by the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group.
6	Monitoring of accepted recommendations in Overview and Scrutiny Reports		
6 (a) 7:05pm	Keep Northampton Tidy	8 - 24	
6 (b) 7:25pm	Tree Maintenance	25 - 46	
6 (c) 7:45pm	Private Sector Housing (Including HIMOs)	47 - 60	
7 8:05pm	CSP performance	61 - 65	The Chair of the CSP to provide a progress report on the levels of performance.
8	Response of Cabinet to Overview and Scrutiny		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive Cabinet's

Northampton Borough Overview & Scrutiny Committee

	Reports		responses to its reports:
8(A) 8:20pm	Health Check of the Local Economy	66 - 83	
8 (b) 8:25pm	NBC Owned Street Lighting	84 - 89	
9	Scrutiny Panels		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a progress report from the three Scrutiny Panels.
9 (a) 8:30pm	Scrutiny Panel 1	90	
9 (b) 8:35pm	Scrutiny Panel 3	91	
9 (c) 8:40pm	Scrutiny Panel 4	92	
10 8:45pm	Potential future pre decision scrutiny.		The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider any potential issues for future pre decision scrutiny.
11	Urgent Items		This issue is for business that by reasons of the special circumstances to be specified, the Chair is of the opinion is of sufficient urgency to consider. Members or Officers that wish to raise urgent items are to inform the Chair in advance.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 4 January 2017

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair), Councillor Graham Walker (Deputy Chair) Councillors Brian Sargeant, Tony Ansell, Rufia Ashraf, Mohammed Aziz, Janice Duffy, Terrie Eales, Elizabeth Gowen, Dennis Meredith, Nilesh Parekh, Zoe Smith and Graham Walker

Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Jane Birch - observing

Officers Julie Seddon, Director for Customers and Communities
Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer
Gary Youens, Political Assistant

1. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 and the minutes of the Call In Hearing held on 29 November 2016 as a true and accurate record.

2. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Councillor Danielle Stone addressed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commenting that she welcomed the setting up of the Working Group but felt that it should have been convened earlier. She felt that, in her opinion, the Working Group should have considered the scope of the contract. Councillor Stone further suggested that the Working Group should involve stakeholders. Councillor Stone concluded stating that everyone wants the best for the town.

Councillor Stone was thanked for her address.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

4. RE-PROVISION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT WORKING GROUP

The Committee considered the draft scope for the Re-Provision of the Environmental Services Contract Working Group.

AGREED: The scope of the Re-Provision of the Environmental Services Contract Working Group is approved, as attached at Appendix A.

The Chair invited Membership to the Working Group and AGREED:

- Councillor Dennis Meredith (Chair)
- Councillor Rufia Ashraf (Deputy Chair)
- Councillors Ansell, Aziz, T Eales, Duffy, Lane, Smith, Sargeant and Walker

The Scrutiny Officer would contact Councillors Caswell, Culbard and Shaw who were not present at the meeting to ascertain whether they would like to be a member of the Working Group.

The meeting schedule as detailed with the scope of the Working Group was agreed and it was confirmed that meetings would commence at 5:30pm.

5. URGENT ITEMS

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6:47 pm



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

RE-PROVISION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT WORKING GROUP

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Activity

Pre-decision Scrutiny - Scrutiny of the re-provision of the Environmental Services Contract to ensure the best outcome for the re-provision of the Contract.

The purpose of the meetings is to:

- Help non-Executives understand the re-provision process and the legal framework around the re-provision of the Contract.
- Enable non-Executives to meaningfully challenge the rigour and robustness of the process.

2. Outcomes Required

- To provide Scrutiny input, at the pre-decision stage, on the re-provision of the Environmental Services Contract

3. Information Required

- Background data
- Background reports
- Best practice data
- Information at the relevant stages of the process
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses (if applicable)

4. Format of Information

- Background data, including:
 - Presentation to set the scene

- Relevant Legislation
- Relevant data
- Information at the relevant stages of the process

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Officer reports
- Presentations

6. Co-Options to the Pre-Decision Scrutiny Activity

No co-optees suggested for this pre-decision Scrutiny activity

7. Community Impact Screening Assessment

- A Community Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Pre-Decision Scrutiny activity

8. Evidence gathering Timetable

January 2017 - February 2018

- 4 January 2017 - Approval of the Scope of the Scrutiny Activity
- 1 March - Evidence gathering
- 22 May - Evidence gathering
- 11 September - Evidence gathering
- 20 November - Evidence gathering
- 5 February 2018 - Consideration of the final report

9. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Julie Seddon, Director of Customers following initial scoping meeting

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

10. Resources and Budgets

Julie Seddon, Director of Customers and Communities, following initial scoping meeting, to provide internal advice.

11. Final report presented by:

Completed by February 2018. Presented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Working Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

12. Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

2 February 2017

BRIEFING NOTE:

**O&S Reporting and Monitoring Working Group –
General Fund MTFP 2017/2018 - 2021/2022, Council wide draft budget
2017/2018, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Rent Setting 2017/18 and
Budget Projections 2018/19 to 2021/22**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group met on 4 January 2017 to review the draft budget details and identify proposals that it considered merited closer scrutiny.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 All the items in the revenue and capital budget proposals for the General Fund, (GF), and Housing Revenue Account, (HRA) were discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Reporting and Monitoring Working Group. The Working Group agreed a number of priority items forward for closer scrutiny by the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 The items chosen for closer scrutiny are:

Budget Risks

Area For Further Scrutiny	GF / HRA Saving Option or Budget Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How NPH are delivering within the total fee for Housing Services that NBC provides to them, details around how they are delivering the efficiency savings required with a reducing financial envelope. Outlining the proposed new housing stock development proposals with specific reference to garage sites plans. 	HRA Budget Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget pressures on temporary and bed and breakfast accommodation caused by rising instances of Homelessness and the plans in place to mitigate this. 	General Fund Housing Budget Risk

- 2.3 Cabinet Members and Officers have been asked to attend this meeting to support the scrutiny of these proposals.
- 2.4 Comments raised by Overview and Scrutiny will form part of the Cabinet considerations for agreeing the final budget proposals to Council. They will be provided to Council as an Appendix to the Cabinet report so that they can also be taken into account in approving a final budget.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees its comments and observations to be included as an Appendix to the Cabinet report; and for consideration by Cabinet in agreeing a final budget proposal.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 Budget Consultation (NBC internet).

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Reporting and Monitoring Working Group

6 January 2017

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ACTION PLAN: SCRUTINY PANEL Keep Northampton Tidy

Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel (Keep Northampton Tidy) completed in March 2015

Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations

Report received by Cabinet	Response received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
July 2015	20 January 2016	2 February 2017	2 February 2017

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Recommendation 1: Investigate the wider use of the successful NBC Report It App., such as the inclusion of a facility to report tree and used as a channel to request and co-ordinate community action such as litter picks. Consider extended to include NCC issues within borough				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by:	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact ICT to discuss possible additional functionality	ICT services staff	Staff time		Complete – Issue has been logged with ICT and will be taken forward as part of review of Website and reporting methods.

Recommendation 2: All Councillors are sent details of the Report It App., how it works and details of the Report It App. are included in the Induction Pack for all Councillors.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Information on the App to be provided to all Councillors	ICT services staff	Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete - Details of App available on NBC website.
Recommendation 3: A Usage Log for the Report It App. is produced on an annual basis.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Request for usage log submitted to CRM	ICT services staff	Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete – quarterly reports being produced and made available
Recommendation 4: . Officers, such as Neighbourhood Wardens, are charged to use adhesive stickers over illegal fly-posts advertising events indicating cancellation of the event in appropriate cases and removing outdated fly-posts.				

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Stickers made available to wardens and used where appropriate. Some fly posters also removed	Neighbourhood Warden Team	Staff time and small cost for printing, met within existing budgets	March 2016	completed
Recommendation 5: Officers from Planning Services rigorously pursues perpetrators to illegal advertising/flyposting with a view to prosecution. The Scrutiny Panel recognises legislative weaknesses regarding flyposting and asks that Cabinet lobbies MPs for a change in legislation to make it easier to prosecute in respect of this issue.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact made with Planning Division to discuss situation	Planning Division	Staff time	ongoing	Complete – Planning Division confirm that fly posting has been monitored and, where complaints have been received, the Planning Enforcement team has been prepared to take appropriate action. However, there have been few examples of unauthorised fly posting and

				<p>so no formal action has been taken.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Wardens monitor flyposting and report cases to Planning Enforcement and Licensing Teams. Licensing have contacted a number of venues to warn of potential licence review if fly posting continues</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: Funding of £2,000 is made available for:</p> <p>1 Officers to be charged with disseminating portable ashtrays in the town centre.</p> <p>2 “Do not feed the pigeons” signs to be erected in various locations in the town centre.</p> <p>And the provision of chewing gum boards is investigated on a cost benefit basis.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
<p>Purchase of portable ashtrays</p> <p>Investigation of Do not feed the</p>	<p>Communities and Environment Division staff in consultation with Enterprise</p>	<p>Staff time and budget for purchase of equipment</p>	<p>Summer 2016</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Portable ashtrays have been made available, partly funded by Town Centre BID</p>

Pigeons signs and chewing gum boards				<p>Large amounts of additional signage conflicts with the objective of decluttering the town centre. Signs are used where specific problems identified.</p> <p>The use of chewing gum boards has been investigated. They are not considered to be an effective solution (unsightly, attract wasps and ineffective). They also impose a revenue cost for which there is no budget. Therefore not considered to be viable.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: To enhance an area, empty brick or similar highway planters in situ in the town centre are, either filled with various foliage, removed or topped with a hard surface.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Ensure that all planters in the town centre area	Environmental Services (Direct Services) Manager	Staff time and budget	Summer 2016	Complete

provided with suitable floral displays				Additional planting has been provided.
<p>Recommendation 8: Officers are instructed to contact supermarkets highlighting the problem of abandoned shopping trolleys in the town and encouraged to participate in a trolley collection schemes.</p> <p>Through the Planning Conditions, supermarkets and similar are required to have mechanisms installed to prevent trolleys being removed from site.</p>				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
<p>Contact made with supermarkets.</p> <p>Discussion with planning team about the practicality of use of conditions to deal with this matter</p>	<p>EH and Licensing Manager</p> <p>Planning Division</p>	<p>Staff time</p> <p>Staff time</p>	June2016	<p>Complete</p> <p>Supermarkets have been contacted and reminded of the problems associated with abandoned trollies and their responsibility to collect them.</p> <p>Planning Officers indicate that this requirement is outside the scope of conditions that can be included in planning conditions.</p>

Recommendation 9: All Councillors are provided with details of the Shop Front Cleaning Orders (Community Protection Notices) and Street Litter Control Notices Legislation, the guidance to this Legislation when it becomes available and other relevant Legislation.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Briefing paper produced for all Councillors on Community Protection Notices	EH and Licensing Manager	Staff time	June 2016	Complete. Briefing paper produced and made available.
Recommendation 10: . All relevant Agencies are encouraged to come together at budget planning time, with the aim of making a contribution to the cleanliness and community safety of the town.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Town Centre Task Group has been re-established and will ensure that coordination occurs	All members of the group	Staff time	Late summer 2016	Complete Group in place and discussions carried out to coordinate actions

Recommendation 11: Consider the gating of jetties at night in the town centre that are currently subject to anti-social behaviour.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Investigation of possible night time gating of jetties	Members of town centre group	Time for investigation	Summer 2016	<p>Complete</p> <p>Extensive investigations have been carried out into the possible night time gating of the jetty in Northampton that is associated with high levels of anti-social behaviour. It was concluded that this was not practical due to the following reasons:</p> <p>Who would lock and unlock any gates.</p> <p>How would the gate be designed to enable exit for persons fleeing a fire via the various fire exits which open out into the Jetty.</p>

				<p>The jetty is very narrow and any gate would need to be especially made. A shutter style which could perhaps descend and then be locked was also investigated.</p> <p>It was concluded that the cost of this would be disproportionate given the levels of anti-social behaviour that were taking place.</p> <p>The situation will be kept under review and if significant anti-social behaviour is taking place in a particular locations, options for gating jetties / alleys will be explored.</p>
Recommendation 12: Information about resources available is published on the Council's website.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed

Web content updated	Relevant web authors	Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete Web content updated and will be reviewed as part of the planned overhaul of the NBC website.
Recommendation 13: In recognising their success, Cabinet explores the effectiveness of Kangaroo Runs				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Assessment of effectiveness of kangaroo runs and other initiatives to be explored.	ES (Direct Services) Manager in liaison with Community Safety Team	Staff time for investigation. Direct cost of providing kangaroo runs , staff overtime / fuel and disposal costs	Summer 2016	Complete Kangaroo runs target specific areas and will continue as part of Community Safety Weeks of Action. Date on fly tipping hotspots has been evaluated and additional proactive targeted fly tipping collections started in May 2016 providing wider coverage across Northampton.
Recommendation 14: Additional funding of £5,000 per year is allocated for five schemes with Junior Wardens and education activities.				

Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Junior Warden schemes are operated in schools	ES (Direct Services) Manager	£5000 plus staff time		<p>Complete</p> <p>A number of Junior Warden schemes are running using funding from Councillor empowerment funds and other sources.</p> <p>All Wardens work with schools in their areas to provide environmental and safety education using resources from the Junior Warden programme.</p> <p>Potential sources of funding to run a more comprehensive programme will continue to be explored.</p>
Recommendation 15: The viability of running a National Citizen Scheme (NCS) to attract mid-late teenagers involvement is investigated				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed

Investigation of the viability of running a scheme or linking with existing schemes				<p>Complete</p> <p>Enquiries have been made and it has not been possible to link with this specific scheme.</p> <p>However in the coming year it is planned to engage with the Youth Forum to develop environmental initiatives for young people.</p>
Recommendation 16: Community Clean Ups are co-ordinated so that they supplement the cleansing regime of the Environmental Services contract.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Improved coordination between contractor and Members and Community Groups to coordinate clean ups	Customer services staff and staff at Enterprise	Staff time	ongoing	<p>Complete</p> <p>Enterprise support community clean ups by providing equipment and clearing the waste collected. Steps have been taken to ensure that enquiries are</p>

				referred to the correct members of staff.
Recommendation 17 Campaigns, such as Community Clean Ups, are publicised both on the Council's webpage and by the organisers of the Community clean ups				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Increased coordination of clean ups	Neighbourhood Wardens and relevant Web authors.	Staff time	Summer time	Complete Website content updated and will be reviewed as part of proposed overhaul of NBC website.
Recommendation 18 Community (Parish) Enhancement Teams are encouraged to undertake more work within the town.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Confirm whether this resource is available and what steps need to be followed	EH and Licensing Manager to obtain information from NCC / contractors	Staff time		Complete Details have been obtained about the process for applications for works by Community Enhancement Gangs for 2017/18. The closing date for applications is Friday 24 February. The

				information on the application process has been shared with all Members and with Parish Councils and Community Groups.
Recommendation 19: Where possible, co-ordinated working between the Local Authorities and the Highways Agency regarding major highway closures to enable litter picking to take place during closure periods.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Clarification obtained regarding current practice	Enterprise Staff / Northamptonshire Highways / Highways Agency	Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete. Litter picking on high speed roads is coordinated. Consent is required to undertake this work and appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that this occurs.
Recommendation 20 Where practical, the Local Authority and the Highways Agency arranges anti-littering campaigns at service stations				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact Highways Agency to discuss				Complete Highways England operate a number of Regional anti litter campaigns that have

				included the Northampton area. Only one service station (junction 15A Southbound) is within Northampton Borough.
Recommendation 21 Post April 2015, the Highways Agency is contacted to ask that it reviews its grass cutting schedule to include amenity cuts in addition to safety/visibility cuts and litter picking schedules along the A45 throughout the borough and that MPs are contacted in this respect				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Contact to be made with Highways Agency		Staff time	Summer 2016	Complete – letters have been sent to Highways Agency and MP about the matter.
Recommendation 22: 22 Planning Services, Northampton Borough Council, together with the Highways Agency, explores improvements to gateways including signage, such as “Welcome to Northampton” signs to be erected on the entrance to Northampton on the A45 at Billing and at Junction 15 (M1).				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed

Contact Highways Agency and Northamptonshire Highways to discuss				Ongoing – contact made with relevant parties to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter and recommendation 23 below.
Recommendation 23 The Highways Agency is asked to de-clutter signage, in particular around Junction 15(M1).				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Request made to Highways Agency				See above
Recommendation 24 A time limited Action Plan in respect of the 30 criteria of the Purple Flag Accreditation is produced; with the aim of exploring the feasibility of entering an application for Purple Flag Accreditation for Northampton town centre.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Development of an action plan for applying for Purple Flag accreditation.	NBC staff working in partnership with Town Centre BID	Staff time	2017	Work is currently at the planning stage of developing an understanding of the criteria for gaining purple flag accreditation and how this would apply in Northampton.

Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation 28: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Included onto the O&S Monitoring Work Programme 2016/2017	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and Scrutiny Committee	n/a	Monitoring to take place 2 February 2017	

Briefing note for Overview and Scrutiny

Tree policy and the enhanced maintenance program

The purpose of this briefing note is to update Overview and Scrutiny about the Tree Policy and Maintenance Plan.

As reported to the panel in August 2016, the council agreed to invest an extra £100k per year, for the next 5 years, into an enhanced program of tree maintenance. This extra funding has been secured for the years 2016/17 and 2017/18.

With the current environmental services contract ending in June 2018, it was proposed that the remaining 3 years enhanced maintenance would be included in the new environmental services specification, which is currently being developed. The enhanced maintenance will be shown as a specific item within the overall tree management service, but will not part of the general maintenance program. It will be made clear that the enhanced maintenance is to be provided as well as the normal maintenance and not instead of.

With regards to this years maintenance, the starting point was to carry out a tree survey Zone 1, taking into account the requirements of the new Tree Policy.

There were a number of meetings between the Partnership Unit, Enterprise and the specialist tree contractor, during the survey stage. This initially was to ensure that the expectations of the council were clear to all parties and that the Tree Policy was being used. As the survey progressed, site visits were carried out, to look at what work was planned and understand the improvements it would bring.

Maintenance work has now started, with the contractor working their way through Zone 1. The work is programmed to be completed prior to the end of this financial year. Generally, the work has progressed well, although there have been times when some work had to be left, due to parked vehicles. The contractor has gone back to finish the work in these locations once it is safe to do so.

The contractor has reported that there has been nothing but positive reaction from the residents, who are extremely pleased to see this level of maintenance happening.

I have included two pictures below showing Greendale Square before the tree work was carried out and after it was completed. As you can see, the tree work has opened up the area, and made a significant improvement.





NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

As Amended 2016

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1. TREES IN TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS

Trees play an important role in enhancing the urban environment and bring many benefits as they:

- Screen unsightly structures and activities
- Give privacy
- Soften the hard lines of buildings
- Bring colour and contrasts into the urban environment
- Improve air quality by acting as natural air filters removing dust, smoke and fumes from the atmosphere
- Reduce the 'greenhouse' effect by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen
- Act as an effective sound barrier and can limit noise pollution
- Help to reduce the stress of modern life
- Provide habitats for native ground flora such as bluebells and fauna, particularly birds, bats and invertebrates.

Despite all of these benefits that trees bring to our urban areas, this environment is often a hostile one for a variety of reasons:

- Many urban trees show signs of stress, grow slowly and become more prone to disease
- They are subjected to a variety of pollutants such as car fumes, herbicides, salt and other de-icing agents from roads
- Vandals rip off branches, strip bark and even set fire to trees
- Urban trees are more susceptible to drought. Many of the surfaces that they grow in are impervious to water and air; because the soil is compacted and any excess rainwater is drained away.
- Tree roots are frequently severed during installation of underground services or to allow for construction work. This can lead to the premature death of trees.

Even under the guise of tree care there can be subconscious acts of vandalism. For example, tree ties that are left in place can strangle the tree that they were once intended to support. Also, incorrect pruning can leave unsightly trees struggling to survive.

2. PURPOSES AND AIMS OF TREE POLICY

2.1 Trees in Northampton

This document has been created, as there is a need for regular inspections and careful planning of: Pruning, Felling, Planting and the encouragement of private landowners to manage their trees appropriately.

2.2 Scope of Policy

Much of the policy is aimed at the management of Northampton's 'Urban Trees'. These are classed as trees that are within built up areas of the town. This definition includes trees adjacent to the highways, in residential and commercial areas as well as parks and open spaces.

The policy also provides for the management of Northampton's rural trees and woodlands in its control. In order to find out if a tree is owned by Northampton Borough Council please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000

2.3 Aims of Policy

The aims of the tree policy are addressed in the following five sections:

1. To ensure the management of trees contributes to making Northampton Borough's environment attractive and healthy for people who visit, live and work in the Borough.
2. To ensure trees enhance the environment.
3. To ensure the efficient management and sustainability of the trees
4. To ensure an increasing and varied tree population within the borough which is in harmony with other land uses
5. To promote awareness of the importance and value of trees to the residents of Northampton

3. TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY

3.1 Common Law Right

You have a common law right to remove nuisance with trees infringing onto your property. If this were the case, we would advise the following:

- You can only remove any parts of a tree that overhang your property. You have no legal right to remove anything that does not overhang the boundary of your property.
- A tree surgeon should be consulted when pruning back any part of a tree that overhangs your property, unless the pruning can be reasonably carried out with hand secateurs.
- To find out if the trees are owned by Northampton Borough Council please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.
- You should find out if the trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are in a Designated Conservation Area. In order to do this please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.
- If the trees are protected then you will need to gain consent by making an application and giving notice to the council. Guidance on next steps can be accessed at the email address/ telephone number above.
- You should speak with your neighbour before pruning any overhanging branches, and offer to return any that are pruned back to your neighbour, as legally you do not own them. It is most likely that your neighbour will ask that you dispose of them yourself but it is good practice to ask them first.
- If the overhanging branches belong to a Council owned tree then you should dispose of the prunings yourself and not return them to Council owned land.

3.2 Emergency Procedures For Dangerous Trees

The Council will remove trees that are posing a hazard and make safe trees that are imminently dangerous. To notify us of an emergency situation please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

4. TREE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Tree surveys

NBC aims to establish an on going maintenance plan to assess their current tree stock, with a long-term view to improving public spaces. The plan will establish high quality trees and with the expertise of approved contractors, works carried out will focus on improving the existing tree stock, using various types of Arboricultural practices to achieve this (see section 5-Maintenance Plan).

4.2 Standard of work

The council will:

- Appoint private arboricultural contractors through a tendering process
- Regularly review the specifications in the contract to ensure that they are precise and meet with currently accepted standards (British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work- Recommendations')
- Supporting the development and training of all arboricultural staff involved in Council tree work

4.3 Timeline of service

The council will;

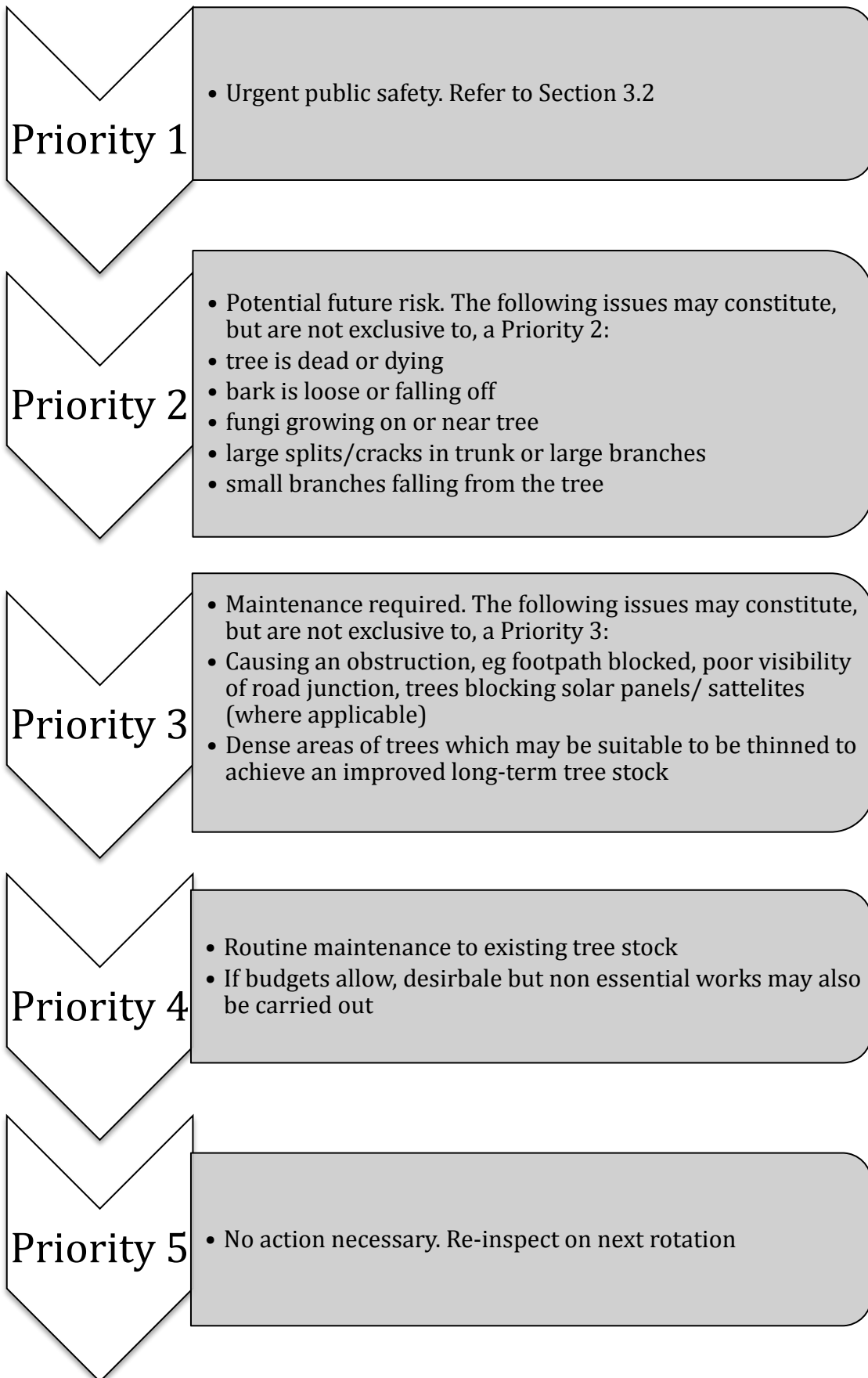
- Support a policy that allows residents to request work on a Council owned tree
- Inspect the aforementioned tree and specify work required
- Ensure that if work is required, money is allocated from the appropriate budget and work is issued to a contractor

4.4 Tree Work Priorities

Priority work levels are split into 5 separate areas. These areas are established and structured around the defect with the chosen tree/s. With each area an action and reason can be given for such works and this will correspond with the arboricultural work levels described below.

