

# Public Document Pack

Democratic Services  
The Corby Cube,  
George Street,  
Corby,  
Northants,  
NN17 1QG



**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** Thursday 24th November, 2022  
**Time:** 2.00 pm  
**Venue:** Council Chamber, The Cube, George St, Corby NN17 9SB

## **Committee Membership:**

Councillor Larry Henson (Chair), Councillor Barbara Jenney (Vice-Chair), Councillor Jean Addison, Councillor Tim Allebone, Councillor Valerie Anslow, Councillor Ross Armour, Councillor Paul Bell, Councillor Charlie Best, Councillor Matt Binley, Councillor Jennie Bone, Councillor David Brackenbury, Councillor Wendy Brackenbury, Councillor Cedwien Brown, Councillor Scott Brown, Councillor Leanne Buckingham, Councillor Lyn Buckingham, Councillor Lloyd Bunday, Councillor Jon-Paul Carr, Councillor Robin Carter, Councillor William Colquhoun, Councillor John Currall, Councillor Alison Dalziel, Councillor Mark Dearing, Councillor Dez Dell, Councillor Scott Edwards, Councillor Jonathan Ekins, Councillor Emily Fedorowycz, Councillor Martin Griffiths, Councillor Jim Hakewill, Councillor Clive Hallam, Councillor Ken Harrington, Councillor Helen Harrison, Councillor Kirk Harrison, Councillor Helen Howell, Councillor David Howes, Councillor Philip Irwin, Councillor Bert Jackson, Councillor Ian Jelley, Councillor David Jenney, Councillor Matt Keane, Councillor King Lawal, Councillor Graham Lawman, Councillor Lora Lawman, Councillor Anne Lee, Councillor Richard Levell, Councillor Paul Marks, Councillor Dorothy Maxwell, Councillor Peter McEwan, Councillor John McGhee, Councillor Zoe McGhee, Councillor Andy Mercer, Councillor Gill Mercer, Councillor Macaulay Nichol, Councillor Steven North, Councillor Jan O'Hara, Councillor Dr Anup Pandey, Councillor Tom Partridge-Underwood, Councillor Mark Pengelly, Councillor Harriet Pentland, Councillor Roger Powell, Councillor Elliot Keith Prentice, Councillor Simon Rielly, Councillor Russell Roberts, Councillor Mark Rowley, Councillor Geoff Shacklock, Councillor David Sims, Councillor Jason Smithers, Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes, Councillor Joseph John Smyth, Councillor Mike Tebbutt, Councillor Kevin Thurland, Councillor Sarah Tubbs, Councillor Michael Tye, Councillor Malcolm Ward, Councillor Malcolm Waters, Councillor Kevin Watt, Councillor Andrew Weatherill and Councillor Lee Wilkes

## **Agenda Supplement**

**The following additional document has now been published which was not available at the time the agenda was published.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page no.</b>
<b>018.</b>	<b>Councillor Questions</b>  To receive questions from members.	<b>3 - 14</b>

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<b>COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS</b>				
<b>Council – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Received from</b>	<b>Executive Member Responsible</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
1	Councillor Martin Griffiths 07/11/22	Councillor Graham Lawman	Whilst visiting our towns across North Northamptonshire I have seldom seen the recently installed charging points being used. Have the correct locations been chosen, are we monitoring usage and if so, how often have the ones in Montagu Street Kettering been used and for how long?	<p>EVs are becoming increasingly popular and account for one in five of new car sales in 2022. The Council is mindful that the availability of Charging Points will become increasingly important with a ban on the sale of new non-EV 'plug-in' vehicles from 2030.</p> <p>Locations have been chosen where there is no, or very limited, off-street parking. The early sites have also been chosen so as not to be directly in front of a house, but alongside, as far as possible. Consultation takes place with local residents and the relevant town or parish council before sites are progressed. The aim is that the provision of on-street Charging Points in these areas will help to make it much easier for local residents to run an electric vehicle (EV) and charge it at home. This also helps to spread demand on the grid by enabling people to charge at off peak times. We aim to be installing the necessary infrastructure ahead of peoples' buying decisions so that they can make the move to EVs with confidence.</p> <p>Liberty Charge install and operate the Charging Points at their own commercial risk and at no cost to the Council, other than officer time and will be monitoring use. They were fully involved in</p>

