NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



COUNCIL

Monday, 11 March 2019

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING OF NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON ON MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019 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 Monday, 25 February 2019. (Copy to follow.)

- 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 Smith to make a statement on housing.

- 9. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS
- 10. UPDATE ON CARRIED MOTIONS
- 11. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

"This Council believes that to maintain a connection between communities in Northampton and a remoter Unitary Council that the new body needs to embrace Neighbourhood working supported by delegated budgets.

The Council calls on NBC representatives on the Shadow Authority to promote the concept of Neighbourhood working to enable residents and local stakeholders to influence improvements in their local area."

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

"This Council recognises the danger of Northampton losing its strong voice in a newly formed West Northamptonshire Unitary Council.

The Council also recognises that it should strive for equity for all communities in any new arrangements that flow from the Community Governance review considering parishing arrangements within the existing borough boundary.

The Council will aim to ensure that the new arrangements provide a strong voice for Northampton and ensure that no community is excluded from some form of first level of Local Government representation."

iii) Councillor Birch to propose and Councillor Joyce to second:

"In preparation for the transition to Unitary we call upon NBC to produce a Sports Strategy for the people of Northampton that draws on the Sports Strategy for West Northamptonshire of 2009.

The purpose of this strategy, as well as reviewing current facilities, would be to identify gaps, reflect current user preferences and requirements.

Only by doing this can we protect the assets in Northampton for the people of the town."

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

"In September 2018 this Council expressed its concern about the number of housing developments that were failing to deliver open spaces and other amenities to adoption standards and transfer them to the relevant local authority but instead were establishing management companies to manage and maintain them with no democratic oversight or accountability.

In order to protect residents from uncontrolled charges and poor levels of service this Council would like to see all open spaces and other amenities provided by developers built to the standard required by local authorities for adoption, and calls upon Planning Officers to do all that they can to achieve this in their negotiations with developers.

This Council wishes to make it clear that it will aim for open space land on new residential developments to be transferred into the Council's ownership.

Furthermore, this Council also calls on other local authorities, i.e. Northamptonshire County Council, when offering their land for sale for potential residential development to make it a condition of sale that the relevant local authority retains ownership of the open space within the proposed development.

Additionally, this Council will fully research the problems and issues that residents, Residents Associations, and Parish Councils have with management companies in Northampton and resolves to write to the Secretary of State expressing them as well as the views of the Council. Furthermore, this Council will work with the Local Government Association to lobby the Government for legislation to address the issue of Management Companies with a view to protecting residents from unreasonable maintenance charges, giving them the right to challenge such charges, as well as providing communities, including Town and Parish Councils, the opportunity to take on the role and responsibilities of the management companies."

12. 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, 25 February 2019 AT SIX THIRTY O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

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

COUNCILLORS: Malpas, Ansell, Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood,

Choudary, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, J Hill, Joyce, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, B Markham, M Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Parekh, Patel, Russell, Sargeant, Kilby-

Shaw, Smith, Stone, Walker and Roberts

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received from:

Councillor Beardsworth – Trustee of Community Law

Councillor Eldred - Member of Northampton Theatres Trust and Trustee of 78 Derngate

Councillor Marriott – Trustee of 78 Derngate

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 January 2019 were agreed and signed by the Mayor following the correction that his worship the Mayor was Councillor Ansell and not Councillor G Eales as published.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Cali, Caswell, Chunga, Davenport, Haque, and Parekh.

4. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Mayor provided an update of all the events he had attended since the last meeting and promoted the work of the Hope Centre. He noted that the average age of a homeless person was 48 years old. He was supporting the Hope Centre and urged people to do more to assist.

The Mayor proposed a suspension of standing orders under Rule 25 to enable the mover and seconders the opportunity to speak for a maximum of 10 minutes and that no other speech exceeds 5 minutes in relation to budget reports. This was agreed by Council.

The Mayor proposed a suspension of standing orders under Rule 25 to allow the main opposition to make a budget statement to enable the mover the opportunity to speak for a maximum of 10 minutes. This was agreed by Council.

The Mayor reminded Members that in accordance with the principles of the 2014 regulations, recorded votes would be held on all matters relating to the budget including items 6, 7, 8 and 9.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PETITIONS

There were none.

6. GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2019-2020

Councillor Eldred submitted a report which reported the outcome of the consultation process on the 2019/20 general fund and capital budget and the Government funding settlement for 2019/20 and to agree the Cabinet's recommendations for the 2019/20 general fund budgets, 2019/20 tax base and council tax level and the indicative levels for 2020/21 to 2022/23 and to outline the general fund capital programme and funding proposals for 2019/20 and future years.

He thanked the Section 151 officer and staff for their input, it had been a difficult budget to meet. The budget had been presented to Cabinet, the Audit Committee and Overview and Scrutiny and he appreciated everyone's input.

The budget was mindful of the impacts of moving towards a unitary local government structure and included the maximum council tax increase possible without holding a referendum.

The budget ensured the night shelter continued and none of the proposals required redundancies or the loss of services.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

At this point Councillor Stone proposed the Labour groups amendment to the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20. She highlighted the following:

- £40,000 was unspent, £38,000 of this could be used to offset costs in Community Law and Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), £2,000 could be used to provide sanitary products in all NBC toilets; and
- £500,000 of Capital could be used to provide a Kings Heath multi-use all weather pitch, for which a business case had been provided.

Councillor T Eales seconded the amendment noting that there was a gap in the market for this proposal. Northampton Town Football Club currently sent their squad to Rugby to train. The proposal would provide a local facility.

Councillor Eldred noted the points raised.

Councillors discussed the amendments, praising the work of Community Law and CAB and noting that the rules regarding Section 106 funding made it tricky to obtain funding for community facilities.

At this point the Mayor called for the amendment to be voted upon. This was a recorded vote with the following result:

Voting for the amendment: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Choudary, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Joyce, B Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Russell, Roberts, Smith and Stone.

Voting against the amendment: Councillors Aziz, Bottwood, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, M Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

The Mayor Councillor Ansell abstained from the vote.

Upon the vote the Labour groups amendment to the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20 fell.

At this point Councillor Beardsworth proposed the Liberal Democrats amendment to the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20. She highlighted the provision of temporary accommodation. £350,000 capital investment could be used for modular homes or caravans which could be used to save money until the Council's new build was completed. She also sought to provide temporary day centre facilities for rough sleepers. Revenue investment of £100,000 could provide a day centre to cover from 1pm to 9pm, until the night shelters open, over a 3 month period during the worst winter months.

Councillor Meredith seconded the amendment indicating he was very concerned about the homeless. He felt a building should be provided on land owned by the Council to be used as needed.

Councillor Eldred explained additional funding had been included in the budget to address the homeless issue. Regarding the provision of temporary day centre, other partners may already be addressing this and the Council should work with them.

Councillors discussed the amendments with a number of members agreeing with their sentiments. A better way to address homelessness was needed. It was understood that provision was in the budget but assistance was needed immediately.

In response Councillor Beardsworth thanked Labour for supporting this amendment. It was a small amount of money from the budget to help the most vulnerable.

At this point the Mayor called for the amendment to be voted upon. This was a recorded vote with the following result:

Voting for the amendment: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Choudary, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Joyce, B Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Russell, Roberts. Smith and Stone.

Voting against the amendment: Councillors Aziz, Bottwood, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, M Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

The Mayor Councillor Ansell abstained from the vote.

Upon the vote the Liberal Democrat groups amendment to the General Fund Revenue and Capital Budgets 2019/20 fell.

Councillor Stone made the following points during the Labour Groups budget statement:

- She thanked the officers for the hard work, the professionalism and the probity with which they had undertaken their duties in producing a balanced budget;
- The group could not support a budget that raised both car park charges and council tax;
- They had encouraged the Council to become a living wage employer to promote and encourage other employers to do the same but this had not been done:
- It was unthinkable that the money from the loan to Northampton Town Football Club had been lost and that more money had been spent trying to reclaim it;
- The Council needed to work with the Northampton Town Football Club supporters, who had ideas but needed help to bring them forward;
- Thought should be given to creating a wellbeing area at Beckets Park; and
- Work should be undertaken to make the town centre more family friendly.

During discussions it was queried if reserves were in place to address potential flooding issues. Northampton was being asked to pay twice for winter gritting. The increased parking charges will drive businesses away from the town centre. The Council's partnerships with the voluntary sector needed to be productive given the vital services they provided. Information was sought on how the funding to tackle knife crime within the town had been spent and it was suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner should be invited to speak about that issue and his strategies for address it.

The amount council tax could be increased by was capped therefore if additional income was needed it had to come from other areas. Increased to car parking would be detrimental to the town. The budget did not contain any schemes for regeneration of the town.

The two free hours of car parking in all multi-storey car parks remained and all day parking had not been increased. There was an additional £500,000 in the capital programme for the Mayorhold car park repairs. The Council was engaging with school children regarding knife crime with conferences being delivered to all Year 6 primary school children. The Council was not paying twice for the winter gritting.

Councillor Eldred responded that the Council received £225 per year per band D property in council tax which was not a lot given all the services provided. Business rates were being reduced to benefit the local economy.

At this point the Mayor called for the recommendations to be voted upon. This was a recorded vote with the following result:

Voting for the recommendations: Councillors Aziz, Bottwood, Eldred, Flavell, Golby,

Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, M Markham, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Sargeant, Shaw and Walker.

Voting against the recommendations: Councillors Ashraf, Beardsworth, Birch, Choudary, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Joyce, B Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Russell, Roberts, Smith and Stone.

The Mayor Councillor Ansell abstained from the vote.

