

Full Council

North Northamptonshire Council

Thursday 23rd June 2022

At 2:00 pm in the Council Chamber, The Cube, George Street, Corby.

Present: -

Members:

Councillors Larry Henson (Chair), Jean Addison, Valerie Anslow, Ross Armour, Matt Binley, Jennie Bone, David Brackenbury, Wendy Brackenbury, Scott Brown, Lyn Buckingham, Lloyd Bunday, Robin Carter, John Currall, Alison Dalziel, Mark Dearing, Jonathan Ekins, Martin Griffiths, Jim Hakewill, Clive Hallam, Ken Harrington, Helen Harrison, Kirk Harrison, Helen Howell, David Howes, Philip Irwin, Bert Jackson, Barbara Jenney, Matt Keane, Graham Lawman, Lora Lawman, Anne Lee, Paul Marks, Peter McEwan, John McGhee, Zoe McGhee, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Anup Pandey, Mark Pengelly, Harriet Pentland, Roger Powell, Russell Roberts, Mark Rowley, Geoff Shacklock, Jason Smithers, Chris Smith-Haynes, Mike Tebbutt, Michael Tye, Malcolm Ward, Malcolm Waters, Kevin Watt, Andrew Weatherill, Lee Wilkes.

Officers in Attendance:

Rob Bridge (Chief Executive), Adele Wylie (Director of Governance and Human Resources/Monitoring Officer), Paul Goult (Interim Democratic Services Manager) and Ben Smith (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager).

124. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Partridge-Underwood, Macaulay Nichol, David Sims, Kevin Thurland, Charlie Best, Jon-Paul Carr, Joseph Smyth, Elliot Prentice, Ian Jelley, Jan O'Hara, Cedwien Brown, David Jenney, Steven North, Sarah Tubbs, Tim Allebone, Richard Levell, William Colquhoun, Leanne Buckingham, Dez Dell, Emily Fedorowycz.

125. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th May 2022 (Annual Council)

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 26th May 2022 had been circulated.

Councillor Larry Henson **MOVED** the minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2022 be agreed. Councillor Jason Smithers **SECONDED** the motion.

RESOLVED that: -

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 26th May 2022 be agreed.

126. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Howes & Weatherill declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 11 and the motion on HMOs, due to their involvement in HMOs in the North

Northamptonshire area. Both councillors indicated that they would withdraw from the meeting during discussion of that motion.

127. Chair's Announcements

The Chair drew Council's attention to a circus holding performances at West Glebe Park, Corby from 30th June – 4th July 2022. It was noted there were a significant number of the Circus company from Ukraine.

128. Leader's Announcements

Councillor Smithers (Leader) related to Council the sad news that former county councillor Ian Morris had recently passed away. Councillors Smithers, John McGhee and Hakewill led tributes to the work of the former county councillor. Details regarding funeral arrangements would be circulated when received.

129. Public Participation

Public Statements

Mr Blissett, a local resident, addressed Council with regard to the motion submitted relating to the funding bid for the proposed development of a traveller's stopping site near Rothwell. Mr Blissett urged councillors to support the motion. The Chair thanked Mr Blissett for his contribution.

Public Questions

There were no public questions on this occasion.

130. Councillor Questions

There were a total of 7 written questions submitted. The questions and responses were circulated to all members prior to the commencement of the meeting. Supplementary questions were presented and responded to during this agenda item.

131. Executive Presentations

There were no Executive Presentations on this occasion.

132. Local Government Boundary Commission – Review of Electoral Arrangements (Proposed Council Size)

The report before Council set out the recommendations of the Democracy and Standards Committee meeting held on 12th April 2022. The Committee had considered proposals of a cross-party member/officer working group which had been formed to formulate a response to the Commission's current consultation on stage 1 (council size) for future electoral arrangements in North Northamptonshire. Details of the Committee's deliberation together with a copy of the draft submission papers had been circulated as part of the Council agenda pack.

It was noted in the report that the Committee were recommending in the draft submission that the council size be increased, effective from 2025, from 78 councillors to 99 councillors. It was further noted that alternative proposals from the Labour Group

(84-86 councillors) and the Green Alliance Group (60 councillors) had been tabled in discussions.

The recommendations in the report were **MOVED** by Councillor Lora Lawman and **SECONDED** by Councillor Gill Mercer. Councillor Lawman drew Council's attention to the reasoning use in suggesting an increase in councillor numbers which included the significant population growth projected for the area over the coming years, the current workload of councillors and council involvement in outside bodies.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The work of the Officer/Member Working Group on the first phase of electoral arrangements for North Northamptonshire be noted;
- (ii) The completed background evidence and information contained in the council size template at Appendix A, for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) be approved;
- (iii) A Council size number of the Working Group's recommended figure of 99, endorsed by the Democracy and Standards Committee, set out at the end of Appendix A be approved;
- (iv) The alternative options put forward by the Labour and Green Alliance representations, set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report, be noted; and
- (v) Delegated authority be granted to the Director of Governance and Human Resources, in consultation with the Chair of the Democracy and Standards Committee, to make any amendments to the proposed submission to LGBCE prior to its submission in light of any comments from this Council and any minor/typographical changes identified.

(Councillors Hakewill and Griffiths wished it recorded in the minutes that they voted against the recommendations).

133. Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) – Review of Members' Allowances 2022

Council considered a report and recommendations compiled by the Independent Review Panel (IRP) following its review of the Members' Allowance Scheme. Council had previously agreed that the IRP conduct a review of the Scheme 12-months after Vesting day and the operation of the new authority.

It was noted by Council that the IRP had the benefit of assessing the operation of governance arrangements at the Council for a 12-month period. Some representations from councillors had been received during the consultation period. These had been taken into account by the IRP together with research conducted on the operation of the governance arrangements since Vesting Day. This had led to the IRP recommending an increase in the Basic Allowance and an increase in some of the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA); these recommendations were itemised in Appendix A together with the IRP's rationale taken into account in the formulation of the proposed increases.

Councillor Lora Lawman **MOVED** the recommendations contained in the IRP report; Councillor Gill Mercer **SECONDED** these recommendations.

A recorded vote was requested.

Those voting **FOR** the report's recommendations: -

Councillors Binley, Bone, D Brackenbury, W Brackenbury, Bunday, Carter, Currall, Dearing, Ekins, Hallam, H Harrison, K Harrison, Howell, Howes, Irwin, Jackson, B Jenney, G Lawman, L Lawman, Marks, Maxwell, A Mercer, G Mercer, Pandey, Pentland, Powell, Roberts, Rowley, Shacklock, Smithers, Smith-Haynes, Tebbutt, Tye, Ward, Waters, Weatherill, Wilkes.

Those voting AGAINST the recommendations: -

Councillors Addison, Anslow, Armour, S Brown, Lyn Buckingham, Griffiths, Hakewill, Keane, Lawal, Lee, McEwan, J McGhee, Z McGhee, Pengelly.

Those who ABSTAINED: -

Councillors Harrington, Henson.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) report be adopted in full effective from 1st July 2022, as detailed in Appendix A.

134. Motions

The Chair informed Council that two motions had been received. These were detailed on the agenda paper.

Motion 1 - Traveller's Stopping Site

"This Council directs the Portfolio Holder for Rural Communities & Localism, Cllr David Howes, to carry out whatever steps are necessary to have the "Funding Bid for the proposed development of a traveller's stopping site," proposed to be located at Rothwell Green Space, north of Junction 3 of the A14 and south of Harrington Road, Rothwell, withdrawn immediately.

Further, that all feedback and background work on this proposal be retained, fed into the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Policy and be considered during the proposed policy development."

Councillor Jim Hakewill MOVED the motion. Councillor Martin Griffiths SECONDED the motion. Councillor Hakewill expressed concern that the proposed course of action was not viable and did not meet the needs of local residents or travellers. Councillor Hakewill felt that there had been insufficient consultation. Councillor Griffiths felt that local resident's views were not being fully considered and that the Council should consider delaying any decision.