				choosing the sites, using their extensive knowledge of the market.
2	Councillor Sarah Tubbs 14/11/22	Councillor David Brackenbury	Were there any discussions or identification of potential locations for investment zones in North Northamptonshire?	<p>North Northants Council assessed the published guidance for Investment Zones and identified the Chelveston Energy Park as arguably the most suitable location in the area for such an initiative. A major advantage of the site is that planning consent is already in place, together with the immediate development potential it offers.</p> <p>However, following careful consideration it was decided not to progress an application for an Investment Zone. Reasons for not submitting the application chiefly involved some concerns over the potential relaxation of controls over development, and consequently the ability to mitigate impacts on the environment. This is mindful that some of the related legislation is not yet in place. There was also uncertainty on the benefits of the designation for businesses, the financial impact on the Council, and the additional funds that could become available for improved infrastructure.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the Council remains fully supportive of the Chelveston Energy Park and the significant economic and environmental benefits it will provide for the local area. It also looks forward to seeing further details of the Investment Zone initiative once these are available. This may lead it to consider a future application for an Investment Zone should the opportunity arise and after consideration options and the potential benefits.</p>
3	Councillor Martin Griffiths	Councillor Graham Lawman	Please can Council have an update on the Asset of Community Value approval made by the former	The approval granted by the former Borough Council of Wellingborough related to a Community

	15/11/22		Borough Council of Wellingborough of The Queens Hall to the Daylight Centre Fellowship. The Fellowship continues to provide valuable support to local vulnerable residents including via the Wellingborough Food Bank.	Asset Transfer (not an ACV) of Queens Hall, High Street and part of 10 High Street. We are pleased to report that the legal matters are nearing completion and, subject to review via the Council's governance process, the matter will hopefully complete in the coming months.
4	Councillor Emily Fedorowycz 17/11/22	Councillor Graham Lawman	Many allotments are currently oversubscribed as an increasing number of individuals want to grow their own food. Have we identified - or are we looking at identifying - any areas of land for expanding the local offering of allotments?	A Unitary Council would not ordinarily operate statutory allotments, as, by law, they fall to Parish or Town Councils to be responsible for their function and provision. We work closely with the Parish and Town Councils and, if they identify a need involving North Northamptonshire Assets, any request would be considered through our Community Asset Transfer policy.
5 Page 5	Councillor Emily Fedorowycz 17/11/22	Councillor Harriet Pentland	Has any progress been made on reducing our use of glyphosate across North Northants? Is there a commitment to phase this out completely?	<p>The Council's Pollinator Strategy includes - "wherever practicable, (NNC) aim to reduce the use of pesticides and ensure that where any treatment application is required that it is minimised by sensitive application techniques such as spot spraying with the most up to date technologies and products."</p> <p>As such, there is a strong commitment to minimising the use of Glyphosate. Unfortunately, at present, its use is still required in some very specific circumstances in order to maintain a safe and legal street scene. This includes to control invasive species which the Council has a legal duty to control or protect built infrastructure from damage.</p> <p>All staff within, what was, Corby and Kettering Grounds Services, have undergone nationally recognised training alongside internal training and staff briefings to ensure that any weed treatments</p>

