

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 25 February 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Gill Mercer (Chairman of the Council)
Marika Hillson (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North (Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Peter Baden
Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Pauline Bradberry JP
Derek Capp
Roger Glithero JP
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Sylvia Hobbs
Marion Hollomon
Dudley Hughes JP
Barbara Jenney
David Jenney
Richard Lewis

Eloise Lucille
Andy Mercer
Bob Nightingale
Ron Pinnock
David Read
Rupert Reichhold
Phillip Stearn
Robin Underwood
Jake Vowles
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting
Clive Wood
Colin Wright

390. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, John Farrar, Richard Gell, Sylvia Hughes, Brian Northall, Sarah Peacock, Anna Sauntson, Alex Smith and Jeremy Taylor.

391. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

392. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

393. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman of the Council made the following statement to the meeting:

"It has been a very busy time since the last Council meeting. It is amazing how the time has flown, as I am now three-quarters of the way through my year as Chairman.

There have been the usual raft of carol concerts, civic services and charity events from Grantham to Milton Keynes, from St. Ives to Brackley.

Some highlights have included being present as one of our residents was awarded the Légion d'honneur by the French Government for their part in World War II, opening a new auction business at Rockingham Motor Speedway, the Rotary Young Musicians Awards and attending the award of degrees at the University of Northampton. On a more sombre note I attended the memorial for Lady Juliet Townsend, the previous Lord Lieutenant, who sadly died before Christmas, and the commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Of particular note locally was visiting five more projects that were given funding on the Community Grants scheme with two more skateparks in Raunds and Higham Ferrers, another local facility at Kings Cliffe, refurbishment of the clubhouse for the Rushden and Higham Rugby Football Club and facilities for the charity, Headway, in Irthlingborough. I do hope that we are able to continue with these grants from the New Homes Bonus after the elections.

Thank you for all those who attended the joint charity event with the Queen tribute band at New Year. This raised, £1,000 for my charity, Prostaïd. My next charity event is on 6 March 2015 at Stanwick Lakes for International Women's Day and features a talk by Peter Barratt about his great-grandmother, Alice Hawkins, who was a suffragette. I thought that this was quite appropriate in election year. There are only a few tickets left, so if you would like to attend please contact Barbara Wiggins as soon as possible."

The Chief Executive advised that the council had appointed a candidate to the vacant role of Finance Manager, subject to receipt of satisfactory references, and anticipated that the successful candidate would be in post by the end of March 2015. He further notified the council that he would requisition an extraordinary meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 8 April 2015, to consider an urgent matter in respect of the adoption of new EU Procurement Rules.

394. LEADER'S ADDRESS

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

"Good evening Chairman and Members,

As you are aware this is the meeting where we agree the financial strategies for the next period and, of course, set the council tax rate. I believe we are in the best possible situation we can be in after year-on-year cuts to the Revenue Support Grant. The local government sector has had more cuts than any other government department, however we have used other streams of funding, such as the New Homes Bonus, to the best advantage possible. We have used over £500,000 on community projects and supported the roll out of superfast broadband.

We, as a council, have not panicked and adopted a slash and burn approach. We have quietly got on with it. We have made changes and will continue to do so, but not to the great detriment of the taxpayer. We have, of course, not increased council tax at all in this term of the council.

You will have seen from the papers before you that we have completely reviewed the assumptions going forward that up the Medium Term Financial Strategy and I need to thank Glenn Harwood, Richard Lewis, the Finance Team and Corporate Management

Team for their hard work in the past eight months. We are in a much better and positive position going forward. Yes, there are risks and these have been identified as much as possible within the budget papers.

Returning to the New Homes Bonus, the Chairman and I visited the final recipients of this year's grants two weeks ago. We have supported Higham Ferrers and Raunds Town Councils with grants towards new or extended skate parks, Kings Cliffe Parish Council with a grant towards a pocket park, Headway East Northamptonshire to upgrade their toilets and finally Rushden and Higham Rugby Union Football Club to improve the clubhouse and changing rooms.

Thank you."

395. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Development Control Committee – 17 December 2014, 7 & 28 January and 18 February 2015

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

(b) Scrutiny Committee – 12 January 2015

The report of the above committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Phillip Stearn, was received.

(c) Policy and Resources Committee – 19 January and 16 February 2015

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

336 Private Sector Housing Redress Scheme

1. That Part 6 of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2014 and the Redress Schemes for Letting Agency Work and Property Management Work (Requirement to Belong to a Scheme etc)(England) Order 2014 be adopted.
2. That authority for this new function be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services, Environmental Protection Manager and Housing Technical Officers.

(Reason – to ensure that the new function is embedded within the council's constitution.)

367 Minutes of Sub-Committees and Working Parties

That the Pay Policy Statement 2015-15 be approved.

(Reason – to adhere to statutory requirements.)

371 Changes to the Constitution – Financial Regulations

That, subject to the changes identified to include the Vice-Chairman of both Finance Sub-Committee and Policy and Resources Committee in respect of virement and the addition of Policy and Resources Committee in respect of urgent items of expenditure, along with typographical amendments identified, the proposed changes to Part 4.3 of the Constitution and the deletion of Parts 4.5 and 4.6A be approved.

(Reason – to ensure the council’s financial regulations are up to date.)

373 Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2015-16 Municipal Year

That, subject to the addition of a Finance Sub-Committee meeting on Wednesday 6 April 2016, the Calendar of Meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year be approved.

(Reason – to ensure the council’s financial regulations are up to date.)

(d) Planning Policy Committee – 26 January and 23 February 2015

The report of the above committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor David Brackenbury, was received.

(e) Governance and Audit Committee – 2 February 2015

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

396. BUDGET 2015/16

(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 2015/16 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 369 (16 February 2015). In accordance with the recommendation of the committee, the Leader of the Council proposed the aforementioned recommendations to approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Revenue Budget 2015-16, the Approved Capital Programme for 2015-16, the minimum level of Reserves and Earmarked Reserves the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015-16 and Fees and Charges for 2015-16.

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 2015-16. 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, Brackenury, Bradberry, Capp, Glithero, Greenwood-Smith, Harwood, Hillson, Hobbs, Hollomon, Hughes, B. Jenney, D. Jenney, Lewis, Lucille, A. Mercer, G. Mercer, Nightingale, North, Pinnock, Reichhold, Stearn, Underwood, Vowles, Wathen, Whiting, Wood and Wright.

AGAINST THE MOTION

None

ABSTENSIONS

Councillors Baden and Read

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the approval be given to the:
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy,
 - Revenue Budget 2015/16,
 - Approved Capital Programme for 2015/16,
 - Minimum level of Reserves and Earmarked Reserves
 - Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16, and
 - Fees and Charges for 2015/16

2. That the level of Council Tax levied by East Northamptonshire Council for 2015-16 be frozen at the current levy.

(Reason – to ensure that the council complies with its constitution in setting its budget.)

(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 2015/16 to 2018/19
- Revenue Budget 2015/16
- Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2024/25
- Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16
- Forecast Reserves and Balances

Members recognised that the position was similar to the previous years 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.

RESOLVED:

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

(Reason – to ensure the council complies with statute in setting its Budget.)

2. That the work undertaken over the last three years to balance the budget be noted.

(Reason – to ensure the council has a stable and sustainable Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan.)

(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 2015/16 financial year, which included:

- Recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee on 16 February 2015
- 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 £2,592,298. The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils was 1.4% and resulted in an average Band D council tax figure of £88.18. 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 19 February 2015 and set its precept at £31,426million. This resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £1,069.02.

The Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner had submitted his proposals to the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel in order to set a precept at £5,908million which would result in a Band D Council Tax of £200.96.

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, Brackenury, Bradberry, Capp, Glithero, Greenwood-Smith, Harwood, Hillson, Hobbs, Hollomon, Hughes, B. Jenney, D. Jenney, Lewis, Lucille, A. Mercer, G. Mercer, Nightingale, North, Pinnock, Reichhold, Stearn, Underwood, Vowles, Wathen, Whiting, Wood and Wright.

AGAINST THE MOTION

None

ABSTENSIONS

Councillors Baden and Read

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) That it be noted that at its meeting on 25th February 2015 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2015/2016 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 29,397 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the 'Act') and

Council Tax Resolution

b) Parish Of	Tax Base	Parish of	Tax Base
Aldwincle	159	Lilford cum Wigsthorpe	52
Apethorpe	98	Little Addington	141
Ashton	102	Lowick & Slipton	130
Barnwell	179	Luddington	33
Benefield	167	Lutton	61
Blatherwycke	23	Nassington	344
Brigstock	504	Newton Bromswold	29
Bulwick	84	Oundle	2,035
Chelveston cum Caldecott	202	Pilton	29
Clopton	63	Polebrook	197
Collyweston	212	Raunds	2,564
Cotterstock	83	Ringstead	476
Deene	32	Rushden	9,082
Deenethorpe	76	Southwick	78
Denford	136	Stanwick	686
Duddington	77	Stoke Doyle	35
Easton-on-the-Hill	432	Sudborough	106
Fineshade	17	Tansor	99
Fotheringhay	68	Thorpe Achurch	75
Glaphorn	133	Thrapston	2,048
Great Addington	136	Thurning	46
Hargrave	118	Titchmarsh	238
Harringworth	133	Twywell	78
Hemington	44	Wadenhoe	56
Higham Ferrers	2,598	Wakerley	38
Irthlingborough	2,568	Warmington	412
Islip	285	Woodford	492
Kings Cliffe	572	Woodnewton	225
Laxton	56	Yarwell	155

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 2015/16 in accordance with sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):
- (a) £39,472,131 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) £26,281,707 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) £13,190,424 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) £6,963,186 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) £211.83 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) £2,592,298 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.)

