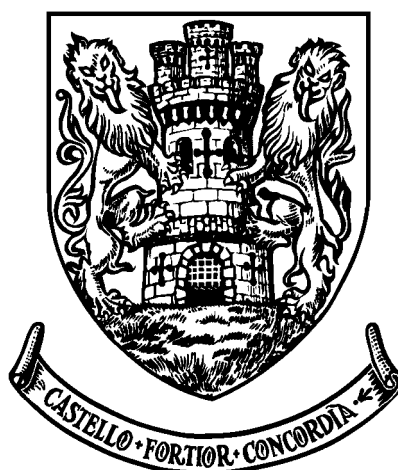


NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 10 December 2018

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2018 AT 6:30 PM WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS IS PROPOSED TO BE TRANSACTED

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES.

To approve the minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th November 2018.

3. APOLOGIES.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

6. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

7. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

8. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

Councillor Stone to make a statement on: 'Reflecting on 2018 and looking forwards to 2019'.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

i) Councillor Ashraf to propose and Councillor Stone to second:

BAME (Black and minority ethnic) women are disadvantaged, economically, socially and politically. They are also subject to increasing levels of domestic slavery and domestic abuse. There is a growing issue with women and their children without recourse to public funds. We know there is an issue with FGM. We therefore call on Northampton borough council to establish a working group with and for BAME women to examine the issues, and with partners, to suggest solutions.

ii) Councillor Smith to propose and Councillor T Eales to second:

Period Poverty has long been recognised as an issue for women with those who can least afford it, suffering the most. There are several national campaigns that aim to support women and make a stand against period poverty such as “Bleeding Insane Campaign” and “Red Box”.

We think that is a disgrace that in 2018 anyone should have to choose between buying food and buying Tampons, or that women and girls are missing work or school because they cannot afford sanitary products. The average cost to a woman is £4,800 during their life for sanitary products.

We call on the council to become ambassadors and set a great example for other businesses to follow by

1. Provide free sanitary products in all council work place bathrooms.
2. Establish a red box donation point and join the Red Box Project.
3. Work with our local to communities to raise awareness of this issue

iii) Councillor T Eales to propose and Councillor Stone to second:

Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (formerly women’s aid) do valuable work to support victims of domestic abuse. They currently run 5 refuges with 21 beds, which will not be funded from April 2019. Partner organisation Eve is at risk of losing 13 beds. NDAS have launched a fundraising campaign to raise £100k by March to keep the refuges open for 12 months. Losing these refuges will mean that the responsibility of helping these victims out of abusive homes will fall onto NBC.

We therefore call upon this council to not only recognise NDAS for the service they have been providing to domestic abuse victims but to give some much needed financial assistance.

iv) Councillor B Markham to propose and Councillor Beardsworth to second:

This Council recognises the value of openness and transparency in communicating with the public about air quality and the steps that it is making to monitor and to reduce air pollution.

This Council notes that other authorities, such as Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Council, make effective use of corporate websites to share information about air quality monitoring in an accessible way, including regular monthly publication of raw data from air

quality monitoring tubes.

Northampton Borough Council resolves to review the accessibility, frequency of update and timeliness of the air quality data and activity published on its own website in order to match the openness and transparency achieved by other local authorities.

10. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

George Candler – Chief Executive
The Guildhall
Northampton

Public Participation

1. Comments and Petitions

- 1.1 A member of the public (or an accredited representative of a business ratepayer of the Borough) may make a comment or present a petition on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. A comment or presentation of a petition shall be for no more than three minutes. No notice of the nature of the comment to be made or of the petition is required except for the need to register to speak by 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

(Public comments and petitions will not be taken and the Annual Council Meeting or other civic or ceremonial meetings.)

NOTES

- i. Comments may be on one or more subjects but each person has no longer than three minutes to have their say.*
- ii. The same person may make a comment and present a petition on different subjects. In such instances that person will have three minutes to make their comment and a separate three minutes to present a petition.*

2. Member and Public Questions

- 2.1 A member of the public (or business ratepayer of the Borough) may ask a maximum of two written questions at each meeting, each limited to a maximum of 50 words, on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers. Each question shall:

- be submitted in writing and delivered, faxed or e-mailed to Democratic Services no later than 10.00am seven calendar days before the day of the meeting; and
- include the name and address of the questioner and the name of the Cabinet member/Committee Chair to whom the question is put.

- 2.2 At the meeting, copies of all questions and the responses to them from the public and Members will be made available to the public and press. The Mayor may allow one supplementary question, without notice, that arises directly from the original question or response.

(Questions will not be taken at the Annual Council Meeting or at civic or ceremonial meetings or meetings called to deal with specific items of business.)

NOTES

In respect of paragraph 2.1 above, questions may be rejected on certain grounds that are set out on page 4-12 of the Council's Constitution and which may be viewed at www.northampton.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=1919 or by seeking advice using the contact details below.

3. Motions

- 3.1 A member of the public may register to speak to a motion under the 'Notices of Motion' item on the agenda. Registration to speak must be made to Democratic Services by 12 noon on the day to the meeting. Speaking to a motion is restricted to three minutes per person.

(The 'Notices of Motion' item will not be taken at the Annual Council meeting or meetings called for civic or ceremonial purposes.)

4. General

A member of the public may make a comment, present a petition, ask a question or speak to a motion at the same meeting subject to the restrictions set out above.

5. Contacts

Democratic Services: e-mail democraticservices@northampton.gov.uk

Tel 01604 837722

Mail Democratic Services
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton NN1 1DE

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON, ON Monday, 5 November 2018 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

PRESENT: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR Councillor Ansell (in the Chair).

COUNCILLORS: Malpas, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Cali, Choudary, Chunga, Culbard, Davenport, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Hadland, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, Joyce, King, Lane, Larratt, B Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Smith, Stone and Walker

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

2. MINUTES.

With the inclusion of Councillor Malpas being present, the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 2018 were agreed.

3. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from Councillors Ashraf, Caswell, Duffy, Graystone, Kilbride, M Markham, Marriot, Sargeant and Kilby-Shaw.

Councillor Russell commented the resignation of Councillor Culbard was due to ill health and on behalf of the Labour Group, expressed their gratitude and thanks for the work that she had carried out whilst in position.

Councillor Meredith concurred with the comments of Councillor Russell and noted thanks and best wishes to Ms Culbard.

Councillor Nunn gave thanks for the commitment and work that had been undertaken by Ms Culbard and wished her well through her illness.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor made a statement on his charity the Hope Centre. The Mayor announced that over £2,000 had been raised for MacMillan Cancer and noted the centenary of Armistice Day and urged Members to attend all services taking place on Remembrance Sunday including his event at Abington Park at 2.30pm.

The Mayor announced that the Diwali event that he had attended on the 3rd November 2018 had been hugely successful and thanked the event organisers for their work.

The Mayor further announced that he was delighted to announce that Northampton

received a Gold Award at the East Midlands in Bloom awards. He thanked the officers and community groups who had contributed to the success.

5. HONORARY RECORDER - JUDGE MAYO INDUCTION

Councillor Nunn explained that the appointment as Honorary Recorder was in the interest of maintaining the close ties between the Civil authorities and the Courts.

His Honour Rupert Mayo thanked the Council and urged the continuation of the appointment to ensure successive Honorary Recorders be appointed in the future.

RESOLVED:

That in pursuance of the statutory powers derived from the Court Acts 1971 and the Local Government Act 197, His Honour Rupert Mayo is appointed Honorary Recorder of the Borough of Northampton.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mr Raymond Overall addressed Council and questioned the winding up of the Markets Advisory Group's former composition. He commented that he had been the Chair since its inception and considered the administration to have failed Northampton Markets and the traders. He stated that the Markets Advisory Group had degenerated but reported that this was due to a lack of action from the Council and poor management.

Mr John Dickie commented that he had a number of concerns about the proposal to give more power and responsibilities to Parish Councils, with the Community Governance Review. He noted that he was concerned that there could be potential financial inequalities between parishes and suggested that some parishes were already mounting a 'land-grab' and noted that council tax should be spent on all of the residents.

Mr Tony Mallard commented that recent news articles had highlighted the treatment of patients with autism and learning difficulties who had been subjected to abuse. He stated that there were numerous instances of patients being detained and abused in secure hospitals, known as Assessment and Treatment Units (ATUs) which the NHS had reportedly spent £470 million on and asked whether there was anything within the power of the Council to highlight the issue and plight of the patients.

