

# COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** 18 July 2016

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

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors:-

Rupert Reichhold	(Chairman of the Council)
Colin Wright	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)
Glenn Harwood MBE	(Deputy Leader of the Council)

Rosalie Beattie	David Jenney
Tony Boto	Richard Lewis
David Brackenbury	Dorothy Maxwell
Wendy Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
Val Carter	Gill Mercer
John Farrar	Sarah Peacock
Richard Gell	Janet Pinnock
Roger Glithero JP	Ron Pinnock
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Roger Powell
Helen Harrison	Valerie Raven-Hill
Helen Howell	Phillip Stearn
Barbara Jenney	Pam Whiting

## **102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marika Hillson, Marian Hollomon, Anna Sauntson, Geoff Shacklock and Robin Underwood.

## **103. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2016 and the Extraordinary Council meeting also held on 18 May 2016 were agreed as true and correct records of the proceedings.

## **104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

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

The Chairman made the following address to the meeting:

On 25th May I was Anglian Water's guest at the opening by HRH Prince Philip of the Diddington Reservoir Resilience Scheme at Grafham. Prince Philip noticed my chain and asked where East Northamptonshire was. As a former naval officer he was interested in establishing his bearings!

On 25th May and 1st June, accompanied by our Leader and Ward Cllr colleagues I presented Community Funding awards to -

Brigstock W.I. to install new toilets and water supply connections

Transition Kingscliffe for replacement of current minibus

Oundle Town Rowing Club for Clubhouse development

Oundle Tennis Club for modernisation of Clubhouse

Raunds Manor Learning Trust for changing/catering and restroom facilities for football pitch

Ringstead Parish Council renewal of heating system and replacement of old chairs

Stanwick Community Gardens to establish a community garden

Stanwick Parish Council to install new play equipment

On 8th June I was the guest of Colonel Young Yu, USAF, at Alconbury Royal Air Force Station. Close military cooperation between the American and British Armed Services continues to work very well. American Services personnel and their families have settled in well into our communities.

On 9th June I was the guest of the High Sheriff at her reception at Charlack Farm.

On 21st June I hoisted the Armed Forces Day flag at East Northamptonshire House to signify our Council's support for our Armed Services.

On 30th June I presented awards for Long Service to our Council's officers who have worked for us for many years as marks of our esteem for their commitment and loyalty.

On 2nd July I attended a recital by the St Cecilia Singers at the Baptists Church, Rushden

On 3rd July I was the guest of the Mayor of Northampton at his Charity Curry Dinner in support of his appeal for Guide Dogs for the Blind funding.

On 10th July I attended the Mayor of Kettering's Civic Service.

On 13th July, at a private ceremony in the Chief Executive's Office, I presented our former colleague, Pauline Bradberry with the insignia of her Honorary Alderman award: she had been unable to attend our Annual Meeting.

On 14th July I attended the official opening of the new nature play area at the Oundle Community Pre-School's premises at Fletton House.

On 15th July I presented the awards for the Annual Schools' Business Dragons' Competition.

On 15th July I was the guest of the Mayor of Higham Ferrers's Pate, Cheese & Pud party - in support of the Mayor's charities

On 17th July I attended the Chairman of South Northants Council's Civic Service in Brackley.

The Chief Executive had no announcements to make.

## **106. LEADER'S ADDRESS**

The Leader of the Council made the following announcements.

A lot has happened since the Annual Meeting. We have had the referendum, and a change of Prime Minister and ministerial team. Many people in this room voted differently for various reasons and I'm of course not going to talk about that. What I am going to mention is what it means for us. In the short term not a great deal.

Our limited earmarked reserves are tied up in fixed interest accounts and the issue of EU procurement will take a while to change. A lot of EU directives have been adopted and tied up in our own legislation. Waste is a good example where they may be Europe directives but the recycling targets are wrapped up in our own legislation. The upcoming waste contract is a watching brief, where as the leisure contract is nearly at tender stage and should not be affected.

In relation to the changes in cabinet we have course have a new Secretary of State, Sajid Javid. Whether this and the new cabinet changes the issue around unitary and the mayoral stance, that's anybody's guess at this stage. I do know things are not going to get any easier. We will still lose the Revenue Support Grant, gain limited Business Rates, and will still be capped in relation to the Council Tax threshold.

The revised Core Spatial Strategy was adopted last week. In my view this is a much better part 1 plan than the last one. There are many improved policies and we have managed to space out our housing target and put the case for something much more reasonable. The plan also recognises Deenethorpe village, Rushden SUE and Rushden Lakes.

On a lighter note I visited along with others the recipients of our last Communities Facilities Fund round. The photos are on the latest Encircle. They ranged from supporting Stanwick community garden, to funding for Oundle Tennis Club. Again we have managed to support clubs and councils across the district and all are incredibly well received. So far we have spent £836,335.

We are just about to launch round four with expressions of interest coming back in the autumn.

Apart from those on Planning Management and the Leisure Procurement Working Party, have a good recess.

## **107. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **(a) Planning Management Committee – 1 and 22 June 2016 and 13 July 2016**

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Phillip Stearn, were received.

**(b) Policy and Resources Committee – 6 June and 11 July 2016**

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Richard Lewis, were received.

With regard to the recommendation in Minute 33, Councillor Glenn Harwood referred to correspondence he had obtained which indicated that key decisions referred to in the minute had already been taken and questioned whether ENC re-joining the Partnership was therefore worthwhile. In response, the Chief Executive informed the meeting that these key decisions had not yet been made.

Members commented that re-joining the Partnership would enable ENC to be involved in the determination of the key strategic decisions, but membership should be kept under review and the Policy and Resources Committee asked to re-consider membership if ENC was not involved in making these key decisions and the issue of membership in future years could then be assessed.

As an amendment to the recommendation made by the Policy and Resources Committee, it was proposed by Councillor Andy Mercer and seconded by Councillor Glenn Harwood that recommendations (i) and (ii) be approved and recommendation (iii) be replaced with “consideration of making provision in the budget from 2017/18 onwards be deferred”.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared carried, with 18 Members voting in favour and 5 against.

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations in the following minute be approved as amended:

**33 Northamptonshire Waste Partnership**

- (i) That the Council re-joining the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership be approved;
- (ii) That up to £13,000 from existing reserves for 2016/17 be made available; and
- (iii) Consideration of making provision in the budget from 2017/18 onwards be deferred

*(Reason: To enable the Council to work collaboratively with other councils in the County to provide efficient and effective waste collection and disposal services that meet the needs of its communities.)*

**(c) Scrutiny Committee – 8 June 2016**

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Jake Vowles, was received.

**(d) Licensing Committee – 15 June 2016**

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, was received.

**(e) Governance & Audit Committee – 6 July 2016**

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendation in the following minute be approved:

**81. Future of Internal Audit**

That the transfer of the delegation agreement from Rutland County Council to the Local Government Shared Services (LGSS) for delivery of internal audit services from 2017/18 be approved

*(Reason: To formally approve future internal audit arrangements from 2017/18)*

**(f) Policy & Resources Committee – 11 July 2016**

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:

**a) 86e. Personnel Sub-Committee – 20 June 2016**

- (i) That an additional resource to assist with planning consultations be approved for a fixed-term appointment of two years on a part time basis (18.5 hours per week), with the post to be reviewed after 18 months and to be funded from any income above budget received from planning application fees in 2016/17, or from reserves in the absence of any such surplus, and to be built into the base budget for the appropriate period thereafter.

*(Reason: To ensure that the environmental implications of proposed developments can be adequately assessed during the planning process).*

- (ii) That the establishment of two Business Account Manager posts be approved, one to be based in Environmental Services and one to be based in Planning, the grade of the posts to be determined by job evaluation and the working hours to be 18.5 hours per week per post, to be funded from the Improvement Reserve for 2016/17 only and built into the base budget thereafter.

*(Reason: To ensure the Council has adequate resources in order to support our new and existing businesses).*

**b) 89. Capital Programme 2016-17**

The additional cost of the repairs to the Nene Centre sand filters (up to a maximum of £21,764) to the Approved Capital Programme be approved and the changes shown in the revised Capital Programme be noted.

**c) 90. Planning Data Project**

That inclusion in the Approved Capital Programme of the required budget of £145,830, to be funded from Council's improvement reserve, be approved.

**d) 91. Housing Investment Opportunity**

- (i) That the purchase of the two properties in Duck Street at a sum of up to £20,000 (including the purchase price and purchasing costs) and that this is added to the Approved Capital Programme and funded from the Improvement Reserve be approved; and

*(Reason: Consistency with previous decisions.)*

- (ii) That the refurbishment costs of up to £40,000 be added to the development pool to enable the chosen option be approved.

*(Reason: To enable the Council to maximise the revenue income generation from the purchase.)*

**e) 92. Compulsory Purchase Order**

That Part 7 of the new Housing and Planning Act 2016 be added to the Council's Scheme of Delegation

*(Reason: To accord with legislation or the policy of the Council.)*

**108. OTHER REPORTS**

**(a) From Representatives on Outside Bodies**

There were no reports from the Council's representatives on outside bodies.

**(b) Licensing Panels**

**(i) Liquor and Gambling – 2 and 9 June 2016**

The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing (Liquor and Gambling) Panel held on 2 and 9 June 2016 were received.

**109. MOTIONS**

It was reported that no Notice of Motions had been received under Procedure Rule 11.

**110. QUESTIONS**

It was reported that no questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.2.

**111. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report regarding the reappointment of an Independent and a Reserve Independent Person to advise on standards matters.

The Localism Act 2011 required the Council to appoint at least one Independent Person who must be consulted by the authority before it made a finding as to whether a member had failed to comply with the Code of Conduct and may be consulted at any other stage by the Authority and by District or Parish Councillors against whom a complaint had been made. The Council had previously agreed to also appoint a Reserve Independent Person to act where the Independent Person was unavailable.

The Independent Person and Reserve Independent Person could serve for a maximum of two terms of four years and the current appointees were approaching the end of their first term of office.

**RESOLVED:**

That: the re-appointment of Vivienne Barnard as Independent Person and Andrew Sortwell as Reserve Independent Person for a four year term of office be approved.

*(Reason: To enable the Council to comply with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011)*

**112. RE-APPOINTMENT OF WORKING PARTIES AND PANELS BY COUNCIL FOR 2016/17**

The Council noted the appointment of Councillors Tony Boto, Roger Glithero, Barbara Jenney, Richard Lewis and Steven North to the Waste Project Board for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

**Chairman**

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 25 July 2016

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

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors: David Brackenbury (Chairman)  
Tony Boto (Vice-Chairman)  
Steven North (Leader of the Council)  
Glenn Harwood MBE (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Wendy Brackenbury Sarah Peacock  
Val Carter Jake Vowles  
Sylvia Hobbs Pam Whiting  
David Jenney

## 113. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 114. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marian Hollomon, Sylvia Hughes, Gill Mercer and Roger Powell.

## 115. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 116. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## 117. DISTRICT WIDE LOCAL PLAN – COMMENCEMENT, SCOPE AND TIMESCALE

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager presented a report which considered the scope, timetable and commencement of the District Wide Local Plan Part 2 which had been agreed by Council in April 2016.

The adoption of the replacement Joint Core Strategy (JCS) in July 2016 provided up to date strategic policy guidance for the wider North Northamptonshire area. Whilst the strategic Part 1 Local Plan had now been approved, Local Plan Part 2 coverage was more sporadic, with the Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan and little local policy provision within the south of the District, with only the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan.



Following the adoption of the JCS, it was proposed that the main scope of the District Wide Part 2 Local Plan would be as follows:

- Site specific allocations, including residential and employment uses as required, to ensure overall requirements from the Part 1 Local Plan were properly planned for
- Development management policies to assess the determination of future planning applications
- Retail/local centre definitions/boundaries
- Built and natural environment policies and designations
- Housing mix
- Policies map

The Plan needed to be consistent and in conformity with the JCS, and would provide District Wide policy coverage for East Northamptonshire up to 2031. This would be in conjunction with future Neighbourhood Plans as they progressed towards adoption across the District.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was a requirement to ensure a clear programme for the preparation and timescale for the delivery of key planning documents. A proposed timetable for the Local Plan Part 2 had been set, taking into account the statutory requirements for preparing development plan documents:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Formal Commencement/Consultation on the scope of the Part 2 Local Plan/Call for Sites, including Issues/Options Consultation	August – October 2016
Publication of Draft Plan and Consultation	February – March 2017
Submission of Plan	June 2018
Examination of Plan	Autumn 2018
Receipt of Inspectors Report	Early 2019
Adoption of Plan	Spring 2019

In order to facilitate the Local Plan Part 2 it was proposed that a series of Councillor workshops would be held, open to all interested Members, to inform and debate the key elements of the work and proposals as the Plan progressed. Workshops would be set up, for example, to inform and discuss the evidence base, plan policy content and consultation events.

In response to questions from the Committee, officers confirmed that at this stage the consultation was only a general consultation on the broad approach which would be brought back to the Committee. It was confirmed that the evidence base developed through the former Four Towns Working Party would not be lost and would be built upon. Some of those studies would have to be widened, for example, the town centre/local centre study would need to be widened to include Oundle and Thrapston.

Members raised a number of concerns about how the call for sites would relate to the work currently being undertaken in a number of towns and parishes on Neighbourhood Plans. It was important that the work towns and parishes were already doing was respected. Officers confirmed that a lot of the sites had already been identified but it was best to know what was out there now. Rushden East had already been identified for the majority of housing needs in the District. There was also concern that there would be a call for sites without a Brownfield Policy in place, as there was pressure from the Government to use those sites and the Secretary of State had the power to approve brownfield sites without the Council's involvement.

## RESOLVED:

- i) That the scope of the District Wide Local Plan be approved;

*(Reason – to provide clarity in respect of the content and purpose of the Plan in advance of future public consultation.)*

- ii) That the timetable for preparation of the District Wide Local Plan be approved and that the timescales inform the update to the Local Development Scheme to be published in due course; and

*(Reason – to inform the legislative requirements, which are to be included in the revised Local Development Scheme.)*

- iii) That approval of the scope of the Plan consultation documentation, the call for sites documentation and the proposed consultation be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee.

*(Reason – to ensure efficiency in taking forward technical aspects of the Plan in meeting timetable requirement.)*

### **118. UPPER NENE VALLEY GRAVEL PITS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA MITIGATION STRATEGY ADDENDUM**

The Planning Policy Officer presented a report which sought approval, for consultation purposes, of a mitigation strategy for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document, which had been adopted in February 2016.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) undertaken for the JCS had identified that all future development proposals across parts of North Northamptonshire, specifically the Nene Valley where this passed through East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough, were likely to have a significant effect on the SPA. A mitigation strategy was therefore proposed to address and mitigate these effects and during the JCS examination, Natural England had confirmed that such an approach was necessary to ensure the plan was legally compliant. The mitigation strategy would be implemented by way of a short, concise addendum to the adopted Special Protection Area SPD.

This part of the SPD would relate to a 3km buffer around the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and would apply to all new residential development within this buffer, where a net gain in new dwellings was achieved. It was deemed that one extra visitor to the SPA may cause a significant effect and therefore a contribution from each new dwelling was required. It had been calculated that each new dwelling within the buffer would need to contribute £269.58.

There was two ways the Council could collect this contribution, through a direct payment using Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 or through a Unilateral Undertaking, incorporated into a S106 agreement. To ensure efficiency it was felt that the best approach, for both the Council and applicants, was to collect payments through the direct payment route (S111). For developments over nine units, a S106 would be used.

During discussion, the Committee all supported the direct payment approach. It was also suggested that the contribution should be index linked to the RICS Tender Price Index. In response to a question as to when houses would be liable to pay the contribution, officers confirmed that it was already being sought through S106 but would not be sought through S111 until the addendum had been approved.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That a six week consultation on the addendum to the Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document be approved; and
- ii) That mitigation contributions may be secured from hereon, to ensure that significant adverse impacts do not occur to the Special Protection Area, be noted.

*(Reason – to enable the SPA addendum to be consulted on prior to approval and final inclusion in the SPA SPD.)*

**119. PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION UPDATE**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager presented a report which provided an update on work on the Local Plan (consisting of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and District Wide Local Plan), neighbourhood plans and some other key work being undertaken by the Planning Policy and Conservation Team.

**RESOLVED:**

That the current progress to date with local plan making, neighbourhood planning, the Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy, Brownfield Register, Deenethorpe Garden Village and Rushden SUE be noted.

*(Reason – to keep Members informed as to current progress with plan making.)*

**Chairman**

# JOINT STANDARDS COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

**Date:** 28 July 2016

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

**Time:** 7.30pm

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

### East Northamptonshire Councillors:

**Rosalie Beattie**  
**Andy Mercer**  
**Gill Mercer**  
**David Jenney**

**Valerie Raven-Hill**  
**Rupert Reichhold**  
**Colin Wright**

### Town and Parish Councillors:

**Fiona Cowan**  
**Derek Lawson**  
**Dave Munday**  
**Roy Sparkes**  
**Robert Tyman**  
**Arthur Whittaker**

(Collyweston Parish Council)  
(Higham Ferrers Town Council)  
(Stanwick Parish Council)  
(Oundle Town Council)  
(Raunds Town Council)  
(Yarwell Parish Council)

**Vivienne Barnard**  
**Andrew Sortwell**

Independent Person  
Reserve Independent Person

## **120. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Following the publication of the Agenda for the meeting, it had become apparent that the date of the meeting would need to be re-arranged. Members had been advised accordingly and asked not to attend this meeting.

In accordance with Paragraph 7 of Part 4.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, the meeting was not quorate and was adjourned until 26 September 2016.

**Chairman**

# PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Date:** 03 August 2016

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

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Present:** Councillors: Phillip Stearn Chairman  
Gill Mercer Vice-Chairman

Richard Gell  
Roger Glithero JP  
Helen Harrison  
Helen Howell  
Barbara Jenney  
Lance Jones

Andy Mercer  
Geoff Shacklock  
Alex Smith  
Robin Underwood  
Peter Wathen  
Pam Whiting

## 121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Hobbs, Dudley Hughes JP, Ron Pinnock and Anna Sauntson.

## 122. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2016 were approved as a true and correct record of the proceeding, subject to:

Minute 101 (i) – 15/02198/OUT – Nene Park, Station Road, Irthlingborough – third reason for refusal should read “exception test” and not “exceptional test”.

## 123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

### (a) Declarations Of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Richard Gell	16/00845/FUL (Potting Sheds, Ashton Wold, Ashton)	Chairman of the Ramblers Committee who had made a representation		Yes
Roger Glithero JP	16/00845/FUL (Potting Sheds, Ashton Wold, Ashton)	Knew the Agent		Yes
Phillip Stearn	16/00845/FUL (Potting Sheds, Ashton Wold, Ashton)	Had close knowledge of the application		Yes (left meeting)

Andy Mercer	16/00755/FUL (Oundle Church of England Primary School, Milton Road, Oundle)	Member of Northamptonshire County Council who were the applicant.		Yes
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**(b) Informal Site Visits**

No informal site visits had been undertaken.

**124. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

**125. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE**

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Planning Development Manager 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.

The Planning Development Manager advised that the S106 Agreements for the applications listed below were being drafted:

- 10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West
- 15/01976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden

Members noted that instructions had been issued in respect of application 16/00589/FUL Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**126. DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES**

In accordance with Minute 441 of the meeting held on 21 March 2012, the Committee received a report providing an update on applications where actions had been delegated to the Head of Planning Services.

The Planning Development Manager advised that application 16/00913/FUL Windmill Academy, Raunds had now been completed and decision issued.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

## **127. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Sophie Bolton** - 16/00845/FUL - Potting Sheds, Ashton Wold, Ashton (Agent for the Applicant)
- **Matthew Duck** - 16/01502/FUL - 2 Express Business Park, Shipton Way, Rushden (Applicant)

## **128. 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) 16/00899/FUL – Barns at Elmington Top Lodge, Ashton Wold, Ashton**

The Committee considered an application for the erection of a large agricultural building consisting of a grain store and lean-to.

The application had been brought before the Committee as the building was over 1000m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

Members noted that one letter had been received from a nearby resident objecting to the application. Members also noted that nearby properties referred to in the report had been incorrectly named.

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

### **(ii) 16/00918/OUT – Land adjacent Cricket Ground, Ashton Wold, Ashton**

The Committee were advised that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant.

**The Chairman left the meeting for the following two items.**

### **(iii) 16/00845/FUL – Potting Sheds, Ashton Wold, Ashton**

The Committee considered an application for the erection of four two bedroomed bungalows and two three bedroomed bungalows and associated site works. The application was a resubmission of application 15/02277/FUL which had been refused permission in February 2016.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Member.

Members noted that five letters of support from neighbours had been received. Members also noted that the applicant had submitted a supporting document: "The Ashton Estate: Past, Present and Future" which suggested that the development was required to enable future works around the estate.

Members further noted that Northamptonshire County Council Highways supported the reason for refusal as the development was not in a sustainable location in transport terms.

The Committee **agreed to defer** the application to allow the applicant to submit additional information regarding the impact on the listed wall and for officers to compile a simplified plan of the proposal to aid members' understanding of its relationship with previously approved schemes in and around the walled garden.

**(iv) 16/00847/LBC – Potting Sheds, Ashton Wold, Ashton**

The Committee considered a Listed Building Consent application for the erection of four two bedroomed bungalows and two three bedroomed bungalows and associated site works. The application was a resubmission of application 15/02277/FUL which had been refused permission in February 2016.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Member.

Members noted that East Northamptonshire Council's Senior Conservation Officer had objected to the application, and Historic England had recommended that the application be refused.

Members further noted that five letters of support from neighbours had been received.

The Committee **agreed to defer** the application to allow the applicant to submit additional information regarding the impact on the listed wall.

**The Chairman returned to the meeting.**

**(v) 16/00755/FUL – Oundle Church of England Primary School, Milton Road, Oundle**

The Committee considered a hybrid application which requested full application for the retention and conversion of the original school building to form five town houses and a studio apartment (Plots 1 to 6). The application also sought outline planning permission for the demolition of the existing school buildings and the erection of six apartments and four mews cottages (Plots 7 to 16).

Members noted that several objections to the application had been received from nearby residents. Members also noted that East Northamptonshire Council's Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager had confirmed that due to the introduction of Vacant Building Credit no affordable housing contribution was required as part of this development. The Housing Team had also requested that a clause be added to the S106 to state that the assessment with regards to the Vacant Buildings Credit had been undertaken using the layout plans submitted.

The Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and completion of a S106 to secure developer contributions.



**(vi) 16/01052/FUL – 2 Express Business Park, Shipton Way, Rushden**

The Committee considered an application for the installation of a mezzanine floor, erection of a security fence and gate, air conditioning plant and a smoking shelter at an existing commercial building.

The application had been deferred from the 13 July 2016 meeting to allow the applicant to address the concerns of the Highway Authority. Members noted that the Highway Authority now had no objection to the application, subject to the inclusion of two conditions.

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

**129. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the planning appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate from 16 May 2016 to 15 July 2016.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**Chairman**

# PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Date:** 24 August 2016

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

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Present:** Councillors: Phillip Stearn Chairman  
Gill Mercer Vice-Chairman

Richard Gell  
Roger Glithero JP  
Helen Harrison  
Helen Howell  
Barbara Jenney  
Lance Jones

Andy Mercer  
Ron Pinnock  
Geoff Shacklock  
Robin Underwood  
Pam Whiting

## 130. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Kevin Breslin from LGSS to his first meeting as the Committee's legal advisor.

## 131. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Hobbs, Dudley Hughes JP, Anna Sauntson, Alex Smith and Peter Wathen.

## 132. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 August 2016 were approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

## 133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

### (a) Declarations Of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Richard Gell	15/00119/VAR (Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene)	Chairman of the Ramblers Committee who had made a representation		Yes
Geoff Shacklock	16/00865/FUL (The Brambles, Main Street, Thurning)	Knew one of the speakers		Yes

**(b) Informal Site Visits**

Councillor Geoff Shacklock declared that he had visited The Brambles, Main Street, Thurning.

Councillors Lance Jones and Helen Howell declared that they had visited 12-14 Park Road, Raunds.

**134. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

**135. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE**

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Planning Development Manager 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 applications EN/10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West until 31 October 2016 and EN/1501976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden until 30 September 2016.

Members noted that instructions had been issued in respect of applications 16/00589/FUL Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden and 16/00755/FUL Oundle Primary School.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the extensions in respect of applications EN/10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West and EN/1501976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden be approved.

**136. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Mr Bob Tattar** - 15/00119/VAR - Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene (Applicant on behalf of Bela) and 16/01385/FUL - Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene (Applicant on behalf of Bela)
- **Mr Rob Hall** - 16/00865/FUL - The Brambles, Main Street, Thurning (Objector)
- **Cllr Mrs Mallett** - 16/00865/FUL - The Brambles, Main Street, Thurning (on behalf of Hemington, Luddington and Thurning Parish Council)
- **Mr Richard Wedge** - 6/00865/FUL - The Brambles, Main Street, Thurning (Agent on behalf of the Applicant)
- **Mr Jon Sidey** - 16/00957/FUL - 12-14 Park Road, Raunds (Agent on behalf of Applicant)

### **137. 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) 16/01090/FUL – Playing Field, Pavilion Drive, Oundle**

The Committee considered an application for the construction of a new athletics track and pavilion on an existing playing field and rough grassland.

The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that six letters had been received objecting to the application.

It was moved by Councillor Roger Glithero and seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer that the application be granted. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and update sheet.

#### **(ii) 15/00119/VAR – Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene, Corby**

The Committee considered an application to vary Condition 4, to substitute approved Development Framework Plan (ref BBD001/DF0/01 Rev C) with drawing ref BBD036-005 Rev T.

The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that Collyweston and Weldon Parish Councils had objected to the application as well as the Wildlife Trust and Barratt Homes. Concerns had also been raised by Kings Cliffe and Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe Parish Councils, Oundle Town Council, Lloyds Banking Group and Brudenell Estates.

Members further noted that Priors Hall Park Neighbourhood Association was in favour of the proposal being approved.

It was moved by Councillor Roger Glithero and seconded by Councillor Lance Jones that the application be granted. On being put to the vote, 11 members voted in favour and one against, therefore the motion was carried.

The Committee **agreed** that:

- (i) If a satisfactory legal agreement (or similar) is submitted by 30 September 2016 which carries forward obligations from the original consent (reflecting the changes sought by this application): GRANT planning permission subject to conditions to be agreed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Ward Member and Head of Planning Services; and
- (ii) If a satisfactory legal agreement (or similar) is not submitted by 30 September 2016 (and an alternative date is not agreed): Delegate to Head of Planning Services to REFUSE.

The Committee delegated authority to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Member, to confirm the exact wording of the conditions and legal agreement.

**(iii) 16/01385/FUL – Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene, Corby**

The Committee considered an application for Zone 3 Link Road that will provide a highway access from the West of the Priors Hall Park Site in Corby into the North of Zone 2 and into the Southern section of Zone 3.

The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that two letters had been received objecting to the proposed restriction to Gretton Road for buses/bicycles only. Comments had also been received from Barratt Homes, North Northants Badger Group and Northants Bat Group.

It was moved by Councillor Roger Glithero, seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer that the application be deferred. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to defer** the application to allow further consideration of the flood risk and drainage impacts of the proposal and highways matters.

**(iv) 16/00865/FUL – The Brambles, Main Street, Thurning**

The Committee considered an application for a single and two storey rear extension and loft conversion to the main residence and a single storey extension to the rear of the garage.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Member following an objection from Thurning Parish Council.

Members noted that objections had also been received from two neighbours to the application.

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Shacklock, seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer that the application be deferred. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to defer** the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken.

**(v) 16/01087/FUL– 216 Wellingborough Road, Rushden**

The Committee considered an application for the conversion of the ground floor commercial space into six flats.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Member following an objection from Rushden Town Council.

Members noted that letters had been received from nearby residents objecting to the application.

Some members were concerned about the proposed overdevelopment of the site, the lack of amenity space and access to the site.

It was moved by Councillor Robin Underwood, seconded by Councillor Gill Mercer that the application be deferred to enable extra information on housing, pollution and noise issues to be provided. On being put to the vote, four members voted in favour, seven against and one abstained, therefore the motion was declared lost.

It was then moved by Councillor Richard Gell, seconded by Councillor Ron Pinnock that the application be approved. On being put to the vote, five members voted for, five members against and two abstained. The Chairman used his casting vote to vote in favour of the motion, which was declared carried.

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

**(vi) 16/00957/FUL – 12-14 Park Road, Raunds**

The Committee considered an application to convert one dwelling back into two.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Members.

Members noted that three letters had been received from nearby residents objecting to the application. Members further noted that Raunds Town Council were concerned that there was no off street parking.

Members advised that the road was a main route for school buses and children walking to the local school and it was proposed that there should be a construction delivery time restriction.

It was moved by Councillor Lance Jones, seconded by Councillor Helen Howell that the application be approved. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and the inclusion of a construction delivery time restriction, the details of which are delegated to the Head of Planning Services.

