

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 16 May 2012

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Peter Baden
David Bateman
Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Wendy Brackenbury
Pauline Bradberry JP
John Farrar
Michael Finch
Richard Gell
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Glenn Harwood MBE
Marika Hillson
Sylvia Hobbs
Marian Hollomon
Sue Homer
Dudley Hughes JP
Sylvia Hughes
Barbara Jenney

David Jenney
Richard Lewis
Eloise Lucille
Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer
Bob Nightingale
Steven North
Brian Northall
Sarah Peacock
Ron Pinnock
David Read
Rupert Reichhold
Anna Sauntson
Phillip Stearn
Jeremy Taylor
Robin Underwood
Pam Whiting
Clive Wood
Colin Wright

Also Present: Graham Blagden

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Sarah Peacock proposed that Councillor Clive Wood be elected Chairman of the Council and Councillor Steven North seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Clive Wood be elected Chairman of the Council for the year 2012/2013.

Councillor Wood, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, took the chair, and announced that the Chairman's Consort would be Mrs Jenny Elliott. He thanked Councillor Sylvia Hughes for her work as Chairman in 2011/12.

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury acknowledged the work of Councillor Sylvia Hughes as Chairman of the Council in 2011/12. Councillor Anna Sauntson seconded the motion.

RESOLVED:

That the best thanks of this Council be tendered to Councillor Sylvia Hughes for her discharge of the duties of Chairman of the Council for the District of East Northamptonshire, in the Civic Year 2011/12; and to Councillor Dudley Hughes who has accompanied her during her Civic Year, for his support.

Councillor Sylvia Hughes was then presented with her past Chairman's medal and responded to the vote of thanks:-

"Councillors and guests,

I am going to begin with a quote from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"God created us for fellowship. God created us so that we should form the human family, existing together because we were made for one another"

I have come to the end of a great year when I have been privileged to not only go to social occasions and spread the word about our lovely district but also meet a variety of wonderful people who do such good work helping in so many ways other residents and making their lives better. The opening of the offices of Community Law in Rushden, the AGM of the Parkinson Society, seeing the tremendous work going into the new HQ for MIND in Rushden and the opening of the Phoenix Resource Centre have been some of the occasions where there are people I have met to show on your behalf our appreciation for what they do.

We have attended events with the best Sea Cadet Unit in the country based at Northampton and Rushden, the packed church for the scouts' parade for St George's Day, given out palm crosses to children in Raunds, enjoyed visits from school children in the council chamber, had tea with students and the Head teacher in Thrapston, taken assembly and congratulated staff and students at the school in Brigstock when it got its outstanding OFSTED report.

We have attended a variety of local events including turning on Christmas lights in Rushden and Raunds, various fetes in our towns and villages, wonderful events organised by the Oundle Music Festival Committee, Raunds Music Festival and of course different charity events hosted by what is affectionately known as the 'Chain Gang'.

We were delighted to raise funds from our Chairman's Ball which was a great success and our Doctor Busker evening which was great fun to support Life Education Centres, Rushden Mind, the Sea Cadets, Phoenix Resource Centre and the High Sheriff's fund as well as making a donation to the choir at St Mary's Higham Ferrers who sang so beautifully at our Civic service. This event was held at Brigstock and we were privileged to have the Bishop of Brixworth preside in a full church with local dignitaries including the High Sheriff Penny Escombe and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant. I was appreciative of the councillors who supported this and my other events.

At my Civic Dinner which we held at the Visitor Centre at Stanwick Lakes all the guests commented on what a great setting it was and the food and service were excellent. In my speech there I thanked those who had made a special contribution to my year most especially my consort Dudley, without whom I would not have been able to achieve half of what was done. He was chief photographer and journalist, I am often stopped in the street and complimented on the 'From the Chairman' reports in NVN his enthusiasm and commitment to our young people, his passion for promoting the District and his tireless ingenuity in raising money for our charities makes him such a driving force for good. I especially thanked Penny Escombe who as High Sheriff has been a great supporter. I also recorded my appreciation of Peter Stephens and those who have helped the District and I

have been especially involved in the Lyveden New Bield wind farm appeal and I emphasised our gratitude to English Heritage and National Trust who under the expert chairmanship of David Oliver agreed to support going for Judicial Review.