				<p>are applied in accordance with the manufacturers own and national guidelines. All staff have been briefed on the processes employed by the council.</p> <p>Arrangements will be put into place to stop the blanket spraying inherited from the former contract in the Wellingborough area and the council will continue trialling alternative products, as they become available, with the hope that these will meet the standards required in order to replace other substances used to ensure compliance with the law.</p>
6 Page 6	Councillor Ross Armour 17/11/22	Councillor David Brackenbury	What support is being given to Wellingborough Whitworth Football Club to save its playing fields put at risk by the Stanton Cross proposal to build a surface water basin?	<p>Vistry, the main developers of the Stanton Cross SUE, have submitted a full planning application to the Council under reference NW/22/00717/FUL for the delivery of a flood attenuation basin. The proposal as submitted impacts upon two football pitches currently in use by Wellingborough Whitworth Football Club and has resulted in objections from the Football Club, Wellingborough Town Council and Sport England. Following discussions between the Football Club and Vistry, the Council's Planning Service understands that an amended plan is in discussion which would re-orientate the pitches so that there would be no subsequent loss of pitches. It is understood that Vistry will meet the cost of reorientation of the pitches &amp; goals etc. and they may also potentially be able to improve the pitches in terms of levelling, scarifying, seeding etc., which is something it is believed the Football Club currently cannot afford to do. Once formal agreement to the amendments have been agreed by the parties, the Planning Service expects revised plans to be submitted by Vistry, which will need to be</p>

Page 7	7 Councillor Alison Dalziel 18/11/22	Councillor Helen Harrison	Warm Spaces - how many organisations have signed up, where are they located and what are they expected to provide for residents using the facilities? What grants will NNC make available to cover the extra costs incurred by organisations offering Warm Spaces (e.g., hospitality, staff costs).	considered and consulted on through the planning process.  Our recent survey has resulted in approximately 30 external organisations across the area informing NNC they are setting up warm spaces this winter, this is in addition to 9 we have been made aware of through the Kettering Town Council survey. This offer along with the location of foodbanks and similar community provision is available on the NNC website along with other information about where residents can access support. NNC's 6 statutory libraries in Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough, Rushden, Irthlingborough and Oundle are open as warm spaces where hot refreshments will be offered and officers from the NNC Supporting Independence team will be available to talk to residents and provide support to them to access services. NNC is also supporting the 10 Community Managed libraries to offer warm spaces through Household Support Fund 3 funding. Other organisations providing warm spaces will also be made aware of the funding opportunities available to them either from HSF3, NNC other grant funding or external funding sources we are aware of.
	8	Councillor Simon Reilly 18/11/22	Councillor Graham Lawman	' <a href="#">North Northamptonshire Conservatives</a> are committed to providing a new Council which promises inclusivity and more localised democracy. We are committed to listening to the residents of North Northamptonshire to accurately reflect the wishes of local people'? When are you going to harmonise the parking?

				harmonisation of parking, bearing in mind those differing local situations.
9	Councillor Mark Pengelly 19/11/22	Councillor Jason Smithers	Does the Leader recognise the great work local BBC does getting the message out about North Northants to residents and is he concerned that funding cuts means, Radio Northampton have to slash's local programmes and Look East is closing the Cambridge office with regional news items all coming from Norwich.	I totally agree that the BBC is an important institution and is highly valued and provides an important service internationally, nationally and locally and have played an important role in North Northamptonshire. I also recognise that the way all media is now digested or received by people has changed and clearly this is a challenge for the BBC who have had to review this, and I hope will continue to provide an important service in the area even with the changes they are putting in place.
10	Councillor Lyn Buckingham 20/11/22	Councillor Graham Lawman	On this Road Safety Week, what are NNCs plans for Auditing and prioritising road safety markings so that we can see them, to improve highway safety and enforcement opportunities.	This year, the Council has invested a further £1.5m in the highways service to undertake line painting, sign cleaning, vegetation clearance, drainage repairs and resurfacing, all of which further improve the safety of our roads. Road markings have been, and continue to be, refreshed and repainted in many locations and in particular, picking up on safety markings such as stop lines, give way markings and junctions where these have faded as well as centre and edge lines and other markings. This will help ensure the markings are visible so that drivers clearly see them. North Northants Highways have regularly communicated through social media where they have undertaken this work.  As part of our routine maintenance programme, our Highway Inspection Team regularly inspect all highways throughout North Northamptonshire to identify road marking that require replacement, as well as any other defects. These are then programmed as part of a wider programme of road