It should be noted that the final decision on works to be carried out fall with Northampton Borough Council for the approval of work.

The issues and actions below are a guide and may be subject to change depending on the severity of the issue. If a tree is subject to adverse weather conditions this may affect the condition of the tree, so the priorities act as a guideline only.



4.5 Arboricultural Work Levels

When works are carried out, it is the contractors' responsibility to carry out these works in accordance with current legal practices statute and common where applicable. Ensuring that the highest possible levels of work standards and safety are adhered to, this should include but is not limited to:

- British Standards BS3998: 2010 'Tree Work- Recommendations'
- Wildlife and Country Act 1981 As Amended
- Habitat and Species Regulations 2007 Amended
- Tree Preservation Orders (Town and Country Planning act)
- Designated Conservation Areas
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997

1) Tree Planting- establishing new trees to an existing site:

- Appropriate species needs to be carefully considered, taking into account; growth rate, mature size, water demand, soil conditions, exposure of the site, long term maintenance of the chosen species etc.
- Formative pruning of new trees

2) Light Pruning Operations- minor works that include:

- Lifting tree crowns by 3-3.5 metres
- Clearing lamp column heads by 1.5 metres all round
- Removal of secondary limbs to achieve lighting requirements

3) Selective Pruning Operations- works on individual trees:

- Removal or reduction of selected branches

4) Major Pruning Operations- major works that include:

- Full crown reduction
- Crown thinning
- Hedgerow reduction
- Removal of primary limbs to achieve lighting requirements

5) Minor Tree Removal

- Removal of young trees
- Removal of understory growth
- Coppicing of young trees
- Selecting best specimen trees for retention

6) Major Tree Removal

- Removal of semi mature to mature trees
- Coppicing of mature trees
- Selecting best specimen trees for retention

5. TREES IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

This section looks at some of the most common conflicts that the Council's urban trees cause and how these can be mitigated or overcome without felling or excessive pruning. It is important to strike a balance between removing problem trees and retaining trees in good health.

5.1 Damage To Property

The council takes into account the long term effects of planting trees near buildings when designing planting schemes referring to current relevant guidance such as NHBC Standards Chapter 4.2 'Building Near Trees' and British Standard 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to construction.'

Should you have concerns about tree-related property damage you should first contact your insurance provider to seek advice.

Should you, or anyone acting on your behalf, wish to make a claim for damage or formally notify the council of concerns about future damage then you should contact us at enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

5.2 Light

NBC aims to manage its trees so that they contribute to making the environment attractive and healthy. Equally NBC aim to keep locality reasonably safe and ensure that trees do not cause an excessive nuisance.

A common complaint about urban trees within housing estates, open spaces and parks is that the available daytime light to properties and footpaths is being blocked. This also relates to night-time with urban trees blocking lamp columns creating excessive shade in public areas. No one has a direct right to light in common law, however works can be carried out to improve light to areas and to create more aesthetically pleasing community spaces.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

5.3 Television And Satellite Reception

The Council requests that you contact your satellite or TV provider who should be able to provide a solution to any problems with reception issues. This will most likely be relocating the satellite dish/ TV aerial or boosting the signal.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

Should there still be issues after these solutions have been implemented then the Council will consider pruning works on a tree in extreme cases and only where it is possible to do so without being detrimental to the health or amenity of the tree.

5.4 Bird Droppings

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. Bird droppings can be a nuisance but are not considered sufficient reason to carry out pruning works on/ felling a tree. Bird droppings can be removed with warm water and soap.

Nesting birds are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, which means that it is illegal to carry out tree works where there are nesting birds.

5.5 Blossom And Fruits

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. Tree blossom and fruits are a natural occurrence and cannot be prevented with pruning.

Roads and pavements are swept regularly to prevent build up of blossom or fruit as part of normal cleaning cycles. If you would like to request a street cleaning please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

5.6 Insects

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. It should be noted that bees are a protected species so advice should be sought before considering removal. You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

Honeydew can occur as a result of aphids feeding on a tree. The aphids then excrete honeydew, which is a sugary sap. Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem. Pruning will only offer temporary relief and the regrowth has potential to be colonized by an increased number of aphids, exacerbating the problem. Any cars affected should be washed with warm and soapy water to remove the honeydew.

5.7 Leaves

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. The falling of leaves is part of the natural cycle that occurs each autumn and cannot be avoided by pruning.

Property owners are encouraged to regularly maintain their gutters to avoid blockages. Guards can be fitted where regular blockages of gutters occur.

Roads and pavements are swept regularly to prevent build up of blossom or fruit as part of normal cleaning cycles. If you would like to request a street cleaning please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

6. TREE PLANTING, ESTABLISHMENT AND DESIGN

The Council aims to improve the quality of life and the environment in Northamptonshire through proactive and appropriate tree planting. Our aim is to get the right tree in the right location so that urban trees are in harmony with the environment and community.

6.1 Tree Replacement

The Council will endeavour to plant at least one tree of a suitable species and size at the most appropriate site in the locality. Should this not be possible then an alternative site will be sought.

6.2 Species And Site Selection

The Council aims to reduce conflicts between trees and the urban environment by agreeing to:

- Plant trees that will grow to a size appropriate for their location
- Plant a variety of species to help avoid the environmental damage of disease
- Plant tree species, which are native to Britain where conservation and biodiversity are a priority as they hold the greatest wildlife value. However, the Council will plant a variety of native and non-native species throughout the Borough to ensure they select the most appropriate tree for the location
- All works are to be carried out the standards set out in BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape
- Work with developers to advise on trees and sites on new housing developments within the Borough

6.3 Highways Trees

If you have an issue regarding a Highways Tree please contact Street Doctor <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TREE MAINTENANCE PLAN

As Amended 2016

CONTENTS

1. MAINTENANCE PLAN

1.1 How does the maintenance plan work?

1.2 Detailed description of various arboricultural works

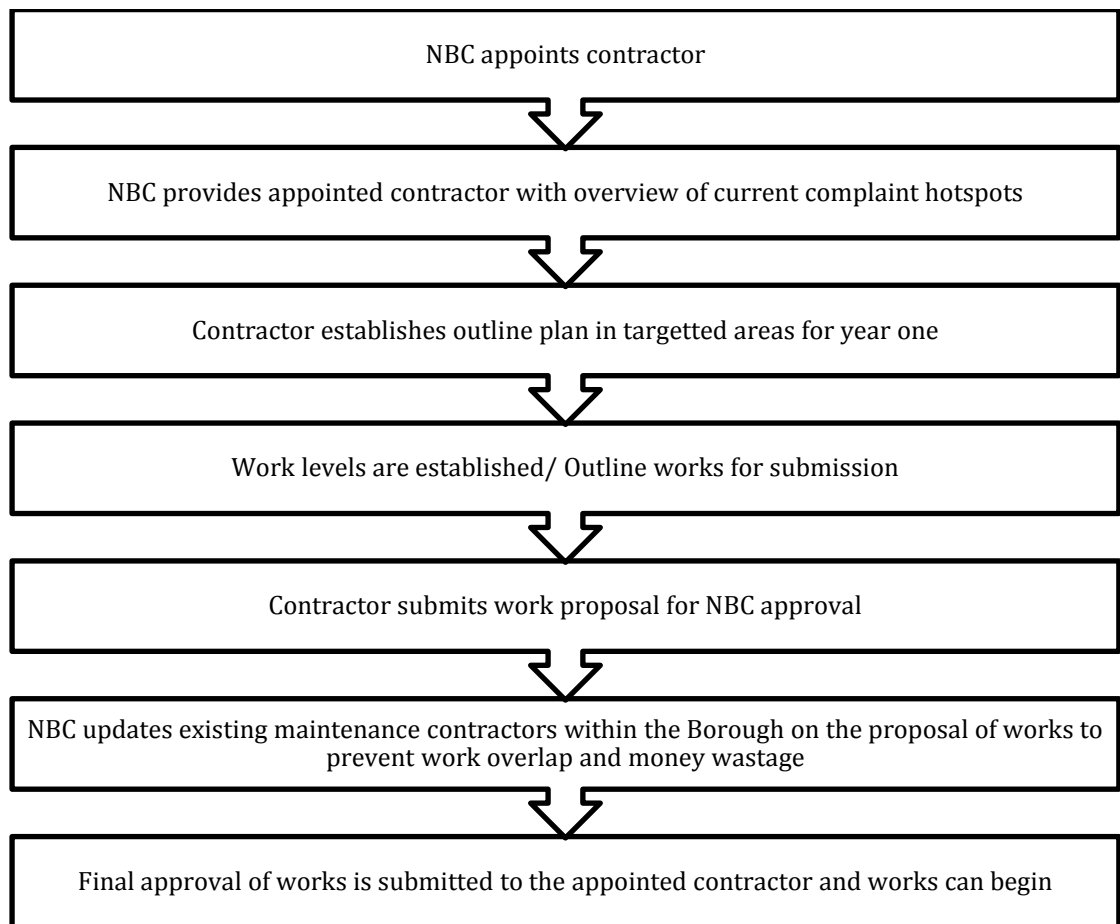
- 1.2.1 Formative Pruning
- 1.2.2 Crown Thinning
- 1.2.3 Crown Reduction
- 1.2.4 Selective Branch Removal
- 1.2.5 Pollarding

1. MAINTENANCE PLAN

1.1 How does the maintenance plan work?

This maintenance plan is designed to work alongside the NBC Tree Policy to enhance the existing reactive works rather than replacing them. It has been created to work on a 5-year basis. The land under care of NBC has been divided into 5 zones. Each zone will be thoroughly inspected and works completed during a 12-month period by an approved contractor, on a 5-year rotation; meaning that each zone will be seen every 5 years. Work levels/ pruning plans have been created in accordance with a 5-year maintenance plan to establish a more sustainable tree stock. These pruning plans however, should not focus purely on instant impact, but also on the long-term sustainability and improvement of community spaces.

NBC recognises the benefits to urban trees but also recognises that the wrong tree in the wrong place can be disruptive, for example, significantly obstructing light. This plan has been designed to create a harmonious relationship between trees and people within the borough.



1.2 Detailed description of various Arboricultural works

The following list is for guidance purposes only of best pruning practice and general arboricultural works at the time of writing this policy. Each individual tree genus can react differently to different pruning techniques. Generally trees will be assessed for their suitability to the given pruning technique before any finalised plans of work are carried out.

1.2.1 Formative pruning

- Formative pruning is carried out on primarily young trees. It is started at nursery age; the goal is to produce a tree, which in maturity will be free from any major physical weaknesses and remain a suitable choice for the site.
- This will help to reduce the future risks associated with trees. In the nursery formative pruning will be carried out to influence the shape, structure and size of the tree.
- At the time of planting or soon after, any pruning work should be kept to a minimum to ensure there is an adequate leaf area for the tree to be able to function.
- Once the tree has become more established formative pruning would normally be continued (normally at about three to five years).
- If the tree has been allowed to develop an unsuitable branch structure it would be appropriate to reduce or remove some of the branches before this stage, however early removal of the lowermost branches should be avoided, if at all possible, as they help to aid stem thickening.

1.2.2 Crown thinning

- Crown thinning is a means of creating more light to a garden or property, without drastically making changes to the shape of the tree.
- When carrying out a crown thinning operation, efforts should be made to make sure an even density of foliage is retained.
- No more than 30% of leaf foliage should be removed throughout the entire crown, as uneven thinning or over thinning, will increase the risk of branch failure.
- Other potentially hazardous or weak branches can be removed whilst carrying out the crown thinning.
- Removing branches back to the stem (other than hazardous or weak branches) should be avoided during a crown thin
- These should be minor works and not effect the overall existing shape of the crown

1.2.3 Crown reduction

- Crown reduction is achieved by reducing the whole dimension of the tree, which reduces height and spread of the tree's crown; lessening the biomechanical stress that the tree comes under by reducing both the leverage and the sail area of the tree.
- It is a method of retaining a tree in confined space, which could potentially make the tree more suitable in its surroundings.
- When carrying out a crown reduction care should be taken to retain the main framework of the crown. A high proportion of the foliage bearing structure should be retained.
- Following a reduction there should be enough healthy leaf bearing structure, capable of producing a dense covering of leaf during the following growing season, whilst maintaining a strong frame work of branches.
- Each tree should be individually assessed as to how much should be removed, and from where the removal should take place, so that the crown is reduced in proportion to its original shape.
- The cuts should expose a smaller proportion of heartwood or ripewood than of sapwood and should not exceed 100 mm in diameter, except on very large trees.

1.2.4 Selective branch removal

- Sometimes specific branches can be a problem. This can include branches which have grown too close to buildings, drastically reducing light and potentially causing long term damage.
- Selective branch removal is an appropriate type of pruning in this case as a way of reducing the above risk/ problem.
- This may involve the removal of an individual branch or the branch being reduced.
- If this type of pruning is necessary, the amount of material to be removed and the diameter of the pruning cut should be the minimum required for the purpose.
- If the selective pruning creates a problem in itself, then other pruning should be carried out in conjunction to alleviate the problem.
- If the end result is to create clearance from a building or structure, the work specification should state the feature and the clearance to be achieved.

1.2.5 Pollarding

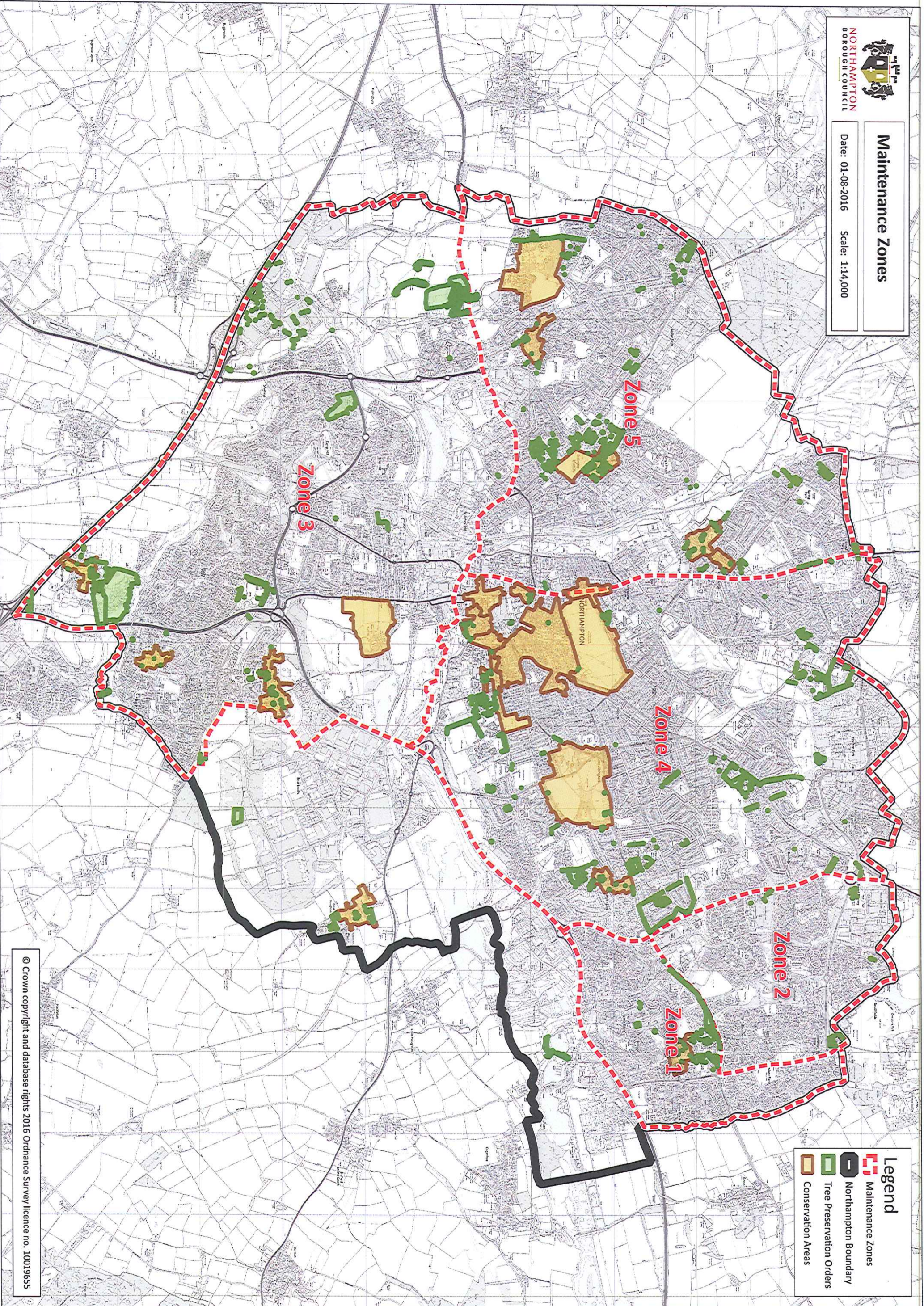
- Pollarding is way of establishing a tree at set size to create a woody framework of a manageable size, which will enable future maintenance; it should preferably start soon after the tree has become established (not to be mistaken for 'topping' in more mature trees).
- The main stem of the tree should be between 25 mm to 50 mm in diameter when the pollard is started and usually about 2-3 metres in height. However if the tree has already reached a diameter of somewhere between 50 mm and 200 mm, pollarding is still possible.
- It is recommended that where possible some of the pre-existing foliage should be retained, which will aid better physiological function and reduce the risk of die back or the tree dying.
- If the pollard has been started at a more established stage and has an increased diameter close to the 200 mm even more care should be taken to retain some of the pre-existing foliage.
- Once the pollard has been started it needs to be maintained by cutting the new branches on a cyclical basis, how often this takes place should be decided by its position, how old it is, its species, and what condition it is in.
- Sometimes selective pruning (where some of the branches are maintained within each cycle) can be a good option; it would reduce the amount of pruning wounds the tree has to cope with each cycle and, as more foliage would be maintained, the tree's physiological function will be aided. This should help to reduce the risk of decay in the stem and die back.
- If the pollard cycle has been allowed to lapse over many years, a crown reduction maybe more suitable.

1.2.6 Tree thinning





- Tree thinning is carried out in open spaces where a number of low quality trees have been identified. The aim of removing these low quality trees is to allow the remaining trees to establish properly.
- This can also create more open space and provide increased light to an area.

Bibliography

British Standards BS3998: 2010 'Tree Work- Recommendations'



Legend

-  Maintenance Zones
-  Northampton Boundary
-  Tree Preservation Orders
-  Conservation Areas

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ACTION PLAN: SCRUTINY PANEL Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing

Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel (Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing, Including HMOs) completed in June 2014. **Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations**

Report received by Cabinet	Response received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete		
10 September 2014	23 March 2015	2 February 2017			
Recommendation 1:					
A Private Sector Landlords Registration (Licensing) Scheme is implemented with the facility for landlords to register (apply to licence) online.					
Action	Implementation / responsibility by:	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed	
An Additional HMO Licensing Scheme is now in place and came into effect in November 2014. The designated area is the same as the area covered by an Article 4 Directive introduced by the Planning Service. It is estimated that around 1,500 two storey HMOs in the Additional HMO licensing area will need to be licensed.	Private Sector Housing Team	Additional staff recruited on permanent and temporary contracts	Completed 3/11/2014	Additional HMO Licensing Scheme introduced and operational	
Licensing of Mandatory HMOs (HMOs that have 3 or more storeys and are occupied by 5 or more occupants who share some facilities) started in 2006 and affects all licensable Mandatory HMOs in the borough.	Debi Waite	Existing resources		Ongoing	

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Agenda Item 6c

<p>The team continues to proactively seek out properties subject to licencing and the intelligence led approach has identified more than 500 suspect properties which are being dealt with in order of a risk based prioritisation system. As well as encouraging landlords and agents to license their HMOs, the team is taking enforcement action against those refusing to license their HMOs.</p> <p>Although the Private Sector Housing Team's computerised management system / database (commonly known as "M3" and provided by Northgate) was due to benefit from a series of improvements in 2016/17, Officers considered the merits and feasibility of the proposed "M3" improvements and enhancements against a product developed by another company, Rocktime Digital Agency, which offers a bespoke design service for an HMO Online Licensing System.</p> <p>After considering the business case, the Council commissioned Rocktime to develop the system in a way that supports and complements the Private Sector Housing Team's unique approach to HMO licensing.</p>	Debi Waite	Existing resources		Ongoing
<p>Rocktime Digital Agency is working closely with the Private Sector Housing Team to design and implement a bespoke HMO online licensing system. This system is currently under construction and is due to be ready for testing at the end of March 2017.</p>	Debi Waite /IT	Existing resources	The new Online HMO Licensing System will go 'live' by the end of April 2017.	Ongoing

Recommendation 2:

A useful guide for individuals that are considering becoming a private sector landlord is published on the Council's website and includes the following headlines:

- Speak to your mortgage lender
- Get references from potential tenants
- Prepare a formal agreement
- Deposits – properly protected
- Obtain an energy performance certificate
- Do you need a property licence?
- Get all your gas and electric appliances checked
- Minimise the risk from fire
- Ensure that your property presents no risks to your tenant's health and safety
- Don't find yourself in court when something goes wrong

Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement/ Completed
<p>As there is already a whole raft of useful advice and information (covering the subjects identified by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel) on the internet, it is essential that the Council's webpages contain hyperlinks to these other websites, rather than simply duplicate the advice and information that is already available elsewhere.</p>				

<p>By rewriting its pages on the Council's website, the Private Sector Housing Team will provide prospective landlords with an invaluable single point of access to these external sources of advice and information.</p> <p>In order to progress this action, a member of the Private Sector Housing Team has been asked to act as the team's 'Web Officer' and is now able to edit text and upload files and photographs onto the Council website. The Private Sector Housing Team is working with the Council's Communications Team to update and improve all of the Private Sector Housing Team's web pages to address the issues identified in this recommendation.</p> <p>On completion of the new online licensing process, the webpages will be revised and updated.</p>	Debi Waite	Existing resources	October 2016	Ongoing
	Debi Waite	Existing resources	End of May 2017	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 3: Northampton Borough Council works with the University of Northampton and private sector landlords to agree a Northampton standard for privately rented homes. The standard is produced in conjunction with the useful guide (recommendation 2.1.3) and Best Practice Guide (recommendation 2.1.12).</p>				
<p>Action</p>	<p>Implementation / responsibility by</p>	<p>Resources required / available</p>	<p>Target date</p>	<p>Achievement / Completed</p>
<p>The Council's Space and Amenities Guide has been published and is promoted by the University of Northampton. Reference will be made to it in the new webpages on the Council's website (see response to Recommendation 2, above).</p>	Debi Waite	Existing resources	Completed	Completed

<p>The Private Sector Housing Team is now meeting regularly with the University, DASH, Students Union and Northampton Student Landlords Network.</p> <p>The Northampton Student Housing Working Group is now established and the group has developed a shared statement that all stakeholders will sign up to, setting out the Working Group's commitment to improving the standard of students' accommodation in Northampton.</p>	Debi Waite	Existing resources		Completed
<p>Recommendation 4: A Protocol for identifying absent landlords is produced and implemented. Private Sector Landlords are encouraged to join a local or national Landlord Association.</p>				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
<p>The Private Sector Housing Team has developed and adopted an intelligence-led approach to enforcement against criminal, rogue and irresponsible landlords.</p> <p>Officers have been trained to fulfil an Intelligence Officer function and have the necessary skills and permissions to interrogate Council Tax, Housing Benefit, Land Registry and Companies House records, and to access a credit referencing and tracing system, in order to seek out those landlords and managing agents that have so far avoided regulation.</p> <p>Enforcement is managed using a risk based approach to ensure that the team is proactively targeting the worst properties first.</p>	Private Sector Housing Team	Existing resources	March 2016	Completed

To enable them to carry out their roles effectively, Officers have undergone extensive training that will lead to Advanced Investigator Certification which is recognised by the courts. They have also been supplied with the correct equipment to carry out their role competently, and criminal investigation processes have been introduced to ensure that Private Sector Housing cases have the optimum chance of succeeding in court.

The Private Sector Housing Team has consolidated and strengthened its partnership working with a range of agencies and stakeholders, including the Police, Trading Standards, Immigration, the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and the Community Safety Partnership. This will increase the effectiveness of the team and ensure a multi-agency approach.

The Private Sector Housing Manager has delivered a number of training sessions for Northampton Police to highlight the work of the Private Sector Housing Team. Around 120 Police Officers have received the training to date and this has improved partnership working in relation to offences, including unlawful evictions.

Ten officers in the Housing and Wellbeing Service have now completed their final block of training which leads to the BTEC Advanced Investigators Certificate.

Recommendation 5: A Policy for the prosecution of “rogue landlords” is introduced and a funding pot is identified to be allocated to resources to support licensing through a rigorous programme of encouragement, support to landlords, and enforcement, including prosecution of those landlords who do not comply with the requirements of the Scheme.				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
Alongside the measures described in the response to Recommendation 4 (above), the Private Sector Housing Team has developed a new Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, a new Private Sector Housing Fees and Charges Policy and a new Housing, Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) Procedure.	Debi Waite	Existing resources	March 2016	Completed
In March 2016, the HMO Licensing procedure was revised and updated to include a new HMO Licensing application form and accompanying guidance which reflected the fresh approach in the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy and the Private Sector Housing Fees & Charges Policy.	Debi Waite	Existing resources	March 2016	Completed
A number of live investigations are currently being processed by Officers with the first batch being laid before the Court in January 2017. Most involve failure to licence and multiple housing offences; others are breaches of licence conditions and multiple housing offences. Once those investigations are completed, Officers will be allocated further investigations.				