Councillor Howes stressed that this was not a rushed proposal by the Council. The bid for Government funding had been fully costed and thought through. Councillor Howes stressed that the Government were seeking detailed proposals and would not consider substandard bids.

A recorded vote was requested.

Those voting FOR the motion: -

Councillors Addison, Anslow, Armour, Lyn Buckingham, Griffiths, Hakewill, Keane, McEwan, J McGhee, Z McGhee.

Those voting AGAINST the motion: -

Councillors Binley, Bone, D Brackenbury, W Brackenbury, S Brown, Bunday, Carter, Currall, Dearing, Ekins, Hallam, Harrington, H Harrison, Howell, Howes, Irwin, Jackson, B Jenney, Lawal, G Lawman, L Lawman, Marks, Maxwell, A Mercer, G Mercer, Pentland, Powell, Roberts, Rowley, Shacklock, Smithers, Smith-Haynes, Tebbutt, Tye, Ward, Waters, Watt, Weatherill, Wilkes.

Those who ABSTAINED: -

Councillor Henson.

The motion fell.

Guillotine Motion

It was MOVED by Councillor Jon Ekins and SECONDED by Councillor Helen Harrison, that the guillotine be extended until 5:30 pm. Full Council agreed this.

(Councillor D Howes and Councillor D Weatherill left the meeting at this point having earlier declared a personal interest).

Motion 2 - Houses in Multiple Occupation

"This motion is asking members to consider changing when planning permission is required for small houses in multiple occupation (HMO).

As it currently stands, people can apply to change the use of a property to a small house in multiple occupation (with between three and six occupiers) under permitted development rights, while larger HMOs have to go through the full planning process.

By removing the permitted development rights, any applications for a HMO, of any size, would be governed by the same rules.

Under article 4 of the National Planning Policy Framework councils are able to increase the requirements for applications for planning permission to HMOs, this has to be based on robust evidence and apply to small areas only so. We recognise that there's still a lot of work to do on this, but we are positive that by working together, we can improve the way HMOs are governed.

And as part of this motion, we are asking officers to look into strengthening licensing requirements for the operation of HMOs, so they can be better monitored, and landlords held responsible for any negative impact on communities.

We ask the council to report back at the next full council with a plan on how to achieve this aim."

Councillor John McGhee MOVED the motion. Councillor Zoe McGhee SECONDED the motion. Councillor John McGhee felt that there was a need to address the proliferation of HMOs, particularly when there were often a significant number in certain localities.

Councillor John McGhee gave examples in Corby where there were a number in a fairly small area, however this applied to other localities in North Northamptonshire. Councillor John McGhee felt that there was a need for the Council to make greater use of the planning and licensing provisions at its disposal, to ensure the concerns raised by local residents were addressed and associated problems mitigated.

Councillor David Brackenbury welcomed the motion, whilst recognising that HMOs were an important part in meeting local housing demand. Councillor Brackenbury recognised there was a need for the Council to review its approach to HMOs and as a consequence was suggesting amended text to the motion.

Councillor David Brackenbury MOVED an amendment to the substantive motion; Councillor Matt Binley SECONDED the amendment. The amendment read, replace all with: -

“NNC recognise the density of HMOs in certain areas in the Council area and wish to work with Officers and stakeholders to ensure the highest standards of licencing and governance of dwellings in this category. We wish to work in partnership with landlords, tenants, the Council and other stakeholders to utilise the whole suite of regulation and planning requirements, which could include Article 4 regulation in some circumstances, to ensure strong governance of HMOs for the benefit of all those living in such dwellings. The Council also recognises that HMOs play an important part in the housing mix and are a vital resource for many people. We ask the council to report back at the next full council with a plan on how to achieve this aim.”

Both the mover and seconder of the original motion accepted the amendment. The amendment was approved by Council and became the substantive motion.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The motion (as amended) be approved.

135. Urgent Items

There were no Urgent Items on this occasion.

136. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 4:55 pm.

Chair

Date