

# COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** 26 February 2014

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors:-

<b>Pam Whiting</b>	<b>(Chairman of the Council)</b>
<b>Gill Mercer</b>	<b>(Vice-Chairman of the Council)</b>
<b>Steven North</b>	<b>(Leader of the Council)</b>
<b>Glenn Harwood MBE</b>	<b>(Deputy Leader of the Council)</b>

<b>Peter Baden</b>	<b>David Jenney</b>
<b>Tony Boto</b>	<b>Andy Mercer</b>
<b>Wendy Brackenbury</b>	<b>Bob Nightingale</b>
<b>Pauline Bradberry JP</b>	<b>Brian Northall</b>
<b>Derek Capp</b>	<b>Sarah Peacock</b>
<b>John Farrar</b>	<b>Ron Pinnock</b>
<b>Richard Gell</b>	<b>David Read</b>
<b>Roger Glithero JP</b>	<b>Rupert Reichhold</b>
<b>Glenvil Greenwood-Smith</b>	<b>Phillip Stearn</b>
<b>Marika Hillson</b>	<b>Alex Smith</b>
<b>Sylvia Hobbs</b>	<b>Robin Underwood</b>
<b>Marian Hollomon</b>	<b>Peter Wathen</b>
<b>Dudley Hughes JP</b>	<b>Colin Wright</b>
<b>Sylvia Hughes</b>	<b>Clive Wood</b>
<b>Barbara Jenney</b>	

## **375. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Brackenbury, Sue Homer, Richard Lewis, Eloise Lucille, Anna Sauntson, Jeremy Taylor and Jake Vowles.

## **376. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 January 2014 and 12 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **377. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **378. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chairman invited Members of the Council to join her for the raising of the Commonwealth Flag and delivery of a message from Her Majesty The Queen on 10 March 2014 to mark the celebration of Commonwealth Day.

The Chief Executive did not make any announcements.

### **379. LEADER'S ADDRESS**

The Leader of the Council made the following address to the meeting:

“This is the first formal opportunity to note the disappointment at the delay in respect of the Rushden Lakes determination by the Secretary of State. It is even more unfortunate that no new decision date has been announced. It is, of course, not only the jobs and all the future growth possibilities but the fact we cannot progress any form of local plans to adoption.

Moving on to good news, we, along with English Heritage, The National Trust and local residents are very happy with the decision by the Court of Appeal in relation to the proposed windfarm at Lyveden. This supports the original decision by this council to refuse.

I had a useful meeting with Andy Sawford MP and the Roads Ministers, Robert Goodwill MP, to see if there was any way of progressing the dualling of the rest of the A45. Due to the cost and the delivery timescales as the Chief Executive and I have mentioned before it will not make the LEP Growth Bid, which needs to remain the Chowns Mill Roundabout at the A6/A45, but there are other funding avenues to explore.

Of course the main reason for this meeting is to agree the budget and set council tax for the year ahead. The Chief Finance Officer will explain more in detail but it is worth noting that due to the hard work by staff and members that for the second year in a row we are no using any reserves to balance the budget, and the proposed budget is lower than last year. We also hold a healthy earmarked reserve of over £5 million. Additionally we can still deliver the community projects out of some of the New Homes Bonus.

However, going forward, things are likely to be even tougher; the RSG from the government is still reducing, with the growth reliance of locally raised finance through Business Rates Retention and New Homes Bonus. This of course is determined greatly by the national picture and only a few months ago the Government were looking to top slice part of this funding.

The current and future capital programme is also under review as we are reliant on receipts from our asset programme. A lot of course is unknown and with the general election next year, the Medium Term Financial Strategy will need to be under constant review.”

### **380. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **(a) Development Control Committee – 15 January and 5 February 2014**

The reports of the above committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Pauline Bradberry JP, were received.

#### **(b) Policy and Resources Committee – 20 January and 10 February 2014**

The reports of the above committee, presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, were received.

## **RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

### **355 Minutes of Sub-Committees and Working Parties**

1. That the Pay Policy Statement 2013-14 be adopted.
2. That £105,000 be approved to fund the demolition of the Old Recycling Centre, Rushden (as part of the Capital Programme for 2013/14), and that this be funded from revenue underspends in 2013/14.
3. That the sale of the old outdoor swimming pool at Oundle proceed despite it not being sold via auction or through a competitive process.
4. That Cosy Nook, Thrapston, be sold through a competitive process

### **357 Community Right to Bid**

That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer and Members, as stated in the Policy, subject to the addition of the Deputy Leader of the Council in instances where the Leader of the Council may also have a conflict of interest, in respect of decisions on registrations of assets of community value under the Community Right to Bid legislation.

### **361 Community Safety in East Northamptonshire**

That the Community Safety Officer post be funded from monies from external sources or managed within the Council's budget for 2014/15 through appropriate cost reductions.

## **(c) Joint Standards Complaints Committee – 5 February 2014**

The report of the above committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Andy Mercer, was received.

## **RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

### **343 Activity Report of the Monitoring Officer**

That the East Northamptonshire Council Complaints Procedure (Part 9 of the Constitution) be amended to include the following provisions:

Where this procedure makes reference to consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Joint Standards Complaints Committee, the consultation will usually be with the Councillor who represents the same tier as the Councillor(s) complained against. Exceptionally, if this person is unavailable *or has a conflict of interest, another Councillor from the same tier on the Joint Standards Complaints Committee nominated by the Monitoring Officer will be consulted.*

**(d) Planning Policy Committee – 12 February 2014**

The report of the above committee, presented by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Tony Boto, was received.

**381. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION – RECORDED VOTES AT BUDGET MEETINGS**

Members received and considered the report of the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager which proposed an amendment to the Constitution to reflect the provisions of The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which required principal councils to hold a recorded vote when determining levels of expenditure on services and the level of council tax to be levied in their area.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council Procedure Rules be amended to incorporate the provisions of The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 in respect of holding recorded votes at budget meetings.

**382. BUDGET 2014/15**

**(a) Budget Report – Medium Term Financial Strategy**

Members received and considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer, which covered a wide range of issues in respect of the budget setting process for 2014/15 financial year. Specific reference was made to the challenging context both nationally and locally in which the Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget proposals had been developed. Further consideration was given to the key risks highlighted by the Chief Finance Officer and assumptions in long term financial planning.

Whilst having regard to the report, Members also considered the Policy and Resources Committee recommendations set out in minute 356 (10 February 2014). The Leader of the Council then proposed the aforementioned recommendations from the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Revenue Budget 2014-15, the Approved Capital Programme for 2014-15, the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014-15 and Fees and Charges for 2014-15.

Having regard to the options set out in the report regarding the level of council tax for the forthcoming financial year, the Leader also proposed the freezing of Council Tax for East Northamptonshire Council in 2014-15. With the motions having being seconded, a recorded vote took place in accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2014 and council procedure rule 16.7 and the result was as follows:-

**FOR THE MOTION**

Councillors Boto, Brackenbury, Bradberry, Capp, Farrar, Greenwood-Smith, Harwood, Hillson Hobbs, Hollomon, D. Hughes, S. Hughes, B. Jenney, D. Jenney, A. Mercer, G. Mercer, Nightingale, North, Northall, Peacock, Pinnock, Reichhold, Stearn, Smith, Underwood, Wathen, Wright and Wood.

## **AGAINST THE MOTION**

Councillors Baden, Gell, Glithero and Read

## **ABSTENSIONS**

None

The motion was thereupon declared **CARRIED** and it was

## **RESOLVED:**

1. That the recommendations in minute 356 of the Policy and Resources Committee on 10 February 2014 be approved:

That the approval be given to the:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy,
- Revenue Budget 2014/15,
- Approved Capital Programme for 2014/15,
- Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15, and
- Fees and Charges for 2014/15

That the Minimum Level of Reserves and Earmarked Reserves be agreed.

2. That the level of Council Tax levied by East Northamptonshire Council for 2014-15 be frozen at the current levy.

### **(b) Robustness of Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves**

The Chief Finance Officer advised the council on the robustness of the estimates in the budget and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves before recommending to the council its:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18
- Revenue Budget 2014/15
- Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2023/24
- Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15
- Forecast Reserves and Balances

In presenting the report, the Chief Finance Officer drew Members' attention to the assumption that Council Tax Support Grant would not be passported to town and parish councils, which was based on the position that the authority adopted in the previous year when it had been clear in its stance that the grant was likely to be one-off in nature and all but two town and parish council increased their precepts in excess of inflation to recover any lost impact of the Council Tax Support Grant on a permanent basis.

Members recognised that the position was similar to the previous year where the council continued to face economic, local authority sector and local district challenges. A detailed analysis of the areas set out above was provided to members. The Chief Finance Officer concluded that, provided the Council carefully considered and acted upon his analysis, and officers robustly manage the implementation of the Revenue and Capital Budgets, a

positive opinion could be given under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 on the robustness of the budget estimates and the level of reserves.

The Leader of the Council then proposed the recommendation from the Chief Finance Officer's report and the motion having being seconded, a recorded vote took place in accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2014 and council procedure rule 16.7 and the result was as follows:-

#### **FOR THE MOTION**

Councillors Baden, Boto, Brackenbury, Bradberry, Capp, Farrar, Gell, Glithero, Greenwood-Smith, Harwood, Hillson Hobbs, Hollomon, D. Hughes, S. Hughes, B. Jenney, D. Jenney, A. Mercer, G. Mercer, Nightingale, North, Northall, Peacock, Pinnock, Read, Reichhold, Stearn, Smith, Underwood, Wathen, Wright and Wood

#### **AGAINST THE MOTION**

None.

#### **ABSTENSIONS**

None

The motion was thereupon declared **CARRIED** and it was

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the advice of the Chief Finance Officer in respect of the adequacy of the reserves and the robustness of the budget be accepted.

#### **(c) Council Tax Resolution**

Members considered a further report setting out various information to enable the setting of the budget and council tax level for the 2013/14 financial year, which included:

- Recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee on 10 February 2014
- Town and Parish Council precepts
- Northamptonshire County Council precept
- The Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner precept
- Council Tax Resolution

It was noted that the Localism Act 2011 required the council to calculate a council tax requirement for the year, rather than a budget requirement as had been necessary previously.

**Town and Parish Council Precepts** totalled £2,465,827. The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils was 5.2% and resulted in an average Band D council tax figure of £86.97. It was noted that these precepts were not subject to any capping limits set by central government, which were applicable to principal authorities.

**Northamptonshire County Council** met on 20 February 2014 and set its precept at £29,730million. This resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £1,048.57.

**The Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner** had submitted his proposals to the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel in order to set a precept at £5,587million which would result in a Band D Council Tax of £197.04.

The Leader of the Council then proposed the Council Tax resolution, set out at appendix 1 of the report, incorporating the precepts of town and parish councils, Northamptonshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as the earlier decision to freeze the council tax levied by East Northamptonshire Council. With the motion having been seconded, a recorded vote took place in accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2014 and council procedure rule 16.7 and the result was as follows:-

### **FOR THE MOTION**

Councillors Boto, Brackenbury, Bradberry, Capp, Farrar, Greenwood-Smith, Harwood, Hillson Hobbs, Hollomon, D. Hughes, S. Hughes, B. Jenney, D. Jenney, A. Mercer, G. Mercer, Nightingale, North, Northall, Peacock, Pinnock, Reichhold, Stearn, Smith, Underwood, Wathen, Wright and Wood

### **AGAINST THE MOTION**

Councillors Baden, Glithero and Read

### **ABSTENSIONS**

Councillor Gell.

The motion was thereupon declared **CARRIED** and it was

### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That it be noted that at its meeting on 26th February 2014 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2014/2015 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act);-
  - a) For the whole Council area as 28,140 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the 'Act') and

#### Council Tax Resolution

<b>b) Parish Of</b>	<b>Tax Base</b>	<b>Parish of</b>	<b>Tax Base</b>
Aldwinkle	154	Lilford cum Wigsthorpe	52
Apethorpe	98	Little Addington	140
Ashton	104	Lowick & Slipton	129
Barnwell	169	Luddington	33
Benefield	160	Lutton	54
Blatherwycke	24	Nassington	335
Brigstock	493	Newton Bromswold	29
Bulwick	84	Oundle	1,953
Chelveston cum Caldecott	196	Pilton	28
Clopton	58	Polebrook	188
Collyweston	202	Raunds	2,491
Cotterstock	83	Ringstead	464
Deene	31	Rushden	8,738
Deenethorpe	74	Southwick	74

Denford	134	Stanwick	662
Duddington	76	Stoke Doyle	34
Easton-on-the-Hill	416	Sudborough	103
Fineshade	17	Tansor	98
Fotheringhay	73	Thorpe Achurch	75
Glaphthorn	132	Thrapston	1,964
Great Addington	134	Thurning	44
Hargrave	117	Titchmarsh	237
Harringworth	130	Twywell	73
Hemington	44	Wadenhoe	53
Higham Ferrers	2,490	Wakerley	42
Irthlingborough	2,458	Warmington	401
Islip	273	Woodford	480
Kings Cliffe	527	Woodnewton	221
Laxton	60	Yarwell	147

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate (Tax base for parish).

2) That the following amounts now be calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 in accordance with sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

- (a) £39,459,866 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (2) (a) to (e) of the Act including appropriation to reserves.  
*(Gross expenditure, parish expenses, any contingencies, any provision for reserves.)*
- (b) £26,704,862 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act including appropriation from reserves.  
*(Gross income, any use of reserves.)*
- (c) £12,755,004 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2 (a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2 (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32 (4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.  
*(Expenditure less income = net expenditure/budget requirement)*
- (d) £6,783,282 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non domestic rates, revenue support grant, additional grant or relevant special grant and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the directions under section 98 (4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.  
*(Business Rates, Government grant, relevant special grant, any surplus or deficit from council tax collected.)*
- (e) £210.62 being the amount at 2 (c) above less the amount at 2 (d) above, all divided by the amount at 1 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 33 (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.



*(Net expenditure including parish precepts, less Business Rates, grant etc., divided by tax base = an average council tax which includes parishes.)*

- (f) £2,465,827 being the aggregate amount of the special items referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act.  
*(Total amount of parish precepts.)*
- (g) £123.65 being the amount at 2 (e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 2 (f) above by the amount at 1 (a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.  
*(This Council's own Council Tax at Band D.)*

<b>(h) Part of the Council's area</b>	<b>£</b>
Aldwincle	169.10
Ashton	149.61
Barnwell	159.15
Benefield	165.53
Brigstock	162.19
Bulwick	144.48
Chelveston cum Caldecott	174.67
Collyweston	210.37
Deene & Deenethorpe	172.77
Denford	168.43
Duddington with Fineshade	183.33
Easton-on-the-Hill	174.82
Glaphthorn	182.74
Great Addington	182.66
Hargrave	167.45
Harringworth	163.27
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	147.62
Higham Ferrers	215.02
Irthlingborough	217.09
Islip	189.58
Kings Cliffe	161.60
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	139.51
Little Addington	162.94
Lowick & Slipton	146.91
Lutton	132.91
Nassington	216.64
Oundle	292.83
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	156.26
Polebrook	158.22
Raunds	234.95
Ringstead	176.68
Rushden	211.51
Stanwick	210.70
Sudborough	159.57
Thrapston	243.81
Titchmarsh	176.39
Twywell	172.97
Warmington	198.46
Woodford	153.44
Woodnewton	175.17
Yarwell	178.07
Other	123.65

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2 (g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1 (b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special item relates.

*(Council Tax at Band D for those parishes that have issued a precept added to this Council's council tax.)*

## (i) Part of the Council's area

## Valuation Bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H 3
Aldwinkle	112.73	131.52	150.31	169.10	206.68	244.26	281.83	338.20
Ashton	99.74	116.36	132.99	149.61	182.86	216.11	249.35	299.22
Barnwell	106.10	123.78	141.47	159.15	194.52	229.89	265.25	318.30
Benefield	110.35	128.74	147.14	165.53	202.32	239.10	275.88	331.06
Brigstock	108.12	126.15	144.17	162.19	198.23	234.28	270.31	324.38
Bulwick	96.32	112.37	128.43	144.48	176.59	208.70	240.80	288.96
Chelveston cum Caldecott	116.44	135.85	155.26	174.67	213.49	252.31	291.11	349.34
Collyweston	140.24	163.62	186.99	210.37	257.12	303.87	350.61	420.74
Deene & Deenethorpe	115.18	134.37	153.57	172.77	211.17	249.56	287.95	345.54
Denford	112.28	131.00	149.71	168.43	205.86	243.29	280.71	336.86
Duddington with Fineshade	122.22	142.59	162.96	183.33	224.07	264.81	305.55	366.66
Easton-on-the-Hill	116.54	135.97	155.39	174.82	213.67	252.52	291.36	349.64
Glaphthorn	121.82	142.13	162.43	182.74	223.35	263.96	304.56	365.48
Great Addington	121.77	142.07	162.36	182.66	223.25	263.85	304.43	365.32
Hargrave	111.63	130.24	148.84	167.45	204.66	241.88	279.08	334.90
Harringworth	108.84	126.99	145.13	163.27	199.55	235.84	272.11	326.54
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	98.41	114.81	131.22	147.62	180.43	213.23	246.03	295.24
Higham Ferrers	143.34	167.24	191.13	215.02	262.80	310.59	358.36	430.04
Irthlingborough	144.72	168.85	192.97	217.09	265.33	313.58	361.81	434.18
Islip	126.38	147.45	168.51	189.58	231.71	273.84	315.96	379.16
Kings Cliffe	107.73	125.69	143.64	161.60	197.51	233.43	269.33	323.20
Lilford cum Wigthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	93.00	108.51	124.01	139.51	170.51	201.52	232.51	279.02
Little Addington	108.62	126.73	144.83	162.94	199.15	235.36	271.56	325.88
Lowick & Slipton	97.94	114.26	130.59	146.91	179.56	212.21	244.85	293.82
Lutton	88.60	103.37	118.14	132.91	162.45	191.99	221.51	265.82
Nassington	144.42	168.50	192.57	216.64	264.78	312.93	361.06	433.28
Oundle	195.22	227.75	260.29	292.83	357.91	422.98	488.05	585.66
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	104.17	121.53	138.90	156.26	190.99	225.71	260.43	312.52
Polebrook	105.48	123.06	140.64	158.22	193.38	228.54	263.70	316.44
Raunds	155.63	182.74	208.84	234.95	287.16	339.38	391.58	469.90
Ringstead	117.78	137.42	157.05	176.68	215.94	255.21	294.46	353.36
Rushden	141.28	164.82	188.37	211.92	259.02	306.11	353.20	423.84
Stanwick	140.46	163.88	187.29	210.70	257.52	304.35	351.16	421.40
Sudborough	106.38	124.11	141.84	159.57	195.03	230.49	265.95	319.14
Thrapston	162.54	189.63	216.72	243.81	297.99	352.17	406.35	487.62
Titchmarsh	117.59	137.19	156.79	176.39	215.59	254.79	293.98	352.78
Twywell	115.31	134.53	153.75	172.97	211.41	249.85	288.28	345.94
Warmington	132.30	154.36	176.41	198.46	242.56	286.67	330.76	396.92
Woodford	102.29	119.34	136.39	153.44	187.54	221.64	255.73	306.88
Woodnewton	116.78	136.24	155.71	175.17	214.10	253.03	291.95	350.34
Yarwell	118.71	138.50	158.28	178.07	217.64	257.22	296.78	356.14
Other	82.43	96.17	109.91	123.65	151.13	178.61	206.08	247.30

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2 (g) and 2 (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

*(This Council and each Parish Council's combined council tax for each Council Tax Band and which will appear on the council tax bill.)*

- 3) That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

## Valuation Bands

	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Northamptonshire County Council	699.05	815.55	932.06	1,048.57	1,281.59	1,514.60	1,747.62	2,097.14
Northamptonshire Police Authority	131.36	153.25	175.15	197.04	240.83	284.61	328.40	394.08

- 4) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2 (i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30 (2) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2014/2015 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:  
(Total council tax in each band for each parish.)

Part of the Council's Area	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Aldwincle	943.14	1,100.32	1,257.52	1,414.71	1,729.10	2,043.47	2,357.85	2,829.42
Ashton	930.15	1,085.16	1,240.20	1,395.22	1,705.28	2,015.32	2,332.37	2,790.44
Barnwell	936.51	1,092.58	1,248.68	1,404.76	1,716.94	2,029.10	2,341.27	2,809.52
Benefield	940.76	1,097.54	1,254.35	1,411.14	1,724.74	2,038.31	2,351.90	2,822.28
Brigstock	938.53	1,094.95	1,251.38	1,407.80	1,720.65	2,033.49	2,346.33	2,815.60
Bulwick	926.73	1,081.17	1,235.64	1,390.09	1,669.01	2,007.91	2,316.82	2,780.18
Chelveston cum Caldecott	946.85	1,104.65	1,262.47	1,420.28	1,735.91	2,051.52	2,367.13	2,840.56
Collyweston	970.65	1,132.42	1,294.20	1,455.98	1,779.54	2,103.08	2,426.63	2,911.96
Deene & Deenethorpe	945.59	1,103.17	1,260.78	1,418.38	1,733.59	2,048.77	2,363.97	2,836.76
Denford	942.69	1,099.80	1,256.92	1,414.04	1,728.28	2,042.50	2,356.73	2,828.08
Duddington with Fineshade	952.63	1,111.39	1,270.17	1,428.94	1,746.49	2,064.02	2,381.57	2,857.88
Easton-on-the-Hill	946.95	1,104.77	1,262.60	1,420.43	1,736.09	2,051.73	2,367.38	2,840.86
Glaphthorn	952.23	1,110.93	1,269.64	1,428.35	1,745.77	2,063.17	2,380.58	2,856.70
Great Addington	952.18	1,110.87	1,269.57	1,428.27	1,745.67	2,063.06	2,380.45	2,856.54
Hargrave	942.04	1,099.04	1,256.05	1,413.06	1,727.08	2,041.09	2,355.10	2,826.12
Harringtonworth	939.25	1,095.79	1,252.34	1,408.88	1,721.97	2,035.05	2,348.13	2,817.76
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	928.82	1,083.61	1,238.43	1,393.23	1,702.85	2,012.44	2,322.05	2,786.46
Higham Ferrers	973.75	1,136.04	1,298.34	1,460.63	1,785.22	2,109.80	2,434.38	2,921.26
Irthlingborough	975.13	1,137.65	1,300.18	1,462.70	1,787.75	2,112.79	2,437.83	2,925.40
Islip	956.79	1,116.25	1,275.72	1,435.19	1,754.13	2,073.05	2,391.98	2,870.38
Kings Cliffe	938.14	1,094.49	1,250.85	1,407.21	1,719.93	2,032.64	2,345.35	2,814.42
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	923.41	1,077.31	1,231.22	1,385.12	1,692.93	2,000.73	2,308.53	2,770.24
Little Addington	939.03	1,095.53	1,252.04	1,408.55	1,721.57	2,034.57	2,347.58	2,817.10
Lowick & Slipton	928.35	1,083.06	1,237.80	1,392.52	1,701.98	2,011.42	2,320.87	2,785.04
Lutton	919.01	1,072.17	1,225.35	1,378.52	1,684.87	1,991.20	2,297.53	2,757.04
Nassington	974.83	1,137.30	1,299.78	1,462.25	1,787.20	2,122.14	2,437.08	2,924.50
Oundle	1,025.63	1,196.55	1,367.50	1,538.44	1,880.33	2,222.19	2,564.07	3,076.88
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	934.58	1,090.33	1,246.11	1,401.87	1,713.41	2,024.92	2,336.45	2,803.74
Polebrook	935.89	1,091.86	1,247.85	1,403.83	1,715.80	2,027.75	2,339.72	2,807.66
Raunds	987.04	1,151.54	1,316.05	1,480.56	1,809.58	2,138.59	2,467.60	2,961.12
Ringstead	948.19	1,106.22	1,264.26	1,422.29	1,738.36	2,054.42	2,370.48	2,844.58
Rushden	971.55	1,133.62	1,295.58	1,457.53	1,781.44	2,105.32	2,429.22	2,915.06
Stanwick	970.87	1,132.68	1,294.50	1,456.31	1,779.94	2,103.56	2,427.18	2,912.62
Sudborough	936.79	1,092.91	1,249.05	1,405.18	1,717.45	2,029.70	2,341.97	2,810.36
Thrapston	992.95	1,158.43	1,323.93	1,489.42	1,820.41	2,151.38	2,482.37	2,978.84
Titchmarsh	948.00	1,105.99	1,264.00	1,422.00	1,738.01	2,054.00	2,370.00	2,844.00
Twywell	945.72	1,103.33	1,260.96	1,418.58	1,733.83	2,049.06	2,364.30	2,837.16
Warmington	962.71	1,123.16	1,283.62	1,444.07	1,764.98	2,085.88	2,406.78	2,888.14

Woodford	932.70	1,088.14	1,243.60	1,399.05	1,709.96	2,020.85	2,331.75	2,798.10
Woodnewton	947.19	1,105.04	1,262.92	1,420.78	1,736.52	2,052.24	2,367.97	2,841.56
Yarwell	949.12	1,107.30	1,265.49	1,423.68	1,740.06	2,056.43	2,372.80	2,847.36
Other areas	912.84	1,064.97	1,217.12	1,369.26	1,673.55	1,977.82	2,282.10	2,738.52

- 5) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council tax for 2014/15 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992. As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

### **383. OTHER REPORTS**

#### **(a) From Representatives on Outside Bodies and Champions**

Councillor Rupert Reichhold, the council's representative on SPARSE, Volunteer Action, CHAT Youth Counselling and Supporting People, submitted information outlining the recent activities of these outside bodies.

#### **(b) Licensing Panels**

##### **(i) Taxi & Miscellaneous – 8 and 21 January 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Taxi & Miscellaneous) Panel held on 8 and 21 January 2014 were received.

### **384. MOTIONS**

There were no motions.

### **385. QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

### **386. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

Members noted the appointment of councillors to serve on the following committees:

- Governance and Audit Committee (7 Members) – Councillors Sylvia Hobbs, Barbara Jenney, David Read, Robin Underwood, Peter Wathen, Colin Wright and one vacant seat.
- Scrutiny Committee (11 Members) – Councillors Tony Boto, Derek Capp, Richard Gell, Sylvia Hughes, David Jenney, Brian Northall, Sarah Peacock, Alex Smith, Phillip Stearn, Jake Vowles and Clive Wood.

It was noted that Glenvil Greenwood-Smith had replaced Sylvia Hobbs on the Planning Policy Committee and further noted that Sylvia Hobbs had been appointed to the vacancy on the Joint Standards Complaints Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

That the appointments to the Governance and Audit Committee and the Scrutiny Committee, along with the membership change on the Planning Policy Committee and Joint Standards Complaints Committee, be noted.

**387. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS – 2014/15**

The calendar of committee and sub-committee meetings for the 2014/15 municipal year was considered by Members. It was proposed that the calendar of meetings should be approved, subject to the insertion of two additional meetings of the Planning Policy Committee on 21 July 2014 and 23 February 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

That the calendar of meetings for the 2014/15 municipal year be approved, subject to the insertion of two additional meetings of the Planning Policy Committee on 21 July 2014 and 23 February 2015.

**Chairman**

# DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Date: 27 February 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Pauline Bradberry JP Chairman  
Gill Mercer Vice Chairman

Roger Glithero JP David Read  
Glenn Harwood MBE Anna Sauntson  
Marika Hillson Philip Stearn  
Dudley Hughes JP Robin Underwood  
Barbara Jenney Peter Wathen  
Andy Mercer

## 388. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 389. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, Derek Capp, Bob Nightingale, Brian Northall and Ron Pinnock

## 390. DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

Members received a report which provided an update on the following applications where actions had been delegated to the Head of Planning Services: -

EN/10/01428/FUL	Raunds Car Wash
EN/13/01072/REM	Station Road, Higham Ferrers
EN/13/01073/FUL	Pond adjacent to A6
EN13/01917/	Cranford Road, Great Addington
EN13/00839/	ASDA, Rushden

## RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

## 391. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Head of Planning Services submitted a report and circulated an updated report detailing progress with regard to the drafting of S106 agreements in respect of matters where the committee had previously resolved to grant planning permission, subject to the prior finalisation of such an agreement.

Members considered a request for an extension in respect of application EN/12/01368/FUL (Glaphorn Road, Oundle) until 30 April 2014, which had been requested in the update report that was circulated at the meeting. A further request in respect of application EN/12/01614/FUL (Herne Road, Oundle) until 31 March 2014 was reported to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an extension in respect of EN/12/01368/FUL until 30 April 2014 be approved.
3. That an extension in respect of EN/12/01614/FUL until 31 March be approved.

**392. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS**

The following interests were declared in the agenda items specified below:-

**(a) Declarations of Interest**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>DPI</b>	<b>Other Interest</b>
Dudley Hughes and Andy Mercer	EN/14/00085/FUL	Corporate Parents as Members of Northamptonshire County Council	No	Yes
Andy Mercer and Gill Mercer	EN/14/00085/FUL	Reside next door to a children's home.	No	Yes
Anna Sauntson	EN/14/00085/FUL	Family members resides next door to a children's home owned by the applicant	No	Yes
All Committee Members	EN/14/00061/FUL	Members of East Northamptonshire Council	No	Yes
David Read	EN/14/00061/FUL	Member of Thrapston Town Council, which has expressed an interest in temporarily using office accommodation at East Northamptonshire House	No	Yes

**(b) Informal Site Visits**

There were no declarations regarding informal site visits in respect of any application on the agenda.

**393. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following people spoke on the items as indicated: -



- i) **Andrew Middleditch** - 07/02457/OUT, Land off Huntingdon Road, Thrapston (Agent for Applicant)
- ii) **Kevin Pearson** - 13/01604/REM - Darsdale Farm, Chelveston Road, Raunds, (Applicant)
- iii) **Simon Richardson** - 13/02109/OUT - 171 Bedford Road, Rushden, (Planning Consultant on behalf of the Applicant)
- iv) **Paul Cook**, - 14/00085/FUL - Moorland House, 10 Hayway, Rushden (Applicant - Managing Director of G4S Children's Services)
- v) **Hena Vissian** - 14/00085/FUL - Moorland House, 10 Hayway, Rushden (Objector)

### **394. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The committee considered the planning applications report, with updated information on a number of the applications and representations made by public speakers at the meeting.

#### **(i) 07/02457/OUT – Land Off Huntingdon and Market Road, Thrapston, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered a report detailing an outline application for a residential development of up to 450 dwellings and a doctor's surgery. The application had been brought before the committee as it was a major application.

Members noted that twenty four letters of objection had been received from neighbouring residents. Members also noted that one letter of support had been received from a dentist looking for premises at the proposed surgery, one letter which queried whether an EIA had been produced for the site and also a letter was received that sought assurance that there would not be a link between Denford /Station Road as it would be used as a cut through.

The update report, which was circulated at the meeting, also detailed the comments received from local residents and the Environment Agency, which included additional conditions and informatives which, if agreed, would remove any objection held by the latter.

The committee **agreed to delegate** authority to the Head of Planning Services to approve the application, subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the officer's report and the update report, and a further condition regarding the submission of a Site Waste Management Plan.

#### **(ii) 13/011604/REM – Darsdale Farm, Chelveston Road, Raunds, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered a reserved matters application for the development of up to 460 residential dwellings, together with all the associated highway access and other infrastructure works pursuant to planning permission EN/07/02238/OUT. The application had been brought before the committee as it was a major application.

Members noted that eighteen letters of objection had been received from neighbouring residents. Members also noted that both Raunds Town Council and Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council had both raised various concerns, and Stanwick Parish Council reiterated the objections it had made in regard to the previous reserved matters application. It was further noted within the update report, which was circulated at the meeting, that additional comments had been received from local residents, which the case officer had responded to in detail.

The committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the officer's report and an additional condition for the submission of a Site Waste Management Plan.

**(iii) 13/01822/FUL – 51 Victoria Street, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered a planning application for the development of up to 11 new residential dwellings and associated works. The application had been brought before the committee as it was a major application.

Additional comments from the applicant's agent were detailed within the update report, which was circulated at the meeting.