7. MEMBER AND PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor advised that 10 questions had been received from Councillors and members of the public and that the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

Questions and answers were given as tabled (included in an updated agenda on the Council's website) unless where stated, supplementary questions were asked as

detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 1, Councillor Hibbert stated that he would look into the viability of modular homes.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 2, Councillor Hibbert stated the Council had signed up to a motion to explore the housing of homeless vulnerable women.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 3, Councillor Hallam stated that he would ensure that the 'friends' and community groups would be kept updated.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 4, Councillor Hadland explained that it was unfortunate that repairs on the Queen Eleanor Cross had been delayed but that this was due to extensive work that had been recommended following investigations carried out by structural engineers.

8. CABINET MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Nunn, as the Leader of the Council submitted his report and elaborated thereon. He explained that he had continued to work with other Chief Executives and Council Leaders of all councils in preparation for the Unitary Councils.

In response to questions asked Councillor Nunn stated that the shadow board would be a balance of political representation but that it was unknown at the current stage what the composition would be and who would be in the Cabinet. He explained that he had attended a trip to China in order to build relations and considered it a positive trip which encouraged the celebration of Chinese customs. Responding to a further question, Councillor Nunn explained that he would pass on relevant information with regards to the £70,000 community partnership fund that was given to Cabinet. He responded to further questions by explaining that the Air Quality Report would be brought back to Cabinet and that this information would be shared and available to Councillors. He confirmed that he would investigate the problems that were present when accessing Abington Memorial Park.

Councillor Larratt, as the Deputy Leader, submitted his report and explained that he had met with officers with regards to Thorplands 81. He responded to public comments noting that the proposed changes to the Markets Advisory Group had already been approved by Cabinet as it had not been effective. It was explained that progress was being made with the street light contractors and reported that there had been a variety of problems with street lights but that bids were being made to the capital budget next year.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Larratt explained that the contractors would not be looking at all of the lights as some were the responsibility of the County Council. Responding to further questions, Councillor Larratt commented that he considered it a necessity for a shelter to be put in place outside the train station for people waiting for taxis and he would look into the installation of a shelter. He further

noted that webcasting would be going ahead but the financial implications were still being considered.

Councillor Hibbert submitted his Cabinet Member report and explained that the rough sleepers count had recently taken place to obtain a snapshot of the numbers of rough sleepers in the Borough and explained that of the 22 males and four females that were found sleeping rough, 19 were already known to the Council's street outreach team. He explained that a report was soon to be taken to Cabinet which would explore the potential to reduce costs of temporary accommodation and noted that the Council had recently granted planning permission for an additional 17 council houses.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hibbert explained that a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) was in place and would be managed in conjunction with the Hope Centre, which would take place in the event of instances of 'severe weather', which would normally operate when the temperature falls below freezing and forecast to remain below freezing for a period of at least three consecutive nights. It was further explained that various steps were being taken to assist homeless women who were living on the streets and sleeping rough which included the provision of bed and breakfast accommodation once they had been vetted by officers at the Guildhall. Councillor Hibbert explained that 'business' cards had been placed on every desk as they which had information relating to homelessness printed on them. Responding to a further question, Councillor Hibbert commented that he would be happy to remind Northampton Partnership Homes tenants of their obligations, specifically relating to fireworks.

Councillor Hallam submitted his Cabinet Member report and noted how proud he was of the work being carried out by Veolia and IDVerde. He highlighted the response of a reported environmental issue which had been resolved in under two hours.

In response to questions asked, Councillor Hallam commented that the neighbourhood wardens were fully staffed which had strengthened the team. It was explained that a record number of formal notices had been issued in Far Cotton which was as a result of fly-tipping, sending out the message that it would not be tolerated.

At this juncture of the meeting, the Mayor announced that the time limited for Cabinet Member reports had been reached and no further Cabinet Members would elaborate on their reports.

9. OPPOSITION GROUP BUSINESS

The Mayor announced that due to sudden ill health, Councillor Marriott was unable to attend and asked for Council to agree that Opposition Group Business be withdrawn

RESOLVED:

Council agreed to the withdrawal of Opposition Group Business.

10. CORPORATE PLAN 2018 - 2020

Councillor Nunn proposed a report that sought Councils approval of the Corporate Plan 2018-2020 and explained that despite the inevitability of Unitary, it was still essential for the Council to remain focused in order to deliver direction and commitments on behalf of the Administration outlining key strategic priorities and objectives.

Councillor Larratt seconded the report.

Councillor Stone commented that the corporate plan had not identified areas that really mattered to the electorate. She explained that in some areas of the Borough life expectancy was falling, a contributing factor of which was inequality, specifically poverty. She reported that over 18,000 children in Northampton were living in child poverty which was unacceptable and very little was being done by the Administration to address the issues and no solutions offered and called for the Administration to adopt a poverty strategy.

Councillor Beardsworth stated that she considered there to have been a lack of consultation with members of the public to identify their needs. She commented that despite the Administration committing to having more homes and better homes, the number of people experiencing homelessness had increased. She further questioned the commitment to 'spending money wisely' when there had been no money recovered from the Sixfields loan. She commented that she considered the Corporate Plan to be a good wish list, but questioned whether it was just that: the increase in evictions and a rise in the number of people being housed on temporary accommodation did not demonstrate a commitment to helping those in need.

Councillor Meredith commented that he considered there a need for an increase in funding for the community of allotment holders and asked for funding to be given for the provision of toilet facilities.

RESOLVED:

That Council approved the Corporate Plan for 2018-2020 and that the Chief Executive be authorised to finalise the document and publish this alongside the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

11. REORGANISATION OF COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ORDER 2018 - HUNSBURY MEADOWS.

Councillor Larratt proposed a report which sought Councils approval of the Northampton Borough Council (reorganisation of Community Governance) order 2018.

Councillor Oldham seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Northampton Borough Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) order 2018 (Appendix 1 of the report) be approved

- 2.1.1 The electoral arrangements for parishes – the ordinary year of election, the size of the council, the number of councillors to be elected and parish warding;
- 2.1.2 Grouping parishes under a common parish council, or de-grouping parishes

12. PROPOSED UPDATES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Councillor Larratt proposed and elaborated on a report that sought Council to approve amendments to the Council's constitution to reflect changes that have occurred in the Council. He explained that this had been undertaken as part of the Constitution review Working Party (CRWP) and that whilst there were still some additional amendments to be made, the workings of the CRWP, the majority of the Constitution had been updated and would be published on the authorities' website.

Councillor Oldham seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following be agreed:

- 2.1 adopt the Constitution appended to this report at Appendix 1, subject to additional amendments that will be made to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers to incorporate the decisions made by the Alcohol and Gambling Licensing Committee and the Taxi and General Licensing Committee on 16th October 2018 regarding the delegated powers of Officers;
- 2.2 delegate to the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer the power to make typographical, numbering and formatting changes and any other minor changes required to the Constitution, and instruct the Borough Secretary to make the additional changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in respect of licensing activities as referred to in recommendation 2.1, prior to publishing the document;
- 2.3 authorise the Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer to publish the updated Constitution; and
- 2.4 authorise the Constitution Review Working Party ('CRWP') to review changes to the Constitution on an ongoing basis and present any further review to Full Council as appropriate.

13. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH - POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR CONSULTATION AND FURTHER ACTIONS

Councillor Larratt proposed a report which sought Council's approval of the updated

draft Terms of reference for the Community Governance Review (CGR) and to approve the recommendations made by the Working Group at its meeting on the 12th October 2018. Councillor Larratt explained that he had visited a number of residents associations and parish Council meetings, to communicate and update them on the potential changes.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report and explained that the consultation exercise would empower residents and local people to ensure that they achieved the best for people in their communities.

Councillor Stone commented that the Labour Groups preference had been for a Unitary Northampton but since this had been dismissed as a valid option, it was now essential for residents to be aware of their options and to feed into the consultation. She further commented that it was essential for people to be aware and educated about the potential costs prior to them be able to make an informed contribution.

Councillor B Markham commented that the CGR of Hunsbury Meadows had taken 18 months to complete and questioned how a Review of the whole Borough could be undertaken in the allocated time. He further reported that the proposed timetable was too restrictive and rushed before information about the future of the Borough Councils responsibility, including the Mayoralty functions were known and the potential increases in costs, specifically with additional precepts.

Councillor Golby commented that he fully supported the recommendations and the proposed CGR and cited Duston Parish Council as an example of local political activity and cohesion working exceptionally well.

Councillor Hill concurred with the comments made by Councillor Golby and stated that he considered areas of the Borough that were not parished may have suffered from a disadvantage.

Councillor Beardsworth stated that she considered there to be a lot of inequality with regards to the additional costs in parished areas and considered some areas would not benefit from being parished and urged the Council to commit to resolving and recognise the inequality that parishing may pose.

Councillor Larratt commented that the proposed CGR would allow residents to have an opportunity to feed into proposals that would affect them once the Council had been instructed by Government to move to Unitary and explained that he wanted residents to have a voice and explained that he considered parish councils to be qualified in setting their own precepts as they would have a better understanding of their areas. He further noted that the Milton Keynes in its entirety was covered by parishes. He explained that he was fully in support of the proposal and felt very strongly that residents needed to have their voices heard and considered.

RESOLVED:

That Full Council be recommended to:

- 2.1 approve the updated draft Terms of Reference for the CGR attached as Appendix 1 and delegates to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group the power to make any necessary amendments to the Terms of Reference prior to publication;
- 2.2 approve the recommendations made by the Working Group at its meeting on 12th October 2018 and therefore:
 - a) approves the 3 options set out in this Report at paragraph 3.2.6, to go forward for consultation as part of the CGR; and
 - b) delegates to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group power to approve the appointment of appropriate contractors to carry out the consultation element of the CGR on behalf of the Council
- 2.3 instruct the Chief Executive to publish the final Terms of Reference for the CGR and delegates to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group the power to determine the nature, form and methodology of the consultation and authorises the commencement of the CGR consultation.

14. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT

Councillor Nunn submitted a report which sought Council's approval to accept the recommendations made by the Audit Committee on the 3rd September 2018 to make an amendment to the NBC Treasury Management Strategy.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

RESOLVED:

That Council approved the following recommendations made by Audit Committee on 3rd September 2018 and amended the Northampton Borough Council Treasury Management Strategy 2018-19 as follows:

- a) approves the use of indirect property funds to achieve a greater income yield for treasury funds; and
- b) approves the investment of up to £8.000M, in one or more indirect property funds and delegates power to the Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, and after receipt of advice from Linked Asset Services (the Council's external treasury Management Advisors) with due regard to security and liquidity to approve such investments subject to the limitation that funds to be invested in would be restricted to those that are already utilised by one or more other Local Authorities and are offering in excess of 4% return/yield at the time that the investment is placed.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr Alistair Thompson addressed Council on Motion i) and stated that he agreed with the motion and noted that Northampton, when covered in the news, was not often of a positive nature. He commented that trust in local Councillors and Politician was not high and urged the Council to consider establishing a Councillor led, cross party group to develop a 'Peoples Plan for Northampton'.

- i) Councillor Beardsworth accepted an alteration to the original motion as published on the agenda. The altered motion was seconded by Councillor B Markham.

Council agreed to the altered motion debated below:

"The Council recognises that in 18 months' time that responsibility for the regeneration of Northampton Town Centre will pass to the newly formed Unitary Authority.

The Council also recognises that delays implementing regeneration projects in Northampton may occur if the new authority does not have a clear understanding of the stakeholders' vision for Northampton.

Building on the good work of the Business Improvement District and its recent consultation, as well as the work of others, this council agrees to set up a cross party working group, working with a wide range of stakeholders and interested parties to produce a "*Peoples Plan for Northampton*" to enable the new Unitary Council to prioritise projects in its first year. This Council requests that the working group produces its report by September 2019".

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

Mr Martin Sawyer addressed Council and asked for the resignation of Councillor Hadland. He stated that no longer was the Town regenerating, but degenerating and £4 million was spent on the demolition of the former Greyfriars Bus Station, only for it to have become unused. He reported that the administration had failed to deliver any regeneration in the Town centre of late and requested that someone with commitment to regenerating be given the role of Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

- ii) Councillor Beardsworth accepted an alteration to the original motion as published on the agenda. The altered motion was seconded by Councillor Meredith.

Council agreed to the altered motion debated below:

"The council notes that in spite of the fact that two firms of consultants have been appointed to produce a development scheme without success, the site of the former Greyfriars Bus Station has stood empty since March 2015 and adds to the sense of decline in Northampton Town Centre.

The council notes the appointment of a new consultant to produce a development scheme and calls on the administration to ask this consultant to draw up options for the site to be brought into a temporary use as a matter of urgency for the public's benefit. While accepting that this is an interim measure pending the long-term development of the Greyfriars site, whatever happens in the short term must not be to the detriment of a long term permanent development".

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

- iii) Councillor G Eales accepted an alteration to the original motion as published on the agenda. The altered motion was seconded by Councillor Stone.

Council agreed to the altered motion debated below:

The technological advancements of recent decades have much in common with the effects of the Industrial Revolution in the latter part of the 18th century. Specifically, both movements accelerated the displacement of workers by machines that could perform tasks faster, more accurately and 24/7. While technology enables business owners to reduce overhead by downsizing their workforce, individuals whose skill sets are now obsolete have limited options for employment if their current jobs are eliminated.

Given that Northampton has a large proportion of warehousing and transport as its employment base, both of which face the introduction of new technology and automation in the near and medium future, this equates to at least 37% of workers in fear of their job.

Working in partnership with other appropriate bodies such as local colleges, the University of Northampton, and relevant industry training bodies and organisations, the council will start to prepare and identify the finances to allow for upskilling of workers. The partnership will assist with;

- Training through employers and other agencies
- Planning for the future to deal with the implications of new technology as it is introduced.
- Organising a Symposium on the future of employment and the local economy with the university and employers.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

- iv) Councillor Birch accepted an alteration to the original motion as published on the agenda. The altered motion was seconded by Councillor Russell.

Council agreed to the altered motion debated below:

We note with concern the effects of holding commercial events on our town parks resulting in damage to the grass and terrain. The damage to the parkland is taking months to repair and meanwhile our residents are not able to enjoy the full use of these public open spaces.

This Council resolves to introduce a legally binding contract with commercial hirers, including fairs, to ensure the full restoration of the site and land impacted upon by the event, at the expense of the hirer, requiring a deposit to cover the likely cost of this work should it be deemed necessary.

Council also resolves to liaise through Park Management Committee's regarding events in individual parks. As we move towards Unitary status parishes may wish to take on the responsibility of their parks and these issues need to be regularised.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

Mr John Joseph addressed Council on motion v) and explained that he was in attendance as

a representative of the Northampton synagogue. He thanked Councillor King for putting forward the motion especially during a period when there had been an increase in anti-Semitism. He commented that a Holocaust Memorial Day and explained that he considered the Town and its residents to be welcoming of and accepting of all faiths.

v) Councillor King to propose and Councillor Hill to second:

Northampton Borough Council resolves to join with the Government in signing up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance guidelines on antisemitism which define antisemitism thus:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish Community institutions and religious facilities.”

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Acknowledge the importance of tackling anti-Semitism in all its forms, to support the growing Jewish community in our town and across the county.
- 2) Restate its condemnation of all forms of racism in all its manifestations
- 3) Adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of racism.
- 4) Asks the Executive to look to adopt similarly agreed definitions to confront and challenge all forms of racism and discrimination that exist within our society.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

vi) Councillor Hallam proposed an alteration to his original motion, in consultation with the Borough Secretary. Councillor King seconded the altered motion:

Council agreed to the altered motion debated below:

There is an increasing number of reports received by Northampton Borough Council (NBC) regarding abandoned shopping trolleys. These are often abandoned in roads, on walkways and in parks, where they have the potential to cause accidents and are an eye sore within the community.

Although many of local supermarkets try to take effective action to prevent the abandonment of shopping trolleys, it is too often the case that they do not act quickly enough on reports received.

This Council, therefore, resolves to investigate whether it ought to use legal powers available to it to more effectively tackle the problem by charging supermarkets a fee for each trolley collected by NBC. This set charge would be solely to recover the cost of collecting a shopping trolley that is found by an NBC authorised officer on ‘any land in the open air’ (including watercourses), and that appears to them to be abandoned. The Council would have to comply with certain statutory procedures in order to set up such a scheme, including a requirement to consult with supermarkets and other shops which offer the use of shopping trolleys to the public. This Council notes that officers will commence the necessary preparatory work with a view to preparing a report for the Executive so that it may make a decision as to whether or not to introduce such a charge throughout the entire Borough and, if so, what amount that charge should be set at.

Abandoned trollies are a real nuisance and NBC is hoping that if such a scheme is created, rather than paying fees, supermarkets will take more responsibility for collecting their trolleys and, consequently, help reduce the number of such incidents.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

The Mayor stated that he had been informed that the proposer of motion vii) did not wish for this motion to be moved. Therefore, as per the constitution, any motion thus set out in the summons be not moved at the meeting either by a Member who gave notice thereof or by some other Member authorised in writing on their behalf it shall, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice.

vii) Councillor King accepted an alteration to the original motion as published on the agenda. The altered motion was seconded by Councillor Hibbert:

Council agreed to the altered motion debated below:

“There has been a growing understanding of the positive impact that taking part in the arts can have on health and wellbeing. By supplementing medicine and care, the arts can improve the health of people who experience mental or physical health problems. The arts can improve healthcare environments and benefit staff retention and professional development.

There are many case studies and a wealth of evidence in *Creative Health* report, conducted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, to support three key messages:

- The arts can help keep us well, aid in our recovery and support longer lives better lived.
- The arts can help meet major challenges facing health and social care: ageing, long-term conditions, loneliness and mental health.
- The arts can help save money in the health service and social care.

Northampton Borough Council (NBC) expresses its strong support for the report's ten recommendations to increase awareness of how engaging in the arts can bring benefits to health and wellbeing.

This Council notes the recommendation 3 of the report, which encourages all local authorities to designate an individual to take cross-sector responsibility for arts, health and wellbeing.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion was carried.

15. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE MAYOR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 10.03pm

Questions for Full Council Meeting 5th November 2018

Question 1

Question from Cllr Beardsworth to Cllr Hibbert

I understand that you have received a proposal to address the significant expenditure on homelessness by building “modular units” on council owned garage sites to provide basic accommodation for the homeless rather than having to use bed and breakfast accommodation.

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council if this is a course of action that he is considering, to control the cost of homelessness and when the first units might be installed?

Response

At its meeting on 5 December 2018, the Cabinet will consider a wide range of options for reducing the use and cost of temporary accommodation. Some of these options will involve the Council purchasing or leasing properties (including modular homes) at a lower net cost than the accommodation it is using at the moment.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert
Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Question 2

Question from Cllr Beardsworth to Cllr Hibbert

Oasis House was set up to help vulnerable residents turn their lives around and to establish a way forward for them to lead independent lives.

Recently there has been coverage of changes planned by the Councils partner, Midland Heart to update the delivery of services from Oasis House.

Can the Cabinet Member advise if the remit and objectives of Oasis House are going to change or is this a refresh of the operation to continue the same service to vulnerable residents?

Response

When it opened in 2012, Oasis House was celebrated for its wonderful facilities and its inspirational space, designed to motivate people to get back on their feet, to turn their lives around and to live happy and independent lives.

At the time, Midland Heart said its vision was to help homeless people regain their independence, rebuild their confidence and be reintegrated into society.

Last month, Midland Heart met with the Hope Centre and explained that it has carried out a review of its supported living arrangements and decided that it wants to work more closely with the Council and to focus on ending the cycle of homelessness, improving the transition from supported living to independent living and helping people into employment.

As Midland Heart wants to increase the number of homeless people that it can accommodate at Oasis House, it has given the Hope Centre a year's notice to vacate the communal space it currently occupies in Oasis House and to find alternative premises for its day centre.

I welcome Midland Heart's plans to work even more closely with the Council and its partners to end the cycle of homelessness and improve the life expectancy and life chances of men and women who are sleeping rough.

Midland Heart's plans will support the implementation of 'TOGETHER we change lives' (our multi agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton) and is consistent with the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Midland Heart is aware of the Council's interest in establishing a Nightshelter that can accommodate men and women, and it has recently indicated that the relocation of the Nightshelter to Oasis House is something it would be willing to support.

Irrespective of whether or not the Nightshelter moves from its current premises, the changes that Midland Heart is proposing are consistent with what Oasis House was originally set up to do: provide accommodation, services and facilities that motivate people to get back on their feet, to turn their lives around and to live happy and independent lives. In this respect, Midland Heart is just adapting its delivery model to meet the current and future needs of rough sleepers in the borough.

Question 3

Question from Cllr B Markham to Cllr Hallam

Friends of Parks and Community Groups do a lot to help this council maintain our parks, open spaces and community areas.

In the past this Council has supported Friends and Community Groups by providing skips and cages when they undertake major clear up activity to take away the rubbish and excess foliage.

Is it true that within the New Environment Contract that this support to community groups was not specified?

If so what action is the council taking to support Friends and Community Groups to continue to be positive partners to this council?

Response

The cage collection part of the service is absolutely a part of the new environment contract and we have been awaiting for the arrival of a new vehicle and cages which have been on order. At the time of writing, the vehicle is waiting its appropriate licensing - which will mean this valuable service will be able to resume shortly.

As I have often said Community participation through Friends groups, Community Groups and programs such as Bloom is one of the 3 key aspects of our overall strategy moving forwards. We are currently working with Veolia and Idverde to launch a Street Champions Scheme later this year. As well as providing groups with useful equipment, the scheme aims to reduce fly tipping and littering in the town by raising awareness of the valuable contribution the Friends and Community groups make in improving the town's environment, installing sense of pride and responsibility in each area.

The valuable contribution that the friends and community groups make towards improving the environment is greatly appreciated by the Council and we will continue to support initiatives such as community litter picks, weeks of action and love parks week. Regular support is provided to our Friends Groups by the park rangers, neighbourhood wardens and our community safety and engagement officers. Much of this support is coordinated through our eight Park Management Committees, across our bigger and medium sized parks and to the Friends Groups of our smaller parks.

Cllr Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment

Question 4

Question from Cllr B Markham to Cllr Hadland

Delapre Residents and Heritage Groups have been expressing concern for over 18 months about the deteriorating condition of the Queen Eleanor Cross on the London Road.

In May this year you said *"The aim all along has been to get these repairs done in the summer before another winter"*

With repairs now delayed until 2019, are you satisfied that the Council has acted with sufficient urgency over the past 5 months?

Response

Yes we have. We have appointed a specialist team to advise on the repair programme, and have advised that it would be preferable to carry out the repairs next spring.

Cllr Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question 5

Question from Cllr Duffy to Cllr King

The skateboard ramp at Lings is being closed by NBC. Are there plans to replace it or substitute it for something else? There is a desperate need for youth activities to help combat the influence of county lines etc.

Response

The skatepark has unfortunately come to the end of its life.

The item will be discussed at the multi agency next meeting to establish a consultation strategy to ask the community what they would like in replacement.

Briar Hill skatepark is also in this position.

This doesn't necessarily mean a skatepark won't be in either area in future but the community may prefer something different.

Cllr Anna King

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Question 6

Questions from Cllr Duffy to Cllr Eldred

Universal Credit is being introduced and the Community Law benefits advice service is no longer available. Some households will be worse off. UC is accessible only online. Will we be increasing the number of computers and IT help for applicants, especially in the localities?

What are we planning to do to ameliorate the negative aspects of UC?

Response

Universal Credit is a Central Government initiative, which seeks to provide consolidate a number of benefits and give recipients more control over their finances, as if they were receiving a salary.

The Council continues to support the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Community Law, both of which can be co-located within the One Stop Shop and offer benefit and debt clinics and appointments. In respect of IT and support, there is a process of assisted self-service and 6 self-service computers are available. The number of self-service computers is reviewed on a regular basis, should demand require an increase, the service will seek to provide them. The self-service kiosks are supported by customer service advisors who assist not only with using the computers provided but with any other devices that customers might choose to use such as their phones or personal devices. We also offer printing facilities for claimants. We work closely with Job Centre Plus and a work coach is present in the One Stop Shop every Monday. The coach works closely with claimants and partners supporting and maximising claims. From week commencing 14th November the work coach will be present all week. Support is available both for making and checking on claims and also for personal budgeting.

Cllr Brandon Eldred

Cabinet Member for Finance

Question 7

Question from Cllr Duffy to Cllr Larratt

In the face of unitary is a schedule of location and inspection of Drains in Northampton being compiled by NCC and NBC, working in partnership together?

Response

Further to the recent isolated flooding events, NBC and NCC are working in partnership to carry out the maintenance and upgrade of drainage where possible. NBC has also produced a programme of works in areas such as Penvale Park, Augusta Avenue and anywhere where there were more than five properties flooded.