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed:

- 1. That the feedback from consultation with the public, organisations and the Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees be considered and welcomed (detailed at appendices 9, 10 and 11).
- 2. That a general fund revenue budget for 2019/20 of £27.495m (excluding parishes) be approved (detailed in appendices 1 and 2).
- 3. That Council approve the tax base for 2019/20 at 68,418.55 band D equivalent properties and associated parish tax bases as set out at section 3.1.3 and as recommended to Council for approval at the Cabinet meeting of 12 December 2018.
- 4. That the Council increases the council tax for its own purposes (excluding County, Police, Fire and Parish Precepts) by £6.56 (2.99%) per year per average band D property for 2019/20.
- 5. That the Council approve the general fund capital budget and outline programme and proposed financing for 2019/20, including the inclusion of schemes in the development pool, as set out in appendix 4.
- 6. That Council confirms the aim of maintaining a minimum level of general fund reserves of £4.0m for 2019/20, having regard to the outcome of the financial risk assessment, and also note the position on earmarked reserves (appendix 7).
- 7. That authority be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, and where appropriate the relevant Head of Service and Cabinet Member to:
- Transfer monies to/from earmarked reserves as appropriate during the financial year; and
- Update prudential indicators in both the prudential indicators report and treasury strategy report to Council, for any budget changes that impact on these.
- 8. That the draft fees and charges set out in appendix 8 be approved, including immediate implementation where appropriate.
- 9. That Council approve the treasury management strategy (and associated appendices) for 2019/20 at appendix 5 of this report.
- 10. That authority be delegated to the

Council's Chief Finance Officer, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make any temporary changes needed to the Council's borrowing and investment strategy to enable the authority to meet its obligations.

11. That Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive, Heads of Service and Chief Finance Officer to implement all budget options and restructures.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET, RENT SETTING 2019/20 AND BUDGET PROJECTIONS 2020/21 TO 2022/23

Councillor Eldred submitted a report which sought to approve the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2019/20 budget and the HRA indicative levels for 2020/21 to 2022/23, rent setting, service charges and other charges for 2019/20, including the total fee proposed for Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) to deliver the services in scope for 2019/20 and give a brief update on the ongoing work on the direction of the HRA.

Councillor Hibbert seconded the report.

Councillors discussed the report praising the work of NPH, which had uplifted the area. There was pressure for rents to be affordable. Staff at NPH were helpful and informative. There was a need to ensure that all properties were kept to the same standards and that it was easier for people to pay for their utilities.

At this point the Mayor called for the recommendations to be voted upon. This was a recorded vote with the following result:

Voting for the recommendations: Councillors Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Choudary, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Joyce, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, B Markham, M Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Russell, Roberts, Sargeant, Shaw Smith, Stone and Walker.

Voting against the recommendations: None.

The Mayor Councillor Ansell abstained from the vote.

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed:

- a) An average rent decrease of 1% per dwelling, in line with the legislation and the government's national rent policy, to take effect from 1st April 2019
- b) The HRA budget for 2019/20 of £51.8m expenditure detailed in Appendix 1.
- c) The HRA capital programme for 2019/20, including future year commitments, and proposed financing as set out in Appendix 2.
- d) The proposed service charges listed in Appendix 3.

- e) That Cabinet be authorised, once the capital programme has been set, to approve new capital schemes and variations to existing schemes during 2019/20, subject to the funding being available and the schemes being in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Council
- f) The Total Fees proposed for NPH to deliver the services in scope for 2019/20 detailed in Appendix 4.

8. ROBUSTNESS OF BUDGET ESTIMATES AND ADEQUACY OF RESERVES

Councillor Eldred submitted a report which advised the Council on the robustness of the estimates in the budget and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves for the general fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) before approving the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTPF) 2019/23, the revenue budget for 2019/20, capital programme 2019/23, reserves levels and the treasury management strategy for 2019/20. He thanked the Chief Finance Officer and noted that this had been considered by Cabinet and the Audit Committee.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report and thanked the Chief Finance Officer for the work he did and the confidence he provided.

At this point the Mayor called for the recommendations to be voted upon. This was a recorded vote with the following result:

Voting for the recommendations: Councillors Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Choudary, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Joyce, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, B Markham, M Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Russell, Roberts, Sargeant, Shaw Smith, Stone and Walker.

Voting against the recommendations: None.

The Mayor Councillor Ansell abstained from the vote.

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council considered the content of this report with regards to the general fund and HRA prior to the approval of the Council's MTFP 2019/23, the revenue budget for 2019/20, capital programme 2019/23 and the treasury management strategy 2019/20.

At this point the Mayor adjourned the meeting for a 10 minute break. The meeting then reconvened.

9. COUNCIL TAX 2019/2020

Councillor Eldred submitted a report which summarised the final precept determinations from the major precepting authorities (Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority), parish councils, and the budget setting

decision of Northampton Borough Council earlier on the agenda lead directly to the council tax determinations set out in Appendices A, B, and C.

He explained this was the last Northampton Borough Council, council tax resolution and it was a privilege to present it. He explained that the Council had no control over the precept, that Northamptonshire County Council and the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority set their own.

Councillor Nunn seconded the report.

Councillors discussed the report noting that it was important to find other ways of generating income so that the burden did not fall on the tax payers. There was a need to be mindful of those who would find it most difficult to pay the increased council tax. There was pressure to increase the rate of debt collection. It was felt that the government was not managing the housing supply or conducting proper interrogations into Adults and Children's services. Property tax should not be funding social services. The Revenue and Benefits team were praised for their efficiency. There was a need to chase those who won't pay their council tax rather than those who couldn't pay.

At this point the Mayor called for the recommendations to be voted upon. This was a recorded vote with the following result:

Voting for the recommendations: Councillors Ashraf, Aziz, Beardsworth, Birch, Bottwood, Choudary, Duffy, T Eales, Eldred, Flavell, Golby, Graystone, Hadland, Hallam, Hibbert, Hill, Joyce, Kilbride, King, Lane, Larratt, Malpas, M Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Meredith, Nunn, Oldham, Patel, Russell, Roberts, Sargeant, Shaw Smith, Stone and Walker.

Voting against the recommendations: None.

Those who abstained from the vote were: the Mayor Councillor Ansell Councillors G Eales and B Markham.

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council approved the council tax resolution shown at appendices A, B, and C.

10.LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - STRUCTURAL CHANGES ORDER

Councillor Nunn submitted a report which asked Council to consider making representations to Government on legal, governance and electoral arrangements for transition to a prospective unitary authority for the area. He then proposed an amendment to the report.

The first element of the amendment was that the last recommendation detailing that the submission included an expression of in-principle desire for a consequential

'Section 24 direction' to apply to all of the Councils, the details of which to be separately agreed between the councils and government.' be deleted. The second element referred to Appendix 1 in particular the election cycles. It was proposed an alternative that elections held in 2020 be for a 5 year term and elections held from 2025 follow the normal County Council electoral cycle. This would then provide stability while the unitary authority was established.

Councillor Larratt seconded the amendment.

Some councillors discussed the amendment highlighting that Northampton had more residents than Daventry and South Northamptonshire put together. It was felt that if approved the number of allocated seats would be detrimental to Northampton. The allocated seats should reflect the population being represented rather than the number on the shadow board. The re-organisation benefited no one and Northampton should be managed by the people who lived in the town.

At this point the Mayor called for the amendment to be voted upon. Two members abstained from the vote the remaining members voted for the amendment. Upon the vote the amendment was agreed.

Further discussions were then held on the main report. Some councillors felt that it was the wrong direction for the Council to go in. The proposals provided too much power to those from outside of the town. 4 members from each authority was a misrepresentation for the people of Northampton. People did not want to have a West Northamptonshire unitary authority at all.

In the debate it was suggested that the Council was being forced down a path that no one wanted to take and concerns were not being taken account of. It was queried if the process could be paused while further discussions took place.

The sentiments of others were agreed with and it was felt that it was being forced on the town. If the Council was being forced into becoming a unitary authority with other then there was a need to ensure Northampton was represented.

At this point the Mayor called for the report's recommendations to be voted upon. 19 members voted for the recommendations. 19 members voted against the recommendations. Using his casting vote the Mayor voted in favour of the recommendations, therefore the amended recommendations were carried.

The recommendations in the report were agreed as amended.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed:

- 1. The preferences for a Structural Changes Order, as per Appendix 1, be included in a submission to Government.
- 2. Amendment of the submitted preferences, as arising from negotiations with Government officials, be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and the Monitoring Officer where it is not expedient to formally report to Council or duly appointed Committee.

3. The submission be accompanied by a statement reiterating the Councils' original position that "Government commits to meeting the significant implementation challenges and ensures that we are collectively equipped to deliver success" as per the Councils' original Joint Proposal.

11.LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE - EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor Nunn submitted a report which asked Council to consider making representations to Government on legal, governance and electoral arrangements for transition to a prospective unitary authority for the area. These proposals were subject to proportionality and it was proposed that Councillors Larratt, Hibbert, Nunn and Stone be appointed.

Councillor Larratt seconded the report.

Councillors discussed the report expressing that the work of the Joint Committee was critical in terms of openness and transparency. It was queried if remuneration would be paid to the members on the Joint Committee because it was felt it wasn't required. Assurance was sought that any attendance on the Joint Committee would not be remunerated.

The Monitoring Officer explained that there were two issues involved – Remuneration for members of the Joint Committee and on the Shadow Council and associated structures. The Council should not make a decision about remuneration until the remuneration panel had put forward its proposals. If a decision was made at this meeting it would be unlawful because the Council could not predetermine the outcome of the remuneration panel. He advised Council to stick to the process and set up the remuneration panel and either accept or reject its findings at a future meeting.

It was noted that Daventry District Council (DDC) had gone to its own remuneration panel, who had recommended an additional allowance to the Leader and two other members. Northampton Borough Council (NBC) had no control over what DDC agreed. Many at NBC were opposed to be paid to carry out a roll on the Joint Committee.

Councillor Nunn explained that the membership would be made up by the County Council and district and borough councils.

At this point the Mayor called for the recommendations to be voted upon. 26 members voted for the proposal. 12 members voted against the proposal. The Mayor abstained from the vote.

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed:

1. A "West Northamptonshire Joint Committee" of 16 seats (4 per council)

be established with Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council, Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council, effective from 28 February 2019, with delegated functions as set out in the terms of reference at Appendix 1, subject to these other councils so resolving.

- 2. The statutory allocation of seats to political groups following the rules of proportionality will for Northampton Borough Council be, 3 Conservatives and 1 Labour Members. Council is invited to make nominations to the Joint Committee.
- 3. Subject to recommendations above being approved, the Monitoring Officer be delegated to agree a "West Northamptonshire Joint Committee Agreement" identifying appropriate standing order and operating practices for the Committee; and in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to negotiate, finalise and enter into the proposed agreement with the other councils.

12. STATEMENT ON GAMBLING POLICY

Councillor Flavell submitted a report which sought the adoption of the attached Statement of Licensing Principles in respect to Gambling following the three yearly review required by the Gambling Act 2005 ('the Act')

Councillor King seconded the report.

Councillors welcomed the report indicating that more Government funding should be invested in the prevention of gambling.

At this point the Mayor called for the recommendations to be voted upon. All members voted for the proposal. No voted against the proposal.

The recommendations in the report were agreed.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed:

- That the Policy attached to this report be approved for publication as the Council's Statement of Licensing Principles in respect to Gambling under section 349 of the Act for the three year period commencing 1 March 2019.
- 2. That once approved the Policy is published in accordance with the relevant regulations and as set out at paragraph 3.2.3.

13. 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 9:58 pm

Councillor Beardsworth to Councillor Nunn:

At the Council Meeting in November 2018 the Council agreed to work with a range of stakeholders to produce a People's Plan by July 2019 to influence the priorities for Northampton in the first year of the new West Northamptonshire Unitary Council.

We are now 4 months from that decision and 4 months from the stated deadline for producing the plan and no indication is evident of any start on this Council motion.

Can the Leader please provide an update setting out the stakeholders consulted the progress to date and provide an assurance that the People's Plan will be produced by July 2019?

Reply:

The People's Plan refers to regeneration projects across Northampton and the wider vision for the town, but must take into account the views of a huge number of people and organisations.

Since the motion was passed in November 2018, we have also received the details of the government's 'Future High Streets' fund, and in order to ensure that there is a way of both capturing the views and aspirations of so many people and groups, and to also ensure that we submit a good Future High Streets Expression of Interest (EoI), NBC has recently coordinated a new stakeholder group (Northampton Forward) to further look at the wider regeneration of the town. Given the time pressure of the Expression of Interest deadline of 22nd March, and it's focus on funding the built environment, the initial focus of this group is demonstrating to government the town's need and ambition, and beginning to shape a vision and masterplan that will create a vibrant and sustainable future.

Stakeholders in this initial phase include those that the government will see as being vital to the success of any EoI that they support, such as Northamptonshire County Council, University of Northampton, Town Centre BID, Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, Royal & Derngate, Northamptonshire Police, Grosvenor Centre, Trickers, South East Midlands LEP. The group is chaired by Northampton Borough Council, who will also be the accountable body for the Future High Streets bid, and once the EoI has been submitted into the governments £675m Future High Street Fund, and the key elements of this publicised, the next phases of work on the wider vision and regeneration of the town can commence.

This must involve the widest possible consultation, and it is essential that this consultation is not narrow, and therefore Northampton Forward may coordinate consultation, but the process must involve panels or sub groups across different subject areas, open consultations etc., and ensure that it takes account of the views of a vast number of sources, from the public, to the council's forums, partners across very many other areas such as health, sport, Voluntary Sector, and community groups including those that have recently formed to themselves consider the future of

Northampton. It must, therefore, go far beyond the reach of a single panel, and it will give everybody the opportunity to contribute.

Councillor Beardsworth to Councillor Hibbert:

At the Council Meeting setting the budget in February the Capital Programme included the heading of "Temporary Accommodation / Housing with a value of £8M" which is clearly a major initiative to address the escalating cost of Homelessness.

Will the Portfolio holder indicate the time scale for spending under this budget head and indicate exactly what projects, services and activities the public can expect to be delivered for this £8M of investment?

Reply:

The Capital Programme involves the sum of £3m (not £8m) to support the Council's efforts to reduce the amount it spends on temporary accommodation. These funds are available from April 2019 and Officers are already working on a programme that will start to deliver early in 2019/20.

Councillor B Markham to Councillor Larratt:

The Council passes Motions in good faith to improve the working of the Borough Council and the services provided to residents of Northampton. Members of the Council have previously expressed concern that motions disappear into a "black hole" and never appear to get implemented.

At several council meetings the Deputy Leader has said that the promised progress report to Full Council is 'close' to being produced.

Can the Deputy Leader list the problems and reasons why, once again, this agenda fails to provide all councillors with a progress report?

Can he also confirm that a comprehensive progress report will be provided at the next Council meeting?

Reply:

Please see Item 8 – Update of Carried Motions

Councillor B Markham to Councillor Hill:

The last Local Plan approved by the Borough Council in 1997 and is now out of date.

In December 2014 the Joint Core Strategy was approved, providing the higher level strategic context to develop Part 2 of a local plan with specific coverage of Northampton.

The Borough Council has now had 5 years to produce a Part 2 plan for Northampton but there is currently no clear date when this will be available to submit to the Planning Inspector for approval while both Daventry and South Northants District Councils have each considered drafts of Part 2 Local plans for submission to the planning Inspectorate.

Will the Portfolio Holder provide:

- an update on the progress of NBC Part 2 plan?
- target dates for the Part 2 submission for Northampton to be shared with councillors and submitted to the Planning Inspector?
- an assessment of how long Northampton residents will be disadvantaged by not having a local plan in place to protect them from developer-led development?

Reply:

The last plan approved by the Borough Council is the Central Area Action Plan in 2013. This, together with the Joint Core Strategy, form part of a suite of development plans which are being used to determine planning applications.

The production of a Local Plan Part 2 is a complicated process which needs a significant body of evidence which is both up to date and accords with current Government legislation. The Borough Council has had to review its Local Plan Part 2 timetable on several occasions, particularly in light of ongoing housing delivery when compared against the Core Strategy trajectory, which has delayed the drafting of the Plan. The current situation is that the Local Plan Part 2 will be brought to Cabinet in late Spring for approval for public consultation over a 6 week period. The results of this consultation will be used to inform the submission version of the Local Plan Part 2. This Plan will be brought back to the Council for approval to submit to the Secretary of State in late 2019. The Plan would then be subject to an Examination in Public, the timing of which is not within the control of the Borough Council.

Given that the intention is to submit the Local Plan Part 2 before the Core Strategy becomes out of date will allow increasing weight to be attached to it as an emerging document when determining any speculative applications.

Brian Hoare to Councillor Eldred

Only one member of the public attended the budget meeting on the 5th February 2019.

At that meeting you told the audience that the meeting had been "extensively advertised via social media"

I emailed you the next day asking for details of the publication of this meeting but have yet to receive a reply.

Can you please advise:

- 1) When and where was this meeting advertised to ensure effective participation by the public?
- 2) What level of attendance would in your mind constituted a successful level of engagement with the public?
- 3) Do you think that the administration can claim that it made every effort to engage with the public which is a statutory duty when proposing the budget and council tax charge for the following year?

Reply:

1) The public consultation on our budget proposals for 2019/20 was approved by Cabinet on 12 December 2018.

Survey start date: 21 December 2018 Survey end date: 1 February 2019

This consultation was formally closed when the budget was adopted in February 2019 at Council.

The draft Budget also went to the following meetings, with all meetings open to the public and all papers published in advance:

Audit Committee 28th January 2019
Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4th February 2019

Cabinet 20th February 2019

A press release was circulated and posted on our website on 8 January. This went out to a total of 230 recipients including all NBC Members and parish councils.

https://www.northampton.gov.uk/news/article/2884/views-sought-on-council-s-draft-201920-budget

This was followed up with posts on Facebook and Twitter on 10 and 18 January, including one about the public meeting.

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The public meeting was also promoted on the consultation web page - where people would sign on to access the survey and corresponding documents

We also published the news on our website and posted two social media alerts on both of our primary social media platforms as follows:

Facebook post on 10 January – 1,865 people reached Facebook post on 18 January – 2,276 people reached Twitter post on 10 January – 1,538 people reached Twitter post on 18 January – 1,741 people reached

- 2) The Council advertised the meeting as one part of the consultation process and provided other opportunities for the public to participate in the budget process as included above.
- 3) The Council fulfilled its statutory duty in respect of proposing the budget and council tax charges for 2019/20.

Councillor Marriott to Councillor Hadland:

Northampton has a statutory duty to produce a Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) which sets out the vision, objectives and strategic policies for delivering growth for the borough, and set out development management policies up to 2029. It will complement the West Northampton shire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) which was adopted in 2014.

Given that NBC is due to be encompassed into an unwelcomed Western Unitary why has this plan not been completed?

When will it be completed?

As the other authorities have completed theirs this failure will undoubtedly place Northampton at a disadvantage

Reply:

The production of a Local Plan Part 2 needs to be evidence based, reflect the current situation and be both up to date and accord with current Government legislation. The Borough Council has had to review its Local Plan Part 2 timetable on several occasions, particularly in light of ongoing housing delivery when compared against the Core Strategy trajectory, which has delayed the drafting of the Plan. The current situation is that the Local Plan Part 2 will be brought to Cabinet in late Spring for approval for public consultation over a 6 week period. The results of this consultation will be used to inform the submission version of the Local Plan Part 2. This Plan will be brought back to the Council for approval to submit to the Secretary of State in late 2019. The Plan would then be subject to an Examination in Public, the timing of which is not within the control of the Borough Council.

Councillor Smith to Councillor Hibbert

When will the Loughborough report be implemented?

We are approving private sector lets which provide minimum space per person. The standard is very low. Can we set our own standards and when will they be implemented?

Reply:

Loughborough University was commissioned to review the effectiveness of the current Interim Planning Policy Statement for Houses in Multiple Occupation and the results of this have been published. One of the recommendations was to produce a town-wide article 4 area, which would require all changes of use to HIMOs to need planning permission. There is a legal procedure which has to be followed to establish this, and preparatory work has started on this.

Councillor Ashraf to Councillor Hibbert:

Has the Social Lettings Agency been a success or a failure?

Reply:

In response to the urgent need to reduce the number of homeless families being placed in Bed & Breakfast and out-of-borough accommodation, it was necessary to redeploy the Social Lettings Agency staff to focus on temporary accommodation.

This redeployment has been very successful in improving the housing conditions of hundreds of homeless households, but it has also limited the Housing Options & Advice Service's ability to help people access good quality rented accommodation.

In the Council's 2019/20 Budget, additional funding is being provided to support the restructure of the Housing Options and Advice Service, including a dedicated Temporary Accommodation Team.

When the Temporary Accommodation Team is in place, the Social Lettings Agency staff will revert back to their primary role of procuring affordable private rented accommodation that can be used to meet housing need and prevent homelessness.

Councillor Ashraf to Councillor Hibbert

Have NPH set up Community Hubs around the town?

Reply:

Yes. NPH have set up 16 Hubs across the town all of which are used for various activities. The Hubs are:

- Leicester Street Community Hub
- Bouverie Road Community Hub
- Eastfield Close Community Hub
- The Liburd Community Hub
- George Nutt Court Community Hub
- Blackberry Lane Community Hub
- Montague Crescent Community Hub
- Parsons Meade Community Hub
- Cardigan Close Community Hub
- Hinton Road Community Hub
- Market Street Community Hub
- Arlbury Road Community Hub
- Eden Close Community Hub
- James Lewis Court Community Hub
- Goldcrest Court Community Hub
- Spring Boroughs Hub

Councillor Ashraf to Councillor Hibbert

Have NPH set up Housing Officer Surgery around the town?

Reply:

Yes. Each Housing Officer holds at least one surgery each month. They are held in the Hubs and other community facilities, and are often held in partnership with other agencies. Full details of all the surgeries can be found on the NPH website

https://www.northamptonpartnershiphomes.org.uk/housing-advice-sessions

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Leader of the Council Northampton Borough Council Monday 11th March 2019

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

The Lead Project Officer who has been running the Dorset transition to Unitary has been recruited to lead the Northamptonshire councils unitary project. Dorset has been seen to have been a well-run project, and although there will inevitably be many aspects of the Northamptonshire project that will be different to Dorset, the knowledge and experience, processes and lessons learned from Dorset will be extremely valuable to us. Transitioning to us from Dorset he is currently working with us for two days per week, and will soon be full time on the project.

The Council Leaders and Chief Executives asked the new Programme Manager to give his initial assessment of the Northamptonshire unitary project, and from some early headlines on timescales, risks and costs, we are now setting about examining a number of areas in greater detail, most particularly in relation to the project budget.

Many influences on the cost of the unitary project will include, for example, the extent to which we ask our own staff to undertake some of the work involved, versus other staff being brought in. It is my view that we have a responsibility to deliver this work efficiently and cost-effectively, but to also ensure that we maintain good levels of service to our residents and do not allow our performance to suffer during the period of the unitary project. There will therefore be some difficult choices to make on managing this process, and I will keep members informed through these reports and other briefings.

Economic Development

The initial main focus of a new board that the council is leading; Northampton Forward, is to ensure that the council submits a strong Expression of Interest form for the Future High Streets Fund. Cllr Hadland has described in his report the membership of this board and the deadlines for the process, but it is worth noting that the Expression of Interest application form allows for only very concise responses to the questions that it asks, broadly aiming to establish two key things, which is firstly the scale and strength of our ambition for the town, and secondly the need for the change that the Fund could assist us with. It does not seek details of specific projects or initiatives at this stage, but that level of detail will form an important part of a second phase application, following a successful Expression of Interest. This will therefore mean a greater level of public and member involvement in the second stage, including seeking the input of the wider public, the forums and groups that the council is involved in, and those other groups established or newly forming who are showing their commitment to the future of the town.

At this stage, we are working with those partners that the Government would want to know were supportive and involved in the Expression of Interest, such as the University, the County Council, Businesses and Business groups, etc. Although the council chairs the board and will ultimately submit the Expression on Interest, the board is working collaboratively, and the input from our partners is vital in making our submission the best it can be.

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:

- Meeting with the new Chief Executive of the NN Contemporary Gallery, and discussing plans for the future and their role in the cultural life of the town
- A meeting with the key organisations involved in supporting the homeless in our town, seeking to move towards closer and more aligned working relationships
- The District Councils Network conference, hearing ideas and best practice from key speakers and other councils
- Attending the University of Northampton graduation ceremonies for the Faculty of Business & Law, and the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Deco Theatre
- The opening of Lakeview House, a wonderful NPH development of 45 new apartment homes

Councillor Jonathan Nunn Leader of the Council

Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council Northampton Borough Council Monday 11th March 2019

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have been playing an active role in the process of establishing and the transition to Unitary, while continuing to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council. I can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

Market

The first meeting of the newly constituted MAG was held at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 29th January 2019. This meeting was only open to nominated Councillors, Market Traders, and Market Personnel. Despite the appalling weather at the time of the meeting three senior traders were in attendance, and quite a few others sent their apologies. The meeting was positive and certainly more convivial than previous meetings, and neither staff nor Councillors were subjected to continual criticism etc.

The meeting touched on and discussed various issues raised by the traders: trading; footfall; entertainment; Christmas; parking; hours / times of access; traffic issues; and empty stalls.

Traders were keen to know about the Governments Future High Streets Fund and if they would be engaged in any consultation, as well as the provision of fixed / permanent stalls.

Councillor Training

The Councillor Development Group met on Monday 18th February 2019. It will next meet on 9th May 2019.

It was noted that Caseworker system was now fully functional and contains the electoral register. Further training had been arranged but attendance had been limited. David Taylor is to be asked for his advice as to how the trial should continue.

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

20/03/19 – Procurement Process – to be delivered by relevant officers. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. This session, requested by Councillors, was postponed due to a lack of attendance at a previously scheduled event.

14/04/19 – Finance & Governance Awareness – to be delivered by the Chief Finance Officer. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

25/04/19 – Antisemitism & Islamophobia – to be delivered by Northamptonshire Police. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

01/05/19 – Unitary Update – to be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

Can Members wishing to attend any of these events please inform Tracy Tiff as soon as possible.

If Members register to attend any event, can I please ask that they do so, or inform Tracy Tiff if they become unavailable to do so.

Street Lighting

Our lighting stock will need redesigning in some areas where there are multiple columns. Individual and heritage lights will be assessed on light by light basis. It is

intended to move to LED lighting as energy costs can be reduced by £50 per light per year simply by replacing the lamp with LED fixtures. The electrical engineer engaged to develop proposals to carry forward the project and to deliver the recommendations contained in the recent survey report is undertaking design work where required.

We have met with Balfour Beatty who are well placed to deliver any works required and go on to maintain our lighting stock on an ongoing basis. Balfour Beatty are preparing costings for consideration in due course and have agreed that they can deliver any work required of them during the summer utilising similar equipment to that of the NCC lighting stock.

I am at last pleased to report that the replacement lights on South Bridge have been installed and are up and running. The lights are very similar to the original lights and enhance the listed structure. My thanks to the officers who facilitated their provision and installation.

Rail Issues

The East West Rail Consortium is due to meet 13th March 2019 in Cambridge.

The Public Inquiry with regard to the Western Section of East / West Rail that connects Northampton / Milton Keynes to Oxford and Aylesbury, as well as the link between Oxford and Bedford, began in Milton Keynes on 6th February and is expected to last 12 weeks.

Consultation is currently taking place on the route of the Central Section from Bedford to Cambridge. This process runs from 28th January to 11th March 2019

Governance Review

At the time of writing the launch of the first round of consultation in the review process is imminent. This consultation is being undertaken by Opinion Research Services.

NCALC held a briefing session regarding the Governance Review for Members and our established Parish Councils on 21st February 2019.

NCALC will be running a similar event on 12th March 2019 for Residents Associations, Community Groups, BIDs, and the Voluntary Sector.

Our established Parish Councils are continuing to show interest in taking on NBC assets in their individual areas. These are being progressed following the adoption of policy last October supporting and favouring the freehold transfer of such assets.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council



Cabinet Member Report for Housing and Wellbeing

Northampton Borough Council

11th March 2019

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

In January 2019, SWEP was activated twice and, with the help and support of a team of 52 volunteers, the Council's Housing and Wellbeing Team opened an emergency Winter Shelter for 14 nights during the following periods:

- Period One: Thursday, 17th January Wednesday, 23rd January 2019 (7 nights)
- Period Two: Sunday, 27th January Saturday, 2nd February 2019 (7 nights)

During (and leading up to) this period of cold weather, the Winter Shelter received a total of 102 referrals, including self-referrals from people who approached the Shelter direct.

A total of 80 people (65 men and 15 women) stayed at least one night in the Winter Shelter and, between them, they stayed a total of 353 nights. Of the people who stayed, the youngest was aged 18, the oldest was aged 60 and the average age was 38. Almost half are non-UK nationals.

In Period One, 58 people (47 men and 11 women) stayed at least one night and, of these, 17 (29%) only stayed one night and only 14 (24%) stayed 6 or 7 nights.

In Period Two, 52 people (46 men and 6 women) stayed at least one night. Although 28 (54%) stayed for 3 or more nights, only 7 (13%) stayed 6 or 7 nights.

Winter Shelter and Expanded Street Outreach Team

On 14th February 2019, the Winter Shelter opened as an all-weather Winter Shelter and the Street Outreach Team was expanded to enable outreach work to be undertaken every day of the week.

Funded by Central Government, the all-weather Winter Shelter – supported by a team of 40 volunteers – and the expanded Street Outreach Team will continue until 31st March 2019.