**(vii) 16/00958/FUL – 12-14 Park Road, Raunds**

The Committee considered an application for the erection of four two storey dwellings; one two bedroomed detached dwelling and three three bedroomed terraced dwellings. New vehicular access would be created off Park Road.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Members.

Members noted that Raunds Town Council had objected to the application. Members further noted that four letters had been received from nearby residents objecting to the application.

It was moved by Councillor Lance Jones, seconded by Councillor Helen Howell that the application be approved. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report, update sheet and the inclusion of a construction delivery time restriction, the details of which are delegated to the Head of Planning Services.

**138. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the planning appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate from 14 July 2016 to 05 August 2016.

Councillor Barbara Jenney stated that she was grateful for all the efforts of Planning Officers on the Lidl application at Newton Road, Rushden which the Inspectorate had dismissed.

The Planning Development Manager advised that the application at Land off Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock had also been dismissed by the Inspectorate and would be reported formally at the next meeting. Councillor Richard Gell passed on his thanks for the work of Planning Officers on that appeal and also asked for his thanks to be passed on to the JPU for all their work in preparing the Joint Core Strategy.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**Chairman**

# POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 05 September 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

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

Tony Boto Roger Glithero JP  
David Brackenbury Dudley Hughes JP  
Val Carter Philip Stearn

## 139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wendy Brackenbury, Helen Harrison, Marika Hillson, Andy Mercer and Sarah Peacock.

## 140. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

## 142. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## 143. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

### a) Housing Policy Working Party – 15 June 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing Policy Working Party held on 15 June 2016 were received (see pages 119 to 123).

### b) Finance Sub Committee – 11 July 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub Committee held on 11 July 2016 were received (see pages 124 to 125).



The Chief Executive confirmed that if the expected planning appeal on the land at Smithfield Place was dismissed, the Finance Sub Committee would need to reconsider the options for the land.

**c) Finance Sub Committee – 22 August 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub Committee held on 22 August 2016 were received (see pages 126 to 129).

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that in respect of the sale of land at Ditchford Lakes, no representations had been made during the public consultation and therefore legal instructions had now been issued. In relation to the land at Kings Cliffe, the purchasers had now advised that they would not be renewing the option agreement. A report would be taken to the Finance Sub Committee to consider the options.

**144. THE UNAUTHORISED DEPOSIT OF WASTE (FIXED PENALTIES) REGULATIONS 2016**

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report which informed Members of the new powers available under The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016, which included the ability to use Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) against persons responsible for fly tipping.

In 2014/15, the Council received 437 reports of fly tipping which had cost £21,000 to remove and clear. Since 2013, there had been 11 prosecutions, three outstanding warrants and over 40 FPNs issued for those failing to produce the correct authority to transport waste, resulting in over £17,000 of fines for those offences.

The Government had now brought forward The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016 which introduced a power to serve a FPN on a person found to be responsible for fly tipping offences. The Council could still opt for prosecution of large scale and significant incidents, as well as repeat offenders. The regulations gave the Council the power to set the level of fixed penalty up to a maximum of £400. An early payment discount was allowed to be applied to fines paid within 10 days of issue.

**RESOLVED:**

That the activities that have been taking place to deal with offences of fly tipping be noted.

**R.8 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:**

- (i) That The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016 be adopted;
- (ii) That the level of Fixed Penalty Notice be set at the legally allowable maximum of £400 and £300 for the reduced rate; and
- (iii) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Head of Environmental Services, Waste Services Manager, Environmental Protection Manager, Health Protection Manager, Waste Management Officer and Environmental Services Officer for the powers in The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016.

*(Reason – to ensure legislative compliance and the appropriate governance framework is in place within the Constitution.)*

#### **145. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS**

The Community Partnerships Manager presented a report which informed Members of the recommendations of the Member Panel appointed to review the current Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme and how it could operate from 1 April 2017.

The Panel had considered the performance and delivery of the current grant providers and had also looked at the current state of the sector and the wider services provided across the county. It was noted that several changes had occurred since the current round of grants had been awarded, including the decommissioning of detached youth work by the County Council and an increase in early help and prevention services.

The current three thematic themes were advice and information; counselling and support and community transport.

The Panel believed that it was highly likely that the demand for specialist debt advice and services would increase and therefore were satisfied that this theme should be retained. The term 'Debt Management' was felt to be more appropriate than advice and information as it focussed more clearly on the specialist work being provided.

The Panel acknowledged that mental health was an area of concern to many and felt that due to the uncertainty around commissioned services that the counselling and support theme should be retained but with a stronger focus on mental health.

The Panel felt that the community transport theme should be retained but the Council should be mindful of any future developments. The Scrutiny Committee had been undertaking a review of public transport and was due to report shortly and their findings would inform recommendations on future funding for community transport. The Panel therefore recommended that, as part of the grant awarding process for this area, applicants would need to include details of what could be achieved if future additional funding was available.

The Panel also considered the name of the scheme and felt that the words 'voluntary sector' were now outdated and felt that 'Community Support Grants' would be more appropriate.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the notes of the Member Panel meeting held on 2 August 2016 be received;
- (ii) That the Panel's recommendations, as set out in Section 6 of the report, be approved; and
- (iii) That the indicative timeframe for the application, evaluation and awarding processes be endorsed.

*(Reason – to support key services provided by community and third sector organisations that contribute to the achievement of our Corporate Plan outcomes.)*

**146. 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 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

**147. REQUEST FOR USE OF S106 FUNDS FOR THE GRENSON'S BUILDING, ALLEN ROAD, RUSHDEN**

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report which asked Members to consider a request for use of S106 funds to convert and renovate the Grenson's Building at Allen Road, Rushden to 14 x 2 bedroom flats for affordable rent.

In 2012, the Council secured an off-site affordable contribution of £376,000 from the McCarthy and Stone development at Townsend Court in Rushden. £231,258 of the contribution remained which must be spent on affordable housing in Rushden by October 2017 or be returned to the developer.

**RESOLVED:**

That the use of the remaining £231,258 in S106 monies to contribute to the funding for the works required to convert the Grenson's Building at Allen Road, Rushden to 14 x 2 bedroom flats for affordable rent be approved.

*(Reason – to ensure best value for money to the Council in supporting the development of affordable housing in the district.)*

**148. ROCKINGHAM FOREST HOUSING ASSOCIATION – REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF CLAWBACK AND COVENANTS IN RELATION TO SALE OF GARDEN LAND**

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report which informed Members that Rockingham Forest Housing Association (RFHA) had received a request to sell a portion of the garden of one of their properties to an adjoining occupier. They now requested the Council's agreement to the sale and to the proceeds from the sale being used to help fund their proposed development at Elizabeth Way, Higham Ferrers.

Due to a restriction in the title deeds, RFHA needed to get the agreement of the Council in order to sell the land, which would also be subject to the clawback provisions contained in the transfer agreement RFHA entered into with the Council in 1993.

**R.9 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:**

- (i) That the covenants restricting the sale of the surplus garden land be removed;
- (ii) That the clawback provision remains in place with the ENC share of the sale proceeds to be paid into a ring-fenced fund to assist with the development or acquisition of further affordable housing by Rockingham Forest Housing Association in the district;

- (iii) That authority to agree how the fund would be spent be delegated to the Executive Director or Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Housing Strategy Manager and Environmental Protection Manager; and
- (iv) That a new covenant be placed on the land such that ENC shares in the value of any uplift in value should planning permission subsequently be granted on it.

*(Reason – to respond to a request from the Rockingham Forest Housing Association.)*

#### **149. PROVISION OF FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AT HIGHAM FERRERS**

The Chief Executive presented a report which sought agreement for use of the New Homes Bonus Stream Three Infrastructure Reserve to support the development of a Football Development Centre at Higham Ferrers by the Northamptonshire Football Association (NFA).

The NFA was currently based in Northampton and had been seeking for some years to relocate to a purpose-built facility which would provide several football pitches, including one 4G artificial pitch, plus changing facilities and office accommodation. An opportunity had now arisen for them to relocate to land owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, south of Moulton College in Higham Ferrers.

Members fully supported the proposal as there was currently a shortage of quality football pitches in the district and it would also support the Council's developing Healthy and Active Lifestyles Strategy which placed an emphasis on there being a wide variety of sporting and leisure activities across the area.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the use of up to £250k from the New Homes Bonus Stream Three Infrastructure Reserve to support the creation of a Football Development Centre in Higham Ferrers, in partnership with the Northamptonshire FA be approved; and
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, to negotiate the terms of the funding agreement with the Northamptonshire FA.

*(Reason – to provide much needed sporting facilities in the South of the District and obtain the best value for the Council's financial contribution.)*

#### **150. REPLACEMENT OF THE FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE RIVER NENE AT ISLIP**

The Executive Director presented a report which sought agreement for use of the New Homes Bonus Stream Three Infrastructure Reserve to enable the replacement of a footbridge over the River Nene at Islip which was currently an obstacle for navigation.

To ensure that the scheme was not put at risk, Councillor David Brackenbury moved an amendment to the recommendation that up to £70,000 could be used if alternative sources of funding were not available. On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That the use of up to £70,000 from the New Homes Bonus Stream Three Infrastructure Reserve towards the replacement of the Islip Footbridge be approved.

*(Reason – to improve the navigation and hence use of the River Nene for the benefit of the local economy.)*

**Chairman**



**Housing Policy Working Party  
Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday  
15 June 2016 at 2pm in the Kasen Room**

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**Present**

<b>Councillors</b>	Tony Boto	TB
	Richard Lewis	RL
	Helen Harrison	HH
	Steven North	SN
<b>Executive Director</b>	Sharn Matthews	SM
<b>Head of Planning Services</b>	Paul Bland	PB
<b>Housing Services Officer</b>	Louise Bagley	LB
<b>Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager</b>	Carol Conway	CC
<b>Housing Enabling Officer</b>	Aine Cooper	AC
<b>Interim Protection Manager</b>	Jenny Walker	JW
<b>Homes Direct Representative</b>	Beverley Tebbutt	BT

		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Appointment Of Chairman</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	Councillor Tony Boto to be appointed Chairman of the Housing Policy Working Party for the year 2016/17	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sarah Peacock and Richard Palmer	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Appointment Of Vice Chairman</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	Councillor Helen Harrison to be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Housing Policy Working Party for the year 2016/17	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2016</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Starter Homes Consultation - Response</b>	

	<p>PB gave a brief summary regarding the planning issues in regard to the starter homes consultation. A Members briefing will be issued to all councillors within the next 3 /4 weeks</p> <p>TB enquired about the Joint Core Strategy. PB replied that it is to be adopted in July and the Local Plan is already in place.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>	
5.1	Welfare Reform Update	
	SM provided an update from Lucy Hogston (Benefits Manager) that from late Autumn 2016 the Benefit Cap will be lowered from £26,000 to £20,000 per annum	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Housing and Planning Act and Welfare Reform updates</b>	
6.1	CC reported that the Housing and Planning Act 2016 had now completed its passage through parliament and received Royal Assent. The main implications for ENC are as follows:	
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government aims to build 200,000 starter homes exclusively for first time buyers aged over 23 and under 40 for sale at a 20% discount on market prices.</li> <li>• The Act creates a new duty on all local authority planning departments to promote the supply of starter homes in their area.</li> <li>• The government can set regulations to require starter homes to be included on residential sites, but rural exception sites will be exempt. The government is consulting on the detail of this.</li> <li>• Increased government powers where the LA does not have a local plan</li> <li>• The government will have powers to grant automatic planning consent on any land allocated in a Development Plan Document</li> <li>• A package of measures to tackle rogue landlords in the private rented sector</li> <li>• Enabling private landlords to regain possession of property they believe to be abandoned without a court order</li> <li>• Duty on LAs to ensure they have enough plots available for self build to meet local demand.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Working Party Risk Review</b>	
7.1	<p>SM presented a Risk Review report which highlighted 5 Risks relevant to the HPWP which are briefly summarised below:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Failure to deliver sufficient affordable housing in the district</li> <li>2) Fraudulent homeless and housing register applications</li> <li>3) Increase in appeals against homelessness and housing register decisions</li> </ol>	

	<p>4) Increase in homelessness applications 5) Cessation of the Choice Based Lettings Scheme</p> <p>SM noted a further problem regarding the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Cap and the Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) which needs to be formalised as a risk as these housing benefit restrictions are impacting on our ability to house our applicants. Mitigating actions were to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work with Registered Providers to find solutions</li> <li>• monitor the situation and gather case studies with a view to challenging the LHA rate as it is much lower than rents charged in the district.</li> </ul> <p><i>However, advice was provided after the meeting as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The LHA rate cannot be appealed through the normal Housing Benefit appeals process. It may be possible to appeal to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) directly. The other option is to appeal the Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMA) but this can only be done by Judicial Review.</i></li> <li>• <i>In any event an appeal is unlikely to be successful. ENC's LHA rates are based on two BRMAs - Peterborough and Northants &amp; Central. When the VOA set the LHA rates they looked at the whole of the BRMA not just East Northants, and although East Northants shared accommodation <b>rents</b> are higher than the SAR this may not be the case in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough which are also included in our BRMA. In addition to this the LHA rates are then set at the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile, so are lower than average rents. Also from 2016 LHA rates are going to be frozen for 4 years, so even if the market does change or we find further evidence of higher rents they cannot be changed during that time.</i></li> </ul>	
8.	<b>Housing Allocations Policy Review – income, capital, affordability, home owners, home ownership initiatives</b>	
8.1	<p>At the meeting held on 20 April 2016 the Housing Policy Working Party considered a paper which outlined the housing position in the district in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• affordable stock in the district</li> <li>• numbers on the housing needs register</li> <li>• homelessness figures</li> <li>• income levels</li> <li>• house prices and private rents</li> <li>• recent changes to legislation and government housing and welfare policy</li> <li>• right to buy</li> <li>• access to shared ownership</li> <li>• current eligibility on the council's housing needs register for home owners, and people who could afford to purchase</li> </ul>	



8.2	<p>Concern had been raised that the income levels reported from the CACI data were artificially low as they had included pensioner households who would generally be on lower incomes than working households but may be asset rich.</p> <p>Members had requested that more work be undertaken to ascertain what pensioner household incomes were in the district to in turn enable an estimation of the incomes of working age households. At this stage it has not been possible to do so as the CACI data on which the figures are based does not break down incomes by age group. Incomes are not included in the Census data.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding how to improve the way in which information on household incomes was collected on the housing register application forms and changes that were required to get more accurate data.</p>	
8.3	<p>The following changes to the Allocations Policy were agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner-occupiers <b>of all ages</b> will only be eligible if <b>either:-</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. They are unable to afford their current accommodation; <b>or</b></li> <li>ii. Their current accommodation is unsuitable for their needs</li> </ol> <p><b>And</b> they have insufficient assets and/or income to purchase a suitable property, either outright or on a shared ownership basis</p> </li> <li>• Applicants will have to declare their income within set bands, as well as any assets. They will be advised that they will be expected to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Provide proof of income and assets before they will be allocated a property</li> <li>ii. Advise Homes Direct of any changes in circumstances, including any increase in their income or assets.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	
8.4	<p>Members also agreed, in respect of older owner-occupiers that the level of capital that can be retained from the sale of their home either to live on, or to keep as savings (e.g. for future care needs) was £16,000 per household, which is in line with the benefit level.</p>	
8.5	<p>Regarding a further recommendation to amend ENC's allocation policy to enable individual RP allocation policies to be taken into account, provided this is clearly stated in the advert under the CBL Scheme, SN suggested that this recommendation required further discussion and the item be deferred to the next meeting.</p>	CC
8.6	<p>It was further agreed that consultation would need to be undertaken with RPs to ensure that blanket policies are not</p>	

	<p>being implemented and that 75% of vacancies or more are let according to the council's allocations policy.</p> <p>The allocations policy review timetable is to be updated and the consultation draft of the revised policy is to be taken to the Policy &amp; Resources Committee meeting of 5 December.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
9.1	<p>AC provided a paper for Members information, regarding a Shared Ownership Event which had been held on Saturday, 11th June, to promote the substantial increase in shared ownership properties available in the district. Over 150 people had attended the event.</p> <p>CC thanked AC for all her hard work on this successful event, particularly as it had been held at the weekend.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
10.1	The next meeting will be held on 13 July 2016 at 2:00pm in the Kasen Room	
10.2	<p>Dates for future meetings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 September</li> <li>• 12 October</li> <li>• 9 November</li> <li>• 7 December – all meetings will commence at 2pm.</li> </ul>	
	The meeting concluded at 15.50.	



## Finance Sub-Committee

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 11 July 2016 at 7.00pm, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston**

**Present:** Councillors: Steven North (Chairman)  
Val Carter  
Roger Glithero JP  
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith  
Glenn Harwood MBE  
Richard Lewis

Officers: David Oliver (Chief Executive)  
Sharn Matthews (Executive Director)  
Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer)  
Michelle Drewery (Finance Manager)

### **1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Brackenbury.

### **2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 No interests were declared.

### **3.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

### **4.0 DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL LAND**

4.1 The Chief Executive presented a report which informed Members of the outcome of discussions with the Wildlife Trust regarding the boundary of the area to be managed by them under a new Management Agreement, and to seek approval for the sale of land at Ditchford Lakes.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the agreement reached with the Wildlife Trust over the management agreement for the majority of the Ditchford Lakes site be noted;
- (ii) That, subject to a satisfactory valuation, the sale of tranche 1 of the remainder to LXB and the option for the sale of tranche 2 at a later date be approved; and

- (iii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, to finalise the details of the sale and the option agreement with the developer.

*(Reason – to update Members on the outcome of discussions regarding the management of part of Ditchford Lakes by the Wildlife Trust, and to obtain the best value for money from this Council asset.)*

*The following item of business had been added to the Agenda published on 1 July 2016 with the consent of the Chairman as a decision was required before the next scheduled meeting of the Sub-Committee due to the dates set out in the Option Agreement relating to the site.*

## **5.0 EXTENSION OF OPTION AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF COUNCIL LAND**

- 5.1 The Chief Executive presented a report which sought an extension to the option period for the sale of land at Smithfield Place, Raunds for housing development following the refusal of a planning application.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the option period be extended for three months, subject to BRL agreeing that the parties will meet their own costs irrespective of the outcome of the appeal.

*(Reason – to obtain the best value for money from this Council asset and to ensure that BRL has access to the legal remedy to which it is entitled)*

**Chairman**



## Finance Sub-Committee

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 22 August 2016 at 10.30am, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Steven North (Chairman) David Brackenbury Val Carter Roger Glithero JP Glenvil Greenwood-Smith Glenn Harwood MBE Richard Lewis
	<b>Officers:</b>	David Oliver (Chief Executive) Sharn Matthews (Executive Director) Glenn Hammons (Chief Finance Officer) Mike Deacon (Head of Environmental Services) Katy Everitt (Head of Resources and Organisational Development)

### **1.0 MINUTES**

- 1.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 13 June and 11 July 2016 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**

- 3.1 No interests were declared.

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

- 4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

### **5.0 SPLASH POOL, RUSHDEN- PLANNED MAINTENANCE, RELEASE OF MONIES**

- 5.1 The Head of Resources and Organisational Development reported that within the Asset Management Plan considered by the Sub-Committee in December 2015, capital monies had been identified for works to be carried at the Splash Pool. The Leisure Procurement Working Party had subsequently recommended that the work should be carried out prior to the transfer of the leisure facilities that was due to take place on 1 April 2017.

- 5.2 Work was required to a number of areas of the facility and a sum of £7,000 was requested to enable these works to be completed in the near future.

**RESOLVED:**

That the transfer of £7,000 from the Development Pool to the Approved Capital Programme be approved to fund the replacement and/or refurbishment of the existing extractor fans, shower fans, and ducting within the ceiling adjacent to the sauna/health suite, crèche and boiler room, and to make adjustments to the hot water supply to the toilets.

*(Reason: To enable the release of the capital funds to enable these works to be completed prior to the transfer of the Leisure Facilities)*

**6.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**7.0 OFFICE CLEANING CONTRACT**

- 7.1 The Head of Environmental Services reported that the current 5 year contract for cleaning of the Council Offices would expire on 31 August 2016. A procurement process for renewing a contract for this service had been undertaken on the basis of a contract term of 3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years.
- 7.2 A total of 9 tenders had been received, which had been evaluated by Council officers and the Welland Procurement Team, and it was proposed to award the contract to the existing contractor.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the appointment of Enterprise Support Services for a contractual term of 3 years starting 1 September 2016 be confirmed.
- ii) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to agree the option of extending the contract to a maximum of 5 years.
- iii) the financial implications of the new contract be noted.

*(Reason: To ensure a clean and safe working environment in the Council's offices).*

**8.0 EXTENSION OF LEASE FOR RUSHDEN CENTRE**

- 8.1 The Executive Director reported that the first floor of the Rushden Centre was currently leased to Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) and this lease would expire on 10 September 2016.
- 8.2 Recent discussions indicated that NHFT would like to lease all of the space at the

Centre not required by the Council. However, the terms and implications of the lease would take time to negotiate, especially as there might be some initial works required.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the discussions relating to a possible further lease for the Rushden Centre be noted and that any proposed lease arrangements arising from these be brought to the September 2016 meeting of the Sub-Committee for consideration.
- ii) an extension of the current lease to NHFT until December 2016 on the current terms be approved.

*(Reason: To secure income from the Rushden Centre to offset costs and enable the development of a new lease)*

## **9.0 EXTENSION OF OPTION – SMITHFIELD PLACE**

- 9.1 The Chief Executive provided a verbal update on the current position relating to the option on the site.

## **10.0 LAND AT DITCHFORD LAKES**

- 10.1 The Chief Executive reported that under the delegated authority granted to him, in consultation with the Chairman, by the Sub-Committee at its November 2015 meeting, the agreement relating to the site had been concluded the previous week.
- 10.2 Legislation required the sale of public open space land to be publicised in the local press for a period of two weeks to consult the public and provide an opportunity for representations to be made. This period would expire later in the week and, to date, no representations had been received. Any comments on issues already determined could be responded to, although should any significant representations be made materially affecting the sale, these would be reported to the Sub-Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee, be granted delegated authority to consider any representations received to the statutory public consultation and to respond appropriately.

*(Reason: To ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations in relation to the disposal of public land)*

## **11.0 SALE OF LAND – KINGS CLIFFE**

- 11.1 The Head of Resources and Organisational Development reported that an Option Agreement relating to the sale of grazing land off Milward Way, Kings Cliffe had recently expired. The purchasers had submitted a planning application which had been refused and their architect was now in discussion with the Council's planning team to identify a scheme which might be acceptable.
- 11.2 The purchasers wished to renew the Option Agreement and this proposal, together with the other options available to the Council, were outlined.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the Option Agreement for the sale of land off Milward Way, Kings Cliffe be renewed.
- ii) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee, be granted delegated authority to agree the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

*(Reason: To agree the future of Council land off Milward Way, Kings Cliffe)*

**Chairman**



# GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 7 September 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Colin Wright (Chairman)  
Peter Wathen (Vice-Chairman)  
Lance Jones Alex Smith  
Valerie Raven-Hill

## External attendees:

John Gorrie and Yola Geen  
(External Auditors – KPMG)

For Agenda items “Final Statement of Accounts 2015/16” and “Report from External Auditor 2015/16 (ISA 260)”

Rachel Ashley-Caunt  
(WIAC Head of Internal Audit)

For Agenda item “Welland Internal Audit Consortium – Internal Audit Progress and Performance” and verbal report on “Cyber Crime”.

## 151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Farrar and Robin Underwood.

## 152. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by members of the Committee.

The Executive Director asked the Committee to note that she had been involved in the case referred to in the Local Government Ombudsman’s Annual Letter where fault had been found against the Council.

## 154. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

*With the consent of the Committee, the Chairman indicated that he would vary the order of business from the published Agenda to enable external attendees to be present for their report items as they were also attending a meeting at another Authority earlier in the evening.*

#### **155. ANNUAL LETTER FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN**

The Executive Director reported that the Council had received the Local Government Ombudsman's (LGO) annual letter containing statistics relating to this Council for complaints which had been referred to the LGO during the period April 2015 to March 2016.

One complaint referred for full investigation had been upheld by the LGO, although no finding of injustice requiring remedy had been found. The LGO would determine a complaint as upheld where some fault in the way the local authority had acted was found. This included complaints where a local authority acknowledged fault in their local investigation and offered to take action to put it right, but the complainant wanted an independent review of the complaint by the LGO.

There was a trend for an increase in complaints being referred to the LGO, although this did not by itself indicate poor service, but might rather indicate openness to the complaints system. However, there were resource implications to deal with an increased number of complaints.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted and a similar report be produced annually.

*(Reason: To meet the terms of reference of this Committee to receive external regulatory body reports and to demonstrate best practice in making reports available to councillors and the public).*

#### **156. COUNCILLOR INDUCTION TRAINING ATTENDANCE**

Further to the request made by the Committee at its meeting on 18 April 2016, the Executive Director presented a report detailing Member attendance at the 2015 Councillor Induction Training events.

A survey had been circulated to Members to ascertain their views on the training programme and what improvements could be made for future years.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report and that a further report will be brought to the Committee when the final outcome of the survey is known, be noted.

*(Reason: To enable the council to continue to improve the knowledge and skills of councillors).*

#### **157. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE – QUARTER 2 (2016/17)**

The Finance Manager presented a report on the Council's current risk scores for Quarter 2 of 2016/17. It was noted that there were no overdue actions.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the current status of risks included in the report for September 2016 be noted.

*(Reason: To ensure the Council has an up to date and effective risk reporting process in place)*

#### **158. PURCHASE ORDER STATUS**

The Finance Manager provided the Committee with an update on purchase order arrangements and issues of concern identified previously to the Committee. There had been significant improvements made to purchase order compliance across the Authority. Training on purchase order procedures would take place later in the month and an upgrade to the financial services system would be implemented in October 2016, together with improved processes. A further report would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

#### **159. FINAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/16**

The Chief Finance Officer presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 following audit by the Council's External Auditors.

The Statement of Accounts was broadly the same as the draft Statement endorsed by the Committee at its last meeting with a small number of minor amendments being made following the audit and these were outlined to the Committee.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 be approved.
- ii) the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, be granted delegated authority to make any minor amendments necessary to the Statement of Accounts 2015/16 prior to publication.

*(Reason: To comply with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations)*

#### **160. REPORT FROM EXTERNAL AUDITOR 2015/16 (ISA 260)**

John Gorrie and Yola Geen representing KPMG, the Council's External Auditors, presented the findings arising from the audit of the Statement of Accounts to the Committee as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice.

The External Auditors had some further work to complete, but expected to provide an unqualified opinion of the Council's accounts.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the contents of the Annual Governance Report of KPMG be noted.
- ii) the Council's Letter of Representation be approved.

*(Reason: To comply with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations)*

*Following the decisions set out above being made, the Council's Letter of Representation and Statement of Accounts were signed by the Chairman of the Committee and the Chief Finance Officer.*

#### **161. WELLAND INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM – INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE**

The Head of Internal Audit provided Members with information on the progress made by the Consortium on the delivery of the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2016/17 and associated measures of performance.

It was confirmed that the Head of Environmental Services had been unable to attend this meeting to discuss the Health and Safety Audit Action Plan which had been prepared in response to the issues raised in the audit. The Executive Director reported that the Health and Safety Policy was now in a position to be signed off.

The Committee noted that its next meeting was scheduled to be held on 30 November 2016. In view of this timescale, an interim update by the Head of Environmental Services to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and possibly an additional meeting of the Committee might be required in order to progress the action plan.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the progress and performance of the Consortium and the key findings from audits delivered during the period be noted.
- ii) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, in consultation with the Head of Environmental Services, be authorised to agree a date for an additional meeting of the Committee should this be required.

*(Reason: To review the performance of Internal Audit against the agreed plan and any key findings regarding the council's risk management and control arrangements in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards)*

#### **162. CYBER CRIME**

The Head of Internal Audit reported that in August 2016 she had organised a seminar with the Police to raise awareness about managing the risks of cyber crime and controls the Council should implement as preventative measures to counter the threat of cyber crime. The session had been attended by CMT, middle managers and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

The Executive Director informed the Committee that training sessions on preventing cyber crime would be included in the programme of training for Members.

#### **163. FUTURE OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Chief Finance Officer reported that following the decision to transfer internal audit services to LGSS, the Chief Finance Officers of the Authorities affected had met with the LGSS Finance Director and Head of Internal Audit and positive assurances had been given on a number of matters, including possible TUPE transfer of staff.

Draft service level agreements and partnership agreements were under review and these would be adaptable by each Authority to reflect their individual requirements. For this Council, it was anticipated that these would be submitted to full Council by the end 2016.

A standing Agenda item on the internal audit service would be included on future Agenda.

## **Chairman**

# PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 14 September 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Phillip Stearn Chairman  
Gill Mercer Vice-Chairman

Richard Gell  
Roger Glithero JP  
Helen Harrison  
Sylvia Hobbs  
Helen Howell  
Dudley Hughes JP  
Barbara Jenney  
Lance Jones

Andy Mercer  
Ron Pinnock  
Geoff Shacklock  
Alex Smith  
Robin Underwood  
Peter Wathen  
Pam Whiting

## 164. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Lindsay Tomlinson, the new Democratic and Electoral Services Manager to her first meeting of the Committee.

He also announced that application 16/00801/FUL – 19 Hill Street, Raunds, had been withdrawn from the agenda.

## 165. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Anna Sauntson.

## 166. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2016 were approved as a true and correct record of proceedings, subject to:

Minute 133 – Declarations of Interest – “Peter Gell” to read “Richard Gell”.

## 167. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

### (a) Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

**(b) Informal Site Visits**

Councillor Helen Howell advised that she regularly passed the site at Darsdale Farm, Chelveston Road, Raunds (15/00864/VAR).

**168. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

**169. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS – UPDATE**

In accordance with Minute 280 from the meeting held on 28 November 2012, the Planning Development Manager 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.

The Head of Planning Services advised that the deadline dates for completion of 16/00755/FUL Oundle Primary School and 15/00119/VAR Priors Hall should read 2017 and not 2016. He confirmed that no extensions of time were being sought.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**170. DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES**

In accordance with Minute 441 of the meeting held on 21 March 2012, the Committee received a report providing an update on applications where actions had been delegated to the Head of Planning Services.

The Head of Planning Services advised that the draft conditions for application 15/00119/VAR Priors Hall were in progress.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**171. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Mr C Akrell** – (16/01285/FUL) Olive Grove Nurseries, Oundle Road, Polebrook (Agent for the Applicant)
- **Cllr Dorothy Maxwell** - 16/01559/VAR - The Bridge Service Station, Higham Road, Rushden (Ward Member)
- **Mr Alan Jones** - 16/01559/VAR - The Bridge Service Station, Higham Road, Rushden (Agent for the Applicant)

## 172. 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) **16/00865/FUL – The Brambles, Main Street, Thurning**

At the Planning Management Committee meeting held on 24 August 2016 the Committee had considered an application for a single and two storey rear extension and loft conversion to the main residence and a single storey extension to the rear of the garage.

The Committee had agreed to defer consideration of this application to enable a site visit to be undertaken.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Member following an objection from Thurning Parish Council.

Members noted that objections to the application had also been received from two neighbours.

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Shacklock and seconded by Councillor Robin Underwood that the application be granted. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report.

### (ii) **16/00864/VAR – Darsdale Farm Site, Chelveston Road, Raunds**

The Committee considered an application to vary Condition 1 to increase the number of dwellings by one plot, revised layout and elevations with revised house type to Plots 223 and 224.

The application had been brought before the Committee as it was a major application and Members had considered the original application.

Members noted that Raunds Town Council and Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council had no objections to the application.

Members also noted that the original application had been considered under the previous space standards and sought advice as to whether this application could be considered under the new standards, following the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy.

It was moved by Councillor Peter Wathen and seconded by Councillor Richard Gell that the application be granted. On being put to the vote, 15 members voted for the motion and one against.

The Committee **agreed** that:

- (i) Subject to the applicant varying the legal agreement attached to application 07/02238/OUT by 14 March 2017: GRANT planning permission subject to conditions; and
- (ii) If a satisfactory legal agreement to vary the agreement attached to application 07/022832/OUT is not submitted by 14 March 2017 (and an alternative date is not agreed): Delegate to Head of Planning Services to REFUSE.



**(iii) 16/00326/FUL – 18–20 Chapel Street, Warmington**

The Committee considered an application for the demolition of a working men's club and the erection of eleven residential dwellings and associated access.

The application had been brought before the committee as it was a major application.

Members noted that Warmington Parish Council had no objection in principle to the application, but had requested that a traffic management plan be implemented.

Members further noted that four letters had been received from nearby residents raising various issues.

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Shacklock and seconded by Councillor Richard Gell that the application be granted. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed** that:

- (i) If a satisfactory legal agreement (or similar) is submitted by 14 March 2017, or a date agreed by the local planning authority which secures obligations as set out in the report: GRANT planning permission subject to conditions; and
- (ii) If a satisfactory legal agreement (or similar) which secured obligations is not submitted by 14 March 2017 (and an alternative date is not agreed): Delegate to Head of Planning Services to REFUSE.

**(iv) 16/00801/FUL – 19 Hill Street, Raunds**

This application was withdrawn from the agenda with the decision to be delegated.

**(v) 16/01285/FUL – Olive Grove Nurseries, Oundle Road, Polebrook**

The Committee considered an application for the construction of an opening canopy over an existing plant display area and an extension to the existing car park area.

The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that Polebrook Parish Council had objected on the grounds that the entrance to the site should be made wider to stop the queuing of traffic on the road.

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Shacklock and seconded by Councillor Dudley Hughes that the application be granted. On being put to the vote the Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and update sheet.

**(vi) 16/01559/VAR – The Bridge Service Station, Higham Road, Rushden**

The Committee considered an application to remove Condition 6 (staff parking) and to vary Condition 7 to allow for the removal of the concession unit and modified layout pursuant to application 15/02223/FUL.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of the Ward Member as Members had considered the original application.

It was moved by Councillor Andy Mercer and seconded by Councillor Robin Underwood that the application be granted. On being put to the vote the Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer's report and update sheet.

### **173. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the planning appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate from 8 August 2016 to 26 August 2016.

Councillor Helen Howell, on behalf of the residents of Stanwick, thanked all the officers who had worked on the Brigstock appeal as that had led to the withdrawal of the Stanwick appeal.

In relation to the appeal at 110 Higham Road, Rushden, Councillor Gill Mercer stated that even though the appeal had been allowed, the Committee should feel vindicated in its original decision as the Inspector had noted that Members had been consistent in reaching their views with regards to the colour of the shutters and costs had not been awarded.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**Chairman**

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 19 September 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: David Brackenbury (Chairman)  
Tony Boto (Vice-Chairman)  
Wendy Brackenbury David Jenney  
Val Carter Sarah Peacock  
Sylvia Hobbs Roger Powell  
Sylvia Hughes Pam Whiting

## 174. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 175. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marian Hollomon, Glenn Harwood MBE, Gill Mercer, Steven North and Jake Vowles.

## 176. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Pam Whiting	The Adopted Development Plan for East Northamptonshire	Member of the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.		Yes
	Chelveston cum Caldecott and Stanwick Neighbourhood Plans – Update	Is a Ward Member for Chelveston		Yes

## 177. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## 178. THE ADOPTED DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager presented a report which explained how the recent adoption of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan (HFNP) impacted on the application of development plan policy.

Officers tabled additional information which gave details of which of the Rural North, Oundle & Thrapston Plan and East Northamptonshire District Local Plan policies remained in force as at 14 July 2016. Information was also tabled which showed which policies of the adopted development plan related to the Higham Ferrers parish. The Planning Policy webpages were currently being reviewed and updated to reflect the recent adoption of the JCS and HFNP. As part of this update, officers were in the process of producing an online parish by parish index of adopted development plan policies which could be found at [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/parishpolicy](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/parishpolicy).

In response to a question about the status of existing supplementary planning documents, such as the Wind and Solar Energy SPD, the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager advised that those documents would still be in place but would likely need to be reviewed and refreshed. Members commented that the Wind and Solar Energy SPD was a very important document which should not be diluted as it was very specific to ENC. Officers confirmed that it was cross referenced in the JCS and would still be a key document but there would be a chance to strengthen it through the development of the District Wide Local Plan. A number of workshops would be held for the District Wide Local Plan and this would be an opportunity to discuss with Members potential SPDs, both existing and new.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the list of currently adopted development plan policies relevant to East Northamptonshire and the former Local Plan policies that these have replaced be noted.

*(Reason – to give clarity as to development plan policies that are now in force, following the recent adoption of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 and Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2031.)*

#### **179. PILOT BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER – UPDATE REPORT**

The Planning Policy Officer presented a report which provided Members with an update on the progression of the Pilot Register of Brownfield Land prior to public consultation.

The Government was seeking to maximise the number of new homes built on suitable brownfield land and had set a target for 90% of suitable brownfield sites to have planning permission for housing by 2020. Under the Housing and Planning Act 2016, all local planning authorities were required to prepare a register of brownfield land suitable for housing development.

A briefing note had been produced by the Joint Planning Unit detailing the stages that the Brownfield Land Register would take, including the process for identification and assessment. Once further regulations were received from DCLG, the draft brownfield register would be finalised before public consultation and a wider 'call for sites' in the autumn. The objective was to complete work on the register by April 2017. Once included on the final register, the sites would gain 'permission in principle', which would make them more attractive development opportunities.

In response to a question from Members as to whether all of the sites which would be identified as part of the register would be classed as windfall sites as the housing land supply had already been identified, officers confirmed that an over provision of sites could put the Council in a good position to refuse unsuitable applications.

## **RESOLVED:**

That the progress of the pilot register of brownfield land be noted.

*(Reason – to be aware of the sites identified and assessed in the pilot register shortlist.)*

### **180. CHELVESTON CUM CALDECOTT AND STANWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS – UPDATE REPORT**

The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented a report which informed Members of the current status of the Chelveston cum Caldecott and Stanwick Neighbourhood Plans which had both been recently submitted to the Council for examination.

#### Chelveston cum Caldecott

In March 2016, Chelveston cum Caldecott Parish Council submitted their Neighbourhood Plan for examination. The Regulation 16 consultation took place between 8 April – 23 May 2016 and 11 representations had been received. Six other representations had also been submitted on behalf of local landowners objecting to individual site specific designations or individual policy requirements. An independent examiner had now been appointed and it was anticipated that the examiner would finalise and submit his report in the autumn.

#### Stanwick

In August 2016, Stanwick Parish Council submitted their Neighbourhood Plan for examination. Officers had reviewed all of the documentation and confirmed that they were satisfied that the plan fulfilled all of the statutory requirements. Consultation would shortly be undertaken on the plan prior to examination.

Both plans had now reached a significant milestone in the plan process and at this advanced stage they would receive some weight when determining relevant planning applications within the two parishes. Following examination and the publishing of the examiner's reports, the plans would then proceed to a local referendum. It was likely that the Chelveston cum Caldecott examiner would report in autumn 2016 and Stanwick by early 2017.

## **RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the current stage in preparation of the Chelveston cum Caldecott Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2031 be noted; and
- (ii) That the current stage in preparation of the Stanwick Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2031 be noted.

*(Reason – to support progression of the Chelveston cum Caldecott and Stanwick Neighbourhood Plans through examination.)*

### **181. PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION UPDATE**

The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager presented a report which provided an update on key areas of work being undertaken by the Planning Policy and Conservation Team.

Following the adoption of the JCS in July 2016, the six week legal challenge period had now been completed and no legal representations had been received. Therefore, the Plan remained adopted.

Officers had been drafting the Regulation 18 consultation, following the reporting of the District Wide Local Plan commencement, scope and timescale. This would formally commence the Local Plan in the autumn.

A number of town councils had contacted the team about the District Wide Local Plan and the possible impact on areas where neighbourhood plans had not yet been made. Invitations had been sent to local town and parish councils for officers to meet with them to talk about the issues. A training session for Members on neighbourhood planning would be held next week.

**RESOLVED:**

That the current progress to date with local plan making, neighbourhood planning, the Ashton Parish Conservation Area, Deenethorpe Garden Village and Rushden SUE be noted.

*(Reason – to keep Members informed as to current progress with plan making.)*

**Chairman**

# SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 21 September 2016

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

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors:- Jake Vowles (Chairman)  
David Jenney (Vice-Chairman)

Rosalie Beattie Janet Pinnock  
John Farrar Roger Powell  
Helen Howell Valarie Raven-Hill  
Dorothy Maxwell Geoff Shacklock

## **182. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8 June 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **183. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received from members of the Committee. The Chairman gave an apology for absence from Angela Hook (Corporate Support Manager).

## **184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **185. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

## **186. UPDATE ON CALL-IN OF POLICY DECISIONS**

The Committee was presented with an update on the activities of the Council's policy committees and sub-committees and decisions taken since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. No decisions made by the Finance Sub-Committee, Personnel Sub-Committee, Welfare Reform Sub-Committee, Policy & Resources Committee or Planning Policy Committee had been required to be called in.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the update on the call-in of policy decisions be noted.

**187. PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1 2016/17**

The Performance Officer presented a report detailing the performance of the Council in respect of agreed indicators and other statistics for the period April to June 2016.

Some Members expressed the view that additional press releases would be beneficial to highlight the Council's role and achievements to the public, particularly where ENC had provided grant aid to external groups to implement projects. It was noted that press releases were already issued to the local press and published on the Council's website and it was a condition of grant aid being given that the recipient publically acknowledged the ENC funding.

The Committee noted the under-performance of the "Rag and Phone" pilot scheme and this may have resulted from inadequate publicity being given to the scheme and this was being reviewed by the waste team. The Committee requested a further report when the review was completed.

The Committee expressed concern at the number of days lost due to both short-term and long-term sickness absence. It was noted that these statistics were regularly reported to the Personnel Sub-Committee which kept sickness levels and the reasons for sickness absence under review.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**188. REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

At the previous meeting of the Committee it had been agreed to include a review of the outside bodies to which the Council appointed a representative in the Committee's current Work Plan.

The Executive Director presented the findings of a survey in relation to the continued relevance of each of the ENC representations on Outside Bodies and the Committee was requested to consider whether a further review was required in relation to particular groups before the Committee considered its final recommendations at its next meeting.

The Chairman of the Committee and Councillor Rosalie Beattie had been appointed to review the appointments along with the Executive Director and the initial recommendations of the Panel were considered.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the initial review outcomes set out in Appendix A be approved.
- ii) those bodies indicated for further review of ENC representation be considered again at the January 2017 meeting of this Committee and the ENC representatives on those bodies be invited to attend the next meeting to provide further information about the work of the relevant outside body and the benefits of ENC representation.

*(Reason: To enable a final recommendation for changes to be considered by full Council in March ready for the 2017 Annual Council appointments)*



**189. UPDATE FROM PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Executive Director circulated a presentation to members of the Committee providing an update on the work carried out by the Planning Enforcement Scrutiny Panel to date; amendments the Panel would propose to the Council's Enforcement Policy in its final report and areas of further work to be carried out as part of the review.

**Chairman**

### Review of ENC Representatives on Outside Bodies

Outside Body	2016/17 Representative	Initial Review Outcome
Community Safety Core Group	Cllr S North	Retain
Greenway Board	Cllrs S Peacock and P Stearn	Retain – move to ENC Working Groups and Panels
Groundwork Northamptonshire	Cllr G Mercer	Further Review
Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP)	Cllr S North	Delete
South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Cllr G Harwood	Retain
Oundle and Thrapston Youth Counselling (CHAT)	Cllr R Reichhold	Further Review
Welland Market Towns Group	Cllr P Stearn	Further Review (in August 2017)
Welland Partnership Board	Cllr G Greenwood-Smith	Retain
Welland Joint Committee	Cllrs R Lewis and S North	Delete
University of Northampton Court	Chairman of Council (Cllr R Reichhold)	Retain
Health, Adult Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, NCC	Cllr M Hollomon	Retain
Kettering General Hospital Foundation Trust	Cllr D Maxwell	Retain
East Northamptonshire Locality Forum - Nene Commissioning area	Cllr H Howell	Retain
East Northamptonshire Locality Forum – Borders (Peterborough) Commissioning area	No appointment	Reinstate
Destination Nene Valley	Cllr S Peacock	Retain
Northamptonshire Sports Partnership	Cllr S North	Retain
Stanwick Lakes Management Board	Cllrs G Greenwood-Smith, D Hughes and R Lewis	Retain
Campaign to Protect Rural England (Executive Committee of County Branch)	Cllr T Boto	Retain
East Northamptonshire Grounds Maintenance Consortium	Cllr T Boto	Retain -- move to ENC Working Groups and Panels
North Northamptonshire Development Company (NNDC)	Cllr R Lewis	Further Review – Paper to P&R Committee in October
River Nene Regional Park Board	Cllr G Greenwood-Smith	Retain

Rockingham Motor Speedway Forum	Cllrs R Glithero and H Harrison	Further Review by Forum at next meeting
East Midlands Leaders Board/East Midlands Council	Cllr S North	Retain
Fourth Option Special Interest Group	Cllr P Stearn	Delete
Local Government Association	Cllr S North	Retain
Local Government Association Rural Commission	Cllrs V Raven-Hill and R Reichhold	Delete
Northamptonshire Parking Committee	Cllr G Mercer	Retain
Northamptonshire Partnership	Cllr S North	Delete
Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel	Cllr G Mercer	Retain
SPARSE	Cllr R Reichhold	Retain
Northamptonshire Pensions Board	Cllr R Lewis	Retain
Northamptonshire Waste Partnership	Cllrs R Lewis and S North	Retain
Community Law Service	Cllr M Hillson	Retain
Serve Management Board	Cllr R. Reichhold	Retain
Service Six	Cllr R Lewis	Retain

# JOINT STANDARDS COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Date: 26 September 2016

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: East Northamptonshire Councillors:

Rosalie Beattie  
David Jenney  
Andy Mercer

Gill Mercer  
Valerie Raven-Hill

Town and Parish Councillors:

Fiona Cowan	(Collyweston Parish Council)
Derek Lawson	(High Ferrers Town Council)
Dave Mundy	(Stanwick Parish Council)
Roy Sparkes	(Oundle Town Council)
Robert Tyman	(Raunds Town Council)
Arthur Whittaker	(Yarwell Parish Council)

Vivienne Barnard	Independent Person
Andrew Sortwell	Reserve Independent Person

## 190. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Andy Mercer be elected as Chairman of the Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

## 191. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Arthur Whittaker be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year

## 192. REAPPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT PERSON AND RESERVE INDEPENDENT PERSON

It was noted that Vivienne Barnard had been reappointed Independent Person and that Andrew Sortwell reserve Independent Person at the previous Council . The Chairman, Councillor A Mercer, paid tribute to their high quality and professional approach to the role and welcomed their reappointment.

**193. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Joint Standards Complaints Committee held on 29 February 2016, 23 March 2016 and 28 July 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**194. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marika Hillson and Colin Wright.

**195. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Sparks advised that he had an interest in one aspect of the Monitoring Officer's report

**196. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

**197. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no dispensation requests.

**198. ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report outlining activity in relation to the Standards Framework covering the period from the last meeting of the Committee in March 2016 to date. She also provided the Committee with further information detailing the number of town and parish councils that either published their register of interest forms on their website or provided a link to the forms on the East Northamptonshire Council website.

Committee members discussed the information provided and asked if there were factors to be considered, such as training needs, in addressing those councils that had not published the information.

Further to the previous report, the Committee was advised that all district councillors had returned their register of interest forms and that 99% of town and parish councillors had completed and returned their register at the time of writing the report.

It had not been possible to provide a complete estimate of the number of enquiries received since the previous meeting due to a change in support staff. However it was reported that now a total of ten code of conduct complaints had been received in respect of the same parish council. All ten had had initial assessments issued. Seven had been referred for further investigation, two required no further action and one required an advisory letter from the Monitoring Officer.

Questions were asked about the Council's budget for code of conduct investigations, and about the need for consistency in assessing code of conduct complaints. The Monitoring Office gave details of the procedure for drawing down funds to cover investigations and confirmed that the county wide Monitoring Officers' Group that met regularly included shared learning so as to achieve consistency where possible, given that there were different codes in operation.

The Monitoring Officer concluded her report by giving some useful feedback on a Standards conference that she had recently attended and announcing that a Code of Conduct training session was to be held in Oundle on 27 October 2016, specifically aimed at new councillors but all councillors were welcome to attend. There would also be a sub-regional training session for Independent Persons during November 2016.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**Chairman**