At present we are only inspecting some of the drains and water courses on Asset Management land. Moving forward Veolia are being contracted to maintain water courses but there is a backlog in inspections of drains due to a lack of personnel in the Asset Management Team. This is being addressed with a view to clearing the backlog at the earliest opportunity.

NPH have responsibility for drains on Housing land. They respond to issues that are reported and address them. Responsibility for drains on NPH land will remain with NPH post Unitary. However there are some drains on NBC Retained Housing Land that remain the responsibility of NBC. The issue and future of NBC Retained Housing Land is currently under consideration by the Chief Executives of NBC and NPH.

If Councillor Duffy knows of any particular areas or has any individual cases that she feels need addressing I would be happy to meet with her and discuss them with officers.

Cllr Phil Larratt
Deputy Leader of the Council

Question 8

Questions from Cllr Haque to Cllr Hadland

Who owns the car park now being run by NCP at St Peters Way?

Should we not be trying to buy the land and run it ourselves?

Response

The car park is owned by St Peters Way Car Park is owned by P.A.T. (Pensions) Nominee Company No.1 Limited and P.A.T. (Pensions) Nominee Company No.2 Limited.

No, as it is unlikely that it would be a sensible investment for us to make.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Question 9

Question from Cllr Stone to Cllr Eldred

The other Districts and Boroughs are seeking to spend money on improvements to their localities head of unitary. Are we planning to follow their example?

Response

As we have not yet received a direct instruction from the Government to form a Unitary Authority, we will continue with projects we promised in our manifesto and focus on our balanced budget for the good of Northampton. Any time we receive an official instruction that we are going to unitary, we will re-address the allocation of funds in the budget.

Cllr Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance

Question 10

Question from Cllr Ashraf to Cllr Hibbert

The news about the Hope Centre being asked to leave Oasis House came as a shock to all Councillors. Please may we know from your perspective what happened and the likely impact on our homeless Strategy?

Response

Last month, Midland Heart met with the Hope Centre and explained that it has carried out a review of its supported living arrangements and decided that it wants to work more closely with the Council and to focus on ending the cycle of homelessness, improving the transition from supported living to independent living and helping people into employment.

As Midland Heart wants to increase the number of homeless people it can accommodate at Oasis House, it has given the Hope Centre a year's notice to vacate the communal space it currently occupies in Oasis House and to find alternative premises for its day centre.

In its Rough Sleeping Strategy of August 2018, the Government set out its plans for halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it entirely by 2027. It wants every area to have a rapid rehousing pathway into settled accommodation (recommended by an Advisory Panel comprising senior experts) that includes rapid assessment of need and eligibility and rapid rehousing into an appropriate settled home.

Midland Heart's plans for Oasis House are consistent with the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy and will help the Council to create a rapid rehousing pathway in Northampton. It is also consistent with 'TOGETHER we change lives', our multi agency strategy for ending the need for people to sleep rough in Northampton.

Cllr Stephen Hibbert

Cabinet Member for Housing & Wellbeing

Agenda Item 7

Report of the Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th December 2018



Since my last report to Council, I have continued to work with the Cabinet, Members, the Chief Executive, and Officers across all areas of the council. Many of these activities and issues are referred to in Cabinet colleagues' reports.

Unitary Status

Member involvement and knowledge was greatly increased through the Seminars of 29th November and 3rd December, which saw us hear a number of senior Members and Officers from councils who have been through unitary give us insight into what went well, what did not go so well, and what to prioritise or watch out for. Their experience and their frankness made these seminars both engaging and extremely helpful.

The other unitary activities continue, such as the regular staff briefings by the Chief Executive, the cross-party working group, and the West Steering Group, with the Deputy Leader and Cllr Hibbert also now attending the Steering Group, with Cllr Hadland as our substitute member. The Steering Groups are beginning to deal with a further level of detail, and we recently undertook a workshop with Monitoring Officers helping us to better understand the key issues around Joint Committees, which are a likely next step, and the Structural Change Order, which although written by the Government, will take a lead from the suggestions that we as councils put for to be included within it.

I had previously raised concerns over the timing of the next steps that the Government needed to take, and it was with this in mind that myself and other council Leaders met with the Minister on 28th November. In particular, we felt we urgently needed to understand if the Government were intending to proceed with their own consultation, and whether the elections scheduled for next year were indeed going to be postponed. We were pleased to see that, following the assurances given during that meeting, an announcement was made the following day that confirmed the consultation as running until 25th January, and that the Secretary of State intended to postpone the 2019 elections. This gives us certainty that the work that members, officers and the unitary project team are all doing needs to remain at 'full steam ahead' for the time being.

I also attended the NCC Improvement Board on 2nd November, which discussed and commented on the County Council's Stabilisation Plan, and was given a presentation on how Cultural challenges can be tackled within the organisation.

Economic Development

I have had meetings with several developers and local businesses about their aspirations to invest in Northampton, and on 1st December it was a great pleasure to call in on some of the town's small businesses to celebrate Small Business Saturday. This included some businesses for whom the support of the council's Business Incentive Scheme had meant the difference in being able to take on new premises, in some cases long-term empty premises, and to bring their offer to the town centre economy.

Having met with Metro Bank a number of times over the past year or so, it was a great pleasure to see their new branch open on Abington Street on 16th November. Metro Bank made a clear

choice that Northampton was a key town for them to locate a new outlet, in addition to which they have become active in the business community through sponsorships such as the Community Foundation Awards on 30th October, and through the Business Improvement District.

The BID's recent mystery shopping awards followed independent mystery shopping visits conducted throughout the town, and demonstrated many great examples of high quality customer service in our town's shops.

I was very pleased to meet with the Churches Conservation Trust on 30th November – an organisation with a focus on preserving church buildings and ensuring that they are of value and of use to their nearby communities. With our ongoing ambitions to support the improvement of the important heritage area around the castle and Marefair, I am certain that they will be a key partner in this.

Homelessness

I was glad to take part again in the Rough Sleeper count on the overnight of 1st & 2nd November, and have also had meetings with some of the other agencies involved in Homelessness in the town, including the Acting Chair and the Treasurer of the Hope Centre. These discussions have been helpful, and focused on practical action to best serve the Homeless of our town, and NBC's desire to support the Hope Centre, ensuring its key role continues.

Other Activity

Whilst many of the things I have been involved in are referenced in more detail in colleagues' cabinet member reports, some of my other recent activities of particular note include:

- On 20th November I attended the Unity Leisure AGM, marking a further year of the Trust's success and growth, by offering the best ever quality of service to residents using the town's leisure services. It was a pleasure to mark with the Trust the fact that over recent years they have reduced the tax payer support they receive from NBC from being over a £1 million p.a., to zero. Beyond that, the coming year will actually see the Leisure Trust making a positive cash contribution back to the council to support the delivery of other services, as well as continuing to expand their own offer of activities.
- The wider success and ambitions of the Leisure Trust were clear when I attended, along with around forty other partners and stakeholders, a joint event hosted by the Leisure Trust and the NHS regarding the exciting concept of a combined Health & Wellbeing Centre for Northampton. Whilst there are many further steps to deliver such a project, the enthusiasm for, and the benefit of this make it a project to which we are committed to work on further.
- A visit to Fairfields school on 20th November to learn more about the specialist education they provide, and to join the welcome extended to HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO, who was visiting to help mark the school's 80th Anniversary.
- As we progress our budget plans for next year, I have been keen to ensure that I strengthen my own knowledge of what other councils are doing to innovate and to maximise the value that the town and our residents see out of the finite money that the council has available, and so on 22nd & 23rd November I attended an LGA workshop for council Leaders and Finance Portfolio Holders to share ideas.
- 21st November saw the Guildhall host a reception for the Honorary Recorder, allowing myself and the Mayor to reiterate the council's view of the importance of this role, to an audience comprising, amongst others, a wider membership of the Judiciary. As well as a celebration of the new Honorary Recorder being in post, this also ensured that the links that we have said we have been keen to establish between the council and the Judiciary for the good of our community were very much broadened and strengthened.
- I was extremely pleased to join the Street Pastors on 17th November to celebrate with them their 10 year anniversary. Not only was this a chance to mark the great work that

they do in supporting those who find they need support in the town of an evening, but it lead to the great opportunity to visit the New Testament Church of God Heritage Centre, and learn the important role that Northampton plays in that Church.