As well as providing people who are sleeping rough with somewhere safe, warm and dry to stay, they provide an opportunity for positive engagement with people who are homeless.

During the first 14 nights, a total of 62 people (53 men and 9 women) have stayed at least one night in the Winter Shelter and, of these, 22 men and 3 women have stayed for at least 7 nights. The Street Outreach Team has engaged with a total of 77 people.

Northampton's Emergency Nightshelter

Last month, the Nightshelter completed its second successful year.

Since first opening its doors on 6th February 2017, the Nightshelter has provided almost three hundred men with emergency accommodation and, of these, it has so far helped 197 of them to move on successfully into settled accommodation.

Between them, 140 volunteers have donated more than 14,300 hours of their spare time to provide the Nightshelter and its guests with the help and support that they need.

Hospital Discharge Scheme

Our hospital discharge scheme has grown from strength to strength and, during the past four years, it has rehoused 158 patients, enabled 103 patients to return home when they thought they would not be able to do so, and provided housing advice to another 158 patients.

The scheme has delivered better outcomes for patients and has made a significant difference to people's lives, promoting their independence and reducing hospital re-admissions. It has freed up hospital beds that can then be prioritised for those with a medical need.

Apart from homelessness, mental health remains the main issue for patients assisted by the hospital discharge scheme, followed by substance abuse, family breakdown and clinical health.

Colleagues working in health and social care have embraced the scheme, and 'Housing' is now an integral part of the hospital discharge process. The scheme has helped to build a strong partnership of health, social care, housing and voluntary and community sector services.

Social Lettings Agency

As Members are aware, the unprecedented increase in the Council's use of temporary accommodation – and the urgent need to address the large number of homeless families placed in Bed & Breakfast and out-of-borough accommodation – necessitated the redeployment of the Social Lettings Agency staff to concentrate on the management of temporary accommodation.

Although this redeployment has improved the housing conditions of hundreds of homeless households, it has severely limited the Housing Options & Advice Service's ability to prevent homelessness and help people to access good quality private rented accommodation.

In the Council's 2019/20 Budget, additional funding is being provided to support the restructure of the Housing Options and Advice Service and enable an additional 12 staff to be appointed, including a dedicated Temporary Accommodation Team.

When the Temporary Accommodation Team is in place, the Social Lettings Agency staff will revert back to their primary role of procuring a plentiful supply of affordable private rented accommodation that can be used to meet housing need and prevent homelessness.

In the meantime, an assertive Tenancy Sustainment Team (comprising a Housing Options Adviser and a Lettings Negotiator) has been established to work proactively with private landlords and letting agents who have served notice on their tenants, in order to secure the renewal of the tenancy for 12 months or, where this is not possible, negotiate enough time for the tenants to find alternative accommodation before they become homeless.

Northampton Partnership Homes

100th Anniversary of Council Housing

31st July 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of council housing.

Northampton Partnership Homes and the Council are planning a series of events to mark this important milestone.

I will be providing more details of these events in future reports.

Lakeview House

A 45-bed older persons housing scheme at Lakeview House, Churchill Avenue has now been completed and received its official opening, by Michael Ellis MP, on 1st March 2019.

Kings Heath Garage Sites

Works to redevelop garage sites in Kings Heath (providing 23 new homes) have commenced.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Works Update

Neighbourhood regeneration works at Thorplands have commenced and have received a warm welcome from tenants and the local community.

Works to redevelop the former Tanners Pub site have also commenced.

Councillor Stephen Hibbert Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing

TOTAL COMMISSION COMMI

Cabinet Member Report for Environment

Northampton Borough Council

11 March 2019

Environmental Services Contract

Refuse and recycling collections continue to perform well and a project is underway to trial single use sacks in Far Cotton, this will improve service delivery and assist in keeping the area cleaner.

Refuse and recycling container deliveries are now up to date and 6 monthly supplies of sacks to terrace properties are also underway.

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 flytips within the prescribed timescales. The transformation (deep clean) teams continue to work their way through the borough, some 250t of materials have been removed and disposed of - additional resource is also in place to provide a leaf fall removal service.

Winter maintenance schedules, pruning shrubs and hedges and planting bedding are well underway and work being undertaken to plan this year's grass cutting regimes. Both the trees and woodlands service are undertaking surveys and any subsequent works, such as removing epicormic growth around trees, along with planning and executing the enhanced tree program.

Allotments and cemetery services are also providing a good service. Contract meetings continue to take place to monitor and improve the services received by residents of Northampton

Fly-Tipping

Since June-2018 we have seen a 14% drop in the number of reported incidents of fly-tipping and we will shortly be starting further projects to ensure this trend continues.

Total Reported Fly Tips	
17-18 (Jun - Jan)	21,704
18-19 (Jun-Jan)	18,614

On 4th March working with Veolia we re-started a Kangaroo Run. The run was promoted to a set number of local streets and we will assess the success level before potentially starting further runs in other areas.

With the budget now approved, the trial in the drop in the Bulky Waste Charge will begin in April-2019 with the rate reduced from £25 for 3 items to £15 for 3 items to see what impact reducing the charge has on take up rates/fly-tipping statistics.

Parks and Open Spaces

The new extension to the MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) in Ecton Brook has been completed. This allows the children to play football with goals at both ends, whereas the old MUGA only had one goal.

The leak at Abington Park Boating Lake has been repaired. The leak was coursing soil to be washed down the embankment and into the water, which was beginning to silt up the bottom of the lake. The lake is used by model boating

New goal posts with a surrounding frame/mesh has been installed at Ryehill Open Space. This allows the children to play football without them having to go chasing after the football if they miss the goal mouth.

Park Management Committees

Becket's masterplan consultation is nearing the end and the final report is due at the beginning of March.

Thornton Park – initial approaches made towards setting up Park Management Committee with a view to a Green Flag application at the end of the year (same time as Bradlaugh). Agreement reached for the spending of the Section 106 money following public consultation. Formal quotes have been obtained and hopefully all new equipment to be in place by May.

Working with all PMC's to do something during Love Parks week, which commences on 13 July 2018.

Environmental Health

Following the Cabinet resolution to adopt the legal powers available to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys, works are progressing to ensure the effective implementation of the scheme on 1 May.

During the first year of the environmental enforcement contract a total of 7328 Fixed penalty notices have been issued the top 3 Wards based on tickets issued are Castle, Upton and St James. 65.4 % of all those issued with FPNs were males and 57.28% % between the ages of 20 and 39.

Air Quality

The environmental protection team have been reviewing the Government's new Clean Air Strategy to understand its potential implications for Northampton. The strategy, whilst continuing to recognise the impact that transport and energy emissions have on air quality, places an increased focus on other sources of air pollution including domestic open fires and small scale sources of industrial pollution. More information on the strategy will be provided in a future report to Cabinet which will also provide details of the response to the consultation on the planned changes to our town centre air quality management areas.

Our raw Air Quality Management Data is now published on our website up to the end of 2018.

The Council is one of 17 local authorities that have received funding from Office of Low Emissions Vehicles for funding under the Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles Taxi Infrastructure scheme. Funding has been secured towards the installation of two rapid charging points in one of our surface car parks. The charging points will be dedicated for use by taxi and private hire vehicles and work to progress the installation will start in the next few weeks. Discussions are also ongoing to progress the installation of electric vehicle charging points that will be available for general use.

Councillor Mike Hallam Cabinet Member for Environment

Cabinet Member Report for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

11 March 2019

Councillor Community Fund

Since 1 April 2018, a total of £ £107,060.80 has been spent by councillors on supporting the delivery of positive outcomes in their wards.

Partnership Support

Applications for the partnership grant for 2019-20 have been received. The panel will meet at the end of March to make recommendations for the projects that should be funded during the next grant period.

Forums

February - LGBTQ History month— Display on the Mezz throughout February for staff promoting local LGBTQ events, activities, support services and campaigns such as Equality Allies and Straight Allies. Staff engagement every Friday lunchtime on the Mezzanine promoting the LGBTQ staff network for LGBTQ colleagues and straight allies, Ted talks were also screened on different topics effecting LGBTQ communities.

- 21 February Youth Forum: Online safety and fraud prevention training, and employability & charisma session delivered to 13 young people acting as representatives for their secondary schools.
- 8 March internal, Northampton Borough Council, Inspirational Woman Award first year for this award 12 nominations received for 7 different people.
- 9 March International Women's Day event at the Guildhall including Inspirational Woman Award and fashion through the last 100 years catwalk show.

Events

The Chinese New Year event on the 10th February held in the Deco was a success with hundreds of visitors enjoying the festivities including the Lion Dance, Chinese Mask Changing, Kung Fu, Juggling, Music and much more.

The International Women's Day and Heritage Volunteers Day events held at the weekend were a success and enjoyed by all those who attended.

In March we have the annual Sea Cadets Parade (24 March) in the town centre, Terry Wire memorial Harley Davidson Run and the Big Lunch event on the 6 April, Bands in the Park season commences on Sunday 7 April and World of Fun in Abington Park (12 - 22 April).

Looking forward in May we have the University Flag Festival and Annual Beer Festival in Beckets Park and Oak Apple Day. In June we have the Carnival, Armed Forces Day, Music Festival, Race for Life and more across the council's parks and open spaces.

Culture & Heritage

March sees a new exhibition of photography open at Abington Park Museum. Photographs taken by members of Abington Camera Club have a spring theme which brings new colour to Abington Park and hope of the summer to come.

The events offer at the museum continues to be attractive to our visitors – many of the recent events have sold out. Two tours of Abington Park Museum were fully booked in January and February. A ninth series of Art History Lectures led by art historians from ProArtium takes place in March. The museum will be hosting a Vintage & Craft Fair – the event has attracted over 40 traders and there will be a wide choice of ideas for gifts for Mother's Day and Easter from chocolates, cards, crafts and much more.