The committee **agreed to delegate** authority to the Head of Planning Services to approve the application, subject to a Section 106 agreement and the submission of revised plans to overcome the issues raised by the Highway Authority, and the conditions and informatives set out in the officer's report and subject to the inclusion of an additional condition regarding the submission of a Site Waste Management Plan. If the Section 106 agreement is not signed within six months, the application will be reported back to committee for further consideration.

**(iv) 13/02011/VAR – Land South of Goulsbra Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered an application to vary Condition 27 of planning permission 11/01023/OUT, to replace a requirement for 10% renewable energy with a requirement for a 10% reduction in carbon emissions. The application was brought before the committee as it proposed a variation to a major application.

Members noted that Rushden Town Council had objected to the variation as it felt the original 10% renewable energy condition should remain in place.

The committee **agreed to grant** the variation, subject to the conditions detailed within the officer's report, the amended conditions detailed within the update report and the signing of a deed of variation to the Section 106 agreement.

**(v) 13/02109/OUT – 171 Bedford Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered a report detailing an outline application for the existing bungalow to be converted into a dormer bungalow and the erection of two new dormer bungalows and two bungalows. The application was supported by an indicative layout plan depicting a linear form of development with a shared access running the length of the site to the north.

A previous outline application 13/01058/OUT had been submitted for consideration by the committee on 4 September 2013. It had proposed the retention of the existing bungalow to be converted into a dormer bungalow and the erection of three new dormer bungalows and a bungalow. The application had been refused.

Members noted that one letter of objection had been received from a neighbouring resident, and also noted that Rushden Town Council had objected to the application.

It was therefore moved by Councillor Underwood and seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer –

*“That planning application EN/13/02011/FUL be approved, subject to conditions to be agreed by the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Ward Member”.*

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Read and the result was as follows:-

**FOR THE MOTION**

Councillors Hughes, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Underwood and Wathen.

**AGAINST THE MOTION**

Councillors Bradberry, Glithero, Harwood, Hillson, Jenney, Read, Sauntson and Stearn,

**ABSTENTIONS**

None.

The motion was thereupon declared **LOST** and the officer’s recommendation was therefore moved by Councillor Read and seconded by Councillor Harwood,

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Andy Mercer and the result was as follows:-

**FOR THE MOTION**

Councillors Bradberry, Glithero, Harwood, Hillson, Jenney, Read, Sauntson and Stearn,

**AGAINST THE MOTION**

Councillors Hughes, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Underwood and Wathen.

**ABSTENTIONS**

None.

The committee **agreed to refuse** the outline application, as recommended in the officer’s report.

**(vi) 14/00085/FUL - Moorland House, 10 Hayway, Rushden, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered a report detailing a change of use from C3 (dwelling house) to C2 (children’s home). Some minor internal changes had been proposed. The application had been brought before the committee at the request of the local ward member.

The committee noted that no objection had been submitted by Rushden Town Council, comments from the Highway Authority and further comments from local residents, which were detailed in the update report that was circulated at the meeting.

The committee **agreed to defer** the application pending further negotiation between the applicant, the Head of Planning Services and the Ward Member, in respect of a condition to control the use of the children’s home.

**(vii) 14/00061/FUL – Caretakers Flat, East Northamptonshire Council, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, Northamptonshire.**

The committee considered a report which sought change of use to convert the existing ground floor caretakers residential flat to additional sui generis office space. The application had been brought before the committee in line with the Scheme of Delegation as the applicant was East Northamptonshire Council

The committee **agreed to grant** the change of use, subject to the conditions detailed within the officer's report and amended conditions detailed within the update report.

**395. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT**

The committee noted the content of the Appeals Decision Monitoring Report, which provided an update on the appeal decision from the Planning Inspectorate between 21 November 2013 and 07 February 2014.

**396. DETERMINATION OF MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Planning Services in respect of the Government's power to designate local planning authorities that do not adequately discharge the function of determining planning applications.

It was noted the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 had empowered the Secretary of State to designate local planning authorities that, in his opinion, do not adequately perform the function of determining major planning applications. Designation would give applicants the option to submit major planning applications directly to the Planning Inspectorate, rather than to the local authority. The report also highlighted the proposal to raise the threshold for designation, the recent performance of ENC and the measures for improvement that had been put into place.

The committee considered what future action would be necessary to further improve performance which included the possible need for additional staff resources. Members were broadly supportive of the content of the report and referred to the delays faced by the Local Planning Authority and caused by statutory consultees, such as the Environment Agency and Highways Agency, not responding in a timely fashion and it was felt that a letter should be forwarded to the Secretary of State through the District Councils Network to highlight those delays being beyond the control of the council and it should not be punished as a consequence.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**397. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be disclosed.

**398. UNAUTHORISED WORKS AT MANOR FARM, LOWER BENEFIELD**

The committee considered a report from the Development Control Officer regarding the non-compliance of a Listed Building Enforcement Notice, and sought permission to commence prosecution proceedings.

The report also provided further information with regard to other unlawful activities which had been carried out at Manor Farm.

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the approval of the Solicitor to the Council, authorisation be given for the institution of criminal proceedings against those persons liable under Sections 7 and 9 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

**Chairman**

# LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 5 March 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Glenn Harwood MBE (Chairman)  
Brian Northall (Vice-Chairman)

Tony Boto  
Richard Gell  
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith  
Barbara Jenney

Anna Sauntson  
Andy Mercer  
Gill Mercer  
Bob Nightingale

Inspector Vaughan Clark

Northamptonshire Police

## 399. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 400. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Pauline Bradberry.

## 401. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 402. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## 403. LICENSING LEGISLATION - UPDATE

The Health Protection Manager (HPM) presented a report outlining changes to the licensing legislation and guidance and updated Members on licensing matters.

The Government had announced a series of changes to licensing legislation and guidance that would affect East Northamptonshire Council.

The Government were now proposing to keep personal licences and were recommending that licences would last indefinitely, rather than the 10 years covered by current legislation. Further details on implementation were awaited. It was noted that the Temporary Event Notices limits were set to be increased from 12 to 15 in April 2016 rather than from April 2014.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 had come into force on 1 October 2013. All ENC licences had been issued and the numbers stood at 5 Site licences and 1 Collector's licence for the District. An increase in the number of complaints relating to unlicensed dealers had been reported.

It was noted that further training for the Committee would be provided once the Committee make-up arrangements had been put in place following the Annual Meeting in May. Members were requested to advise on any specific areas of training they would like included in any future training programme.

It was also noted that the Committee would be provided with further information regarding the number of complaints received about unlicensed traders and whether the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 was having a positive impact.

Consideration was given to a suggestion about utilising the proceeds of crime. It would present a challenge but may be beneficial.

It had been agreed at Policy & Resources Committee on 4 November 2013 to introduce boat licensing and detailed consultations had commenced with boat businesses to develop a local licensing scheme. A report would be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in May 2014.

Consultation had been carried out internally on the new licensing policy statement and would be going out to full consultation in April 2014. As the policy was county-wide, Corby Borough Council had been responsible for writing it and comments had been forwarded from East Northamptonshire Council. As soon as the document was finalised, members of the Committee would receive a copy.

On 10 March 2014, the Policy & Resources Committee would be consider the removal of the age limit on licences for taxi drivers. This was based on legal advice we had been given in that the condition of an age limit was considered to be *prima facie* unlawful as it did fetter the discretion of the district council when considering issuing drivers licences. The Council currently had a lower age limit of 25, however consideration would now need to be given to those who were age 17 and above. Each application for a taxi licence would be considered on its merits and a decision made accordingly, with any conditions as appropriate.

The draft bill for the new taxi licensing legislation deadline had been extended from December 2013 to April 2014. As soon as this was received, Members would be informed of the proposals.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**404. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be disclosed.

**405. LICENSING ACTIVITY AND UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report detailing applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 in the previous six months, broken down into new licences and licence variations, Temporary Event Notices and personal licence applications received.

A representative from Northamptonshire Police attended to provide details on crime related activity and A & E statistics within the district of East Northamptonshire.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted

**Chairman**



# POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 10 March 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:-

Richard Lewis	(Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	(Vice-Chairman)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE	(Deputy Leader of the Council)

Peter Baden	Sue Homer
David Brackenbury	Dudley Hughes JP
Wendy Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
John Farrar	Rupert Reichhold
Roger Glithero JP	Jeremy Taylor
Marika Hillson	

## 406. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following person spoke on the item indicated: -

- i) **Katy Sagoe (Director of Housing Services, Spire Homes)** - Removal of Claw-Back Liability – Houses for Market Sale at Nippendale, Rushden

## 407. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 10 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 408. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

## 409. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared in the Agenda items specified below:

Councillor	Agenda item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Wendy Brackenbury	Funding to Complete the Roll-Out of High Speed Broadband Across East Northamptonshire District	Member of Northamptonshire County Council		Yes

John Farrar	Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	Involved in voluntary organisation/charity shop affected	Yes
John Farrar	Removal of Claw-Back Liability – Houses for Market Sale at Nippendale, Rushden	Chairman of Spire Homes	Yes
John Farrar	Rockingham Forest Housing Association Property Changes including Disposals with Claw-Back Liability and Request for use of S106 Funds	Chairman of alternative Social Landlord in District (Spire Homes)	Yes

Councillor Farrar left the meeting during consideration of the above items.

Andy Mercer	Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and Health and Safety Service Plans 20/14, and Updated Enforcement Policy	Member of Northamptonshire County Council with responsibility for Trading Standards	Yes
Andy Mercer	Funding to Complete the Roll-Out of High Speed Broadband Across East Northamptonshire District	Member of Northamptonshire County Council	Yes
Rupert Reichhold	Community Transport Voluntary Sector Grant 2011-2014	ENC Observer on Voluntary Action Oundle	Yes

#### **410. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no questions received.

#### **411. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

##### **(a) District Regeneration Working Party – 27 February 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of the District Regeneration Working Party held on 27 February 2014 were received (see pages 470 to 472).

#### **412. FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLANS 20/14, AND UPDATED ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

The Health Protection Manager reported that annual approval of a Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and a Health and Safety Service Plan by the Council were requirements of the Food Standards Agency and the Health and Safety Commission respectively. East Northamptonshire Council's plans were produced from the frameworks provided by these Agencies.

The Committee acknowledged that these service plans would require significantly more premises in the District to be inspected.

A proposed update to the Environmental Services Enforcement Policy also required approval by the Committee, details of which were reported. A number of grammatical amendments were also noted.

#### **R.18 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL**

That the Food Safety and the Health and Safety Service Plan 2014/15, attached at Appendix A, be approved by Council.

*(Reason: To ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligations in respect of food safety and health and safety)*

#### **RESOLVED**

- i) That, subject to the necessary grammatical corrections being made, the changes to Appendix F of the Environmental Services Enforcement Policy set out in the report be approved.
- ii) That the increase in the number of premises requiring inspection and the resulting implications for staff resources be noted.

*(Reason: To ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligations in respect of environmental crime)*

#### **413. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE AGE CONDITIONS AND FEES AND CHARGES**

The Health Protection Manager reported that the Council had been advised that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers conditions which it applies to licences contained a condition that was unlawful. Equalities and age discrimination legislation and case law continued to develop and the current condition relating to a minimum age for drivers of 25 years was no longer considered to be lawful.

The Committee noted that the insurance industry effectively self-regulated an age limit of 21 years as insurance cover for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers was unlikely to be provided to drivers aged under 21 years.

A report to the previous meeting of the Committee had contained the fees and charges that would apply in 2014/15, but did not contain the full revisions in respect of these licences as administered by the Northamptonshire Licensing Partnership. These revisions therefore required approval.

#### **R.19 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL**

That the condition relating to an age limit for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers be removed.

*(Reason: To ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligations in respect to statute and equalities)*

## RESOLVED

- i) That, having carefully considered the Equalities Impact Assessment, it be endorsed.
- ii) That the fees and charges set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

*(Reason: To ensure the Council is charging in accordance with its costs for the provision of its licensing function)*

### **414. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT 2011-2014**

The Head of Customer and Community Services reported that additional work had been undertaken by Volunteer Action Oundle (VAO) as part of the consortium arrangements for delivering this Council's current Community Transport Voluntary Sector Grant. VAO had covered the central area of the District following the demise of Nene & Ouse Community Transport (NOCT), which was part of the consortium, and the Committee's approval was sought to meet the additional one-off establishment costs associated with setting up the new arrangements by VAO.

Whilst the majority of the former NOCT drivers had joined VAO, additional volunteer drivers had been recruited to VAO's establishment to maintain cover across the central area. ENC Officers had reviewed the new arrangements with the consortium partners and were satisfied that they were effective. Members expressed their appreciation for the contribution made by the volunteer drivers in keeping the service operational.

Details of the additional costs incurred by VAO were submitted, amounting to £1,400.

## RESOLVED:

- i) That a payment of £1,400 to Volunteer Action Oundle in respect of the additional costs incurred as set out in the report be approved.
- ii) It be noted that the remaining underspend of £1,936 will be recognised as savings in the current financial year.
- iii) A letter be sent to Volunteer Action Oundle expressing this Council's thanks to the volunteer drivers.

*(Reason: to maintain our commitments to improving access to community transport in East Northamptonshire, through an effective consortium arrangement involving Serve and VA Oundle)*

### **415. DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY**

The Head of Customer and Community Services reported that the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy needed to be updated to bring it in line with current policy and the business rates retention regime. Amendments were required to take into account of changes to business rate funding arrangements, an additional power to grant discretionary rate relief in any circumstances and the recently introduced £1,000 rate relief for retail premises.

Details of the proposed revisions to the Policy were reported. The Committee considered that paragraph 4.4.8 of the proposed revised Policy should include provision for Member involvement in the decision-making process.

Members sought clarification of the position regarding 50% rate relief for Museums as to whether this was a statutory or discretionary amount. The Head of Customer and Community Services confirmed that this would be provided to Members.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That the amendment to section 1.6 and insertion of sections 4.4 and 4.5 to the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy, as set out in the report, be endorsed and adopted.
- ii) That paragraph 4.4.8 of the Policy be amended to;

*If the Council receives an application under S47, and the application satisfies the criteria in 4.4 above, the application will be determined by the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee or, if the Chairman is unavailable, the Leader of the Council.*

*(Reason: To provide an equitable framework for the allocation of discretionary rate relief in light of recent legislative change)*

**416. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

**417. REMOVAL OF CLAW-BACK LIABILITY – HOUSES FOR MARKET SALE AT NIPPENDALE, RUSHDEN**

The Executive Director reported that a request had been received for the release of a future claw-back provision on houses for shared ownership and market sale within the Spire Homes Nippendale redevelopment at Rushden. The sale of these houses was considered an integral part of the funding for the redevelopment and details of the legal and financial implications of the request were submitted.

Whilst some Members considered that the claw-back provision should not be released, other Members considered that the request should be agreed to provided that the funds involved were re-invested in the East Northamptonshire District.

The Executive Director informed Members that further similar requests were likely to be received in future and a policy to guide the determination of such requests would be submitted to the Committee for adoption.

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to an agreement being secured that the funds raised by Spire Homes from this arrangement will be accountable as being re-invested in social housing within the East Northamptonshire District, the properties identified on the Nippendale site be identified for market sale and shared ownership be treated as 'exempt and clear' disposals.

*(Reason: to ensure that the Council disposes of its assets in accordance with legal requirements, to secure future revenue income streams and to support the development of social housing in the district).*

**418. ROCKINGHAM FOREST HOUSING ASSOCIATION PROPERTY CHANGES INCLUDING DISPOSALS WITH CLAW-BACK LIABILITY AND REQUEST FOR USE OF S106 FUNDS**

The Executive Director reported that Rockingham Forest Housing Association (RFHA) had reviewed the position of some of its properties acquired from this Council under a Transfer Agreement. Details of RFHA's proposals were submitted and the Council's position in relation to possible disposal was sought, together with the use of S106 funds to refurbish one property to better fit current market demand.

Details of the properties involved and the legal and financial implications of the proposals were submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That the covenants on 2 Coronation Road, Rushden not be released.

*(Reason: To retain the existing property as a 4 bedroom dwelling)*

- ii) That the covenants on the property at 50 Highfield Road Rushden be released for a payment to enable the sale of part of this site for possible redevelopment (subject to planning permission)

*(Reason: to ensure that the Council disposes of its assets in accordance with legal requirements, to secure future revenue income streams and to support the development of social housing in the district)*

- iii) That the covenants on the properties at 30/31 Highfield, Woodford be released for a payment to enable sale of part of this site for possible redevelopment (subject to planning permission)

*(Reason: to ensure that the Council disposes of its assets in accordance with legal requirements, to secure future revenue income streams and to support the development of social housing in the district)*

**419. FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE ROLL-OUT OF HIGH SPEED BROADBAND ACROSS EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DISTRICT**

The Chief Executive reported on the progress of high-speed broadband roll-out across East Northamptonshire and sought the Committee's views on funding for the final tranche of properties.

It was probable that the time frame for Northamptonshire County Council to submit bids for the latest round of BDUK funding might be short and fall outside of Committee timetables. It was therefore considered prudent to seek a steer on what level of support might be committed by this Council in order to achieve either 95% or 98% coverage.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That, having carefully considered the Equalities Impact Assessment, it be endorsed.
- ii) That, subject to
  - a) the proposed match funding for the project being received, and
  - b) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, being satisfied that the roll-out provides acceptable coverage in the District (this to include the areas of Brigstock and Kings Cliffe) and value for money on the Council's investment up to £300k be allocated from the Major Infrastructure Projects fund with a view to achieving 95% superfast broadband coverage across the district.

*(Reason: to support local businesses and communities through the provision of superfast broadband while ensuring value for money for the Council's investment)*

**Chairman**



# District Regeneration Working Party

**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 27 February 2014 at 3pm in the Members' Room**

## Present

<b>Councillors:</b>	Councillor Steven North (Chair)	Cllr SN
	Councillor Glenn Harwood	Cllr GH
	Councillor Roger Glithero	Cllr RG
<b>Officers:</b>	David Oliver, Chief Executive	DO
	Sharn Matthews, Executive Director	SM
	Lisa Hyde, Head of Customer & Community Services	LJH
	Katy Everitt, Head of Resources & Organisational Development	KE
	Mike Deacon, Head of Environmental Services	MD
	David Reed, Head of Planning Services	DR
<b>Minutes:</b>	Sharon Prior, Executive Support Officer	SP

## ACTION

1. **Apologies**
- 1.1. Apologies had been received from:-
  - Cllr David Brackenbury
  - Cllr Richard Lewis
  - Kelly Watson, Finance Manager
  - Mike Greenway, Community Partnerships Manager
2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 9 September 2013 and matters arising**
- 2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 September 2013 were noted. These minutes had been approved by the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting held on 26 September 2013.
3. **District Regeneration Working Party – Terms of Reference**
- 3.1. SM outlined proposed changes required to the Terms of Reference to include updates on membership of the Working Party, removal of the term “champions” and details of the Working Party’s role in reviewing applications received under the Community Facilities Fund. SM agreed to revised the Terms of Reference and circulate to the Working Party for consideration. The revised version would be added to the agenda for the next meeting for formal approval.

**SM/SP**

**DRWP agenda item**



4. **New Homes Bonus Reserve – review of Stream 2**

4.1. LJH presented her report outlining a proposal for a review of the utilisation of Stream 2 of the New Homes Bonus Reserve. The report outlined the current use of this Reserve, split into 3 streams:-

<b>Stream 1</b>	Member Empowerment Fund (MEF)
<b>Stream 2</b>	Community Facilities Fund (CFF)
<b>Stream 3</b>	Major Infrastructure Projects

4.2. A proposal to consider the use of the Stream 2 funding for 2014/15 to fund other projects, particularly meeting lease commitments at Stanwick Lakes to the sum of £70k per annum, was noted. Other initiatives that could be pursued using this funding were also noted, e.g. creating apprenticeship and training opportunities for young people, funding solutions to local issues/problems raised by business that prevent them to grow and prosper, 'Dragons' Den' type events or high street/retail improvement grants for shop fronts or street furniture.

4.3. The Members of the Working Group considered the proposal put forward and noted their comments on the highlighted options. Cllr SN noted that he felt the CFF had been a great success to date and would like to see it continue for 2014/15. Cllr SN then suggested that the options put forward be considered by the Working Party at a later date. Cllrs RG and GH both confirmed they also wished to see Stream 2 continue in its current form for 2014/15.

4.4. The Working Party then decided that:

- Stream 2: the Community Facilities Fund be continued in its current form for 2014/15. LJH to begin process to prepare for the next round with the Community Partnerships Team.
- The initiatives identified in 4.2 above be considered at a future meeting of the Working Party in the Autumn 2014; SP to note for DRWP Forward Plan.

**LJH/MG/SS**

**SP – DRWP  
Forward Plan**

5. **Superfast Broadband Project roll-out – funding**

5.1. DO presented a report outlining the current position with the roll-out of Superfast Broadband across the County, a project being led by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC). A request from NCC for District and Borough Councils to meet the remaining 10% funding gap to complete this project had been received.

5.2. In consideration of this request, the Working Party noted the options outlined in the report, and noted their support of option 3.2, being to make a commitment to provide match funding up to £300,000 on the assumption of equal match funding from NCC and further match funding of the total

## **ACTION**

amount of £600,000 from BDUK to enable the roll-out of high speed broadband to reach an estimated 95% of premises across the district.

- 5.3. The Working Party **recommended** the covering report be taken to Policy & Resources Committee on 10 March 2014 for consideration, noting the Members of the District Regeneration Working Party's support for option 3.2.

**DO/SM**  
**– P&R 10/3/14**

## **6. Major Regeneration and Growth Projects**

- 6.1. DO presented his report providing an update on regeneration and growth projects currently or potentially taking place across the district, as follows:-

- Rushden Lakes and Rushden East
- Irthlingborough West and Nene Park
- Cattle Market site, Thrapston
- Islip Furnace site
- Oundle Marina
- Forest Holidays at Fineshade

The Working Party noted the current position with these developments. Updates on developments at Priors Hall, Deenethorpe Airfield and Nene Business Park in Irthlingborough were also noted.

## **7. Growth Peer Review – Position Statement and Timetable**

- 7.1. DO presented the Position Statement and current timetable for the Growth Peer Review planned for 12-14 March 2014, which the Working Party noted.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- 8.1. No further items raised.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

- 9.1. The Working Party agreed to hold two further meetings; one at the end of April 2014 to consider the outcome of the Growth Peer Review and then one in June 2014 to consider expressions of interest for the second round (2014/15) of Stream 2: Community Facilities Fund. SP to review dates and circulate to the Working Party for consideration.

**SP**

DRWP/SP 5.3.14

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 17 March 2014

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors: David Brackenbury (Chairman)  
Tony Boto (Vice-Chairman)

Glenn Harwood MBE	Bob Nightingale
Sylvia Hughes	Alex Smith
David Jenney	Jeremy Taylor
Gill Mercer	

## 420. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 421. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Baden, Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Marian Hollomon, Steven North and Jake Vowles.

## 422. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 423. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## 424. DRAFT WIND AND SOLAR SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager reported that following the decision made by the Committee on 16 September 2013, a combined Wind and Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) had been prepared, together with a Wind Turbine Landscape Sensitivity Study and a Solar Landscape Sensitivity Study which formed background evidence for the SPD.

The SPD had been drafted in conjunction with a Member Working Party and a consultant had been engaged - Mr Mike Haybyrne, who attended the meeting to answer Members' questions on the content of the draft SPD.

The Committee reviewed the draft SPD and a number of amendments were put forward which would be incorporated into the document prior to public consultation being carried out and the Head of Planning Services undertook to circulate the final draft to Members of the Committee, prior to consultation commencing. The final draft SPD and responses to the consultations would be reported to the Committee in due course.

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to the inclusion of the revisions advocated by Members, the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to approve the draft Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation, along with the supporting sensitivity study documents.

*(Reason – to provide a planning guidance document for potential energy developers)*

**425. FOUR TOWNS PLAN SITE SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT DEVELOPING POLICIES AND PROPOSALS, TOWARDS PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

The Senior Planning Policy Officer reported that further to the decision made at the Council Issues Debate on 12 February 2014 to continue with the preparation of a Four Towns Plan site specific development plan document for the south of the District, consideration had been given to the scope of the emerging Four Towns Plan. This included the range of options and site specific proposals that might be taken forward into the Plan.

It was noted that whilst the content of the Four Towns Plan could be progressed, preferred options could not be determined until the contents of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy were known.

The Committee considered the list of themes and topics which the Four Towns Plan ought to address. It was confirmed that the Raunds North (Phase 3) had been included in the list as it was recognised that the site was being promoted by the developer. Members suggested that the Plan should also include topics on fast food takeaways and potential employment sites.

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to the inclusion of:

- a) Economic Development – potential employment areas, and
- b) Town Centres and Retail – saturation policy for fast food takeaways

the proposed policy content/ topics set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report be endorsed as an appropriate draft structure/ framework for the Four Towns Plan.

*(Reason – to enable the Council to progress with the preparation of the Four Towns Plan site specific development plan document).*

**426. PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION UPDATE**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager provided the Committee with an update on work currently being undertaken by the Planning Policy and Conservation team.

It was also noted that a lack of staff resources had delayed progress on some items of work within the programme and the Head of Planning Services informed Members that a report would be submitted to the Personnel Sub-Committee in the near future with proposals to address this issue.

**RESOLVED:**

That the programme of work be noted.

*(Reason – to provide an update for Members' information)*

**Chairman**

# DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Date: 19 March 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present:	Councillors:	Pauline Bradberry JP	Chairman
		Gill Mercer	Vice Chairman
		Wendy Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
		Roger Glithero JP	Bob Nightingale
		Derek Capp	Ron Pinnock
		Glenn Harwood MBE	David Read
		Dudley Hughes JP	Philip Stearn
		Barbara Jenney	Robin Underwood

## 427. MINUTES

Subject to amendments to minute 392 to remove reference to the applicant owning a children's home next door to Councillors Andy and Gill Mercer, minute 394(v) to correct the spelling of the word 'Abstention' and minute 395 to reflect the discussion in respect of statutory consultees contributing to delays in the planning process which should be drawn to the attention of the Secretary of State, the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 428. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anna Sauntson, Brian Northall and Peter Wathen.

## 429. DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

Members received a report which provided an update on the following applications where actions had been delegated to the Head of Planning Services: -

EN/10/01428/FUL	Raunds Car Wash
EN/13/01072/REM	Station Road, Higham Ferrers
EN/13/01073/FUL	Pond adjacent to A6
EN13/00839/	ASDA, Rushden

### RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

## 430. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Head of Planning Services submitted a report and circulated an updated report detailing progress

with regard to the drafting of S106 agreements in respect of matters where the committee had previously resolved to grant planning permission, subject to the prior finalisation of such an agreement.

Members considered a request by the Head of Planning Services for an extension in respect of application EN/12/01957/OUT (Midland Road, Thrapston) until 31 May 2014..

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an extension in respect of EN/12/01957/OUT until 31 May 2014 be approved.

**431. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS**

The following interests were declared in the agenda items specified below:-

**(a) Declarations of Interest**

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>DPI</b>	<b>Other Interest</b>
Wendy Brackenbury, Dudley Hughes and Andy Mercer	EN/14/00085/FUL	Corporate Parents as Members of Northamptonshire County Council	No	Yes
Andy Mercer and Gill Mercer	EN/14/00085/FUL	Reside next door to a children's home	No	Yes

**(b) Informal Site Visits**

*There were no declarations regarding informal site visits in respect of any application on the agenda.*

**432. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following person spoke on the item as indicated: -

- i) **Sam Kendall-Marsden** - 14/00085/FUL - Moorland House, 10 Hayway, Rushden (Objector)

**433. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The committee considered the planning applications report, with updated information on a number of the applications and representations made by public speakers at the meeting.

**(i) 10/01183/OUT – Land Rear of 28, 30 and 32 Western Avenue, Easton on the Hill, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered a report which detailed an amendment to an outline application for a residential development of 8 dwellings with all matters reserved except access. The application had previously been brought before the committee on 23 March 2011 in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation as the proposal was for more than one dwelling in a Restricted Infill Village. The application had been deferred until 13 April 2011 where outline application had been granted by the committee.

The committee **agreed to grant** the amendment to the application, subject to the conditions detailed within the officer's report.

**(ii) 13/02197/FUL – Dodson & Horrell, Islip Furnance Site, Kettering Road, Islip, Kettering, Northamptonshire**

The committee considered a report which detailed the erection of 2 warehouse buildings adjacent to an existing warehouse. The buildings would provide storage for the dry pet food products that are produced by the factory on the site.

The committee noted that no objections had been submitted by neighbours or Islip Parish Council.

Members noted the officer advice in respect of the inclusion of a condition to ensure that the proposed buildings did not interfere with television signals in the area, which was detailed in the update report that was circulated at the meeting/

The committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed within the officer's report and an additional condition to prevent interference with television signals.

**(iii) 14/00085/FUL - Moorland House, 10 Hayway, Rushden, Northamptonshire**

At the meeting held on 27 February 2014, the committee had considered a report detailing a change of use from C3 (dwelling house) to C2 (children's home). Some minor internal changes had been proposed. The application had been brought before the committee at the request of the local ward member.

The committee had deferred the application pending further negotiation between the applicant, the Head of Planning Services and the Ward Member, in respect of a condition to control the use of the children's home.

Members noted the outcome of the negotiations with the applicant and the amended recommendation detailed within the update report, which was circulated at the meeting.

The committee **agreed to delegate authority to grant** the application to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Ward Member, subject to the receipt of a suitable management plan in respect of the care home and an additional condition to ensure that the existing parking facilities on the site were retained.



**434. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT**

The committee noted the content of the Appeals Decision Monitoring Report, which provided an update on the appeal decision from the Planning Inspectorate from 10 February 2014 to 28 February 2014.

**Chairman**

# GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 24 March 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:

Sylvia Hobbs  
Barbara Jenney  
David Read

Robin Underwood  
Peter Wathen  
Colin Wright

## 435. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

### RESOLVED:

That Councillor Colin Wright be appointed Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the 2013-14 Municipal Year.

## 436. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

### RESOLVED:

That Councillor Peter Wathen be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the 2013-14 Municipal Year.

## 437. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

## 438. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 439. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## 440. WELLAND INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM – ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2014/15

*Richard Gaughran (Head of Welland Internal Audit) and Nicola Scott (Audit Manager, Welland Internal Audit) attended for this item.*

The Audit Manager presented a report seeking endorsement of the proposed Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2014/15, explaining the basis of the planning process and the various elements making up the plan and indicating how the planning and delivery process would meet the mandatory requirements implicit in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

The Committee noted that risks might emerge during the Internal Audit Plan period and the Plan would need to be adaptable with any necessary revisions being made to enable these risks to be addressed. Such amendments to the Plan might need to be made outside of the Committee meeting timetable and it was considered that delegation should be given to make any amendments.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2014/15, attached at Appendix B to the report, be agreed.
- ii) That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, be authorised to revise the Internal Audit Plan if necessary to address emerging risks during the Plan period.

*(Reason: To ensure the Council meets its planning target and enables flexibility to adapt the plan should the need arise)*

**441. WELLAND INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM – INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN & PERFORMANCE UPDATE 2013/14**

*Richard Gaughran (Head of Welland Internal Audit) and Nicola Scott (Audit Manager, Welland Internal Audit) attended for this item.*

The Audit Manager presented a report outlining the progress made by the Welland Internal Audit Consortium (WIAC) on the delivery of the Annual Audit Plan for 2013/14 and associated measures of performance.

It was noted that each audit was subject to quality assurance processes by WIAC. Where a limited assurance had been given to the Council services audited, the control measures were considered to be not sufficiently effective and the audit recommendations needed to be implemented. The Committee noted that this limited assurance had been given to the Council's Licensing unit and the administration of Disabled Facilities Grants and the relevant Managers would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide assurances that these issues had been addressed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the progress and performance of the Consortium be noted.

*(Reason – To demonstrate that the Committee is discharging its responsibilities in conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards).*

**442. EXTERNAL ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2013/14**

*Neil Bellamy and Yola Geen of the Council's External Auditors, KPMG, attended for this item.*

Neil Bellamy presented a report setting out the External Audit Plan 2013/14 and describing how KPMG would deliver the financial statement audit work and the approach to be taken to value for money work.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report and the External Audit Plan 2013/14 be approved.

*(Reason – this is a report which sets out the arrangements for 2013/14 External Audit of the Statement of Accounts)*

**443. GRANT CERTIFICATION 2012/13**

*Neil Bellamy and Yola Geen of the Council's External Auditors, KPMG, attended for this item.*

Yola Geen presented a report summarising the results of work on the certification of the Council's 2012/13 grant claims and returns.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report and the Certification of grants and returns 2012/13 be noted.

*(Reason – this is an information report which addresses the management of benefits and NNDR of the Council)*

**444. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

**445. PROTECTING THE PUBLIC PURSE FRAUD BRIEFING**

*Neil Bellamy and Yola Geen of the Council's External Auditors, KPMG, attended for this item.*

Yola Geen presented a report providing benchmarking data on fraud detection activities for the Council and comparisons with similar local authorities, together with briefing papers prepared by KPMG and the Audit Commission.

The briefing also contained a checklist of issues for those involved in governance matters to consider and members of the Committee would complete this as a self-assessment exercise for the next meeting of the Committee.

With reference to the data provided on fraud cases, the relevant Manager would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee so that the Committee could assure itself that the measures in place to prevent fraudulent activity were robust.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report and briefing be noted.

*(Reason – this is an information report which provides benchmark information for East Northamptonshire Council to compare against others)*

**446. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT WORKING PARTY**

The Committee was requested to consider the appointment of a Working Party to guide the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

**RESOLVED:**

That a Working Party comprised of all members of the Governance and Audit Committee be established to support the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

**Chairman**

# SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 2 April 2014

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors:- **Phillip Stearn (Chairman)**  
**Sarah Peacock (Vice Chairman)**

Tony Boto	Derek Capp
Richard Gell	Brian Northall
David Jenney	Alex Smith
Jake Vowles	Clive Wood

Before the start of business the Chairman thanked the Members who had previously served on the Scrutiny Committee and who were now members of the new Governance and Audit Committee.

## **447. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **448. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sylvia Hughes.

## **449. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no declarations of interest or questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

## **450. SPIRE HOMES – PROGRESS UPDATE**

Members were presented with a report by the Chairman of Spire Homes, Councillor John Farrar and John Henderson, Spire Homes Development and Business Manager. The report provided a summary of the key areas of progress and information to update on the work of Spire Homes. It focused on the core objective of providing good quality affordable homes for the local community. Councillor Farrar emphasised that East Northamptonshire Council remained Spire Homes main stakeholder.

Before changes to the grant regime in 2010, Spire Homes relied heavily on Government grant funding to support development activity. The climate for developing new homes had become more challenging with capital investment in housing falling. There was now an expectation that housing providers would look for innovative ways to finance new homes without relying on Homes and Community Agency (HCA) grant funding.

The HCA had made it clear that their 2015/18 grant funding was very much the last resort and that bidding organisations would have to look at rent conversions, cross subsidy and sale of assets to fund new developments.

Spire Homes therefore had to be more creative to make schemes work financially, which had demanded more mixed tenure schemes, incorporating sale, shared equity and going forward, market rent. This was necessary to cross subsidise the affordable homes which would remain a key priority. As a not for profit organisation all proceeds of sales were reinvested in the building of more affordable new homes. Specific highlights noted was the delivery of affordable housing in Barnwell and the redevelopment of poor quality housing into modern efficient homes, eg the redevelopment of the Nippendale site in Rushden.

Spire would also be focusing on redevelopment of existing homes in Charles Street and Home Court in Thrapston. This would provide better quality housing for older people plus some new family homes. In response to high levels of housing need for older people in East Northamptonshire, Spire were also hoping to develop 29 leasehold apartments in Chancery Lane, Thrapston.

The report also reflected on the broader activities of Spire as a community focused landlord working to improve opportunities and quality of life for people.

It was also reported that Spire provided a range of support services for their tenants to help improve family life as well as prospects for the future.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Report be noted.

#### **451. COUNTERING BENEFIT FRAUD**

The Benefits Manager presented a report detailing the current activities and progress made in countering benefit fraud and recovering over-claimed benefits for the period to 31 December 2013.

Members were provided with figures highlighting the recovered benefit figures for 2013/14 compared to those for the two previous financial years. It was noted that the council had currently recovered 87.61% of over-claimed housing benefit, which was significantly above the government's recommended level of 70%. Of the overall debt raised from 2000, 81.4% has been recovered.

There was a continued increase in the number of actions taken, and the number of solicitor letters sent was high. This was because the overpayment section had been working to get old debt repaid and the monitoring of old debts was continuing although it was noted that a small number of old debts had to be written off when all recovery attempts were exhausted. It was also reported that the recent change in regulations, which enabled the council to make attachments of earnings without getting a court order, had had a positive impact on recovery.

Members noted that the investigation of fraudulent claims was a major area of work. Having identified an incorrect claim, work was carried out to check whether the claimant was seeking to defraud the Council. Cautions and administrative penalties were offered for smaller benefit frauds, with criminal prosecution pursued in more serious cases.

The council's work to publicise the counter fraud activity was highlighted to the meeting.

Members noted the planned roll out of a Single Fraud Investigation Service in June 2014 which would commence with pilot sites. Evaluation and lessons learnt would follow from the transfer process prior to full national implementation. This would start in October 2014 and run for a further 18 months to March 2016.

Members welcomed the progress highlighted within the report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**452. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING – Q3 2013/14**

The Policy & Performance Manager presented a report which detailed high level performance information from across the Council in relation to agreed performance indicators and other statistics that supported the monitoring of performance. Areas of achievement were also identified.

To monitor and report on performance, the Council held quarterly performance clinics for each service area. The purpose of the report was to assess how service areas are progressing towards delivering key priorities and outcomes, identify problem areas and actions where required, provide peer challenge and identify and record good performance. The result is a high level report for Members which focussed on the key areas of interest.

Members were advised that Performance Clinics for Quarter 3 had taken place in February 2014 and were attended by the Chief Executive, Executive Director, Head of Service, Finance Manager and Performance Officer.

The Performance Clinic report for each service area included information on all performance indicators, budget variance data and workforce statistics. Overdue audit recommendations and overdue risk actions were also reviewed, although these areas would now be overseen by the new Governance & Audit Committee.

It was noted that the number of Freedom of Information requests was continuing to rise. It may be worth considering whether there was now an opportunity to review the information contained on the Council's website and consider whether a review of internal processes should be held.

A welcome improvement on the turnaround of land charges performance was noted.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**453. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SERVICE PLAN**

The Head of Environmental Services, Mike Deacon (MD), tabled the Service Plan for Environmental Services for 2014/15. MD highlighted the various headings.



The Committee made particular reference to:

- Fly tipping
- Housing stock condition survey
- Rushden Living over shops Project
- Boat licensing

MD confirmed that further training on Licensing Regulations would be arranged.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**454. WORK PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2014/15**

The Executive Director presented a report which provided Members with an opportunity to shape the future work programme for the Committee in the light of the changes to the size of the Committee and its terms of reference.

In January 2014, Council had agreed to the formation of a new Governance and Audit Committee with consequent changes to the size of the Scrutiny Committee and its terms of reference. As a result it was considered opportune to consider the future work programme to take account of the changes.

The main areas of activity which would be covered by the Scrutiny Committee would be:

- Call in
- Performance Monitoring
- Community engagement

It was noted that there would be limited officer resources to assist the committee in the delivery of the work programme; therefore member input was required for successful completion of identified activities.

Set out below is the possible future Work Programme for 2014/15,

<i>Area of Activity</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Committee</i>
Engagement with Town & Parish Councils	Update on progress and analysis of results	ALL
Performance Reports	Quarterly Report	April, June, September, January meetings
	Head of Service representation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Services</li> <li>• IT/Planning Services</li> <li>• Customer &amp; Community Services/Planning Services</li> <li>• Planning Services/Resources &amp; Organisational Development.</li> </ul>	April 2014 June 2014 September 2014 January 2015
Engagement with Voluntary and Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping Report</li> <li>• Final Report</li> </ul>	June 2014 January 2015

Engagement with other public bodies -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping Report</li> <li>• Final Report</li> </ul>	November 2014 March 2015
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The programme post 2015 election would be set by the new committee.

The Committee agreed to continue with the engagement with Town and Parish Councils but involve all Members of the Council. The Chairman noted that he and the Executive Director would prepare a plan to go forward.

The Executive Director agreed to seek information and a possible speaker to explore the local structure and responsibilities of health provision, following the recent NHS changes. .

#### **455. CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager presented a report on the current provisions for call-in by the Scrutiny Committee which proposed amendments to the procedure in accordance with the Committee's previously expressed aspirations.

It was noted that Call-in is intended to be used only "in exceptional circumstances" (Local Government Act 2000, Section 16). It was felt that the proposed changes of reducing the number of councillors required to effect call-in, enabling the chairman to take part in a request for call-in and extending the consultation in the latter circumstance to the Vice Chairman, were a proportionate response to the new committee size.

Following discussion it was agreed that four members of the Committee should take responsibility for reading the Agendas and Minutes of the decision making Committees and liaise with the Chairman should call-in be deemed appropriate.

Planning Policy	Brian Northall
Finance Sub Committee	Sarah Peacock
Personnel Sub Committee	Sylvia Hughes
Policy & Resources Committee	Phillip Stearn

It was

#### **R.20 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL**

- (1) That the number of members of the Scrutiny committee required to initiate the call-in procedure be amended from four to three councillors.

*(Reason – to reflect the reduction in the membership of the Scrutiny Committee)*

- (2) That the call-in shall be effected by the Chief Executive, or his designated nominee, in consultation with the Chairman or, where the Chairman is absent or has initiated or supported a call-in, the Vice Chairman.

*(Reason – to remove the exclusion of the Committee Chairman from initiating or supporting a call-in request)*

- (3) That the provision excluding the Chairman from initiating or supporting a call-in request be deleted.

*(Reason – to empower the Committee chairman to initiate or support a call-in request)*

**456. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE RESPONSE FROM FIRE SERVICE**

Further to Minute 288 a response had been received from the Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service following a request for information from the previous meeting in December 2013. Members noted the content of the response

It was also noted that the NFRS had offered a tour of their training facility at Chelveston which the Committee Officer was tasked to arrange.

**Chairman**

# **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Date:** 7 April 2014

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors:-

<b>Richard Lewis</b>	<b>(Chairman)</b>
<b>Glenvil Greenwood-Smith</b>	<b>(Vice-Chairman)</b>
<b>Glenn Harwood MBE</b>	<b>(Deputy Leader of the Council)</b>

<b>Peter Baden</b>	<b>Marika Hillson</b>
<b>David Brackenbury</b>	<b>Dudley Hughes JP</b>
<b>Wendy Brackenbury</b>	<b>Andy Mercer</b>
<b>John Farrar</b>	<b>Rupert Reichhold</b>
<b>Roger Glithero JP</b>	<b>Jeremy Taylor</b>

## **457. PUBLIC SPEAKER**

The Chairman announced that Councillor Sarah Peacock (Rushden Town Council) had registered to speak on the item concerning Dog Control Orders - Hall Park, Rushden

With the consent of the Committee, the Chairman varied the order of the Agenda so that Councillor Peacock would address the Committee immediately before the item was considered.

## **458. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 10 March 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **459. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Steven North and from David Oliver, Chief Executive.

## **460. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared in the Agenda items specified below:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>DPI</b>	<b>Other Interest</b>
Richard Lewis Andy Mercer	Dog Control Orders – Hall Park, Rushden	Member of Rushden Town Council		Yes

John Farrar

Future Provision of  
the Pest Control  
Service

Yes

**461. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no questions received.

**462. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

**(a) Personnel Sub Committee – 17 March 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2014 were received (see pages 494 to 496).

**(b) Finance Sub Committee – 26 March 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2016 were received (see pages 497 to 499)

*The Chairman, having declared an interest in the following item, vacated the Chair and left the meeting whilst the item was considered. The Vice-Chairman assumed the Chair.*

**463. DOG CONTROL ORDERS – HALL PARK, RUSHDEN**

Councillor Andy Mercer gave a statement to the Committee supporting the introduction of the proposed dog control orders and then, having declared an interest, left the meeting whilst the item was considered.

Councillor Sarah Peacock (Rushden Town Council) spoke in support of the proposed dog control orders.

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report which sought approval for the introduction of a range of dog control measures to address the problem of dog fouling and other dog incidents at Hall Park Rushden. A summary of the issues which had led to the order being proposed, the terms of the order and the procedure for adopting it were considered.

There was particular concern at incidents arising from dogs not being kept under control by their owners and this was also acting as a deterrent to other people using the park. The Committee noted that there was support on the ENC petitions website for the Council to reconsider imposing a dog exclusion order on the site, although this was not the order under consideration at this meeting which was for a dogs on lead order.

Members stressed the need for rigorous enforcement of any order approved for Hall Park. The Head of Environmental Services confirmed that the Dog Warden service was shared with Rushden Town Council and this would facilitate enforcement work being carried out.

**RESOLVED:** That

1. Having carefully considered the Equalities Impact Assessment, it be endorsed
2. The areas listed in Appendix 1 to the report be included in the proposed Dog Control Orders
3. The Head of Environmental Services, Waste Manager, Environmental Services Officer (Dogs) and Councillor Glenn Harwood review any representations received prior to the final notice being published, and that the Head of Environmental Services be authorised, in consultation with the Council's legal advisors, to agree the final Dog Control Orders, subject to there being no significant new information provided that may require additional consideration.

*(Reason: to provide a solution to the dog related issues in Hall Park, Rushden that recognises the needs of both dog walkers and other park users)*

*The Chairman resumed the Chair.*

**464. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

**465. FUTURE PROVISION OF THE PEST CONTROL SERVICE**

Councillor John Farrar, having declared an interest,, left the meeting for consideration of the item.

The Committee considered a report which detailed options for the future delivery of the pest control services currently provided by the Council, including a summary of the options for service provision and the financial implications of each option.

The Committee expressed concern that under option 3 set out in the report, rat infestations might be left untreated if residents were unable to afford the cost of treatment. The Council should, in any event, ensure that the service was accessible to those who were unable to afford such treatments and, where it was deemed appropriate to do so, provision should be made to waive the fees involved.

It was noted that savings would be made by adopting option 2 in the report, although the savings would be significantly less than would be achieved by adopting option 3. The financial implications of the option adopted would be incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**R.21 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:** That

- i) Having carefully considered the Equalities Impact Assessment, it be endorsed

- ii)** Having considered the options and risk analysis of the potential changes to service delivery approve Option 2 in the report for the ongoing provision of Pest Control Services.
- iii)** The Head of Environmental Services be authorised to waive fees for treatments carried out after the first free treatments where special circumstances are deemed to apply and to produce criteria for defining such special circumstances.
- iv)** The Pest Control Service be reviewed again in 12 months' time

*(Reason: to maintain the provision of a key public service to those households who are vulnerable and would otherwise have difficulty paying for it)*

**Chairman**



East  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Personnel Sub-Committee

### Minutes of a meeting held on 17 March 2014 at East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

**Present:** Councillors Roger Glithero JP (Chairman)  
 Jeremy Taylor (Vice-Chairman)  
 Wendy Brackenbury  
 Glenn Harwood MBE  
 Steven North

David Oliver Chief Executive  
 Aime Armstrong Human Resources Manager  
 Paul Smith Senior Democratic Services Officer

#### 1.0 MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 No apologies for absence were received.

#### 3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 The following interests were declared:

Officer	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
David Oliver, Aime Armstrong and Paul Smith	Cost of Living Pay Rise	Members of Staff affected	Yes	
After presenting the report, the Chief Executive left the meeting for consideration of this item. The HR Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer remained in the meeting to support the Sub-Committee in making and recording its decision.				
Councillor	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Wendy Brackenbury, Roger Glithero, Glenn Harwood, Steven North and Jeremy Taylor	Cost of Living Pay Rise	Councillors affected through provision in the Members' Allowances Scheme linking an increase in allowances to staff pay awards		Yes



#### **4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3

#### **5.0 VACANT POSTS UPDATE**

5.1 The Sub-Committee received a report on:-

- (a) Vacant posts
- (b) Posts temporarily vacant
- (c) Empty posts/hours still on establishment but with no budget.

5.2 Further to the decision made at the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee, it was noted that the Corporate Management Team had reviewed the list of vacant posts and the majority of those posts currently vacant, but with no budget provision, would be removed from the next update provided to the Sub-Committee.

#### **6.0 XCHANGE MINUTES**

6.1 The Sub-Committee received the draft minutes of the meeting of the Xchange group held on 4 February 2013.

#### **7.0 COST OF LIVING PAY RISE**

7.1 The Chief Executive presented a report outlining the implications of the Council awarding a cost of living pay rise for 2014/15, including a summary of pay awards made to staff since 2009 against the inflation rate for the period and the reductions in staff benefits which had been implemented over the past 5 years.

7.2 It was acknowledged that staff had responded positively to the Council's financial challenges and had absorbed additional workloads over this period and Members expressed their thanks to staff for their continued efforts. It was considered that the award of a cost of living pay rise would help to sustain staff morale.

7.3 It was noted that a 1% pay rise for all staff had been included in the Council's approved Medium Term Financial Strategy. In view of the comments made earlier, Members asked that the Chief Executive convey their thanks to staff when a pay rise was announced.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) A 1% cost of living pay rise, effective from 1 April 2014, be approved (subject to the Council abiding by any other changes to Green Book terms and conditions that are agreed as part of any national pay deal); and
- ii) This 1% pay rise be applied to all staff.

*(Reason: to ensure the Council can successfully recruit and retain knowledgeable and skilled employees)*

**8.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

**9.0 SP28: SHARED SERVICES DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH**

9.1 The Chief Executive presented a report outlining the discussions which were taking place with the Borough Council of Wellingborough concerning possible shared services. Following these initial discussions, where a business case was identified in a particular service area, further detailed discussions would take place and proposals would be prepared to enable staff consultations to be undertaken.

9.2 Members would be kept informed of developments and reports would be submitted to the Sub-Committee as discussions progressed and any proposals for shared services were produced.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) The report be noted; and,
- ii) Should there be a business case for a possible shared service, officers be authorised to consult relevant staff in preparing detailed proposals for consideration by Members.

*(Reason - to ensure that staff are involved at an appropriate stage in discussions about possible changes that affect them)*

**Chairman**



## Finance Sub-Committee

### Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 7.30pm, Kasen Room, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

**Present:** Councillors: Steven North - Chairman  
Richard Lewis – Vice-Chairman  
Peter Baden  
Roger Glithero JP  
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith  
Glenn Harwood MBE

Officers: David Oliver (Chief Executive)  
Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer)  
Kelly Watson (Finance Manager)

#### **1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Brackenbury and Katy Everitt (Head of Resources and Organisational Development).

#### **2.0 MINUTES**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 3 February 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### **3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 No declarations of interest were declared in addition to the declarations made at previous meetings relating to the sale of land and buildings.

#### **4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

#### **5.0 COUNCIL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE**

5.1 The Chief Finance Officer presented a report providing an overview of the proposed use of the Council Improvement Reserve (CIR) and seeking to establish criteria and timescales for progressing proposals during the next financial year.

- 5.2 It was noted that the CIR comprised approximately £2.6m of the Council's estimated reserves of £6.5m at the end of the 2013/14 financial year and that some of the benefits accruing from improvement schemes could be recycled through the improvement fund for other projects or to assist with generating new business growth.
- 5.3 Reports on proposals prepared for CIR funding would be submitted to the Sub-Committee on a regular basis, including the business cases prepared to support specific proposals.

**RESOLVED:**

That the criteria for consideration of Council Improvement Reserve proposals set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

*(Reason – to be able to assess all future business cases seeking funding via the Council Improvement Reserve)*

**6.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

**7.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT – SALE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PROGRESS UPDATE**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive provided the Sub-Committee with an update on progress made in relation to the sale of Council owned land and buildings. The Chief Executive reported that the sale proceeds for the site at Barrington Road, Rushden and Herne Park, Oundle had now been received.
- 7.2 With regard to the grazing land at King's Cliffe, the Council's Agent had confirmed that the process used to market the site had been a competitive process and, accordingly, the sale could be completed without the need to seek Council approval.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

*(Reason - to note the progress of the sale of assets)*

**8.0 LAND ADJACENT TO RINGSTEAD CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- 8.1 Further to the decision made by the Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 24 June 2014 to retain ownership of the above site, the Chief Executive provided the Sub-Committee with an update on the negotiations which had taken place with the School concerning the lease arrangements and legal advice obtained on the provisions of the current lease on the site.

- 8.2 Whilst Members were of the view that sale of the land to the School on the terms offered was the favoured option from a financial viewpoint, it should be conditional on a claw-back clause being implemented should the land be sold on in the future.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That subject to the inclusion of a suitable claw-back clause in the sale contract relating to any future sale of the land in part or whole, the land be sold to Ringstead Cof E Primary School for the purchase price offered by the School
- ii) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee, be authorised to agree the terms of the claw-back clause.

*(Reason: to ensure a decision is made before the lease expires and to ensure Ringstead CoE Primary School can have certainty over the status of the site)*

**9.0 PROVISION OF A SWIMMING POOL IN THE SOUTH OF THE DISTRICT – UPDATE ON ACTIONS AGREED AT COUNCIL ON 13 JANUARY 2014**

- 9.1 Further to the decision made at the Council meeting held on 13 January 2014, the Sub-Committee was provided with an update on the resolutions relating to essential maintenance and the implications of options 1, 3 and 7 set out in the report to Council.
- 9.2 The Chairman noted that the decision to focus on these options had been made by Council and it was not for the Sub-Committee to re-consider them. The Council would consider the matter again, with the updated information, at its next meeting. It was not considered appropriate for the Sub-Committee to recommend a preferred option to Council.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**Chairman**