Finally, although I am sure that Cllr King's report will cover community events fully, I am sure that nobody could have felt other than extremely proud by the way in which our town marked Remembrance Day. The number of people that filled the town during the Church service and parade was incredible, and the additional activities for the centenary, such as the Lord Lieutenant lighting the beacon in the evening, all showed the tremendous sense of pride and community in Northampton. This has been made further evident by the thousands of people who visited for Diwali, the Christmas Lights switch-on, the Frost Fair and Parade, and so on during the past month or so.

Some of these sorts of positives were noted at the recent BBC 'Love Northampton' event held at All saints Church, a great initiative in my view, and one in which the council is determined to play a full part. Our hope is that, as well as quite rightly holding the council to account for anything it should be doing better, this campaign will really help to promote the positives about our town well.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Leader of the Council



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th December 2018

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have been continuing to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council, and can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

Market

I was looking to arrange a meeting of the MAG towards the end of November. The police were unable to attend before the end of November. Traders are busy during December and would prefer not to meet during the month. Therefore a meeting is being arranged, to include police attendance, to take place in January. Councillor Membership of the MAG has now been confirmed.

We have funded increased policing within the town centre and on the market through the festive period to January 4th.

In December we have the Frost Fair and parade taking place on Sunday 2nd December that includes entertainment from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, and a workshop for the children to make festive hats for the parade. We also have entertainment on the stage on Saturday's 1st, 8th, and 15th December. We also have the regular Antiques and Collectables market on 8th December.

The market is also open on extra days in the lead up to Christmas, Sunday 16th, Monday 17th, Sunday 23rd, and Monday 24th December.

Councillor Training

Recent training sessions have included a further HIMO briefing, Emergency Planning events, and a briefing on the Role of Parish Councils.

The Councillor Training Working Group met on 28th November and considered further training / briefing events. Further training / briefing events are under consideration and being planned, including Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. The Procurement event postponed earlier in the year due to attendance difficulties will be re-arranged of the New Year.

The Working Group Meeting also received confirmation that Caseworker now contains the electoral register on the system. Further training on Caseworker is planned for the New Year.

Further training / briefing sessions that have been arranged are as follows:

30/01/19 – Unitary Update – delivered by the Head of Planning. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

There will be other events regarding progress towards establishing a Unitary Council in the coming weeks for Councillors from across the County.

Web Casting

I will be meeting with officers to discuss taking this project forward on 4th December.

Street Lighting

The survey undertaken by Thorn Electrical has been completed and their report has been received. The report is being evaluated and an electrical engineer will shortly be engaged to develop proposals to carry forward the recommendations within the report.

The report confirms that quite a lot of problems have been identified with a number our lights. The contractor has quoted to rectify the faults identified that present a safety hazard, and has been instructed to carry out the necessary work. Funding for this work has been identified.

A capital bid has been submitted to implement the outcomes / recommendations of the survey. This will be firmed up in light of the report and the forthcoming proposals to implement the recommendations contained within it

Work to replace the lights on South Bridge is still continuing. I believe that installation is imminent.

Rail Issues

The inquiry hearing into Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange application will take place on the 19th and 20th of December at the Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton, NN4 0XW. Officers will be attending this event that is open to the public.

The next meeting of the East West Rail Consortium is on 11th December 2018 in Bedford.

Governance Review

Since the last meeting of this Council I have continued to meet with Parish Council's and Residents Associations when invited to do so to explain / discuss the review. They have continued to be very positive events, and I believe that those present have found them informative.

Danny Moody, Chief Executive of NCALC, and two Parish Clerks delivered a briefing session for Councillors and Chairs of Residents Associations on 28th November.

A consultant is currently being engaged to undertake the consultation process that the review requires. Consultation will commence as soon as possible.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration and Enterprise

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th December 2018

Town Centre Operations

The two-hour free parking figures for April – October show 551,842 visitors taking advantage of the free parking in our multi-storey car parks.

Saturday parking figures in MSCP's for the same period show 180,186 visitors and on Sunday's visitor numbers were 81,059.

The overall parking figures up to the end of October was 1,485,835.

The footfall figures for April – October 2018 period show 8,906,694 visitors, workers and shoppers in Abington Street and Market Square, the figures are 13.1% below the 2017 figures in part due to the closure of BHS and M&S as one camera is located on the M&S building.

Regeneration

Business Incentive Scheme

14 Businesses have been supported this financial year to date, leveraging nearly £266,000 private sector investment and creating 46 jobs

Vulcan Works

The tender documents have been reviewed, and a Report will go to the January 2019 Cabinet Meeting with a view to a start on site in March 2019

Eleanor Cross

The various specialist reports have now been published.

In line with their recommendation, work will start in April 2019 so that the work can be carried out in the climatic conditions required for the use of lime mortar.

Four Waterside

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

Rail Station multi-storey Car Park

The constructive meetings with Network Rail and the franchisee are continuing, aiming to bring this important facility forward as soon as possible.

Central Museum Contract

This contract is progressing well.

Capital and repair works

- Installation of temporary security measures to the vacant section of the Guildhall Road block.
- Repairs/upgrades to the racecourse changing room heating and water services.
- Start of repairs to street lighting following condition surveys.
- Replacement pool pumps to Lings Leisure Centre.
- Ongoing works to flood areas.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning



Deputy Cabinet Member Report for Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th December 2018

Planning

It continues to be a busy and productive time in planning with several major planning applications approved in October & November.

Full planning application N/2017/1653 for the development of 17 dwellings and 400 sqm retail units at the former Tanners Public House site Farmfield Court was approved by the Planning Committee on 23rd of October 2018.

Outline planning application N/2014/1429 for the development of up to 3,000 dwellings including affordable housing, employment, local centre, primary and secondary schools and extension to North West Bypass was approved in principle, subject to a S106 agreement, by the Planning Committee on 31st October 2018.

Planning permission N/2017/1479 for the refurbishment and extension of 71-77B Abington Street to provide 48 dwellings was granted following finalisation of a S106 agreement on 14th November 2018.

Planning application N/2018/0277 for the development of distribution centre (Use Class B8) with associated works at Milton Ham Farm was approved in principle by the Planning Committee, subject to a S106 agreement, on 20th November 2018.

Development Management has continued to maintain its 100% performance standard in terms of major, minor and other applications in October 2018.

The council have recruited a full-time post in Building Control. On 29th October 2018 a new officer was recruited as Principal Building Control Surveyor.

Building Control has conditionally approved the plans for two of our exciting projects:

- The Museum extension project (FP/2018/79) – 4 Guildhall Road
- The Vulcan Project (FP/2017/685) – 34-38 Guildhall Road.

Land Charges have a standard Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that they are not required to report on to return local searches within 10 working days, which they have met, returning the searches in 2-3 working days.

Daily updates are made to the LLPG Property Gazetteer and this is reported on monthly, with a current rating of Bronze, which is a significant improvement since the April 2018 rating of Below National Standard (BNS).

Local Plan Part 2

Important work continues on the production of the Local Plan Part 2. Proposed site allocations are being worked up and development management policies are being drafted.

Heritage

Conservation Area Appraisals have been drafted for Barack Road Conservation Area and the Derngate Conservation Area.

Councillor James Hill
Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning



Environmental Services Contract

The new contractor continues to provide an improved environmental services contract to the residents of Northampton. Enquiries and reports have reduced to 'business as usual' levels with customer contacts falling to around average levels for the period and a high volume of compliments in relation to the new contractor have been received.

Street cleansing schedules continue to be reviewed in order to target those areas in most need, separate teams continue to empty litter bins and remove fly tips within the prescribed timescales. The transformation (deep clean) teams continue to work their way through the borough, they are currently in Abington and Far Cotton, additional resource is also in place to provide a leaf fall removal service.

Grass cutting operations have now ceased and the teams have started on the winter maintenance schedules, pruning shrubs and hedges and planting bedding and both the trees and woodlands service is undertaking surveys and undertaking works, such as removing epicormics growth around trees, along with planning and executing the enhanced tree programme.

Recycling Statistics

The provisional recycling statistics show nearly a 10% rise in our recycling rates since the move to co-mingled recycling and the rollout of the new recycling wheelie bins.

Month	August	September	October	3-Month Avg
% Household Waste Recycled or Composted 2018	48.67%	53.85%	51.11%	52.21%
% Household Waste Recycled or Composted 2017	43.63%	43.18%	41.34%	42.72%

We are currently scoping the option of a clear sack trial for recycling in those area's not suitable for a recycling wheelie bin. The trial will focus on an initial area of 1,000 houses.