Following on from the very popular cooking workshop in the autumn of 2018, a second Japanese Cooking workshop will be led by Yuko Nakayama in March. The event sold out very quickly and those lucky enough to attend will be introduced to aspects of Japanese culture and the significance placed on how the food looks as well as how it tastes. The end of the month sees another chance to attend An Evening of Gin following the sell-out success of the first gin evening in September 2018. Led by Quentin Neville, owner and distiller from Northampton's Phipps Brewery and Artisan Blending Limited attendees will learn about the history of the spirit and the distillation process along with a tasting session. This event has sold out.

During March, the museum will be hired out by Events in a Box for a wedding fair and the Museum of London Archaeology for a panel debate.

Museum Expansion Project

Work has begun on the new extension building and the concrete base slab has been poured and work begun on forming the columns for the first floor. Realm Projects have been appointed as exhibition fit out contractor and meetings have been underway to start work on development of the AV components and agree the fit-out timetable.

A small fire on the fourth floor of the Old Gaol Block is under investigation. No objects were affected and the building only sustained localised smoke and water damage. The programme will not be affected and work is currently on schedule.

Customer Services

One Stop Shop - We are pleased to welcome Goodwill Solutions who have joined the OSS partner's hub and are delivering a programme called Building Better Opportunities (BBO) and holding weekly drop in clinic within the OSS. Goodwill Solutions is a Community Interest Company who work in a way that helps the local community, working with disadvantaged people across Northamptonshire to help them back into work and to become a valuable member of our community. They are completely self-funded using profits from the business, to run numerous projects. Since 5th December they have ran three drop in clinics and have managed to sign up 12 customers. The clinics are available every Wednesday 9:30 – 16:30 in OSS.

Community Safety

4 February - personal safety engagement event with the staff and students at Northampton University's Waterside campus. Promoting a number of CSP safety messages, in particular Nights Out; safer routes and taxi marshalls initiatives.

5 February - primary school safety event at the Deco, feedback from the students and teachers that attended has been very positive across the eight community safety themes that were delivered, using presentations, workshops and drama performances. The evaluation results identified that between 75-86% of students for each of the eight themes either 'liked' or 'loved' what was delivered.

- 4, 18 February and two further sessions panned for 21, 28 March of training around youth violence and gangs delivered to local front-line officers, across the partnership as part of the Trusted Relationships project. The training is being delivered by Craig Pinkney one of the UK's leading thinkers/doers in responding to gangs and serous youth violence and was very well received by all attendees.
- 18 February Progress with Notre Dame: Wall has been rebuilt and height raised. Railings are in process of being restored and due to be fitted in April. Interpretation boards agreed and options explored with Idverde for landscaping and planting.
- 28 February community engagement at Blackthorn to support the forthcoming day of action and community event, to take place during the Easter holidays.
- 4 March Bouverie Day of Action taking place at Vernon Terrace community centre. Plans for a bulky waste collection for residents in the day to clear fly tipping. Drop in for residents to get information on parking, recycling, housing etc from 4.30pm and Youth engagement launching the True Knowledge (Trusted Relationships, Home Office Funding) in the area with street sports activities.

Plans underway to join up with Crimestoppers in Blackthorn and St David's with to undertake some specific targeted work, focus around serious organised crime, during May half term holiday.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The following action has been taken by NBC's anti-social behaviour officers, working in partnership with the local policing team, in tackling anti-social behaviour, serious organised crime, and begging and youth violence:

Our second 'cuckooing' injunction was granted on a prolific 'cuckooing' offender who has been targeting vulnerable people for a number of years.

A large group of youths causing anti-social behaviour and nuisance in the south-west area of Northampton have received advice letters, followed by Community Protection Warning (CPWs) Letters in order to stop the problems. CPW's also issued to a group who are gaining entry to residential communal blocks, smoking cannabis and causing intimidation to the local residents due to their behaviour.

Two prolific shoplifters were sentenced to a combined custodial time of 46 weeks, both were granted with a Criminal Behaviour Order upon conviction not to enter the shops which they have been targeting.

A prolific nominal who has had a huge impact in the town centre due to drunken and abusive behaviour was sentenced to 36 weeks in custody, a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) has been attached to this and a court date set for May. Another individual in the south-west part of the town who has been causing anti-social behaviour to his neighbours is due in court, again with an application for a CBO.

Councillor Anna King
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Community Safety

Finance

The Council set its last General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Budgets at its meeting on 25th February 2019, along with the formal setting of the Council Tax for our Borough. The Boroughs share of that increase is just £6.56.

The Council is in a healthy financial position for the 2019/20 financial year with a balanced budget and an adequate level of reserves, though we must be mindful of the continuing pressure that might arise again from the Homeless and Temporary Accommodation Budgets.

2019/20 also sees the first year of the Borough receiving no Revenue Support Grant from Government.

Having completed and had signed of the 2016/17 Accounts, the teams are racing forward with the 2017/18 Accounts, which are due to be audited at the end of March 2019, by KPMG. They are also commencing preparatory work for closing down 2018/19, which will be audited by Ernst & Young (EY) as our new external auditor.

Revenues & Benefits

The service continues to deliver a good service. They have had the additional challenge this year of reviewing and amending several thousand Business Rates bills, but making excellent progress in reducing the cost of Business Rates to retail (as defined by Government) that have a Rateable Value of less than £51,000, and are occupied. We anticipate this reducing the Business Rates pressure on local businesses by around £3million in 2019/20, Government will reimburse Local Authorities for any income lost due to this scheme.

Collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates continue to be on target.

Councillor Brandon Eldred Cabinet Member for Finance

Cabinet Member Report for Planning



Northampton Borough Council

Monday 11th March 2019

Development Management

Another busy month in Planning saw Outline planning application N/2018/0904 for the development of 132 no. dwellings at the former Parklands Middle School site, off Devon Way approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 22nd January 2019, subject to the finalisation of a S106 agreement.

Full planning application N/2018/0774 for the development of 118 no. dwellings on land west of St Crispin Drive was approved in principle by the Planning Committee on 22nd January 2019, subject to the finalisation of a S106 agreement.

Development Management has continued to maintain a 100% performance standard in terms of major, minor and other applications in January 2019.

Planning Policy

Work continues on the production of the Local Plan Part 2. Initial scoping has started on supplementary planning documents relating to housing in multiple occupation, specialist housing and parking.

Heritage

The pre-contract meeting for the repair works to the Queen Eleanor Cross has taken place and the contract has been awarded.

Building Control

Two dangerous structure enquiries investigated, including a shared garden wall supported by a tree stump and a dwarf wall adjacent to the highway, neither of which were identified as dangerous structures.

Lakeview House Old Persons Home project is nearing completion with final inspections due. The property encourages elderly residents to enjoy independent life with "common" and "easy" rooms attached.

Cllr James Hill

Cabinet Member for Planning



Cabinet Member Report for Planning, Enterprise & Planning

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 11th March 2019

Town centre Operations

The two hour free parking offer in the council's multi-storey car park during the week (Monday – Friday) shows 788038 visitors taking advantage of the free parking offer between April – January. During the same period in our multi-storey car parks Saturday's parking visitor numbers were 259,945, and on Sunday's parking visitor numbers were 123,130..

The total for the same period across all our Car Parks was 2,190,465

Regeneration

Future High Street Fund

This fund was announced by the Government recently, to assist in making High Streets and Town Centres fit for the challenges of the future. A project board has been established to oversee the development of an Expression of Interest (EoI) into the fund. The Board is made up of representatives from NBC, NCC, Northampton BID, UoN, SEMLEP, Royal and Derngate, Trickers, the Police and the Grosvenor Centre.

The Expressions of Interest have to be submitted to MHCLG by the 22nd March. Towns may bid for up to £25 million. The successful schemes will be notified later in the year, and will then receive funds to work up their schemes in detail.

This is a very exciting opportunity for Northampton, and Officers and the Board are working hard to meet the challenging deadline.

Vulcan Works

Stepnell have been appointed as main contractor and are due to start on site in March. This is the largest Town Centre regeneration scheme for many years, and will provide a springboard for new and expanding businesses in the Creative industries.

Upton Country Park

Detailed design work is now complete and the tender for the works will be issued in March.

Delapre Abbey

Final elements of snagging are being undertaken and are due to be completed by the end of the financial year.

The Leases of the Abbey and stables to DAPT are due to be completed shortly, and this milestone will enable the final HLF contributions to the scheme to be released.

Street Lighting
Capital Scheme for 2019 Onwards

Consultant have been appointed to assist with design, co-ordination, specifications, as-built drawings and energy savings for new street lighting on NBC land. Funds have been included in the new Council budget.

Rectory Farm Community Centre

The preferred design and early cost advice are complete, and the Planning Application process is well in hand. The new Council budget includes £250,000 for this scheme.

Councillor Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning

Appendices: 1



COUNCIL 11th March 2019

Agenda Status: Public Directorate: Borough Secretary & Monitoring

Officer

Report	Meeting Cycle 2019/2020
Title	

1. Purpose

1.1 To seek approval of Council to the Meeting Cycle for 2019/2020.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council approve the Meeting Cycle for 2019/2020.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 It is necessary for the Council to agree a Calendar of meeting to enable the business of the Council to be programmed appropriately.
- 3.1.2 The draft Calendar of meetings is attached at Appendix 1 and follows an established practice and reflects comments made in consultation with Councillors, Directors and Heads of Service so that:
 - Ordinarily, there are no main Committee meetings on the Tuesday evening following Council; and
 - The commencement time of meetings remain as for the existing cycle.
- 3.1.3 Future changes to meeting dates of Committees will be made on the Council's website and notification will be electronically sent to all relevant Members.

3.1.4 Meetings of the West Northamptonshire Joint Committee will commence from March 2019 and will be programmed into the schedule of meetings when the dates have been confirmed.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The report continues existing policy.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are no particular implications arising from the Meetings Cycle.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1.1 The proposed calendar ensures that the Council complies with various statutory functions, including the Access to Information Regulations.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no equity and equalities issues arising from this report.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 None.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None.

