

Foreword

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was:

To look at Northampton, (being mindful of the potential Unitary Authority), giving particular consideration to how civic pride and ceremonies can be protected

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding and overview of the civic pride, events and ceremonies (compiling a formal list) that currently take place within the Borough of Northampton
- To gain an understanding of how Northampton's civic events and ceremonies are marketed
- To understand the role of the Mayor of Northampton
- To understand the roles of both the previous Northampton Borough Council and other partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough
- To consider how the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority.

The required outcomes being to recommend an action plan how civic pride, events and ceremonies can be protected.

The Scrutiny Panel was made up of myself (Chair); Councillor Paul Joyce (Vice Chair); Councillors Sam Kilby-Shaw, Jamie Lane, Danielle Stone and Graham Walker. Lee Mason and Morcea Walker were co-opted to the review.

A comprehensive review took place between June 2018 and May 2019. A wealth of background data and information was received by the Scrutiny Panel and a series of interviews with a number of key expert advisors were held. A number of organisations and community groups provided written information. Informative site visits also took place. Desktop research was undertaken by the Scrutiny Officer, the findings of which informed the review.

Information gathering was very important to this review so that the Scrutiny Panel could map the civic events and ceremonies that the Mayor of Northampton is involved in. This enabled the Scrutiny Panel to devise its recommendations that will be considered by Cabinet later this year.

As part of the monitoring regime, Overview and Scrutiny will review this report six months after Cabinet has received it.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in this in-depth piece of work.



Councillor Brian Sargeant

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3 – Northampton Post Unitary

Acknowledgements to all those who took part in the review:

- Councillors Councillor Paul Joyce (Vice Chair); Councillors Sam Kilby-Shaw, Jamie Lane, Danielle Stone and Graham Walker and Lee Mason and Morcea Walker (co-optees) who sat with me on this review
- Councillor Tony Ansell, Mayor of Northampton for 2018/2019, Councillor Arthur McCutcheon, previous Mayor of Northampton, Councillor Jonathan Nunn, Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Larratt, Deputy Leader of the Council, Francis Fernandes, Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer, George Candler, Chief Executive, NBC, David Laing, Lord Lieutenant, James Saunders-Watson, High Sheriff, Dominic Hopkins, Under High Sheriff, Terry Sibley and Phil Ager, Freeman of the Borough, Lynda Tomplinson, Jackie Brame and Philip Saunderson, Northampton Rotary Club, Ken Howlett, Chair, NIFF, addressed or either attending a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel and/or providing a response to the core questions
- The Mayor of Raunds Town Council and Higham Ferrers Town Council for accommodating the Scrutiny Panel on a site visit
- Mr Huffadine-Smith for attending a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel and addressing it