Park Rangers and Neighbourhood Wardens

The Park Rangers and Neighbourhood Wardens are all being issued with new Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras from December following training. Body worn Video equipment forms part of an Authorised Officers personal protective equipment and will support enforcement of anti-social behaviour including fly-tipping. It will be used in an overt manner and officers will give clear warnings to members of the public that video and/or audio recordings may be taken of them and used as evidence if necessary.

Parks and Open Spaces

St Crispin's (Kent Road) Play Area and Ladybridge Park Play Area have both had new safety surfaces installed, so that the equipment can be used safely all year round.

Southfields Park – Additional bollards have been installed in the park to stop unauthorised vehicular access making the park a safer place to play.

Racecourse – The hardstanding has been installed for the future trading of a food van near the football pitches, as requested by the local football teams and supported by the Friends of the Racecourse.

Park Management Committees

Consultation for improved facilities at Thornton Park continues, 90 respondents so far. Procurement of the Skate park facility at Kings Heath continues, contract to be awarded imminently and work will commence in the New Year.

Environmental Health

During December, the food and safety team will be supporting the Food Standards Agency “Seasons Eating’s” Christmas food safety campaign to promote safe food handling in the festive season.

In addition to promotional work and routine inspections, officers from the food and safety team have responded to a number of complaints and enquires about food businesses. Last month they began a number of investigations including cases of reports of raw meat supplied in a chicken kebab and a number of alleged pest problems. The Food Safety Team are working closely with the businesses concerned and will continue to undertake unannounced food hygiene inspections to assess compliance.

The environmental enforcement team have issued 250 fixed penalty notices during November with a total of 6834 issued in total for the year to date.

So far the total breakdown by age shows.

Age	November 2018	Year to Date
20 - 29	27.60%	31.84%
30 - 39	24.00	24.44%
40 - 49	20.80%	16.29%

Fixed penalty notices are not issued to Under 16 year olds.

Gender	November 2018	Year to Date
% Male	69.20%	65.06%
% Female	30.80%	34.94%

The environmental protection team have arranged to donate the stereo equipment seized following the recent noise prosecution to charity.

Air Quality

Air quality monitoring results up to the end of September are now available on the Council website at <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/download/3487/current-nitrogen-dioxide-results>.

This raw data is published on a quarterly basis. Whilst these figures give an indication of trends in air pollution, they can show significant variation due to changes in weather conditions and traffic patterns. The annual figures which can be compared to legal standards will be published in our air quality annual status report which will be published in the summer once approved by DEFRA.

**Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Environment**



Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

10th December 2018

Northampton's Rough Sleepers Count

On 2nd November 2018, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Birch and I took part in a borough-wide count of rough sleepers, meticulously organised by the Housing Options & Advice Manager.

A total of 36 volunteers – representing the Police, the Probation Service, Northampton County Council's Leaving Care Team, Amicus Trust, Bridge, NPH, a faith group and the Council – took part in the count, which covered all Wards and was carried out between Midnight and 3.00am.

The count was attended by a representative of Homeless Link (commissioned by the Government to monitor, observe and validate rough sleepers estimates and counts) and by journalists from BBC Radio Northampton and the Northampton Chronicle & Echo.

The volunteers observed a total of 26 people (22 men and 4 women) 'bedded down' in the borough. On the night of the count, 18 men were staying in the town's Nightshelter and around 20 – 25 people (mostly East European) were likely to be sleeping in tent encampments and makeshift shelters (which were too dangerous to visit at night) on the outskirts of Northampton.

Of the 20 people who were identified on the night, 19 were already known to the Street Outreach Team, 3 were not homeless (they had suitable accommodation) 2 had recently arrived in the UK and refused the offer of reconnection, 5 had been provided with B&B or a place in the Nightshelter but had lost it due to their own actions, and 6 had been offered the Nightshelter but had refused the offer or not moved in. Only 3 people were not engaging with the Outreach Team.

Although the date of the count is normally kept secret, it was unfortunately disclosed on social media by a local homelessness project and in the Chronicle & Echo. It is not known what impact (if any) this had on the number of people found 'bedded down' on the night of the count.

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

SWEP is co-ordinated by the Housing & Wellbeing Service and complements the work of the Nightshelter, the Street Outreach Team and other local services and organisations.

Although there is no strict definition of what counts as 'severe weather', a Winter Shelter will normally operate when the temperature falls below freezing and is forecast (by the Met Office) to remain below freezing for a period of at least three consecutive nights.

When SWEP is activated, men and women who are sleeping rough in Northampton will be able to access the Winter Shelter (and have a meal and a safe, warm place to sleep) that will operate from the Hope Centre on the ground floor of Oasis House from 9.00pm until 7.00am.

Although the Council will be providing overnight cover and Team Leaders for the evening and morning shifts, it is now appealing for volunteers who are willing to support the smooth running of the Winter Shelter from 8.30pm – 11.30pm and from 6.00am – 8.30am.

To volunteer for the Winter Shelter, please visit: www.northampton.gov.uk/swep

Extending the definition of Mandatory HMO

It is a criminal offence to operate a licensable HMO without an HMO licence.

On 1st October 2018, the definition of Mandatory HMO was extended to include any property that is occupied by 5 or more persons who do not form a single household and are sharing kitchen, bathroom and/or toilet facilities. Prior to 1st October, it was only properties with at least 3 storeys.

As dozens of 2 storey HMOs will be included in the new definition, the change is expected to result in a significant increase in the number of licensable HMOs in the borough.

Since 1st October 2018, the Housing Enforcement Team has processed 71 new HMO licence applications, most of which were submitted on time and qualified for an early bird discount.

Northampton's intelligence-led approach to housing enforcement is working well and, where it is suspected that a licensable HMO is not operating without a licence, it will be investigated in order of priority, offenders will be required to licence their HMOs and civil penalties will be imposed.

Northampton Partnership Homes

I am pleased to report that good progress is being made on a number of important schemes:

- **Northfield / Eastfield regeneration** – After protracted negotiations, works have now started on the redevelopment of the site on the junction of Northfield Road and Eastfield Road which will involve the demolition of the defective concrete building and the construction of 5 new council houses.
- **Little Cross Street** – The redevelopment of the site (to provide 9 one-bedroom flats and 9 two-bedroom maisonettes) is due to be completed in December 2018. The scheme will be opened by the Rt Hon Andrew Lewer MP on 21 December 2018.
- **Thorplands regeneration** – Works have now commenced on environmental improvements, landscaping, external wall insulation and the replacement of doors and windows.
- **Overslade House** – Works have now commenced to redevelop the building as a family apartments scheme, with completion expected in Spring 2019.

I am pleased to report, also, that NPH has recently recruited 5 trade apprentices and 4 office apprentices, and its regeneration partner, Engie, has recruited 6 apprentices.

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



Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th December 2018

Finance

The draft budget report for Cabinet 12 December 2018 has been published, I am pleased that we have currently achieved a balanced budget position at the time of writing, however we are dependent on the outcome of the Government Funding announcement and subject to the review of Scrutiny Committee. The formal final budget will be proposed to Cabinet early in 2019.

The Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 are going through their final stages of review by KPMG. Progress is being made to produce the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts.

Finance continues to review costs to assist in reducing the forecast overspend for 2018/19 and seek new or improved income streams to support service delivery.

Revenues and Benefits

The full (digital) service for Universal Credit (UC) is now live in the Northampton and will start taking new UC claims from *nearly* all client types (until this month it was just single jobseekers). The service provides each claimant with an account, where they can make a claim, view their payments & report changes in circumstances on line. All new claims for UC include an element to cover rent payments (formerly Housing Benefit). From early in the New Year the service will also start taking new claims from the last remaining group, families with 3 or more children. The remaining live housing benefit caseload in Northampton will migrate to UC over the next 4 years and as a result the service in Northampton will continue to support new claims for Council Tax Support, existing Housing Benefit claims and new benefit claims for exempt accommodation (supported and homeless accommodation).

The Revenues Service continues to work hard to collect debts owed to the Council and maintains a high level of debt in active recovery processes. Recovery of debts, particularly Council Tax, remain a challenge, as the national reform of the benefits system continues. The Council continues to offer a supportive scheme for Council Tax Support, however remaining balances are a challenge to collect. Support also continues for those struggling to pay their rent through the administration of a Discretionary Housing Payments scheme.