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary & Monitoring Officer
01604 837334

TITLE OF MEETING	TIME	JUNE 2019	JULY	AUG	SEPT	ОСТ	NOV	DEC
Cabinet	6pm Jeffery Room	12	24		11	16	13	4 & 11
Council	6.30pm Council Chamber	17	22		16		4	9
Standards Committee	5pm Jeffery Room	24			30			2
Audit Committee	6pm Jeffery Room	24			23			16
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	6pm Jeffery Room	10			30		11	
Planning Committee	5pm Jeffery Room	4	2 & 30		3 & 24	22	19	17
Alcohol and Gambling Licensing Committee	6pm Jeffery Room	11	9		10	15	12	10
Taxi and General Licensing Committee	6:30pm Jeffery Room	11	9		10	15	12	10
General Purposes Committee	6pm Jeffery Room		16		17		5	
Scrutiny Panel 1	6pm Jeffery Room		17		18		6	
Scrutiny Panel 2	6pm Jeffery Room	5	3		25		20	
Scrutiny Panel 3	6pm Jeffery Room	18			12		14	
Northampton Disabled Peoples Forum	10.30am Holding Room		12		13		15	
Northampton LGBT & Q Forum	6.30pm Holding Room		23 (social)		24			10 (social)
Northampton Pensioners Forum	2pm Jeffery Room		18		26		28	
Northampton Diverse Communities Equalities Forum	6.30pm Holding Room		11		12		21	
Northampton Women's Fourm	11am Holding Room		23		24		26	

Please note that this is for guidance purposes only. The website needs to be checked regularly as meetings may be changed.

Meeting locations are not guaranteed and may need to be moved.

TITLE OF MEETING	TIME	JAN 2020	FEB	MAR	APR
Cabinet	6pm			4 & 25	
	Jeffery Room	22	5 & 19	7 4 20	
0	0.00				
Council	6.30pm Council Chamber	20	24	9	
Standards Committee	5pm				
Otanaaras Committee	Jeffery Room			23	
Audit Committee	6pm				
	Jeffery Room			23	
Overview & Scrutiny	6pm	9	20		
Committee	Jeffery Room	J	20		
Planning Committee	5pm	21	18	17	
Alcohol and Gambling	Jeffery Room				
Licensing Committee	6pm Jeffery Room		4	10	
Taxi and General	6:30pm				
Licensing Committee	Jeffery Room		4	10	
	-				
General Purposes	6pm				
Committee	Jeffery Room		10		
Scrutiny Panel 1	6pm				
Cording Fanci 1	Jeffery Room	27			
Scrutiny Panel 2	6pm	4.4			
•	Jeffery Room	14			
Scrutiny Panel 3	6pm	7			
	Jeffery Room	•			
Northampton Disabled	10.30am				
Peoples Forum Northampton LGBTQ	Holding Room				
Forum	6.30pm Holding Room				
Northampton	2pm				
Pensioners Forum	Jeffery Room				
Northampton Diverse	6.30pm				
Communities	Holding Room				
Equalities Forum					
Northampton Womens	11am				
Forum	Holding Room				

Please note that this is for guidance purposes only. The website needs to be checked regularly as meetings may be changed.

Meeting locations are not guaranteed and may need to be moved.

Meetings of the Northampton Forums from January 2020 to be included

Appendices: 2



COUNCIL 11 March 2019

Agenda Status: Public Directorate: Borough Secretary and

Monitoring Officer

Report	
Title	Update on Carried Motions

1. Purpose

1.1 To receive, and note, the update on Carried Motions from April 2018 to date, as attached at Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the update on Carried Motions.
- 2.2 That a further update is brought to full Council at its meeting on 16 September 2019.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 Officers have undertaken an information gathering exercise to assess the current status of Motions that have been passed and what has been completed or is in the process of being completed for each Service Area.
- 3.1.2 Information contained within the appendix of the report demonstrates that of the 26 motions submitted 1 is currently outstanding, 12 are in progress and 13 have been completed.
- 3.1.3 A number of the motions are marked as 'ongoing' due to the complexities of work that is required to complete some of the motions, it is reasonable for several motions to be 'in progress' for a period of time whilst officers carry out

work prior to completion which can also involve partnership agencies. Furthermore, some motions request continual support for certain projects and as such, are inevitably regarded as ongoing.

- 3.1.4 There are examples contained within Appendix A of motions that cannot be completed due to the change in circumstance of the Council following the agreement of the proposed Unitary Council. Since the change to the senior management structure of the Council, the responsibility for some motions has been transferred to different service areas which has caused some delays in allocating and collating the relevant information.
- 3.1.5 In order to promote transparency and allow for members to monitor the progress of motions, a table of motions (previously passed by Council) that are being progressed or have been actioned and completed will be published and uploaded on the Internet.
- 3.1.6 Should Members wish to have further information on individual motions, a narrative will be provided with additional information that cannot practically be reported on the published table of motions by contacting Democratic Services who will endeavour to gather relevant information on each motion.
- 3.1.7 Other local authorities have published their motion updates annually on their website which provide members of the public (and Councillors) the facility to access motions that have been passed at Council meetings, without having to go through the minutes of each meeting. The date of the Council meeting at which the motion was considered is recorded, along with the motion and the responsible officers in addition to an anticipated timeframe for the motion to be completed. (Appendix B)
- 3.1.8 A further report will be submitted to Council in September2019 updating Council on the six month progress since this meeting and on further progress of motions submitted and carried at future Council meetings.
- 3.1.9 Detailed below is the key to the service areas to which the carried motions relate to.

Кеу	Service Area
	Housing and Wellbeing
	Customer and Communities
	Economic Development and Regeneration
	Planning
	Finance (Chief Finance S151)
	Chief Executive
	Borough Secretary

3.2 Decision details

3.2.1 Full Council is to note the update on carried motions and consider receiving a further update at its meeting in September 2019.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 There are no policy implications arising directly from this Report.
- 4.1.2 Notices of Motion are a substantive agenda item of each meeting of full Council.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There are no direct resource implications arising directly from this report.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Council has a responsibility under the to debate Notices of Motions submitted to meetings of full Council.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 There are none.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Agendas and minutes of meetings of full Council from April 2018 in relation to the carried motions.

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer
0300 330 7000

CARRIED MOTIONS APRIL 2018

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

Ongoing

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

Completed

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

Completed

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

Completed

Completed

CARRIED MOTIONS JUNE 2018

The letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government regarding submission for unitary authorities stated that they wanted "locally led proposals for establishing unitary authorities across the county which will be right for communities and people they serve. This Council acknowledges these requirements and will try and fulfil them on behalf of the residents in the Borough of Northampton. It is essential that Residents participate in the formal, county-wide consultation, because this will ensure that their views are taken into account, and this council will encourage them to do that. To achieve this end the Council commits to undertake consultation with local residents to explain the changes that are being proposed and to seek resident's views on the key issues and requirements of a new unitary council to serve Northampton residents. This is the most important decision regarding local government reorganisation since 1974 and all Councillor should make their best effort to help with the consultation so that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Governments call for proposals is delivered.

Completed

Obesity in Childhood is a growing problem. There are many causes of obesity. One is an issue that can be addressed by planning conditions. Tower Hamlets and other Local Authorities are leading the way by not allowing fast food outlets within a 400 metre radius of schools. Some authorities are additionally providing healthy food awards for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices. This council therefore commits to proposing, through the local plan process, a policy that there will be no new fast food outlets that fall within a 400 metre radius of schools. We will additionally consider creating a healthy food award for local retailers to encourage healthier food choices.

Ongoing

CARRIED MOTIONS JULY 2018

"Whatever the boundaries of the new Unitary Councils, for Northamptonshire, those councils will take on responsibility for the care of older people in our community, from

A recent study estimated that 35% of inpatients in local hospitals were there simply waiting for suitable after care to be available (so called Bed Blocking).

This council asks scrutiny, working with NCC scrutiny and partners, particularly health service partners, to carry out investigation into Adult Social Care facilities in the area to identify future demand patterns, in order that the new Unitary Council is able to better plan for the needs of older people in the future".

Ongoing

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"Our town is famous for the boot and shoe industry and for leather works. The Central Museum hosts our famous shoe collection and the town has in trust the National Leather Collection, currently located in the Grosvenor Centre. We note recent announcements of retail and other High Street closures and the Northampton Chronicle's current Town Centre campaign. We know as a council that we need to support the regeneration of our town, increase footfall and to stimulate tourism. Leather goods manufacturers and our world renowned shoe makers can play a key role in this. his council therefore resolves to: Invite interest from shoe manufacturers and leather goods producers around the county and possibly beyond to be included in a retail shoe and leather goods outlet in Northampton Town Centre. This plan could see the development of one of the vacant sites in the middle of town become a show case for the sale of shoes and leather goods from our world class manufacturers. The vision being that the demand for our high quality shoes & leather goods, will contribute to making Northampton Town Centre an attraction for visitors into the town. This will aid regeneration and increase footfall. To make this offer work and make it viable for the businesses concerned, this council will work with them and make whatever concessionary offers are within its gift for a defined period and play an active role in the delivery of what will be a mutual heritage and commercial concern. This council will seek to include the BID and the University of Northampton in playing an active role in this initiative

Ongoing

"There are four community libraries in the town that are under threat of closure. This council recognises the value of libraries as community hubs. This council, therefore, resolves to work with the friends of the libraries to facilitate the libraries remain open for community use."

Ongoing

"This motion calls for the Council to continue to a commitment to support mental health awareness and support to the Government's Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health. The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across local authorities, the NHS, public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations and others. This Council is proud to actively support the campaign to make Northampton a 'happy town', including the launch of Northampton's first 'Happy Café' in June. 'Happy Cafés' are being set up by supporters of the Action for Happiness movement in local communities, as a friendly and welcoming place to meet others with a shared interest in promoting happiness and well-being. As well as the 'Happy Café' launch, there was also be a celebration of the publication of '50 Ways to Feel Happy', a new illustrated children's book which helps children build skills and develop healthy habits for their daily lives, promoting resilience, well-being, self-confidence and emotional stability. This motion calls on the Council to further promote a preventionfocused approach to improving the public's mental health, including supporting community based initiatives, for example, community choirs and health walks, which makes a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society".