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of England with facilities which we should support and promote to our residents. We should be grateful for all the work done by volunteers throughout the district and I hope this past year I have shown that we care about our residents and are proactive in promoting this council and the District of East Northamptonshire. Congratulations to Clive and Jenny all the best wishes”

I am going to end with another quote from Archbishop Desmond Tutu

“We are not made for an exclusive self-sufficiency but for interdependence and we break the law of our being at our peril. “

3. THE CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS

Councillor Clive Wood addressed the meeting, and thanked Members for the confidence they had placed in him. He thanked Councillor Sylvia Hughes for her service as Chairman.

The Chairman reported that he had chosen Rushden MIND and any other worthy causes as his charities for the year. A musical evening with Dr Busker would be held on 24 October to raise funds. The Chairman asked fellow councillors to support this event.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Sue Homer and seconded by Councillor Wendy Brackenbury and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Pam Whiting be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the year 2012/2013.

Councillor Whiting, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, thanked fellow Councillors for the confidence they had placed in her. She announced that Mr George Whiting would be the Vice-Chairman’s Consort for most occasions during the year.

5. MINUTES

Subject to the inclusion of Councillor Sue Homer in the list of attendees, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Wathen.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Glenn Hammons, Chief Financial Officer, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 13(b) in respect of the options for the provision of finance support and advice and left the room during consideration of this item.

8. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that The Civic Service will take place at St. Marys Church in Rushden on Sunday 22 July 2012 and a fundraising event with Dr Busker will take place on Wednesday 24 October 2012. The Chairman asked fellow councillors to support these events.

9. ELECTION OF LEADER

The Chairman reported that Councillor Steven North had, in accordance with Article 6.02 of the Constitution, been proposed by Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith and seconded by Councillor Richard Lewis.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Steven North be elected Leader of the Council.

10. THE LEADER'S ADDRESS

Councillor Steven North addressed the meeting as follows:-

"Good Evening Chairman, members, guests

Last year was a very busy time for East Northants Council. We launched a new waste service with the biggest change in over 20 years. Apart from moving to a bin system we have maintained a weekly collection, of the things that matter; food waste, collected every single week. With the help of residents we could soon be one of the top recycling councils in the country.

Last year I stated we are in difficult financial times, not just as a country but also as a council. During the past year we have worked even harder on our finances, and as members agreed a medium term financial strategy to balance the books, although just a bit later than originally hoped. We are no longer in a position to use reserves to keep council tax low. However, we are a low tax council and we will act in the best interests of the whole community, and only raise taxation where necessary.

However, tonight is about the year ahead which again could be very interesting. We are taking joint action against an agreed proposal for a wind farm next to a site of national significance. We support the necessity for alternative energy but there needs to be a balancing act.

We are very clear this area needs more employment opportunities (especially for younger people) and to move away from our high levels of outward employment. It is also very important to keep shoppers local and encourage them to spend in East Northamptonshire, and to build on our already excellent tourism offer. We are lucky to be in a country of growth where we can all thrive, and it's not reserved for only part of the area.

We will also be looking to support capital projects across the district with community groups/town and parish councils through the use of some of the new homes bonus. This has been provided by the government to support areas that have had and will receive growth.

We also intend to continue with our empty properties programme which has so far brought over fifty properties back into use.

Two priorities for the coming year will be welfare reform and broadband access across the district.”

11. ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER

It was reported that, in accordance with Article 6.04 of the Constitution, Councillor Glenn Harwood had been proposed as Deputy Leader of the Council by Councillor Andy Mercer, and this had been seconded by Councillor Steven North.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Glenn Harwood be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Development Control Committee – 2 May 2012

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Pauline Bradberry, was received.

(b) Policy and Resources Committee – 9 May 2012

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Richard Lewis, was received.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the following minute (as set out) be approved:

504(a) Options for Financial Support and Advice

That the recommendations in the minute above, in respect of the indefinite continuation of the arrangement for buying in the services of the Section 151 Officer from LGSS and the recruitment of a Finance Manager, be approved.

(Reason - To comply with legal requirements and provide the council with the necessary financial expertise and capacity.)

13. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2012/13

The Council considered the appointments to Committees.

RESOLVED:

That the following Committees with the Members as shown be appointed for the Civic Year 2012/13:-

(a) Policy Committees

(i) Policy & Resources Committee (15 members, including Leader and Deputy Leader as ex-officio members)

Councillors

David Brackenbury	Sue Homer
Wendy Brackenbury	Dudley Hughes
John Farrar	Richard Lewis
Richard Gell	Andy Mercer
Roger Glithero	Rupert Reichhold
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Steve North (EO)
Glenn Harwood (EO)	Jeremy Taylor
Marika Hillson	

(ii) Planning Policy Committee (15 Members, including Leader and Deputy Leader as ex-officio members)

Councillors

David Bateman	David Jenney
Tony Boto	Eloise Lucille
David Brackenbury	Gill Mercer
Michael Finch	Bob Nightingale
Glenn Harwood (EO)	Steven North (EO)
Sylvia Hobbs	David Read
Marian Hollomon	Pam Whiting
Sylvia Hughes	

(b) Other Committees

(i) Development Control Committee (18 members)

Councillors

Peter Baden	Gill Mercer
Wendy Brackenbury	Bob Nightingale
Pauline Bradberry	Brian Northall
Roger Glithero	Ron Pinnock
Glenn Harwood	Anna Sauntson
Marika Hillson	Phillip Stearn
Dudley Hughes	Jeremy Taylor
Barbara Jenney	Robin Underwood
Andy Mercer	Peter Wathen

(ii) Licensing Committee (12 members)

Councillors

Tony Boto	Barbara Jenney
Pauline Bradberry	Andy Mercer
Richard Gell	Gill Mercer

Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Glenn Harwood
Sylvia Hughes

Bob Nightingale
Brian Northall
Anna Sauntson

(iii) Scrutiny Committee (15 members)

Councillors

Peter Baden
David Bateman
Tony Boto
Michael Finch
Sylvia Hughes
Sylvia Hobbs
Barbara Jenney
Brian Northall

Sarah Peacock
David Read
Phillip Stearn
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting
Colin Wright
(Vacancy)

(iv) East Northamptonshire Standards Board (4 + others)

Councillors

Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Barbara Jenney

Brian Northall
(Vacancy)

14. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2012/13

RESOLVED:

That the Calendar of Meetings, as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes (at pages 11 to 12), be approved.

15. OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(a) Outside Bodies

RESOLVED:

That Members be appointed to serve on outside bodies in accordance with Appendix 2 to these Minutes (at pages 13 to 15) until May 2013 or such longer period as the Constitution of those bodies dictate.

(b) Other Committees, Panels and Boards, Champions

RESOLVED:

(1) That the following appointments be made for 2011/12 -

(a) Licensing (Taxi & Miscellaneous) Panel (3)

Panel to be drawn from Licensing Committee membership determined by the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager under delegated powers

(b) North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee

Leader of the Council, Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee,
Sustainable Communities Champion

(c) Welland Joint Committee (2 plus 1 reserve)

Councillors Steven North and Glenn Harwood MBE (Reserve: Councillor
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith)

(d) Council-appointed Working Parties and Boards

(i) Waste and Recycling Working Party

Councillors

David Bateman	Sylvia Hobbs
Tony Boto	Richard Lewis
Wendy Brackenbury	Eloise Lucille
Roger Glithero	Steven North
Glenn Harwood	Clive Wood

(ii) District Regeneration Working Group

Leader of the Council;
Deputy Leader of the Council
Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee
Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee
Sustainable Communities Champion

(iii) Leisure Contracts Working Group

Councillors

Tony Boto	Brian Northall
Sylvia Hughes	Sarah Peacock
David Jenney	Phillip Stearn

(e) Council Member Champions

Councillor

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Community Safety | Brian Northall |
| • Cultural & Leisure Services | Steven North |
| • Health & Safety | Colin Wright |
| • Older People's and Safeguarding
(Vulnerable Adults, & Children) | Sue Homer |
| • Heritage and Historic Environment | Clive Wood |
| • Sustainable Communities | Eloise Lucille |

(f) Appeals Panel (must not be Members of P & R)

Councillors

Pauline Bradberry	Sarah Peacock (Reserve)
Ron Pinnock	
Robin Underwood	

(g) Councillor Contacts for Whistleblowing Policy

Councillors

Marian Hollomon
Barbara Jenney

(h) Greenway Project Board

Councillors

Sarah Peacock
Phillip Stearn

16. COMMITTEE-RELATED APPOINTMENTS

The following Committee-related business was conducted, with the Members of the individual Committees endorsing the decisions:-