Recommendation 6:				
Contact is made with the National Landlords' Association (NLA) regarding utilising its free of charge scheme of on-line training and the use of its free guidance material for tenants and private sector landlords.				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
<p>Contact has been made with the NLA to explore the potential for closer joint working between the Private Sector Housing Team and the NLA.</p> <p>The Private Sector Housing Team has established good links with the Association of Residential Lettings Agents, the National Landlords Association and the Northampton Student Landlords Association.</p> <p>The NLA has recently appointed a new representative for Northampton and the Private Sector Housing Manager met with him on 24th May 2016. The NLA is keen to attend the Landlord Forum and host a table at the event to promote the benefits of NLA membership.</p>	Debi Waite	Existing Resources	May 2016	Completed
Recommendation 7:				
A tri-annual multi-Agency meeting, together with the Landlords Forum, to enable two way discussions and information sharing, is introduced.				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
The Private Sector Housing Team hosts 3 meetings of the Landlord Forum each year (in February, June and	Debi Waite	Existing resources	Ongoing	Completed

<p>October) and has refreshed the format to include presentations from partner agencies and 'information tables' where landlords and managing agents can seek advice and ask questions of a wide range of services and organisations. Attendance of the Landlord Forum has increased significantly since its relaunch.</p>				
<p>Recommendation 8: Planning Services and Housing Services work collaboratively regarding the private rental sector, to ensure that private lettings make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods.</p>				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
<p>Regular meetings continue to take place between Housing & Planning to improve the way in which the two services work together to ensure that effective, collaborative action is taken to identify, manage and minimise the number of HMOs that are operating without planning permission or a licence in the designated Article 4 / Additional HMO Licensing Scheme area of the borough. There is also regular dialogue between Planning Enforcement, Building Control, Regulatory Services and Community Safety on common issues and cases. Officers from Housing and Planning delivered HMO Training for Councillors in February 2016.</p>	<p>Phil Harris and Peter Baguley</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Monthly meetings are programmed between the Private Sector Housing Team and the Planning Team and work has commenced to carry out joint operational work, producing joined up strategies and looking at hotspots and evidence of illegal activity from the Planning and Private Sector Housing perspectives.</p>	<p>Debi Waite, Rita Bovey, Claire, Ruth Austen and Debbie Ferguson</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>The Private Sector Housing Manager attends the Community Safety Partnership meetings and the Private Sector Housing Team has established a close working relationship with the partners attending the meeting. Joint working has commenced on cases shared with the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.</p> <p>Planning and Housing and Wellbeing are currently working together on the requirements for another HMO Additional Licensing Scheme and an Article 4 Direction. In the Far Cotton & Delapre area.</p>	Phil Harris, Debi Waite and Peter Baguley	Existing resources and housing reserves	Spring 2017	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 9: A check be made to ensure that letting agents are renting properties through the correct procedure and that letting agents are included in Additional Licensing.</p>				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
<p>Agents are not exempt from the HMO licensing regimes and must complete a 'fit and proper person' declaration if they are making an application as a "licensee".</p> <p>The Private Sector Housing Team has started to work closely and collaboratively with Trading Standards to make a bigger impact in driving out criminal, rogue and irresponsible letting agents. Joint casework is already being undertaken and both teams have agreed to share information and intelligence on cases of mutual interest.</p>	Debi Waite	Existing resources	Ongoing	Ongoing

Northamptonshire's Trading Standards Team is participating in a national Trading Standards initiative that is tackling 'Rogue Letting Agents'.

Trading Standards attend and actively participate in Northampton's Landlord Forum. The Private Sector Housing Team has started meeting regularly with Trading Standards to look at issues of mutual interest, including regulation. The Private Sector Housing Team and Trading Standards have also started to share information about poor and criminal practice in relation to letting agents with a view to undertaking joint enforcement operations.

As mentioned in the response to Recommendation 6 (above), links have been made with ARLA and Officers from the Housing & Wellbeing Service attended the regional ARLA meeting on 24th May 2016. Regional meetings take place twice a year and the Private Sector Housing Manager has agreed to attending future meetings, either as a delegate or a guest speaker.

The Housing and Wellbeing Service has subscribed to Trading Standards own intelligence database in order to legitimately share information and intelligence on crossover cases involving Managing Agent activities and identifying rogue, irresponsible and criminal Managing Agencies for even more enhanced multi-agency working.

Recommendation 10: Arrangements be put in place for Licence fees to be paid through a direct debit scheme, similar to that in place for the payment of Council Tax.				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
<p>Arrangements were put in place at the time the Additional HMO Licensing Scheme was introduced.</p> <p>Officers in the Private Sector Housing Team now have the ability to take payments by card over the phone and, when the Online HMO Licencing System is up and running, applicants will need to make an online payment before they are able to submit their licence application.</p> <p>The new online licensing system requires payment to be made online as part of the application process.</p>	Helen Mansell	Existing resources	November 2014	Completed
Recommendation 11: The Scrutiny Panel highlights the need for a Best Practice Guide for Private Sector landlords and tenants and has produced a list of key issues that the Guide should include, as detailed below, for Cabinet's consideration:				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Issues to consider pre tenancy <input type="checkbox"/> Means of managing a property <input type="checkbox"/> Setting up a tenancy and different legal agreements <input type="checkbox"/> Deposits <input type="checkbox"/> Rents <input type="checkbox"/> Housing benefit <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord and tenant responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An agreement between Letting Agents and Landlords that the Letting Agent is permitted to undertake repairs on behalf of the Landlord <input type="checkbox"/> Other housing options <input type="checkbox"/> Empty homes Housing standards and Safety conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Housing health and safety rating system <input type="checkbox"/> Safety checks <input type="checkbox"/> Energy efficiency, recycling and sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Equalities Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Useful contacts, such as HMRC and Gov.UK 			
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
See response to Recommendation 2	Debi Waite	Existing resources	February 2016	
<p>Recommendation 12: The Best Practice Guide for Private Sector landlords and tenants is easily accessible on the Council's website with paper copies available in the Council's One Stop Shop. On request, the Best Practice Guide should be made available in other languages and formats.</p>				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
See response to Recommendation 2	Debi Waite	Existing resources	February 2016	

Recommendation 13: A copy of the Best Practice Guide is sent to the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) and the National Landlords' Association (NLA).				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
Northampton's approach to the dissemination of advice and information (see response to Recommendation 2) and partnership working (see responses to the Recommendations 3, 6, 7 and 9) will be shared with ARLA, the NLA and other organisations.	Debi Waite	Existing resources		Ongoing
Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation : The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.				
Action	Implementation / responsibility by	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement / Completed
Included onto the O&S Monitoring Work Programme 2016/2017	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and Scrutiny Committee	n/a	Monitoring to take place in February 2017	

Agenda Item 7

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 February 2017

Briefing Note – Crime & Disorder, Overview & Scrutiny

Summary

On the 3 February 2011 it was agreed that as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee role, that in meeting their responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, an annual report from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) would be provided. The report would focus on the levels of CSP performance and whether crime has increased in the light of reduced resources, and if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. The report was to advise the Committee of work undertaken, thereby informing Overview and Scrutiny of further review or scrutiny that may be required.

Community Safety Partnership – Performance Overview

The CSP continue to prioritise issues that are most likely to affect people in their day to day lives, including violent crime (including domestic abuse), anti-social behaviour, domestic burglary and vehicle crime, ensuring that our town and communities are safe places in which to live and enjoy themselves.

Performance has seen a downward trend for 2016/17, seeing increases in Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC), Anti-Social Behaviour and continued increases in Violent Crime. Overall crime has also continued to increase.

Actual Performance – April 2016 to November 2016

There's been an increase in overall crime in Northampton of 7.2% (+1458 crimes) from the baseline during the year. Performance has varied significantly between different crime types/groups. The increases seen within violent crime and serious acquisitive crime types have impacted on the overall crime figure which has meant that targets set by the CSP at the beginning of the year are not being achieved.

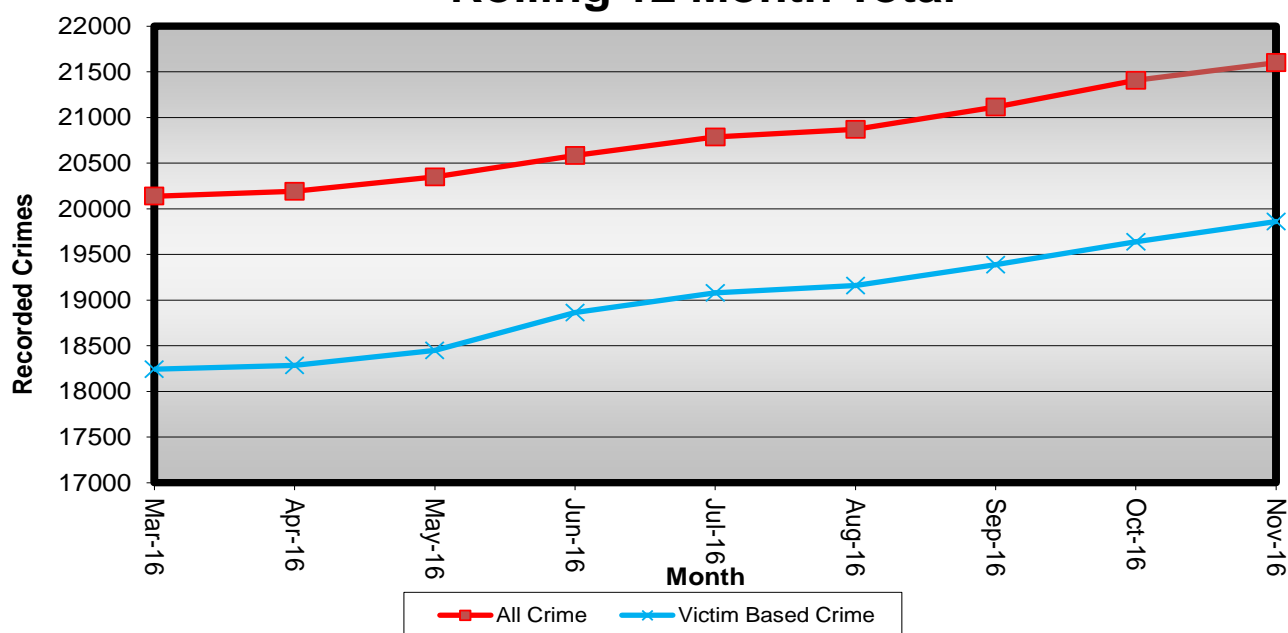
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Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

All Crime Rolling 12 Month Total



Northampton has seen a 4.4% increase (+262crimes) in violence offences from April 2016 up to November 2016. This includes a 5.1% increase (+167 crimes) in violence without injury and a 3.6% increase (+95) in violence with injury. The rate of increase has slowed considerably during the year compared to last year and appears to have reached a plateau. There are a significant amount of initiatives being implemented which should in turn continue to have an impact upon these figures.

Continuing from the last 6 months of 2015/16, increases in SAC continues with a 29% increase from the baseline (+796crimes) since April 2016. Vehicle crime has been the primary performance issue in relation to acquisitive crime, with theft of motor vehicles increasing by 9.5% (+37 crimes) and theft from motor vehicles increasing by 50.3% (+540 crimes). Domestic burglary has increased by 14.9% (+149 crimes). There are a number of initiatives specifically focussed on vehicle crime and burglary now taking place.

Following a number of years of positive performance in relation to reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, a downward trend is now being seen. Reported incidents to the Police has increased by 8.3% (+1051 incidents) from the baseline compared to the 12.9% reduction that was seen for the same period in 2015/16. All three ASB incident types have seen an increase this year than last with increases of 7.5%% (+97 incidents) in environmental ASB, 2.8% (+111 incidents) in personal ASB and 13.6% (+843 incidents) in nuisance ASB. The data relating to the Police public attitudes survey shows that the percentage of respondents who agreed that the Police and Council were dealing with ASB & crime issues is 56.9%, compared to 57.1% for the same period last year. Performance has also declined in relation to the percentage of those surveyed reporting ASB as an issue which has increased from 8.1% in November 2015 to 10.4% in November 2016.

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Specific pieces of work that are taking place are:

- Priority location work in relation to violent crime and serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main areas for focus are Bellinge, Lings, Semilong/Regent Square, Kingsheath and St David's.
- The key focus is violent crime for Partnership 'Weeks of Action'. With serious acquisitive crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs & alcohol and environmental issues being included. Weeks of Action have already been held in 4 out of the 5 identified areas.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews – There are currently 3 reviews taking place, which are at different stages. They are being led by the Community Safety Partnership, with an Independent Chair and Report Writer appointed, supported by the NCC Safeguarding Adults Team and overseen by the Chair of the Partnership. Home Office approval and sign off has been given for one review and it will be published at the end of January 2017. The second review is complete and awaiting Home Office sign off. The third review is currently in its early stages, and it is anticipated it will be ready to submit to the Home Office in September 2017.

Partners involved in the reviews have produced an Action Plan highlighting gaps in the existing process that may have contributed to the homicide. Partners involved in the Reviews will continue to meet to make sure actions within the plan are progressed to mitigate a similar event happening in the future.

- Community Payback have undertaken 15 specific projects so far this year.
- Personal Safety awareness sessions have been delivered to local youth groups.
- Government's Prevent/WRAP Training - a series of Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent have been held across Northampton and Northamptonshire, delivered to front line officers. The object being to understand the aims of Prevent, the role front line officers could have in identifying those who may be vulnerable to terrorism/radicalisation and how to prevent them becoming involved or supporting terrorism. Approximately 300+ staff have attended this workshop.
- The CSP Street Community (Street Drinkers/Beggars/Rough Sleepers/Sex Workers) Multi-Agency meetings continue, with a case management approach being taken to provide support and address any offending behaviour. There are currently over 40 individuals being monitored and case managed through this process.
- Awareness training on Child Sexual Exploitation has been provided for all NBC front line officers and Councilors.
- Target Hardening of properties at risk of burglary continues. 15 properties have improved security measures implemented.
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse continues to be provided. Over 26 victims have received security improvements to their home.