				<p>marking replacements to ensure they remain prominent, and the enforceability of restrictions is not compromised. To ensure these activities are being undertaken in accordance with our Highway Service contract, we are employing highways contract inspectors/auditors whose remit is to ensure that the activities expected and promised as part of the Highway Service Contract, are being delivered by Kier.</p> <p>As ever, if any member has a particular area of concern they should report it on StreetDoctor.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Page 9</p>	<p>Councillor Lyn Buckingham 20/11/22</p>	<p>Councillor Matt Binley</p>	<p>When will this Council, honour its statutory duties to its tenants, and fulfil its housing repair obligations, it is a service that tenants pay for in their rent charges and deserve to get, we have seen in the past how underinvestment in properties works, increasing costs consequentially.</p>	<p>NNC is committed to dealing efficiently with housing repairs reported to it by its tenants. All repairs are categorised as emergency (24-hour response) or non-emergency. During October 2022 the Housing Property Services teams completed 956 emergency repairs and 1239 non-emergency repairs and since the beginning of the financial year have completed an average of 823 emergency and 1173 non-emergency repairs each month, which is in keeping with the amount of new repairs reported. Non-emergency repairs are largely dealt with in date order, although where appropriate jobs are clustered by geography or type to ensure resources are used as efficiently as possible. There remains a challenge to tackle the backlog of repairs NNC inherited as a result of the COVID lockdowns where operatives could not enter tenant's properties and were utilised on other work such as void properties instead. An action plan has been developed to address the backlog which has included a complete review of all outstanding repairs in order to omit duplications and cluster by</p>

				<p>type and neighbourhood. Completion of the plan requires additional revenue investment from within the HRA and options to secure this are being considered as part of the MTFP for the HRA.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 10</p>	<p>Councillor Jean Addison 20/11/22</p>	<p>Councillor Scott Edwards</p>	<p>Will the Leader join with us in congratulating Pen Green Children’s Centre in being selected as the Stronger Practice Hub for the East Midlands. Will he also agree that the centre is a jewel in the crown of NNC and internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in family practice?</p>	<p>I am delighted that Pen Green have been selected as the Stronger Practice Hub for the East Midlands. For over 37 years, children and families in North Northants have benefited from their wealth of experience in delivering high quality education and support, thus contributing to better outcomes for our children.</p> <p>Most children missed out on some early education during the pandemic which means they had less opportunity to socialise and develop self-regulation skills and their physical development was negatively affected. The challenges facing providers are numerous, including financial implications, staff retention issues but also ensuring they are well equipped and trained to support the variety of needs children are presenting with when they join their settings. The Stronger Practice Hub initiative seeks to address the impact of the pandemic on young children by sharing good practice and building lasting networks. Pen Green are nationally recognised as a centre of excellence and we are lucky to have them as part of our Early Years provision in NNC; the whole of the East Midlands will benefit from their research evidence, ability to share good practice and support beyond their own settings and localities. We congratulated Pen Green when we heard the news and we congratulate them again on successfully being appointed as one of only 18 Practice Hubs nationally.</p>

13	Councillor Mark Pengelly 21/11/22	Councillor Jason Smithers	There have been around 900 days since the shadows authority was formed and about 600 since this new council came into being. What would you give us out of ten for progress and what do you think the public would give us out of ten?	As a council, I think we need to recognise the huge amount of progress and work which has happened since vesting day in April 2021. This has involved difficult decisions which aren't always agreeable with everyone but are important for the longer-term ambition of the council. Since April 2021, Executive have made 239 decisions and our Full Council 55. We have agreed two balanced budgets which included £27m of savings, efficiencies and transformation as well as delivering many varied services every day for our residents and businesses. I therefore think we have come a long way, but there is more to do and I don't think it would be right to mark us out of ten for us or the public.
14	Councillor William Colquhoun 21/11/22	Councillor Graham Lawman	Would the Leader agree that the absence of office space and facilities for opposition councillors is unacceptable? If so, would he inform us what is being done to rectify the situation and provide such facilities?	A review of space allocated within the Corby Cube is being undertaken, in order to attempt to identify suitable space for all Elected Members to use. This review will be completed this month and, subject to finding a location and agreement, we would then have to progress any necessary office relocations to enable this. Timescales will be confirmed once the review is complete. In the meantime, interview and meeting rooms are available to be booked by Members where required at any of our offices.
15	Councillor William Colquhoun 21/11/22	Councillor Smithers	Following on from harmonisation of green waste and taxi fares across the Authority, would the Leader inform Council what similar harmonisation is planned for any other services in the coming year?	The Council has made significant progress in harmonising various functions, policies, fees and charges in the last 18 months. The work on this will continue in relevant service areas and will be reported and agreed through the appropriate governance function of the council.
16	Councillor William Colquhoun 21/11/22	Councillor Graham Lawman	Would the Leader agree that the use of grass verges for vehicle parking, creates an eyesore, particularly at this time of year when the ground is	We are aware that some residents park on grass verges where parking is restricted within their neighbourhood. Unfortunately, this can lead to unsightly damage to the verges and, in some rare

			soft, and would he agree that it is something we should try to put a stop to?	cases, may even damage utilities buried in the verge. Although parking on verges itself is not an offence outside London (unless it causes obstruction or is a heavy goods vehicle), as a highways authority we do discourage this behaviour where it is a concern for residents through additional signage and by working with local Members and parish councils. If the Councillor would like to notify us of any locations of concern, the highways service would be happy to discuss it further with him. Should legislation be introduced to permit us to enforce a ban on pavement and verge parking, we would actively consider that.
17 Page 12	Councillor Dorothy Maxwell 21/11/22	Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Please can you tell me if Freedom Leisure and Wilko repaid the loan which they received during Lock down?	Question withdrawn.
	Councillor Dorothy Maxwell 21/11/22	Councillor Graham Lawman	Bus Shelters which have been installed by developers and some which have not, who maintains them now and why have they not got lights installed? Will the Council take them over in future?	Where bus shelters have been installed by developers as part of their works on new roads or on existing roads, they remain the responsibility of the developer until the road is adopted or the works are signed off. At which point they either become the Council's responsibility within the highways service, or they become the responsibility of another party in accordance with the relevant agreement. For instance, in some cases it is agreed that shelters will become the responsibility of the parish council. The Council charges commuted sums for the on-going management and maintenance of the shelters where it will be a responsibility for them. It should also be noted that some shelters may be owned by bus operators whilst others are owned and maintained by advertising companies.

				The Council does not require or accept lighting within the shelters to avoid an ever-expanding maintenance and energy bill.
19	Councillor Anne Lee 21/11/22	Councillor David Brackenbury	Why did NNC back Historic England's objection to Aldi's plans in Desborough? HE stated: "Historic England can only offer its considered opinion. The planning decision rests with the council unless it is 'called in' for determination by the Secretary of State." The decision goes against the Government's own regeneration programme.	The Council's Planning Service has not determined an application for an Aldi store in Desborough. Pre-application planning advice was however provided to the Council's Assets Team for the former Lawrence's Factory site. This considered the likelihood of the grant of planning approval if an application for an Aldi store were to be submitted to the Council. In the professional opinion of the Planning Officer, such a proposal is unlikely to receive support for an approval given the necessary demolition of existing buildings on site which are considered to be important to the significance of the Conservation Area and based upon the site's Site-Specific planning policy constraints.

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