Completed

CARRIED MOTIONS SEPTEMBER 2018

This Council notes that graffiti is an unwelcome sight in most towns and cities across the country. A town is often judged by how it responds to graffiti, particularly that of a racist or offensive nature. Council notes that there has previously been a robust informal policy and stance adopted regarding this, but now resolves to:

- a) Adopt a formal policy for the removal of graffiti in a quality manor, free of charge on private property where the appropriate permission has been provided in writing by the property owner;
- b) Prioritize and immediately tackle instances of racist or offensive graffiti;
- c) Continue the commitment to do all it can to remove graffiti in the town, including working closely with the police across the borough, Northampton Town Centre BID, Network Rail, and owners of other affected properties, to try and catch offenders;
- d) Relaunch the "name the tag" campaign and actively promote it within the Youth Forum and youth groups across the town;
- e) Urge people to report offenders and the location of graffiti on both public and private property when they see it, so it can be removed.

Completed

"This Council recognises the concerns of residents and Parish Councils in areas where management companies are responsible for open space and other amenities. Council resolves to support residents and Parish Councils in resolving their concerns. This Council also resolves to make it clear that, it too, has significant concerns regarding the establishment of management companies to manage open space and other facilities on new housing developments in the borough of Northampton, rather than them being formally adopted. While resisting management companies, this Council will encourage developers to consider all the alternatives available for managing the facilities on new developments in the borough and Northampton growth area, including seeking for developments to be adopted with sufficient resources to ensure that the maintenance of these pieces of land is fully funded"

Ongoing

"This Council notes the Government's aims in encouraging a modal shift of freight from road to rail, which is a key aspect of its transport policy, and recognise that with effective implementation this modal shift can result in a reduction of carbon emissions, shorter and more efficient journeys, and fewer road casualties.

This Council further notes that the delivery of a national network of Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges (SRFIs) forms a key part of recognising this aim, and the criteria for these are set out in the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) and the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy Guidance documents.

This Council also notes that the NPSNN is clear that there is a need for an expanded network of large SRFIs across the regions to accommodate the long-term growth in rail freight, and that new rail freight interchanges, especially in areas poorly served by such facilities at present, are likely to attract substantial business, generally new to rail. However, the NPSNN also states that existing operational SRFIs and other intermodal RFIs are situated predominantly in the Midlands and the North, and that SRFI capacity needs to be provided at a wide range of locations, to provide the flexibility needed to match the changing demands of the market.

This Council believes that, as there is already around 39m sq. ft of SRFI-related warehousing either under construction or being proposed in the East Midlands alone, not including the existing SRFI warehousing capacity already present nor other SRFIs in the wider Midlands region, it is unclear whether the proposed local developments, Rail Central and Northampton Gateway, are compliant with the NPSNN.

This Council, therefore, resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask for an urgent review of the NPSNN, and all other associated policy guidance, to ensure that SRFI capacity is deployed as a national network across the country, rather than being built in areas where developers have pre-existing land options".

Completed

CARRIED MOTIONS NOVEMBER 2018

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.

The council notes that in spite of the fact that two firms of consultants have been appointed to produce a development scheme without success, the site of the former Greyfriars Bus Station has stood empty since March 2015 and adds to the sense of decline in Northampton Town Centre. The council notes the appointment of a new consultant to produce a development scheme and calls on the administration to ask this consultant to draw up options for the site to be brought into a temporary use as a matter of urgency for the publics benefit. While accepting that this is an interim measure pending the long-term development of the Greyfriars site, whatever happens in the short term must not be to the detriment of a long term permanent development.

......

Ongoing

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;

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

- 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.

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.

Ongoing

Not Started

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.

Ongoing

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.

Completed

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.

Ongoing

CARRIED MOTIONS DECEMBER 2018

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

Ongoing

"This Council recognises the value of openness and transparency in communicating with the public about air quality and the steps that it is making to monitor and to reduce air pollution. This Council notes that other authorities, such as Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Council, make effective use of corporate websites to share information about air quality monitoring in an accessible way, including regular monthly publication of raw data from air quality monitoring tubes. Northampton Borough Council resolves to review the accessibility, frequency of update and timeliness of the air quality data and activity published on its own website in order to match the openness and transparency achieved by other local authorities. This Council also notes that it is important that members of the public understand that the raw data can only be properly analysed and trends assessed after a 12 month period to take account of any seasonality or specific in-month events that might skew the data such as road traffic closure. Council also notes that this is a highly complex and technical area of work and resolves to work openly with all those with appropriate expertise in this area.

Completed

CARRIED MOTIONS JANUARY 2019

This Council recognises the importance of retaining good members of staff over the next 15 months to ensure that skilled staff are available to transfer to a new Unitary authority to continue to provide good local government services to the residents of Northampton. The Council has HR policies and procedures in place, which of course need to be understood and adhered to, in order to achieve the goal of retaining good members of staff. The Council recognises that there will always be staff who choose to move on, but during the past 18 months, in order to make NBC an attractive place for good staff to work, has:

- Reduced the standard work hours from 40 to 37, to be competitive with other employers, with part-time staff reducing their by the same percentage if they chose to.
- Removed the no pay for the first day of sickness
- Improved various HR policies
- Used the discretions policy on sick pay to honour commitments under the TUC 'Dying to work' charter
- Anticipates a likely 2% pay award for 2019/20
- Enhanced staff discounts and benefits arrangements
- Maximised the use of apprenticeships and the apprenticeship levy
- Transferred a significant proportion of the interim contract staff to more permanent types of fixed contract arrangements
- Recruited a Learning and Development Manager to support personal development
- Brought the HR service back in-house to be closer to the employees that it supports

Council thanks its hard working staff for their dedication to supporting the town and serving its residents, and reaffirms its commitment to ensure that NBC is an attractive place for good staff to work.

Northampton has a strong and proud history of manufacturing, including its boot and shoe trade and heavy to medium engineering. Despite the demise of such important companies such as British Timken, Express lifts, Northampton Machinery Co, RHP Bearings and Plessy, we do still have centres of excellence with Cosworth, AMG Powertrain, Churches shoes, Trickers and many others. This Council is already very pleased to buy products and services from many local companies, and as part of continually seeking to get best value for the local taxpayer, is keen to work with more local companies and employers. There are now two national campaigns to promote manufacturing, the GMB Union "Making it" and "The Made in Britain" which is run for manufacturers. This Council therefore recognises both of these campaigns, and agrees to promote their membership to local companies, along with continuing to encourage potential manufacturers to site within the town. The Council will, wherever possible and cost effective, use local suppliers to support the local economy.

The Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review with the intention of establishing two tiers of local government across Northampton when the new Unitary arrangements come into force. This will constitute a major change to the way that services are delivered to local communities and the level of council tax that households are expected to pay in the currently unparished areas of the Borough. This Council therefore expects that in any literature provided to the public, setting out proposed new Parish / Town Council arrangements, will detail the options for service delivery by the new councils and give an indication as to the initial precept / council tax that will be levied, while recognising that going forward this will be a matter for the elected members of the new councils.

Completed

Completed

Completed

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

draw from the widest possible pool of talent

secure high quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working

improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating that all

employees are treated fairly

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

23 AUGUST 2017

Please note that this statement tracks all Notices of Motion (relevant to Council) submitted by members, until the point of disposal. The motion will remain on the statement until the Council has agreed to remove it.

Reports on motions which are overdue are shaded

Meeting <u>Decision of Council</u> <u>Future Action</u> <u>Officer</u>	
1. Motion by Councillor Grant "Council notes First Aberdeen has announced the planned withdrawal of the X40 and 11 services from Kingswells with similar withdrawals having already been made right across the city. Notes that bus operators in Aberdeen appear to put profit before the needs of passengers who often rely upon buses to get to and from work. At its meeting of 21 June 2017, the Council resolved: (i) to instruct the Interim Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure to report to the Communities, Housing Committee in August 2017 with a proposal for a revised Quality Partnership for public Transport will be presented to the CH&I communities, Housing Committee in August 2017 with a proposal for a revised Quality Partnership for public transport; (ii) to instruct the Interim Director of Communities, Housing Committee in August 2017 with a proposal for a revised Quality Partnership for public transport; (iii) to instruct the Interim Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure to report to the CH&I communities, Housing Committee in August 2017 with a proposal for a revised Quality Partnership for public transport; (ii) to instruct the Interim Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure to report to the CH&I communities, Housing Committee in August 2017 with a proposal for a revised Quality Partnership for public transport; (ii) to instruct the Interim Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure	0047 -4

<u>No.</u>	<u>Motion</u>	Date of Council Meeting	Decision of Council	Action taken/Proposed Future Action	Responsible Officer	Due Date
	service, those options to include the setting up of a company and/or working in partnership with an operator who already holds a PSV bus operator's licence, and to report back to Council in June 2017."		Infrastructure to report to the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee in September 2017 with options for dealing with gaps in the public transport network, where a need has been identified and for a decision to be made; (iii) to instruct the Interim Director of Communities, Housing and Infrastructure to arrange for an appropriate procurement exercise to be carried out so as to seek a provider for an enhanced public bus service to Kingswells to extend the current service, to 6.00am to 11.00pm daily, Monday through Friday as soon as possible. Subject to timing requirements of the financial year 2017/18 in recognition of	to the FP&R Committee on 20 September 2017, as instructed; (iii) The required procurement exercise and contract variation for Kingswells bus services has been undertaken. The X94 contract will be varied with the existing provider, Central Coaches, with the shuttle being extended to provide two additional morning shuttle		