(h) Part of the Council's area	£
Aldwincle	170.82
Apethorpe	131.30
Ashton	157.96
Barnwell	165.55
Benefield	163.77
Brigstock	161.35
Bulwick	144.48
Chelveston cum Caldecott	173.15
Collyweston	207.98
Deene & Deenethorpe	182.29
Denford	167.77
Duddington with Fineshade	182.16
Easton-on-the-Hill	175.17
Glaphorn	182.30
Great Addington	186.99
Hargrave	170.49
Harringworth	166.24
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	147.23
Higham Ferrers	219.97
Irthlingborough	227.40
Islip	193.83
Kings Cliffe	163.86
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	139.51
Little Addington	181.81
Lowick & Slipton	146.73
Lutton	131.85
Nassington	222.49
Oundle	289.03
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	154.90
Polebrook	156.64
Raunds	235.02
Ringstead	176.12
Rushden	210.64
Stanwick	210.18
Sudborough	156.67
Thrapston	239.86
Titchmarsh	176.17
Twywell	169.80
Warmington	220.74
Woodford	153.32
Woodnewton	176.09
Yarwell	181.71
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	113.88	132.86	151.84	170.82	208.78	246.74	284.70	341.64
Apethorpe	87.53	102.12	116.71	131.30	160.48	189.66	218.83	262.60
Ashton	105.30	122.86	140.41	157.96	193.06	228.17	263.26	315.92
Barnwell	110.36	128.76	147.15	165.55	202.34	239.13	275.91	331.10
Benefield	109.18	127.37	145.57	163.77	200.17	236.56	272.95	327.54
Brigstock	107.56	125.49	143.42	161.35	197.21	233.07	268.91	322.70
Bulwick	96.32	112.37	128.43	144.48	176.59	208.70	240.80	288.96
Chelveston cum Caldecott	115.43	134.67	153.91	173.15	211.63	250.11	288.58	346.30
Collyweston	138.65	161.76	184.87	207.98	254.20	300.42	346.63	415.96
Deene & Deenethorpe	121.52	141.78	162.03	182.29	222.80	263.31	303.81	364.58
Denford	111.84	130.49	149.13	167.77	205.05	242.34	279.61	335.54
Duddington with Fineshade	121.44	141.68	161.92	182.16	222.64	263.12	303.60	364.32
Easton-on-the-Hill	116.78	136.24	155.71	175.17	214.10	253.03	291.95	350.34
Glaphorn	121.53	141.79	162.04	182.30	222.81	263.33	303.83	364.60
Great Addington	124.66	145.43	166.21	186.99	228.55	270.10	311.65	373.98
Hargrave	113.66	132.60	151.55	170.49	208.38	246.27	284.15	340.98
Harringworth	110.82	129.30	147.77	166.24	203.18	240.13	277.06	332.48
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	98.15	114.51	130.87	147.23	179.95	212.67	245.38	294.46
Higham Ferrers	146.64	171.09	195.53	219.97	268.85	317.74	366.61	439.94
Irthingborough	151.60	176.86	202.13	227.40	277.94	328.47	379.00	454.80
Islip	129.22	150.75	172.29	193.83	236.91	279.98	323.05	387.66
Kings Cliffe	109.24	127.44	145.65	163.86	200.28	236.69	273.10	327.72
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	93.00	108.51	124.01	139.51	170.51	201.52	232.51	279.02
Little Addington	121.20	141.41	161.61	181.81	222.21	262.62	303.01	363.62
Lowick & Slipton	97.82	114.12	130.43	146.73	179.34	211.95	244.55	293.46
Lutton	87.90	102.55	117.20	131.85	161.15	190.45	219.75	263.70
Nassington	148.32	173.05	197.77	222.49	271.93	321.38	370.81	444.98
Oundle	192.68	224.80	256.91	289.03	353.26	417.49	481.71	578.06
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	103.26	120.48	137.69	154.90	189.32	223.75	258.16	309.80
Polebrook	104.42	121.83	139.23	156.64	191.45	226.26	261.06	313.28
Raunds	156.68	182.79	208.91	235.02	287.25	339.48	391.70	470.04
Ringstead	117.41	136.98	156.55	176.12	215.26	254.40	293.53	352.24
Rushden	140.42	163.83	187.23	210.64	257.45	304.26	351.06	421.28
Stanwick	140.12	163.47	186.83	210.18	256.89	303.60	350.30	420.36
Sudborough	104.44	121.85	139.26	156.67	191.49	226.31	261.11	313.34
Thrapston	159.90	186.56	213.21	239.86	293.16	346.47	399.76	479.72
Titchmarsh	117.44	137.02	156.59	176.17	215.32	254.47	293.61	352.34
Twywell	113.20	132.06	150.93	169.80	207.54	245.27	283.00	339.60
Warmington	147.16	171.68	196.21	220.74	269.80	318.85	367.90	441.48
Woodford	102.21	119.25	136.28	153.32	187.39	221.47	255.53	306.64
Woodnewton	117.39	136.96	156.52	176.09	215.22	254.36	293.48	352.18
Yarwell	121.14	141.33	161.52	181.71	222.09	262.47	302.85	363.42
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 2015/2016 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	712.68	831.46	950.24	1,069.02	1,306.58	1,544.14	1,781.70	2,138.04
Northamptonshire Police Authority	133.97	156.30	178.63	200.96	245.62	290.28	334.93	401.92

- 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 2015/2016 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	960.53	1,120.62	1,280.71	1,440.80	1,760.98	2,081.16	2,401.33	2,881.60
Apethorpe	934.18	1,089.88	1,245.58	1,401.28	1,712.68	2,024.08	2,335.46	2,802.56
Ashton	951.95	1,110.62	1,269.28	1,427.94	1,745.26	2,062.59	2,379.89	2,855.88
Barnwell	957.01	1,116.52	1,276.02	1,435.53	1,754.54	2,073.55	2,392.54	2,871.06
Benefield	955.83	1,115.13	1,274.44	1,433.75	1,752.37	2,070.98	2,389.58	2,867.50
Brigstock	954.21	1,113.25	1,272.29	1,431.33	1,749.41	2,067.49	2,385.54	2,862.66
Bulwick	942.97	1,100.13	1,257.30	1,414.46	1,728.79	2,043.12	2,357.43	2,828.92
Chelveston cum Caldecott	962.08	1,122.43	1,282.78	1,443.13	1,763.83	2,084.53	2,405.21	2,886.26
Collyweston	985.30	1,149.52	1,313.74	1,477.96	1,806.40	2,134.84	2,463.26	2,955.92
Deene & Deenethorpe	968.17	1,129.54	1,290.90	1,452.27	1,775.00	2,097.73	2,420.44	2,904.54
Denford	958.49	1,118.25	1,278.00	1,437.75	1,757.25	2,076.76	2,396.24	2,875.50
Duddington with Fineshade	968.09	1,129.44	1,290.79	1,452.14	1,774.84	2,097.54	2,420.23	2,890.30
Easton-on-the-Hill	963.43	1,124.00	1,284.58	1,445.15	1,766.30	2,087.45	2,408.58	2,890.30
Glaphthorn	968.18	1,129.55	1,290.91	1,452.28	1,775.01	2,097.75	2,420.46	2,904.56
Great Addington	971.31	1,133.19	1,295.08	1,456.97	1,780.75	2,104.52	2,428.28	2,913.94
Hargrave	960.31	1,120.36	1,280.42	1,440.47	1,760.58	2,080.69	2,400.78	2,880.94
Harringworth	957.47	1,117.06	1,276.64	1,436.22	1,755.38	2,074.55	2,393.69	2,872.44
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	944.80	1,102.27	1,259.74	1,417.21	1,732.15	2,047.09	2,362.01	2,834.42
Higham Ferrers	993.29	1,158.85	1,324.40	1,489.95	1,821.05	2,152.16	2,483.24	2,979.90
Irthlingborough	998.25	1,164.62	1,331.00	1,497.38	1,830.14	2,162.89	2,495.63	2,994.76
Islip	975.87	1,138.51	1,301.16	1,463.81	1,789.11	2,114.40	2,439.68	2,927.62
Kings Cliffe	955.89	1,115.20	1,274.52	1,433.84	1,752.48	2,071.11	2,389.73	2,867.68
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	939.65	1,096.27	1,252.88	1,409.49	1,722.71	2,035.94	2,349.14	2,818.98
Little Addington	967.85	1,129.17	1,290.48	1,451.79	1,774.41	2,097.04	2,419.64	2,903.58
Lowick & Slipton	944.47	1,101.88	1,259.30	1,416.71	1,731.54	2,046.37	2,361.18	2,833.42
Lutton	934.55	1,090.31	1,246.07	1,401.83	1,713.35	2,024.87	2,336.38	2,803.66
Nassington	994.97	1,160.81	1,326.64	1,492.47	1,824.13	2,155.80	2,487.44	2,984.94
Oundle	1,039.33	1,212.56	1,385.78	1,559.01	1,905.46	2,251.91	2,598.34	3,118.02
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	949.91	1,108.24	1,266.56	1,424.88	1,741.52	2,058.17	2,374.79	2,849.76
Polebrook	951.07	1,109.59	1,268.10	1,426.62	1,743.65	2,060.68	2,377.69	2,853.24
Raunds	1,003.33	1,170.55	1,337.78	1,505.00	1,839.45	2,173.90	2,508.33	3,010.00
Ringstead	964.06	1,124.74	1,285.42	1,446.10	1,767.46	2,088.82	2,410.16	2,892.20
Rushden	987.07	1,151.59	1,316.10	1,480.62	1,809.65	2,138.68	2,467.69	2,961.24
Stanwick	986.77	1,151.23	1,315.70	1,480.16	1,809.09	2,138.02	2,466.93	2,960.32
Sudborough	951.09	1,109.61	1,268.13	1,426.65	1,743.69	2,060.73	2,377.74	2,853.30
Thrapston	1,006.55	1,174.32	1,342.08	1,509.84	1,845.36	2,180.89	2,516.39	3,019.68
Titchmarsh	964.09	1,124.78	1,285.46	1,446.15	1,767.52	2,088.89	2,410.24	2,892.30
Twywell	959.85	1,119.82	1,279.80	1,439.78	1,759.74	2,079.69	2,399.63	2,879.56

Warmington	993.81	1,159.44	1,325.08	1,490.72	1,822.00	2,153.27	2,484.53	2,981.44
Woodford	948.86	1,107.01	1,265.15	1,423.30	1,739.59	2,055.89	2,372.16	2,846.60
Woodnewton	964.04	1,124.72	1,285.39	1,446.07	1,767.42	2,088.78	2,410.11	2,892.14
Yarwell	967.79	1,129.09	1,290.39	1,451.69	1,774.29	2,096.89	2,419.48	2,903.38
Other areas	929.08	1,083.93	1,238.78	1,393.63	1,703.33	2,013.03	2,322.71	2,787.26

- 5) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council tax for 2015/16 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 2015/16 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

397. OTHER REPORTS

(a) From Representatives on Outside Bodies

No reports were submitted.

(b) Licensing Panels

(i) Liquor and Gambling – 26 January 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Liquor and Gambling) Panel held on 26 January 2015 were received.

(ii) Taxi & Miscellaneous – 9 December 2014

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Taxi & Miscellaneous) Panel held on 9 December 2014 were received.

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, provided a verbal update on the activities of the panels over the course of the 2014-15 municipal year. He paid tribute to the retiring Vice-Chairman of the committee, Councillor Pauline Bradberry, and also updated the council on the activity of the Licensing Service.

398. MOTIONS

It was reported that there were no motions.

399. QUESTIONS

It was reported that there were no questions.

400. COVENANT FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH FAITH GROUPS

Consideration was given to a report submitted by the Executive Director which detailed an invitation from the Police and Crime Commission for Northamptonshire to adopt a Covenant for Engagement with Faith Groups, which had been drafted by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society.

It was noted that the covenant had been launched in December 2014 when it was adopted by Birmingham City Council. Members further noted that the council already worked a way that was consistent with the principles of the Covenant and enables the faith sector to respond to many consultations and events organised by the authority.

RESOLVED:

That the invitation to adopt the Covenant for Engagement with Faith Groups be noted, but no further action be taken in respect of formal adoption.

Chairman

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 2 March 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

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

Tony Boto Sylvia Hughes
Derek Capp Jake Vowles
Richard Gell Clive Wood

Also in attendance: Councillor Roger Glithero (Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee)

Officers in attendance: David Oliver (Chief Executive)
Paul Smith (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

401. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Jenney and Brian Northall.

402. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interest was declared in the Agenda item specified below:

Officer	Agenda item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Paul Smith	Call-in Options for S151 Officer Support	An Officer indirectly affected by the proposals		Yes

403. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

404. 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, 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

405. CALL-IN: OPTIONS FOR S151 OFFICER SUPPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager setting out the call-in of the decision made by the Personnel Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 9 February 2015 on the above matter, the reasons for the call-in and the relevant Scrutiny Procedure Rules for the call-in process.

The reasons for the call-in being made were expanded upon by Councillor Sylvia Hughes, one of the Members instigating the call-in. The Chairman also confirmed that he had spoken to Councillor David Jenney, who had also signed the call-in but was unable to attend the meeting, and outlined Councillor Jenney's concerns at the decision made by the Personnel Sub-Committee. With reference to one of the reasons given for the call-in, it was noted that there were no specific qualifications required for appointment as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

The Chief Executive provided a summary of the issues which had led to the report being submitted to the Personnel Sub-Committee and the rationale for the recommendations made, which had been supported by the Executive Director/Monitoring Officer who had also been involved in the preparation of the proposals which had subsequently been approved by the Sub-Committee. The Chief Executive also responded to each of the reasons given for calling-in the decision.

Members of the Committee were invited to ask questions of the Chief Executive and queried the potential impact on service provision, particularly for Town and Parish Council liaison, and whether the financial savings resulting from the proposals were required to be made at this time.

Councillor Roger Glithero was invited to outline the Personnel Sub-Committee's reasons for reaching its decision. Members of the Committee were then given an opportunity to ask Councillor Glithero questions. The Committee explored the Town and Parish Council liaison role carried out by the Executive Director; how this was currently carried out and potential options for providing this service in a different way.

The Chairman of the Committee raised the issue of communication of the proposals which had been submitted to the Personnel Sub-Committee and the decision made. It was noted that the proposed changes would ultimately need to be referred to Full Council as they involved one of the Council's Statutory Officers and all Councillors would see the report/s on the proposals at that time. Accordingly, the standard distribution procedure had been applied to the report to the Personnel Sub-Committee.

The Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee noted that Members had received short notice of the Sub-Committee's decision with the circulation of the minutes. The Chairman considered that the timescale between meetings of the Personnel Sub-Committee and meetings of its parent Committee (Policy and Resources) needed to be reviewed to provide more time to communicate decisions to Members.

Following the submissions and questions asked of the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee, both left the meeting while the Committee considered its decision.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer clarified the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in relation to the decision to be made by the Committee as set out in Section 14.5 and any issues the Committee might wish to make recommendations on outside of the decision made by the Personnel Sub-Committee and the subsequent call-in would need to be addressed separately.

The Committee considered in depth the proposals agreed by the Personnel Sub-Committee together with the information provided by the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee and the reasons given by Councillors Sylvia Hughes, David Jenney and Derek Capp for calling in the decision and after deliberating the issues, it was

RESOLVED: That

- i) the Personnel Sub-Committee be informed that the Scrutiny Committee is not content with the decision made by the Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 9 February 2015 and the Sub-Committee is recommended to reconsider that decision with a view to retaining the Executive Director/Monitoring Officer post for the following reasons:
 - 1) The Committee does not believe that an individual Head of Service would have the capacity to carry out a considerable part of the remit of the current Executive Director/Monitoring Officer role in addition to their existing responsibilities and existing service provision will therefore be lost.
 - 2) The Executive Director/Monitoring Officer role needs to have a corporate overview of all Council services and to integrate this with the work of Town and Parish Councils in the District. Fragmenting the role across service areas has reputational risks for the Council in the delivery of the Council services provided by the current Executive Director/Monitoring Officer.
 - 3) The continuity and resilience of the Executive Director/Monitoring Officer role is considered essential. Notwithstanding this, should the Sub-Committee adhere to its proposal, this Committee is of the view that the proposed timescale for implementation of a new management structure is unrealistic and could lead to risks for the Council and the timescale should be re-considered.
 - 4) The proposal could lead to the de-skilling of the Council's leadership team without the experience and qualifications possessed in the senior management role provided by the Executive Director/Monitoring Officer post.
 - 5) Whilst recognising the prospective financial savings, there is no immediate need for action to make reductions in the medium term financial forecast. The Committee considers that the Executive Director/Monitoring Officer position is a significant and important asset to the residents of the District and customers of the Council and the deletion of the post would result in the loss of this important asset.
- ii) as a consequence of reconsidering its decision, should the Personnel Sub-Committee agree any alternative proposals for re-structuring the Council's management team, the Sub-Committee is requested to consult this Committee on those proposals.

Chairman

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 4 March 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- **Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Chairman)**
Pauline Bradberry JP (Vice-Chairman)

Tony Boto
Richard Gell
Roger Glithero
Barbara Jenney

Andy Mercer
Bob Nightingale
Rupert Reichhold
Anna Sauntson

406. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

407. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

408. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were noted.

409. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

410. 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 and the report provided an update on progress with the planned changes to the Licensing Act, taxi legislation and revised guidance.

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. The new arrangement would commence on 6 April 2015.

Other changes that would be implemented through the Deregulation Bill for the Licensing Act were:

- Live (indoor and outdoor) and recorded music (indoor only) exemption for 0800hrs – 2300 hours and with an audience not exceeding 500 people. This meant that a licence would no longer be required for those activities unless a Licensing Panel included them as a licensable activity. This would have an impact, but not substantially, on income.
- Exemptions for local authorities, schools, hospitals, community premises, circuses, Greco roman or freestyle wrestling and incidental film. Again, this meant no licence would be required for these premises, which, again, would impact on income.

In addition there was new Licensing Act Section 182 guidance which related to the licensing process and would be published when the changes came into force.

The Policy & Resources Committee had agreed to the introduction of boat licensing, following a consultation with operators. A scheme had been introduced, with current operators being given a six month period in which to apply for their licences. The new regime would commence on 31 March 2015.

Some Taxi and Private Hire changes were being implemented through the Deregulation Bill, which were due to come into force on 6 April 2015. The changes within the legislation were:

1. Changing the duration of licences to 5 years
2. Changing the sub-contracting provisions for private hire vehicles

In 2015 a Tattoo Rating scheme to supplement the current registration requirements would be introduced. The rating scheme was a national initiative and rated tattooists between 1-4 dependent upon their hygiene controls. The risks of infection and disfigurement were substantial if correct hygiene methods were not applied. It was hoped that by introducing a rating scheme, it would give consumers more information when choosing where to go to have their tattoo. The scheme would be similar to the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which resulted in significant improvements in hygiene standards in the food industry.

Implementation of each of the reforms would involve their own legal implications that would need to be considered in more detail when the provisions of the Act were commenced, and the reforms required local implementation. It was also expected that there would be an increase in noise complaints about premises as the activities would be unregulated. An increase in noise complaints had been experienced as a result of the live music exemption introduced early in 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

411. COUNCIL PROCEDURES - TAXI LICENSING

The Chairman raised concerns about the robustness of the Council's procedures following recent events in Rotherham and Oxford. The Health Protection Manager advised that a future meeting had been arranged with the Police to discuss issues. It was important that East Northamptonshire Council's procedures were robust and would not leave the Council open to criticism. Following discussion, the Committee were satisfied that matters were being dealt with.

412 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.

413. 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.

Unfortunately a representative from Northamptonshire Police was not present at the meeting to speak verbally of the details on crime related activity and A & E statistics within the district of East Northamptonshire for Quarters 2 and 3. However, the Licensing Enforcement Officer had attended to answer any questions from Members.

Discussion took place on the figures provided and it was noted that there had been a major improvement in the statistics for the District. The Committee wished it to be recorded their appreciation to Council officers for their continued successful work in working to reduce crime and crime related offences in the District.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

As this was the Licensing Committee's final meeting prior to the District Council Elections, the Chairman thanked everyone for their efforts over the past 4 years.

Chairman

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Date: 11 March 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Pauline Bradberry JP Chairman
Barbara Jenney Vice-Chairman
Derek Capp Anna Sauntson
Roger Glithero JP Robin Underwood
Dudley Hughes JP Peter Wathen
Bob Nightingale Pam Whiting
Ron Pinnock

414. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

415. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marika Hillson, Brian Northall, David Read and Alex Smith.

416. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

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

(a) Declarations Of Interest

Councillor	Applications	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other interest
Roger Glithero	Application 14/01704/FUL – Fineshade Wood Top Lodge, Fineshade	Knew the applicant & owned shares in an organisation supporting the application		Yes
Dudley Hughes	14/01954/OUT	County Councillor for the location		Yes

(b) Informal Site Visits

14/01954/OUT - Councillors Barbara Jenney and Peter Wathen advised that they frequently passed by the site.

15/00107/FUL - Councillor Barbara Jenney advised that she frequently passed by the site.

14/01213/FUL & 12/02038/FUL – Councillor Bob Nightingale advised that he frequently passed by the sites.

417. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

It was reported that no questions had been received.

418. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Head of Planning Services submitted an update 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 of time in respect of application EN/14/00810/VAR Old Station House, Thrapston until the end of April 2015.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted.
2. the extension in respect of application EN/14/00810/VAR Old Station House, Thrapston be approved.

419. 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/10/00857/OUT The Head of Planning Services confirmed that discussions were still ongoing.

EN/14/01704/FUL The draft reason for refusal had been circulated

420. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- i) **Mr Alan Disbury** -14/01954/OUT - Land North of West Street, Stanwick (Objector)
- ii) **Councillor Amanda Michel** - 14/01954/OUT - Land North of West Street, Stanwick (On behalf of Stanwick Parish Council)
- iii) **Mr Douglas Sparks**- 15/00047/FUL - 5 Chichele Street, Higham Ferrers (Developer)
- iv) **Councillor A Horn** (of Irthlingborough Town Council) 12/02038/FUL – 19 High Street, Irthlingborough (Objector)

421. 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) 14/01954/OUT – Land North of West Street, Stanwick

The Committee considered an outline application for the erection of up to two hundred and thirty residential dwellings, all matters reserved (except for means of access)

The application had been brought before the Committee as the site exceeded that which could be determined by the Head of Planning Services under the current Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that 872 letters of objection had been received, and further noted that Stanwick Parish Council had also objected.

The Committee **agreed to refuse** the application, for the reasons detailed in the officer's report subject to the deletion of reasons 3, 7 and 8 for the reasons set out in the update report.

(ii) 14/02235/VAR – 2A Eastwood Road, Oundle

The Committee considered an application to vary conditions 6 and 7 to provide a larger external play area, pursuant to application 02/00977/FUL for a day nursery.

The application had been brought before the Committee as Oundle Town Council had objected to the variation.

Members noted that one letter of objection had been received from a nearby resident.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the variation, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the addition of condition 9 set out in the update report.

(iii) 15/00047/FUL – 5 Chichele Street, Higham Ferrers

The Committee considered an application for the sub-division of an existing site to create a new four bedroom detached dwelling.

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection being received from Higham Ferrers Town Council.

Members noted that one letter of objection had been received from a nearby resident.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the amendment to condition 10 set out in the update report.

(iv) 15/00107/FUL - 32 Montague Street, Rushden

The Committee considered an application to convert a single dwelling into four flats.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of a local Ward Member due to an objection received from Rushden Town Council.

Members noted that one letter of objection had been received from a nearby resident.

The Committee **agreed to refuse** the application due to the impact on parking provision in the locality and delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee and the local Ward Member, to prepare the detailed wording of the reason/s for refusal.

(v) 14/01213/FUL – Field West of Cemetery, Wellingborough Road, Irthlingborough

The Committee considered an application to widen an existing access to the field and move the gate further into the field; place drop kerbs and add grey crushed concrete to a hard standing.

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection received from Irthlingborough Town Council, and a local Ward Member had requested that the application be determined by the Committee.

Members noted that work had already been carried out and the application was therefore retrospective.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

(vi) 12/02038/FUL – 19 High Street, Irthlingborough

The Committee considered a report detailing an application for a change of use of the ground floor from A1 (Retail) to A5 (Hot Food Takeaway) use, creation of extraction duct at the rear and installation of an air conditioning unit.

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection received from Irthlingborough Town Council.

The application had been withdrawn from the Committee meeting held on 22 May 2013 due to an objection from ENC Environmental Services and to enable the applicant to submit a noise and odour assessment.

The Committee noted that four letters of objection had been received from nearby residents.

It was proposed by Councillor Bob Nightingale and seconded by Councillor Derek Capp that the application be refused on road safety and parking grounds. On being put to the vote, the proposition was declared lost with 3 Members voting in favour and 7 against.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

422. APPLICATION 14/01704/FUL – FINESHADE WOOD TOP LODGE, FINESHADE

The Head of Planning Services reported that at the meeting held on 18 February 2015 the Committee had resolved to refuse planning permission for seventy holiday cabins at Fineshade on ecological grounds, with the detailed wording being delegated to the Head of Planning Services in conjunction with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Ward Member. The reason had subsequently been circulated for approval.

The Head of Planning Services had reconsidered the advice he had given on the potential planning grounds for refusal and had concluded that it would be appropriate to bring the matter back before the Committee to allow members to reconsider the reasons for the refusal.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused for two reasons as follows:

1. The applicant has failed to demonstrate that the development would not have an adverse impact on biodiversity at the site. In addition, the applicant has also failed to demonstrate that the proposed mitigation area would adequately compensate for any harm caused to biodiversity as a result of the proposed development. As such, the proposal is contrary to policies 5 and 13(o) of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (2008), policy 11 of the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan (2011) and paragraphs 109 and 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. The proposal, as a result of the welcome centre, dispersed lodges, driveways and ancillary features within the wood, together with the activity arising from lodge residents, car parking and vehicle movements, would be detrimental to the character, appearance and tranquillity of the wood contrary to policy 13(o) of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy (2008), paragraphs 17 and 64 of the National Planning Policy Framework and policy 3 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Pre Submission Plan (January 2015)

Chairman

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 16 March 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Colin Wright (Chairman)
Peter Wathen (Vice-Chairman)
Sylvia Hobbs Alex Smith
Barbara Jenney Robin Underwood
David Read

External attendees:

Rachel Ashley-Caunt (LGSS)
John Gorrie (KPMG, External Auditors)
Yola Geen (KPMG, External Auditors)
Nicola Scott (Welland Internal Audit Consortium)

423. MINUTES

Minute 358 - It was noted that Nicola Scott had not presented a report on the audit planning process, but had given an update on the Audit Consortium's progress and performance on the 2014/15 plan and requested suggestions for items for inclusion in the 2015/16 plan.

Subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

424. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

425. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

426. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

427. EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

The Council's External Auditors (KPMG) presented the External Audit Plan for 2015/16 for the Committee's information.

RESOLVED:

That the External Audit Plan be noted.

428. WELLAND INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM – INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN & PERFORMANCE UPDATE 2014/15

Nicola Scott (WIAC) presented a report setting out the progress made by the Consortium on the delivery of the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2014/15 and associated measures of performance. It was noted that eleven final reports had now been issued. Of the two assignments shown in the report as being in draft, one had now been issued as a final version and one draft report now remained. Of the five reports shown as being in progress, two had now been issued as draft reports. The risk management audit would commence towards the end of March 2015.

It was confirmed that the audit on fixed assets would examine the accuracy of the Council's Asset Register and any audit of the maintenance carried out on the Council's fixed assets would need to be included separately in the Audit Plan.

Proposed changes to the plan requested by the Council's Management Team and agreed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee in line with the delegated responsibilities agreed in March 2014 were outlined and the Committee was requested to formally approve these changes.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the proposed changes to the 2014/15 Internal Audit Plan be approved.
- ii) 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).

429. WELLAND INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM – INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

The draft Internal Audit Plan 2015/16 was presented to the Committee for formal approval in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

With reference to the Council's Whistleblowing Policy, the Committee was informed that the forthcoming staff survey would include questions to assess staff opinion on the effectiveness of the policy.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Plan for 2015/16 be approved.

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

430. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Chief Finance Officer provided a verbal update on the implementation of the Risk Management Strategy. Information would be entered onto the risk management system by the end of March 2015 and outputs from the system would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

Chairman

JOINT STANDARDS COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Date: 18 March 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 6.30pm

Present: East Northamptonshire Councillors:

Pauline Bradberry
David Jenney

Bob Nightingale

Town and Parish Councillors:

Fiona Cowan	(Collyweston Parish Council)
John Greig	(Titchmarsh Parish Council)
Derek Lawson	(Higham Ferrers Town Council)
Arthur Whittaker	(Yarwell Parish Council)

Vivienne Barnard	Independent Person
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431. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, nominations for the election of a Chairman to preside at the meeting were requested. Councillor David Jenney was proposed and duly seconded and, being the only nominee, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor David Jenney be elected as Chairman to preside at this meeting of the Committee.

432. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Complaints Committee held on 19 November 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman presiding at the meeting.

433. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Hobbs (ENC), Colin Wright (ENC) Mike Clements (Raunds Town Council) and David Coleman (Rushden Town Council).

434. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

435. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

436. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no requests for dispensations had been received.

437. ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report outlining activity in relation to the Standards Framework in the period from the last meeting of the Committee in November 2014 to date.

The Monitoring Officer reported that there were 22 outstanding register of interest forms for Town and Parish Councillors. Reminders would be issued to Parish Clerks regarding the need for Councillors elected in May 2015 to complete registers within 28 days of being elected to office.

No new complaints had been received since the last meeting of the Committee. The Monitoring Officer had received 7 enquiries relating to standards issues and 1 request for information about the complaints process.

The Governance and Audit Committee, at its meeting held on 2 February 2015, had considered comments made by a Councillor involved in recent complaints on the procedure for considering complaints made against Councillors contained in Part 9 of the Constitution. The Governance and Audit Committee had not recommended any changes to the existing procedure as it was considered that changes already made to Part 9 of the Constitution adequately covered the issues raised by the Councillor concerned.

Fourteen Town and Parish Councils had, to date, adopted the revised 2014 Code of Conduct. Three Town and Parish Councils had adopted the NALC Code of Conduct and the remaining Councils were operating under the ENC Code in place prior to the 2014 revisions being made.

A programme of induction sessions would be held for both District and Parish Councillors elected at the May 2015 elections. These would include training on standards issues and all District Councillors would be provided with a printed copy of the Council's Constitution. Town and Parish Council Clerks would be responsible for issuing a copy of the relevant Code of Conduct to their Council Members.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Andy Mercer, having been delayed, arrived at the meeting at the conclusion of the business set out on the Agenda)

438. CHAIRMAN'S THANKS

As this was the last meeting of the Committee during the term of the current Council and noting that some Committee members would not be seeking re-election at the forthcoming local elections in May 2015, the Chairman thanked District Councillors, Town and Parish Council representatives, as well as Officers, for their work on the Committee.

Councillor John Greig confirmed that he would not be standing as a candidate in May's elections and thanked both elected Members and Officers for the support they had given to him over the many years he had served on Titchmarsh Parish Council.

Chairman

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 23 March 2015

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	Dudley Hughes JP
David Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
Wendy Brackenbury	Rupert Reichhold
Roger Glithero JP	

439. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 16 February 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

440. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Farrar, Marika Hillson, Sue Homer and Jeremy Taylor.

441. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor/ Officer	Agenda item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Andy Mercer	8 – Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and Health and Safety Plans 2015-16	Holds position as an Assistant Cabinet Member at Northamptonshire County Council with responsibility for Trading Standards		Yes

442. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

It was reported that no questions had been received.

443. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

(a) Personnel Sub-Committee – 9 March 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2015 were received (see pages 454 to 457).

444. REVISED PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANTS POLICY

The Environmental Protection Manager submitted a report which sought consideration of revisions to the Private Sector Housing Grants Policy to reflect current working practices.

It was reported that every local authority is bound by a statutory requirement to detail the housing-related grants on offer to residents and review the document regularly to ensure that it reflects what is actually offered by the council. Following the committee's decision to bring the Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) service in house in June 2014 (minute 34 refers), a number of changes to the service offer had consequently necessitated a review of the policy.

In addition to the essential changes, the opportunity was taken to review the document in its totality to ensure that all information was accurate. As a result of the review, three main changes had been made to the document. The first change was to remove all reference to the former Care and Repair service and to update the DFG section to reflect how the service was being provided. The second change was to clarify that the council would not purchase extended warranties for equipment as part of a grant application. The final change was to include a section on the DFG waiting list.

Having considered the revisions to the policy and the prioritisation of DFG referrals, the committee was satisfied with the amendments subject to a number of typographical corrections.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the typographical corrections identified being made, the amended Private Sector Housing Grants Policy be approved.

(Reason – to ensure the council's policy reflects recent changes and is consistent with previous decisions.)

445. MODEL CONDITIONS FOR PET SHOPS, CAT BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS AND DOG BREEDING

The Health Protection Manager submitted a report introducing new conditions to accompany Pet Shops, Cat Boarding Establishments and Dog Breeding licences, which had been developed by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in consultation with the trade, vets and animal welfare organisations.

It was reported that the introduction of the revised conditions could have implications for the five licensed pet shops and eight animal boarding establishments currently in operation within the district. Members noted that there were no licensed dog breeders currently in the district. A consultation exercise had been undertaken and the responses received were generally supportive of the new conditions and had suggested a transition period of two to five years to allow the businesses to work towards meeting the new conditions.

RESOLVED:

That the new model conditions be adopted immediately for new businesses, and a transition period of three years before existing businesses need to comply.

(Reason – to ensure that council complies with its legal obligation in respect of licensing and animal welfare.)

446. FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN AND HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICE PLANS 2015/16

The Health Protection Manager submitted a report introducing the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and a Health and Safety Service Plan, which were both statutorily required by the Food Standards Agency and the Health and Safety Commission respectively.

It was reported that Section 18 of the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998 placed a duty on the council to monitor and enforce the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 on premises identified within the same regulations.

The committee noted that the Food Safety Service would face a challenging year in improving food safety and dealing with a number of new and growing businesses. The health and safety service would be focused on risk-based projects including workplace transport, workplace violence and slips, trips and falls.

R.20 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That, subject to typographical corrections being made as identified by the committee, the Food Safety and the Health & Safety Service Plan 2015-16 be approved.

(Reason – to ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligations in respect of food safety and health and safety.)

447. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANTS 2015-16 AND 2016-17

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager submitted a report advising the committee of the progress on the application process for the Homelessness Prevention Grant for 2015-16 and 2016-17 and which also sought the approval of recommendations from the Voluntary Sector (Homelessness Prevention) Grants Member Panel.

Funding bids for the 2014-15 financial year had been agreed by the committee on 8 December 2014 (minute 281 refers) following recommendations from the Panel. The committee had agreed with the panel's wish to defer the decision on the level of funding for applicants in subsequent years as it was as yet unknown how much would be required and what priority it would be given by an incoming council. However funding bids for 2015/16 and 2016/17 had been invited in order to obtain information about the level of funding that might be required and to provide certainty around the funding available to the voluntary organisations before the end of the financial year.

The report detailed an outline of the evaluation process that the Grants Panel had followed in making its recommendations. The committee noted that a number of internal demands on the fund, amounting to £11,000 for the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol, Housing research and consultancy work and mediation work, which had left remaining funds of 363,720 in total.

As the Grants Panel had met on the same day that the committee meeting had been scheduled it was necessary to table the recommendations for the award of grants in 2015-16 and 2016-17, which were:

Organisation	Proposal	Grant recommended
East Northants Faith Group	To continue to operate the four bedded direct access emergency Night Shelter hostel facility at the Full Gospel Church	£10,000
East Northants Faith Group Homelessness Support Work	– To provide support and advice for those in the night shelter, those moving on to settled accommodation and those needing help to maintain tenancies and prevent homelessness and repeat homelessness	£10,000
East Northants Faith Group	To help assist with running costs of accommodation and support at the Recovery House, for six people wishing to move on from the cycle of addiction, unsettled lifestyles and homelessness	£10,000
Midland Heart – High Street South	To provide support for single people in temporary accommodation at 50 High Street South to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness	Up to £16,860
Midland Heart Shoemaker Court	– To provide support for families in temporary accommodation at Shoemaker Court to foster independence and prevent repeat homelessness.	Up to £16,860

It was clarified that any indicative awards for 2016/17 would be confirmed via the budget setting process for that year.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the evaluation process undertaken by the Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel be endorsed.
- (ii) That the award of the Homeless Prevention Grant for 2015-16 and indicative award for 2016-17 be approved.
- (iii) That any underspend be carried forward to the following financial year.

(Reason – to enable the efficient and effective discharge of the council’s budget to prevent and reduce homelessness.)

448. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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.

449. HOUSING OPTIONS CONTRACT EXTENSION

The committee gave consideration to a report from the Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager which sought a three-year extension to the existing Housing Options Contract.

The report outlined and assessed the options available to the committee and each were considered accordingly. Having regard to the probable post-election financial situation, the committee indicated that it would welcome the opportunity to review choice based lettings after May 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the housing contract with Midland Heart be extended for a further three years in principle, subject to agreement of final terms and conditions and a review prior to the end of the second year taking customer satisfaction in account.

(Reason – to enable certainty for the continued delivery of the service in the most cost-effective way.)

450. PAYROLL PROVISION

The committee gave consideration to a report from the Human Resources Manager which proposed the conversion of the payroll service delivery contract to a shared service agreement.

In considering the report, the committee noted the performance of the contract with Corby Borough Council since 2011 and the levels of assurance provided from each annual audit of the service.

RESOLVED:

That a shared service for the delivery of the payroll function with Corby Borough Council be established from 1 July 2015.

(Reason – to enable the efficient and effective delivery of an ongoing payroll service.)

Chairman



East
Northamptonshire
Council

Personnel Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 9 March 2015 at 10.30am, 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
Katy Everitt Head of Resources and Organisational Development
Aime Armstrong Human Resources Manager
Paul Smith Senior Democratic Services Officer

1.0 MINUTES

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 No apologies for absence had been received.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared in the items listed below:

3.1	Officer	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
	Katy Everitt	Options for S151 Officer Support	Member of staff affected.	Yes	
	Paul Smith	Options for S151 Officer Support	Member of staff indirectly affected.		Yes.

4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3

5.0 WORKFORCE STATISTICS

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee reviewed data concerning staff sickness, turnover and the number of staff employed.

6.0 VACANT POSTS UPDATE

- 6.1 The Sub-Committee received a report on posts currently vacant within the Council and progress made in recruiting to vacancies to be filled.

7.0 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 paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

8.0 AGENDA ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 8.1 With the consent of the Sub-Committee, the Chairman varied the order of business on the published Agenda.

9.0 FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT REQUEST

- 9.1 The Head of Resources and Organisational Development presented a report on a request received from the Council's Amenities Manager seeking flexible retirement under the Council's Pensions Discretion Policy and Procedure.
- 9.2 The proposals for the flexible retirement arrangement were outlined, together with the proposed transfer of some of the Amenities Manager's existing tasks to the Amenities Supervisor which would be required as part of the arrangement.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the Amenities Manager's flexible retirement request and associated changes to the Amenities Supervisor role be approved in principle
- ii) the final decision be delegated to the Council's S151 Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee, subject to the proposed change being delivered within existing budget

(Reason: To retain knowledge and skills and provide time to review the longer term future provision of amenities services)

10.0 PRINT REVIEW PROJECT

- 10.1 The Human Resources Manager informed the Sub-Committee that a project to review printing services across the Council had recently commenced and would be overseen by her. While this project was at an early stage, authority to consult with affected staff was being sought now to avoid any unnecessary delays in the project as the next meeting of the Sub-Committee would not be held until June 2015.
- 10.2 It was confirmed that all aspects of printing services within the Council would be considered as part of the project and any changes to service provision would need to be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED:

That consultation with affected employees may be commenced when an appropriate point has been reached in the project.

(Reason – To ensure council policies and employment law have been adhered to.)

11.0 OPTIONS FOR S151 OFFICER SUPPORT

- 11.1 It was reported that the Scrutiny Committee had called-in the decision made by the Sub-Committee on the above matter made at the meeting held on 9 February 2015. The Scrutiny Committee had met to consider the call-in and review the decision on 2 March 2015 and a copy of the resolution made by the Committee was circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee.
- 11.2 The Chief Executive informed the Sub-Committee that since the decision had been made, it had become known that the Head of Customer & Community Services was likely to be seconded to a neighbouring Council. Arrangements for covering the post during the period of any secondment would be considered at a special meeting of the Sub-Committee to be convened to take place on 23 March 2015.
- 11.3 The Sub-Committee considered that, although it did not share the Scrutiny Committee's concerns and noted that the proposal had been supported by the Executive Director/Monitoring Officer, in view of the implications of the likely secondment for the Council's management team and that any review of the Council's structure should be considered by the new Council following the May 2015 Elections, consideration of the matter should be deferred.
- 11.4 With reference to Resolution (ii) made by the Scrutiny Committee, Members of the Sub-Committee expressed concern at the Scrutiny Committee's request to be consulted on decisions as this was not in accordance with the line of reporting for the Sub-Committee and suitable call-in procedures were contained in the Constitution.

RESOLVED: That

- i. whilst the Personnel Sub-Committee does not share the concerns expressed by the Scrutiny Committee on the decision made by the Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 9 February 2015, in recognition of the likely secondment of the Head of Customer & Community Services to a neighbouring council, which has arisen since that time, no further action be taken on the matter for a period

of at least one year.

- ii. as a call-in procedure exists, the Personnel Sub-Committee does not believe that it is appropriate for the Scrutiny Committee to be consulted on decisions taken by the Sub-Committee.

Chairman

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 25 March 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- **Philip Stearn (Chairman)**
Sarah Peacock (Vice Chairman)
Tony Boto David Jenney
Derek Capp Jake Vowles
Richard Gell Clive Wood
Sylvia Hughes

451. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 12 January 2015 and 2 March 2015 were approved.

452. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Northall.

453. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was noted:

The following interest was declared in the Agenda item specified below:

Officer	Agenda item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Sharn Matthews (SM)	Update from Members regarding recent Call-in	An Officer directly affected by the proposals		Yes

454. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

455. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS RE CALL-IN

The Chairman invited verbal reports from the individual members nominated to monitor the decisions of the council's policy committees and sub-committees.

It was noted that no items considered by the Policy and Resources Committee, the Finance sub-committee or the Planning Policy Committee required review by the Scrutiny Committee.

SM left the room whilst an update was provided on the recent call-in from the Personnel Sub-Committee.

The Chairman noted his, and the Committee's, disquiet over what was considered to be an unsatisfactory decision by the Personnel Sub Committee at the meeting on 9 February 2015 regarding the options relating to the provision of S.151 Officer Support.

Events had since moved forward significantly and the Personnel Sub Committee, at their meeting on 9 March 2015, had decided to take no further action for a period of at least one year. The Scrutiny Committee would then consider what, if any, call-in action should be taken at that time.

456. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3 2014-15

The Executive Director, on behalf of the Corporate Support Manager, presented a report detailing the performance of the council in respect of agreed indicators and other statistics for the period from April 2014 to December 2014, which had been monitored at Performance Clinic meetings in February 2015.

The committee reviewed the performance report, appended to the covering report, which detailed a summary of performance across the council, where targets were over or under-performing or within tolerance, any achievements across service areas and the draft budget outturn position.

The committee welcomed the report and noted particularly:

- 99.8% of invoice payments had been paid within 30 days
- A slight decrease in the overall sickness trend
- Over-performance of measures relating to housing benefit within Customer and community Services

The committee noted that the External Funding Officer had been very successful in finalising bids for external funding agencies as well as accessing external funding for East Northamptonshire Council.

The committee noted that following changes in processes a positive impact on the work of the Land Charges section had been sustained.

The committee discussed various under-performing measures which had been noted in the Performance Highlights report and requested that discussions on the targets set for the Planning Service, particularly round call In to Development Control Committee be included on the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

457. BUDGET 2015/16

The Interim Finance Manager (IFM) and the newly appointed Finance Manager attended to update the Committee on the Medium Term Financial Strategy forecast and figures for 2015/16.

The IFM provided an overview and recapped the position following the 2014/15 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

In preparing the projected MTFS for 2015/16, various assumptions had been made in respect of the revenue budget, council tax, government funding, the capital programme and reserves. Work on budget monitoring had resulted in cost savings and efficiencies being delivered and planning income was increasing, largely due to the steady recovery of the economy.

As a result of the aforementioned, the Council were now able to remove a funding gap in earlier calculations and would now allow funds to be made available for financing the future Capital Programme, corporate objectives and political priorities, which would also allow the Council to move from an MTFS to an Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The IFM noted that the current budget showed a projected underspend, which showed that the Council was managing within the available resource, and that this would result in a contribution to revenue reserves at the end of the financial year.

There were risks to be taken into account but further work was on-going to try to mitigate those risks i.e. work around:

- Funding
- Waste
- Capital Programme

It was noted that details of the budgets for each service area should be included in the discussion of Service Plans which would take place as part of the work-plan for the next financial year.

The Chairman noted his thanks on behalf of the Committee to the FM and IFM for their attendance and update.

Chairman

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Date: 1 April 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors:	Pauline Bradberry JP	Chairman
	Barbara Jenney	Vice-Chairman
	Derek Capp	David Read
	Roger Glithero JP	Alex Smith
	Marika Hillson	Robin Underwood
	Dudley Hughes JP	Peter Wathen
	Bob Nightingale	Pam Whiting
	Ron Pinnock	

458. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

459. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Northall, Anna Sauntson and Phil Stearn.

460. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

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

(a) Declarations Of Interest

There were no declarations of interest noted.

(b) Informal Site Visits

Councillor Dudley Hughes indicated that he had visited the village of Sudborough many times. (15/00185/FUL).

Councillor Robin Underwood advised that he had paid two site visits to Keats Way, Rushden. (15/00151/VAR)

Councillor Ron Pinnock advised that he had driven by the site at Keats Way, Rushden. (15/00151/VAR).

Councillor Barbara Jenney advised that she had visited the site at Keats Way, Rushden. (15/00151/VAR)

461. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions had been received.

462. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Head of Planning Services submitted an update 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.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

463. 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/10/00857/OUT The Head of Planning Services confirmed that discussions were still ongoing.

EN/14/01704/FUL The decision had been issued

EN15/00107/FUL The reason for refusal had been circulated

464. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- i) **Councillor Mrs Sally Wilks** - 14/02372/OUT - Land off Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock (On behalf of Brigstock Parish Council)
- ii) **Mr Ian Simpson** - 14/02372/OUT - Land off Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock (Objector)
- iii) **Councillor P Stephens** – 15/00185/FUL – 29 Main Street, Sudborough (On behalf of Sudborough Parish Council)

465. 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) 14/02372/OUT – Land Off Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock

The Committee considered an outline application for the demolition of a buried reservoir and the erection of one hundred and ten residential dwellings, all matters reserved (except for access and demolition of buried reservoir).

The application had been brought before the Committee as the site exceeded that which could be determined by the Head of Planning Services under the current Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that Brigstock Parish Council had objected.

The Committee **agreed to refuse** the application, for the reasons detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(ii) 15/00198/FUL – Garages adjacent 54 Springfield Road, Oundle

The Committee considered an application for the demolition of an existing block of 11 garages and the erection of one two bedroomed bungalow.

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection being received from Oundle Town Council.

Members noted that three letters of objection had been received from nearby residents.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(iii) 15/00151/VAR – Land to the North and 41 Keats Way, Rushden

The Committee considered an application to vary condition 15.

The application had been brought before the Committee as it proposed a variation to a major planning application.

The Committee expressed their concerns over various issues with the properties as built. The Committee were also concerned that the development had not complied with the original planning application.

The Committee recommended that the matter be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for further investigation and discussion.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the variation, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(iv) 14/01984/VAR – Rushden Hospital, The Drive, Rushden

The Committee considered an application to vary condition 2 to remove tree T154.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the variation, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(v) 14/02213/REM – Rushden Hospital, The Drive, Rushden

The Committee considered the report detailing the application for reserved matters (appearance, layout, scale and access to part of the land covered by outline approval only; namely 17 plots 10-20 and 117-122 pursuant to application 10/01017/OUT.

The application was brought before the committee as it is for a major development

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

(vi) 15/00185/FUL – 29 Main Street, Sudborough

The Committee considered a report detailing an application for a first floor extension.

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection received from Sudborough Parish Council and also because the applicant was an employee of East Northamptonshire Council.

The Committee noted that two letters of objection had been received from nearby residents.

The Committee **agreed to defer** the application for a site visit to the held.

(vii) 15/00255/LBC – Ashley Farm, Main Street, Upper Benefield

The Committee considered a report detailing an application for listed building consent to convert and extend a former milking parlour to a single story dwelling and the demolition of a barn.

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection being received from Benefield Parish Council.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the listed building consent, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

(viii) 15/00274/FUL - Ashley Farm, Main Street, Upper Benefield

The Committee considered a report detailing an application for the conversation and extension of a former existing milking parlour to a single storey dwelling and the demolition of a barn.

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection being received from Benefield Parish Council.

Members noted that one letter of objection had been received from a nearby resident.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

(ix) 15/00157/AFH – Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene

The application had been withdrawn by the Applicant so that further information could be prepared.

466. TREE PRESERVATION ORDER – PLAYING FIELD, LOWER STREET, GREAT ADDINGTON

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Tree and Landscape Officer regarding the removal of T1 (Ash) due to its declining structural condition.

The application had been brought before the Committee as it related to a preserved tree owned and managed by an occasional employee of East Northamptonshire Council.

RESOLVED:

That consent for the works be granted, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

Chairman

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 8 April 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Gill Mercer (Chairman of the Council)
Marika Hillson (Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Peter Baden
Wendy Brackenbury
Derek Capp
John Farrar
Richard Gell
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Sylvia Hobbs
Sue Homer
Barbara Jenney
David Jenney
Richard Lewis
Andy Mercer

Bob Nightingale
Sarah Peacock
Ron Pinnock
David Read
Rupert Reichhold
Alex Smith
Phillip Stearn
Robin Underwood
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting
Clive Wood
Colin Wright

467. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Boto, David Brackenbury, Pauline Bradberry, Roger Glithero JP, Marian Hollomon, Dudley Hughes JP, Sylvia Hughes, Steven North, Brian Northall, Anna Sauntson and Jake Vowles. .

468. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

469. CONFIRMATION OF REVISIONS TO DESIGNATED CHELVESTON-CUM-CALDECOTT NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

A report was submitted which sought approval to confirm revisions to the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Area following a statutory consultation process which had taken place over a period from December 2014 to February 2015.

The consultation period had invited comments as to whether there was any reason why the council should not make revisions to the designated Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Area. Members noted that responses were received from Anglian Water and Stanwick Parish Council, confirming that they had no comment to make, and a further response was received from Natural England detailing generic guidance on a range of

environmental issues that the emerging neighbourhood plan should consider. There were no objections to the proposed revision to the designated neighbourhood area. .

RESOLVED:

That the designation of a revised Neighbourhood Area for Chelveston-cum-Caldecott, aligned to the revised Chelveston-cum-Caldecott parish area that came into effect on 15 October 2014, be approved.

(Reason – to align the emerging Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan area with the recently revised Parish boundary.)

470. AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION – DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS

Consideration was given to a report which sought authorisation of the delegation to the Head of Planning Services to confirm the designation of neighbourhood areas, for the purposes of preparing neighbourhood development plans.

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 had been amended by further regulations in 2015 to simplify the process for designating neighbourhood areas. The new regulations had introduced statutory deadlines within which local planning authorities must complete the process for designating neighbourhood areas.

In order to comply with the provisions of the regulations, it was proposed that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee (or Vice-Chairman in their absence) to designate a neighbourhood area for the purpose of neighbourhood planning, where an application had been received by a town or parish or designated neighbourhood forum.

RESOLVED:

That authority to designate statutory Neighbourhood Areas be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman (or Vice Chairman, in their absence) of the Planning Policy Committee and ward councillors for the proposed area, and the Scheme of Delegation be amended accordingly.

(Reason – to streamline the process for designating neighbourhood areas in accordance with the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended.)

471. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION – PROCUREMENT RULES

Consideration was given to a report which sought to make changes to the procurement rules detailed within the council's constitution, following the amendment to the European Procurement Directive, which had been incorporated into English law through the Contracts Regulations 2015.

The report detailed the key changes which had been made and the required amendments that would need to be made to the constitution of the council. Members noted that the most significant change would be to raise the advertising threshold for tenders to £50,000 from £20,000.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to the Part 4.6 (Contract Procedure Rules) of the Constitution be approved.

472. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MEMBERS

The Chairman of the Council paid tribute to those councillors who would not be seeking re-election on 7 May 2015 and wished them well for the future. She invited the council to pay specific tribute to the 35 years of service given by Councillor Clive Wood, who had also served twice as Chairman of the Council in 1984-85 and 2012-13.

Councillors also took the opportunity to pay tribute to the officers of the council whose hard work during the four year period since the previous municipal election was also recognised.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Councillors Pauline Bradberry JP, Derek Capp, Sue Homer, Eloise Lucille, Brian Northall, Jeremy Taylor and Clive Wood be thanked for their service as councillors in East Northamptonshire.
2. That the thanks of the Council be conveyed to all staff at East Northamptonshire for their hard work.

Chairman

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

Date: 20 April 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Pauline Bradberry JP Chairman
Barbara Jenney Vice-Chairman
Derek Capp Anna Sauntson
Marika Hillson Phillip Stearn
Dudley Hughes JP Robin Underwood
Bob Nightingale Peter Wathen
Ron Pinnock Pam Whiting
David Read

473. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

474. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Glithero, Brian Northall, and Alex Smith.

475. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations Of Interest

There were no declarations of interest noted.

(b) Informal Site Visits

Councillor Dudley Hughes indicated that he had visited the village of Sudborough many times. (15/00185/FUL)

Councillor Robin Underwood advised that he had visited the village of Sudborough. (15/00185/FUL). He had also visited the site relating to 15/00393/VAR.

Councillor Barbara Jenney advised that she had undertaken an unofficial site visit to Chapel Lane, Denford. (15/00353/OUT).

Councillor Ron Pinnock advised that he had driven by the site relating to 15/00185/VAR.

476. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

It was noted that no questions had been received.

477. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Head of Planning Services submitted an update 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 of time in respect of application EN/12/01957/OUT Midland Road, Thrapston until the end 30 June 2015.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the extension in respect of application EN/12/01957/OUT Midland Road, Thrapston be approved.

478. 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.

It was noted that a sink hole had recently appeared on the Irthlingborough West site. The Head of Planning Services confirmed that appropriate investigations would be undertaken before the final sign off for work to commence.

EN/10/00857/OUT The Head of Planning Services confirmed that discussions were still ongoing.

479. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- i) **Jason Pocock** – 15/00185/FUL – 29 Main Street, Sudborough, NN14 3BX (Objector)
- ii) **Cllr. Peter Stephens** – 15/00185/FUL – 20 Main Street, Sudborough, NN14 3BX (on behalf of the Parish Council)
- iii) **Mike Sibthorp** - 14/01973, 14/01974, 14/01975, 14/01978, 14/01979 – Chapel Farm Buildings, The Green, Ashton (Agent for the Applicant)
- iv) **Robert Woolston** – 14/01854/FUL – Enterprise Road, Raunds (Agent for the Applicant)
- v) **Robert Woolston** – 14/00682/FUL – Queen Street, Raunds (Agent for the Applicant)
- vi) **Val Coleby** - 15/00353/OUT - Hill House, Chapel Lane, Denford (Agent for the Applicant)
- vii) **Mr Glyn Harry** - 15/00353/OUT - Hill House, Chapel Lane, Denford (Objector)

- viii) **Councillor Tony Baines** - 15/00353/OUT - Hill House, Chapel Lane, Denford (Speaking on behalf of Denford Parish Council)

480. 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) 15/00185/FUL – 29 Main Street, Sudborough

This application had been considered by the committee at its meeting on 1 April 2015, where members deferred the matter to attend a site visit.

The committee considered a report detailing an application for a first floor extension.

The application had been brought before the committee due to an objection received from Sudborough Parish Council and also because the applicant was an employee of East Northamptonshire Council.

The Head of Planning Services, in response to a comment from one of the public speakers, confirmed that the officer's recommendation was made on the basis of a fair and impartial assessment of the scheme, and had involved negotiation following earlier unacceptable proposals.

The committee noted that two letters of objection had been received from nearby residents.

The committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(ii) 14/01973/FUL; 14/01974/FUL; 14/01975/FUL; 14/01978/FUL; 14/01979/FUL – Chapel Farm Buildings, The Green, Ashton

The committee considered the five applications detailing:-

- 14/01973/FUL - change of use of outbuildings (previously approved for unit 1) to one dwelling
- 14/01974/FUL - change of use of barns (units 2 and 3) into three dwellings;
- 14/01975/FUL - change of use of barn (unit 6) into three dwellings (flats);
- 14/01978/FUL - change of use of land from agricultural into six equestrian paddocks and to construct a field shelter for each paddock
- 14/01979/FUL – extension of parking area and erection of barns and garages to serve the dwellings.

The applications had been brought before the committee, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, as they proposed more than one residential unit within a Restricted Infill Village.

The committee **agreed to grant** the applications, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(iii) 15/00241/VAR- Herne Lodge and Land, Ashton Road, Oundle

The committee considered an application to vary condition 27, revised details of site layout pursuant to planning permission 12/01614/FUL

The application had been brought before the committee as it proposed a variation of a major planning application.

The committee **agreed to grant** the variation, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report, the update report and S.106 negotiations.

(iv) 14/01854/FUL – Avenue Agricultural, Enterprise Road, Raunds

The committee considered a report detailing an unused brownfield site being redeveloped for 29 dwellings. The application had previously been approved by the committee on 17 December 2014 on the understanding that all 29 houses would be affordable units. However, when negotiating the conditions of the S.106 agreement the applicant had requested that only 12 units on the site be affordable.

It was confirmed that all units would be offered as affordable units, but more flexibility was required with the wording of the S.106 agreement to enable Spire Homes (who would eventually own and manage the site), to have the security charging that is sought for completed development, so that capital could be released to fund other affordable home developments. Spire Homes had submitted a "Letter of Intent" dated 13 March 2015 to confirm that their Board had agreed to seek funding for the proposed development on the basis as set out in the officer's report.

The committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the completion of a S.106 legal agreement, other conditions/informatives as detailed in the officer's report and the update sheet.

(v) 14/00683/FUL – Grensons Shoes Ltd, Queen Street, Rushden

The committee considered a report detailing the erection of 47 dwellings with associated access road including demolition of extensions and sheds to the rear of listed building. The application had previously been approved by the committee on 17 December 2014 on the understanding that all 47 houses would be affordable units. However, when negotiating the conditions of the S.106 agreement the applicant had requested that only 27 units on the site were affordable.

It was confirmed that all units would be offered as affordable units, but more flexibility was required with the wording of the S.106 agreement to enable Spire Homes (who would eventually own and manage the site) to have the security charging that is sought for completed development, so that capital could be released to fund other affordable home developments. Spire Homes had submitted a "Letter of Intent" dated 13 March 2015 to confirm that their Board had agreed to seek funding for the proposed development on the basis as set out in the officer's report.

The committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the completion of a S.106 legal agreement, other conditions/informatives as detailed in the officer's report and the update sheet.

(vi) 15/00353/OUT – Hill House, Chapel Lane, Denford

The committee considered a report detailing an outline application for five residential dwellings and garages, with access from Pegs Lane.

The application had been brought before the committee due to an objection received from Denford Parish.

The committee **agreed to refuse** the application for the reason of overdevelopment of the site and delegated authority to the Head of Planning Services to determine the wording of the decision notice, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and ward member.

(vii) 15/00560/FUL – 10 Market Road, Thrapston

The committee considered a report detailing an application for the demolition of an existing kitchen, bathroom and external store, the erection of a ground floor extension to provide accessible bedroom and shower room; extension of the existing dining room and formation of a new downstairs family bathroom.

The application had been brought before the committee because the applicant is employed by East Northamptonshire Council.

The committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(viii) 14/01751/FUL – The Benefield Wheatsheaf, Main Street, Upper Benefield

The committee considered a report detailing an application for the conversion and change of use of The Wheatsheaf Coaching Inn to provide six residential units and two detached new build dwellings.

The application had been brought before the committee due to the number of dwellings proposed.

Members noted that three letters of objection had been received from nearby residents.

The committee **agreed to refuse** the application on the grounds that the proposal was out of character with the village, that the new housing outside the village boundary was not considered to be justified and that there was inadequate justification for loss of the business. The committee delegated authority to the Head of Planning Services to determine the wording of the decision notice in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and ward member.

(ix) 15/00417/FUL – Garage Block, adjacent 76 St Peters Road, Oundle

The committee considered a report detailing an application for the demolition of existing garages and the construction of two affordable two bedroom bungalows with associated parking.

The application had been brought before the committee due to an objection from Oundle Town Council.

Members noted that one letter of objection had been received from a nearby resident.

The committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the update report.

(x) 15/00393/VAR – Garages rear of 15 St Marys Avenue, Rushden

The committee considered an application to remove condition 15 on application 13/01572/FUL which required the land between Brooke Close and the application site to be surfaced to the same specification as the site (highway improvement).

The application had been brought before the Committee due to an objection from Rushden Town Council.

The Committee **agreed to refuse** the variation, as resurfacing of the access would be required to make the scheme acceptable in highway terms and delegated authority to the Head of Planning Services to determine the wording of the decision notice, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and ward member.

481. VOTE OF THANKS

As it was the final meeting before the municipal elections on 7 May 2015, the Chairman, Councillor Pauline Bradberry JP, thanked all members of the committee and those other members of the council who had served on the Development Control Committee since May 2011.

Members of the committee also thanked Councillor Bradberry for her work as Chairman of the Development Control Committee and, as she would not be seeking re-election on 7 May 2015, wished her a long and happy retirement.

Chairman