

# COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** 17 October 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)

Tony Boto	Dorothy Maxwell
David Brackenbury	Andy Mercer
Wendy Brackenbury	Gill Mercer
Val Carter	Sarah Peacock
Richard Gell	Janet Pinnock
Roger Glithero JP	Ron Pinnock
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Roger Powell
Helen Harrison	Valerie Raven-Hill
Sylvia Hobbs	Geoff Shacklock
Helen Howell	Alex Smith
Dudley Hughes JP	Phillip Stearn
Sylvia Hughes	Robin Underwood
Barbara Jenney	Jake Vowles
Lance Jones	Pam Whiting
Richard Lewis	

## 219. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rosalie Beattie, John Farrar, Marika Hillson, Marian Hollomon, David Jenney, Anna Sauntson and Peter Wathen.

## 220. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 July 2016 were agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

## 221. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

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

The Chairman made the following address to the meeting:

On 20 July I attended the University of Northampton Summer Ceremonies at which the Pro Chancellor handed graduands their certificates as graduates of the University.

On 22 July I was the guest of ABF/The Soldiers' Charity & SSAFA at which we heard an interesting speech by Colonel Bob Stewart, DSO, MP, now Chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee which pointed the way for enhanced cooperation between civil society and our armed forces.

On 30 July I was the guest of the Royal Anglian Regiment at the Freedom Parade in Northampton and at the Service of Thanksgiving and laying-up of the old Regimental Colour of the Second Battalion at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

On 21 August I was the guest of the Chairman of Daventry District Council at his Civic Service in Yelvercroft.

On 26 August, as a guest of the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, ABF/The Soldiers' Charity and SSAFA, I attended a Beating of the Retreat and Concert by the Royal Dearnegate Community Choir at St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton.

4 September was a significant day for my consort and myself, the day of my Chairman's Civic Service at St Peter's Church, Oundle – where we were married in 1969. Mrs Penny Escombe, Deputy Lieutenant, Tom Pursglove, MP; colleagues from this Council with their partners and friends of long standing.

On 8 September I was the guest of Colonel Kevin Cullen, United States Air Force at the USAF 69<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Ball at Alconbury RAF Station. Guest speakers included James Beaton, GC and Sir Keith Pearson, making clear the continuing happy association between the American Visiting Services, their families and ourselves.

On 30 September Volunteer Action, Oundle – linked to SERVE, celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of their outstanding service to our community: I was their guest at the reception in the Oundle School SciTec – Science and Technical, Building who sponsored this event. The guest of honour was the Lord Lieutenant.

On 5 October I was a guest of the Chairman and the Head of Oundle School for the official opening of the completed SciTec facilities, by HRH the Duke of Gloucester, with the Lord Lieutenant. The SciTec facilities comprise extensive, state of the art, learning opportunities of considerable value to education. Guests included distinguished, generous donors to the construction and equipping of the facilities, from Britain and overseas, including the USA, Russia, Singapore and Hong Kong. There is a good cooperation in the sharing of these facilities between Oundle School and Prince William Schools; in Oundle, our industry is education.

The Chief Executive had no announcements to make.

## **223. LEADER'S ADDRESS**

The Leader of the Council addressed the Council and made the following points.

Firstly, that most of the resources needed to provide services to the public come from central government by way of the rate support grant. Traditionally the financial settlement used to be announced in the late autumn. In the last five years this has slipped to over the Christmas period which causes problems for all tiers of local government when we are trying to set the council tax. The government has therefore suggested that if councils put forward efficiency plans then the government will give a four year settlement. This does not give us any more money, but it does enable us to plan better. Therefore within the agenda tonight there is a recommendation that council endorse the efficiency plan that we have put together. It is taken from the Medium term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan.

Also, the Council is being asked to appoint our new leisure provider. As Leader I am of course very pleased with the proposed outcome. The Leisure Working Party took forward the steer from the issue debate, in the fact that we wanted this to be much more focussed on outreach and healthier lifestyles. This gives us scope to better cover the whole district, rather than the focus being on our centres. The hard work resulted in some excellent bids and it just leaves me to thank the staff involved and the Working Party members, Councillors David Jenney, Helen Howell, Gill Mercer, Peter Wathen and of course the Chairman Glenvil Greenwood-Smith who kept us on time and under budget.

## **224. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **(a) Planning Policy Committee – 25 July and 19 September 2016**

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor David Brackenbury, were received.

### **(b) Joint Standards Complaints Committee – 28 July and 26 September 2016**

The reports of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Andy Mercer, were received.

### **(c) Planning Management Committee – 3 August, 24 August, 14 September and 5 October 2016**

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

### **(d) Policy and Resources Committee – 5 September and 10 October 2016**

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

## **RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations in the following minutes be approved:

**144 The Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) regulations 2016**

- (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.)*

**148 Rockingham Forest Housing Association – Request for Removal of Clawback and Covenants in Relation to Sale of Garden Land**

- (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.)*

**213 ICT Strategy**

- i) That the ICT strategy be approved;
- ii) That the estimated financial impact of the changes be noted and the funding is met from the proposed Medium Term Financial Strategy/Efficiency Plan Earmarked Reserve (as detailed in section 7.5 of the report );
- iii) That the implementation costs are added to the Approved Capital Programme and Development Pool (as detailed in section 7.6 of the report); and
- iv) That the post of Head of ICT be deleted from the Council's organisation structure.

*(Reason: To improve ICT resilience and data security and to focus resources on delivering business improvements and efficiencies).*

**214 Minutes of Sub Committees and Working Parties**

**a) 214d. Personnel Sub-Committee – 2016**

- i) That a new post of Head of Economic & Commercial Development be created.
- ii) That the costs of the role in 2016/17 be funded through any underspend in the Council's budgets or, if there is no underspend or it is insufficient to cover the full costs, any shortfall be met from the Council Improvement Reserve and the costs

for 2017/18 onwards be built into the 2017/18 budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

*(Reason: To ensure that the Council has the resources and the focus required to deliver its growth ambitions and to generate sufficient income to ensure its future financial stability).*

**b) 214e Finance Sub Committee – 5 October 2016**

- i) That the Leader of the Council be invited to propose the endorsement of the efficiency plan as submitted.
- ii) That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee, be authorised to finalise the efficiency plan to be submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government by 14 October 2016

*(Reason: To take advantage of the four-year offer, so that the council has more certainty over finances and can manage resources efficiently to support delivery of the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan)*

**217 Compulsory Purchase Order**

- i) That the Council should commence the Compulsory Purchase of the property as referred to in the report, pursuant to section 17 of the Housing Act 1985; and

*(Reason - to bring a long-term empty property back into use)*

- ii) That the funding required be taken from the Council Improvement Reserve/ Corporate Plan Reserve

*(Reason – to identify the funding source)*

**(e) Governance & Audit Committee – 7 September 2016**

The report of the above Committee, presented by the Chairman, Councillor Colin Wright, was received.

**(f) Scrutiny Committee – 21 September 2016**

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

**225. OTHER REPORTS**

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

Council received and noted reports from the following representatives on Outside Bodies:

- (i) Councillor Gill Mercer, Groundwork Northamptonshire
- (ii) Councillor Gill Mercer, Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel
- (iii) Councillor Helen Howell, Northamptonshire County Council Health, Adult Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

**(b) Licensing Panels**

There were no reports from the Licensing Panels.

**226. MOTIONS**

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

**227. QUESTIONS**

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

**228. CONSTITUTION UPDATES**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report setting out a number of changes that were required to the Council's constitution. The changes included amendments to the Responsibility for Functions, at Part 3.1 to allow for a decision or policy to be made by full Council rather than by a Committee. There were also proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and to the Terms of Reference of the Policy and Resources Committee, the Finance Sub Committee and the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Monitoring Officer concluded by advising Council that she had appointed Lindsay Tomlinson, Democratic and Electoral Services Manager as a Deputy Monitoring Officer in accordance with Section 5 (7) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

**RESOLVED:**

That: the changes to the Constitution as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

*(Reason: to ensure that the Constitution continues to provide appropriate guidance on council decision making)*

**229. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

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

**230. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES - Policy and Resources Committee 10 October 2016**

**RESOLVED:**

That the recommendations in the following minute be approved:

**218 Leisure Procurement - Appointment of Preferred Bidder**

- i) That the contract for the provision of leisure services be awarded to Freedom Leisure;
- ii) That the financial consequences of the award be noted;
- iii) That the 10-day standstill period be noted, following which the contract will be awarded to Freedom Leisure with a contract start date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017; and
- iv) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the policy and Resources Committee, to finalise the contract with the preferred bidder

*(Reason – to enable the delivery of a cost-effective service to help achieve healthy and active lifestyles across the District).*

**Chairman**

# PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Date:** 26 October 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

Andy Mercer  
Ron Pinnock  
Anna Sauntson  
Geoff Shacklock  
Robin Underwood  
Peter Wathen  
Pam Whiting

## 231. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lance Jones and Alex Smith.

## 232. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2016 were approved as a true and correct record of proceedings.

## 233. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

### (a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
All Members of the Committee	16/00524/FUL (Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthlingborough)	Knew one of the speakers		Yes
Helen Howell	16/00903/FUL (Sub Station Site, Midland Road, Raunds)	Lives close to the site		Yes

### (b) Informal Site Visits

Councillor Andy Mercer declared that he had visited Site 32 Oil Depot, Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe (16/01497/FUL).



Councillor Barbara Jenney declared that she had visited the Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthlingborough (16/00524/FUL).

#### **234. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

#### **235. 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 the draft conditions for application 15/00119/VAR Priors Hall were in progress.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

#### **236. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Councillor Roger Powell** - 16/00524/FUL, Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthlingborough (on behalf of Irthlingborough Town Council)
- **Mr R Dingwall** - 16/00524/FUL, Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthlingborough (Objector)
- **Mr Toby Pateman** - 16/00524/FUL, Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthlingborough (Agent for the Applicant)
- **Mrs Alison Vessey** – 16/00903/FUL, Sub Station Site, Midland Road, Raunds (Objector)
- **Mr Ian Knott** – 16/01402/FUL, Wigsthorpe House Farm, Main Street, Wigsthorpe (Supporter)

#### **237. 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) 16/00524/FUL – Baptist Chapel, Meeting Lane, Irthlingborough**

The Committee considered an application for the conversion of the existing Baptist Church into four, two storey, two bedroomed terraced dwellings. The existing cottage would be renovated.

The application had been brought before the Committee as Irthlingborough Town Council had objected to the proposal.

Members noted that eight letters objecting to the application had been received from nearby residents. Members also noted that the Senior Conservation Officer supported the proposal as it would preserve the building's local architectural/historic interest.

During discussion on the application, the Committee were concerned at the lack of parking at the site and the practicalities of using the nearby public car park. However, the Highways Authority had assessed the parking survey which had been submitted and agreed that the local public car park and surrounding roads could accommodate the vehicles attracted to the site.

It was moved by Councillor Sylvia Hobbs and seconded by Councillor Richard Gell that the application be granted. On being put to the vote, nine members voted for the motion, four against and one abstained.

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

**(ii) 16/01497/FUL – Site 32 Oil Depot, Wansford Road, Kings Cliffe**

The Committee considered an application for a new storage building (Class B8) with hard standing, car parking and portakabins. The building would be used in connection with an existing oil and lubricant distribution business occupying the site.

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

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

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.

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

At the Planning Management Committee meeting held on 24 August 2016 the Committee had 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 Northern section of Zone 3.

The Committee had agreed to defer the consideration of the application to allow further consideration of the flood risk and drainage impacts of the proposal and highways matters.

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

It was moved by Councillor Roger Glithero and seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer that the application be deferred. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to defer** the application as comments had not yet been received from the Environment Agency and therefore it was not possible to confirm that the applicant's flood modelling was satisfactory.

**(iv) 16/00903/FUL – Sub Station Site, Midland Road, Raunds**

The Committee considered an application for the erection of two three bedroomed dwellings with associated parking, turning and amenity space.

The application had been brought before the Committee as both Raunds Town Council and the Ward Member had objected to the proposal.

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

Members were concerned that the proposed development was unsympathetic to the street scene on Midland Road as they would be the only two houses fronting the road. There was also concern about access to the dwellings as the proposed access point would be very close to the access for the Northdale End development.

It was moved by Councillor Peter Wathen and seconded by Councillor Richard Gell that the application be granted. On being put to the vote, 11 members voted for the motion and three against.

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

**(v) 16/01718/REM – 4 Britten Close, Chelveston**

The Committee considered a reserved matters application for layout, scale, appearance of the dwellings and landscaping for the construction of three new dwellings.

The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation and because of its planning history.

Members noted that Chelveston Parish Council had requested that permitted development rights be removed from the properties to ensure that garages would not be constructed under the right in the future.

It was moved by Councillor Pam Whiting and seconded by Councillor Anna Sauntson 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) 16/01802/VAR – Nene Business Park, Diamond Way, Irthlingborough**

The Committee considered an application to vary Condition 17 of planning application 15/01195/FUL. The conditions to now read; the hours of opening of the retail store shall be restricted to the following times: Monday - Saturday 0800 – 2200 hours; Sunday 1000 – 1600 hours. The hours of opening of the day care centre shall be restricted to the following times: Monday – Saturday 0700 – 1800 hours and shall not open on Sundays and public holidays.

The application had been brought before the Committee as it proposed more than 1000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floor space.

It was moved by Councillor Sylvia Hobbs and seconded by Councillor Peter Wathen 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.

**(vii) 16/01420/FUL – Wigsthorpe House Farm, Main Street, Wigsthorpe**

The Committee considered an application for the erection of an agricultural grain store with associated concrete hardstanding.

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

The Committee noted that Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch Parish Council had raised several objections.

Members were concerned that the colour of the cladding of the building should be controlled and this would be covered by condition 5.

It was moved by Councillor Geoff Shacklock and seconded by Councillor Helen Howell 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.

**238. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**239. 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 Planning Development Manager for an extension of time in respect of applications 10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West and 15/01976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden until the end of November 2016.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

Members also considered two proposed variations to S106 agreements:

**i) 08/00595/FUL – Former Garage Site, Station Road, Rushden**

Following an independent viability assessment and in the interests of securing a development on the site, it was recommended that the affordable housing requirement

and the greenway contribution be deleted and that the contribution to open space be reduced.

It was moved by Councillor Andy Mercer and seconded by Councillor Robin Underwood that the proposed variation to the S106 be refused. On being put to the vote, 10 voted for the motion and three against.

The Committee **agreed** that the proposed variation to the S106 be refused if the developer did not wish to negotiate further as the proposed reductions would not secure the necessary infrastructure to make the development acceptable; in particular, public open space.

ii) 12/00417/OUT – Primark Depot, Kettering Road, Islip

When planning permission was granted in 2013, a S106 agreement required a £50,000 contribution to improve the frequency of the no.16 bus from Kettering to Raunds and the provision of a staff bus between Kettering and the site.

It was now proposed that the staff bus should no longer be pursued and the £50,000 contribution should instead be used to facilitate and promote other Travel Plan initiatives at the site.

It was moved by Councillor Andy Mercer and seconded by Councillor Peter Wathen that the proposed variation to the S106 be approved. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed** that the proposed changes be made through a Deed of Variation.

**Chairman**

# **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Date:** 7 November 2016

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

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors: Richard Lewis (Chairman)  
Steven North (Leader of the Council)  
Glenn Harwood MBE (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Tony Boto  
David Brackenbury  
Wendy Brackenbury  
Val Carter  
Roger Glithero JP

Helen Harrison  
Dudley Hughes JP  
Andy Mercer  
Sarah Peacock  
Philip Stearn

## **240. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glenvil Greenwood-Smith and Marika Hillson.

## **241. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to the addition of Councillors Helen Harrison and Andy Mercer to the list of those present.

## **242. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

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

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

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

### **a) Housing Policy Working Party – 7 September 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing Policy Working Party held on 7 September 2016 were received (see pages 199 to 202).

### **b) Community Facilities Fund Working Party – 19 October 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Facilities Fund Working Party held on 19 October 2016 were received (see pages 203 to 207).

## **RESOLVED:**

1. That the award of CFF grants to the projects asking for less than £5,000 as set out in the report be confirmed.
2. That approval is given for inviting those projects scoring 20 points or more to submit stage 2 applications on the basis of the conditions set out for each application.
3. That approval is given for those projects scoring below 20 to be rejected.
4. That the Working Party considers completed stage 2 applications and makes recommendations on CFF Grant awards at the February 2017 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

### **c) Welfare Reform Sub Committee – 19 October 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of the Welfare Reform Sub Committee held on 19 October 2016 were received (see pages 208 to 210).

## **245. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

The Community Partnerships Manager presented a report on proposals for making financial contributions to external organisations that contributed to the achievement of our Corporate Plan outcomes.

For 2016/17, the following financial support had been provided:

Groundwork Northamptonshire - £1,500 (core) and £8,500 (project)  
Northamptonshire Sport (NSport) - £7,500  
Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) - £1,897

It was proposed to have a three year SLA of £10K per annum with Groundwork Northamptonshire to part-fund two JAM projects per year with match funding from town or parish councils or through other streams such as Member Empowerment. The SLA would commence on 1 April 2017 and terminate on 31 March 2020 and would be subject to annual reviews.

For NSport, it was proposed that a one year SLA be agreed with a financial contribution set at £7.5K. This would allow time for options to be drawn up in relation to a longer-term arrangement.

The Council had statutory duties under section 11 of the Children's Act 2004, along with other statutory partners, to the NSCB. It was proposed that our current contribution of £1,897 continued in future financial years in line with our statutory responsibilities.

Councillor Andy Mercer asked for it to be minuted that when he had previously chaired a Licensing Panel he had not found the NSCB very helpful when they had been asked to provide information to support a taxi licensing hearing, which he believed they should do when requested.

## **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Equality Implications relating to the report be noted.

2. That a three year Service Level Agreement for Groundwork Northamptonshire at £10,000 per annum to support JAM projects be approved.
3. That a one year Service Level Agreement for Northamptonshire Sport at £7,500 for 2017/18 be approved.
4. That an annual contribution to Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board of £1,897 be approved

*(Reason – to ensure we have effective arrangements with partnership bodies and organisations that support us to achieve our corporate outcomes and / or discharge our statutory duties around safeguarding children)*

#### **246. URGENT ITEM**

The following item of business had been added to the published Agenda with the consent of the Chairman in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a decision was required before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee as the Boundary Commission for England's consultation ends on 5 December 2016.

#### **247. MOTION**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Helen Harrison and seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer:

*“Having studied the Boundary Commission for England's proposals in detail, this Committee believes that there is needless displacement of voters across East Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire more widely, when other proposals are both available, and viable. As such, the Boundary Commission for England should look at this again and amend its proposals - in particular, we believe the local authority wards of Irthlingborough John Pyel and Irthlingborough Waterloo, should remain in the Corby constituency; thus meaning that no voters are displaced in East Northamptonshire. This Committee believes that, unless absolutely necessary; constituencies should remain as close to how they are currently configured.*

*Furthermore, the names of the two constituencies covering East Northamptonshire should be reviewed, in recognition of the invaluable contribution that local residents and our communities make to constituency life. In terms of the Corby constituency, there are clearly two distinct parts – the Borough of Corby and the towns and villages of East Northamptonshire. As such, the Corby constituency should be renamed ‘Corby & East Northamptonshire’ – a proposal the Commission both accepted, and advocated, during the previous review in the last parliament. The same principles apply to the Wellingborough constituency, which should be renamed ‘Wellingborough & Rushden’ – in recognition that there are two major towns in the constituency, of roughly equal size.*

*The Committee therefore **RESOLVES** that:*

1. *The Chief Executive write to the Boundary Commission for England, enclosing a copy of this motion and urging them to reconsider their proposals, ensuring:*
  - a. *that no East Northamptonshire voters are displaced by the boundary changes;*



- b. *that the minimum number of electors are disrupted across North Northamptonshire as a whole;*
  - c. *that the two constituencies covering East Northamptonshire should be renamed 'Corby & East Northamptonshire' and 'Wellingborough & Rushden'.*
2. *The Chief Executive writes to all of the Town and Parish Councils in the District, drawing the Boundary Commission for England's proposals to their attention, enclosing a copy of this motion, encouraging them to participate in the consultation process, and furnishing them with the details of how to do so."*

In support of the Motion, Councillor Harrison stated that under the Boundary Commission's proposals a large number of voters in North Northamptonshire would be displaced, particularly in Irthlingborough. The changes being proposed were far greater than needed when other proposals were both available and viable. East Northamptonshire was also not acknowledged in either of the two constituencies' names.

On being put to the vote, it was **RESOLVED**:

- 1. That the Chief Executive write to the Boundary Commission for England, enclosing a copy of the motion and urging them to reconsider their proposals, ensuring:
  - a. that no East Northamptonshire voters are displaced by the boundary changes;
  - b. that the minimum number of electors are disrupted across North Northamptonshire as a whole; and
  - c. that the two constituencies covering East Northamptonshire should be renamed 'Corby & East Northamptonshire' and 'Wellingborough & Rushden'.
- 2. That the Chief Executive writes to all of the Town and Parish Councils in the District, drawing the Boundary Commission for England's proposals to their attention, enclosing a copy of this motion, encouraging them to participate in the consultation process, and furnishing them with the details of how to do so."

**248. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as it was likely that exempt information, as defined under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be disclosed.

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

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report that set out the options for future delivery of the pest control service currently provided by the Council through an external contractor.

In discussing the options, Members felt that charging for the treatment of rats may discourage people reporting a problem. The principles of Option 2, with the first treatment for rats being free for all, a charge for all subsequent treatments and the administration costs being passed on was supported.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That option 2, as amended, be approved for the future delivery of the pest control service.
2. That the procurement of option 2, as amended, be approved and that authority to award the contract be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

*(Reason – to ensure we meet our duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949)*

**Chairman**



	October HPWP meeting prior to going to P&R in December.	
4.7	Accessible properties - Olympus Care has been taken back in house by NCC. DFGs will be raised again at the next Chief Housing Officer Group meeting with concerns over a potential backlog of cases..	<b>JW</b>
4.8	Property investment opportunities – discussions still in progress regarding the purchase of 2 properties.	<b>JW/CC</b>
4.9	Housing mix requirements SPD to be moved into the current work category. Affordable housing completions have increased in line with the upturn in development in the area. In 2015 there were 90 affordable homes constructed, and in 2016 there have already been 100 so far.	<b>CC</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>District-wide Housing Mix – Needs and Aspirations</b>	
5.1	A paper was presented to the meeting proposing options for members to consider in relation to gathering improved information on future housing mix requirements for new housing sites which would take into account future economic development aspirations for the district.	
5.2	It was suggested that a study for the district could include the Rushden East and Deenethorpe Airfield Garden Village projects which would provide cost savings and efficiencies.	
5.3	<p>Members agreed that it would be crucial to clearly outline the council's requirements in a brief to potential consultants. Areas to be considered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirement for a variety of employees in the district to be able to live locally</li> <li>• Place shaping to include facilities offered</li> <li>• Demand for larger, more aspirational homes.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that an outline brief for consultants would be submitted to the Working Party by the end of September. Funding for the study would be sourced internally.</p>	<b>PB/RP</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Homelessness Prevention Grant Fund</b>	
6.1	A draft paper was brought to the meeting prior to presentation to Policy and Resources committee. HPG funding in the MTFS has been set at £29,525 for 2017/18. It was noted that internal funding requirements are increasing, and if not met could lead to extra costs for homelessness and B&B accommodation.	
6.2	<p>The additional requirements were outlined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most RPs are now requesting up to 4 weeks rent in advance which can prevent applicants being rehoused and may therefore mean they have to go into B&amp;B or increase the time they have to stay there. A fund for rent in advance would assist with moving applicants into permanent housing.</li> <li>• A tenancy training programme in partnership with RPs, would</li> </ul>	

	<p>assist younger and more vulnerable tenants to save for a deposit and understand the responsibilities involved in taking on a tenancy. It is hoped this work would also help prevent future homelessness due to rent arrears, anti-social behaviour etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All new tenancies entered into from April 2016 will have their benefit capped at the LHA rate from April <b>2018</b>. Older tenants will be affected by this restriction, particularly in sheltered housing where service charges can be high. Single tenants under 35 will only be entitled to the single shared accommodation rate, considerably below the rent for a one bedroom flat. A fund to bridge the gap between the LHA rate and the full rent will assist with the prevention of homelessness for cases where the council would have a duty to accommodate should the tenancy be lost as a result.</li> <li>The police will no longer pay for target hardening (lock changes etc) and sanctuary installations (provision of a secure panic room within a property), for those at risk of domestic violence, A fund to enable such work would prevent homelessness where the victim wishes to remain in the home.</li> </ul>																			
	<p>It was suggested that additional funding was required internally as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2017/18</th> <th>2018/19</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rent in advance</td> <td>£ 5,000</td> <td>£ 5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenancy training programme</td> <td>£ 5,000</td> <td>£ 5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Housing Allowance Gap Funding</td> <td></td> <td>£10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Target hardening/Sanctuary</td> <td>£ 2,000</td> <td>£ 5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>£12,000</b></td> <td><b>£25,000</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2017/18	2018/19	Rent in advance	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	Tenancy training programme	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	Local Housing Allowance Gap Funding		£10,000	Target hardening/Sanctuary	£ 2,000	£ 5,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,000</b>	<b>£25,000</b>	
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Target hardening/Sanctuary	£ 2,000	£ 5,000																		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,000</b>	<b>£25,000</b>																		
6.4	Members expressed serious concerns on this funding proposal and further consideration of the issues and financial implications would therefore be required before any recommendation could be made to P&R committee.																			
<b>7</b>	<b>Voluntary Right to Buy Clawbacks</b>																			
7.1	Government guidance on how the voluntary right to buy process will work has not yet been issued, and pilot exercises are currently being carried out around the country which will inform future guidance. Registered Providers will have discretion when deciding the types of properties that will be sold under VRTB. Clear policies must be set out for tenants and staff to follow.																			
7.2	It is not mandatory for the council to facilitate the operation of VRTB, but members agreed it would be appropriate and reasonable to do so. It was therefore considered that requests to clear title restrictions contained in transfer agreements should be viewed favourably, subject to a legal agreement that any proceeds would be reinvested into affordable housing in the East Northamptonshire District. It was																			

	suggested that sale proceeds could be used for homelessness prevention, although it was noted such proceeds are likely to be ring-fenced to new replacement affordable housing provision.	
7.3	A further paper will be brought to a future meeting of the Working Party, once more government guidance and information regarding the VRTB is available, with a view to putting a comprehensive clawback policy in place.	<b>CC</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Risk Review</b>	
8.1	The risks were reviewed, noting that Risk 6 – Introduction of Local Housing Allowance Cap - had been added at the last meeting.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	
9.1	None.	
<b>10</b>	<b>Next and future meetings</b>	
10.1	<p><b>The next meeting will be held on 19 October at 2pm in the Kasen Room</b></p> <p>Future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 December</li> </ul> <p>Meetings to be held every 6 weeks</p>	
	The meeting concluded at 15.50pm	



**Community Facilities Fund Working Party**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2016**  
**at 11.30 in the Kasen Room**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Councillor Steven North (Chair) Cllr SN  
 Councillor Roger Glithero Cllr RG  
 Councillor Richard Lewis Cllr RL  
 Councillor Helen Harrison Cllr HH  
 Councillor Wendy Brackenbury Cllr WB  
 Councillor Glenn Harwood MBE Cllr GH

**Officers:** Julia Smith, Head of Customer & Community Services JS  
 Mike Greenway, Community Partnerships Manager MG  
 Michelle Drewery, Finance Manager MDwy  
 Lucy Hawes, Community Development Officer LH

**Minutes:** Charlie Hall, PA to Executive Director <mailto:chall@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk>

**ACTION**

**1. Apologies**

1.1. Councillor Richard Lewis had sent his apologies.

**2. Declarations of interest**

2.1	Councillor/Officer	Item	Nature of interest	DPI	Other
	Glithero	Eligibility Applications	Grandson is Chair of the Bulwick Village Centre		Yes
	Harwood	Eligibility Applications	Social Member of the Rushden Historical Transport Society		Yes

- 2.1.
- Cllr Glithero - Grandson was chair of Bulwick Village Centre
  - Cllr Harwood - Social member of the Rushden Historical Transport Society

**3 Financial position update**

MDwy provided an update on the position of the New Homes Bonus reserve. It was confirmed that £378,916 had been brought forward this year for stream 2 projects. All round 1 (year 1) projects had now been completed and monies drawn down in full.

It was confirmed that £40,000 remained committed for the round 2 (year 2) Rushden Historical Society Project and £4,147 has been drawn down to date on round 3 (year 3) projects. There is approximately £157,000 remaining to be drawn down for projects in round 3.

MDwy confirmed that for 2016/17 there is an allocation of £1,313,022 available in the NHB reserve to allocate between stream 2 and 3 projects. It was suggested that what is not spent on stream 2 projects is allocated to spend on stream 3. There is currently £1.6m held in reserves which is allocated to stream 3, with £620,000 of this already committed to specific projects.

#### 4. Applications to Round 4 Eligibility Stage

4.1 MG presented a report detailing the evaluation of the eligibility applications for the fourth round of the Community Facilities Fund. It was noted that this round had been launched in July 2016. Members were reminded that a new process for Round 4 had been agreed (Policy and Resources Committee minute 86c – 11 July 2016). This consisted of an Eligibility stage, to which all applicants had applied to and then a Second (full application) stage for applications seeking £5,001 to £50,000. A total of 26 applications had been received and evaluated at the Eligibility Stage. Members noted that an application from Laxton Church had been rejected on receipt as it involved works that were part of an insurance claim.

4.2 It was confirmed that the Working Party was required to consider the evaluation findings and recommend or reject a grant award to those applications seeking £5,000 or less. For those applications seeking between £5,001 and £50K, the Working Party would confirm which applications would be invited to submit a second stage application. These recommendations would require confirmation by Policy and Resources Committee

4.3 MG reminded Members of the approved Eligibility Stage Scoring Criteria, which had been part of the report.

4.4 The Working Party considered the Eligibility applications **seeking £5K or less**

App. No	Applicant	Project detail	Amount requested £	Recommendation
2	Bulwick Village Centre	Toilet upgrade and disabled access ramp	4,500	Award grant
7	Benefield Parish Council	Provide bus shelter	3,500	Award grant
1	Deene and Deenethorpe	Kitchen replacement	5,000	Reject

Members requested that the letter to Deene and Deenthorpe would state the reasons why their application had been rejected, which was largely due to missing information and a lack of evidence.

4.5 The Working Party considered the Eligibility applications **seeking between £5,001 and £50K**. Members were reminded that applications were required to score a minimum of 20 points, as set out in the evaluation criteria, in order to proceed to stage 2. Members considered



the applications in the order of their scores starting with the highest.

Applications scoring 20 or more points				
App. No	Applicant	Project detail	Amount requested £	Recommendation (with conditions)
8	Rockingham Forest Trust	Revitalise play areas at Stanwick Lakes	13,993.50	Stage 2
2	Friends of Easton Church	Create a Peace Labyrinth	44,514.80	Stage 2 - (applicant be required to justify high level of reserves and whether more can diverted to match fund this project)
13	Thrapston Bowls Club	Clubhouse development	23,410.00	Stage 2
24	Raunds Town Council	Bandstand project	36,033.75	Stage 2 - (applicant be required to justify high level of reserves and whether more can diverted to match fund this project)
17	Collyweston Playing Fields	New clubhouse development	50,000.00	Stage 2 – (The deliverability of the project requires more examination as well as the requirement for a project timeline. There was also a requirement for more evidence of consultation.
25	Rushden Heritage Centre	Heritage Chapel development	50,000.00	Stage 2 – (applicant be required to set out clearly that project is for benefit of whole community and not an exclusive group).
16	Rushden Historical Transport Society	Platform restoration	16,800.00	Stage 2 – (applicant be required to justify high level of

				reserves and whether more can diverted to match fund this project).
15	Woodford Parish Council	Development of a Greenway link	21,000.00	Stage 2
9	Kings Cliffe Parish Council	Community pathway	30,000.00	Stage 2
14	Higham Ferrers Town Council	Improvements to Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)	14,952.00	Stage 2
6	Benefield Cricket Club	Refurbishment and upgrade project	18,900.00	Stage 2
19	Higham Ferrers Town Council	Development of a Greenway link	40,000.00	Stage 2
20	Denford Church	Building improvements including provision of toilets	37,593.00	Stage 2
Applications scoring below 20 points				
18	Stanwick Parish Council	Olympic legacy – play equipment	18,750.00	Reject
4	Serve	Nearly new mini-bus	9,000.00	Reject
12	Rushden Cricket Club	Secure fencing	14,175.00	Reject
22	Rushden West Community Association	Play equipment	11,953.70	Reject
26	Rushden Town Council	Play equipment	48,000.00	Reject
23	Oundle Rugby Football Club	Expansion and refurbishment of facilities	15,000.00	Reject
5	St Peter's Church Rushden	Replacement of boiler	13,500.00	Reject
10	Islip Parish Council	Renovation of recreation facilities	25,000.00	Reject

21	Barnwell Parish Council	Install new playground	49,920.00	Reject
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5. **Recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee 07 November 2016**

5.1 The Working Party **Resolved to Recommend** to Policy and Resources Committee:-

1. That the awards of CFF grants to the projects set out in table 4.4 above are confirmed.
2. That approval is given for inviting those projects scoring 20 points or more (as set out in table 4.5) to submit stage 2 applications on the basis of the conditions set out for each application.
3. That approval is given for those projects set out in table 4.5 scoring below 20 to be rejected.
4. That the Working Party considers completed stage 2 applications and makes recommendations on CFF Grant awards at the February 2017 meeting of the Committee.

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

- 5.1. It was agreed that a date for the next meeting of the Working Party would be scheduled for the end of January 2017.

**Meeting concluded at 13:00**

JS/MG/LH/CH 19.10.16

## Welfare Reform Sub-Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 19 October at 10.00am,  
in the Kasen Room, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

### Present:

Councillors: Andy Mercer (Chairman)  
Steven North (Leader of the Council)  
Helen Harrison  
Sarah Peacock

Officers: Julia Smith – Head of Customer and Community Services  
Lucy Hogston – Benefit Manager  
Michelle Drewery – Finance Manager

### 1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Lewis.

### 2.0 MINUTES

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2016 were approved as a correct record.

### 3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

### 4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 No questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

### 5.0 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2017/18

5.1 The Benefits Manager presented a report which gave options for a local Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme for 2017/18 prior to public consultation.

5.2 Since its introduction in 2013/14, the CTS scheme had increased the minimum amount of Council Tax liability households were required to pay from 0% to the current 20%. Since that time the number of claimants had reduced from 5,550 to 4,835.

5.3 In developing the various options for a CTS scheme for 2017/18 onwards, a number of assumptions had been made:

- Grant funding would be reduced
- CTS expenditure would be reduced by the same percentage levels as experienced during 2016/17

- CTS caseload would reduce by the same percentage levels as experienced in 2016/17
- Council Tax collection rates would stay the same

5.4 For a cost neutral CTS scheme in 2017/18, the percentage reduction required was 25%, with the figure remaining the same for 2018/19 and a 30% reduction in 2019/20.

5.5 A number of technical amendments to the scheme had been put forward to bring the CTS scheme in line with the nationally designed Housing Benefit and Universal Credit schemes and would ensure CTS administration was efficient and consistent with both of those schemes.

5.6 **Amendment 1 – To limit the number of dependent children within the calculation for Council Tax Support to a maximum of two**

This would lead to a restriction in CTS for customers that had a third or subsequent child on or after 1 April 2017.

5.7 **Amendment 2 – Reducing the period for which a person could be absent from Great Britain and still receive Council Tax Support to four weeks**

This would lead to a claimant who was absent from Great Britain for a period likely to exceed four weeks having their CTS stopped from when they left the country and they would need to reapply on return. There would be exceptions for certain occupations such as mariners and the armed forces or where a person had to go abroad due to the death of a close relative.

During discussion on the proposed amendment, the Sub-Committee agreed to amend the term 'Great Britain' to 'United Kingdom' and to include reserve forces in those who would be exempt.

5.8 **Amendment 3 – To remove the Work Related Activity Component in the current scheme for new Employment and Support Allowance claimants**

All new claimants of Employment and Support Allowance who fell within the Work Related Activity Group would no longer receive the work related activity component within the calculation of CTS.

5.9 **Amendment 4 – To remove entitlement to the Severe Disability Premium where another person is paid Universal Credit (Carer's Element) to look after them**

This amendment would align the scheme with Housing Benefit by treating persons who received the Universal Credit (Carer's Element) in the same way as others receiving Carer's Allowance.

5.10 Two options for the CTS had also been put forward for consultation:

**Option 1 – Status Quo**  
**No change to the percentage reduction in the current scheme**

Working age people would be required to pay at least 20% of their Council Tax liability. This would present an estimated overall funding gap of around £31k of which £3k related to ENC.

5.11 **Option 2 – Breakeven**  
**Increase the percentage reduction in the current CTS scheme**

This option would enable the scheme to be cost neutral and working age people would be required to pay at least 25% of their Council Tax liability.

5.12 For the two options, the minimum amount of council tax a household would have to pay each week, depending on their property band and the % of liability reduction was:

	<b>Option</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Average Band</b>	<b>Number of customers affected</b>	<b>20% Reduction £</b>	<b>25% Reduction £</b>
<b>A</b>	1,266	3.85	4.82
<b>B</b>	741	4.47	5.62
<b>C</b>	192	5.14	6.42
<b>D</b>	78	5.78	7.23
<b>E</b>	24	7.07	8.83
<b>F</b>	17	8.35	10.44
<b>G</b>	2	9.63	12.04
<b>H</b>	0	11.56	14.45

5.13 During discussion on the proposed options, Members were concerned at the impact that increasing the liability reduction would have on some households. The impact on ENC was relatively small and Members indicated that their preference was to maintain the existing reduction.

5.14 Councillor Steven North moved, seconded by Councillor Andy Mercer, that consultation should take place on the four amendments, as amended today, and Option 1 only. On being put to the vote, the Sub-Committee unanimously:

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That consultation on a new Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 with the four amendments and Option 1 be approved; and
- (ii) That the Welfare Reform Sub-Committee meet on 21 December 2016 to consider the consultation responses and recommend a Council Tax Support Scheme 2017/18 to Policy and Resources Committee on 9 January 2017 and then approval by Council on 23 January 2017.

*(Reason – to deliver a Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18 that meets all the statutory requirements.)*

**Chairman**

# SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 9 November 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** Valarie Raven-Hill  
**Helen Howell** Geoff Shacklock  
**Dorothy Maxwell**

## **250. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 21 September 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **251. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Hughes and Roger Powell.

## **252. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

## **253. CHANGE TO ORDER OF AGENDA**

With the consent of the Committee, the Chairman varied the order of the published Agenda.

## **254. REVIEW OF APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Further to the Committee's consideration of the first stage of the review at its last meeting, additional information was submitted concerning three outside bodies to which the Council currently appointed a representative:

- i) Groundwork Northamptonshire** – (the Council's appointed representative, Cllr Gill Mercer, was in attendance for this item)

It was noted that the Policy and Resources Committee had approved project funding for the organisation for 2017/18 at its meeting held on 7 November 2016, specifically for "Jam in the Hood" events in Irthlingborough and Raunds. Councillor Mercer outlined the work carried out by Groundwork Northamptonshire and that the Council appointed representatives held a designated status within the organisation's constitution. It was considered that this enabled the Council's representative to have better oversight of projects to ensure that they were successful.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council should retain an appointed representative to Groundwork Northamptonshire.

**ii) Oundle and Thrapston Youth Counselling (CHAT)**

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Council's appointed representative, Councillor Rupert Reichhold, who considered that the appointment of a Council representative was no longer required and any issues could adequately be addressed by Ward Councillors.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council should cease to appoint a representative to Oundle and Thrapston Youth Counselling (CHAT)

**iii) Greenway Board**

The Chairman reported that he had received representations from Councillors Sarah Peacock and Phil Stearn who considered that the Council should continue to recognise this Board as an Outside Body to which representatives were appointed rather than as a ENC Working Group as previously agreed. Retaining the current classification would provide a more appropriate recognition of the partnership working which was vital to the project.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Greenway Board should continue to be constituted as an outside body to which the Council appoints representatives.

**255. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

The Chairman reported that a question had been submitted by Councillor Dorothy Maxwell under Council Procedure Rule 10.3. Although the question had been received by the Democratic Services team after the deadline as it had been sent initially to an incorrect e-mail address, the Chairman permitted Councillor Maxwell to raise the question as follows:

*"Last Saturday I received a letter regarding the Boundary Commission which was to be discussed at P&R last night. Unfortunately I was unable to speak due to the letter turning up on Saturday and I would have been required to submit my request on Friday by 5pm, my question is how in future can this be resolved?"*

The Committee agreed that the question should be referred to the Chief Executive as the Proper Officer for receiving questions under Procedure Rule 10.3 and the issue raised should be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee as this fell within that Committee's remit to consider whether the relevant part of the Constitution should be revised.



## **256. 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.

## **257. KEY ISSUES FROM QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Executive Director presented a verbal report highlighting the key issues which had arisen from the Quarter 2 Performance Report. After outlining the process by which these reports were compiled and hence why the report itself had not yet been completed, it was noted that it would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for review.

Three areas of concern had been noted:

- i) Missed bins. It was reported that actions to address a significant increase in missed bins were being examined by officers, although it was noted that performance had improved during September.
- ii) Land Charges turnaround. It was noted that ICT problems and a staff vacancy had impacted on performance in the quarter and that turnaround times had returned to satisfactory levels during October.
- iii) Staff sickness levels. These would be reviewed by the Personnel Sub-Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2016.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

## **258. PUBLIC TRANSPORT SCRUTINY GROUP**

The Executive Director outlined the current position with the Group's review of public transport in the District.

The Community Transport Grants Panel had met recently to explore the current funding levels for this grant which it was noted had not been increased for six years. After consideration of the ideas proposed in the current round of applications, it was noted that demand was likely to increase by virtue of both higher number of older people and the proposals for 7 day NHS hospital service delivery. In addition, petrol prices had increased in the period and were even more likely to do so in the next three years and whilst some driver related costs were recovered from users, an increasing amount was likely to fall on the provider.

It was therefore proposed that the Scrutiny Committee recommend (via the report to the Policy and Resources Committee in December which will recommend the grant awards) that the grant for community transport provision be increased by £5,000 for 2017/18 with a further review for 2019/20 to see if demand had increased significantly.

The Council's Communications team would assist with a marketing campaign to recruit additional voluntary drivers and discussions were ongoing regarding a lift share scheme as noted in the Group's interim report submitted to the June 2016 meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:**

That the 2017/18 budget for Community Transport Grants be increased by £5,000.

**259. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT SCRUTINY GROUP**

Councillor David Jenney provided the Committee with a summary of the work currently being carried out by the Group.

Sections 5.4 and 5.5 of the Planning Code of Practice were being revised and merged. The Group would meet again on 14 November to consider revisions to the Enforcement Policy. The Head of Planning Services would also review reporting procedures for Town and Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**Chairman**

# PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Date:** 16 November 2016

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

**Time:** 7.00pm

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

Roger Glithero JP  
Helen Harrison  
Helen Howell  
Barbara Jenney  
Lance Jones  
Andy Mercer

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

## 260. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Gell, Sylvia Hobbs, Dudley Hughes JP and Anna Sauntson

## 261. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2016 were approved as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to a correction to the spelling of Cllr Gell's name.

## 262. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

### (a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
G Shacklock	16/01820VAR (Oundle Marina Village)	Knows the public speakers and is a member of Oundle Town Council		Yes
A Mercer, G Mercer, R Pinnock, R Underwood and B Jenney	16/01744/OUT (55 Rushmere Way, Rushden)	Sit on Rushden Town Council and know one of the speakers, Cllr Maxwell of ENC		Yes
P Whiting	16/01744/OUT (55 Rushmere Way, Rushden)	Knows two of the speakers including the resident of 53 Rushmere Way and the applicant is an employee of Higham Town Council		Yes

**(b) Informal Site Visits**

Councillor Underwood declared that he had visited 55 Rushmere Way (16/01774/OUT).  
Councillor Shacklock declared that he had visited Oundle Marina Village (16/01820/VAR).  
Councillor Stearn declared that he had visited Oundle Marina Village (16/01820/VAR).

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

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

**264. 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 on 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.

Councillor Andy Mercer asked for clarification on the likely timescales for completion of the S106 Agreement for application 10/00857/OUT at Irthlingborough West and was advised that if an extension were required it would be brought back to this Committee for approval.

Members considered a request by the Planning Development Manager for an extension of time in respect of applications 10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West and 15/01976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden until the 8 December 2016.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the report be noted.
- ii) the extension in respect of applications 10/00857/OUT Irthlingborough West and 15/01976/VAR Grensons, Queen Street, Rushden be approved.

**265. 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 the draft conditions for application 15/00119/VAR Priors Hall were in progress.

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**266. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Mr Mike Foster** – 16/01385/FUL, Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene (on behalf of the Applicant)

- **Councillor Heather Hanlon** - 16/01820/VAR, Oundle Marina Village, Barnwell Road, Oundle (on behalf of Barnwell Parish Council)
- **Mr Nigel Ozier** - 16/01820/VAR, Oundle Marina Village, Barnwell Road, Oundle (Agent for the Applicant)
- **Councillor Dorothy Maxwell** - 16/01774/OUT, 55 Rushmere Way, Rushden (Ward Member)
- **Mr Robin Harwood** - 16/01774/OUT, 55 Rushmere Way, Rushden (Objector)
- **Councillor David Coleman** - 16/01774/OUT, 55 Rushmere Way, Rushden (on behalf of Rushden Town Council)

## **267. 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) 16/01385/FUL – Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene**

At the Planning Management Committee meeting held on 24 August 2016 the Committee had 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 Northern section of Zone 3. The Committee had agreed to defer the consideration of the application to allow further consideration of the flood risk and drainage impacts of the proposal and highways matters.

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

Members debated the proposal, taking note of the information provided in the update report. It was moved by Councillor Glithero and seconded by Councillor Howell 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) 16/01820/VAR – Oundle Marina Village, Barnwell Road, Oundle**

The Committee considered an application to vary Condition 4 of planning application 14/00675/OUT. To remove business accommodation (B2) and replace with additional holiday accommodation (C3); Redevelopment to provide a mixed use scheme to include improved marina facilities, residential moorings, permanent floating accommodation (C3), 2 x pub/restaurant (A3/A4), retail (A1), business accommodation (B1), holiday accommodation (C3), boat yard, boat clubhouse, parking and associated infrastructure (all matters reserved).

The application had been brought before the Committee as it was a major application over 1ha.

Members expressed some concern at the potential loss of industrial space as a result of the application being granted and agreed that issues such as the relocation of current industrial units, number and type of potential jobs the proposal would create and number of people currently employed at the site needed to be considered before the application could be determined.

It was moved by Councillor Shacklock and 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 the information required as set out above to be provided to the Committee prior to the application being determined.

**(iii) 16/01774/OUT – 55 Rushmere Way, Rushden**

The Committee considered an application which sought outline planning permission for the erection of a single storey dwelling.

The application had been brought before the Committee at the request of Councillor A Mercer as Rushden Town Council had objected to the proposal.

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

Members discussed the proposal in light of the report and the comments made by public speakers. It was suggested that the question of covenants on the land was a civil matter and not a planning matter, and members believed that as the principle of development had already been established on the site it would be difficult to refuse the application given that there were no objections from County Highways regarding site access.

It was moved by Councillor Andy Mercer and seconded by Councillor 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.

**(iv) 16/01934/VAR – 77 Kimbolton Road, Higham Ferrers**

The Committee considered an application to vary Condition 15 to allow for revised elevations pursuant to outline planning permission EN/04/02158/OUT.

The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation as it is a major proposal and the original planning application had been considered by the Committee in 2004.

It was moved by Councillor Whiting and seconded by Councillor Howell that 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 to the following:

- (i) If a satisfactory legal agreement (or Deed of Variation) is agreed and signed by 2 January 2017 to GRANT planning permission subject to conditions.
- (ii) If a satisfactory legal agreement (or Deed of Variation) is not submitted by 2 January 2017 (and an alternative determination date, within 6 months of the Committee resolution is not agreed by both parties): Delegate to Head of Planning Services to REFUSE.

**Chairman**

# PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 21 November 2016

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

**Time:** 7.30pm

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

Wendy Brackenbury Gill Mercer  
Val Carter Sarah Peacock  
Sylvia Hobbs Roger Powell  
Marian Hollomon Jake Vowles  
David Jenney Pam Whiting

## **268. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **269. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Hughes and Steven North.

## **270. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

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

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

## **272. OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENTS, STANDARDS AND ACTION PLAN**

The Planning Policy Officer presented a report which detailed the findings of the Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy reports and sought agreement to publish the studies as background evidence to inform the Local Plan Part 2.

Consultants KKP had been appointed to undertake an Open Space Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy for the Council as part of the evidence gathering for the Local Plan Part 2. New study assessments had been undertaken across the whole district and consisted of the following four key documents:

- Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report
- Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan

- Open Space Assessment Report
- Open Space Standards Paper

The Open Space aspect of the work evaluated the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space in the district. It assessed the need and opportunity for new provision to meet the requirements of the NPPF and would provide evidence for determining relevant planning applications.

The Playing Pitch Strategy provided an evidence-based document that Sport England recommended councils produce to guide investment, development and improvement in sports pitch facilities and to meet the requirements of the NPPF. The assessment and strategy would be used to determine planning applications impacting on existing facilities, as well as identifying the need for new sports pitches and guiding future investment.

A presentation on the documents had been held before the meeting for all councillors and those comments, and those from this meeting, would feed into updating the evidence base.

Whilst acknowledging the work undertaken to date, Members felt that the documents had a number of weaknesses which needed to be addressed before they could support them being published as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Part 2.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the findings of the four reports (Open Space Assessment Report, Open Space Standards Paper, PPS Assessment Report and PPS Strategy and Action Plan be noted; and
- (ii) That the four reports be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration.

*(Reason – to enable the assessments and recommendations to form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Part 2.)*

**273. 2016 AUTHORITIES MONITORING REPORT – CALCULATING A FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY FOR THE DISTRICT**

The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented a report which provided an update on the Council's current five year housing land supply situation as at 1 April 2016. The five year housing land supply had been calculated on the basis of the following assumptions:

- The recently adopted JCS (Policy 28 Table 4) provided the basis for calculating the five year housing land supply;
- The total deliverable supply equated to **2,939 dwellings**; basic supply 2,816 dwellings plus 123 dwellings windfall allowance;
- The assessment of delivery rates during the 2011-16 and 2016-17 monitoring period had identified a shortfall of 250 dwellings against the JCS requirement for the same period, which ought to be made up within the next five years. This would entail a five year land supply requirement of **2,350 dwellings** for the 2017-22 monitoring period; and
- Given that housing completions had progressively recovered throughout the plan period (since 2011) and had exceeded the JCS requirement (420 dwellings) since 2014, it was concluded that a 5% buffer (contingency) should continue to be applied. This was recently confirmed through the appeal case for Land of Benefield Road and Old Dry Lane, Brigstock. Therefore, the five year land supply requirement would equate to **2,468 dwellings** (including the 5% buffer).



In response to questions about how the work parish and town councils were undertaking around their neighbourhood plans fed into this process, officers confirmed that they very much took into account the work the councils had done around call for sites at a neighbourhood level.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the five year housing land supply calculations against the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Policy 28/Table 4): **5.96 years**, applying the “Sedgefield approach” with a 5% buffer be noted;
- (2) That the schedule of sites and phasing assumptions used in the calculation of the five year housing land supply figure for inclusion in the 2016 Authorities Monitoring Report be endorsed; and
- (3) That the application of maintaining a 5% buffer to be applied in calculating future five year land supply requirement be acknowledged.

*(Reason – to provide a robust housing land supply position on which to base planning decisions.)*

**274. UPPER NENE VALLEY GRAVEL PITS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT MITIGATION STRATEGY**

The Planning Policy Officer presented a report which sought the adoption of the Mitigation Strategy as an addendum to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Joint Core Strategy had identified that development across North Northamptonshire, specifically in East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough, was likely to have a significant effect on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area and proposed a Mitigation Strategy to remove the significant effects. During the Joint Core Strategy examination process, Natural England had confirmed that this approach was necessary to ensure that the plan was legally compliant.

Approval had been given by the Committee to consult on the proposed Mitigation Strategy in July 2016 and consultation had taken place between 5 August and 16 September 2016. 11 responses had been received to the consultation, with four supporting the document, four providing no comment, two that had elements of support with caveats and one objection. The main issues identified during the consultation were:

- The collection of money was not compliant with the CIL regulations
- A standard approach should not be taken
- Each application would need to meet its own requirements
- Other large scale developments did not need to make the contributions on top of other provision
- It was not clear where each ‘unit’ of the SPA was.

It was noted that Wellingborough Council had approved the Strategy in October.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Mitigation Strategy, as an addendum to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document, be adopted.

*(Reason: - to provide a Mitigation Strategy to ensure that new housing development has no significant impact on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA)*

## **275. REMOVAL OF PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOXES**

The Planning Enforcement Officer presented a report which sought approval for a procedure to determine whether the Council should exercise its veto on the proposed removal of public telephone boxes.

In 2005, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) agreed a new set of rules which BT must follow if it wished to remove the only telephone box in a local area. These rules gave local authorities a veto on such removals and this report outlined a procedure for this Council to exercise its powers in this respect.

The new rules applied when BT wanted to remove the only call box from a site. In this case, "site" meant a 400 metre walking distance surrounding a call box. This meant that if there were two telephone boxes within 400 metres of each other, one could be removed without following the rules.

BT had now submitted a proposal to remove 29 public payphones within the district.

Where BT wanted to remove the last telephone box it must:

- i) inform the public by displaying a notice on the telephone box giving the name of the local authority to which people could object; and
- ii) advise the relevant local authority about its plans to remove the telephone box.

The local authority then had 90 days to object to the removal, setting out its reasons. If a local authority did write to BT with an objection then the telephone could not be removed. In this case the 90 day consultation ends on 6 January 2017 but due to the Christmas period, a request has been made for an extension to 20 January 2017.

If the Council did not issue a final response, then BT had the right to remove any of the identified payphones with no further consultation.

In determining whether to use its veto, the Council was required to consult with the local community, including responses it also received to the notice posted by BT on the telephone box. The Council then announces its first decision and invites comments from the local community before arriving at a final decision. Such consultations would include the local parish and town council and Ward Members.

Due to the timescales involved, it was proposed that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with local Ward Members, to deal with all aspects of proposals to remove telephone boxes.

### **RESOLVED:**

That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee, to:

- i) deal with all aspects of proposals to remove the last telephone box from a "site", including consultation with local residents; and
- ii) in consultation with local Ward Members, agree and publish the initial and final decision notices as to whether the Council objects to such removals.

*(Reason - to enable an effective response to the consultation by BT.)*

## **276. 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.

A member workshop had taken place on 17 November to inform all Councillors of the work being undertaken in respect of the District Wide Local Plan and to inform the Regulation 18 consultation which would be undertaken in January 2017.

In respect of Neighbourhood Plans, the Chelveston cum Caldecott examiners report was expected at the end of November 2016 with a referendum potentially in February 2017. The Stanwick plan was expecting an examiner to be confirmed by December 2016. Raunds had now submitted their plan.

An expression of interest had now been submitted for Deenethorpe Garden Village in response to the Government's Locally-led Garden Villages, Towns and Cities prospectus. A decision on the bid was expected shortly and a stakeholder event had been held in November.

Various work streams relating to providing the necessary technical evidence for the Rushden East SUE masterplan and eventual planning application were being worked up by the developer consortium and the Council.

### **RESOLVED:**

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

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

**Chairman**