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- Street Football continued in hot spot locations.
- School Pastors continue to operate at Northampton Academy and have also been launched at Weston Favell Academy, with regular patrols taking place on Thursday's and Friday's with pastoral support being provided as and when required.
- Killing with Kindness campaign continues, with 3 further events being held since April 2016. The main aim is to raise awareness around street begging and rough sleeper issues, and encouraging people to donate to local charities who provide support for this vulnerable group.
- Ongoing work with University of Northampton and Northampton College, providing crime prevention and personal safety advice, support and guidance to students.
- Security marking of property and bicycles being undertaken in hot spot locations.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continues with 147 referrals being received by ASBU up to December 2016. To date, for 2016/17 18 Community Protection warning letters have been issued, 10 full Community Protection Notices served, 3 Criminal Behaviour Orders granted and 4 pending court hearing. There have also been 3 Premises Closure Orders obtained by Northamptonshire Police and Northampton Partnership Homes.
- Junior Warden's scheme continues, with a further 3 primary schools taking part.
- Through the Partnership Grants process, funding has been allocated to groups that support Community Safety activity such as domestic abuse, young people, and night time economy.
- A media campaign focussing on the night time economy entitled 'Nights Out Northampton' has been developed. This will see a range of articles covering a range of topics. In support of this campaign Street Marshal's now patrol on pay weekends and key dates, supporting the work of the Police and Street Pastors. Key messages of the campaign will focus on personal safety, alcohol awareness and the correct method for booking and using private hire and hackney taxis.

Partnership Weeks of Action

Partnership Weeks of Action have been a key delivery model. These 'Weeks' are held in the priority areas as identified by the police and NCSP as high in Violent Crime, Serious Acquisitive Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The areas also mirror the authority's hotspots for fly-tipping and other social disorder.

During the weeks there are a number of coordinated activities across each of the areas which include:

- Community Engagement
- Personal Safety
- Awareness raising around drug and alcohol abuse

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- Crime prevention and home security advice
- Target Hardening & Home Security Checks
- Property and bicycle marking
- Dog chipping
- Rubbish removal and community clean-up activities
- Community Payback carrying out landscaping improvements and other clean-up activities
- Environmental improvements
- Fire Service carrying out Home Fire Safety checks and fitting smoke alarms
- Housing enforcement activity
- Police enforcement activity
- Multi-agency Licensing checks
- Family Fun Days
- Youth engagement and supporting activities
- Sports activities

It is important to note that up to 2014/15 Community Safety Partnerships received government funding to deliver community safety initiatives. Due to this all activity delivered has mainly been supported from existing NBC resources, and partner resources where available.

Conclusion

Northampton continues to see reduced performance against the majority of targets. Overall crime is continuing to increase, with Serious Acquisitive Crime being the largest contributor towards this increase. Violent crime is continuing to increase, but at a slower rate compared to 2015/16.

The CSP continue to work closely with partner agencies, particularly the Police and The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver activities that will target our key issues. There are a number of initiatives being implemented that should have a positive impact and ensure that an effective multi-agency approach will be taken in tackling crime and disorder issues.

Brief Author: Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Partnership Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety – December 2016.

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Appendices:
2



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet response to Scrutiny – Health Check of the Local Economy
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	11 January 2017
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Regeneration Enterprise and Planning
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Tim Hadland
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Report Local Economy Health Check.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet:
- 2.2 Implements the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Local Economy Health check in accordance with the actions outlined in 3.4 below.
- 2.3 That the Scrutiny Panel are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanked for the time and effort given to producing the report.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to look at how partners locally, including the private sector, can work together to influence the local economy.

3.2 Key lines of Inquiry:

- How can schemes, such as Apprenticeship Programmes, be developed and expanded so that they deliver for local employees, employers and local residents?
- What is the vision for skills and learning issues, particularly low skills?
- What support is there for those that are in long term unemployment?
- What are the areas for potential growth in jobs?
- What can other organisations/groups/individuals do to help?
- Whether a mapping skills gap exercise has been undertaken to identify the type of skills that are in short supply; and what the findings of this exercise are
- How specific services can be used to generate business investment
- How can the offer of commercial land in the borough be improved to ensure a steady stream of quality premises that are accessible by new and established organisations?
- What could feasibly be done to improve the physical infrastructure in and around the town?
- How it can be ensured that those who are seldom heard or isolated are engaged with?

3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in June 2015, agreed to include a review of the health check of the local economy. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in July 2015 and concluded in March 2016.

3.4 This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority 1 – Northampton Alive - A vibrant town.

3.5 Northampton's Economy

3.5.1 In August 2016 the Council commissioned Oxford Economics to submit a proposal to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) proposing that

Northampton should be a part of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Growth Corridor. Part of the submission was a comprehensive review of the Northampton economy and the part the town can play in delivering economic growth for the Corridor. An executive summary of the report can be found in Appendix A. An extract of the submission is noted below to set context for the report.

“Recent job growth in Northampton has been strong—growing faster than the UK as a whole. It can also boast the fastest growth in the number of businesses in the Growth Corridor since 2010, growing at more than twice the UK average. Rapid economic growth is driven by specialising in sectors in which the local area has a comparative advantage; and a significant proportion of Northampton’s economy is concentrated in specialist industries, with almost 40 percent of all local jobs in sectors in which the local economy has a higher degree of specialisation relative to the other Growth Corridor cities: these include:

- *Manufacture of leather and leather related products;*
- *Repair of computers and personal and household goods;*
- *Financial service activities; except insurance and pension funding;*
- *Postal and courier activities;*
- *Employment activities;*
- *Land transport and transport via pipelines;*
- *Legal and accounting activities.*

In addition, Northampton has significant advantages that reflect particular strengths in both the structure of its economy and quality of life.

Northampton offers private sector developers an expectation of making an acceptable commercial return on investments.

Northampton has a well-balanced economy; not reliant on one or two trophy sectors or a single ‘legacy’ industry, facing fundamental restructuring nationally or globally. With transport and storage, specifically logistics, it has a sector in which the town has achieved significant scale and strong employment growth. It is also a global leader in High Performance Technology & Motorsport (HPTM) and leather and handmade footwear.

Northampton has a highly favourable location, with good connectivity particularly to London but also to Birmingham, Coventry and the rest of the West Midlands, making it a natural logistics hub.

Northampton and the surrounding county offers a favourable quality of life. Most significant here is the availability of good quality housing, at (relatively speaking) affordable prices. In addition, it is a university town and the town centre has a strong sense of heritage and significant numbers of locally-owned shops, restaurants and cafes. Furthermore,

there is a commitment to grow and develop the current cultural offering in the town. The Cultural Quarter was launched in early 2013 and already boasts a museum, theatre complex, art gallery, film house, and a host of supporting hospitality services.

Northampton and the surrounding county have low unemployment rates and relatively low levels of social exclusion. This helps to give the town a degree of social cohesion, and increases its attractiveness to people looking for a place to live and work.”

(Oxford Economics, 2016)

- 3.5.2 The NIC reported its findings to Government in autumn 2016; Northampton played a significant part of this report (executive summary attached as Appendix B). The Government has announced a high level investment plan for the Growth Corridor as part of the autumn statement and Northampton economy will benefit significantly from the infrastructure investment as the Corridor is developed.

3.6 Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone

- 3.6.1 The Enterprise Zone (EZ) is an essential vehicle for the town’s economic growth; to accelerate sustainable growth in jobs and unlock the potential for commercially-led development and business investment. The EZ will also help to retain and support local business expansion, stimulating enterprise and enhancing competitiveness of the area, as well as strengthening innovation & knowledge assets.
- 3.6.2 The continued development and subsequent success of NWEZ rests upon NBC, SEMLEP, NCC and other partners’ ability to enable the economic growth of the Zone as a whole, including the sites and the businesses within it.
- 3.6.3 Recent examples of the partnership bringing development forwards within NWEZ include the expansion of strategic businesses such as Cosworth and Carlsberg, the provision of infrastructure including a new railway station, increased power supply and broadband, and the start of the relocation and expansion of the University onto a new campus.
- 3.6.4 Pipeline growth routes are proposed through the expansion of Church’s shoes, Freefoam, HellermannTyton, Project Angel, the joining of St James Mill Link Road, the construction of the new office space at FOUR Waterside and the Vulcan Works managed workspace development on Guildhall Road.

3.7 Recommendations and Service response.

- 3.7.1 **The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that:**
- 3.7.2 The Council, together with its partners, develops a Skills Strategy for Northampton. This should include mechanisms for colleges and employers, especially Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME’s) to signpost vacant

apprenticeships across the town; whilst raising the profile of apprenticeships and vocational training in Northampton.

3.8. Proposed Service Response:

3.8.1 Cabinet recognises that skills are intrinsic to health and functionality of the local economy and welcomes the findings of the scrutiny panel. It is also recognised that as a District level authority, the Borough Council does not have a direct remit for the development and implementation of the education or skills agendas. That said, through the Borough Council's commitment to the economic development of the town, the Council should support the skills agenda locally where appropriate.

3.8.2 It is noted that an Area Based review is currently ongoing within the SEMLEP area. The review is part of a national programme aimed at the post-16 education sector. The review has two objectives:

- Clear, high quality professional and technical routes to employment, alongside robust academic routes, which allow individuals to progress to high level skills valued by employers; and
- Better responsiveness to local employer needs and economic priorities, for instance through local commissioning of adult provision, which will help give the sector the agility to meet changing skills requirements in the years ahead, building on the agreements with Greater Manchester, London and Sheffield.

3.8.3 Government state that the policy context means that major reform of post-16 education and training institutions is now necessary, in a way which also addresses the significant financial pressures on institutions including a declining 16-19 population and the need to maintain tight fiscal discipline.

3.8.4 The Government agenda is to move towards fewer, often larger, more resilient and efficient providers. This is expected to enable greater specialisation, creating institutions that are genuine centres of expertise, able to support progression up to a high level in professional and technical disciplines, while also supporting institutions that achieve excellence in teaching essential basic skills – such as English and maths.

3.8.5 The outcome of the Area Based review is likely to have a large influence on the overall skills agenda; however at this time it is difficult to predict the conclusions of the Review. As such it is recommended that at the conclusion of the Area Based Review the Borough Council revisits this Overview and Scrutiny recommendation for the development of a Skills strategy.

3.9 Recommendation to Cabinet:

3.9.1 Cabinet investigates ways that the Council, and its partners, can continue to raise the profile of the economic growth and investment in Northampton through the Northampton Alive Programme, in particular the success of the Enterprise Zone, and work undertaken by larger employers and investors in the town.

3.10 Proposed Service Response:

3.10.1 The Council and its partners continually seek opportunities to raise the profile of the Borough, using the success of the Enterprise Zone and the Northampton Alive programme as leverage to attract further investment.

3.10.2 The Enterprise Zone marketing sub group is tasked with promoting the Enterprise Zone and the wider Borough to national and international investors. There is a Communications Officer position that is paid for by the Enterprise Zone to deliver the marketing objectives of the Group and the overarching Enterprise Zone Board.

3.10.3 Recent Enterprise Zone marketing projects have included:

- The attendance of representatives of the Zone at high profile property events in Manchester and London; including Borough Council officials giving a key note presentation to a delegation of investors, alongside the University of Northampton. The presentation was given at London MIPIM, one of the UK's leading land, property and investment shows.
- Hosting and facilitating visits between international delegations and local companies. This recently included a delegation of Chinese officials and businesses; a local company was awarded a substantial contract following this meeting.
- Regular e-shots and social media activity regarding the successes of the Zone, the Alive programme and also successes of local businesses.
- New signage around the Zone including a large sign that lists some of the key local businesses that faces the railway line south of the station is the first part of the new signage going up around the Zone.

3.10.4 Borough Council officers will continue to explore ways in which to promote the success of Northampton, using achievements as leverage for further investment. The ideal forum to have this discussion will be as part of the agenda on the next Enterprise Zone Marketing group.

3.11 Recommendation to Cabinet:

3.11.1 It is recommended to Northamptonshire County Council and partners that schools and employers work closely to provide work place experiences for young people that are still in education.

3.12 Proposed Service Response:

3.12.1 The Borough Council will engage with the County Council and investigate how to ensure that schools and businesses are able to communicate regarding work experience places.

3.12.2 The Borough Council will investigate how to use its social media platforms to encourage companies to offer work experience positions for young people that are still in education.

3.12.3 As part of the regular business engagement, Borough Council officers will discuss the benefits to young people and businesses of industry work experience.

4. Issues

4.1 None identified.

5. Choices (Options)

5.1 Cabinet could choose not to adopt any of the recommendations within this report. As such, business as usual is accepted as the appropriate response to Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommendations.

5.2 Cabinet may choose to adopt some of the recommendations arising in this report.

5.3 Cabinet may choose to adopt all of the recommendations within this report. This would allow Officers to investigate and address the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny committee. This is the recommended option.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1.1 Policy

6.1.2 None at this stage

7. Resources and Risk

7.1 There are no financial implications and any action will be covered within existing budgets.

8. Legal

8.1 The actions recommended by this report lie generally within the Council's general power of competence under the Localism Act 2010 and are also consistent with its powers in relation to economic well-being under the Local Government Act 2000

9. Equality and Health

9.1.1 None specifically highlighted.

10. Consultees (Internal and External)

10.1 Internal NBC Officers.

11. How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

- 11.1 The proposals are attributed to the delivery of the Northampton Alive Regeneration programme and the overall economic development of the Borough.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 Report of Scrutiny Panel 1 – Health Check of the Local Economy

John Dale, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, X7078.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northampton has the potential to play a significant role in ensuring that the Growth Corridor achieves its potential as a dynamic and innovative economic area. With its own economic strengths, it can drive growth within the corridor, but also complement the economies of Oxford, Cambridge and Milton Keynes—therefore ensuring that increased investment will not just be for the direct benefit of Northampton, but the Growth Corridor as a whole.

Northampton is already a prominent regional economic centre. In terms of population, it is larger than either Oxford or Cambridge, and employs over 140,000 people—the second largest job total of any local authority in the Growth Corridor. With large sectors in both financial and insurance activities and transport and storage, the local area has seen employment growth outpace the national average.

However, the level of qualifications in Northampton is markedly lower relative to Cambridge and Oxford, and could potentially be an obstacle to long-term growth.

The future for Northampton is bright, with strong growth expected over the next 15 years. The rate of job growth will outpace the Growth Corridor average and be almost twice that of the UK overall. This will see Northampton strengthen as a regional economic centre, with the inflow of commuters increasing over the forecast period. The number of people living in Northampton is expected to exceed 250,000 by 2030, with a strong influx of migrants into the area, boosting the working age population and economic capacity.

Northampton's specialisms strengthen the corridor as whole, complementing and supplying its local economies. Almost 40 percent of the jobs in Northampton belong to sectors in which the local economy has a higher degree of specialisation relative to the other key Growth Corridor cities. In addition, the potential supply chain linkages associated with Northampton's specialist sectors could potentially support significant employment in Oxford, Cambridge and Milton Keynes.

However, the low movement of commuters to and from Northampton and Oxford or Cambridge reveals inadequate transport connections that weaken the economic potential of Northampton and the Growth Corridor as a whole.

Northampton exhibits important strengths. It has a well balanced economy that offers a strong return on private investment; located just off the M1 with easy access to London and Birmingham, it is in an excellent geographic location; with affordable housing and low levels of social exclusion, it offers a good quality of life.

These factors present it with opportunities to build a bright and prosperous future within the Growth Corridor. It can attract the best and brightest to live there, by being an easy commute to other Growth Corridor cities, but also support high skilled jobs in the local area through further development of specialist sectors such as high performance technology and motorsport. It can attract further investment and stimulate business growth by

increasing the number of offices and industrial premises, as well by redeveloping existing buildings. With the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone playing a key role in ensuring that needs of businesses in the twenty-first century are met. The enterprise zone itself will be bolstered with the relocation University of Northampton to the site, which in addition to raising the education and skill attainment of local residents, can drive market led research and Northampton's innovation capacity.

Making the most of these opportunities and cementing its position as a crucial component in the success of the corridor will, however, require that some of Northampton's weaknesses are tackled. None are immovable but each currently represents a constraint on the city's future potential. In particular, east-west connectivity is poor, limiting interconnectedness with the Growth Corridor's powerhouses of Oxford and Cambridge. Educational attainment is also relatively low by comparison to its neighbours, a factor that will act to constrain growth in the long term in an increasingly knowledge-based economy. Finally, Northampton's profile is overshadowed by its better known neighbours, and by a kind of self-imposed modesty. It is a city with much to recommend it to the affluent, well educated, productive workforce that will be attracted to the opportunities the wider Growth Corridor has to offer—with an attractive urban environment, relatively affordable housing and a specialist economy—but it needs to more effectively promote itself as a place to live and work if it is to really maximise the benefits that the Growth Corridor brings.

We estimate that investment projects in Northampton have the potential to notably benefit Northampton and the rest of the Growth Corridor.

Planned infrastructure investment could lead to increasing the value of the local economy by more than £1 billion and doubling the pace of job growth by 2030. It is also clear that the additional economic activity and housing will strengthen supply chain linkages and commuting across the nine local economies, adding an additional £370 million and an additional 5,400 jobs to the rest of the Growth Corridor economy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has been asked to provide the government with proposals and options to maximise the potential of the Cambridge- Milton Keynes- Oxford corridor as a single, knowledge-intensive cluster that competes on a global stage, protecting the area's high quality environment, and securing the homes and jobs that the area needs.

Over the past eight months the Commission has engaged with a range of stakeholders from across the corridor including local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), universities and Whitehall departments. This has included evaluating around 80 responses to a call for evidence which sought to gather views on current challenges, proposed interventions and the vision for the corridor.

This interim report presents the Commission's assessment of the key challenges facing the corridor. It sets out how the NIC will work over the next year to help tackle these challenges. The report also sets out a number of shorter term recommendations which it believes the government should implement whilst the Commission's second phase of work is underway.

The Commission's central finding is that a lack of sufficient and suitable housing presents a fundamental risk to the success of the area. Without a joined-up plan for housing, jobs and infrastructure across the corridor, it will be left behind by its international competitors. By providing the foundations for such a strategy, new east-west transport links present a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure the area's future success.

A LACK OF HOUSING AND CONNECTIVITY ARE PUTTING FUTURE SUCCESS AT RISK

The Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor is home to 3.3 million people and hosts some of the most productive, successful and fast growing cities in the United Kingdom, as well as world leading universities, knowledge intensive high-tech firms and highly skilled workers. The area is a hugely valuable asset to the UK as a whole. Its universities, businesses and technology clusters have a global reputation and compete on the world stage.

The success of the area has fuelled exceptionally strong demand for housing across the corridor and in its key cities, which has not been matched by supply. Lack of housing supply is leading to high house prices and low levels of affordability, for both home ownership and private rental. The ratio of median house prices to earnings is 13:1 in Cambridge and 12:1 in Oxford making them two of the least affordable cities in the UK.

This situation is exacerbated by poor east-west transport connectivity and limited 'last mile' capacity into certain centres and other employment locations. In contrast to strong north-south radial links extending from London, east-west trips across the corridor are difficult, slow and unreliable. As a result, commuting between key hubs on the corridor is almost non-existent and the area does not function as a single labour market.

Meeting the corridor's housing and connectivity needs is a significant financial and planning challenge. It will require radical thinking to enable new and expand current settlements at the scale needed. Crucial to this will be creating settlements that build on the attributes that make the corridor an attractive place to live and work. This will require different approaches to infrastructure and development in different locations. This could include the densification of existing towns and cities, the development of substantial urban extensions, or the construction of wholly new settlements. It may require all of these things.

Sustainable communities need to be supported by the right infrastructure. This includes the immediate, local connections into specific sites and developments, as well as the broader transport links that connect homes to jobs and services, allowing people to access the wider economy and supporting their quality of life. It also includes utility, flood and digital networks.

Infrastructure and housing must be planned together. The current development of new strategic east-west links, particularly if combined with other more targeted local infrastructure improvements, provides an opportunity to achieve this and prepare an ambitious long-term strategy for the development of the corridor.

A JOINED-UP STRATEGY LINKING INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOMES

To maximise the benefits of significant new infrastructure investment, local stakeholders will need to demonstrate collective strategic leadership, often across administrative borders. This includes developing a shared vision for the corridor and a strategic plan for its development that commands the support of government and wider stakeholders.

If taken forward as part of a wider strategy for planning and housing, new investment in transport infrastructure within the corridor has the potential to:

- Better link homes to employment, opening up both major strategic sites and smaller local sites for high quality housing development.
- Co-ordinate patterns of new development, creating focused opportunities to build new communities around transport hubs and interchanges.
- Create inclusive liveable places, connecting people and communities with opportunities for work and leisure.
- Mitigate congestion in city centres.

- Provide a catalyst to private investment, unlocking broader local and national benefits.
- Increase land values, allowing local authorities and government capture a share of uplifts to support infrastructure investment.

A strategy for infrastructure and homes will also need to be linked to the area's strategy for skills and social infrastructure as well as the UK's wider industrial strategy. The Commission has not examined skills and social infrastructure as part of this study but recognises their importance alongside physical infrastructure to economic success.

The Commission recognises that through partnerships such as the East West Rail consortium, England's Economic Heartland and the Fast Growth Cities group, progress has been made in this area. Going forward, the challenge remains to create a strategic plan or plans with consistent support across the corridor, encompassing planning, transport and funding.

Recommendation 1: Local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, government departments and national delivery agencies, should work together to develop an integrated strategic plan for infrastructure, housing and jobs across the corridor.

- The plan should provide a framework for cross-corridor economic and transport strategies and for strategic spatial plans which, when combined, enable a step-change in housing provision and connectivity.
- The plan should also ensure that options for funding infrastructure are fully integrated into the strategy.
- The Commission will support this process as part of the second phase of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford study.

A new vision for how future communities and major new infrastructure projects are designed and developed will need to inform this strategy if it is to win widespread support. This will need to respect the character of the diverse areas that make up the corridor.

Recommendation 2: The quality of infrastructure design and its impact on maintaining and enhancing the character of the built environment should be central to any strategic plan for the area.

- As part of the next stage of its work, the Commission will continue to work with urban planners and the design community to understand how infrastructure can enable new and expanded settlements which incorporate the highest standards of design and place making.

In addition to strategic planning, it is crucial for success that joint governance structures can be formed that support collective decision making.

Leadership on different issues will be required at different spatial scales. While collaboration on strategic transport infrastructure is likely to require collaboration at the whole corridor level, leadership on strategic spatial planning, may require local authorities to collaborate around a travel to work area or across clusters of housing market areas. The delivery of specific new transport and housing sites may require different institutional structures again, for example new development corporations focused on exploiting the potential around key transport hubs and interchanges

To succeed, any new model for strategic leadership must be built from the ground up through an inclusive process. Given the importance of the corridor to the UK economy, national government must recognise its stake in the success of this work.

Recommendation 3: Local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, government departments and national delivery agencies, should work together to develop proposals for the joint governance arrangements required to deliver co-ordinated planning.

- This work should build on and strengthen existing cross-corridor collaborations and should consider the potential for formal joint governance mechanisms (e.g. joint committees, combined authorities, sub-national transport bodies, or the creation of unitary authorities). These should include consideration of future devolved powers, freedoms and financial flexibilities.
- The work should also consider the full range of delivery mechanisms capable of accelerating housing growth, including looking at the potential for new development corporations to accelerate and drive delivery.
- The Commission will support this process as part of the second phase of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford study.

A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION OPPORTUNITY

The East West Rail project and the proposals for an Oxford-Cambridge Expressway present a unique opportunity to develop a multi-modal transport spine for the corridor – delivering substantial national benefits and providing a foundation for the area’s long-term development.

These schemes have significant benefits, including:

- Completing ‘missing links’ within the national rail and road networks – improving resilience by connecting radial routes from London; providing relief to congested routes in the south-east and midlands, and enabling wholly new connections between England’s towns and cities, ports and airports.
- Improving and diversifying the labour supply of existing city economies – bringing productive towns and cities closer together; expanding travel to work catchments, and reducing the impact that pressures in local housing markets have on firms’ ability to recruit and retain people at all levels of their business.

- Meeting projected increases in travel demands driven by population growth and planned housing development.

But this is only part of the story. Through joined-up planning, these schemes also have the potential to unlock major new sites for housing, to improve land supply, and to enable the development of well-connected and sensitively designed communities. Without integration into wider spatial strategies for the corridor they risk not addressing the factors that are holding back growth on the corridor.

The first section of East West Rail between central Oxford and Bicester is due to fully open in December this year. The government has committed to complete the second section of the line between Oxford and Bedford via Bletchley by 2024 – but there is a risk of the project being further delayed, to avoid this, it is important that elements of the work are accelerated so that its construction can dovetail with that of HS2.

Recommendation 4: The government should commit to delivering the Western Section of the East West Rail project before 2024 (the end of the rail industry’s Control Period 6).

- **To achieve this, the government should bring forward £100m in funding to accelerate design and development, and commit construction monies as necessary to:**
 - **avoid abortive cost (subject to the development process demonstrating rigorous disciplines in planning, cost management and value management); and**
 - **integrate construction of the East West Rail Western Section with work on HS2.**
- **To fully maximise the benefits of the project local authorities should recognise the potentially transformational benefits of East West Rail and develop and agree, working with national government, an ambitious strategy for housing development and delivery around stations and station towns.**
- **The Commission will support this process as part of the second phase of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford study.**

For the Expressway, and the Central Section of East West Rail between Bedford and Cambridge the Commission recognises more development work is needed before the schemes can be finalised and firm decisions on prioritisation and delivery can be taken. For both schemes, this work must be progressed in a way that maximises opportunities to bring forward high quality housing development, creating places where people want to live which are well-connected to jobs and services while still delivering improvements to national connectivity.

Recommendation 5: The government should commit up to £10m in development funding to continue work on the Central Section of the East West Rail link.

- **Government should provide clear guidance that a core objective for the development of this scheme should be to support the provision of new housing and connect it to local and regional labour markets.**
- **Local partners and national government should work together to develop a plan for the Central Section which links development work on the East West Rail Central Section to options for local housing development.**
- **Government should explore the potential for alternative delivery and financing mechanisms for the railway. This should include consideration of how third party contributions could be leveraged.**
- **The Commission will support this process as part of the second phase of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford study.**

Recommendation 6: The government should commit £27m to the end of 2018/19 to fund the next phase of development work on the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway study, allowing the detailed design process to begin as soon as possible.