Plans supporting continuous improvement in maximising collections through increasing liability through targeted visiting routines, reviewing approaches to collection and focusing on those with the highest propensity to pay will be implemented in 2019. This is to ensure that income due for critical services are collected on behalf of the residents of Northampton. The service collects over 98% of the Council Tax due each year and efforts to increase this will also be explored, having regard of course for the affordability of these debts.

The service have just launched a new Risk Based Verification system in Northampton. This project will support faster processing of benefits claims by minimising the evidence needed to assess a claim, whilst also safeguarding the system through the identification of fraud and error.

Treasury Management

Cash investment balances (excluding third party loans) have averaged £83m to end of October, earning an average return of 0.66%. Investments are held in a mixture of on-call accounts to meet cashflow demands and tradeable term deposits. External borrowing stood at £255m at the end of October, at an average rate of 3.07%. Scheduled repayment of £8m are due in the second half of the year and, with healthy cash balances, it is anticipated that the Council will not need to undertake any borrowing activity during the year.

NBC Payables and Income Team

The team provides an Exchequer function to Northampton Borough Council, and Northampton Partnership Homes, this includes Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable functions. During 2017/2018 they processed 52,359 payments, and raised almost 12,000 invoices, totalling £83,459,864.

The team also collect Direct Debits for sundry debtors, and manage the contract for Third Party Payments and Cash Collection contracts. The team has met all its KPI's in the past four years, exceeding the target each month.

**Councillor Brandon Eldred
Cabinet Member for Finance**



Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

10 Dec 2018

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £81,135.78 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

International Men's day (17 November) ten community stalls attended to share information around men's mental and physical health. There were free boxing sessions available that were very popular with young children. There was also a shoulder challenge competition from the leisure trust with gym membership prizes available. There was also music and refreshments throughout the event. The role model awards ceremony went down extremely well. It was very well attended and we had many of the nominees come down with their families.

Connections made with local artist looking to provide free street art work in the town to cover racist and other graffiti and improve spaces

Coordinated the placement of the Police Community Support Officers at Northampton borough Council over six days - to understand the role of our team and other partners in the council, to improve partnership working at neighbourhood level.

Forums

UK Parliament Week (16 November) activity with Youth Forum. Political speed dating event held with the Cabinet and Chair of Licensing in the Guildhall where young people from the borough were able to ask questions and find out more about issues that matter to them and their peers.

International Day of people with Disabilities (3 December) – a celebration of abilities with agencies offering services/activities for people with disabilities along with some performances by disabled people. Followed in the evening by a screening of Breathe at Northampton film house.

Autism Reality Awareness training for staff will take place on 7 December – 24 people registered.

A civic ceremony to mark the **World Aids Day** will take place on **3 December** in the Guildhall.

Events

A busy time starting with Remembrance Day Service & Parade on Sunday 11th November which was watched by our largest attendance and later in the evening we had the Beacon Lighting on All Saints piazza.

On Saturday 24th November we held our annual Christmas Lights switch-on and stage entertainment during the afternoon which saw many families attending and enjoying the day.

Saturday 1st December will commence our entertainment programme for Saturdays with stage entertainment including local bands, choirs and more.

Sunday 2nd December we will hold the annual Frost Fair on the Market Square including parade with Santa leading the way on his sleigh.

On the same day in the Grosvenor Centre, the Council will launch the Igloo Cinema showcasing two Christmas films for children for 21 consecutive days. The Igloo cinema is free and has in the past seen many families enjoying their time.

Culture & Heritage

Late November and December saw a wide range of festive themed events at Abington Park Museum. Carmela Sereno Hayes returned with an inspirational workshop full of ideas for wonderful edible gifts for family and friends. Adults on a Festive Willow workshop learnt how to create their own festive wreath for the table or door. The two day annual Christmas Fair attracted over 3,400 visitors, all of whom enjoyed the vast array of gifts, decorations and festive food and drink produced by over fifty traders from the county and wider afield. A family friendly Victorian Christmas was very popular and visitors listened to carol singing and enjoyed a hog roast whilst children made paper chains, crackers and salt dough ornaments. Santa Claus was very popular this year with around 80 children making a visit to his grotto. To complete the festive offer, local actor James Hornsby returns to perform one of his one-man plays – re-creating Dicken’s own legendary public readings of his novels.

The Northampton Town & County Art Society exhibition opened in December at Abington Park Museum with a wide range of subjects and styles from members.

Northampton Museums Service has loaned five pairs of trainers for the exhibition, ‘The Fashion of Counter Culture: Obsession, Style and Place’ at Liverpool John Moores University. The exhibition has been seen by 1,623 people and has been extremely popular.

The Senior Shoe Curator was interviewed on the BBC Johnny L’Anson show in October on the enduring popularity of Dr Marten footwear.

The two pairs of shoes (Pinet 1880s boots and 1970s platforms) on loan to the Victoria and Albert’s exhibition ‘Shoes: Pleasure and Pain’ are on their way back from being on tour to various venues in the Far East where they have been seen by 700,000 visitors.

The pair of postilion boots on loan to The Postal Museum have been seen by 198,000 visitors over the last year.

During November and December the museum was hired out for a Christmas volunteer party by Northampton Voluntary Impact,

Museum Expansion Project

The monthly site meeting was held with the client and contractors and the project is on programme. Internal demolitions and demolition of the connecting bridge was completed, with no structural problems uncovered. Thirty three pilings were sunk to a depth of 15m in the area cleared by the removal of the bridge as the first step of construction of the new extension.

Tender returns for the exhibition fit out contract were received and are currently being evaluated by the client and main contractor. Tender documents for the café operator have been completed and the tender will be advertised before the end of the year.

Customer Services

With the weather change Customer Services has been working in Partnership with Citizens Advise (CA) to delivering energy efficiency advice. The first session was a success where we saw 18 customers. 10 customers have received advice and have switched their services and have saved money. 6 are booked in to attend an appointment with CA to discuss Fuel poverty and debt advice. Due to the success of the drop in these will be continuing.

Harvest Money (Credit Union) attended the One Stop Shop on 18th October where they were advising customers on how to budget and save. They are attending again in January to help support people with Debt advice and advice on how to save.

Universal Credit went live in Northampton on 14th November.

A wide range of support is available for customers impacted including:

- Community Law Service and Citizens Advice co-located within the One Stop Shop offering benefit and debt clinics/appointments.
- A Work Coach from Job Centre Plus is usually present all day every Monday in the One Stop Shop working closely with claimants and Partners to support and maximise claims, from week commencing 14th November the Work Coach will be present all week.
- Printing facilities are available for claimants.
- Self-serve computers are available with staff to support.
- Digital and Personal Budgeting Support.

Community Safety

Town centre operation to run from 24 November – 4 January. Funding two additional police officers, working from 8am-6pm, Monday – Saturday. Days of action being held weekly. These will include, police surgery on market square and a walkabout offering advice to rough sleepers, street drinkers and beggars about anti-social behaviour, consequences and support and provisions available in the town.

16 Days of Activism (25 November – 10 December) - promoting domestic abuse and sexual violence services to staff in businesses (national theme, violence against women and girls in the workplace), including Campbell house, Nationwide, Avon, Travis Perkins, Northampton General Hospital, Waitrose and St Andrews. Visits to these businesses are being carried out by Northampton Domestic Abuse Service, Serenity, Northamptonshire Rape Crisis, Voice, Sunflower Centre and EVE. We have put together a pack of support services materials for all the agencies, a combined leaflet and posters with tear off contact details, as well as baubles, linking in with the Christmas theme and the rise in violence during this time of year.

Bouverie multi-agency drop in for residents – 6 December - providing opportunities for residents to engage and receive advice around particular issues on and around the Bouverie estate. Will be followed up with a day of action in the New Year – feedback from the residents forum will inform the day.

The roll-out of the #SaveLivesNoKnives knife crime awareness project to local schools continues – Northampton International Academy, CE Academy, Progress School, Malcolm Arnold and Abbeyfield all received training this month.

True Knowledge – trusted relationships funding project – Community Safety Board have agreed that the youth centres will be established in the following areas; Bouverie/Portland Place, Spring Boroughs/Semilong and Blackthorn. Referral criteria is in the process of being drawn up by free2Talk, as well as promotional material for young people and partner organisations who want to access the programme. Referrals to the programme are being received and the centres will be up and running early next year.

Planning underway for a second primary school event, after great feedback from the first event held in October.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety