

Public Document Pack



North
Northamptonshire
Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council

At 6.00 pm on Thursday 17th October, 2024 in the
Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, NN17 1QG

Present:-

Members

Councillor Lora Lawman (Chair)	Councillor Jennie Bone (Vice Chair)
Councillor Jean Addison	Councillor Barbara Jenney
Councillor Tim Allebone	Councillor Matt Keane
Councillor Valerie Anslow	Councillor King Lawal
Councillor Paul Bell	Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Charlie Best	Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Matt Binley	Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury	Councillor Bill McElhinney
Councillor Scott Brown	Councillor Peter McEwan
Councillor Cedwien Brown	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Leanne Buckingham	Councillor Andy Mercer
Councillor Lyn Buckingham	Councillor Gill Mercer
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Councillor Macaulay Nichol
Councillor Robin Carter	Councillor Jan O'Hara
Councillor John Currall	Councillor Dr Anup Pandey
Councillor Dez Dell	Councillor Tom Partridge-Underwood
Councillor Jonathan Ekins	Councillor Mark Pengelly
Councillor Emily Fedorowycz	Councillor Harriet Pentland
Councillor Martin Griffiths	Councillor Roger Powell
Councillor Jim Hakewill	Councillor Elliot Prentice
Councillor Clive Hallam	Councillor Simon Rielly
Councillor Ken Harrington	Councillor Russell Roberts
Councillor Helen Harrison	Councillor Mark Rowley
Councillor Kirk Harrison	Councillor Geoff Shacklock
Councillor Larry Henson	Councillor Joseph John Smyth
Councillor Helen Howell	Councillor Malcolm Ward
Councillor David Howes	Councillor Andrew Weatherill
Councillor Philip Irwin	Councillor Kevin Watt
Councillor Ian Jelley	Councillor Lee Wilkes

Officers

Adele Wylie, Chief Executive
Sanjit Sull, Monitoring Officer/Director of Law and Governance
Ben Smith, Head of Democratic Services

371 Urgent Items of Business

As notified to councillors prior to the meeting, the Chair confirmed to councillors her formal acceptance of two urgent items: 'Request for Dispensation for Attendance' and Political Balance on Council

Committees', following consultation with the Monitoring Officer and in accordance with meeting procedure rule 11.

The urgent items were accepted for consideration in each case as decisions needed to be made prior to the next scheduled meeting of Council.

372 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Brackenbury, Jon-Paul Carr, Melanie Coleman, William Colquhoun, Scott Edwards, Bert Jackson, Graham Lawman, Richard Levell, Zoe McGhee, Steven North, David Sims, Jason Smithers, Sarah Tubbs, Michael Tye, Malcolm Waters, and Keli Watts.

373 Minutes of the meeting held on 29th August 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th August 2024 were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chair of the Council, subject to the following approved amendments:-

- Cllr Fedorowycz and Cllr Griffiths were both present, rather than having given their apologies;
- Cllr Kirk Harrison gave his apologies rather than being present;
- Cllr Prentice gave his apologies, but these were not originally listed.

374 Declarations of interest.

The Chair asked those members who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

375 Chair's Announcements

The Chair invited Councillor Helen Howell, Deputy Leader of the Council, to welcome its latest addition as a member of the Council.

The Deputy Leader warmly welcomed, in the absence of Councillor Smithers and with his full support, the newly elected member Councillor Alex Evelyn for the Burton and Broughton Ward following the by-election held on 10 October 2024. Opposition leaders also joined in welcoming Councillor Evelyn to the Council.

The Chair also joined in welcoming Councillor Evelyn to the Council.

The Chair also announced that she had attended a number of recent engagements/events which she had been very pleased to attend, which included:-

- Visiting four of the customer service centres and learning of the outstanding work and knowledge that advisors passed on to residents and customers of the Council;
- Opening of a restaurant in Kettering, noting what a pleasure it was to represent the Council at any event.

376 Leader's Announcements

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader confirmed there were no announcements to make on this occasion.

377 Public Participation

The Chair confirmed there were no public statements or petitions requested at this meeting.

There had been one public question received from Julie Heron relating to the brightness of street lights on Deeble Road, Kettering. Ms Heron was unable to attend the meeting so as the question and answer had already been circulated to councillors and published on the website - they were taken as read.

A copy of the public question and response is filed with these minutes, as Appendix A.

378 Executive Presentations

The Deputy Leader confirmed that there were no Executive presentations to be made on this occasion.

379 Variation to the Order of Business

Councillor Howell rose to request under meeting procedure rule 9.2 that the urgent items 'Request for Dispensation for Attendance' and 'Political Balance on Council Committees' be brought forward on the agenda for consideration immediately after item 9 'Northamptonshire Youth Justice Plan 2024/25' and prior to Item 10 'Motions on Notice.'

The Chair confirmed her acceptance of the request.

380 North Northamptonshire Council Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023- 2024

Council considered a report seeking approval of Northamptonshire County Council's Corporate Parenting Board's Annual Report for 2023/24.

A copy of the report, marked as 'Item 8' on the agenda is filed with the agenda papers for the meeting.

The report was presented to promote and monitor the Northamptonshire Children's Trust Corporate Parenting Strategy, to encourage all Members and employees to recognise their role as corporate parents, and to provide Members with an overview of the work of Northamptonshire Children's Trust and support the discharge of their Corporate Parenting duties.

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury moved and Councillor Kirk Harrison seconded the motion which set out the recommendations in the report.

In welcoming the report and the important role that all councillors played in terms of corporate parenting, it was further welcomed that Councillor Scott Edwards, Executive

Member for Children, Families and Skills had that day signed the care leavers covenant.

The motion was voted on, with 58 councillors in favour, 0 abstaining and 0 against.

Resolved that Council:-

- a) Approves the content of the North Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report 2023 – 2024 which gives an overview of the Corporate Parenting Board's activities.
- b) Notes that the Northamptonshire Children's Trust Corporate Parenting Strategy 2021-25 sets out four key priorities and the update on each areas progress contained in the annual report.

Reasons for Decisions:

- *To promote and monitor the Northamptonshire Children's Trust Corporate Parenting Strategy;*
- *To encourage all Members and employees to recognise their role as corporate parents;*
- *Provides Members with an overview of the work of Northamptonshire Children's Trust and supports the discharge of their Corporate Parenting duties.*

Alternative Options Considered

- *Do Nothing – Councils have statutory duties as Corporate Parents for children in care and care leavers. Whilst the role of the Directors of Children's Services and Lead Members are defined in legislation there are wider corporate responsibilities on all staff and elected Members. By not approving the Corporate Parenting Annual Report it would mean that the Council may fail to deliver all or parts of its statutory responsibilities in this area.*

381 Northamptonshire Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

Council considered a report seeking approval of the Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2024/25 and to note its priorities.

A copy of the report, marked as 'Item 9' on the agenda is filed with the agenda papers for the meeting.

The report was presented to accord with the Councils Constitution which sets out that the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Policy Framework and to provide strategic direction to the Youth Offending Service delivered by Northamptonshire Children's Trust.

Councillor Gill Mercer moved and Councillor Jan O'Hara seconded the motion which set out the recommendations in the report.

Councillors welcomed the report and the work being undertaken to reduce and prevent offending by children and young people on a multi-agency basis..

The motion was voted on, with 57 councillors in favour, 0 abstaining and 0 against.

Resolved that Council:-

- a) Approves the contents of the Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2024/25;
- b) Notes Northamptonshire's Youth Offending Service priorities for 2023/24 as set out in the plan;

Reasons for Decisions:

- *To accord with the Councils Constitution which sets out that the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Policy Framework that is decided by full Council.*
- *To provide strategic direction to the Youth Offending Service that is delivered by Northamptonshire Children's Trust.*

Alternative Options Considered:

- *To take no action – The Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement, failure to produce and submit a Youth Justice Plan would result in non-compliance with a statutory requirement. Further to this the Youth Justice Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and approval by the Council is therefore required. For the reasons set out this option was discounted.*

382 Request for Dispensation for Attendance

Council considered an urgent item which advised of a request for a dispensation from attending meetings to Councillor Malcolm Waters who was currently unable to attend any Council meetings due to illness.

A copy of the urgent report is filed with the agenda papers for the meeting.

The report was considered under the urgency provisions because, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 where a Councillor fails to attend any meeting of the Council for six months, they would cease to be a Member of the Council unless a dispensation had been granted by the Council.

Councillor Helen Howell moved and Councillor Mark Rowley seconded the motion setting out the recommendations in the report.

The Chair informed councillors that she would pass on their best wishes to Councillor Waters for a speedy recovery.

The motion was voted on, with 58 votes in favour, 0 abstentions and 0 against.

Resolved:-

That Council grants a dispensation to Councillor Malcolm Waters from attending meetings of the Council for a six-month period by reason of illness.

Reason for Decision:

- *Pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 where a Councillor fails to attend any meeting of the Council for six months, they cease to be a Member of the Council unless a dispensation has been granted by the Council.*

Other Options Considered:

- *That Council decides not to approve the dispensation. This was not recommended as the reasons for it are considered reasonable and failure to grant would result in Councillor Malcolm Waters ceasing to be a member of North Northamptonshire Council.*

383 Political Balance on Council Committees

Council considered an urgent item which set out the revised political balance of the Council following the Burton and Broughton Ward by-election held on Thursday 10 October 2024 and other recent group changes.

A copy of the urgent report is filed with the agenda papers for the meeting.

The report was considered as an urgent item to ensure that the revised political balance of the Council would be applied to the governance structure of the Council, in accordance with law and approved guidelines contained in the Council Constitution.

Councillor Helen Howell moved and Councillor Mark Rowley seconded the motion setting out the recommendations in the report.

The motion was voted on, with 57 votes in favour, 1 abstention and 0 against.

Resolved:-

That Council approves the recommendations set out in Appendix A to the report, inclusive of the revised allocation of seats for the committees to the recognised political groups, in accordance with statutory proportionality requirements and the Constitution.

Reason for Decision:

- *To ensure that the revised political balance of the Council is applied to the governance structure of the Council, in accordance with law and approved guidelines contained in the Council Constitution.*

Alternative Options Considered:

- *None, as the revised political balance calculation is required to be reported to full Council under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.*

384 Motions on Notice

Motion 1 – Winter Fuel Payments

Councillor Russel Roberts moved and Councillor Ian Jelley seconded the following motion to Council:

“The Labour Government’s decision to block Winter Fuel Payments for pensioners who do not receive benefits such as pension credit will impact around 57,000 pensioners in North Northants. This will affect the health & well-being of our poorest older residents.

44% of pensioners entitled to pension credit do not claim it. Many pensioners are too proud to ask for means tested benefits or could find it difficult to manage the 22 page application form to apply for pension credit.

Pensioners have received this payment without means testing since its inception. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, fuel costs have increased, and the Government is raising the energy price cap by 10% this winter. There is also a prediction that the price cap will rise another 3% in early 2025.

Pensioners will therefore need the winter fuel allowance more than ever as without it, many vulnerable pensioners will be forced to choose between heating and eating.

Therefore, this Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer asking them to reverse the decision to stop Winter Fuel payments for our pensioners."

During debate, a range of views were heard relating to the impact of changes to the provision of winter fuel payments to residents in North Northamptonshire.

Following the debate's conclusion, a recorded vote on the motion was requested and accepted, with the requisite number of councillors rising from their seats. The motion was voted on and recorded as follows:-

In favour (45 votes)

- Councillors Tim Allebone, Paul Bell, Matt Binley, Jennie Bone, Wendy Brackenbury, Cedwien Brown, Scott Brown, Lloyd Bunday, Robin Carter, John Currall, Dez Dell, Jonathan Ekins, Alex Evelyn, Emily Fedorowycz, Martin Griffiths, Jim Hakewill, Clive Hallam, Ken Harrington, Helen Harrison, Larry Henson, Helen Howell, David Howes, Philip Irwin, Ian Jelley, Barbara Jenney, King Lawal, Lora Lawman, Paul Marks, Dorothy Maxwell, Bill McElhinney, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Macaulay Nichol, Jan O'Hara, Anup Pandey, Tom Partridge-Underwood, Harriet Pentland, Roger Powell, Russell Roberts, Mark Rowley, Geoff Shacklock, Joseph Smyth, Malcolm Ward, Kevin Watt, and Lee Wilkes.

Abstained (0 votes)

Against (12 votes)

- Councillors Jean Addison, Valerie Anslow, Charlie Best, Lyn Buckingham, Leanne Buckingham, Matt Keane, Anne Lee, Peter McEwan, John McGhee, Mark Pengelly, Elliot Prentice, and Simon Rielly.

Resolved:-

That the motion be approved.

Following debate on Motion 1, a short recess was held, following which the meeting resumed.

Motion 2 – VAT on Private Schools

Councillor Philip Irwin moved and Councillor Lee Wilkes seconded the following motion to Council:-

“The Government has said that it will remove the exemption for 20% VAT in fees for private schools. This Council is concerned that this may lead to many parents having to remove their children from their private school and send them to a state school. Many parents struggle and go without to pay for their children’s private education and would not be able to afford a rise of 20% in the fees.

In view of the lack of school places particularly in our secondary schools, we are concerned that this will have a big impact on schools in North Northants and on the pupils.

This Council therefore calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask:

- 1. What estimates have you made of the effect of this decision on schools in North Northamptonshire? i.e. How many extra pupils in what year groups are expected to move to the state system?*
- 2. What estimates have been made of the cost to North Northants Council to provide school places and home to school transport for these displaced pupils?*
- 3. Is the Government going to provide new burden funding for local authorities to cope with the capital cost of buildings and facilities to cope with this increase in pupils at our state schools?*
- 4. Is the Government going to provide funding for local authorities to cope with the revenue cost for our state schools if they have sudden influx of new pupils?”*

During debate, a range of views were heard relating to the impact of VAT on private schools.

Following the debate’s conclusion, a recorded vote on the motion was requested and accepted, with the requisite number of councillors rising from their seats. The motion was voted on and recorded as follows:-

In favour (40 votes)

- Councillors Tim Allebone, Paul Bell, Matt Binley, Jennie Bone, Wendy Brackenbury, Cedwien Brown, Scott Brown, Lloyd Bunday, Robin Carter, John Currall, Jonathan Ekins, Alex Evelyn, Martin Griffiths, Jim Hakewill, Clive Hallam, Ken Harrington, Helen Harrison, Helen Howell, David Howes, Philip Irwin, Ian Jelley, Barbara Jenney, King Lawal, Lora Lawman, Paul Marks, Dorothy Maxwell, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Macaulay Nichol, Jan O’Hara, Anup Pandey, Tom Partridge-Underwood, Harriet Pentland, Roger Powell, Russell Roberts, Mark Rowley, Geoff Shacklock, Malcolm Ward, Kevin Watt, and Lee Wilkes.

Abstained (2 votes)

- Councillors Charlie Best, and Emily Fedorowycz.

Against (11 votes)

- Councillors Jean Addison, Valerie Anslow, Lyn Buckingham, Leanne Buckingham, Dez Dell, Matt Keane, Anne Lee, Peter McEwan, John McGhee, Elliot Prentice, and Simon Rielly.

Resolved:-

That the motion be approved.

During debate on Motion 2, a guillotine motion was moved by Councillor Helen Howell and seconded by Councillor Emily Fedorowycz that the business of the meeting be continued for an additional half an hour following the conclusion of the three hour normal time limit.

The guillotine motion was carried by a show of hands, with the Chair determining that business be concluded by 9.30pm.

385 Councillor Questions

The Chair noted that 14 councillor questions had been received for this meeting in accordance with meeting procedure rule 17.

Each of the 14 questions were asked and responded to, as well as supplementary questions and answers, where requested.

A full copy of the questions and responses made, as well as any supplementary questions and responses, are filed with these minutes at Appendix B.

386 Close of Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chair thanked members, officers and the public viewing the meeting both in person and online for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Chair

Date

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A - Public Questions and Responses – Council, 17 October 2024

PUBLIC QUESTIONS Council – 17 th October 2024				
No.	Received from	Suggested Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
1. Page 11	Oliver Richmond	Cllr Matt Binley	Why has the council failed to make any major improvements to the brightness of street lights on Deeble Road in Kettering, despite residents and local councillor Elliot Prentice raising repeated concerns about road safety due to the very dim LED lights?	<p>The LED lighting installed on Deeble Road has been designed to meet the universal standard adopted across Northamptonshire as part of the Street Lighting PFI contract. We have engaged with Cllr Prentice and carried out a review earlier this year. The outcome of that review was that the lighting levels met the required standard in all but a few locations. There were some areas that were slightly lower than the standard near the bridge over the River Ise and Tresham College. The output of several lamps was increased as a result.</p> <p>A further review of the lighting levels against the adopted standard is being carried out imminently by the PFI contractor following the completion of the pedestrian crossing works where additional lighting has been installed. The assessment was not carried out immediately after the crossings were installed because they were installed during</p>

				<p>the summer months, when a lighting assessment would not have been practical.</p> <p>The assessment will take light levels between each column to test compliance. When this work is completed, we will review the findings. If the light levels do not meet the adopted standard, we will make the necessary changes.</p>
--	--	--	--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

End of Public Questions

Appendix B - Councillor Questions, Responses and Supplementaries – 17th October 2024

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
1.	Cllr Martin Griffiths	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>What recent contact has been made with the owners and businesses of Victoria Park Retail area in Wellingborough regarding the appearance of the site and in particular the excessive littering of the service roads and landscaped verges?</p> <p>Supplementary Question I support the immediate action being taken, the service area also reeks of urine and other. I wonder if that could also be considered when our officers visit?</p>	<p>We are aware of some ongoing issues with littering on this private land, which has previously been identified by NNC officers. There has been contact several months ago and given the on-going issues at the location, the occupants of the commercial units will be re-contacted reminding them of their legal obligations. Officers will re-attend the location this week and commence gathering evidence of the detriment to the amenity with a view to issuing a Community Protection Warning under the Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014, if the evidence suggests the need to do so.</p> <p>Supplementary Response You'll be pleased to know I visited the site today so I do know of the issues that are being faced there and yes you are absolutely right, with officers already having identified the smell of urine. Officers are working with local businesses to push them to provide facilities for those drivers, they really should be. That will be pursued.</p>
2.	Cllr Peter MCEwan	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>Does the portfolio-holder for Highways like me believe that implementing a decision 2 years after consultation is inappropriate. A decision to put yellow lines on Constable road in Corby is having a</p>	<p>Timeframes associated with implementing new parking regulations are greatly influenced by the legislative requirements for publishing notices and consulting with stakeholders and residents. We have recently undertaken a review of this process with a view to reducing the timeframes, but we cannot shorten the consultation exercise, and nor would we want to given the importance of resident</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
Page 14			<p>huge impact on disabled people living there.</p> <p>Will the portfolio-holder work with local councillors and officers to resolve these difficulties?</p> <p>Supplementary Question Will the portfolio holder meet with local councillors and officers to look at the matter on Constable Road</p>	<p>engagement. The Delegated Decision Report (DDR) signing was delayed by the change over of the contracts from the old NCC contract and then getting staff in at NNC to review. The DDR was completed in March 2023. Work on site was completed 4th September 2024.</p> <p>From the consultation process, Cllr John McGhee and Cllr Peter McEwan gave their support to the proposal. Only one comment from the public was received, and it influenced the final scheme design which was reduced to implement parking restrictions on one side of Constable Road only. This enables the scheme to maintain a level of resident parking, opened the carriageway for emergency vehicle access and reduced the likelihood of footways being obstructed, which would have adversely impacted disabled people. In addition, a Blue Badge holder could park for a limited time on the double yellow lines if necessary. If there is a specific problem, please bring this to officers' attention and they will investigate whether further assistance can be provided to support those with specific mobility needs. A member of the public can apply for a disabled parking bay at https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/parking/apply-disabled-parking-space-outside-your-house</p> <p>Supplementary Response I was there two weeks ago with Kier Highways so I do know the street and the location. I would just highlight in response that its only a small section of the road. I don't disagree with</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
Page 15			<p>considering the consultation period was over two years ago and it is causing quite a bit of stress for the people living there. I don't know if you've been down there and looked at it, but the yellow lines are outside everybody's house and on the other side of the street there are no houses. So I don't know why the yellow lines are on one side with nothing on the other. Will you agree to meet some of the tenants to see what they have to say about the yellow lines.</p>	<p>you that there was a delay and that is answered in my initial response to your question. The local councillors were consulted as well and raised no objections to this and assistance has already been offered.</p> <p>If additional support is required for residents since that traffic regulation order has been introduced then yes we will meet with residents to look at putting something into place.</p>
3.	Cllr Martin Griffiths	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>How many surveillance cameras are being deployed by NNC to catch and convict fly tippers and how many prosecutions for fly tipping have been successful using our covert surveillance cameras compared to evidence obtained from the material itself or from members of the public?</p>	<p>We currently operate four covert units. Since April 2021, there have been no prosecutions where the only evidence relies on covert surveillance and very few successful prosecutions are attributed to any one single evidence stream.</p> <p>During the same period officers have issued the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Prosecutions 2783 Warning Letters 113 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping 22 Fixed Penalty Notices for Failure of Duty of Care 81 Fixed Penalty Notices for Littering (N.B the offence of littering can be used for small scale fly tipping, usually bags of household waste)

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
Page 16			<p>Supplementary Question Our laybys, farm entrances and minor roads are a disgrace despite the best efforts of our teams in clearing up fly-tipping. Do you believe that the four units you refer to is sufficient and have you considered the use of drones, possibly in partnership with the Northamptonshire Police Rural Crime Team to tackle this issue, especially around fly-tipping from moving vehicles?</p>	<p>Supplementary Response Officers are not working with the police at the moment, they're actually working with the dash cam companies to find a way forward of sharing data much in the same way that happens with the police, so that we are able to enforce environmental crime issues such as the ones you have just quoted, including litter being ejected from vehicles, so yes absolutely. With regards to the number of covert cameras, yes, it is enough. Are they effective? No, probably not. One of the biggest issues we have despite them being covert is that unfortunately they get stolen. That's the irony of it. So, I can't tell you in detail for operational reasons, but what I can tell you is that there are operations going on at the moment to try and counteract this. It doesn't involve drones I hasten to add. The other thing is as you probably will have seen from the forward plan in November, is we are due to be having a paper brought forward to the Executive, referencing Environmental Crime Offences 2023, which of course was the last Conservative Government which produced increases in fines for everything from fly tipping to littering and graffiti etc. So of course, the Executive is considering that, and of course you know I strongly welcome input from Members and attendance on the day, if possible, to talk about it.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
4.	Cllr Anne Lee	Cllr David Brackenbury	<p>Please give an indication of when the Job’s Yard illegal block of flats in Kettering will be demolished, following which Meeting Lane in Kettering can finally reopen as a road for Kettering residents?</p> <p>Supplementary Question I would still like to say, that if Firemen were able to access the building to put out the fire, why can’t the Council not access the building to resolve a situation that has been compromising the safety of Kettering residents for years now.</p>	<p>Council officers remain focussed on progressing the demolition of the building. We have engaged a contractor and have been trying to arrange an inspection of the building so that the contractor can finalise their proposed methodology and risk assessments which have to be in place as part of a safe system of work required by the Health and Safety Executive. To date the site owner has refused to allow access and so we have submitted a further application to the High Court to ensure we are able to progress the demolition without obstruction from the site owner and are currently waiting a date for the hearing. The cordon and access restrictions will need to remain in place around the building, until the demolition is complete.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer It was noted that Councillor Brackenbury would answer the supplementary question in writing.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
5.	Cllr Anne Lee	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>Why are the fountains in Kettering’s Market Place only working for Kettering-by-the-Sea in August, although they were intended to be in regular use?</p> <p>Supplementary Question If there is a water leak, why is the work not being expedited to fix it, rather than spread over a six-month period. I’m talking about Autumn/ Winter which is mentioned here. How committed are you in getting that fixed, please?</p>	<p>As confirmed as part of a media enquiry in July, a water leak in the fountain system was discovered in late Spring, which would have required significant excavation works to investigate and remedy. To avoid disrupting planned events in the Market Place we were able to get the fountain working during the summer holiday even though the system was leaking water, but agreed with event holders, including Kettering Town Council that the fountain would be switched off at the end of September to conserve water use. The investigation works will be undertaken over the Autumn/Winter period in conjunction with Anglian Water, to determine what works are required to endeavour the fountain is fully operational for the 2025 season.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer The reason that we’re not in a rush to have it fixed, is because it’s not leaking water. It’s a closed system. It only leaks water when it’s switched on. That’s the whole point of that set of fountains. Once it’s on, it’s a closed system, the problem then is there’s a leak. There’s constantly something coming out. Which means the system needs constant top up. That’s why it’s switched off, so repairs can take place. With regards to expediting it as per the answer, it’s very clear it’s Anglia Water. We are at their mercy. The works here have to be carried out by Anglia Water due to the location and the nature, but we are at their mercy.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
6.	Cllr Anne Lee	Cllr Matt Binley	<p>How much would it cost to restore power to the Faraday fountain in Manor House Gardens?</p> <p>Supplementary Question Since the root cause is known to be that the power was cut off to the Manor House Gardens during the Art Gallery extensive works, how committed are you to ensure the power will be restored to the gardens in time for the Christmas lights?</p>	<p>Officers are currently working to try and restore power to the fountain and lighting in Manor House Gardens, it is unknown at this stage as to what the root cause is. Once restored we will be able to ascertain if any further works are required to bring the fountain back into use, including the fountain motor and condition of the pipework. As the fountain has not been operating for a number of years there may be unforeseen costs to bringing the fountain back into use. Once those costs have been evaluated the Council will be able to consider next steps.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer Thank you. They weren't actually cut off as part of the works. Having done some research, they were at least cut off in May 2019. That's when it stopped. There's photographic evidence of that and officers have provided reassurance that they are going to do their best endeavours to get that back up and running by Christmas.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
7.	Cllr Elliot Prentice	Cllr Helen Howell	<p>The sight of buckets catching leaks in the children's library is shameful. Why was Cornerstone not sufficiently watertight prior to the placement of the children's library and what checks have been completed to ensure no further leaks will be experienced?</p>	<p>The sight of buckets in any of our premises is not ideal, but following the recent period of unprecedented, intense, and prolonged rain, a leak appeared in a section of the new extension of the Cornerstone building in Kettering. This was not apparent when the contractor handed the building over to NNC following completion of the extension. The issue has been passed back to the original contractor to investigate and resolve as part of the snagging process. It will be resolved as quickly as possible and we will continue to liaise with the contractor to achieve this. The rain fall had an impact on a number of properties under the control of NNC due to its overwhelming quantity in such a short period of time, and we will continue to monitor and identify any further issues at Cornerstone and all assets under the control of North Northants Council.</p>
			<p>Supplementary Question Councillor Howell, thank you for your answer. I'm mainly happy with it, to be honest with you, but just wondered if you could provide a few more specific timelines, than as soon as possible?</p>	<p>Supplementary Response Thank you for your question. The officers are working on this as we speak, a lot of the problems obviously, especially when we come to the Winter period, is the debris that fall from the trees, which gets caught in the gullies and then in turn holds the water in those places. So, it's a case of general maintenance as well to make sure that those gullies are kept clean, which is why we are literally on it constantly. I can assure you that we are constantly making those maintenance arrangements. It's totally ongoing.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer																																												
8.	Cllr Lyn Buckingham	Lloyd Bunday	How much Compensation has NNC paid out to residents across all Directorates in 2023/2024 and how many cases are there waiting for a decision?	<p>Compensation payments via complaints process awarded by Ombudsman</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Service Area</th> <th>Amount Paid</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education & Childrens Services</td> <td>38,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adult Care Services</td> <td>810</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Planning & Development</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>40,010</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Payments due to insurance claims*</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th> <th>Claims Paid</th> <th>Amount Paid</th> <th>Claims Open</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Parks & Grounds Maintenance</td> <td>4</td> <td>£7,426.00</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities</td> <td>0</td> <td>£0.00</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highways</td> <td>9</td> <td>£23,499.18</td> <td>107</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>2</td> <td>£2,450.80</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car Parks</td> <td>3</td> <td>£304.20</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property</td> <td>1</td> <td>£818.00</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refuse & Waste</td> <td>5</td> <td>£2,710.15</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Service Area	Amount Paid	Housing	900	Education & Childrens Services	38,000	Adult Care Services	810	Planning & Development	300	Total	40,010	Division	Claims Paid	Amount Paid	Claims Open	Parks & Grounds Maintenance	4	£7,426.00	2	Facilities	0	£0.00	1	Highways	9	£23,499.18	107	Housing	2	£2,450.80	7	Car Parks	3	£304.20	2	Property	1	£818.00	2	Refuse & Waste	5	£2,710.15	2
Service Area	Amount Paid																																															
Housing	900																																															
Education & Childrens Services	38,000																																															
Adult Care Services	810																																															
Planning & Development	300																																															
Total	40,010																																															
Division	Claims Paid	Amount Paid	Claims Open																																													
Parks & Grounds Maintenance	4	£7,426.00	2																																													
Facilities	0	£0.00	1																																													
Highways	9	£23,499.18	107																																													
Housing	2	£2,450.80	7																																													
Car Parks	3	£304.20	2																																													
Property	1	£818.00	2																																													
Refuse & Waste	5	£2,710.15	2																																													

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer												
Page 22				<table border="1" data-bbox="1182 363 1937 528"> <tr> <td data-bbox="1182 363 1339 443">Data Breach</td> <td data-bbox="1339 363 1532 443" style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td data-bbox="1532 363 1733 443" style="text-align: center;">£0.00</td> <td data-bbox="1733 363 1937 443" style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1182 443 1339 485"></td> <td data-bbox="1339 443 1532 485"></td> <td data-bbox="1532 443 1733 485"></td> <td data-bbox="1733 443 1937 485"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1182 485 1339 528">Totals</td> <td data-bbox="1339 485 1532 528" style="text-align: center;">25</td> <td data-bbox="1532 485 1733 528" style="text-align: center;">£37,208.33</td> <td data-bbox="1733 485 1937 528" style="text-align: center;">127</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="1182 571 2027 678">*The housing disrepair claims are not included within the above data and is still to be verified. This will be provided in writing to Cllr Buckingham.</p>	Data Breach	0	£0.00	1					Totals	25	£37,208.33	127
	Data Breach	0	£0.00	1												
Totals	25	£37,208.33	127													
Cllr Lyn Buckingham	Cllr Mark Rowley	<p data-bbox="645 719 1115 1118">Council Garages are a valuable resource, To demonstrate good governance and deliver value for money, the Council should only retain the right assets to deliver services and drive efficiencies through disposal, when will the Council complete an asset management review of the council's garages and garage areas?</p> <p data-bbox="645 1161 1137 1375">Supplementary Question So, garages are an asset. There are a lot of people who are waiting for garages, but you have only talked about the development potential in that, so again it's an</p>	<p data-bbox="1182 719 2056 938">Both the Asset Management team and the Housing team are working collaboratively to identify underutilised garage courts that could provide social housing to support local demand. So far 15 priority sites have been identified to be reviewed for this potential, and where they are deemed unfeasible will be considered for disposal via the Council's disposal policy.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 981 2004 1118">It should be noted that many of the garage courts have significant development constraints such as easements, individual garage sales to right to buy owners, and access issues that prevent development.</p> <p data-bbox="1182 1161 2065 1375">Supplementary Response Yes, the review is going on with the Asset Management Team and the Housing Team. Regarding the garages as to whether it's suitable for keeping them as garages or redevelopments, that's an ongoing task and obviously budgets have got to be found for the repairs as well, because they're on the General</p>													

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
			asset. When is it going to be looked at, because a lot of them are in disrepair?	Housing Fund, not the Housing Fund, so it's on going. I haven't got any dates as to when it will be completed.
10.	Cllr Lyn Buckingham	Cllr Mark Rowley	How many three-bedroom properties does NNC have in Corby and Kettering, are these designated for families with disability or general needs?	<p>The Council has 2,828 (three-bedroomed properties) of which 822 have a listed adaptation type as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing adaptations, level access showers and over bath showers • Access ramping • Stairlifts, hoists and through floor lifts • Wheelchair accessible. <p>All properties are designated for General Needs.</p> <p>Applicants with a disability will be given priority to the property that has the correct adaptation for their needs. We will always seek to match properties depending on the type of adaptations to applicant's needs. This also ensures that the council can make the best use of its stock.</p> <p>We are delighted that we have now delivered five specially adapted properties on the Cannock Road development in Corby and our design brief of Cheltenham Road also ensured a number of the bungalows were wheelchair accessible and additional adaptations can be installed if required.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
11.	Cllr Valerie Anslow	Cllr Scott Edwards	<p><i>North Northamptonshire Council recognise that parents have the right to educate their children at home (elective home education) and there is a process in place for parents to follow if they wish to do so.</i></p> <p><i>How many children currently being educated at home have a SEND requirement?</i></p> <p>Supplementary Question If there are, as it is stated in the answer from Councillor Edwards, 1032 children of statutory school age, who are being electively home educated, 246 of them are SEND and 76 have EHCP's. My question is the 786 children whose parents have withdrawn them from school, that's the difference, how many of those children were in the process of identifying their special needs and left school because their need we not being met? I'd like to know the number of the 786?</p>	<p>The overall Elected Home education cohort for North Northamptonshire is 1032 of statutory school age (4yrs to 16 years) of which 246 are SEN support and 76 have EHCP's.</p> <p>Supplementary Response It was noted that Councillor Edwards would answer the supplementary question in writing.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
12.	Cllr Jim Hakewill	Cllr David Howes	<p>Based on what calculations was the sum required for the provision of a Temporary Traveller Stopping site that led to the Council putting £1.3 million into this and next year's budget? How much of this year's budget has been spent so far?</p> <p>Supplementary Question What is the £4000 being spent on?</p>	<p>The estimated project cost for the provision of a Temporary Travellers Stopping site of £1,300,000 (£1.3 Million) was based on a bid to the Traveller Site Fund administered by DHLUC in June 2022. This bid estimated that the capital cost to deliver the proposed Temporary Travellers Site Project at that time was £990,672. A full breakdown of the project costs was set out in the project budget 'Traveller Site Fund Budget Table' at Appendix C of the 21st December 2023 Executive Report which were based on costings originally provided by external consultants in 2016 which were then revised in relation to the 2022 bid.</p> <p>These 2022 costings were then further revised to account for contract cost inflation for building materials and construction costs (10-15% per annum) and an increase for survey reports following pre-application planning advice to arrive at an estimated cost to deliver the Temporary Travellers site project of £1.3M.</p> <p>To date £4k has been spent from the £164k budget allocated for 24/25. £1.136m of the budget has been allocated to 2025/26.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer £4000 has been spent with external consultants doing research work for us.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
Page 26	Cllr Jim Hakewill	Cllr David Howes	<p>What is the present situation in relation to delivery the 10 Permanent Traveller pitches granted planning permission by Kettering Borough Council on the 1st July 2009 (KET/2009/0155)? This proposal was intended to provide 40% of the required supply for families who meet the Gypsy and Traveller definition?</p> <p>Supplementary Question When do you anticipate the first Traveller occupants will be on site, given the planning permission is now some 15 years old?</p>	<p>The site (planning application KET/2009/0155) at land at Stoke Albany Road, Desborough has an extant permission, the site having been commenced through ground excavation works to install an access driveway into and around the site. No further progress has been made since these initial site commencement works. The site is privately owned, and as such delivery is reliant upon the landowner delivering the remainder of the site in line with the consented planning application.</p> <p>The Council has been in regular dialogue with the landowners in relation to bringing this land forward for the intended use of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. We shall continue to work with the landowners to seek the best outcome for the landowners and the Council.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer It's largely up to the landowners, in terms of when they plan to start the development work, I'm afraid we are a little bit at the mercy of the landowners.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
14.	Cllr Jim Hakewill	Cllr David Brackenbury	<p>What is the current position in relation to the Local Plan Review for North Northamptonshire. What is the period for which the new plan will be applicable and when do we expect it to be formally adopted?</p> <p>Supplementary Question I appreciate the courtesy of Councillor Brackenbury for sending an email. My question, which I hope will be noted and passed on to him. What meeting will scrutinise the progress of the Local Plan?</p>	<p>The timetable for the North Northamptonshire Local Plan is currently under review considering the recent consultation on planning reforms proposed through the National Planning Policy Framework, and letter published by the Deputy Prime Minister. It is intended to reset the Local Plan timetable through papers to be presented to Members to agree a new Local Development Scheme early next year.</p> <p>The period for the new Plan is currently 2021-2041, this will however be looked at in reviewing the Local Development Scheme.</p> <p>Should Cllr Hakewill wish to discuss this further with me, I would be happy to do so outside this meeting.</p> <p>Supplementary Answer It was noted that Councillor Brackenbury would answer the supplementary question in writing.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank