

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 26 February 2018

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Colin Wright	(Chairman of the Council)
Wendy Brackenbury	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)

Rosalie Beattie	Dorothy Maxwell
Tony Boto	Andy Mercer
David Brackenbury	Sarah Peacock
Val Carter	Harriet Pentland
Richard Gell	Janet Pinnock
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Ron Pinnock
Marika Hillson	Roger Powell
Marian Hollomon	Rupert Reichhold
Helen Howell	Geoff Shacklock
Dudley Hughes	Phillip Stearn
Sylvia Hughes	Robin Underwood
Barbara Jenney	Peter Wathen
David Jenney	Pam Whiting
Richard Lewis	

403. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Harriet Pentland, on behalf of all members and officers present, to her first meeting of the Council as the newly elected member for Higham Ferrers Lancaster ward.

404. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Farrar, Roger Glithero JP, Sylvia Hobbs, Lance Jones, Gillian Mercer, Anna Sauntson and Jake Vowles.

405. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 January 2018 were agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

406. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

407. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chairman made the following announcements to the meeting:

Members as is the case this time of year I am supporting many local mayors and chairmen on their fundraising for their respective charities.

I continue to promote the District wherever I can and recently carried out my first talk to the East Northants faith group about this Council and the beauty of the District.

Over the next few weeks have some interesting entrees in the diary and as usual if I can get a press release to promote this council I will do so.

Short and sweet is my message so I will now ask the Chief Executive if he has anything to say.

The Chief Executive had no announcements to make.

408. LEADER'S ADDRESS

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

Firstly I would like to add my welcome for Harriet Pentland to the Council. I'm sure you will make a valuable contribution.

I could have repeated last year's budget statement as the national picture has not changed for the better. The local government family is still facing huge challenges in funding. As you know already funding to district councils is negative for the whole four year period (pages two and three of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report).

There is a large amount of detail in the budget reports in front of you, and our Section 151 Officer will be going through it with us shortly so I'm not planning to cover it now. However it's worth noting that when I became leader our revenue support grant was over £6m, this year it is £400,000 (MTFS Appendix 1). In that context we have done a fantastic job so far in still delivering services. This has been a joint effort between members and officers.

We do receive business rates and new homes bonus, but this fluctuates every year with changes made by central government. Last year it was changes to New Homes Bonus (NHB), this year business rates retention, which I know will be covered in the budget reports. We also retain 50% new homes bonus for community projects so that's what that funding was for.

We are in this position because a huge effort goes into forecasting and planning the best we can. You will recall we agreed a medium term financial plan to receive our four year settlement and, as the MTFS details, we have made significant progress this year. One of the reasons for that is the strategic investment we made last year to give us an extra revenue stream. A level of risk and uncertainty will be mentioned this evening but we must remember all the positive outcomes we have achieved. This should not be forgotten.

I mentioned NHB and the fact we retain an element. This delivers the Community Facilities Fund and I'm pleased that at the recent Policy and Resources Committee meeting we approved a further nine projects, from playing field improvements at Woodford, to an adult gym provision in Irthingborough. After five years we have covered significant areas of the district with funding now in excess of £1.5m.

Thank you.

409. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Governance and Audit Committee – 31 January 2018

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

(b) Policy and Resources Committee – 12 February 2018

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:

Minutes of Sub-Committees and Working Parties

372c) Finance Sub-Committee – 31 January 2018

Commercialisation Strategy

That subject to the Head of Economic and Commercial Development being authorised to make any necessary wording changes to the Strategy following consultation with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, the Commercialisation Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

378 That approval be given to the calendar of meetings for the 2018/19 municipal year.

(c) Planning Management Committee – 14 February 2018

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

Cllr Maxwell requested a copy of the Planning Enforcement Update - 2017 – Quarter 3, [a copy of which was provided to her following the meeting].

(d) Planning Policy Committee – 19 February 2018

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

410. BUDGET 2018/19

The Chairman indicated that he would change the order of the agenda as follows:

- a) Robustness of Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves
- b) Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan
- c) Determination of the Council Tax Requirement for the District for the year beginning 1 April 2018

RESOLVED

That the order of the Agenda be amended.

(a) Report by Chief Finance Officer on Robustness of Budget Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves

The Chief Finance Officer presented his report on the robustness of the estimates in the budget and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves before recommending the adoption of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2018/19 – 2021/22, the Revenue Budget 2018/19, Capital Programme 2018/28, Reserves levels and the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19.

The Chief Finance Officer reported that based on the assumptions made in the Council's Budget 2018/19 and MTFS 2018-23 for income and expenditure he was satisfied the Council could set a balanced budget for 2018/19. The Council's financial position was sustainable for the next two years, but beyond this there was uncertainty, as outlined in the draft MTFS.

But by ensuring the council made the right decisions in 2018/19 to ensure financial stability over the medium to long term and provided it carefully considered and acted upon the analysis in the report, with officers robustly managing the implementation of the Revenue and Capital budgets, he was happy to provide a positive opinion on the robustness of budget estimates and level of reserves.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the opinion of the Chief Finance Officer in respect of the robustness of budget estimates and the adequacy of reserves be noted.

(Reason: To ensure the Council complies with statute in setting its Budget.)

- ii) the work undertaken over the last five years to ensure the Council has a balanced budget and is in a good financial position to face the medium term uncertainties be recognised.

(Reason: To ensure the Council has a stable and sustainable Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan)

(b) Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan

The Finance Manager presented a report setting out the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Plan (MTFP) 2018/19 to 2021/22, outlining the Revenue Budget

2018/19, Capital Programme 2018/19 to 2027/28 and Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19.

It was reported that the MTFS had been formulated since the Budget 2017, which set out how the government would address the ongoing national financial position over the medium term. The government had taken some necessary steps to address a number of national changes and had confirmed the local government financial settlement on 7 February 2018, which had been incorporated into the budget report. It was also announced that councils would now benefit from 75% of business rates retention, rather than the 100% previously proposed by Government when the revised scheme is introduced.

The current assumption in the MTFS was for a zero increase for Council Tax. The Council Tax base had been set at 31,348 for 2018/19, with an estimated increase to the Council Tax base of 200 Band D equivalent properties per annum thereafter.

The Council had submitted an Efficiency Plan in October 2016 in order to take advantage of the four year settlement offer from government and to achieve some level of certainty in funding sources over the medium term. Significant progress in delivering the plan had been made and by June 2017 a surplus position had been able to be demonstrated.

As part of this Plan a notable example of the Council's adoption of a "More Commercial Approach" had been the acquisition of a retail site in Rushden, which now generated a significant additional source of income to the council annually.

In respect of external funding streams, Cllr Andy Mercer queried the number of European funding bids that had been won by the council in the past. The Chief Executive undertook to provide that information [which was circulated following the meeting].

A number of additional pressures had come forward in formulating the MTFS for 2018/19 and, whilst a number of changes had improved the projected funding surplus for 2018/19 and 2019/20, a deficit was currently projected for 2020/21.

Members noted that the Capital Strategy for 2018/19 would be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee which would allow consideration of borrowing for capital investment alongside more commercial and third party type investments.

It was also noted that the Council continued to have one of the lowest district council tax levels in the country. For 2017/18 the council had ranked 21st lowest compared to its 300 district and borough authority peers.

The Chairman thanked officers for all their work in developing the MTFS.

The Leader of the Council proposed and the Deputy Leader of the Council seconded a motion that:

"The Council set a Council Tax Requirement of £4,346,400 for 2018/19, resulting in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £138.65 for 2018/19, based on a £5 increase (3.74%), and that the following also be approved as part of the budget setting process

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- Revenue Budget 2017/18
- Approved Capital Programme for 2017/18 (Development Pool items are subject to the review set out within the report)
- Minimum level of Reserves and Earmarked Reserves

- Treasury Management Strategy
- Fees and Charges”

With the motion having being seconded by the Deputy Leader, a recorded vote took place in accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2014 and Council Procedure Rule 16.7 as follows:-

FOR THE MOTION

Councillors Rosalie Beattie, Tony Boto, David Brackenbury, Wendy Brackenbury, Val Carter, Annabel de Capell Brooke, Richard Gell, Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Marika Hillson, Marian Hollomon, Helen Howell, Dudley Hughes JP, Sylvia Hughes, Barbara Jenney, David Jenney, Richard Lewis, Dorothy Maxwell, Andy Mercer, Steven North, Sarah Peacock, Harriet Pentland, Janet Pinnock, Ron Pinnock, Roger Powell, Rupert Reichhold, Geoff Shacklock, Phillip Stearn, Robin Underwood, Peter Wathen, Pam Whiting and Colin Wright (31)

AGAINST THE MOTION

None

ABSTENSIONS

None

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

RESOLVED

That the following be approved:

- The Council set a Council Tax Requirement of £4,346,400 for 2018/19, resulting in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £138.65 for 2018/19, based on a £5 increase (3.74%);
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS);
- Revenue Budget 2018/19;
- Approved Capital Programme for 2018/19 (Development Pool items are subject to the review set out within the report);
- Minimum level of Reserves and Earmarked Reserves;
- Treasury Management Strategy; and
- Fees and Charges

(Reason: To ensure that the council complies with its constitution in setting its Budget)

- (c) To set and approve the Council Tax Requirement for the District for the year beginning 1 April 2017, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended**

The Chief Finance Officer informed the Council that Northamptonshire County Council had failed to set its precept at its council meeting held on 22 February 2018 but was now planning to do so on 28 February 2018. It meant that this Council was unable to set its

council tax requirement for the District until after 28 February 2018, with an extraordinary meeting of this Council to take place on Monday 5 March in order to consider the matter.

The Leader of the Council proposed and the Deputy Leader of the Council seconded a motion that:

“the setting of the Council Tax Requirement for the District be postponed until the extraordinary meeting of the Council taking place on Monday 5 March 2018.”

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared **CARRIED** and it was

RESOLVED

That the setting of the Council Tax Requirement for the District be postponed until the extraordinary meeting of the Council taking place on Monday 5 March 2018.

411. OTHER REPORTS

Licensing Panels

(i) Taxi and Miscellaneous – 9 February 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing (Taxi and Miscellaneous) Panel held on 9 February 2018 were received.

412. MOTIONS

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

413. QUESTIONS

It was reported that no questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.2.

414. ELECTION RESULT – HIGHAM FERRERS LANCASTER.

The Retuning Officer provided a report detailing the results of the recent municipal by-election held within the Higham Ferrers Lancaster Ward on Thursday 15 February 2018, the newly elected councillor being Harriet Pentland.

RESOLVED:

That the result of the municipal by-election in Higham Ferrers Lancaster, East Northamptonshire, held on 15 February 2018, be noted.

415. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

The Democratic Services Manager provided a report which set out the recruitment process for the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel that had been completed in January 2018.

It was noted that taking into account statutory guidance, the recruitment process had focussed on:-

- i) Candidates' knowledge of local government and the way it worked;
- ii) Candidates' knowledge and understanding of members' allowances;
- iii) Specific knowledge of the committee system of local government;
- iv) Previous experience of serving on an Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- v) Representation from the local community.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the appointments of Mr Stephen Leach and Mr Gerard Dempsey to the East Northamptonshire Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2022 be confirmed;
- (2) That an extension of the current term of office for Mr Edward Owen to the East Northamptonshire Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2022 be confirmed;
- (3) That, in the event of an appropriate expression of interest being received, authority be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager to co-opt further members to the Independent Remuneration Panel in the event that the number of members falls below the statutory minimum.
- (4) That a budget of £5,000 per annum be approved to the Independent Remuneration Panel in order to support its statutory function in 2018-19.

416. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN DUDDINGTON WITH FINESHADE PARISH COUNCIL – TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Democratic Services Manager informed councillors of the proposed terms of reference and programme for a review of governance arrangements within Duddington with Fineshade Parish Council.

It was reported that the terms of reference would be published on Tuesday 6 March, rather than 5 February as stated in paragraph 2.3 of the report, providing eight weeks for initial submissions from interested parties to be invited. All local government electors within the Parish area would be written to inviting them to respond, as would the Parish Council, neighbouring parish councils within the district ward area, County Council, Corby Borough Council and other local elected representatives.

Following consideration by a Review Panel, draft recommendations would then be the subject of a 12 week consultation.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the draft terms of reference (attached as Appendix A to the report) be approved and commencement of a review of governance arrangements for the Parish of Duddington with Fineshade commence on Tuesday 6 March 2018 with an initial submission period of eight weeks, the review timetable on page 4 of the terms of reference to be amended accordingly;

- (2) That the formation of a Review Panel be delegated to the Democratic Services Manager, following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Leaders of the Political Groups; that Panel to consider the consultation responses, draft and final report prior to consideration by this council.

(Reason: To ensure Councillors are aware of the process and kept informed in relation to the key stages of the requested review.)

417. TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

The Democratic Services Manager reported that, following the by-election held on 15 February 2018 for the Higham Ferrers Lancaster Ward, the entitlement to seats on committees had been recalculated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

RESOLVED:

That the following committee appointments be approved, as set out below:

	Conservative Group	Independent Group	Labour Group
Planning Policy			Cllr Hillson (replacing vacancy)
Planning Management	Cllr Pentland (replacing vacancy)		
Scrutiny	Cllr Pentland (replacing vacancy)		
Governance & Audit			vacancy (replacing Cllr Farrar)
Personnel Subcommittee	Cllr Jenney (ex-officio) (replacing vacancy)		

(Reason: To comply with Article 4.01 of the council's constitution)

Chairman

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 5 March 2018

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Colin Wright	(Chairman of the Council)
Wendy Brackenbury	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)

Rosalie Beattie	Andy Mercer
Tony Boto	Gill Mercer
David Brackenbury	Sarah Peacock
Val Carter	Harriet Pentland
John Farrar	Janet Pinnock
Richard Gell	Ron Pinnock
Roger Glithero	Roger Powell
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Rupert Reichhold
Marian Hollomon	Geoff Shacklock
Helen Howell	Phillip Stearn
Barbara Jenney	Robin Underwood
David Jenney	Peter Wathen
Richard Lewis	Pam Whiting
Dorothy Maxwell	

418. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Annabel de Capell Brooke, Helen Harrison, Marika Hillson, Sylvia Hobbs, Dudley Hughes, Sylvia Hughes, Anna Sauntson and Jake Vowles.

419. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

420. BUDGET 2018/19

- (d) To set and approve the Council Tax Requirement for the District for the year beginning 1 April 2017, in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended

The Chief Finance Officer presented a revised report for consideration following the setting of Northamptonshire Council's precept on 28 February 2018. The report provided the information necessary to set the Council Tax level for the 2017/18 financial year, including:

- Northamptonshire County Council precept
- The Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner precept
- Town and Parish Council precepts
- The Council's Council Tax Requirement

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

Northamptonshire County Council was due to meet to set its precept on 22 February 2018 but this was delayed until 28 February 2017 when it finally set its precept at £38.757m. This resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £1,236.35.

The Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner submitted his proposals to the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel on 1 February 2018 at which it resolved to support his proposal to set a precept at £6.929m. The Commissioner then formally responded to the PCP's resolution, setting out his intention to approve and issue the precept, which resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £221.04.

Town and Parish Council Precepts totalled £3,413,056. The increase in the average Band D Council Tax for Town and Parish Councils was 12.5% and resulted in an average Band D council tax figure of £108.88 for 2018/19. It was noted that these precepts were not currently subject to any capping limits set by central government, which were applicable to principal authorities.

The Leader of the Council proposed the Council Tax resolution, set out at Appendix 1 of the report, incorporating the precepts of Northamptonshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and town and parish councils, as well as the earlier decision of east Northamptonshire Council on 26 February 2018 which had approved a Council Tax Requirement of £4,346,400 for 2018/19, resulting in an average Band D Council Tax figure of £138.65 for 2018/19, based on a £5 increase (3.74%).

With the motion having being seconded by the Deputy Leader, a recorded vote took place in accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendments) Regulations 2014 and Council Procedure Rule 16.7 as follows:-

FOR THE MOTION

Councillors Rosalie Beattie, Tony Boto, David Brackenbury, Wendy Brackenbury, Val Carter, John Farrar, Richard Gell, Roger Glithero, Glenvil Greenwood-Smith, Marian Hollomon, Helen Howell, Barbara Jenney, David Jenney, Richard Lewis, Dorothy Maxwell, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Steven North, Sarah Peacock, Harriet Pentland, Janet Pinnock, Ron Pinnock, Roger Powell, Rupert Reichhold, Geoff Shacklock, Phillip Stearn, Robin Underwood, Peter Wathen, Pam Whiting and Colin Wright (30).

AGAINST THE MOTION

None

ABSTENSIONS

None

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

RESOLVED

(1) That it be noted that at its meeting on 26th February 2018 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act);-

(a) For the whole Council area as 31,348 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the 'Act') and

Parish of	Tax Base	Parish of	Tax Base
Aldwincle	161	Lilford cum Wigsthorpe	56
Apethorpe	91	Little Addington	144
Ashton	118	Lowick & Slipton	128
Barnwell	178	Luddington	32
Benefield	176	Lutton	63
Blatherwycke	23	Nassington	355
Brigstock	529	Newton Bromswold	31
Bulwick	81	Oundle	2,255
Chelveston cum	206	Pilton	29
Caldecott			
Clopton	63	Polebrook	196
Collyweston	220	Raunds	2,916
Cotterstock	82	Ringstead	504
Deene	28	Rushden	9,726
Deenethorpe	73	Southwick	74
Denford	135	Stanwick	689
Duddington	79	Stoke Doyle	44
Easton-on-the-Hill	449	Sudborough	102
Fineshade	17	Tansor	103
Fotheringhay	73	Thorpe Achurch	74
Glapthorn	140	Thrapston	2,170
Great Addington	135	Thurning	52
Hargrave	117	Titchmarsh	248
Harringworth	136	Twywell	82
Hemington	43	Wadenhoe	58
Higham Ferrers	2,846	Wakerley	42
Irthlingborough	2,678	Warmington	435
Islip	289	Woodford	498
Kings Cliffe	611	Woodnewton	225
Laxton	61	Yarwell	176

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

(2) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2018/2019 in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (the Act):

Denford	182.97	Rushden	233.81
Duddington with Fineshade	227.74	Stanwick	227.93
Easton-on-the-Hill	191.34	Sudborough	197.61
Glaphorn	207.83	Thrapston	279.77
Great Addington	204.28	Titchmarsh	192.81
Hargrave	188.18	Twywell	182.59
Harringworth	182.92	Warmington	266.42
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	162.08	Woodford	172.79
Higham Ferrers	266.91	Woodnewton	198.85
Irthlingborough	287.09	Yarwell	195.35
Islip	216.44	Other	138.65
Kings Cliffe	179.59		

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

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

Valuation Bands

Parish of	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Aldwincle	131.66	153.60	175.54	197.49	241.38	285.26	329.15	394.98
Apethorpe	100.68	117.46	134.24	151.02	184.58	218.14	251.70	302.04
Ashton	129.94	151.60	173.25	194.91	238.22	281.53	324.85	389.82
Barnwell	127.96	149.30	170.62	191.95	234.60	277.26	319.91	383.90
Benefield	117.80	137.43	157.06	176.70	215.97	255.23	294.50	353.40
Brigstock	119.13	138.99	158.84	178.70	218.41	258.12	297.83	357.40
Bulwick	110.90	129.38	147.86	166.35	203.32	240.28	277.25	332.70
Chelveston cum Caldecott	126.07	147.09	168.09	189.11	231.13	273.16	315.18	378.22
Collyweston	163.06	190.25	217.42	244.60	298.95	353.31	407.66	489.20
Deene & Deenethorpe	156.65	182.76	208.87	234.98	287.20	339.41	391.63	469.96
Denford	121.98	142.31	162.64	182.97	223.63	264.29	304.95	365.94
Duddington with Fineshade	151.82	177.13	202.43	227.74	278.35	328.96	379.56	455.48
Easton-on-the-Hill	127.56	148.82	170.08	191.34	233.86	276.38	318.90	382.68
Glaphorn	138.55	161.65	184.73	207.83	254.01	300.20	346.38	415.66
Great Addington	136.18	158.89	181.58	204.28	249.67	295.07	340.46	408.56
Hargrave	125.45	146.36	167.27	188.18	230.00	271.81	313.63	376.36
Harringworth	121.94	142.27	162.59	182.92	223.57	264.22	304.86	365.84
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	108.05	126.06	144.07	162.08	198.10	234.11	270.13	324.16
Higham Ferrers	177.94	207.60	237.25	266.91	326.22	385.53	444.85	533.82
Irthlingborough	191.39	223.29	255.19	287.09	350.89	414.68	478.48	574.18
Islip	144.29	168.34	192.39	216.44	264.54	312.63	360.73	432.88
Kings Cliffe	119.72	139.68	159.63	179.59	219.50	259.41	299.31	359.18
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	110.90	129.39	147.87	166.36	203.33	240.30	277.26	332.72
Little Addington	144.74	168.87	192.99	217.12	265.37	313.62	361.86	434.24
Lowick & Slipton	114.31	133.37	152.41	171.47	209.57	247.68	285.78	342.94
Lutton	108.32	126.38	144.43	162.49	198.60	234.71	270.81	324.98
Nassington	181.91	212.23	242.55	272.87	333.51	394.14	454.78	545.74
Oundle	225.90	263.56	301.20	338.86	414.16	489.46	564.76	677.72
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	112.52	131.28	150.03	168.79	206.30	243.81	281.31	337.58
Polebrook	116.24	135.62	154.99	174.37	213.12	251.87	290.61	348.74

Raunds	193.68	225.96	258.24	290.52	355.08	419.64	484.20	581.04
Ringstead	152.00	177.34	202.67	228.01	278.68	329.35	380.01	456.02
Rushden	155.87	181.85	207.83	233.81	285.77	337.72	389.68	467.62
Stanwick	151.95	177.28	202.60	227.93	278.58	329.23	379.88	455.86
Sudborough	131.74	153.70	175.65	197.61	241.52	285.43	329.35	395.22
Thrapston	186.51	217.60	248.68	279.77	341.94	404.11	466.28	559.54
Titchmarsh	128.54	149.96	171.38	192.81	235.66	278.50	321.35	385.62
Twywell	121.72	142.02	162.30	182.59	223.16	263.74	304.31	365.18
Warmington	177.61	207.22	236.81	266.42	325.62	384.83	444.03	532.84
Woodford	115.19	134.39	153.59	172.79	211.19	249.58	287.98	345.58
Woodnewton	132.56	154.66	176.75	198.85	243.04	287.23	331.41	397.70
Yarwell	130.23	151.94	173.64	195.35	238.76	282.17	325.58	390.70
Other	92.43	107.84	123.24	138.65	169.46	200.27	231.08	277.30

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2 (g) and 2 (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with section 36 (1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. *(This Council and each Parish Council's combined council tax for each Council Tax Band and which will appear on the council atx bill.)*

- (3) That it be noted that for the year 2018/2019 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Valuation Bands

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Northamptonshire County Council	59.81	69.78	79.75	89.72	109.66	129.60	149.53	179.44
(Adult Social Care)								
Northamptonshire County Council	764.42	891.82	1,019.23	1,146.63	1,401.44	1,656.24	1,911.05	2,293.26
Northamptonshire Police Authority	147.36	171.92	196.48	221.04	270.16	319.28	368.40	442.08

- (4) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2 (i) and 3 above, the Council, in accordance with section 30 (2) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2018/2019 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below: *(Total council tax in each band for each parish.)*

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Aldwinkle	1,103.25	1,287.12	1,471.00	1,654.88	2,022.64	2,390.38	2,758.13	3,309.76
Apethorpe	1,072.27	1,250.98	1,429.70	1,608.41	1,965.84	2,323.26	2,680.68	3,216.82
Ashton	1,101.53	1,285.12	1,468.71	1,652.30	2,019.48	2,386.65	2,753.83	3,304.60
Barnwell	1,099.55	1,282.82	1,466.08	1,649.34	2,015.86	2,382.38	2,748.89	3,298.68
Benefield	1,089.39	1,270.95	1,452.52	1,634.09	1,997.23	2,360.35	2,723.48	3,268.18
Brigstock	1,090.72	1,272.51	1,454.30	1,636.09	1,999.67	2,363.24	2,726.81	3,272.18
Bulwick	1,082.49	1,262.90	1,443.32	1,623.74	1,984.58	2,345.40	2,706.23	3,247.48
Chelveston cum Caldecott	1,097.66	1,280.61	1,463.55	1,646.50	2,012.39	2,378.28	2,744.16	3,293.00
Collyweston	1,134.65	1,323.77	1,512.88	1,701.99	2,080.21	2,458.43	2,836.64	3,403.98
Deene & Deenethorpe	1,128.24	1,316.28	1,504.33	1,692.37	2,068.46	2,444.53	2,820.61	3,384.74
Denford	1,093.57	1,275.83	1,458.10	1,640.36	2,004.89	2,369.41	2,733.93	3,280.72
Duddington with Fineshade	1,123.41	1,310.65	1,497.89	1,685.13	2,059.61	2,434.08	2,808.54	3,370.26

Easton-on-the-Hill	1,099.15	1,282.34	1,465.54	1,648.73	2,015.12	2,381.50	2,747.88	3,297.46
Glaphthorn	1,110.14	1,295.17	1,480.19	1,665.22	2,035.27	2,405.32	2,775.36	3,330.44
Great Addington	1,107.77	1,292.41	1,477.04	1,661.67	2,030.93	2,400.19	2,769.44	3,323.34
Hargrave	1,097.04	1,279.88	1,462.73	1,645.57	2,011.26	2,376.93	2,742.61	3,291.14
Harringworth	1,093.53	1,275.79	1,458.05	1,640.31	2,004.83	2,369.34	2,733.84	3,280.62
Hemington, Luddington & Thurning	1,079.64	1,259.58	1,439.53	1,619.47	1,979.36	2,339.23	2,699.11	3,238.94
Higham Ferrers	1,149.53	1,341.12	1,532.71	1,724.30	2,107.48	2,490.65	2,873.83	3,448.60
Irthlingborough	1,162.98	1,356.81	1,550.65	1,744.48	2,132.15	2,519.80	2,907.46	3,488.96
Islip	1,115.88	1,301.86	1,487.85	1,673.83	2,045.80	2,417.75	2,789.71	3,347.66
Kings Cliffe	1,091.31	1,273.20	1,455.09	1,636.98	2,000.76	2,364.53	2,728.29	3,273.96
Lilford cum Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch	1,082.49	1,262.91	1,443.33	1,623.75	1,984.59	2,345.42	2,706.24	3,247.50
Little Addington	1,116.33	1,302.39	1,488.45	1,674.51	2,046.63	2,418.74	2,790.84	3,349.02
Lowick & Slipton	1,085.90	1,266.89	1,447.87	1,628.86	1,990.83	2,352.80	2,714.76	3,257.72
Lutton	1,079.91	1,259.90	1,439.89	1,619.88	1,979.86	2,339.83	2,699.79	3,239.76
Nassington	1,153.50	1,345.75	1,538.01	1,730.26	2,114.77	2,499.26	2,883.76	3,460.52
Oundle	1,197.49	1,397.08	1,596.66	1,796.25	2,195.42	2,594.58	2,993.74	3,592.50
Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe	1,084.11	1,264.80	1,445.49	1,626.18	1,987.56	2,348.93	2,710.29	3,252.36
Polebrook	1,087.83	1,269.14	1,450.45	1,631.76	1,994.38	2,356.99	2,719.59	3,263.52
Raunds	1,165.27	1,359.48	1,553.70	1,747.91	2,136.34	2,524.76	2,913.18	3,495.82
Ringstead	1,123.59	1,310.86	1,498.13	1,685.40	2,059.94	2,434.47	2,808.99	3,370.80
Rushden	1,127.46	1,315.37	1,503.29	1,691.20	2,067.03	2,442.84	2,818.66	3,382.40
Stanwick	1,123.54	1,310.80	1,498.06	1,685.32	2,059.84	2,434.35	2,808.86	3,370.64
Sudborough	1,103.33	1,287.22	1,471.11	1,655.00	2,022.78	2,390.55	2,758.33	3,310.00
Thrapston	1,158.10	1,351.12	1,544.14	1,737.16	2,123.20	2,509.23	2,895.26	3,474.32
Titchmarsh	1,100.13	1,283.48	1,466.84	1,650.20	2,016.92	2,383.62	2,750.33	3,300.40
Twywell	1,093.31	1,275.54	1,457.76	1,639.98	2,004.42	2,368.86	2,733.29	3,279.96
Warmington	1,149.20	1,340.74	1,532.27	1,723.81	2,106.88	2,489.95	2,873.01	3,447.62
Woodford	1,086.78	1,267.91	1,449.05	1,630.18	1,992.45	2,354.70	2,716.96	3,260.36
Woodnewton	1,104.15	1,288.18	1,472.21	1,656.24	2,024.30	2,392.35	2,760.39	3,312.48
Yarwell	1,101.82	1,285.46	1,469.10	1,652.74	2,020.02	2,387.29	2,754.56	3,305.48
Other areas	1,064.02	1,241.36	1,418.70	1,596.04	1,950.72	2,305.39	2,660.06	3,192.08

- (5) The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council tax for 2018/19 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Chairman

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 7 March 2018

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Jake Vowles (Chairman)
Helen Howell (Vice-Chairman)

Rosalie Beattie Janet Pinnock
Marika Hillson Roger Powell
Dorothy Maxwell Geoff Shacklock

421. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 6 December 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

422. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lance Jones and Harriet Pentland

423. EXCLUSION OF 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

424. SUPERFAST BROADBAND PROJECT - UPDATE

The Chief Executive presented a report providing an update on the Northamptonshire Superfast Broadband project being led and managed by Northamptonshire County Council.

The project had been under way for over 3 years and was now nearing completion. Details of the extent to which broadband coverage had been increased over this period were reported and it was noted that BT had estimated that 20% of households would choose to connect to the high speed network, whereas actual connections had been over 50%. Some cabinets were therefore already at capacity and were being retro-fitted to increase their capacity.

The Chief Executive wished to place on record his appreciation for the excellent work the County Council had done on the project and it was noted that the County Council would monitor the performance of the companies involved in the project.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(Reason: To note the progress of the Countywide partnership in delivering the Superfast Broadband project)

425. RE-ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be re-admitted to the meeting.

426. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

427. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

The following question was submitted by Councillor Dorothy Maxwell under Procedure Rule 10.3:

When East Northamptonshire Council give out Grants to the Community, do they follow through how the grant is used?

Example; in 2017 East Northamptonshire Council gave £50,000 to Rushden Town Council for the refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion in Spencer Park.

When this grant was given, it was understood that the outside toilets at the Pavilion would be available to the public including young children playing in the park and children watching football on Sundays.

This has not happened?

This is also the same situation at Jubilee Park, Rushden where the Council gave £50,000 in 2017 towards the Pavilion and £50,000 towards the skate park in 2016? (I am not sure whether £50,000 is the correct figure).

I am concerned at this ongoing lack of access to toilets for parents with young children and teenagers in both parks.

I have spoken to the Town Clerk on this matter for the last two years and I feel that the public would like to know how this money is spent and what subsequent checks are made by East Northamptonshire Council.

The Chairman outlined the procedure for awarding Community Facilities Fund grants and expressed his personal concern that Ward Members were not involved in evaluating applications given their local knowledge. However, the Community Partnerships team were involved throughout the process to evaluate the projects.

With regard to the specific cases referred to by Councillor Maxwell, the Chairman confirmed that Rushden Town Council's applications had not stated that the toilet facilities would be open for the public as a result of the projects and therefore they had not been evaluated against this criteria.

Members discussed the provision of public toilet facilities in general and reasons for public access to toilet facilities at the sites in Rushden needing to be curtailed.

428. 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, 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.

429. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING – QUARTER 3 2017/18

The Corporate Support Manager presented a report detailing the performance of the Council in respect of agreed indicators and other statistics for Quarter 3 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

430. REVIEW OF CAR PARKING REGULATIONS

The Executive Director reported that the Asset Management Strategy Working Party was currently reviewing all assets across the district with regard to how they supported service delivery, generated income and drove growth and revitalisation.

A key work stream within the Asset Management Strategy review process was to produce a new Car Parking Strategy. The Strategy would consider if the council-owned car parks were still fit for purpose in terms of enabling local residents, businesses and visitors to access services and facilities across the district.

It was proposed to establish a Scrutiny Review Panel to review current parking regulations across all Council car parks in relation to the balance in the use of car parks between different users and draft Terms of Reference for the Panel were considered.

RESOLVED: That

- i) the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review Panel set out in Appendix 1 be approved as the basis for reviewing parking regulations to help inform the development of a Car Parking Strategy.

- ii) Councillors Helen Howell, Roger Powell, Marika Hillson and Janet Pinnock be appointed to the Review Panel.

(Reason: To provide clarity over the focus of the review and appropriate membership)

431. REVIEW OF FUTURE WORK PROGRAMMES

The Committee considered its work programme for future meetings and the following activities were agreed, although it was noted that the timing of some items might be subject to change.

Meeting date	Activity
2 May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of previous Scrutiny activity. • NNDR – reporting and writing-off debt
6 June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 2017/18 Performance Clinic • Planning enforcement review update • Wellbeing services for residents
5 September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 2018/19 Performance Clinic • Update on community transport review
5 December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 2018/19 Performance Clinic • Housing Associations role in the line management of tenant anti-social behaviour issues
6 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 2018/19 Performance Clinic • Learning from complaints review
June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 2018/19 Performance Clinic • Waste contract review • Update on review of wellbeing services for residents
September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 2019/20 Performance Clinic • Update on learning from complaints review
December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2 2019/20 Performance Clinic
March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 2019/20 Performance Clinic
June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 2019/20 Performance Clinic • Update on review of waste contract review

Chairman

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Review Panel – Car Parking Regulations

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To review current parking regulations across all Council car parks, including the wider context of car parking in the vicinity of this Council's car parks, to consider if they are fit for purpose to meet the current and future needs and demands of local residents, workers, businesses and visitors.
- 1.2 The Panel will be Councillor led but will include key officers tasked with providing information and liaison with key partners. It will provide a forum for discussion and distillation of options and approaches and for ensuring the responses are compiled in a timely manner.
- 1.3 The Panel has no statutory role and has no formal decision making powers. It will make recommendations to Scrutiny, and thereafter, Policy and Resources Committee and Council as required.

2. Membership

- 2.1 The Panel will comprise of four Councillors drawn from the Scrutiny Committee. It will be advised by the Head of Economic Development and Facilities Manager, together with other officers as appropriate.
- 2.2 The Panel will be serviced by East Northamptonshire Council.
- 2.3 The Panel will invite individuals or representatives of other organisations, consultants, contractors and advisers to attend a particular meeting when an item of relevance to them is to be discussed or where particular specialist input is needed.

3. Meetings

- 3.1 Panel meetings will take place when required. The business of the meeting shall be set out in an agenda and notified to members of the Panel five days in advance of the date of the meeting. At least 50% of the Panel will need to be present for the meeting to be quorate.
- 3.2 The Panel will appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair at its first meeting.
- 3.3 Items for inclusion on the agenda will be agreed with the Chair and should be submitted for consideration at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 3.4 The minutes of the previous meeting shall be submitted for agreement at the start of every meeting.
- 3.5 In order to provide for free and frank discussions, reports and minutes will be confidential to the Panel until otherwise agreed by the Panel. Once no longer considered confidential, reports and minutes will be published on the Council's website.

4. Members' Responsibilities

- 4.1 Councillors and officers must declare at the start of any meeting an interest in any matter for discussion in which they have a personal interest or involvement.

5. Voting

- 5.1 The Panel will work towards securing mutual agreement on all aspects of the project, but should a vote be necessary each Councillor will have a single vote and decisions will be made on the show of hands. In the event of a tie in the number of votes, the Chair will have a second, or casting, vote.

6. Variation of the Terms of Reference

- 6.1 These Terms of Reference may be altered by vote at (full) Council.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 12 March 2018

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)

Tony Boto
Wendy Brackenbury
Val Carter
John Farrar
Roger Glithero JP
Helen Harrison

Dudley Hughes JP
David Jenney
Andy Mercer
Sarah Peacock
Phillip Stearn

432. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman indicated that he wished to change the order of business to allow four members of the public who had registered to speak in advance of the meeting, to do so immediately before consideration of the Taxi Fares Consultation report.

RESOLVED:

That the order of business on the agenda for the meeting be amended.

433. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Brackenbury.

434. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

435. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Peacock declared an 'other' interest with the potential for bias under item 6 of the agenda 'Taxi Fares Consultation Response', as her husband was a private hire driver.

436. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

437. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME – TAXI FARES CONSULTATION

The Chairman invited four members of the public, who had registered to speak in advance of the meeting, to address the meeting in respect of the taxi fares consultation. They wished to speak about the proposed removal of 'grandfather rights' held by 36 hackney carriage vehicle plates which currently allowed any car to be a hackney carriage using one of those plate numbers, without the vehicle having to be wheelchair accessible.

- 1) Mrs Mulholland – informed the Committee that there was a range of disabilities in addition to those requiring use of wheelchairs. She used saloon taxis twice a week and if they were taken away, she would struggle to get into a hackney carriage due to the raised access point of entry into hackney carriage when configured as wheelchair accessible.
- 2) Mr Tompkins – requested a deferral on the removal of 'grandfather rights' as he felt insufficient notice of the decision to be taken had been given to the drivers subject to the proposed change.
- 3) Mr Peck – requested a deferral on the grandfather rights.
- 4) Mr Liffen – outlined that of approximately 10m people in the United Kingdom who could be categorised as disabled, approximately 900,000 were wheelchair users. There were other members of the community in addition to Mrs Mulholland that could not access hackney carriages and who walked past those in the taxi ranks to access saloon taxis, as for some with physical conditions they were easier to manoeuvre into. He also felt there was a risk in the proposed phasing out of 'grandfather rights' in that some taxis would be retained longer than their normal end of life, causing additional pollution due to the cost of purchasing new vehicles fully compliant with taxi policy.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for taking the time to attend and speak on the matter and indicated that the Committee would now discuss the report to which they had spoken, taking into account the comments they had made.

438. TAXI FARES CONSULTATION

[Cllr Peacock left the meeting for the duration of this item.]

The Environmental Protection Manager provided a report setting out the outcome of the Taxi Policy consultation, which took place at the end of 2017.

In respect of comments made by the public at the meeting, it was noted that comments received as part of the consultation had included two concerns that saloon cars were easier to get into than the 'black cab' style hackney carriages. As a result other councils within the county were contacted to seek their views.

Responses received from Northampton, Kettering and Corby detailed that they did not have any hackney carriage vehicles that were not wheelchair accessible and had not received any complaints from individuals about not being able to easily get in or out of them. It was also noted that should an individual preference be for a saloon type vehicle, these could be ordered from a private hire company.

It was further noted that East Northamptonshire Council did not specify the type of hackney carriage required, just that it meet the statutory guidance for wheelchair accessibility.

Councillor Mercer recalled a judicial case involving a council and wheelchair accessibility that he considered may be relevant, and that it would be useful for members to be able to have access to it before making a decision. He also considered that in Appendix E, the amendment requiring an 'authorised officer' should be more clearly defined.

On balance, members of the committee considered that it would be prudent to defer a decision on the 'grandfather rights' to allow time for more consideration to be made to its equality implications in relation to disability.

On that basis an amendment to the motion was proposed and seconded that:

"Approval be given to the amendments to the taxi policy and associated documents as provided in Appendix 4 to the report, excluding removal of the 'Grandfather Rights' and subject to the amendment requiring the 'authorised officer' in Appendix E to be more clearly defined;

In deferring consideration of removal of the 'Grandfather Rights' element of the Taxi Policy, officers be requested to bring a report on the matter back to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration."

The amendment, having been put, was carried. The substantive motion was then put and carried.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Equality Implications relating to the report are noted.

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

- (ii) To approve the amendments to the taxi policy and associated documents as provided in Appendix 4 to the report, excluding removal of the 'Grandfather Rights' and subject to the amendment requiring the 'authorised officer' in Appendix E to be more clearly defined;
- (iii) In deferring consideration of removal of the 'Grandfather Rights' element of the Taxi Policy, officers be requested to bring a report on the matter back to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

(Reason: For consistency with previous decisions and to provide the opportunity for further consideration of the particular issue of Grandfather Rights.)

[Cllr Peacock returned to the meeting]

439. CHANGES TO THE HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report advising of changes to the Housing Allocation Policy 2017 which were required as a result of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and arrangements for consultation.

Changes were required to be implemented by 3 April 2018 with the Government having suggested a three week consultation period in advance. Due to the short time period, the changes would be monitored over the course of the next year and a report brought back to the Committee, as necessary.

It was noted that the Housing Working Party had been in place for a number of years and had discussed issues raised during debate such as private landlord health and safety issues and priority that should be given to homeless people and families, including ex service personnel as part of the military covenant. These considerations were considered still valid and had been incorporated into the Housing Allocation Policy approved by this Committee in on 13 February 2017.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Equality Implications relating to this report be noted;

(Reason: To accord with legislation and the policy of the Council)

- (ii) That the proposed changes to the Housing Allocation Policy 2017 be approved, subject to consultation as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report;

- (iii) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director/Monitoring Officer, following consultation with councillors on the Housing Policy Working Party, to review consultation responses and decide if further changes should be brought back to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

(Reason – To accord with legislation and to ensure the fair allocation of affordable housing.)

440. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANT FUNDING

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report putting forward the Homelessness Prevention Grants Panel recommendations in respect of the use of available Homelessness Prevention Grant funding for 2018/19.

Members noted the supplementary report that had been circulated prior to the meeting, following the Panel meeting held on 6 March 2018. Out of the available funding contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy of £48,994 the Panel had recommended total funding of £47,434 covering seven bids. The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager recommended that the resulting underspend of £1560 be carried to the 2018/19 budget.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Equality Implications relating to the report are noted.

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

- (ii) That approval be given to the Homelessness Prevention Grant Panel's recommendations, as contained in the supplementary report circulated;

- (iii) That the underspend of £1560 from the funding allocated in the MTFS for 2017/18 be carried forward to support the Council's Internal Homelessness Support Services, as required during 2018/19.

(Reason – To ensure the fair and transparent allocation of the available funding and ensure appropriate funding of statutory duties.)

441. EXCLUSION OF 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, may be disclosed.

442. HOUSING OPTIONS CONTRACT

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report setting out the latest position in relation to the Housing Options Contract and proposals for its re-tender.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Equality Implications relating to this report be noted;

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

- (ii) That the Housing Options Contract be re-tendered through the OJEU procurement procedures with the support of Welland Procurement;
- (iii) That the re-tender for the service is limited to the East Northamptonshire Area/Service;
- (iv) That a stakeholder group to represent the council in the conduct of the procurement and to act as the Evaluation Panel is established; and
- (v) That the three elected members on the stakeholder group should be appointed from the Housing Policy Working Party.

(Reason – to enable the continued delivery of the service in an efficient and cost effective manner)

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 14 March 2018

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Phillip Stearn Chairman

Richard Gell	Ron Pinnock
Roger Glithero JP	Roger Powell
Helen Howell	Anna Sauntson
Barbara Jenney	Alex Smith
Andy Mercer	Pam Whiting

443. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marika Hillson, Dudley Hughes JP, Gill Mercer, Harriet Pentland, Geoff Shacklock, Robin Underwood and Peter Wathen.

444. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

445. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Barbara Jenney	17/02559/FUL Land Adjacent Skew Bridge Ski Slope, Rushden Lakes, Rushden	The Mayor of Rushden's Charity Account had received sponsorship for a mayoral function in February 2018		Yes (left meeting)
	17/02674/FUL Printing Workshop, Midland Road, Rushden	Has attended a Rushden Town Council meeting when the application was discussed		Yes
Andy Mercer	17/01177/FUL Slaters Lodge, Newton Road, Higham Ferrers	Has a very strong view that the road to the site is dangerous following an incident he was involved in		Yes (left meeting)

(b) Informal Site Visits

No informal site visits were declared.

446. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

447. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS AND DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES – UPDATE

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the progress of drafting S106 Agreements in respect of matters where the Committee had previously resolved to grant planning permission and on the applications where actions had been delegated to the Head of Planning Services.

The Committee noted that there were no extensions being sought for Section 106 Agreements. It was also noted that the wording of the conditions for application 15/00119/VAR Priors Hall were now in progress and the wording of refusal for application 17/02382/FUL 54 Station Road, Rushden had now been agreed and issued.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

448. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- **Mr S Copson** – 17/02142/REM – Land between Oakleas Rise and A14 Midland Road, Thrapston (Agent)
- **Councillor P Harley** - 17/02559/FUL – Land Adjacent Skew Bridge Ski Slope, Rushden Lakes, Rushden (On behalf of Rushden Town Council)
- **Mr M Sherwood** - 17/02559/FUL – Land Adjacent Skew Bridge Ski Slope, Rushden Lakes, Rushden (Agent for the Applicant)
- **Cllr D Maxwell** 17/02559/FUL – Land Adjacent Skew Bridge Ski Slope, Rushden Lakes, Rushden (Ward Member)
- **Mr S Dix** - 17/02674/FUL - Printing Workshop, Midland Road, Rushden (Agent for the Applicant)
- **Mr M Taylor** - 17/01177/FUL - Slaters Lodge, Newton Road, Higham Ferrers (Agent for the Applicant)

449. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the planning applications report and representations made by public speakers at the meeting. It was noted that there was additional information on the applications included in the update sheet.

(i) 17/02142/REM – Land between Oakleas Rise and A14 Midland Road, Thrapston

The Committee considered a reserved matters application for the erection of 75 dwellings, pursuant to planning application 12/01957/OUT. Approval was being sought for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. The access had already been approved. The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation as it was a major residential development.

Members noted that Thrapston Town Council had now objected to the application due to overdevelopment and additional traffic and Denford Parish Council had also commented on the increase in traffic flow through the village and the impact on the quality of life for Denford residents. The Local Highways Authority also had several areas of concern regarding the application in view of the non-compliance with adoptable highway standards, in particular the shortfall in parking.

Members further noted that various concerns had also been received from a number of nearby residents, including the impact that the development would have on them due to how close it was. Officers did not dispute that the proposed scheme would have an impact on neighbouring residents, but on assessment they concluded that the impact would not be detrimental to the degree that would warrant a recommendation to refuse.

During debate on the application, Members were concerned at the overdevelopment of the site and the shortfall in parking. The impact of the development on neighbouring properties was noted. It was noted that outline permission had been granted for up to 75 dwellings. There were also concerns that all of the affordable housing was situated in one part of the site.

It was moved and seconded that the application be refused. On being put to the vote, there were eight votes for the motion, one against and no abstentions, therefore the Committee **agreed to refuse** the application, contrary to officer advice, on the grounds of cramped form of development, insufficient parking and poor parking layout and impact on neighbour amenity.

The wording of the refusal reasons is delegated to the Planning Development Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Ward Member.

Councillor Barbara Jenney left the meeting for the following item.

(ii) 17/02559/FUL – Land Adjacent to Skew Bridge Ski Slope, Rushden Lakes, Rushden

The Committee considered an application for the erection of a new restaurant and retail units to the west of Terrace A at Rushden Lakes, together with proposals for access, parking and servicing, hard and soft landscaping and other associated works. The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that whilst not objecting to the application, Rushden Town Council, Higham Ferrers Town Council, Irthlingborough Town Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough had raised various concerns regarding the application; particularly the potential adverse effect the application would have on their town centres. It was also noted that Kettering Borough Council had objected to the application due to the same reason. The Local Highways Authority had no objections to the application. Correspondence had also been received from Councillor Dorothy Maxwell on the lack of staff parking in the application and from Rushden Town Partnership on the adverse impact on Rushden town centre.

It was also noted that the Council's Head of Economic and Commercial Development had now commented that whilst he was generally supportive of the application, any job growth on the site needed to be carefully considered against the potential impact on jobs off site, especially with retail. The Council's Climate Consultant had also supported the application, subject to the inclusion of two conditions to address BREEAM.

Comments had been received from the applicant's planning agent in response to the Council's Retail Consultant. The applicant considered that the concern expressed in the committee report about the proposed increase in smaller units at the Garden Square development was overstated, however officers stood by their original views on retail impact. Notwithstanding this, members noted that there could be an adverse impact on the surrounding towns due to the development of smaller units; however there was no evidence of an adverse impact on Kettering and it was proposed that condition 7 should be amended to omit Kettering and include Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough.

During debate on the application, Councillor Andy Mercer advised that the Vice Chairman of the Committee had received an email from a director of the applicant stating that they would now make available an additional 15 staff parking spaces despite originally resisting this request.

It was moved and seconded 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 the update sheet, subject to:

- (i) A revised site plan showing an additional 15 staff parking spaces on land to the rear of the service yard (to be captured in an amendment to condition 2).
- (ii) An amendment to condition 7 to omit Kettering and add Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough to the 'no poach' restriction.
- (iii) Agreement on the final wording of the BREEAM condition(s)

The wording of these points is delegated to the Planning Development Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Ward Member.

Councillor Barbara Jenney returned to the meeting.

(iii) 17/02674/FUL – Printing Workshop, Midland Road, Rushden

The Committee considered an application for the part demolition, part retention and conversion of a former print works with the erection of additional new houses and flats to create twelve residential dwellings. The application had been brought before the Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

Members noted that one letter objecting to the application had been received from a nearby resident. Members further noted that the East Rushden Residents Association had also now objected to the application. The Local Highways Authority had no objection to the application.

It was moved and seconded 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.

Councillor Andy Mercer left the meeting during the following item.

(iv) 17/01177/FUL – Slaters Lodge, Newton Road, Higham Ferrers

The Committee considered an application for the demolition of over yard barns and the conversion of two agricultural (non-designated) stone barns for office and residential use. The application had been brought before the Committee as Higham Ferrers Town Council had objected to the application as they supported the objection of the Local Highways Authority.

The Local Highways Authority had objected to the application based on the fact that the east visibility splay was too short for the speed of 85% of the traffic going past the site. They further raised concerns that the site plan showed a mixed access for commercial and residential vehicles which was not recommended and it did not show how agricultural vehicles would access the fields. They also stated that the site was in an unsustainable location away from local amenities and residents and employees would have to make all trips by car.

During debate on the application, Members advised that whilst they had no issue with the conversion of the buildings, the access was of high concern as the road to the site was a country road which had a lot of traffic using it and also had a blind bend. However, some Members felt that the access was in the best place as moving it would create problems.

It was moved and seconded 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.

Councillor Andy Mercer returned to the meeting.

450. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the planning appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate from 29 January 2018 to 23 February 2018.

During debate on the report, members questioned the number of allowed appeals and asked the Planning Development Manager if there was a problem in this regard. The Planning Development Manager advised that the allowed appeals had to be seen in the context of the financial year as a whole and that performance was acceptable. Reports in past months had demonstrated success at appeal and this should be noted. It was noted that two of the appeals were for householder appeals and officers were reminded that the Committee were advised that they would receive training on householder appeals at some point.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Chairman

JOINT STANDARDS COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Date: 21 March 2018

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillor Andy Mercer (Chairman)
Councillor Dave Munday (Vice-Chairman)

East Northamptonshire Councillors:

Rosalie Beattie David Jenney
Annabel de Capell Brooke Rupert Reichhold

Town and Parish Councillors:

Roy Sparkes (Oundle Town Council)
Robert Tyman (Raunds Town Council)
Adrian Winkle (Irthlingborough Town Council)

Vivienne Barnard (Independent Person)
Andrew Sortwell (Reserve Independent Person)

451. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from ENC Councillors Lance Jones and Gill Mercer and Parish Representatives Fiona Cowan (Collyweston Parish Council) and Derek Lawson (Higham Ferrers Town Council).

The Chairman informed the Committee of the recent death of Councillor Lawson's wife. The Members of the Committee wished to extend their condolences to Councillor Lawson and requested the Monitoring Officer to write to Councillor Lawson on their behalf.

452. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Complaints Committee held on 17 January 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

453. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were made.

454. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

455. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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

456. 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 November 2017 to date.

There had been three new potential complaints since the previous meeting. The total number of potential complaints in 2017 which had not resulted in subsequent formal complaints had been 13, compared to 5 in 2016.

Since the last meeting, a total of three new formal complaints had been received. All of these related to the same Parish Council as two of the complaints reported at the previous meeting. Three of the four complaints relating to this parish Council had been concluded at Initial Assessment stage with the outcome of 'other action' in the form of a mediated governance review at the Parish Council, which would commence shortly. Two were at the Initial Assessment stage.

Two complaints had reached the Hearing stage of the process. One Hearing had been held on 9 March 2018 and the outcome would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee once the appeal period had ended. A Hearing date for the second complaint was being arranged.

The Monitoring Officer reported that two Monitoring Officer Conferences would be held in June and July this year. One would be attended by herself and the other by Ben Smith (Democratic Services Manager) who would be appointed as an additional Deputy Monitoring Officer role at the Council in the summer.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(Reason: No further action or decisions are required as a result of this report).

Chairman