- **Highways England should work with relevant local authorities to develop and assess the potential Expressway options and develop a proposal which maximises the scheme’s potential to unlock housing growth and connect it to local and regional labour markets, alongside delivering wider benefits.**
- **The Commission will support this process as part of the second phase of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford study.**

The full potential of East West Rail and the Expressway cannot be realised without investment in its wider road and rail network. It is encouraging, therefore, that LEPs and local transport authorities are already working together through the England’s Economic Heartland partnership to define a cross-corridor transport strategy.

The delivery of new homes and communities must be a core objective of this strategy. This means prioritising and progressing schemes that enable smart, sustainable communities, alongside those which improve connectivity and create jobs. LEPs and local authorities have prioritised a number of such schemes in recent bids into the Local Growth Fund. National and local government must work together, with the private sector, to secure resources for key schemes and enable their prompt delivery.

Maximising the benefits of East West Rail will also require new thinking from local authorities on first/last mile connectivity, and on the connections between suburban and rural populations and city centres. Most towns and cities across the corridor have city centre strategies in place, but these will need to be strengthened to reflect and enable the long-term requirement for housing growth.

There can, of course, be no “one-size-fits-all” approach to realising these aims. What works in Cambridge may not be appropriate in Milton Keynes, and solutions for Milton Keynes may not work for Oxford and Oxfordshire. However these approaches will need to factor in the wider cross corridor strategy developed as part of

recommendation 1 and the emerging thinking on East-West Rail and the Expressway as set out in recommendations 5 and 6.

Recommendation 7: In order to maximise the benefits of new strategic infrastructure and to ensure that urban centres across the corridor continue to function effectively - Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, government departments and national delivery agencies, should work together in each centre to define a set of credible, coherent and co-owned city centre transport strategies.

- These strategies may build on existing plans, but also ensure that national and regional level schemes are properly integrated into local thinking.
- These strategies should be consistent with partners' wider work to develop a plan for the corridor that maximises its potential to support housing growth.
- This should include realistic proposals on funding and financing and any consideration of any devolved powers, freedoms or financial flexibilities.
- The Commission will support this process as part of the second phase of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford study.

The recommendations outlined in this interim report, represent an important step in this project. They reflect the Commission's assessment of the key challenges facing the Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford corridor and actions that need to be taken now to further develop strategically significant projects. The recommendations also express the Commission's desire to work with local authorities, LEPs and national government to tackle these challenges.

While the Commission's work thus far has been on gathering and reviewing evidence, phase two of the project will see it play a more active role in the corridor - encouraging new thinking on joined-up strategic planning, governance, infrastructure financing and place-making over the next year.

The long-term success of the corridor will, of course, depend upon the sustained efforts of local and national government, on the continued success of businesses within the corridor, the commitment of investors, and the quality of its universities. The Commission's own work within the corridor will be time limited. The Commission will, therefore, use its final report and its recommendations to government in late 2017, to set out its view on:

- The institutions that will strengthen governance across the corridor, by integrating planning and infrastructure decisions and driving delivery, to maximise the benefits of infrastructure investment.
- The design and phasing of new east-west transport links, and associated housing and development sites.
- Design principles for infrastructure, and associated development, to ensure that it is effectively integrated into the local environment and meets the needs of residents and communities.

- Measures to enhance local connectivity and reduce congestion to enable better journeys within the key urban centres in the corridor and to provide wider access to major new road and rail links.
- Priorities for any additional, non-transport infrastructure investment needed to unlock housing and support growth.
- Financing and funding mechanisms to unblock current barriers to the delivery of housing and infrastructure.

In developing and delivering these recommendations, the Commission will promote and build upon the best ideas from within the corridor itself - testing these through constructive challenge. It will also seek to balance the need for new plans and proposals that align to local needs, circumstances and preferences with the imperative for developing the corridor as driver of national prosperity.

Appendices:
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CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Street Lighting
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	11 January 2017
Key Decision:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Regeneration Enterprise and Planning
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Tim Hadland
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to respond to the recommendations in the Overview and Scrutiny Report to NBC owned Street Lighting.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet:
- 2.2 Note the recommendations included in the Overview and Scrutiny report on Northampton Borough Council (NBC) owned street lighting.
- 2.3 That a Member/Officer working group is created to oversee the completion of the asset list, options appraisal and final business case in relation to NBC owned street lighting.
- 2.4 That the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning, is invited to submit a report to Cabinet to present the findings of the work stream and make recommendations regarding the way forward.

2.5 That the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group are formally congratulated on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanked for the time and effort given to producing it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Working Group was to differentiate between NBC and Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) owned street lighting.

3.1.2 Key lines of Enquiry

- Investigate all NBC owned street lighting, not just those in situ on housing land
- Differentiate between NBC and NCC owned street lighting
- How the public can report problems and issues with street lighting
- Cost of NBC owned street lighting and energy consumption
- On-going costs for NBC street lighting

3.1.3 Conclusions from the Scrutiny work included:

3.1.4 Energy costs

3.1.5 NBC is recharged for electricity used for specific events such as the Christmas lights. NCC purchases its electricity from Laser Group.

3.1.6 The Working Group acknowledges that there is a need to ensure the Council is getting the best possible price on electricity. It would be useful for NBC street lighting to be of low energy lighting. The Working Group noted that NCC turns down its street lighting during night time hours, therefore reducing energy consumption.

3.1.7 There is no dedicated funding in respect of NBC owned street lighting with the exception of Christmas lighting. There is also no current identified revenue budget for the additional street lighting.

3.1.8 Identification of street lighting

3.1.9 The Working Group highlights the need for the inclusion of reference numbers on NBC owned street lighting columns that identify clearly they are owned and maintained by NBC.

3.1.10 It is felt that there is a need for discussions to take place between NBC, NCC and Balfour Beatty to ascertain whether it would be possible for NBC to “dovetail” onto its interactive mapping system. NCC will be provided with details of the NBC street lighting columns.

3.1.11 Public access to NBC owned street lighting columns

3.1.12 When eastings and northings referencing is completed; the NBC owned street lighting will be plotted onto the Council's interactive mapping system.

3.1.13 The Working Group emphasises the need for one clear reporting mechanism for the public regarding all NBC owned street lighting. It felt that the majority of street maintenance issues will be reported by the public to Street Doctor. The production of the Corporate Asset List will inform ownership of the street lighting.

3.1.14 Maintenance and repair costs – street lightings

3.1.15 Evidence received details that each street lighting column costs around £30 - £50 per year in electricity, depending on wattage, which can range from 30-150 watts. Maintenance costs for 744 lighting columns equates to approximately £50,000 per year. It is acknowledged that this amount could change when the Corporate Asset List is finalised. The Working Group felt that it would be beneficial for consideration to be given to looking at a shared street lighting specialist, with Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), for the 744 NBC owned street lighting columns. It is further felt that maintenance would be cheaper if the test was undertaken in a programmed way; such as a number of columns tested in a day rather than on an ad hoc basis.

3.1.16 Evidence received highlights that there is no revenue or capital budget for NBC owned street lighting and discussions will have to take place regarding assets and maintenance.

3.1.17 Invest to Save Programme - Street Lighting

3.1.18 From the evidence received, the Working Group acknowledges the need for an Invest to Save Programme for NBC owned street lighting. It recognises that NCC has installed energy efficient lighting.

3.1.19 The Working Group recognises that discussions between NBC, NPH and Northamptonshire Police regarding the need and appropriateness for lighting and what areas should/should not be lit should take place.

3.1.20 The Working Group acknowledges that there is a need to ascertain whether the current level of 744 lighting columns is required; for example the lighting of parks. The views of Northamptonshire Police would be useful.

3.1.21 Report It App.

3.1.21 The Working Group highlights the value of the Report It App. and felt it would be useful for details of NBC owned street lighting to be included within the App.

3.1.22 Training

- 3.1.23 Evidence received highlights the need for training of relevant officers, such as customer services staff, regarding the difference between NCC and NBC lighting and to which Authority maintenance issues should be reported to.
- 3.1.24 One clear reporting mechanism for problems with NBC owned street lighting needs to be easily available for the public. A clear reporting mechanism, together with the interactive active mapping system, will make identification and reporting of street lighting columns easier.

3.2 Recommendations and Service Responses

- 3.2.1 It has been established through the work of the Scrutiny Group that there are a large number of NBC owned street lights that currently are not managed, maintained or funded by NBC. As such, there are unquantified risks to the Authority should NCC request a financial contribution towards the maintenance/energy, and the safety of the NBC stock in relation to the general public.
- 3.2.3 The Scrutiny group identified 744 lamp columns throughout the town in the ownership of NBC, however the Group accepts that this is not an exhaustive assets list and as such there are a number of unidentified NBC street lights.
- 3.2.4 Without a comprehensive package of information that will feed from a completed asset list, it is difficult for Cabinet to be advised and subsequently make financial decisions regarding invest to save programmes or contributions to third parties. As such it is proposed that a work stream is created to identify the full list of NBC owned street lights as a matter of urgency.
- 3.2.5 Following the completion of the asset list an options appraisal covering the full range of options available to the Borough Council will be produced. The options identified will include a comprehensive risk analysis and an assessment of value for money to the Authority of the different options. The options appraisal will be presented to Cabinet in due course and will also identify the most appropriate way for the public to report street light faults on NBC owned street lights.
- Business as usual; no changes;
 - Switching off some of the NBC owned Street lights;
 - A financial contribution to NCC for the maintenance and energy costs of the street lights;
 - An invest to save programme for the NBC owned Street lights; and
 - The report will also identify the most appropriate way for the public to report street light faults on NBC owned street lights.
- 3.2.6 Cabinet should be made aware that there is currently no identified budget for NBC owned street lighting. In addition to the direct financial contributions that may be proposed through the options appraisal, it must also recognise that additional officer resource may be required to ensure that there are regular surveys and tests carried out of the NBC stock.
- 3.2.7 The work stream will be completed by the Regeneration and Economic Development service area; however it is recommended that an Officer/Member working Group is established to oversee the work.

3.2.8 Indicative work programme:

- Cabinet Approval of recommendations – 11th January 2017
- Officer/Member working party established – February 2017
- Work stream scoping exercise undertaken – February/March 2017
- Work programme agreed by Working party – March/April 2017
- Completion of the NBC owned street lighting asset list – May/June 2017.
- Options appraisal undertaken; including full cost implications and risk analysis – July/August 2017
- Officer/Member working party agree options appraisal – August/September 2017
- Report to Cabinet autumn 2017

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 Cabinet can choose to approve the recommendations and the associated work programme. This will allow the Authority to complete the NBC street light asset list and complete an options appraisal and report back to Cabinet with further recommendations. This is the recommended option.
- 3.3.2 Cabinet can choose not to approve the recommendations. This leave the Authority exposed to potential future unforeseen costs and risks.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1.1 Policy

- 4.1.2 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 There will be a resource implication through officer time to complete the work; scoping work may suggest additional officer capacity to complete the work programme. There are no other financial implications arising as a result of this report.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 There are no particular legal risks which arise directly from the recommendations of this report, although the current lack of an asset list does present some existing risks in terms of potentially unidentified maintenance issues and these should be reduced by the implementation of the recommendation.

4.4 Equality and Health

- 4.4.1 There are no Equality or Health implications arising from this report, however it should be noted that the next report back to Cabinet may identify several

areas that impact equality and health. As such a full assessment will be presented at the relevant point.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Internal officers have been consulted.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods - Creating an attractive, clean and safe environment.

5. Background Papers

Recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – NBC Owned Street Lighting.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee report – NBC Owned Street Lighting

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 13 June 2016

John Dale, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, X7078



**NORTHAMPTON
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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 February 2017

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Panel has continued with its evidence gathering with a meeting held on 5 January 2017.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 5 January 2017, the Scrutiny Panel received evidence from a number of key expert advisors. A briefing note containing details of the findings of the site visits that had taken place was received.
- 2.2 A final meeting of the Scrutiny Panel is set for 16 March 2017 and will receive evidence from two expert advisors and the Chair's draft report.
- 2.3 The report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 8 May 2017.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Dennis Meredith, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1

12 January 2017



**NORTHAMPTON
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NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 February 2017

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – HOMELESSNESS (PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Panel has continued with its evidence gathering.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel scheduled for 26 January 2017, the Scrutiny Panel will hear from a number of key expert advisors and receive various briefing notes regarding background reports and the findings the site visits.
- 2.2 It is envisaged that this Scrutiny review will conclude in March 2017, with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting scheduled for 8 May 2017.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the update is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Zoe Smith, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3

16 January 2017



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 FEBRUARY 2017

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 4 – EMISSIONS STRATEGY (ACTION PLAN)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Panel has held its initial evidence gathering meeting, receiving a number of background papers and presentations to inform its evidence base.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 A further evidence gathering meeting is set for February 2017; where the Scrutiny Panel will receive evidence from a number of key expert advisors. The Scrutiny Panel will then continue with its evidence gathering at a further meeting set for March 2017.
- 2.2 It is envisaged that the Scrutiny Panel will conclude its review in April 2017, with the final report of the Scrutiny Panel being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its June 2017 meeting.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the information is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Sam Shaw, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 4

16 January 2017