(a) Policy & Resources Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Richard Lewis |
| 2. Apologies | No apologies |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Glennil Greenwood-Smith |
| 4. Appointment of Sub-Committees etc | |
| • Personnel Sub-Committee (5) | Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council
Wendy Brackenbury
Roger Glithero
Jeremy Taylor |
| • Finance Sub-Committee (6) | Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council
David Brackenbury
Roger Glithero
Glennil Greenwood-Smith
Richard Lewis |
| • Welfare Reform Sub-Committee (5) | Leader of the Council
Glennil Greenwood-Smith
Richard Lewis
Andy Mercer
Jeremy Taylor |

(b) Planning Policy Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | David Brackenbury |
| 2. Apologies | No apologies |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Tony Boto |

(c) Scrutiny Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Phillip Stearn |
| 2. Apologies | Peter Wathen |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Sarah Peacock |

(d) Development Control Committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Pauline Bradberry |
| 2. Apologies | Peter Wathen |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Gill Mercer |

(e) Licensing Committee

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Appointment of Chairman | Glenn Harwood |
| 2. Apologies | No apologies |
| 3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman | Brian Northall |
| 4. Appointment of Licensing (Liquor and Gambling) Panel | Panel of 3 trained Members to be chosen by the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager under delegated powers (now to include ward members unless they signify they do not wish to serve) |

16a. NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCILLORS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Monitoring Officer reported on the need to introduce a new Code of Conduct for Councillors following the Localism Act 2011 and also to change section 11 (paragraph 11.1) of Part 4.1 of the Constitution relating to Motions On Notice.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Code of Conduct set out in appendix 3 of these minutes at pages 15a and 15b be adopted and replaced by the current Part 5.1 of the Constitution on the date appointed by the Government for implementation of the standards provisions of the Localism act 2011.

(Reason: To inform the further development of the Code and Procedure).

- (2) That part 4.1 of the Constitution (Council Procedure Rules) be amended by the deletion of the word "five" in the third line of paragraph 11 and the substitution of the word "seven" (Motions on Notice)

(Reason: to reduce council costs by avoiding resending agendas/summons).

Chairman

**East Northamptonshire Council
Calendar of Meetings - 2012/2013**

Development Control	23 May 2012	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	11 June 2012	Monday
Personnel Sub-Committee	12 June 2012	Tuesday (2pm)
Development Control	13 June 2012	Wednesday
Planning Policy	18 June 2012	Monday
Standards Board	20 June 2012	Wednesday
Finance Sub-Committee	25 June 2012	Monday
Scrutiny	27 June 2012	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	2 July 2012	Monday
Development Control	4 July 2012	Wednesday
COUNCIL	16 JULY 2012	MONDAY
Planning Policy	23 July 2012	Monday
Personnel Sub-Committee	24 July 2012	Tuesday (2pm)
Development Control	25 July 2012	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	30 July 2012	Monday
Development Control	15 August 2012	Wednesday
Recess		
Personnel Sub-Committee	4 September 2012	Tuesday (2pm)
Development Control	5 September 2012	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	10 September 2012	Monday
Finance Sub-Committee	12 September 2012	Wednesday
Planning Policy	17 September 2012	Monday
Standards Board**	19 September 2012	Wednesday
Scrutiny	24 September 2012	Monday
Development Control	26 September 2012	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	27 September 2012	Thursday
Licensing	3 October 2012	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	8 October 2012	Monday
Personnel Sub-Committee	16 October 2012	Tuesday (2pm)
Development Control	17 October 2012	Wednesday
Planning Policy	22 October 2012	Monday
COUNCIL	29 OCTOBER 2012	MONDAY
Policy and Resources	5 November 2012	Monday
Development Control	7 November 2012	Wednesday
Finance Sub-Committee	14 November 2012	Wednesday
Planning Policy	19 November 2012	Monday
Personnel Sub-Committee	27 November 2012	Tuesday (2pm)
Development Control	28 November 2012	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	3 December 2012	Monday
Standards Board**	5 December 2012	Wednesday
Planning Policy	10 December 2012	Monday
Scrutiny	12 December 2012	Wednesday
Development Control	19 December 2012	Wednesday
COUNCIL	7 JANUARY 2013	MONDAY

Finance Sub-Committee	9 January 2013	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	14 January 2013	Monday
Development Control	16 January 2013	Wednesday
Planning Policy	21 January 2013	Monday
Personnel Sub-Committee	29 January 2013	Tuesday (2pm)
Standards Board**	30 January 2013	Wednesday
Finance Sub-Committee	31 January 2013	Thursday
Scrutiny	4 February 2013	Monday
Development Control	6 February 2013	Wednesday
Policy & Resources	11 February 2013	Monday
Planning Policy	13 February 2013	Wednesday
COUNCIL*	27 FEBRUARY 2013	WEDNESDAY
Development Control*	28 February 2013	Thursday
Licensing	6 March 2013	Wednesday
Policy and Resources	11 March 2013	Monday
Standards Board**	13 March 2013	Wednesday
Planning Policy	18 March 2013	Monday
Personnel Sub-Committee	19 March 2013	Tuesday (2pm)
Development Control	20 March 2013	Wednesday
Finance Sub-Committee	27 March 2013	Wednesday
Scrutiny	3 April 2013	Wednesday
Policy & Resources	8 April 2013	Monday
Development Control	10 April 2013	Wednesday
Planning Policy	15 April 2013	Monday
COUNCIL	22 APRIL 2013	MONDAY
Development Control	1 May 2013	Wednesday
Policy & Resources	8 May 2013	Wednesday
ANNUAL MEETING	15 MAY 2013	WEDNESDAY

Notes:

1. All meetings, unless otherwise indicated, will be held at Cedar Drive, Thrapston
2. All meetings start at 7.30 pm except where otherwise stated and are open to the public.

* Scheduled to fit with the Council tax billing schedule.

** Will be under new regimen for Standards so will not be Standards Board as constituted now but provides for replacement if required

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES – APPOINTMENTS 2012/2013

Economic and Community Development

CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP - Councillor Brian Northall

GROUNDWORK NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - Councillor Gill Mercer

NENE VALLEY CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Councillor Sylvia Hughes

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL ENGLAND (ACRE)
Councillor Steven North

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP - Councillor Eloise Lucille

OUNDLE & THRAPSTON YOUTH COUNSELLING (CHAT) - Councillor Rupert Reichhold

THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE, THRAPSTON - Councillor Wendy Brackenbury (observer)

WELLAND PARTNERSHIP BOARD – Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Reserve -
Councillor Steven North)

Educational

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON COURT - Chairman of the Council (Ex Officio)

Health Facilities

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL
Councillor Marian Hollomon

KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL: FOUNDATION TRUST - Councillor Andy Mercer

Housing

PARSON LATHAM'S ALMSHOUSES TRUST (OUNDLE) – Councillor Phillip Stearn and Mr John Richardson MBE

PARSON LATHAM'S HOSPITAL IN BARNWELL TRUST – Mrs Sue North

ROCKINGHAM FOREST HOUSING ASSOCIATION – Mr Peter Atchison

SUPPORTING PEOPLE - Councillor Rupert Reichhold

Leisure/Tourism

(DESTINATION) NENE VALLEY BOARD – Councillor Sarah Peacock

EAST MIDLANDS MUSEUM SERVICE - Councillor Dudley Hughes JP

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARTS PARTNERSHIP - Councillor Sylvia Hughes

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP - Councillor Steven North

STANWICK LAKES MANAGEMENT BOARD

Councillors Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Dudley Hughes JP and Richard Lewis. (Reserves: Councillors Marika Hillson and Robin Underwood)

Planning and the Environment

CPRE (CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNTY BRANCH) - Councillor Tony Boto

EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONSORTIUM

Councillor Tony Boto

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Councillor Eloise Lucille (Reserve: Councillor Steven North)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WASTE PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT BOARD

Councillors Glenn Harwood MBE and Richard Lewis

RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK COMPANY BOARD - Mr John Richardson MBE

ROCKINGHAM MOTOR SPEEDWAY – ROCKINGHAM FORUM

Councillors Pauline Bradberry JP, Roger Glithero JP, Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Sylvia Hughes and Jeremy Taylor

Regional/County Local Government

EAST MIDLANDS LEADERS BOARD/EAST MIDLANDS COUNCILS (replacing East Midlands Regional Assembly and Local Government East Midlands)

Councillor Steven North (Substitutes: Councillors Richard Lewis and Glenn Harwood MBE)

EAST MIDLANDS RURAL AFFAIRS FORUM - Councillor Jeremy Taylor

FOURTH OPTION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP - Councillor Phillip Stearn

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - Councillor Steven North (Substitute: Glenn Harwood MBE)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - RURAL COMMISSION

Councillors Rupert Reichhold and Pauline Bradberry JP (Substitute Jeremy Taylor)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

Councillors Steven North, Glenn Harwood MBE and Richard Lewis

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARKING COMMITTEE - Councillor Gill Mercer (Substitute – Cllr Pauline Bradberry JP)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee (reflecting minute 459 – 15 April 2009)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PARTNERSHIP Councillor Steven North (Substitute – Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE)

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL Councillor Brian Northall (Reserve – Councillor Gill Mercer)

SPARSE - Councillor Rupert Reichhold

Grant Related

COMMUNITY LAW SERVICE – Vacancy

SERVICE SIX - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Councillor Brian Northall

SERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD - Councillor Rupert Reichhold

Draft Code of Conduct for East Northamptonshire Councillors

This Code applies to all Councillors when they act in their role as Councillors of the Council. This Code is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 and forms part of the Constitution of ENC which all Councillors will follow. This code is based on the seven Nolan¹ principles of public life:

1.0 Introduction

As a Councillor you are a representative of the Council, and the public and other stakeholders will form a view of East Northamptonshire Council as a result of your actions. As such you must conduct yourself in a manner which is consistent with the Council's duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct of Councillors.

2.1 Selflessness

As a public figure, your public role as a Councillor may overlap with your personal or professional life and interests. However, as a Councillor you will serve only the public interest and will never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person. At all times you will act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in you.

2.2 Integrity and honesty

You will consider your actions carefully to avoid placing yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned and will on all occasions avoid improper behaviour or the appearance of improper behaviour.

2.3 Objectivity (in decision making)

You will make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits. You must approach decisions with an open mind and listen to the views of others and assess the information presented at the decision making meeting. You must then reach your own conclusions on issues and act accordingly. Failure to do so may expose the decision to challenge on the basis of pre-determination.

2.4 Accountability

Everything East Northamptonshire Council does must be able to stand the test of scrutiny by the public, the media, other stakeholders, and the courts. You are accountable to the public for your actions and the manner in which you carry your responsibilities, and will co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to your particular office.

2.5 Openness

2.5.1 East Northamptonshire Council strives to maintain an atmosphere of openness throughout the organisation to promote confidence of the public, stakeholders, staff and regulators. You will be as open as possible about your actions and those of the council, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.

2.5.2 You will review your Register of Interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as required by the Localism Act and related regulations) at least annually to ensure ongoing accuracy

¹ The Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee) recommended in 1996 seven principles of conduct that should underpin the work of public authorities.

2.5.3 You need to reconsider carefully your position before participating in any decisions or activity, especially those relating to regulatory activities such as planning or licensing. Where the decision or activity is so closely tied to your personal or professional life that your ability to make an impartial decision may be called into question you must consider whether you need to declare, at any relevant meeting, any new Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other conflict of interest or circumstance. These will be added to your Register of Interests after the meeting.

2.5.4 The law says that if you have a DPI you must **not** become involved in the discussions nor must you **vote** in relation to such matters. If you have other interests in the matter you should also consider if it is appropriate for you to take part in the discussions or debate.

2.5.5 You must declare any gifts or hospitality valued over £50 (on one occasion or from the same donor within one year) given in respect of your role as a Councillor in your Register of Interests.

2.6 Leadership

You will promote and support these principles by leadership and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence and avoids bringing your role or the council into disrepute

3.0 Other obligations

In addition to the above principles, you will:

- a) strive to establish respectful and courteous relationships with everyone you come into contact with as Councillors. You will also respect the political impartiality and professional role(s) of the council's statutory officers and its other employees.
- b) uphold the law in relation to the policies of the council and its legal obligations
- c) not disclose or use confidential information for any purpose other than that provided for by the law.
- d) use those particular council resources provided for the undertaking of council duties in accordance with council policies or constitution and not for any other purposes.

4.0 Training

Participation in training and development activities is not a legal requirement to be a Councillor. However this council expects that you will participate, in induction and other training and development activities in relation to standards matters.

5.0 Summary

This code is intended to provide a guide and protection for councillors in carrying out their duties. However, a breach of any part of this code may result in a complaint being made. A complaint will be assessed according to the arrangements outlined in Part 9 of the Council's Constitution.