

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: 26 October 2020

Venue: Online meeting, via MS Teams

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors:-

Helen Howell	(Chairman of the Council)
David Brackenbury	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)
Steven North	(Leader of the Council)

Rosaline Beattie	Dorothy Maxwell
Annabel de Capell Brooke	Andrew Mercer
Tony Boto	Gillian Mercer
Wendy Brackenbury	Sarah Peacock
Val Carter	Harriet Pentland
Richard Gell	Janet Pinnock
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith	Roger Powell
Helen Harrison	Rupert Reichold
Marian Hollomon	Alex Smith
Dudley Hughes	Phillip Stearn
Sylvia Hughes	Robin Underwood
Bert Jackson	Jake Vowles
Barbara Jenney	Peter Wathen
David Jenney	Lee Wilkes
Lance Jones	Colin Wright
Richard Lewis	

220. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Farrar, Roger Glithero, Ron Pinnock and Geoff Shacklock.

221. MINUTES

The minutes of the council meeting held on 20 July 2020 were agreed as a true and correct record of the proceedings except for the need for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to be correctly noted as Cllrs Helen Howell and David Brackenbury respectively.

It was noted that the Chairman would sign the minutes at the next available opportunity.

222. 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.

223. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Council made the following announcements to the Council:

I had great pleasure over the last couple of weeks to visit, with Council leader Steven North, some amazing projects that East Northamptonshire Council has supported through the Community Facilities Fund. One thing that struck me was the dedication and enthusiasm shown by the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep these projects going, even when funds are tight. They have to come up with inventive ways to raise money, from roof repairs, to facilities, to play equipment, to much more.

I was so delighted to see these projects first hand and realise that the money we give makes a huge difference.

We are at the time of year when we should be celebrating Halloween, fireworks night, armistice day, not to mention Christmas. I know a lot of town and parish councils have had to cancel a lot of planned events and this is extremely disappointing for them and the residents. But I am sure we will all do our best to celebrate and mark these events in our own way, making sure we follow the guidelines set out by our government. I know our Communications Team will be sending out information prior to these events as they usually do, so please make sure you share these messages.

I have had a good response from my Chairman's Champions Awards but I am still looking for more, so please spread the word. The closing date for nominations is 31st December 2020.

And on a lighter note, I have asked Louise to send out an email to you all with an idea I have had for the Christmas card this year. I wanted to include all members as it is the last one we shall be sending. I hope you will all get on board with the idea and let's have a bit of fun to make everybody smile. So please do reply to her email.

Thank you.

224. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive had no announcements to make.

225. LEADER'S ADDRESS

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

Good evening Chairman, Members.

To start with I very much thank all the members of the Planning Policy Committee for their hardwork in relation to the current planning system and the Planning for the Future White Paper. Both of those are very serious and it's been absolutely fantastic although I would thin over five hours of debate across the two meetings together. We have managed to respond to all the questions laid out by the government in our response and again, I am sure the Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee will cover that in his report to Council so I won't dwell on that particular point any further.

I would also like to say Chairman that we have held our final Enterprise Centre Working Party meeting today and that has now been wrapped up and it is certainly an opportunity to mention the Chairmanship of Councillor Glenvil Greenwood-Smith and all of the other members of the Working Party and all the staff, and a special thank-you to everybody who managed to deliver that. We were a few weeks late, due to covid, no other reason than that. We actually delivered it under budget and it is pleasing to see it all done and delivered. It has been a really impressive delivery, and as you know Chairman, it looks fantastic.

The other thing I would mention is, and I don't know if other members are aware, but there was the opportunity to name two rooms in the Enterprise Centre that we use for meeting spaces, and we actually named them after two former Deputy Leaders of this Council who unfortunately passed away during the last ten years; the rooms are named Harwood and Hardcastle respectively.

And today, we did invite the families, at separate times, all with social distancing, to come up to receive a plaque to note the opening of those rooms. They were very grateful and very humbled in relation to the remembering of the passing of those councillors and all that they did for the Council. That was really nice and touching and that is there for ever and a day, so obviously that is there on the wall, with their names and some details which is a fitting memory.

Thank you to Councillor Green-wood Smith for organising that and to all members who were there.

You mentioned the Community Facilities Fund (CFF) yourself Chairman. It was another very good visit and that was of course round 8 and the end of the CFF. It is still very good that the Council in the end managed to increase its amount of New Homes Bonus to put 15% of that into schemes. We supported hundreds of schemes over the time and have spent between £2.5m and £3m on that, so that is investment back into the community, which if you remember is what the New Homes Bonus was all about.

It would be nice to have a celebration. That of course is up in the air and it was, and is still, the intention to invite everyone who received funding for Round 8 of CFF to a big event before this Council ends. We hope that can still happen.

The only thing I would like to say, is a great big thank-you to all of the staff who are working above and beyond in carrying out business in relation to Covid-19. A lot of work goes unnoticed with the general public, but a great deal does go on behind the scenes, especially in relation to doing all that is required by the government. So, on behalf of you all, a big thank-you from me and all of the members to staff for all they are doing.

Thank you, Chairman.

226. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Planning Management – 23 July, 12 August, 9 September and 10 September 2020

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

(b) Governance and Audit – 29 July and 21 September 2020

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

(c) Policy and Resources – 7 September 2020

The report of the above Committee, presented by its Chairman, Councillor Richard Lewis, was received. It was noted that the 'resolved to recommend' in respect of the reports 'Support to Freedom Leisure' would be considered elsewhere on the agenda under item 11.

Food Safety and Health & Safety Service Plan 2020/21

RESOLVED:

That the Food Safety and Health & Safety Service Plan 2020/21 be approved (Appendix 1 to these minutes pages 114 to 129).

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

(d) Planning Policy – 21 September and 19 October 2020

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

Councillor Brackenbury wished to place on record his thanks to Mike Burton and his fellow planning staff for their diligent work in preparing the response to the Government's consultation on the planning white paper.

(e) Joint Standards Complaints – 14 October 2020

The report of the above Committee, presented by its Vice-Chairman, Councillor Gill Mercer, was received.

(a) Licensing – 21 October 2020

The report of the above Committee, presented by its Chairman, Councillor Barbara Jenney, was received.

227. OTHER REPORTS FROM LICENSING PANELS

The reports of the Licensing (Liquor Licensing) Panel meetings held on 26 August and 23 September 2020 were received.

228. MOTIONS

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

229. QUESTIONS

The Chief Executive reported that a series of questions had been received from Councillor Tony Boto under Procedure Rule 10.2 which related to the Council's use of the word "minimum" in written and oral communications when referring to the housing quotas by settlement that appeared in the NN Joint Strategy (Local Plan Part 1). Some of the questions were quite detailed and complicated and he had therefore agreed with Councillor Boto that they required consideration by Officers and the Local Plan Reference Group prior to bringing a proposal to the next meeting of the Planning Policy Committee.

Cllr Boto confirmed that he was happy with this approach.

The following questions were submitted by Councillor Dorothy Maxwell under Procedure Rule 10.2:

Councillor Tony Boto

1. **With the pending further lockdown, what help will be given to village halls, sports pavilions and sports venues should their income, e.g. from classes, prevent them from paying for their upkeep?**

Response by the Chief Executive

Cllr Maxwell asked this question by phone several months ago and a response was sent by email on 1 May 2020.

For the benefit of all Members, the gist of the answer was that we are unable to provide financial support to Parish Councils using the Government's funding. Parish Councils are precepting bodies so they can raise funds directly from their residents, and they are supposed to retain a level of reserves that would enable them to pay for problems such as this.

Cllr Maxwell may wish to make an approach to Danny Moody of NCALC (Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils) – www.northantscalc.com - who may be able to lobby for additional funding for Parish Councils.

2. **Please can you explain why, since the telephone system changed, that ENC reception are not aware which officers are available, who is in the building and which officers are working from home?**

Response by the Chief Executive

Councillor Maxwell asked a similar question at the last Council meeting on 20 July 2020.

As I said then, officers have been contactable via telephone and email throughout the pandemic. That should be the case irrespective of where they are working from.

As I also said at the last meeting, Cllr Maxwell will need to be more specific if she is having difficulties contacting particular service areas or officers. If she could put it to us in writing we will look into it and respond to her direct.

3. **There is still an issue with MS Teams and Committee meetings. This week, the Police were unable to access the Licensing meeting on Wednesday. Why not?**

Response by the Chief Executive

There is no issue with MS Teams and Committee meetings from our perspective. All external invitees are given the option of accessing meetings through their own internal Microsoft Outlook accounts or using our integrated telephone dial up service, both of which are fully in compliance with remote meeting regulations as set out by Government.

At the meeting Cllr Maxwell refers to, the police had an issue internally and were unable to log in to the meeting, and decided not to take up the telephone service offered to them. Attendees are encouraged to check their access to the meeting before it takes place and officers will liaise with the police in advance of the next meeting to ensure they can participate.

230. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as exempt information may be disclosed:-

Support for Freedom Leisure

231. SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM LEISURE

The Executive Director, Resources and Commercial and Healthy and Active Lifestyles Officer presented a report on the impact the Covid-19 pandemic had had on Freedom Leisure and the support it have requested from the Council to maintain the business and the future of East Northamptonshire Council's (ENC) Leisure Services Contract. The report was not for publication in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED:

That Council agrees:

- a) To meet Freedom Leisure's estimated contract deficit of between £106,224 and £144,801 for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021, subject to final approval via the open book accounting reconciliation process.
- b) To forego the monthly management fee due to the Council of £12,083 for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021, totalling £36,249
- c) To forego the monthly management fee due to the Council of £4287.52 for the period 21 July to 31 July 2020, (omitted from the previous report to Council)

- d) To agree the funding recommendations (i), (ii) and (iii) will come from the Covid-19 Grant from Government, the Covid earmarked reserve or, if successful, further government Covid funding.
- e) To a further update being brought forward at the full council meeting scheduled for 25 January 2021, to consider any future support for the period 1 February to 31 March 2021.

That Council notes:

- f) That a progress report on the leisure contract with Freedom Leisure will be made to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting scheduled for 18 January 2021 to review the existing support and to consider any future support for the period 1 February to 31 March 2021.

(Reason – To support the continued delivery of a critical contract to implement the council's Healthy and Active Lifestyles Strategy which encourages residents to adopt healthier and active lifestyles)

Chairman

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date: 02 November 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Richard Lewis (Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Vice Chairman)
David Jenney (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Tony Boto
David Brackenbury
Wendy Brackenbury
Val Carter

John Farrar
Dudley Hughes JP
Andy Mercer
Sarah Peacock

232. COUNCILLOR RON PINNOCK

Members and officers held a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Ron Pinnock, who had sadly passed away.

233. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Glithero, Helen Harrison and Steven North.

234. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 07 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

235. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

236. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

237. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

a) Finance and Performance Sub-Committee – 09 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee held on 09 September 2020 were noted (see pages 177 to 178).

b) Finance and Performance Sub-Committee – 19 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee held on 19 October 2020 were noted (see pages 179 to 187).

In response to questions from Members, officers confirmed that, following the Government's announcement of a new lockdown from 5 November, officers and Freedom Leisure would be meeting to look to understand the implications for delivery of the leisure contract and if necessary a further report would be taken to Full Council.

Economic Recovery Prospectus

R.6 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

- (i) That progress to date on the Economic Recovery Prospectus Phase 1 be noted.
- (ii) That the Economic Recovery Prospectus Phase 2 and associated work streams be approved.

(Reason: To put in place measures to support and accelerate economic recovery across the district to address the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic.)

c) Personnel Sub-Committee – 14 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 14 September 2020 were noted (see pages 188 to 189).

d) Personnel Sub-Committee – 26 October 2020

The minutes of the meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 26 October 2020 were noted (see pages 190 to 191).

238. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER UPDATE 2020

The Waste Manager presented a report which sought approval to update the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) as a review was required every three years by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

In September 2017, the Committee had approved the making of a number of PSPOs relating to responsible dog ownership, with the following elements:

- A requirement that people cleaned up after their dog if it defecated on public land.
- A provision which required people to place their dog on a lead.
- A provision prohibiting dogs from all outdoor enclosed children's play areas in the district.
- A requirement for dogs to remain on a lead at all times in certain locations.
- A limit to the number of animals one individual could walk in a public place.

During discussion on the report, Members enquired what could be done for dog fouling on private land and officers advised that the Act had other powers in relation to private land which could potentially assist with private land owners. Officers explained that the team did a lot of work with anti-social owners and dogs and would also be looking to do some work showing that the district was quite clean against the perception that everywhere was dirty. It was noted that drink and drugs was also an issue in some areas and it was confirmed that these areas had been flagged up with the Community Partnerships Team and Future Northants going forward into unitary.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the equality implications be noted.
- (ii) That the publication of the dog-related Public Space Protection Orders, as listed in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

(Reason: To accord with legislation.)

239. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION GRANTS 2021-22

The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager presented a report which sought approval for an 'in principle' extension to the Homelessness Prevention Grant arrangements, with a recommendation that provisions for the financial year 2021/22 were included in the draft budget for the new North Northamptonshire Council.

For a number of years ENC had allocated annual Homelessness Prevention Grants to organisations which operated locally to prevent and relieve homelessness in the district. These grants had been very successful in providing good value for money solutions to assist the Council in delivering its statutory homelessness duties. As we moved towards the start of North Northamptonshire Council, thought was now being given as to how to continue to support these organisations and to ensure that their work in partnership with the Council to prevent and relieve homelessness in the district continued into the new authority.

In 2020/21, grants totalling £49,985 had been made. The agreements would terminate on 31 March 2021 and should the grant funding not be continued in 2021/22 the organisations would no longer be able to provide the services. The organisations had been advised in the last funding round that no guarantees of further funding could be given after 31 March 2021 due to the move to unitary council status. In order for the organisations to continue to provide services, they needed to have some certainty going forward. It was therefore important that they were given certainty about the funding which would be available for 2021/22 in good time so that they could plan their provision from the outset of the new authority.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the initial Equalities Impact Assessment.
- (ii) To approve an 'in principle' extension to our current Homelessness Prevention Grant funding for the organisations as set out in the report.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SHADOW
AUTHORITY:**

- (iii) That the financial provisions to cover the funding referred to in recommendation (ii) above are included in the 2021/22 draft budget for the new North Northamptonshire Council.

(Reasons:

- 1) To ensure the fair and transparent allocation of the available funding and ensure appropriate funding of statutory duties.*
- 2) To maintain strong and effective partnership arrangements to enable the continuation of specialist services for homeless people within the district.)*

Chairman

Finance and Performance Sub Committee

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 2.00pm

Present: Councillors: Steven North (Chairman)
David Jenney
Richard Lewis

Officers: David Oliver Chief Executive
Glenn Hammons Chief Finance Officer
Kelvin Turner Interim Head of Resources
Rob Scott ICT Business Support Manager

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Brackenbury, Roger Glithero and Glenvil Greenwood-Smith.

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 06 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4.0 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions received from Members.

5.0 ICT DEVELOPMENT POOL SCHEME

5.1 The Interim Head of Resources presented a report which sought authorisation for the funding needed to deliver the replacement of the data storage server.

5.2 The current data storage server at ENC would be End of Life from 31 December 2020 with the current maintenance contract for the equipment expiring on 30 September 2020. The server currently held all of the shared drives which were business critical. Provision existed within the Development Pool to fund the purchase of new hardware costing £45k.

5.3 Two options had been considered and it was now being recommended to purchase a more efficient server, using a procurement framework created by Kent County Council so we could appoint an appropriate supplier. There had been engagement with the Technical Design Authority set up as part of the Future Northants programme and they had given their full approval to the proposal.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve Option 2, as detailed in the report, to purchase the new hardware.
- (ii) To approve the movement of ICT capital funding totalling £45k from the Development Pool for ICT Capital Projects into the approved Capital Programme.

(Reason: To deliver the replacement of the Council's Data Storage Server).

Chairman

Finance and Performance Sub Committee

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting held on Monday 19 October 2020 at 10.30am

Present:	Councillors:	Steven North (Chairman) David Brackenbury Glenvil Greenwood-Smith David Jenney Richard Lewis
	Officers:	David Oliver Glenn Hammons Kelvin Turner Katherine Hayward Lucy Hogston Greg Macdonald Samantha Jeffrey Matt Lineham Joe Bailey Duncan Bisatt
		Chief Executive Chief Finance Officer Head of Resources Finance Manager Head of Customer and Community Services Head of Economic and Commercial Development Corporate Support Manager Facilities Manager Healthy and Active Lifestyles Officer LGSS Law

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roger Glithero.

2.0 MINUTES

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 09 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4.0 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions received from Members.

5.0 QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTING – QUARTER 4 (2019-20) AND QUARTER 1 (2020-21)

5.1 The Corporate Support Manager presented a report which provided high level information about performance across the Council in relation to agreed performance indicators and other statistics that supported the monitoring of performance. The report covered both Quarter 4 (2019/20) and Quarter 1 (2020/21).

- 5.2 For Quarter 4, 66% of Key Priority Measures were performing at or above the required standards. 15 measures had underperformed but only 11 were recorded and explained in detail as they had underperformed for two or more consecutive periods of reporting, which indicated a longer term issue. Eight of these were annual measures which were only reported in Quarter 4 each year.

For Quarter 1, 76% of Key Priority Measures were performing at or above the required standards. Eight measures had underperformed but only three were recorded and explained in detail.

- 5.3 It was noted that there had been a big reduction in the number of days lost by ENC due to sickness, with 87 days lost overall in Quarter 1.
- 5.4 In response to a question as to what the effect had been on service provision with a number of staff working from home, the Chief Executive confirmed that activity levels had remained the same. There had been a lower level of face to face interactions as service users were now using more of the online channels which were being developed.

RESOLVED:

That the Quarter 4 2019/20 and Quarter 1 2020/21 performance reports be noted.

(Reason: To improve service provision against performance measures.)

6.0 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2020

- 6.1 The Finance Manager presented a report which provided an update on the forecast revenue and capital positions against the approved budgets for the period ended 30 June 2020 in financial year 2020/21.
- 6.2 Since the budget was set in March 2020, the total budget as at 30 June 2020 had been revised to £12,477,393. Since 1 April 2020, drawdowns from reserves into the revenue budget or budgets funded from ring-fenced grants totalling £413,408 and virements from the corporate contingency budget totalling £211,732 had been approved.
- 6.3 Following a review of the management team structure in Planning Strategy Services, and to simplify budget monitoring and budget setting activities, the Head of Planning Services had now made a request to vire £44,870 from cost centre CDD001 and £33,650 from cost centre CDD002, relating to homelessness administration and housing advice respectively, to cost centre CDG019 relating to strategy services and enabling activities.
- 6.4 The estimated services outturn for the year was an over spend of £1,649k, which was almost entirely attributable to Covid-related pressures. The Covid-19 pandemic and resulting economic impacts were forecast to have a significant negative impact on the Council's revenue budget outturn position for 2020/21 as a result of additional costs and forecast loss of income. A reconciliation of the forecast cost pressures for 2020/21 and reported to MHCLG on 2 October 2020 for COVID-19 pressures was £1,851k.
- 6.5 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government had made £4.3 billion available to support local authorities in meeting the costs of the activities that they had been asked to deliver and the Council's allocation was £1,125.2k. In July 2020, the Government announced a new local government income compensation scheme for lost sales, fees and charges. This one-off scheme was designed to compensate for irrecoverable and unavoidable losses in the delivery of services. Calculations based on the current forecasts of lost income indicated that the amount the Council may be able to claim under this scheme was up to £208k.

On 8 October 2020, the Government confirmed the Council's allocation of Local Authority Enforcement Grant as £37,488.

This was additional ring-fenced funding for any activity which would support compliance and enforcement of public health measures, including social distancing, to control the spread of COVID-19 across individuals, businesses and in the community.

- 6.6 When all known sources of funding were considered, the overspend in 2020/21 was forecast to be £376k.
- 6.7 The Council's Capital Programme for 2020/21 of £1,031k was approved by Council in March 2020. Since then, the budget had increased to £3,683k as a result of changes within the financial year. The current budget for the approved capital programme and those projects which remained in the development pool totalled £4,766k. As at 30 June 2020, an overspend of £24k was forecast on the Capital Programme in relation to additional ICT end user devices required as a result of increased home working due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6.8 When the Council set its budget in March 2020 it included a £91k contribution from reserves. The forecast revenue reserves from service expenditure outturn as at 31st March 2021 was £18.9m which was earmarked for specific priorities or to mitigate risks associated with the Council's operations.
- 6.9 Since being approved by Full Council on 2 March 2020 there had been some minor corrections and legislative amendments to the published Fees and Charges schedule for 2020/21. These changes were:
- Planning Services - Development Management, Enforcement and Conservation – legislative changes to fees
 - Planning Services – Building Control: Correction - Reference to Statutory Instrument corrected to Statutory Instrument 2010 No.404
 - Planning Services – Building Control: Correction - Regularisation charge wording revised to remove reference to 140% hourly rate
 - Central Licensing Administration Unit – Amendment required due to Case Law update: Houses in Multiple Occupation: Remove variation fees
- 6.10 In responses to questions from members, officers confirmed that the financial support for Freedom Leisure had been included in the service pressures for Customer and Community Services. We would be unable to claim for commercial income losses but could claim for the loss of the management fee. Officers undertook to provide members with details of how much had been spent on rough sleeping. With reference to the funding of the Enterprise Centre, it was noted that a report would be taken to the next meeting of the Enterprise Centre Working Party.
- 6.11 The Sub-Committee requested that their thanks to Kelvin Turner, Katherine Hayward and the Finance Team be recorded for providing an excellent report during these unprecedented times.

RESOLVED to:

- (i) note the revenue, capital and reserves positions for 2020/21 as at 30 June 2020
(Reason: For information/monitoring purposes.)
- (ii) note the supplementary estimates approved since 1 April 2020.
(Reason: For information/monitoring purposes.)

- (iii) note the virements from the corporate contingency approved since 1 April 2020.

(Reason: For information/monitoring purposes.)

- (iv) approve the virement within Planning Services of £44,870 from cost centre CDD001 and £33,650 from cost centre CDD002, relating to homelessness administration and housing advice respectively, to cost centre CDG019 relating to strategy services and enabling activities.

(Reason – for formal approval of the budget virement request)

- (v) note the collection and write off performance for sundry debtors, local taxation and benefit overpayments.

(Reason – This is for information / monitoring purposes)

- (vi) note the amendments to the published Fees and Charges schedule.

(Reason – This is for information / monitoring purposes)

7.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2020

- 7.1 The Finance Manager presented a report which noted the current position for Treasury Management for the period to 30 June 2020.

- 7.2 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 was approved as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in March 2020. An amendment to the Strategy was approved by Full Council on 13 May 2020 to provide a delegation to the Chief Finance Officer (or their nominee), following consultation with the Chairmen of the Finance and Performance Sub Committee and the Governance and Audit Committee, to temporarily increase the HM Treasury (Debt Management Office) counterparty limit from £10m to unlimited if required due to exceptional circumstances.

- 7.3 The estimated outturn was based on the current forecast that Bank Rate would remain at the historic low of 0.10% for the duration of the 2020/21 financial year. Although the average return on the Council's portfolio for the period to 30 June 2020 was 0.39%, maturing investments would have to be re-invested at much lower rates of return due to changes in the market as a result of the reduction in Bank Rate. The forecast investment return for 2020/21 was:

Investment Return Budget vs. Estimated Outturn			
	Budget	Estimated Outturn	(Surplus)/Deficit
	£	£	£
Investment income	£150,000	£75,000	£75,000

- 7.4 The delegation to the Chief Finance Officer to temporarily increase the HM Treasury (Debt Management Office) counterparty limit was invoked once in Quarter 1 2020/21 on 8 June 2020. Following consultation with the Chairmen of the Finance and Performance Sub Committee and the Governance and Audit Committee the HM Treasury (Debt Management Office) counterparty limit was temporarily increased from £10m to £12m for the period from 8 June to 22 June 2020. The counterparty limit of £3m with the Council's bank Barclays plc was breached for one day on 29 June 2020 when the overnight balance was £3.56m due to technical operational reasons. The balance with Barclays was returned to within counterparty limits on 30 June 2020.

- 7.5 In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that the Treasury's decision to no longer allow local authorities to borrow money from the PWLB to purchase commercial property to generate an income stream would not prevent undertaking projects such as the Enterprise Centre as schemes to develop job creation and growth were not included and the decision solely related to purchasing property to gain a commercial income.
- 7.6 The Sub-Committee congratulated the Treasury Management Team on getting a better rate of return on the Council's portfolio than the LIBID rate.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management performance for the period to 30 June 2020 be noted.

(Reason: In accordance with CIPFA guidance and best practice in Treasury Management.)

8.0 DEBT WRITE OFFS AND OUTSTANDING DEBT

- 8.1 The Head of Customer and Community Services presented a report which set out the amount of debt that had been written off during the financial year 2019/20 and provided an analysis of outstanding debt as at 31 March 2020.
- 8.2 It was essential that all monies due to the Council were collected effectively; however a small proportion of the overall income may not be collectable due to matters outside of its control. When a debt was assessed to be irrecoverable it was subject to a write-off process. The decision to write off debt was always a last resort after all other methods of collecting the debt had been exhausted. There were no write off requests exceeding £25k during 2019/20.
- 8.3 A summary of write-offs for 2019/20 was:

Debt Type	Total Collected £	Total Write-Off £	% of Total Collected
Council Tax	57,909,274	204,311	0.3%
Non Domestic Rates	34,447,632	47,282	0.1%
Housing Benefit Overpayments	484,155	51,947	11%
Sundry Debtors	4,231,394	14,726	0.35%
TOTAL	97,072,455	318,266	0.33%

- 8.4 For 2019/20 the arrears outstanding equated to 2.4% of the total council tax for the year. Around £377k (14%) of the outstanding debt was being recovered through various arrangements agreed at various stages of the recovery process. These included repayment plans, attachment to earnings and deductions from benefit payments.
- 8.5 Business rates arrears totalled just over £638k and the arrears for 2019/20 equated to 1.2% of the total NNDR for the year. There were a high number of accounts in arrears going back to 2015 due to the decision of a national appeal which meant that one business rates assessment was split into approximately 1,500 individual assessments. The effective date for the decision was 2015 and therefore bills were generated for every year from that date onwards.

Notification of the decision was received from the Valuation Office Agency late in the financial year therefore recovery action was not in place as at 31 March 2020.

- 8.6 In response to questions from members, officers confirmed that due to the Covid-19 pandemic enforcement of debts by bailiffs had been suspended. During that time, the existing plans with enforcement agents had not defaulted but no new cases had yet been referred to the bailiffs. The issuing of statutory reminders had recommenced last week but soft reminders had been used before that. The Government's furlough scheme would be ending at the end of the month and any impact that would have would start to be seen during November.

RESOLVED:

That the position of debts written off for the financial year 2019/20 and the latest information on outstanding debts at 31 March 2020 was noted.

(Reason: To meet requirements as set out in section 5.46 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (Part 4.3 of the Constitution).)

9.0 ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROSPECTUS

- 9.1 The Head of Economic and Commercial Development presented a report which provided an update on the last three months and an overview of the Phase 2 proposals in order to continue to address the impact of the economic shock resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 9.2 £29 million of Government funding had been provided to businesses through ENC to help ease the immediate impact of the lockdown. Although this funding was essential, the focus had quickly moved towards supporting individuals and businesses to adapt to new market conditions.
- 9.3 A new collaboration, including local and strategic partners, had already helped local people and businesses by:
- Putting in place a new local one stop hub for business support based at the University of Northampton
 - Refocusing the current business support programme provided by Building Business to meet the emerging needs of business
 - Incentivising the membership of local business support organisations including the Federation for Small Business and the local chamber of commerce so as to encourage business networking
 - Recruiting a dedicated Enterprise Officer to support, drive and extend the reach of the service to the Borough of Wellingborough
 - Securing support from ENC and the Shadow North Northamptonshire including investing £250,000 to support and drive delivery
 - Setting up a Recovery Hub at the new Enterprise Centre to be at the heart of the recovery process
 - Convening a number of conversations across ENC services to help start the development of a new refocused Business Charter to ensure council services remain relevant and supportive through the recovery process
 - Working with Town Councils to open up the high streets safely
 - Commencing work with the Northamptonshire COVID 19 Economic Cell, SEMLEP and the Oxford Cambridge Arc to develop a strategic approach to economic recovery and shaping a future strategy and action plan which would be driven through and by the new North Northamptonshire Council

9.4 The next phase of the project was to accelerate Phase 1, with a particular focus on extending the focus to cover employment matters and exploring further opportunities to extend the reach of the project to support as many local businesses and residents as possible.

9.5 The focus over the next 6 months would be to:

- Continue to promote, develop and deliver the business support offered in partnership with the University of Northampton, SEMLEP, local business networks, Building Business and other local and strategic partners including other local authorities
- Work with the Job Centre Plus and other partners to develop a new employment service initiative to support those local people facing unemployment
- Continue to utilise the Enterprise Centre East Northants facility to drive and deliver the support programmes at the heart of the business community
- Extend the out reach work by putting in place a shop front to increase the coverage and reach of the support programme
- Produce and publish a refocused Business Charter to ensure local services were firmly aligned to support local people and businesses
- Contribute to strategic economic development work with a particular focus on the SEMLEP Recovery Plan and the Oxford Cambridge Arc Economic Prospectus
- Seek to extend the coverage of Recovery Through Enterprise initiative across North Northants with agreement from the Borough Council of Wellingborough already in place
- Work with our local authority and strategic partners to start the process of producing an economic development strategy and action plan for the new North Northants Council.

9.6 Members congratulated the Team for all of their work in delivering Phase 1 of the programme. In response, the Head of Economic and Commercial Development advised that it had been an excellent team effort across all parts of the Council. Members were advised that ENC had been nominated for a Rose of Northamptonshire Award in recognition of the business support which had been delivered during the health crisis.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

That Full Council be recommended to:

- (a) Note progress to date on the Economic Recovery Prospectus Phase 1
(Reason: To ensure effective member oversight of the initiative.)
- (b) Approve the Economic Recovery Prospectus Phase 2 and associated work streams (Appendix 1).
(Reason: To put in place measures to support and accelerate economic recovery across the district to address the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic.)

10.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because exempt information may be disclosed.

11.0 FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED BY FREEDOM LEISURE

- 11.1 The Healthy and Active Lifestyles Officer presented a report which provided an update on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Freedom Leisure and the support that they had requested from the Council to maintain the business and the future of East Northamptonshire Council's Leisure Services Contract and to propose further support for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL that they:

- (i) agree to meet Freedom Leisure's estimated contract deficit of between £106,224 and £144,801 for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021, subject to final approval via the open book accounting reconciliation process.
- (ii) forego the monthly management fee due to the Council of £12,083 for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021, totalling £36,249.
- (iii) forego the monthly management fee due to the Council of £4287.52 for the period 21 July to 31 July 2020 (omitted from the previous report to Council).
- (iv) agree the funding recommendations (i), (ii) and (iii) will come from the Covid-19 Grant from Government, the Covid earmarked reserve or, if successful, further Government Covid funding.
- (v) agree to a further update being brought forward at the Full Council meeting scheduled for 25 January 2021, to consider any future support for the period 1 February to 31 March 2021.
- (vi) note that a progress report on the leisure contract with Freedom Leisure will be made to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting scheduled for 18 January 2021 to review the existing support and consider any future support for the period 1 February to 31 March 2021.

(Reason: To support the continued delivery of a critical contract to implement the Council's Healthy and Active Lifestyles Strategy which encourages residents to adopt healthier and active lifestyles.)

12.0 SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8

- 12.1 At 12.30pm, it was proposed that Council Procedure Rule 8 (Duration of Meeting) be suspended to enable the Committee to continue the business on the agenda. On being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED:

That Council Procedure Rule 8 be suspended to enable the Committee to continue the business on the agenda.

13.0 ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- 13.1 The Head of Economic and Commercial Development presented a report which provided an update on the Council's Asset Management Strategy and sought approval for various actions to be taken in relation to specific assets.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the updates in the asset tracker be noted.
(Reason: To deliver and monitor the Asset Management Strategy.)
- (ii) With regards to the new lease at Eaton Walk, to provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Head of Economic and Commercial Development, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and Performance Sub-Committee, to complete the negotiations and thereafter exchange and complete the contract.
(Reason: To ensure effective and timely delivery of the Facilities Management and Property Audit Action Plan.)
- (iii) To defer a decision with regards to 4 St James Close, Rushden, until a future meeting.
(Reason: To ensure effective and timely delivery of the Facilities Management and Property Audit Action Plan.)
- (iv) With regards to the Enterprise Centre East Northants project, to approve the future governance arrangements for member oversight of the operational phase of the project and as landlord, to allow training uses subject to planning permission.

(Reason: To ensure effective and timely governance of a key council project.)
- (v) With regard to 103 High Street, Rushden, agree the timing for taking forward the implementation of the improvements to connect through to Eaton Walk following demolition of the building.
(Reason: To ensure effective and timely delivery of the Facilities Management and Property Audit Action Plan.)
- (vi) With regards to the Toetector site, approved the transfer of £16,337 from the development pool into the Facilities Management budget following the outcome of the tender process.

(Reason: To ensure effective and timely delivery of the Facilities Management and Property Audit Action Plan.)

14.0 MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE EAST NORTHANTS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 28 JULY 2020

- 14.1 The minutes of the Enterprise Centre East Northants Working Party held on 28 July 2020 were noted.

15.0 MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKING GROUP HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER AND 08 OCTOBER 2020

- 15.1 The minutes of the Budget Working Group held on 16 September and 08 October 2020 were noted.

Chairman

Personnel Sub-Committee

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020 (Virtual Meeting)

Present: Councillors: Roger Glithero (Chairman)
Sarah Peacock (Vice-Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
David Jenney
Steven North
Officers: Ben Smith Deputy Monitoring Officer

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Val Carter, Tony Boto and David Oliver, Chief Executive.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 June 2020 were approved.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

5.0. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

5.1 RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because exempt information may be disclosed

- Setting up an Appeals Panel

6.0 SETTING UP AN APPEALS PANEL

6.1 The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report which was to set up a Member Appeals Panel.

The report was not for publication by virtue of paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

6.2 **RESOLVED:**

- a) That a Members Appeal Panel be set up;
- b) That three councillors be appointed to the Appeals Panel, with the Leader of the Council to inform the Monitoring Officer of the councillors to be involved as soon as possible.

Chairman

Personnel Sub-Committee

Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday 26th October 2020 (Virtual Meeting)

- Present:** Councillors: Sarah Peacock (Vice-Chairman)
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
David Jenney
Steven North
Tony Boto
- Officers: Samantha Dickinson, HR Shared Services
Mike Deacon, Head of Environmental Services
David Oliver, Chief Executive
Kelvin Turner, Head of Resources

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Val Carter and Roger Glithero.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 September 2020 were approved.

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declarations of interest were made.

4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

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

5.0 WORKFORCE STATISTICS

- 5.1 The Principal HR Business Partner presented a report that reflected the HR performance data as at the end of September 2020. The report showed comparative data against the other two councils in the shared service.

5.2 RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6.0 DELEGATED DECISIONS

- 6.1 The Principal HR Business Partner presented a report in compliance with the decision made by the Personnel Sub Committee on 15th June 2020, that a summary report be brought back to this Committee as and when the Chief Executive had exercised the delegated authority to authorise minor variations to the hours of individuals.
- 6.2 Three delegated decisions had been made by the Chief Executive. The Sub Committee requested that the service area of the post holder also be included in future reports.

6.3 **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

7.0 **URGENT ITEM**

7.1 The Chairman agreed to the addition of one exempt urgent item:

- Covid-19 Response – Resourcing for Environmental Services Health Protection Team

8.0 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

8.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because exempt information may be disclosed

- Covid-19 Response – Resourcing for Environmental Services Health Protection Team

9.0 **COVID-19 RESPONSE – RESOURCING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES HEALTH PROTECTION TEAM**

9.1 The Head of Environmental Services presented a report which was to request approval for additional resources to be allocated to the Health Protection Team to support the existing team with the Covid-19 response.

9.2 **RESOLVED:**

- 1) To approve the resource proposal as stated in section 3 of the report
- 2) That, for this and any further Covid-specific resourcing, delegated powers be given to the Chief Executive (or nominee) in consultation with the Head of Environmental Services (or nominee) and Chair or Vice Chair of Personnel Sub Committee to use Surge Enforcement Grant funding to meet the needs of the service.
- 3) That body camera equipment should be procured for the Environmental Services team, also to be funded from the Surge Enforcement Grant.

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 11 November 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Present

Councillors:	Philip Stearn	Chairman
	Gill Mercer	Vice Chairman
	Bert Jackson	Alex Smith
	Barbara Jenney	Peter Tomas
	Andy Mercer	Robin Underwood
	Harriet Pentland	Lee Wilkes
	Geoff Shacklock	

240. COUNCILLOR RON PINNOCK

Members and officers held a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Ron Pinnock, a long standing member of the Planning Management Committee, who had sadly passed away.

241. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Glithero, Dudley Hughes and Peter Wathen.

242. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Andy Mercer	19/01219/OUT (Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene)	On NCC Development Control Committee who would be considering an application on a nearby site.		Yes (left meeting for the item)
Barbara Jenney	19/01219/OUT (Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene)	Family member had previous association with the agent.		Yes
Harriet Pentland	19/01219/OUT (Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene)	The applicant was known to them.		Yes
Geoff Shacklock	19/01219/OUT (Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene)	A family member had a previous connection with a contractor associated with the applicant.		Yes

(b) Informal Site Visits

None declared.

243. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

244. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- 19/01219/OUT – Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene – Applicant

245. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the planning application 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.

Councillor Andy Mercer left the meeting for consideration of this item and did not return.

(i) 19/01219/OUT – Priors Hall Site, Kirby Lane, Deene

The Committee considered an Outline application with all matters reserved except for means of access in relation to the highway access from the A43 and means of access and landscaping in respect of the causeway crossing from Zone 1. Development of a mixed use urban extension to include; residential development of up to 3,500 dwellings (C3), up to 1,000m² of A1-A5, D1 and D2 uses within two local centres, up to 1,000m² of D1/D2 (community building/changing rooms uses), two primary schools (D1), a 0.5 hectare reserve site in Zone 3 for flexible land use (education or informal open space), green infrastructure including formal and informal open space, wildlife corridors, landscaping, allotments/orchards and play areas, primary street and pedestrian and cycle network including diversions to existing PROWS, connections to the surrounding highway, sustainable urban drainage network, utilities and transport infrastructure and any necessary groundworks and demolition, and extension to Local Wildlife Sites.

During debate on the application, it was noted that to accelerate delivery on what had been a stalled site under previous owners, the applicant had front-loaded the application by including several site-wide strategies, including heritage, ecology and woodland mitigation, sustainability, energy, waste and construction management. The application was for Zone's 2 and 3, with Zone 3 being located in the ENC district. Members also noted that the statutory consultees were satisfied with the application.

Officers confirmed that a monitoring fee would be paid to NCC by the developer to ensure that the Travel Plan which was to be submitted as part of the S106 Agreement would be monitored. It was also confirmed that the developer would provide facilities such as the community centre and open spaces from the outset, which would then be maintained in the future by a management company funded by service charges paid by future residents.

Deene and Deenthorpe Parish Council had requested the installation of traffic mediation to the entrances to both villages. However, after considering the overall impact that the development would have on those settlements, NCC advised it was not considered reasonable for such measures to be requested.

The Committee was advised that Corby Borough Council would be considering the same application at their next planning committee meeting, as Zone 2 fell within their district. Due to this, there may be a requirement to adjust or add to the conditions considered by this Committee, should the application be granted, to ensure that they align with Corby Borough Council's decision. Officers requested that delegated authority be given to the Head of Planning Services, in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee and the Ward Member, should that be required.

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 report and update sheet and the signing of the S106 agreement. The wording of any minor amendments to the conditions to be delegated to Head of Planning Services, in consultation with Chairman, Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Ward Member.

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 12 November 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Present	Councillors:	Philip Stearn	Chairman
		Gill Mercer	Vice Chairman
		Dudley Hughes	Alex Smith
		Bert Jackson	Peter Tomas
		Barbara Jenney	Robin Underwood
		Andy Mercer	Peter Wathen
		Geoff Shacklock	Lee Wilkes

246. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roger Glithero.

247. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations of Interest

The Chairman read the following statement on behalf of Councillor Harriet Pentland:

Prior to the site visit meeting on Friday 6th November, I did not have the opportunity of reviewing in full detail the committee report for the Planning Management Committee scheduled on Thursday 12th November when the committee will consider Planning Application 19/01781/FUL – Federal Estates, Newton Road, Higham Ferrers.

Following my careful consideration of the officer's report I find that I object to the application on policy grounds. Consequently, I am unable to come to the meeting with an open mind, considering myself to be pre-determined.

It would have been preferable to me to have addressed the committee as an objector, however having attended the site visit meeting, which is considered to be a private meeting, where I was privileged to certain information, and having taken legal advice, I consider for the sake of complete transparency I should not address the committee.

I can confirm that other than my attendance at the site visit meeting I have had no written or oral communications with the Applicant.

(b) Informal Site Visits

Councillors Gill Mercer, Andy Mercer and Robin Underwood declared that they had each visited Federal Estates, Newton Road, Higham Ferrers (19/01781/FUL)

248. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

249. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- 19/01781/FUL – Federal Estate, Newton Road, Higham Ferrers –
- An objector
- Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council in objection
- The agent on behalf of the applicant.

250. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the planning application 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) 19/01093/FUL – Land at Federal Estates, Newton Road Higham Ferrers and Land at Chelveston Renewable Energy Park, Caldecott

The Committee considered a hybrid application comprising:

Site 1 – Federal Estates land off Newton Road, Higham Ferrers: demolition of industrial buildings and redevelopment to create 120 dwellings with highway works, battery storage area, landscape, acoustic fencing and bunding. (Full planning permission)

Site 2 – Phased development of land at the Chelveston Renewable Energy Park with:

(2a) 10,000sqm of replacement employment space – six buildings in B2/B8 Use Classes – and a 4,900sqm building for vertical farming in horticultural/agricultural use with highway works, and landscaping (Full planning permission); and

(2b) Development of up to 18,000sqm of employment space – B1/B2/B8 Use Classes – with a maximum of 2,000sqm of Class E Office Use and new substation (Outline planning permission all matters reserved except access).

The Committee was advised that as part of a legal agreement, no above ground construction would take place until there had been a repeated traffic assessment in two years time, when the development would be due to commence. Any necessary adjustments could then be made, in line with the results of the repeated assessment. The application would provide an opportunity to have a development which would lead the way in renewable energy housing sites, along with an innovative energy park.

During debate on the application, Members raised concerns regarding several aspects of the proposals at both of the sites. At Site 1; the requirement of high level security for the battery storage area and the proper disposal of the batteries once they were surplus to requirement; the risk of a ransom strip of land to the West of site 1 should the adjacent site be developed for housing in the future; and traffic concerns regarding the fifth arm of the A6 roundabout. Members requested that highway matters be brought back to this Committee once the traffic has been reassessed in two years.

The concerns raised regarding Site 2 were; the volume of traffic and HGV's that would travel through Caldecott, and the unsuitability of the roads which were in poor condition in some places. With no footpath or public transport, there would be a large increase in traffic levels on the road. There would also be a significant impact on local residents. It was requested to add a clause regarding television reception interference, to compensate any households affected by this. Members also requested details of the specific planting proposed for the screening of Chelston Rise, to ensure year round screening was achieved.

In response to the issues raised regarding Site 1, officers agreed to condition the security of the battery storage area in consultation with the Police. A 'no ransom' clause for land to the West of Site 1 would be investigated in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Members. The fifth arm of the A6 roundabout would be added to the list to be picked up in two years time as part of the traffic study. Regarding Site 2, officers advised that further details of the bund planting would be sought in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ward Members. Although the access road was a 'B' road, it had sufficient dimensions to accommodate the levels of traffic expected from the site and it was noted that some parts of the road would require improvement works. Existing signage would be upgraded, and would direct traffic to encourage it towards the A6. Lease arrangements for the buildings on site would contain controls meaning tenants could be penalised if they failed to adhere to traffic regulations put in place. Officers confirmed that current tenants had been offered alternative space in another location. It was agreed to include a condition regarding television reception interference.

251. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8

At 20.30, it was proposed that Council Procedure Rule 8 (Duration of Meeting) be suspended to enable the Committee to continue the business on the agenda. On being put to the vote, it was agreed to

RESOLVED:

That Council Procedure Rule 8 be suspended to enable the Committee to continue the business on the agenda

It was moved by Cllr Bert Jackson and seconded by Cllr G Mercer that the application be granted, subject to the conditions as set out in the committee report and update sheet and the completion of a Section 106 Agreement and subject to the completion / inclusion of the following actions:

- To investigate the possibility of ensuring future pedestrian and cycle connections to adjacent site to the west of the housing site (Bury Close Industrial estate) so they can be readily accommodated if the site ever came up for redevelopment (the area currently occupied by acoustic bund on west side of site). To secure in the Section 106 Agreement if possible. Wording to be agreed by Chair, Vice Chair and Ward Members and delegated to the Head of Planning Services.
- To ensure that the Section 106 Agreement refers to the affordable housing refinements as included in the report on page 37 paragraphs 8.35 – 8.40. To be delegated to the Head of Planning Services.
- Case officer to identify ownership of the unused green 'island' at the entrance to the housing site and explore the possibility for biodiversity enhancement and ongoing management and maintenance. Report back to Chair, Vice Chair, Ward Members and Councillor Andy Mercer.

- Consult Northamptonshire Police on the use of boundary screening surrounding the battery storage area within the housing site. To be secured via condition. Wording of condition to be delegated to the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Ward Members.
- Details of the landscaping scheme for the commercial site to be circulated to the Chair, Vice Chair and Ward Members for approval. This is to ensure there is suitable winter planting. Amend landscaping scheme and associated conditions where necessary. Any amended condition wording to be delegated to the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Ward Members.
- Additional condition to be added to ensure that there is no TV reception interference. Wording of condition or legal agreement provision to be delegated to the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Ward Members.

On being put to the vote, there were 7 votes for the motion, 4 votes against the motion and no abstentions. Therefore the Committee **agreed to grant** the application, subject to the conditions detailed in the officer report and update sheet, the completion of a S106 Agreement and the completion/inclusion of the specified actions.

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 18 November 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Present Councillors:

Gill Mercer

Vice Chairman

Dudley Hughes

Alex Smith

Bert Jackson

Peter Tomas

Andy Mercer

Robin Underwood

Harriet Pentland

Lee Wilkes

Geoff Shacklock

252. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Glithero, Barbara Jenney and Phil Stearn.

253. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 7th October 2020 were approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Bert Jackson on the list of Members present.

254. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Andy Mercer	20/01137/NCC	Chairman of NCC Development Control Committee who would be determining the application		Yes (left the meeting for this item)
Gill Mercer	20/01137/NCC	A member of NCC Development Control Committee who would be determining the application.		Yes (left the meeting for this item)
Geoff Shacklock	20/00594/FUL	Had met with neighbours, applicant and some Parish Councillors		Yes

(b) Informal Site Visits

Councillor Harriet Pentland declared that she had visited Gardenfields, Raunds Road, Chelveston (20/01118/FUL)

255. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

256. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS & DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

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 extensions of time had been requested as follows:

- 18/01648/OUT – Land South East of Ferrers School, Higham Ferrers – extension until 31/12/20 to allow signing and sealing.
- 19/01092/FUL – ‘Rushden Living’ Land West of Rushden Lakes Ditchford Lane, Rushden – extension until 31/12/20 to allow comment/amendments to continue between parties.
- 19/01392/OUT – Land Off Huntingdon and Market Road, Thrapston – extension until 31/12/20 to allow negotiations to continue regarding the level of healthcare contribution
- 19/01355/OUT – Land Between St Christophers Drive and A605 Oundle Bypass, Oundle – extension until 31/12/20 to allow signing and sealing.
- 19/01425/FUL – Rear of Green Close, Wellingborough Road, Irthlingborough – extension until 31/12/20 to allow comment/amendments to continue between parties.
- 20/00090/FUL – 7 Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers – extension until 31/12/20 to allow comments/amendments to continue between parties

The progress on delegations to the Head of Planning Services was noted as follows:

- 15/00119/VAR 735 dwellings, Priors Hall – the current application was unlikely to proceed, and a new planning application had been considered. The Head of Planning Services confirmed that the process of ‘disposing’ of this application would now be commenced.
- 19/01024/OUT 11 dwellings, Mike Wells Cars, Montague Street, Rushden – negotiations were ongoing between ENC, Lead Local Flood Authority and applicant.
- 19/01425/FUL – Rear of Green Close, Wellingborough Road, Irthlingborough – Additional conditions and wording of conditions with case officer to continue negotiations regarding an extension to the 30mph speed limit beyond the cemetery entrance on Wellingborough Road
- 20/00090/FUL – 7 Wharf Road, Higham Ferrers – Wording of conditions had been circulated to Members
- 20/00430/FUL – Land Rear of 23 and 25 St Marys Avenue, Rushden – Decision had been issued
- 19/01318/FUL – SP97144 68428 Land Off Newton Road, Higham Ferrers – Outstanding matters to be resolved and the wording of the conditions with the case officer to resolve.
- 19/01976/FUL – Former Rushden Ambulance Station, Station Road, Rushden – Decision issued
- 19/01726/FUL – Land off Huntingdon and Market Road, Thrapston – with case officer to resolve and complete S106

- 20/00101/FUL – 4 Church Street Rushden – with case officer to resolve outstanding matters.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the extension of time for applications 18/01648/OUT, 19/01092/OUT, 19/01392/OUT, 19/01355/OUT, 19/01425/FUL and 20/00090/FUL be approved.
- (iii) That the progress of the delegations to the Head of Planning Services as detailed in Appendix 2 be noted.

257. APPEAL DECISION MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the planning appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate from 17 August to 9 October 2020.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted.

258. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- 20/00594/FUL– Rectory Farm, Main Street, Achurch an objector and the applicant
- 20/00613/FUL – TL01029 78905, Haldens Parkway, Thrapston, on behalf of the applicant
- 19/01546/FUL – Pexley Court, Oundle, an objector

259. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the planning application 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) 20/00594/FUL – Rectory Farm, Main Street, Achurch

The Committee considered an application for a single storey side extension to incorporate double garage with room above; conversion of barn one into living accommodation, which will be linked to the main dwelling by the new single storey side extension; partial conversion of barn two into gym and garden store.

It was noted that a late letter had been received from the applicant, and also a reconsultation on a revised plan was required. Officers advised that the application should be deferred in order to carry out the reconsultation.

Members requested a physical site visit take place, which would adhere to Covid-19 safety measures.

It was moved and seconded that the application be deferred. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to defer** the application, so that a reconsultation on a revised plan may take place and a Member visit be arranged.

(ii) 20/00613/FUL – TL01029 78905, Haldens Parkway, Thrapston

The Committee considered an application for the extension to existing facility comprising a linked finished goods warehouse, car park and associated development on land adjoining the existing site north of Plot 5.

During debate on the application, Members raised concerns regarding setting a precedent for further development on the land surrounding the site in future, and the potential noise impact on the nearby Lazy Acre housing estate. The creation of new jobs and the expansion of a local business were welcomed. Members requested that sufficient boundary screening be conditioned, to ensure it would be planted at the beginning of the development, and would provide adequate screening on the boundary of the site.

In response to the issues raised, officers advised that the application should be considered on its own merits and that any future developments would be a separate matter should they arise. The Senior Environmental Health Protection officer had advised that no noise complaint had been received from the unit on site. Further landscaping details would be requested via a condition, including the replacement of any planting should it die.

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 report.

(iii) 19/01546/FUL – Pexley Court, Oundle

The Committee considered an application for the erection of two new dwellings and garaging. (Resubmission of 19/00946/FUL).

The Committee noted that the application had previously been deferred on 10th June 2020. Members raised concerns regarding the loss of established trees, some of which were the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), and the loss of visual amenity. It was also felt that the proposed parking provision was insufficient.

In response to the issues raised, officers confirmed that trees not subject to a TPO could be removed as there was no protection against them. Regarding mitigation of the loss of trees, the Senior Tree and Landscape Officer had suggested funding could be sought to facilitate off site planting that would benefit the residents of Oundle, however the two proposed sites for this were deemed unsuitable,. Funding would therefore not be sought as there would be no guarantee that a suitable site for planting could be found. Officers also advised that parking standards had not been adopted, and the three proposed spaces were deemed acceptable for each dwelling.

It was moved and seconded that the application be **refused**.

On being put to the vote the Committee **agreed to refuse** the application.

(iv) 20/01118/FUL – Gardenfields, Raunds Road, Chelveston

The Committee considered an application for a single storey rear extension to provide increased kitchen, dining/family area and extend master bedroom.

Members noted that the application had been brought before the Committee because it affected a property owned by an officer of the Council.

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 report.

Councillors Gill Mercer and Andy Mercer left the meeting for the following item and did not return.

260. . APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR REMAINDER OF MEETING

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Committee was required to appoint a new Chairman for the final application being considered. It was moved and seconded that Councillor Robin Underwood take the chair. On being put to the vote, the Committee agreed. Councillor Robin Underwood took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

(iv) 20/01137/NCC – Willowbrook Industrial Estate Shelton Road, Corby

The Committee considered an application for the variation of drawings approved under condition 2 of planning permission 19/0027/WASFUL (ENC reference number 19/00777/NCC) to amend buildings and ancillary facilities elevations, footprint, and layout to accommodate facility as a single line plant at Land at Shelton Road Willowbrook East industrial Estate, Corby.

Members raised strong concerns regarding the visual impact of the larger plant building and its effect on designated heritage assets; Kirby Hall and Deene Park.

It was moved and seconded that an **objection** be lodged. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to object** to the application.

Chairman

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date: 25 November 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Peter Wathen (Chairman)
Alex Smith (Vice Chairman)

Rosalie Beattie Sylvia Hughes
Richard Gell Peter Tomas
Sylvia Hobbs Robin Underwood

External attendees: Rachel Ashley-Caunt (Head of Internal Audit)

261. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Annabel De Capell Brooke.

262. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

263. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

264. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions were submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

265. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATION MONITORING

The Head of Internal Audit presented a report which provided information on the progress made by Internal Audit on the delivery of the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2020/21 and associated measures of performance.

It was reported that good progress was being made with a number of audit assignments, despite delays resulting from Covid-19. Since the last meeting of this Committee, two audit assignments had been completed, one of which related to grant certification. Building Control had received 'good' assurance opinions for both control environment and compliance. It was noted that ENC's Building Control service had made a deficit in the last two years based on chargeable costs. Officers advised that there had been a reduction in income to several sources across the organisation due to Covid-19, and that government funding would offset some of this. It would also be factored into any financial reporting measures.

The Committee was advised that two further actions had been implemented in addition to the 37 as stated in the report; these related to temporary staffing. Officers noted that good progress had been made regarding bank reconciliations; although Covid-19 had delayed its implementation, it was now on target to be completed in December 2020. The Council were in the process of reviewing the updated guidance and toolkit received in relation to procurement and this would be brought before CMT before Christmas, to formally adopt those measures into the Council procurement procedures.

RESOLVED:

To note the progress and performance of the Internal Audit service and the key findings from audits delivered during the period.

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

266. FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS OF HOUSING PROVIDERS

The Housing Strategy Manager gave a verbal report, advising that since the Grenfell Tower tragedy, works had been undertaken to ensure the Registered Providers (RP's) and hotel providers in the district were fully compliant with fire safety measures. A study was undertaken to ascertain what fire safety measures were already in place, which provided confidence that they were indeed sufficient. RP's had demonstrated a commitment to ensuring policies were adhered to and fire safety measures were in place, and it was felt that this should be revisited on a regular basis to ensure that this was maintained and that any issues that may arise could be dealt with swiftly. Some RP's had yet to respond, and their chief executives were now being approached to ensure that a response would be received.

It was noted that there was some external cladding on some properties owned by the Longhurst Group; a mixture of houses and low rise flats. The materials used for this had been certified as fire safe, and would continue to be monitored. The Committee thanked the team involved for their hard work in gathering the relevant fire safety information from RP's.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update be noted.

267. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following items as exempt information as defined under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, was likely to be disclosed.

268. RISK MONITORING UPDATE

The Finance Manager presented a report which provided an update on the council's risk register for Quarter 2 Risks 2020/21.

RESOLVED:

To note the status of risks included in the report for Quarter 2 2020/21.

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

269. ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CYBER SECURITY UPDATE

Members received and considered the minutes of the Governance & Audit Working Party held on 9th November 2020. They were not for publication in accordance with Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Head of Economic and Commercial Development gave an update in respect of the implementation of the Asset Management audit recommendations; and the Head of Resources gave an update in respect of the Cyber Security audit recommendations.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Governance & Audit Working Party be noted.

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 9 December 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Present

Councillors:	Philip Stearn	Chairman
	Gill Mercer	Vice Chairman
	Dudley Hughes	Alex Smith
	Bert Jackson	Peter Tomas
	Barbara Jenney	Robin Underwood
	Lance Jones	Peter Wathen
	Andy Mercer	Lee Wilkes
	Geoff Shacklock	

270. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Glithero and Harriet Pentland

271. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 11th and 12th November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

The minutes of the 18th November to be amended under Declarations of Interest to read 'Councillor Geoff Shacklock met with neighbours, the applicant, and had attended some Parish Council meetings, but did not take part in any debate.'

272. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations of Interest

Councillors	Application	Nature of Interest	DPI	Other Interest
Robin Underwood	20/00840/FUL 2 Essex Road, Rushden	Speaking as Ward Member against the application		Yes (did not take part in consideration of the application)

(b) Informal Site Visits

Councillors Bert Jackson and Andy Mercer declared that they had visited 4 Higham Road, Rushden (20/00445/FUL).

Councillor Gill Mercer declared that she had visited 4 Higham Road, Rushden (20/00445/FUL).

273. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

274. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS & DELEGATIONS TO HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES

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 extensions no extensions of time had been requested.

The progress on delegations to the Head of Planning Services was noted as follows:

- 15/00119/VAR 735 dwellings, Priors Hall – the current application was unlikely to proceed, and a new planning application had been received.
- 19/01024/OUT 11 dwellings, Mike Wells Cars, Montague Street, Rushden – negotiations were ongoing between ENC, Lead Local Flood Authority and applicant.
- 19/01425/FUL 84 dwellings, Rear of Green Close Wellingborough Road, Irthlingborough – with case officer to continue negotiations
- 20/00090/FUL 10 dwellings, 7 Wharf Road Higham Ferrers – wording agreed. Awaiting completion of S106.
- 19/01318/FUL change of use from agricultural to provide football facility at SP97144 68428 Land Off Newton Road, Higham Ferrers – with case officer to resolve outstanding matters
- 19/01726/FUL 14 dwellings, Land Off Huntingdon Road and Market Road, Thrapston – wit case officer to resolve and complete S106
- 20/00101/FUL change of use from offices to flat and retail unit, 4 Church Street Rushden– decision issued.
- 18/01648/OUT Land South East of Ferrers School, Higham Ferrers – decision issued.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That no extensions of time were requested.
- (iii) That the progress of the delegations to the Head of Planning Services as detailed in Appendix 2 be noted.

275. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- 20/00486/FUL – Blotts Barn, Brooks Road, Raunds – An objector, and the agent for the applicant
- 20/00840/FUL – 2 Essex Road, Rushden – Ward Member

276. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered the planning application 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) 20/00445/FUL – 4 Higham Road, Rushden

The Officer advised that the recommendation had changed, and it was now recommended that the application be deferred. This was due to receiving a late viability report and letter from the applicant's solicitor, which would require time to review and consider. It was suggested that the application be deferred to allow proper consideration of late information received, to be reported back for full consideration at a future meeting of this Committee.

The Committee considered the Officer's amended recommendation in respect of the Application for the creation of 34 flats and 3 dwellings, demolition of some buildings on site and change of use of the majority of the site from retail to residential. The Committee did not enter into any debate on the Application.

It was moved and seconded that the application be deferred in full, and brought back to be considered in full a future meeting of this Committee. On being put to the vote the Committee **agreed to defer** the application.

(ii) 20/00486/FUL – Blotts Barn, Brooks Road, Raunds

The Committee considered an application for a proposed commercial development for a B1 office unit and ancillary storage barn.

During debate on the application, Members noted that the application was finely balanced between economic development in the area, versus the preservation of local wildlife and amenity. Concerns were raised regarding the suitability of the road due to its poor condition and narrowness and how it would cope with the increased levels of traffic, particularly from HGV vehicles, as a result of the proposed development. The safety of road users including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders was also of great concern, due to the lack of pavement and the road being single track only. It was felt that there would be an unacceptable increase in risk to road users. The Committee noted that two previous applications for extensions to the existing studio/office had been refused and were both awaiting appeal decisions.

Members also felt that the proposal contravened policies R13 and R14 of the Raunds Neighbourhood Plan.

In response to the issues raised, officers advised that four of the existing informal passing places would be upgraded, which would benefit all road users. Brooks Road from the Raunds direction up to the site was deemed fit enough to serve the proposed development. Members had sought clarification as to whether office use could be enforced and were advised that condition 17 could be strengthened to include a B8 element to it, although the proposed unit was not large and would be used in conjunction with the office, not as a separate entity.

The Committee noted that Brooks Road was not adopted, as per the advice received by the case officer from the Local Highway Authority and contained in the report. However, third party advice given during the debate stated that the road was adopted by the Local Highway Authority, and showed as such on the Northamptonshire County Council website.

It was agreed that this matter would need to be clarified with the Local Highway Authority before a decision could be made on the application.

It was moved and seconded that the application be deferred to allow officers to seek advice in relation to whether or not the highway is adopted and assess any impact that this would have on the recommended conditions.

On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to defer** the application.

Prior to the debate on the Application, Cllr Underwood declared that he would be speaking in objection on the following and did not take part in the debate or the vote.

(iii) 20/00840/FUL – 2 Essex Road, Rushden

The Committee considered an application for the demolition of detached two storey outbuilding; extension of existing 8 bedroom care home to create 6 additional bedroom suites with ancillary facilities and parking for 13 cars.

During debate on the application Members noted that the previous application had been refused, in part for the lack of amenity space proposed for residents. It was recognised that this matter had been addressed in the current application, with an increase in amenity space for residents now proposed. It was also noted that the visual impact on the surrounding properties had also been somewhat improved. The increase from 5 to 13 parking spaces was welcomed. Members sought clarification regarding the potential size of service vehicles that would be visiting the premises, and whether entrance gates, visibility splays and a construction management plan would need to be conditioned.

In response to the issues raised, officers advised that all residents rooms would have a view of either the amenity space or local vicinity; not the car park. The existing gate had been removed and was not shown on the proposed plans, however gates set back from the highway could be conditioned if Members requested this. The wall had been reduced in size and so was visibility splay compliant.

It was moved and seconded that the application be granted, subject to an additional condition regarding the installation of entrance gates. On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to grant** the application. The wording of the additional condition to be delegated to the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, and Councillor Barbara Jenney.

Chairman

PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE

Date: 10 December 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: David Brackenbury (Chairman)
Tony Boto (Vice-Chairman)
Steven North (Leader of the Council)
David Jenney (Deputy Leader of the Council)

Val Carter Gill Mercer
Sylvia Hobbs Sarah Peacock
Sylvia Hughes Roger Powell
Richard Lewis Rupert Reichhold
Dorothy Maxwell

277. PUBLIC SPEAKER

At the invitation of the Chairman, a speaker addressed the meeting in respect of the following item:

- Agenda item 6 – Draft Local Plan Part 2 – response to consultation

278. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

279. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020 were approved as a correct record.

280. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

281. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

No questions had been received under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

282. LOCAL PLAN UPDATE AND PROGRESSION

The Principle Planning Policy Officer presented a report that detailed the emerging workstreams that the Planning Policy team were looking to progress beyond submission of the Local Plan Part 2 to support the policy proposals contained in the Local Plan as North

Northamptonshire Council (NNC) came into being on 1st April 2021. Officers had identified four specific projects that the Planning Policy team would look to undertake during 2021:

- Residential Annexes Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- Open Space SPD (updating previous 2011 SPD)
- Self and Custom Housebuilding SPD
- Rural Exceptions Housing SPD

The list of projects was not exhaustive, and it was noted that other priority projects may come forward over the coming months. The Committee welcomed the wide range of projects, and noted that the residential annexe SPD was to be brought to the February PPC for consideration.

RESOLVED

- (i) To note the priority workstreams to supplement the Local Plan policies for town development brief opportunities and strategies and the Supplementary Planning Documents as identified in the report.

(Reason: The report is presented to the Planning Policy Committee for information. No formal Committee authorisation is needed to begin the process of preparing Supplementary Planning Documents and development briefs although the Council would need to approve documents for consultation at the appropriate juncture.)

283. DRAFT LOCAL PLAN PART 2 – RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON ALTERNATIVE VIABLE SITE ALLOCATIONS AND RUSHDEN EAST SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION POLICY

The Planning Policy Manager presented a report which provided a response to the representations received through the Local Plan public consultation and set out the recommendations to allow the Plan to proceed towards pre-submission. Following the close of the public consultation, 55 representations were received.

Regarding the proposed housing allocation, Natural England had maintained their objection to the proposed allocation at Rushden Lakes West, with the alternative site proposed east of the A6/Bedford Road viewed as favourable in comparison from an environmental perspective. Natural England had advised that mitigation for recreational pressure would be required in delivering land to the east of A6/Bedford Road, and that issues would need to be fully addressed through the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). The HRA was currently being progressed, with the Council's HRA consultant having issued a technical advice note in respect of this.

In respect of Rushden Lakes West, the technical advice note highlighted that there was unlikely to be an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar through the loss of functionally-linked habitat. Further work had also been undertaken by the site promoters to try to mitigate the impact of the development on recreational pressure, with a revised proposal restricting development to the southern part of the site only, and reducing the overall housing requirement below that required to meet the identified shortfall to 350 dwellings.

The advice note also considered the potential impact from wider forms of pollution, viewed as urbanisation pressures, concluding that residual uncertainty would remain until a detailed strategy to address on site human activity was produced. It was noted that it was unlikely that Natural England would remove their objection in respect of this element of the objection.

In respect of land east of A6/Bedford Road, the technical advice note advised that there was no reason to conclude that the site would constitute significant functionally linked habitat for the SPA. The advice note also considered that it would be both robust and appropriate for mitigation to be included in respect of recreational pressure. Urbanisation was not considered a risk for the site.

Regarding the delivery of the Rushden East SUE, many of the issues raised in the representations related to the content of the draft Masterplan Framework Document (MFD), rather than the draft policy itself. Work was ongoing to finalise the MFD, which would provide clarity for future planning applications in delivering the SUE.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the supporting text referring to Rushden East SUE at appendix 6, paragraph 9.6, in that it may be too binding in terms of defining the development area and could be a risk to remove potential capacity for further development. Officers advised that this text could be amended; however, the MFD should also provide an opportunity for connection to be made to the surrounding land which could be reviewed in the future. Members also emphasised the need to ensure a mix of development, to include amenities and infrastructure to serve the proposed additional housing on land to the east of the A6/Bedford Road.

Members also sought clarification on matters relating to land east of A6/Bedford Road, as to the status of the golf club and the quantity of land it may lose; the lack of infrastructure to support the housing development; safe walking routes for children to the local schools and details regarding proposed ancillary uses. In response to the issues raised, officers advised that an area south east of the site backed onto the golf club, and would not be developed by Bellway Homes, but would be incorporated into a Masterplan. Officers would seek to include additional policy wording to deliver additional facilities to the sports hub to the east. It was noted that there had been no objection from Northamptonshire County Council, but a robust discussion would be expected to take place with the promoters regarding pathways to ensure the best resolution possible and how the site would connect with the wider area.

The Committee was advised that work was still evolving on many of the issues raised and picked up on as part of the consultation, including concerns expressed by the Local Highway Authority regarding super crossings in relation to the Rushden East SUE; which was still to be resolved. Members had concerns about having only one means of access to the proposed housing development on land to the east of the A6/Bedford Road and that a second means of access would be necessary, as well as the volume of traffic the A6 would need to cope with. Members requested that a transport study be undertaken to give a full picture of the impact of the additional traffic on the A6. Officers advised that a Transport Assessment had been prepared by the developer and the Local Highways Authority were supportive of the principle of one access. Lagan Homes had suggested a second point of access off the A6, but this was not currently being considered as the additional land proposed was not required and it would result in the loss of the golf club/driving range.

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the allocation of land to the east of the A6/Bedford Road, Rushden in place of the proposed allocation at Rushden Lakes West incorporating the proposed northern boundary extension as shown in Appendix 4
- (ii) Agree the officer responses to the representations as set out in Appendices 1 and 2

- (iii) Agree the revised wording to the draft policy and supporting text for policies 28 and 33 of the Local Plan as set out in Appendices 5 and 6 (with the exception that the words proposed to be deleted in para 9.6 of the supporting text to the A6/Bedford Road policy be retained).
- (iv) Delegate any further detailed revisions to the relevant policy wording and supporting text of the Local Plan that may arise from this report to the Head of Planning Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Policy Committee, along with the Chair of the Rushden East Project Board.

(Reason: To ensure the Council can meet its identified housing needs up to 2031 and that a plan can be progressed to pre-submission in with the Local Development Scheme timescales.)

Chairman

PLANNING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 16 December 2020

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Time: 6.30pm

Present	Councillors:	Philip Stearn	Chairman
		Gill Mercer	Vice Chairman
		Dudley Hughes	Alex Smith
		Lance Jones	Peter Tomas
		Andy Mercer	Robin Underwood
		Harriet Pentland	Peter Wathen
		Geoff Shacklock	Lee Wilkes

284. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

At 18.35 it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned for a period of five minutes, to allow time for Councillor Lance Jones to access the meeting.

285. CONTINUATION OF MEETING

At 18.38 Councillor Lance Jones joined, and the meeting continued.

286. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Glithero and Barbara Jenney.

287. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND INFORMAL SITE VISITS

(a) Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

With regard to the lobbying of applications, Councillor Pentland had received an email from Raunds Town Council in respect of 20/00960/FUL and stated that she had not pre-determined the application and came to the meeting with an open mind.

(b) Informal Site Visits

No informal site visits were declared.

288. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions under Council Procedure Rule 10.3.

289. PUBLIC SPEAKERS

The following people spoke on the items as indicated:

- 20/00960/FUL, West End, Land North of Brick Kiln Road, Raunds – Raunds Town Council and the agent for the applicant.

290. PLANNING APPLICATION

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

(i) 20/00960/FUL – West End, Land North of Brick Kiln Road, Raunds

The Committee considered an application for the erection of four employment units (Use Class B1(a)/B2/B8 with ancillary offices, including new vehicular and pedestrian access, HGV and car parking, internal access roads, servicing, external lighting, landscaping, infrastructure and associated works. During the presentation on the application, the Planning Officer confirmed that one of the drawings submitted as part of the application was inaccurate on closer examination.

The Committee noted the refusal reasons for the previous application; the lack of provision of smaller employment units, and the visual impact and overbearing nature which would have been detrimental to residential amenity. Members expressed concern that the current application demonstrated only a marginal improvement, and that whilst there were now smaller units proposed, they were still considered large in their size. The smaller units would be located on Greenfield land, and the development would consist of 80% of B8 units. The proposed gap between two of the units was considered very narrow, meaning that the buildings would still appear as one large unit and have an overbearing visual impact. It was noted that the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit's Landscape Advisor considered the visual impact on public open space to be 'major moderate', which would be classed as significant.

The proximity of HGV's to the Border Park housing development at a distance of 25m, and a play area at approximately 15m distance was considered unacceptable, as it was felt that the noise and air pollution from HGV's accessing the site 24/7 would have a detrimental impact upon the residents. Clarification was sought as to the position of the proposed noise barriers and their height. Concerns were also raised regarding the access road to the site, both due to its condition and ongoing maintenance as well as the heavy flows of traffic that would be using it on a daily basis, and the impact of this on the A45 roundabout. The road was not adopted, and there would be no guarantee of it being adopted in the future. It was noted that the police had advised that double yellow lines on the road would not be enforceable. Members stated that the proposed turning circle within the development was inadequate as it was not suitable for larger vehicles and requested an informative for this. Members stated that the development would be contrary to JCSS Policy 8(e), JCSS Policy 24 (a) and (e), and Policy R13 and R14 (a-f) of the Raunds Neighbourhood Plan.

In response to the issues raised, officers advised that in respect of the noise pollution, the application fell into the lower category, where £27,653 of damage mitigation cost as a result of the air quality assessment was considered appropriate. However, both Highways England and Northamptonshire County Council Highways did not have any schemes that these funds could be spent on, and so the applicant had instead concentrated on landscaping and providing electric charging parking spaces. It was confirmed that the proposed noise barrier would be located on the opposite side of the bund and would be 3m in height. There would be no barriers located on the access road to the site; these would be at the entrance to each of the units. The Committee was advised that the Greenfield land was not protected open space and would be a natural infill site for development. Regarding the road, this would be built to an adoptable standard and would include improvements to some of the existing road from 10m from the A45 roundabout onwards. It was agreed that a maintenance plan would be required to ensure the road was kept up to such standard, and the turning circle was confirmed as being for smaller vehicles only. The access road would be widened on the left-hand side of the exit, but this would not be an increase of 3m. There would be a 3m wide pedestrian path installed to access the Border Park development.

Members expressed their concerns that the development was contrary to the aforementioned policies, as well as the visual, noise and air quality impacts and the loss of public amenity. It was therefore moved and seconded that the application be refused.

On being put to the vote, the Committee **agreed to refuse the application**, contrary to officer recommendation, for the following reasons:

- Air quality – failure to make provision for the payment of a contribution to mitigate the air quality damage that would be caused by the proposal.
- Harmful visual impact.
- Overbearing impact on occupiers of neighbouring properties.
- Noise effects caused by unacceptable disturbance to the occupiers of neighbouring properties.
- Encroaches onto greenfield land, not allocated for employment development.

The final wording of the reasons for refusal is delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman of the Committee and Ward Member.

Chairman