

June 2022

Appendix 1



Levelling Up in North Northamptonshire

Levelling up Scrutiny Review Working Group

Contents

Page 3	Foreword
Page 4	Commissioning the Scrutiny Review
Page 5	Executive Summary
Page 6 – 7	Background & Introduction
Page 8	Community Walks and Workshops
Page 9 – 10	Findings: Windmill Ward (Avondale Grange), Walk and Community Workshop
Page 11 – 12	Findings: Kingswood and Hazel Leys Ward, Walk and Community Workshop
Page 13 – 14	Findings: Queensway and Brickhill Ward, Walk and Community Workshop
Page 15	Themed meeting 1: Anti-social behaviour & knife crime
Page 16 – 17	Themed meeting 2: Education, Exclusion, Skills and Employment
Page 18	Themed meeting 3: Opportunities of future Funding
Page 19	Themed meeting 4: Impact of the environment on our communities
Page 20	Key lessons learned
Page 21	Our priority recommendations
Page 22 – 33	Appendices
Page 34	Contacting us



Foreword



Councillor Zoe McGhee
Kingswood and Hazel Leys Ward, Corby
Chair: Levelling Up Scrutiny Review Group

*" We want outcomes to be
visible to people in our
communities "*

First, let me take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to this levelling up scrutiny review, including the community and volunteer groups that we met along the way. Our original motion stated we "engage with our communities & find examples of best practice". Mary's Kitchen, Knife Amnesty, Off the Streets, The Green Patch & and many more, are each huge examples of success and dedication to levelling up, before the term "Levelling Up" was in common use.

To have this opportunity within my first year as a councillor, has been an honour. I have learnt an incredible amount, mostly within our communities, including at the Kingswood Youth Club, our food banks, St Mark's Church in Queensway & the wonderful Avondale Grange community centre that opened its doors to us. For me, this is what levelling up is about, not a catch phrase, but real people with real lives, hopes and ambitions. This has been at the forefront of my mind as Chair.

Our mission to level up North Northamptonshire is not over, but I truly hope this report reflects the passion, respect & hope that this panel has shown and is the start of something meaningful. I look forward to seeing positive outcomes delivered by North Northamptonshire Council, the police, health and all the partners whether public or private making positive changes in the levelling up areas.

Whole-heartedly, I thank all of you.

Councillor Zoe McGhee

June 2022

Members of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review Working Group



Cllr Valerie Anslow
Croyland and Swanspool
ward



Cllr Robin Carter
Windmill Ward



Cllr Anne Lee
Windmill Ward



Cllr King Lawal
Brickhill and Queensway
ward



Cllr Paul Marks
Windmill Ward



Councillor Kevin Watt
Corby Rural Ward

Commissioning the scrutiny review



Councillor Wendy Brackenbury
Thrapston Ward
Chair: Scrutiny Commission

*" Effective Scrutiny is
incredibly important to
the successful
functioning of North
Northamptonshire
Council "*

Why the Scrutiny Commission felt this work was important to undertake

Good Scrutiny should provide constructive challenge, it should enable the voice and concerns of the public to be heard and it should help to drive improvement in public services adding value to the Council.

At Full Council on 28 July 2021 an amended motion was approved calling for the Scrutiny Commission to review the underlying data and associated report relating to areas highlighted as "left behind". The Scrutiny Commission approved a scoping document at its meeting on 24th August 2021. The Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review Group have worked with our communities and partners to propose an approach on the way forward as per the Government's levelling up agenda.

I welcome this first Scrutiny Review undertaken by North Northamptonshire Council. I would like to thank Officers, Members, Stakeholders and members of the public who contributed to the Levelling Up Review. I look forward to the Scrutiny Commission receiving this report.

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury

June 2022

Main aims of the scrutiny review

1. Review and understand the underlying data and report relating to areas highlighted as "left behind"
2. Engage with and explore the views of people within those neighbourhoods to understand the challenges and opportunities
3. Engage with and explore the views of partner agencies and voluntary and charitable organisations to understand the challenges and opportunities
4. Understand and learn from the Big Local programme in Kingswood, identifying both good practice and challenges that can help shape future proposals
5. Make recommendations to council around a potential plan

What happens once the scrutiny review has concluded

The work of the scrutiny review group and findings are set out in this report that will be presented back to the Scrutiny Commission. The members of Scrutiny Commission will consider the report, discuss recommendations and then agree how it will present the outcome of the scrutiny review back to the Executive of the council.

The Executive will then consider what to do with those recommendations. This report will not pre-empt the decisions of the Executive or Full Council but some outcomes could include:

- Amending elements of the corporate plan
- Identifying budget to address some of the key themes
- To identify a political lead(s) to champion the Levelling- Up agenda within the council
- To consider how to create opportunities for the council and other partners to come together more frequently to develop plans to address underlying challenges that prevent local areas from "levelling-up"

Executive Summary

The need to understand left behind communities and develop plans nationally and locally to level up those areas are high on both national and local government agendas.

The Levelling Up Scrutiny review was commissioned as a result of those concerns and an ambitious plan of community workshops, and community walks in the three areas identified as left behind in North Northamptonshire, and a series of themed meetings have helped the scrutiny review working group to gather evidence and finalise this report.

Recognising the large number of recommendations generated from all the engagement exercises undertaken, the working group have developed a list of immediate, medium-term and longer-term priority recommendations set out opposite that they believe could form the basis of a Levelling up Plan for the council and its partners.

It is still important that the other recommendations set out for each meeting, workshop and walk are not lost and officers will ensure these are distributed to service areas to consider inclusion in other transformation and improvement plans.

The detailed transcribed notes in the appendices also provide a rich source of ideas that will be of interest to services and partners when considering opportunities and challenges.

This report will hopefully provide the spark to providing sustainable change but still requires the council and partners to consider how they wrap resources around the levelling-up agenda.

Immediate recommendations

1. Communications and information sharing were highlighted as weaknesses at times and the council should engage with communities around the preferred ways that key information can be shared
2. There are opportunities to work closer with local businesses on community projects and issues and setting up a forum or networking event with key business to explore this could be achieved quickly
3. Consider how to improve street scene in left behind areas both through council services but also community partnership approaches including fund raising
4. Consider how to support and raise funds for additional bleed kit boxes in priority areas across North Northamptonshire

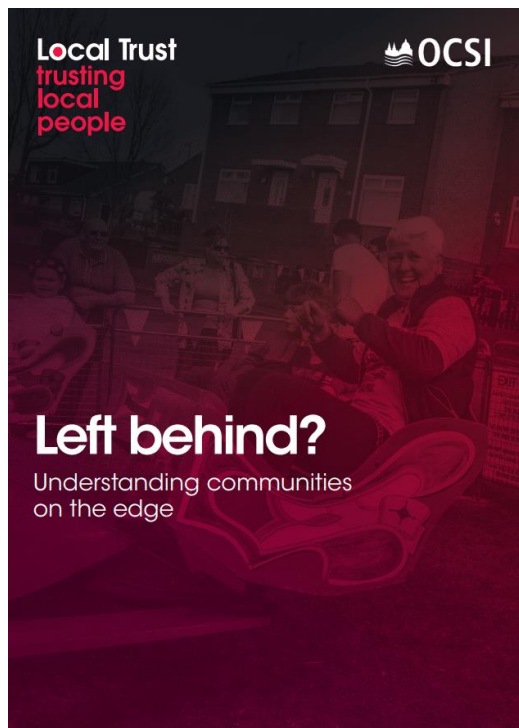
Medium-term recommendations

1. The council should consider how to work with partners to produce guidance to enable small, medium & large organisations to develop ideas sufficiently to be ready to be included in bids when funding is available
2. The council could explore procuring a crowd funding platform to enable organisations to leverage other funding, sponsorship and support to get behind projects they wish to progress
3. Youth work was seen as a priority & the scrutiny review group recommend that a cost-benefit exercise could be undertaken to determine return on investment of strategically investing in local youth work
4. All partners should work together to review and update the current strategies and approaches to address county lines, drug dealing and knife crime

Longer Term recommendations

1. The council will benefit from working closely with partners and communities to develop a community hub strategy that focuses on the needs of those communities rather than a one size fits all approach
2. Poor quality of housing was identified across the wards where this work was undertaken and a strategy that considers larger scale ambitious regeneration of some of these estates could be considered
3. Consider a longer term approach to monitor and update on outcomes and successes specifically related to this agenda in ways that engage our communities
4. Consider how to develop a strategy to improve street lighting and CCTV and how this could be piloted in Levelling up communities on the theme of "Safer Streets"

Background & Introduction



Left Behind Communities & the Levelling-Up agenda

In 2019, research published by Local Trust and Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) in 2019 suggests that places to meet, connectivity – both physical and digital – and an active, engaged community are vital to secure better social and economic outcomes for people living in deprived neighbourhoods. People in places which lack these features

have higher rates of unemployment and child poverty, and their health is also worse than those living in other deprived areas. And the evidence is that they are falling further behind. The report argues that this adds up to these areas being some of the most left behind in the country.

The research combines multiple national data sources to create a statistically-robust 'community needs' index for the first time, helping policy makers target investment in social infrastructure. It supports the case for new solutions to 'level up' civic infrastructure (such as community centres, libraries, green spaces) and improve connectivity and community engagement.

It asks government to answer the call of the [Community Wealth Fund Alliance](#) for the next wave of dormant assets from stocks, shares, bonds, insurance and pension funds to be invested in left-behind neighbourhoods for this purpose. The report also asks government to establish a joint cross-government /civil society task force to consider evidence and develop recommendations to improve social and economic outcomes for people in

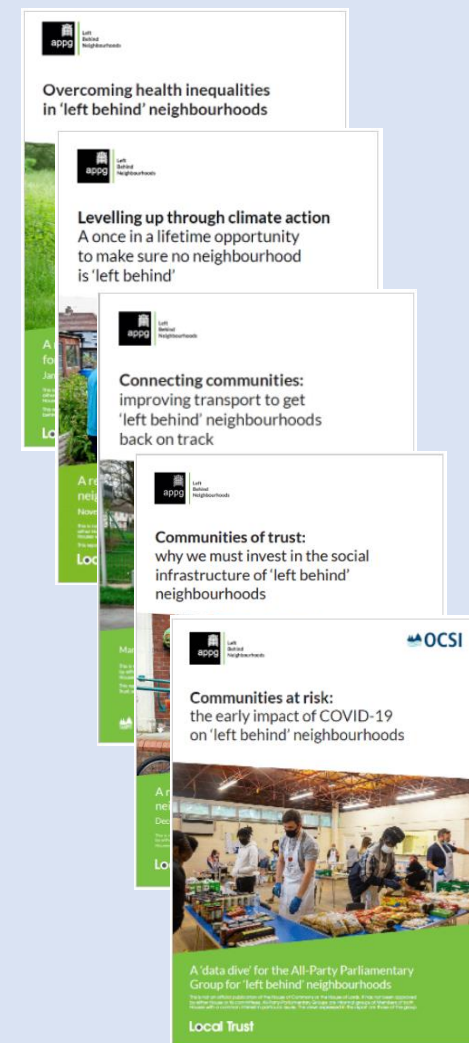
left-behind areas, and to allocate an appropriate proportion of the £3.6bn Stronger Towns Fund and the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund to them.

All- Party Parliamentary Group for Left Behind Neighbourhoods

APPG aims are to devise practical policy solutions that help build community confidence and capacity, delivering improved social and economic outcomes for local residents.

The APPG has published a number of themed reports between July 2020 and January 2022. Throughout 2022, the APPG will build upon its existing evidence base by using new research, written submissions and expert testimony to examine the potential of current policies and approaches to regenerate 'left behind' neighbourhoods as part of its inquiry into levelling up.

The inquiry aims to establish the baseline outlook for levelling up in 'left behind' neighbourhoods and assess the extent to which the White Paper's policy programme aligns with the needs and aspirations of people who live there.



Background & Introduction



Left Behind Communities & Levelling-Up in North Northamptonshire

Within the original “Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge” document, three wards in North Northamptonshire were identified as “left behind”, Windmill Ward – Kettering (known as Avondale Grange in the report), Kingswood and Hazel Leys ward – Corby and Queensway – Wellingborough. There have been many attempts over long periods of

time to try to create the right conditions to reduce the deprivation gap between these communities and more affluent communities in the area, but despite those efforts there remain a number of wards within North Northamptonshire that are either named in the report as “left behind”, or are likely to be close to being defined as such. Kingswood and Hazel Leys already has a Big Local programme in place to try to address some of the stuck issues in the area.

As a new Unitary Local Authority the concerns raised in the report had been the subject of early debate during full council meetings, leading to the Scrutiny Commission agreeing to commission a scrutiny review in to this agenda.

The scope, on page 3 of this report, sets out the key deliverables of the scrutiny review group with an element of the scrutiny review group being given some leeway to define the specific approaches it would adopt to look into this agenda.

Choosing a mixture of community walks, world café style workshops and themed meetings, the scrutiny working group tried to adopt an

approach that gained the views of many people and organisations.

The context during the time of the scrutiny review

The scrutiny review was commissioned very early into the tenure of the new unitary authority with a mixture of new elected members and officers at all levels.

At the same time, the country had been dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and was about 18 months into the pandemic response at the time the scrutiny review was taking place.

During the latter stages of the scrutiny review the council was also required to respond to the Afghan Resettlement Scheme and Homes for Ukraine, where many of the officers that were involved in facilitating meetings and workshops were also leading these responses.

The Government’s “Plan B” Covid-19 firebreak was implemented in December 2021, meaning that a number of the themed meetings planned to take place in community centres had to be moved and re-designed to suit an on-line meeting format.

Work undertaken by the Scrutiny Review Working Group

Preparation meetings

1. Establishment of the Scrutiny Work Group & appointment of chair:
06 October 2021
2. Work planning & presentation regarding underlying data and the “Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge” report: 09 November 2021

Community walks and workshops

1. Windmill ward/Avondale Grange (Kettering):
27 November 2021
2. Kingswood and Hazel Leys (Corby):
04 December 2021
3. Queensway (Wellingborough):
11 December 2021

Themed meetings

1. Anti-social behaviour & knife crime:
11 January 2022
2. Education, Exclusion, Skills and Employment:
26 January 2022
3. Opportunities of future Funding:
08 March 2022
4. Impact of the environment on our communities: 03 May 2022

Final Report for Scrutiny Commission

1. Consideration and sign-off by scrutiny review group: 16 June 2022

Community Workshops and walks



"Spending time in the areas we are looking at helped us to get a much better understanding of the challenges and opportunities within each place"

Community Walks

Community walks were undertaken in each of the three areas, followed on the same day by a community workshop. A route was planned based on feedback from local community leaders and councillors, highlighting areas that they wished to discuss and show to the wider group. There was an open invite for local people to also come on the walks and share their experiences and thoughts. Each walk was planned to last for around one and a half hours and took place on a Saturday afternoon in the hope this would be a more suitable day and time to attract more people.

Community Workshops

Community workshops took place in local community buildings following the community walks. The same format was used for each workshop and consisted of a World Café approach designed to create opportunities for all attendees to engage with each of the questions being explored. Each table was facilitated by an officer from the council but attendees were encouraged to mix themselves up as they moved to the next table and question rather than moving as a group.

Eight questions were explored at each workshop as set out to the right. Flip charts and ward maps were used to collect views of participants.

Questions explored at the community workshops

1. What is good about living here? How do you instill a sense of belonging?
2. What are the community networks and who do you turn to for help and support in your community?
3. Are you aware of any local community-led projects? If so, who's involved and what are they doing?
4. What are the challenges faced by this community?
5. What are the opportunities for this community? What gets in the way of making them happen?
6. What new ideas do you have that we can take forward from today and how?
7. Interactive activity:
 - a. Using large Ward maps to explore and identify potential low-cost wins
 - b. Where are our quick improvements?
8. Interactive activity:
 - a. Using large Ward maps to identify assets, trouble spots, redundant areas, spots for opportunities.
 - b. What do they identify as their community/neighbourhood – is it a street or area?

Findings: Windmill (Avondale Grange), 27 November 2021



Community Walk

A community walk was undertaken on Saturday 27 November. The route of the walk was informed by community leaders and local councillors who advised officers of the areas that they particularly wanted to visit whilst on the walk.

The walk was open to local residents to be a part of and a number did attend and share their views. The walk started at Crescents Community Centre and took in a range of areas including:

- A range of residential areas
- Play areas
- Shopping precincts
- Green space
- Community assets including the Green Patch

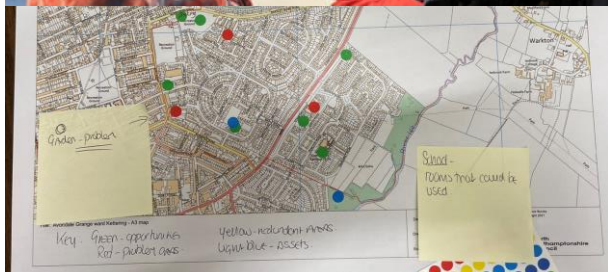
Summary from the walk

- Play equipment in the park was quite tired and would benefit from at least freshening up or replacing
- Lighting around the park is poor meaning that on shorter nights people do not use it or it becomes a place where trouble can occur
- Some CCTV cameras were identified as not working and other areas were identified where there may be benefits from having CCTV
- Local shop owners indicated that there can be nuisance behaviour such as people climbing on shop roofs or kicking balls at shutters – they felt this was

due to there not being sufficient activities or facilities available

- A stash of knives had recently been found hidden in the park
- Local residents were able to identify houses where they believed drug dealing was happening but when reported didn't feel there was action taken
- A number of owner occupied properties were in significant states of disrepair, possibly due to owners being unable to afford repairs
- There were a range of sports facilities but often they are unused, members felt that having a range of organised activities would stimulate greater use of the facilities
- A number of people highlighted poor condition of roads and paths and said they felt the area was ignored when it came to repairs. Some of the condition was felt to be as a result of utility companies not completing work to a good standard and wanted to know how the council could hold contractors to account
- There was quite a lot of green space but not always clear how young people could use it or whether things such as outside gyms or small pockets of play equipment would create opportunities for people to use the space better
- Some areas of housing were highlighted for having large amounts of rubbish dumped in the immediate area

Findings: Windmill (Avondale Grange), 27 November 2021



Workshop summary

Detailed, transcribed notes for the workshop are available in the appendices (pages 23 - 26), however some of the key points that came out included:

- There is a strong identity in the local area but a divide between Avondale and The Grange
- Pride in local schools and nursery achievements and highlighted how schools are central to local community
- People highlighted that they don't always know what is available or what is going on
- Reaching out to the community rather than expecting people to come to council buildings is an opportunity
- Keen to engage with younger people to find out what they want for their area but need to find better ways of doing this
- Felt that statutory organisations communicate in ways that don't necessarily work with the community
- The Green Patch was highlighted on a number of tables as a great community asset
- High prevalence of English as a second language and therefore more support needed to overcome this as a barrier
- Accessing healthcare (GP and referrals onwards) felt to be a challenge
- Not enough pre-school opportunities and a number of children starting school whilst not being school ready
- A number of challenges identified including knife crime and gangs, domestic violence drug related issues, poverty including fuel poverty and exclusions

- A number of people felt there wasn't necessarily the response to crimes expected unless there was an immediate threat to life
- There were a lot of excellent ideas for opportunities (p.26 – table 5), it is important not to lose these ideas and find ways to facilitate them
- Need to work in partnership with residents and organise events together to address some of the quick improvements identified

Recommendations

1. Create a family hub to deliver services within the community
2. Community safety partnerships & their proactive approaches to addressing drug dealing become a priority on the scrutiny agenda
3. Ask schools to open up facilities to community groups
4. Influence more free ESOL classes in this area
5. Develop "school ready" programmes
6. Make organisational, digital resources available to use for people that do not have their own devices
7. Arrange events for community to get to know services
8. Find better ways to utilise knowledge of what local people want
9. Improve communal areas between flat blocks
10. Improve play equipment and engage our youth on what they want
11. Improve lighting around parks

Findings: Kingswood and Hazel Leys, 04 December 2021



Community Walk

A community walk was undertaken on Saturday 04 December 2021. The route of the walk was informed by community leaders and local councillors who advised officers of the areas that they particularly wanted to visit whilst on the walk.

The walk was open to local residents to be a part of and a number did attend and share their views. The walk started at Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre and took in a range of areas including:

- A range of residential areas
- Play areas
- Shopping precincts
- Green space

Summary from the walk

- Kingswood and Hazel Leys are quite different with the type and layout of housing
- There were a number of damaged garages that were considered by members to be dangerous and a risk. A number are in private ownership. A lot are not being used properly and it was felt that demolishing blocks of garages to either create more parking spaces might reduce the parking on verges
- Houses of Multiple Occupancy were identified as a key issue by local councillors both in volume but also with trouble that local residents felt was as a result of the HMOs
- Street lighting on unadopted roads was seen as an

- issue of safety preventing people feeling comfortable going out in darker hours
- Similar challenges around lighting surrounding community centres and outdoor play areas where lighting had been switched off were identified and a number of incidents of antisocial behaviour or drug use in those areas were highlighted as consequences
- People highlighted poor condition of roads and paths and said they felt the area was ignored when it came to repairs.
- There were a number of properties where doors had been damaged but it was felt the response to make them safe was not quick enough
- Throughout Kingswood and Hazel Leys there was lots of green space including within housing areas, but not much for young people to do on them
- There were two examples of where collaborations with social landlords and private developers had enabled parts of the estates to be rebuilt and residents would want to see more initiatives to re-develop housing stock, however some housing in those areas are privately owned
- Recent examples of a new pump track to enable more engaging spaces for people to ride bikes, scooters and skate were highlighted as positive additions to the area
- There were a number of buildings pointed out as being unused that might have community value or uses but would need investment to enable them to be used as such

Findings: Kingswood and Hazel Leys, 04 December 2021

Workshop summary

Detailed, transcribed notes for the workshop are available in the appendices (pages 27 - 30), however some of the key points that came out included:

- Despite the challenges faced in the area there is strong community spirit
- There were a range of things seen as community assets including; community centres; basketball court; childrens centre; churches; green space; Community shed; boxing club
- There are 6 “friends of” groups active in the area and street pastors and some youth work making a difference
- There was a desire for the community to run things for the community
- There was an element of distrust of statutory organisations so trust needs to be built
- HMOs were often mentioned as being an issue but it was unclear what respective roles planning and private sector landlords have in this area
- Some facilities (indoor and outdoor) need investment to make more of them
- Lack of high quality CCTV as a deterrent
- There is space to do more e.g. outdoor gyms, community allotments, arts projects to celebrate the area and history – need to be low cost/nil cost
- More visible and proactive policing, on foot, rather than reactive and in cars
- Problem areas could utilise e.g. anti-climb paint to reduce ASB
- Drug use in poorly lit areas

- Kingswood community is split between Lincoln Way and Olympic Way – how can community be supported to come together?
- Some derelict land in the area – not clear who owns or what the plans are

Recommendations

1. Lighting – unadopted roads & community centres
2. Greater clarity on HMOs and how they are dealt with
3. Deal with overhanging trees and bushes that grow out on to paths
4. Consider future housing redevelopments similar to Olympic Way (e.g. Culross Walk)
5. Investment in youth work and outreach should be considered to ensure the hardest to reach people get support
6. Empower communities to become proactive partners in designing solutions to solve local challenges
7. There are lots of green areas but little to do – consider developing a plan to invest in those areas – engaging young people in what they want
8. Consider how to influence more visible and positive policing in the area
9. Examples of success, such as boxing club & community cafe, require acknowledgement and support
10. Develop stakeholder plans to support communication between statutory organisations and the community

Findings: Queensway and Brickhill, 11 December 2021

Community Walk

A community walk was undertaken on Saturday 11 December 2021. The route of the walk was informed by community leaders and local councillors who advised officers of the areas that they particularly wanted to visit whilst on the walk.

The walk was open to local residents to be a part of and a number did attend and share their views. The walk started at St Marks Church, Queensway and took in a range of areas including:

- A range of residential areas
- Play areas
- Shopping precincts
- Green space

Summary from the walk

- There was a lot of green space in the areas we walked around but similar to the two other wards visited there were limited activities for people to do
- There is a network of underpasses where people don't always feel safe, members felt either adding murals or infilling where appropriate may be more beneficial
- It is reported that there used to be a bike track that local teenagers and children could use appropriately for off road motorcycles, there are initial discussions underway, working with Wellingborough prison to explore a similar initiative again where education and skills development would form part of the offer (pic 2 left)

- We visited Glamis hall and there was a pre Christmas event on – people spoke highly of the facility
- There were areas where it was necessary to step out in to the road to get around overgrown bushes in a residential garden, possibly owner occupied
- The layout of the estate can lead to difficulties preventing crime
- Whilst on the walk people explained areas where gangs congregate
- Schools were identified as being a resource that could be more accessible to communities with appropriate safeguards in place
- There were a number of roads where the condition of the surface was poor, some of these appeared to be related to patches where utility work had been undertaken (pic 3 left)
- There was evidence of fly tipping and residents wanted to see more enforcement in this area
- Colleagues from Greatwell Homes were also in attendance and there were some disused spaces where it would be necessary to clarify ownership but with a little bit of will and hard work could create usable space for e.g. teenagers to meet – see pic 1 left

" Recognition should be given to the residents and volunteers who showed passion in our debates and commitment to their community"



Findings: Queensway and Brickhill, 11 December 2021



Workshop

This was the final community workshop held and was well-attended. Detailed, transcribed notes for the workshop are available in the appendices (pages 31 - 33), however some of the key points that came out included:

- There are a lot of community projects already supporting communities in the area including Made with Many, Off the Streets, WACA and Greatwell Homes approach to outreach as a large supplier of social housing in the area
- A number of comments were made about people not knowing how to make a difference or feeling empowered to do so
- Lack of accessible training in the local area was discussed
- Poverty including food and fuel were identified as two of the main issues
- There were some comments made that decisions are made about things in the area but without ever spending time there
- School exclusions were highlighted as being a point of concern although there was a lack of clarity in the workshop about the volume and how that compared (benchmarking)
- Aspirations were reported as being low and it was felt important to find ways of making people in this community feel valued but also having hope for their future
- At times this community feels “on its own”, and finding different ways of engaging with and working with the community should be a priority

Recommendations

1. Develop a plan to improve underpasses (lighting/CCTV)
2. There is a lot of green space but not much to do – the council could develop a strategy to use this space (e.g outside gym equipment)
3. Whilst being progressed by community leaders it would be helpful to understand the council’s role in addressing the challenges in achieving community initiatives such as the dirt-bike track
4. Work with schools to get better visibility on the level of exclusions and the work being done to support people to remain in school
5. Community safety partnerships & their proactive approaches to addressing drug dealing & knife crime become a priority on the scrutiny agenda
6. Developing a local plan with housing partners to deal with housing conditions & immediate surroundings
7. Creating forums to work with organisations on issues that are relevant to the community
8. Work with supermarkets and shops to have bleed kits available from their premises – reduce stigma
9. Assist community groups & well-meaning people to develop the skills to apply for money or grants to make improvements themselves
10. Highlight the work, and support the existing youth clubs and groups to promote and improve their offers

Themed meeting 1: Anti-social behaviour & knife crime - 11 January 2022

Members of the meeting were invited to debate key lines of enquiry relating to Anti-Social Behaviour and Knife Crime.

Key Lines Of Enquiry

- Members request Information on the third sector/charities that are involved in 'Left Behind Areas' as the third sector have been affected by the cuts during austerity years and this has had a knock-on effect on the services they are able to deliver
- Emphasis be on drugs crime and usage in particular, as well as knife crime and anti-social behaviour. From what we have seen it is linked, for example, with [graffiti] tagging etc. (As in a lot of areas)
- What's the demographic of the people convicted of crimes, how many are repeat offenders
- Is there anything that we can learn from 'Off the Street - North Northants Community against knife crime' initiatives and anything that can be implemented in the areas we are looking at?
- What age group is involved in ASB. Is it the same as those expelled from school who are involved in anti-social behaviour & knife crime? What initiatives can/are supporting with this? (Please bear in mind the next meeting is focused on school exclusions, training, and skills)
- Should we consider that, school expulsions & lack of youth services have left young people, vulnerable, without a 'safe space' or potentially a positive role model? Whose responsibility is it to protect children who have been expelled?

During the discussion members of the meeting raised several recommendations that were to be included as part of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review's report to the Scrutiny Commission.

Following discussion it was recommended that:

1. Multi Agency communications be enhanced in order to maximise the effectiveness of partner organisations in ensuring the Levelling Up Agenda
2. A representative from North Northamptonshire Council be invited onto the Northamptonshire Police Stop & Search Panel
3. Street Lighting in Communities identified within the Levelling Up agenda be investigated and where possible work carried out as required
4. The group look to utilise existing groups, boards and joint meetings with partner organisations/agencies in order to maximise the levelling up agenda.
5. National and Local funding be researched and utilised where possible in order to enhance the Levelling Up communities
6. Consider how the council could work with office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner, and local organisations that are currently delivering excellent initiatives such as East Midlands Knife Amnesty and Off the Streets regarding more significant rollout of bleed kits and training in how to use them.
7. It was difficult to understand underlying reasons for ASB and more work would be beneficial to understand this

Themed meeting 2: Education, Exclusion, Skills & Employment - 26 January 2022

Members of the meeting were invited to debate key lines of enquiry relating to Education, Exclusion, Skills & Employment

Key Lines Of Enquiry

1. How do we work with schools to minimise exclusions in our 'left behind' communities?
2. Who is responsible for young people who have been excluded from school? Who is responsible for finding them an alternative, and who is responsible for them and their actions when they are wandering the streets?
3. Is there a correlation between the number of people expelled from school and young people who will end up at the Youth Offending Service? How can we track the outcome for young people who are expelled from school?
4. Where exclusions are used, are there alternatives to young people staying at home where they may get more vocational experiences?
5. How can we work with higher education, DWP to support people from the levelling up communities to identify job roles that have both learning and promotional potential.
6. What role can volunteering or being part of community initiatives play in supporting young people to have pride in their local community and learn skills? What projects or ideas do we have to trial this concept?
7. How can organisations like the police, councils, NHS and fire lead the way in creating opportunities for people within the levelling up area.
8. Creating hope and aspiration is paramount at young ages to supporting people to know that there are opportunities for them to thrive. How can we work with pre-school, primary and secondary ages to build this into the way we work with our young people.

During the discussion members of the meeting raised several recommendations that were to be included as part of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review's report to the Scrutiny Commission.

1. Organised youth support has been missing or under-resourced. Consider how to encourage or create youth hubs within levelling up areas, may require subsidy/sponsorship
2. Consider how Job fairs could be delivered from local buildings in areas that have high unemployment
3. Consider how to develop a careers hub(s) in North Northamptonshire, opportunity to bring together schools, heads and employers together
4. There was an inconsistency of understanding of thresholds for school exclusions and how prevalent they are – need to consider how to better data to enable people to understand true extent of the problem
5. Learn from Recovery through Enterprise Unit (Rushden Lakes), can this model be replicated in left behind areas?
6. Need to consider how match funding e.g. Enterprise Coordinator at Tresham could enable much greater outreach
7. Make better utilisation of the Department for Work and Pensions Schools Advisor to engage local schools including in relation to Looked After Children not currently in education, employment and training and people with Special Educational Needs
8. The local authority could consider how it leads the way, creating more vocational opportunities for excluded students to undertake vocational activities/work experience during the period of exclusion – giving more purpose and opportunity if excluded

Activity	Nature of support/impact
Recovery through Enterprise Unit (Based within Rushden Lakes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CV Writing/ Interview skills, PT/FT job search, both at Rushden lakes and the whole of NN area. Kick start programme x 2 young people Business support for new starters and existing businesses. Support locals with Health & Wellbeing, direct to the best support officer both for employed and unemployed. Volunteering support Craft Fairs Adult learning and apprenticeship programmes.
Job Fairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Jobs Fairs in 2021 replicated variously later in the year at other locations in North Northants. Typically, 40 attendees for each Webinar. Generic (face to face) Job fairs hosted and located at Wellingborough Job Centre (training / upskills, automotive careers)
Activities enabled by NNC and supported through successful funding bids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Skills Programme (NNC) - targeted construction and job readiness related training, with support for job search activities resulting in 19 jobs (countywide) in 2021. Community Renewal Funding secured to deliver training to additional 50 people in 2022, focus on Sustainable Construction In2Work (Hills bridge Ltd) secured funding through the Community Renewal Fund to deliver training for rail sector / HS2, including L1&2 for 240 people The Skills Mill, funded through the Community Renewal Fund - employment opportunities in water and land-based management. Training and support is delivered to ex-offenders. Participants undertake accredited training and achieve a nationally recognised qualification
Inward Investment Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme of Job recruitment and Skills interventions (including secondary schools and Tresham College) for new facilities at Junction 10 of A14. (Intensive programme delivered by JCP and Fast Track Jobs Match – NCC). In house training opportunities and Programmes by Ball Corp.
SEMLEP Careers and Enterprise Company Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Northamptonshire Cornerstone Employer Group. Promotion of Pathways into Employment; image enhancement and sector myth busting (i.e., Logistics); reveal hidden occupations and further develop diversity and inclusivity). Enterprise Advisors allocated to Schools; 'live' labour market information available, access to live and recorded broadcasts and resource library Opportunity: Careers Hub - North Northamptonshire Headteachers meeting for commitment to a Programme bringing heads and employers together Opportunity: Match funded Enterprise Co-ordinator within Tresham College outreach to support activity.
Kettering Training Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service provides 16-18 year olds with a study programme to gain employability skills and work experience placement, along with Maths and English (Key Skills)
DWP and NNC Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWP and NNC undertake both strategic meetings on a monthly cycle to monitor existing programmes and provisions and identify new opportunities GOV Plan for Jobs: Kickstart Scheme; Traineeships; Skills Toolkit (free online learning); Skills Bootcamps; Job Entry Targeted Support Scheme; Restart Scheme; Work Coach support; Apprenticeships DWP and NNC engaging with new (or existing) employers who are looking to recruit. E.g the Ball Corporation Scheme where the Council and JCP are work in partnership with businesses to develop recruitment opportunities & skills programmes for residents in North Northants living in disadvantaged areas Opportunity: DWP Schools Advisor (Northants area): NNC to engage Local Authority schools for NEETS/SEND Schools/ 2x NHS Schools within the area. Opportunity: JCP to work with NNC to create Youth Hubs in the Levelling up wards in NN. Jobfairs and related activity could be delivered from local centres where organisations such as the Council, Police, NHS and Fire Service could engage, especially through a 'Mentoring Circles' approach.

Themed meeting 3: Opportunities of future Funding: 08 March 2022

Members of the meeting received a presentation covering:

- UK Levelling Up Fund – background and progress
- Launch of UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Members were then invited to debate the following key lines of enquiry relating to the impact of the environment on our communities:

1. How can improvements in physical infrastructure benefit local communities?
2. How can we measure these benefits?
3. What are the types of improvements you would like to see, both in terms of major-scale infrastructure e.g. via the UK Levelling Up Fund, or at a smaller scale, in the NNC area? – general or specific
4. How can NNC support local communities develop ideas for their area?

During the discussion members of the meeting raised several recommendations that were to be included as part of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review's report to the Scrutiny Commission.

- It is not always clear how improvements in infrastructure at a North Northamptonshire footprint will benefit local communities, especially those left behind communities, is not always clear. Officers could explore how impact assessments or outline business cases could be more explicit of any anticipated benefit for left behind communities
- Where improvements in infrastructure are made we should understand a baseline of KPIs and put in place a means to measure the impact or trends as a result of the changes made
- A number of ideas were shared during the meeting, however one area that smaller groups struggle with are bid writing skills – connect community groups to infrastructure organisations or mentoring from businesses, chamber of commerce so ideas can be worked up to a level whereby they can seriously be considered as part of a funding bid
- Many of the assets identified in the original **Left Behind? Communities on the edge (2019)** report are absent from left behind communities. The council could engage with those communities on potential community asset transfers that may offer alternative assets to replace those that have disappeared from the area, (communities need the assets to be in good condition to take on). Building refurbishment costs into future bids would help
- The scrutiny review group recognised that there are lots of different ways that groups could raise funding including sponsorship/partnerships with businesses, applying for grants and crowd funding. A dedicated platform that sets out options or creates a space for crowd funding initiatives could be explored as part of the North Northamptonshire approach
- Larger projects to improve housing could be considered, such as previous examples, whereby whole areas of estates are replaced where there are high numbers of voids. Early work on this would mean sufficiently developed business cases are ready in the event of further funding opportunities.

Themed meeting 4 – Impact of the environment on our communities

Members were then invited to debate the following key lines of enquiry relating to the impact of the environment on our communities:

1. We realise there is a need for HMO's, however, there seems to be a high amount of HMOs in left-behind areas. What consequences has this had on the environment? I.e. The green environment air quality, limited car parking spaces, access to services, health of residents, and impact on neighbours?
2. During our community walkabout one resident pointed out to us, that in some places they are living in darkness. How does this impact how people feel? Whose responsibility is this & what solutions do we have?
3. During our community walkabouts our residents explained to us how they feel 'left-behind' by our repairs systems, and how some can often find it hard to make a house a home because of the living conditions. Whose responsibility is it to support them past this & what solutions do we have?
4. Residents in our left-behind areas talk passionately about access to outdoor facilities such as safe walking places, children's parks & areas suitable for those older young people. What does this look like and who can be consulted to put this together? How do we manage this i.e. finding funds or building relationships?

During the discussion members of the meeting raised several recommendations that were to be included as part of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review's report to the Scrutiny Commission.

- Feedback to MPs re limitations of laws and regulations for houses of multiple occupancy (HMO), investigate relevant data and explore any further actions the council could take
- Investigation into the most efficient street lighting options especially for those Left Behind Communities (Solar Powered or Motion Activated)
- Explore viability for community access to One stop repair services
- Community message board or central directory for both members and members of the community/public with access to relevant funding opportunities and relevant community projects that may improve the environment
- Comparison between Lettable standards and living standards to be presented to the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review Group
- Consider ways to hold regular meetings with Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to engage regarding funding opportunities for Left Behind Areas.
- Seek business contacts to attain sponsorship for new and ongoing projects in left behind areas. support for social enterprises and charities
- Amalgamate information regarding local youth groups in left behind areas in order to enable all partners to engage with younger people in left behind areas
- Seek and identify local community groups in order to bid into support for community allotments
- Seek and identify local parcels of land that could be made available for use by community use
- Use existing forums such as Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny (through the Scrutiny Commission) to explore the ratio of medical practices to residents and whether this is more of a risk in left behind communities

Key lessons learned

"As one of North Northamptonshire Council's first scrutiny reviews, there are opportunities to learn from the experience to shape future scrutiny reviews"

What didn't work so well

1. We had hoped to have better engagement with younger people, but found this difficult to achieve
2. The impact of other events such as the Covid-19 pandemic, Afghan Resettlement and response to the war in Ukraine meant that resources supporting the scrutiny review had to be re-deployed to support those agendas
3. It wasn't possible to replicate the formula used in the report as the respective weightings for different elements are not published publicly
4. As a new authority there wasn't an established blueprint for this type of scrutiny review and this resulted in some scope creep and timescale slippage
5. Some confusion and disagreement around the differences between the local "Levelling up Scrutiny Review and the launch of the National Levelling up fund
6. We weren't able to replicate the data used in the original national reports

What worked well

1. Members found visiting the areas helpful to get a full understanding that either words or pictures may not have fully portrayed
2. Using a combination of approaches including inviting members of the public to contribute to meetings is a good step towards co-produced and co-designed solutions where residents are equal partners
3. Productive cross-party working for the benefit of our communities
4. Good working relationships between officers and elected members to achieve the aims set out

Our Priority Recommendations

Each area workshop and themed meeting had a number of recommendations and those should be read in conjunction with these priority recommendations.

The Scrutiny Review Working Group recognised that there are a large number of recommendations across all the work undertaken, and that it was not possible to deliver all immediately.

As a result the working group have prioritised a smaller number of Immediate, Medium-term, and Longer-term priority actions that could form the basis of an initial levelling up plan for consideration by the Executive and Council if endorsed by Scrutiny Commission to take forward and propose.



Immediate recommendations

1. Communications and information sharing were highlighted as weaknesses at times and the council should engage with communities around the preferred ways that key information can be shared
2. There are opportunities to work closer with local businesses on community projects and issues and setting up a forum or networking event with key business to explore this could be achieved quickly
3. Consider how to improve street scene in left behind areas both through council services but also community partnership approaches including fund raising
4. Consider how to support and raise funds for additional bleed kit boxes in priority areas across North Northamptonshire

Medium-term recommendations

1. The council should consider how to work with partners to produce guidance to enable small, medium & large organisations to develop ideas sufficiently to be ready to be included in bids when funding is available
2. The council could explore procuring a crowd funding platform to enable organisations to leverage other funding, sponsorship and support to get behind projects they wish to progress
3. Youth work was seen as a priority & the scrutiny review group recommend that a cost-benefit exercise could be undertaken to determine return on investment of strategically investing in local youth work
4. All partners should work together to review and update the current strategies and approaches to address county lines, drug dealing and knife crime

Longer Term recommendations

1. The council will benefit from working closely with partners and communities to develop a community hub strategy that focuses on the needs of those communities rather than a one size fits all approach
2. Poor quality of housing was identified across the wards where this work was undertaken and a strategy that considers larger scale ambitious regeneration of some of these estates could be considered
3. Consider a longer term approach to monitor and update on outcomes and successes specifically related to this agenda in ways that engage our communities
4. Consider how to develop a strategy to improve street lighting and CCTV and how this could be piloted in Levelling up communities on the theme of "Safer Streets"

Appendices to the main report

- Transcribed notes: Windmill (Avondale Grange), Kettering
- Transcribed notes: Kingswood and Hazel Leys, Corby
- Transcribed notes: Queensway and Brickhill, Wellingborough



Levelling Up in North Northamptonshire

Levelling up Scrutiny Review Working Group

Transcribed notes: Windmill (Avondale Grange), Kettering

**Table 1 What is good about living here?
How do you instil a sense of belonging?**

- Seems isolated
- Issues with transport links
- Identify mental health issues
- Knowing where to go for help/what is available
- Locals providing information
- Directory for local services (in multiple languages)
- How locals identify their area
- Residents Associations, demographics
- Making sure people feel safe
- Intergeneration activities
- Learning to use technology for older people
- KBA a very good school primary and secondary
- The Grange School – both receiving awards
- Both schools committed to community work
- Need people running sports clubs/lots of facilities – funding, getting children involved young, the Green Patch brings people together/very popular, Resource Centre – food parcels/help with food poverty
- Enabling people to travel, if they don't have cars
- Divide between Avondale and the

Grange

- Accessible to the town centre – good for employment
- Soup kitchens
- Avondale chippy/Mexican Fire Garden – great food
- Pride in the estate
- Good neighbours, people introduce themselves
- Community spirit hasn't quite been as strong but covid brought people out
- Good bus service and travel, good green areas/play parks, fabulous schools/nursery involved in the community, schools working with parents, nursery inclusive of SEN
- Failing ENT service leads to behavioural problems
- Poor health outcomes
- Paediatric support insufficient
- Clean up the shops – more community pride
- Messaging on the area – how it affects kids
- Hyper local sense of belonging – resentment, separation between Grange and Avondale
- Better understanding of local geography
- Good facilities – Green Patch/schools, how localised use is, over-subscribed services
- Local shops and relationships/

postmen etc

- Opportunities to meet neighbours, dog walking
- Key people in the neighbourhood
- People like community champions and enabling them
- Informal community leaders – identifying them, offering help, being specific about what can be offered

Table 2 What are the community networks and who do you turn to for help and support in your community?

- Grange School leafleted every house at start of lockdown and offered support and food
- Grange Resource Centre at Grange shops – only open 2 mornings a week
- Food Shack project opposite post office, Lower Street, clothes, children's equipment and food
- Churches, St Marys, St John the Evangelist, Green Patch
- Schools in the area, school teachers doing social work, families connected to school go to school for help
- GPs key community resource, people go there for everything
- Hospital
- KBA organised clubs and groups for young people in evenings, community groups use the school for classes and

clubs in the community

- Health and wellbeing hub in town centre
- Nurseries
- What are people's aspirations on this estate?
- Where would you go to find out where to go?
- HWM help create community network that can help and make a difference to young people
- The way to change lives is to break the circle
- Not much in terms of community support here
- HMW connect? How can people find out about what support is out there?
- Divide between Avondale and Grange (except accessing services such as schools, shops)
- Opportunity – can we go out to community spaces to offer services rather than ask people to go to cold council buildings?
- Look of the Grange not very good which impacts people's thoughts about the area
- Need somewhere to get health support, health concerns struggling to get help for diagnoses
- Communication – bear in mind not everyone can read
- What the council thinks is a

Transcribed notes: Windmill (Avondale Grange), Kettering

- What the council thinks is a community and where the actual communities are is different
- Perhaps not enough positive influences to turn to
- People don't do on each other when they are doing wrong things
- We have examples where children are challenging their parent's behaviours
- It's about aspirations
- Opportunity – we could utilise resources at KBA to create some sort of event to find out the views of young people
- Internet poverty in this area
- Problem is county lines and drugs (especially if they don't have secure background)
- Community network has got to come from the community itself
- Feeling safe in the area they know
- We need to work with young people in this area
- Plain language when dealing with people/council is so important
- Cadets and youth facilities at KBA giving kids stuff to do in the area
- KBA primary takes 60 children from very local area
- Way KBA works with community was recognised for the support it provides community in pandemic
- There is absolute poverty in this

estate

- General literacy is low in the area
- Go where people are
- Opportunity – how might we make the most of KBA facilities for community initiatives and resources for young people e.g. gym, pitches etc
- We need to ? out why (the divide)
- The way officers and public servants communicate to residents, plain English needed
- There are things that go on – but people don't know about
- It's got to be community led – it's not top down

Table 3 Are you aware of any local community-led projects? If so, who's involved and what are they doing?

- Football clubs, Weekley Glebe Road, children's teams visit/play from neighbouring towns, other football pitches bottom on Weekley Glebe Road (under 25s, teens)
- Green Patch – after school/holiday clubs, volunteer groups, wellbeing walk, wellbeing/mental health
- Crescents Community Centre – bingo on Tuesdays, meals 5 times a year, cinema nights
- Army Cadets, Buccleuch at the moment (CCF)

- Stamford Road, start of Kettering Carnival route
- Resource Centre – Grange shops, refreshments
- Green Patch - community gardens, feeding animals, two days a week for general public
- Needed: Adult Education Centre/classes in Kettering, local accessible, IT resources/internet access, craft courses, interests, housing – DIY, first aid
- Access to healthcare
- Restrictions accessing GP
- IT classes
- Permanent leases for organisations
- Empowering individuals to talk to services
- Communication/access to statutory agencies (phone)
- Providers should explore venues/make links/communicate
- Green Patch – fantastic facility, not much public access/sessions, is it open at the nights, do they monitor record usage, where do people come from to use it (local?), fruit/veg/egg boxes, order online, do local people know about it? Education/healthy eating, can people physically access it? Lighting - very dark, what is the reach of their communication? Leaflets? Green Patch at risk due to road/new

build?

- Crescents Community – off limits to certain political parties for surgeries etc?
- KBA United Learning Academy group – sports facilities available for hire/public use, do local people know about it? Site is supervised first aid/facilities
- Schools/facilities could host
- SureStart were amazing
- Are there any groups for SEN
- Needed: capturing people early, early diagnosis/provision, lack of leisure facilities for SEND due to lack of expertise/training
- Grange School has space for wellbeing/health services
- Activities must be accessible, language (English as a second language), e.g Easter egg hunt, should be the norm, consult

Table 4 What are the challenges faced by this community?

- Challenge – English as a second language, 25% in school up to 20 other languages
- Children starting school without social/communication skills, made worse due to covid, lack of pre-school opportunities

Transcribed notes: Windmill (Avondale Grange), Kettering

- Challenges faced by children – domestic violence
 - County Lines – Central Parade, Naseby Road
 - Knife crime – anti social behaviour/gangs, covid face coverings used to conceal identity
 - Human resource – volunteers, youth leaders, trained professionals (good model, Green Patch)
 - Health inequalities
 - Poverty
 - Access to digital resources – skills to use, opening up resources, becoming accessible
 - Adult education
 - Low Funding for Ronald Tree nursery (per pupil, lowest in county for county nurseries), don't qualify for charitable funding
 - Fuel poverty
 - Ageing housing stock – renovations needed, residents living with mould etc
 - Drug/knife crime, communities feel unsafe
 - Exclusion – SEND children whose needs haven't been met, undiagnosed conditions – needed youth workers/provision
 - Unsupervised children, gone under the radar
 - Nuisance crime/vandalism,
- discourages traders and businesses, community feel unsafe
- Poverty, fuel costs
 - Poor housing, lack of suitable social housing, poor quality private sector housing/poor landlords
 - Ageing housing stock, boilers used are old, spare parts are readily available, housing repairs take a long time
 - Access to health care, children with hearing problems, glue ear (untreated)
 - Needed – resources for schools to support children with English as a second language, IT solutions
 - Crime/anti-social, lack of police support, lack of enforcement, lack of reaction if not threat to life
 - Low expectations for the area, not worth making repairs, lack of investment, lowers self esteem
 - Design of resources (play), not able to be broken/damaged, should be fit for purpose
- Table 5 What are the opportunities for this community? What gets in the way of making them happen?**
- Lego therapy sessions
 - Art and creativity sessions
 - Under used resources – community spaces
 - Therapy bus – taster sessions for various natural therapies
 - Women's groups and mothers groups
 - Repair café
 - Outdoor table tennis
 - Sport/couch to 5k, how has park run been so successful, how might we learn from this?
 - Dance groups
 - Youth clubs (plus engaging with youths to find out what they want/need)
 - Men's Shed groups, connecting males (not pubs)
 - Have a look at how the men's shed project is going in Hazel Leys in Corby
 - Connecting people who don't know others – how?
 - Capacity building in the community
 - Don't expect people to come to use for services – how do we go to here they are
 - How might we build trust in community
 - Transport e.g. can't get to community group as lack of transport
 - Physical space –
 - Flat by the Grange Resource Centre gets flooded when the drains block
 - Blocks of flats Dorothy Road space between blocks is depressing
 - Identify areas where people feel unsafe and work with them to help
 - Work with students at Tresham to work with community to improve the area
 - Opportunity – work experience for students at Tresham
 - DIY SOS pitching ideas for community resources or ideas for how to use a space
 - Tennis courts need improving in North Park, tennis lessons
 - Intergenerational opportunities
 - Better housing, houses for the future, poor standard of housing
 - Charlottes Drive Park, little children's park needs to be enclosed and needs facelift
 - Parks, exercise equipment on North Park
 - Valley Walk needs seating, on other parks as well
 - Raising aspirations of young people, how?
 - How might we get people to engage in the community? Only 23% turnout in last election
 - More for young people
 - Community led publication 'for locals' expand area to Grange Avondale, not delivered it at present as person scared to walk around
 - ESOL/literacy help/speech and language classes
 - Establish ourselves as a community

Transcribed notes: Windmill (Avondale Grange), Kettering

- For locals delivery, help to join the community, communication network
- Apathy
- Finances
- Don't be put off by people not coming for 3 weeks, it takes time for people to engage
- Internet access
- Childcare
- Advertising things (especially for non literacy)
- People to run things – things to be run by the community

Table 6 What new ideas do you have we can take forward from today and how?

- Networking opportunities and working together
- Making sure we listen to residents
- Council lanyards can be a put off
- Useful to use informal support
- Showing residents that we genuinely care
- Helping other areas too
- Market stall – communicating to residents
- Local events to talk to people/utilise parks
- Move finishing place of carnival to include other areas
- Man Shed – opportunities for people to meet, fix bikes, woodwork/electrics etc
- Directory of local services/keeping it updated

- People intimidated by council buildings – offices speaking to people in community centres
- List of places available for community use, making these easy to book and accessible, job markets in community centres
- Making sure staff are friendly
- Youth leaders – aspirational, young adults
- Community communication, register of available places to book
- Small community repair shops, bikes and scooters for kids
- Equality between kids and adults, council officers meeting young people
- Communication between council and residents
- Treat children as customers, positive language towards children, dealing with boredom
- Find ways to get residents involved, engaging the executive of the council, ideas may be costly, engaging with minority ethnic communities
- Remember we're here to improve lives not improve statistics
- How drawing of boundaries in wards affect peoples and indices

Table 7 Using large Ward maps to explore and identify potential low-cost wins. Where are our quick improvements?

- Judith Road shops spruce up, signs,

tidying up

- Anti-climb paint, shops/garages
- Letter to residents from levelling up committee – what's on in the area, opportunities, what do people aspire to/want to do, what are the barriers stopping YOU volunteering
- Reuse/recycle – support Green Patch to extend to Men Shed project
- (Hsg land)
- Church on Stamford Road – can we demolish/secure the site
- Lobelia Road garages – lighting/CCTV
- Funding for/resources for speech and Language support – nursery school
- Litter bins outside schools, Almond Road near bus stop
- Well-being walk
- Clean shopping centre
- Digital access – could be low cost if subsidised/work with provider, Facebook group, mums group, online support
- Update noticeboards, all areas, need to update phone numbers e.g. Louisa Drive play area
- Communal areas between flats, tidy gardens, Dahlia Road steps, Judith Road flats – steps, get residents involved
- Traders, jet washing the shopping area
- Improve landscaping/NNC owned facilities
- Remove fly tipping quickly

Table 8 Using large Ward maps to identify assets, trouble spots, redundant areas, spots for opportunities. What do they identify as their community/neighbourhood – is it a street or area?

- Seen as two communities – Avondale, Grange
- Encourage linking together – cohesion – between each estate first
- Small links through school, nursery, bingo
- Using the Crescents Community Centre
- Grange Primary school council to engage with year 5 and 6
- Resource Centre Grange active – opportunity to open Saturday?
- Catholic Church to housing – community hub, pocket park
- Poor street lighting
- 23% EL contingency in school (Grange Primary) to Grange only community groups
- NYC funding
- St Mary's Anglican
- Grange feels more of a community than Avondale

Transcribed notes: Kingswood and Hazel Leys, Corby

**Table 1 What is good about living here?
How do you instil a sense of belonging?**

- Boxing Club in area
- Green area and trees
- Community centres and lots of activities
- Basketball courts (need refurb and lighting)
- Outdoor gyms
- Day time transport
- Good community spirit
- Lots of community engagement
- Volunteers offering time
- Special needs asset volunteer
- Good schools – primary good
- Children centre – outstanding
- Faith groups in area
- Active church in Kingswood through covid
- Outreach workers
- Community centre management is proactive
- Police positive in area
- Close to centre and activities
- Sense of community - community comes together
- Same goals
- Gets unfair criticism
- Works to help each other
- People work hard
- Fantastic primary schools
- Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre

- visited by Prince Edward
- Greenspace and good parks
- Skateparks and play areas to improve and build on
- Youth club – Thursdays – different age groups
- Indoor bowls club
- Generations know each other but fragile as disengage
- Volunteers/effort in community events
- Internet in café (within neighbourhood centre) on Kingswood
- Drop in at Autumn Centre - Exeter Estate
- Team support
- Well-used and loved facilities
- Local ownership
- Community spirit
- Look out for each other
- Grass and green space
- Schools good, with community feel
- Good school staff – relatable
- Location – near shops and facilities, don't need a car
- Empty units have opportunities
- Strong sense of identity
- Kingswood Youth Club
- Some family housing (2, 3, 4 bed)
- New housing
- Work together/strong community
- KHL projects
- Community Shed opening,

- woodwork, creative projects, joint project
- public health £ KHLE
- Volunteers projects
- GP surgery
- Walking group – Kingswood
- Management of the woodland area
- Community ownership
- 6 Friends of Groups
- CAB operating in area
- Opportunities for funding, bid for refurb BMX area
- Green spaces – opportunity
- 2 community centres (need to re-establish groups after covid)
- Corby Heritage Trail
- Cycleways link to town
- Close to town and facilities
- School on doorstep
- Good partnership working
- For locals delivery, help to join the community, communication network
- Apathy
- Finances
- Don't be put off by people not coming for 3 weeks, it takes time for people to engage
- Internet access
- Childcare
- Advertising things (especially for non literacy)
- People to run things – things to be run by the community

Table 2 What are the community networks and who do you turn to for help and support in your community?

- Hazel Leys councillors, no others or at least not known
- Local surgery – but difficult to get into
- Unitary transformation has disrupted links, Childrens Centre only for contact, no drop ins
- Food banks from Kingswood Centre during covid
- Residents may not be aware of what is available, more advertising
- Communication problems with residents, need to ensure resources are shared between Kingswood and Hazel Leys
- Need a community café for residents to talk, providing grants
- No youth service in Hazel Leys, youth clubs, focus on green areas
- Estate Facebook page, community centre page, mas? At primary school
- Trying to engage with different communities, eastern European community, housing areas fenced off
- Hazel Leys seems more linked dur to urban planning, build to accommodate steelworks
- Lots available to the estate via the community centre, free sports project, long term sustainability – grants etc,

Transcribed notes: Kingswood and Hazel Leys, Corby

- Police like the idea of neighbourhood policing but have not constraints
- Change in policing methodology, residents left unhappy
- Visibility for police – keeps being mentioned
- Corby street pastors – help people get home
- Homeless shelter, night light, work very well with police
- Corby food bank, volunteers very helpful, help many people
- Better links between schools and council
- Citizens advice in the cube
- Mind, mental health support
- More police walking the areas
- Noah's ark gardening project, Connaughty Centre, Food for heroes

Table 3 Are you aware of any local community-led projects? If so, who's involved and what are they doing?

- Not visible
- Community in shed
- Refurb of basketball court could be community-led project to involve youth
- Big local – utilise retired
- Green patch (allotments) started running in Corby, not sure if it still operates, Groundwork

- Creative Kingswood and Hazel Leys
- NNC – maintain nature area through volunteers and Wildlife Trust
- Knife amnesty group, voluntary, Corby wide
- New community development workers just started, Well Community Programme, funding assoc. launch in new year
- Help join up projects
- Community in sheds about to launch Spring 2022
- Community maintain community garden
- Boxing club (needs repair)
- NNC exploring expansion of Corby Leisure pass
- Difficulty encouraging people to Cube after outreach
- Bowls – woods end
- Wicked wheels, starting next year subject to funding
- Autumn Centre on Exeter estate
- Northamptonshire Sport
- 3 schools in area, may be running projects, discussion on their role

Table 4 What are the challenges faced by this community?

- Lack of street lighting
- Lack of youth provision
- Lack of support multi-partner

- agencies, schools, s services, police, council
- Lack of communication – agencies
- ASB poor reporting (police and council) lack of action local of visibility, police and community
- Poor relationships – young people with families, police
- Mistrust of police – unwillingness to report and response on reporting
- Sharing of information between police and council – ASB
- Young people not in education, causing community issues (lack of oversight and ownership) social workers/inclusion team
- Schools failing pupils, not attending and not followed up (SEND)
- Condition of green spaces, litter
- Walkways – moss, uneven (lack of grounds maintenance)
- Victims of crime having to reside in properties
- Condition of property (council) damp, overcrowding
- Visibility of police – walking patrols
- Lack of CCTV and quality
- Private land, overgrown and unloved
- Health and MH of young people (covid) and impact of lockdown schools
- Lack of bus services
- Engaging with residents, hearing

- public's voice, primary care
- Physical space for people to access services to not have to travel
- HMOs and problems with parking and overcrowding and large bins and rubbish and conditions on licence
- Private garages filled with rubbish – arson risk and unsightly
- Vehicles parked on path, pushchair and wheelchair access
- Residents willingness to engage in processes such as this
- Residents not engaging/social isolation, disengaging (feeling forgotten)
- Lack of services on Hazel Leys
- Apathy to report due to responses
- Lack of resources, police
- Awareness of events in area (like this)
- Overhanging trees and bushes on walkway
- Parking (on grass, green spaces) can mow grass and churns up
- Families moving out because of HMOs/house prices reducing

Table 5 What are the opportunities for this community? What gets in the way of making them happen?

- Lots of room for improvements
- Design
- Litter – worse since charges introduced

Transcribed notes: Kingswood and Hazel Leys, Corby

- (bulky waste)
- Open space (Pluto) opportunity, planning permission, CPO opportunity
- Youth centre, no lighting, safety
- HMO, parking, litter, ASB
- Communication between residents and council officers needs improving
- Use council resources to empower community
- Use of community facilities for free to residents
- Cost of facilities to hire rising too fast
- Opportunity to do more proactive stock inspection capacity
- Fly tipping
- Close community – opportunity for community cohesion, need places to go, adult learning
- Basketball court, refurb, local artist
- No facilities for children in Hazel Leys, better in Kingswood
- Take down old signage e.g. police station misinformation, cluttered, untidy, signs to old building sites
- Lights of Kingswood Community Centre switched off discourages use
- Christie Road, surrounding area, lighting, pitch black, requires adoption of road, problem for over a year
- Lots of activities, youth club, foundations are there and well used, but need more investment, youth workers, funding stopped

- Current bid being worked up, reaching communities bid 2 year project
- Short term funding, opportunity/challenge
- Hope Church, and lots of volunteering, blue bus in summer
- Responsibility for youth services, need sustainable provision, need to identify responsible service
- Lots of engagement with youth in Kingswood, PCSO, serve team, projects in schools
- Mini pump track (BMX) not yet still in consultation
- Opportunity to work more with children excluded from schools
- More alternative education provision to make less people less vulnerable to gangs and drugs, aim to reduce exclusion
- None! On Hazel Leys
- Local community centres
- Fantastic sporting facilities, basketball court needs refurbishment
- Article 4, restrict HMOs, legislation, other control measures, opportunity to improve, maintenance, lighting
- Green space
- HMO litter issues, difficulty contacting landlord
- HMO ability for resident to contact council directly, published list of HMOs make accessible, improved

- enforcement
- Nature park – opportunity for families, picnic facilities to encourage more families
- Athletics track lower fee for local community
- HMOs, parking, rubbish, anti social behaviour

Table 6 What new ideas do you have we can take forward from today and how?

- Green area of Gainsborough Road used for community, in general schools use, community allotments
- Arts project – disposable cameras ‘good things’ and exhibition, recycling – youth diversionary project, all ages schools, churches, care homes
- More cycle routes (safe ones)
- Bikeability (in schools)
- Youth clubs and provision by trained leaders, relatable to young people, voice of young people
- Swimming pool (over 50s) in daytime
- More outdoor gym equipment (not old like one on Kingswood)
- Car parking facilities
- Street lighting
- Repair fencing
- Not parking on path, zigzags, just stopping in cars
- Rubbish in gardens removed, council

- properties
- Information – what is available in area (Focus and Corby Trader)
- Visibility for the police/better engaging – outside schools etc
- Better use/accessibility at Hazel Leys Community Centre (no café), building relationships, more use and offering for whole family
- Work with businesses/voluntary groups/organisations, local and knowledgeable
- SEND provision, support network
- Transparency from agencies
- Awareness local funders
- Regional meetings with people/social media – what’s happening in your area
- Stop and search for knives (properly)
- Competitive sports – focus for young people
- Lighting
- Quality CCTV
- Police presence on foot, not in vehicles when attending incidents
- Opportunities, extend opening hours of youth facilities

Transcribed notes: Kingswood and Hazel Leys, Corby

• **Table 7 Using large Ward maps to explore and identify potential low-cost wins. Where are our quick improvements?**

- Better communication between agencies and community
- Street lights out in this area
- Re-letting empty properties
- Management of HMOs
- Police stop and search
- More police on the streets
- No street lights
- Clean area behind shops
- Improve shop fronts
- More parking required in streets
- Clean up this area – Pluto (old pub site, private ownership)
- Lift rubbish from gardens
- Litter pick in residential areas (local wombles do litter picks daily)
- Fix footpath and lighting by the Youth Room, Kingswood Alberta Close
- Opportunities to engage with all of this community in this area
- Additional litter bins Bonnington Walk and dog pooh
- Need to ensure there is equal resources shared amongst Hazel Leys and Kingswood
- St Patricks under used possible community asset large space
- Local people given/facilitated to

- become official groups
- Anti vandalism and flame retardant strategies
- Improve repaint play/sports areas
- More police engagement
- No parking on grass verges
- Control of weeds
- Street lights not bright enough
- Communities bid 2 year project
- Short term funding, opportunity/challenge
- Hope Church, and lots of volunteering, blue bus in summer
- Responsibility for youth services, need sustainable provision, need to identify responsible service
- Lots of engagement with youth in Kingswood, PCSO, serve team, projects in schools
- Mini pump track (BMX) not yet still in consultation
- Opportunity to work more with children excluded from schools
- More alternative education provision to make less people less vulnerable to gangs and drugs, aim to reduce exclusion
- None! On Hazel Leys
- Local community centres
- Fantastic sporting facilities, basketball court needs refurbishment
- Article 4, restrict HMOs, legislation, other control measures, opportunity

- to improve, maintenance, lighting
- Green space
- HMO litter issues, difficulty contacting landlord
- HMO ability for resident to contact council directly, published list of HMOs make accessible, improved enforcement
- Nature park – opportunity for families, picnic facilities to encourage more families
- Athletics track lower fee for local community
- HMOs, parking, rubbish, anti social behaviour

Table 8 Using large Ward maps to identify assets, trouble spots, redundant areas, spots for opportunities. What do they identify as their community/neighbourhood – is it a street or area?

- Kingswood community split between Lincoln Way and Canada Square, see themselves as different
- Schools not open to communities in a way people would like
- Concerns re dark car parks and drug use
- Dark subway, Patrick Road
- Blake Road, road issues, one way?
- Flooding on Oakley Road,

- land ownership?
- Lighting issues
- Boxing club asset
- Flat roof garages – concerns
- Leighton Road, motorbikes, drug dealing
- Park – council owned, next to private land on Gainsborough Road,
- opportunity to clear up Garages, Gainsborough Road, rubbish to be cleared behind shops
- Grimsby Close, kids on roads danger, issues in garages, motorbikes on pathways/green space
- Graffiti on street signs
- Estates/houses – no facilities so no one around shops

Transcribed notes: Queensway, Wellingborough

Table 1 What is good about living here? How do you instil a sense of belonging?

Good about living here

- Youth clubs
- Some sports facilities (although more could be done about the green spaces)
- Community champions and leaders – community making their own support networks
- St Marks Church
- All people welcome at activities
- People walk to the church
- Sense of belonging to, and generosity at, the church
- No hierarchy in the community
- Good community spirit
- Real problem solving focus
- Good schools at Primary and Secondary
- Lots of good green spaces
- Settled community
- Families definitely haven't given up
- Glamis Hall
- Adversity has brought cohesion
- Improvements to Diana House has created pride in community
- Instill Sense of belonging
- When areas are looked after - if they aren't looked after then we feel let

- down and feel 'why bother'
- Bins – not collected or have wrong items in – different to the villages so people feel its not equal and feel 'why bother'
- People are reluctant to say they live here
- We need long-term investment
- Need to build community trust
- Glamis Hall is a good sustainable model, unlike others struggling (WACA)
- The timing of this engagement event with NNC make people feel like they are not wanted or listened to
- Stigma about the word 'estate' and other peoples attitude towards it
- Problems with environment; things like leaves have been a problem for like a decade
- Minerva – no footpath out of the area
- Public hygiene issues
- No public dog poo bins
- Green space features could be enhanced if flytipping was not there
- Get the community to do things they want to do – it takes risks and be allowed to get things wrong
- Community ownership of changes
- If you give people a nice place to live they will look after it
- Grant giving needs to be less bureaucratic as volunteers don't have

- the time
- Flytipping enforcement – difficult to prove

Table 2 What are the community networks and who do you turn to for help and support in your community?

- Greatwell Homes
- Neighbourhood team
- Income Team
- Community Involvement Team
- NEET training with Groundwork Northants
- 1-2-1 phone calls
- Customer forum groups for Greatwell Homes residents
- Off the Streets
- Youth Engagement
- St Marks Church
- Saturday Morning Coffee – there is a feeling there aren't enough things like this
- Councillors drop-in surgery
- Youth Club
- Glamis Hall
- There is a feeling that VCFS groups are currently heavily reliant on good will
- Queensway Partnership
- Service Six
- Suicide and mental health support once crisis intervention has taken place

- Redeem fund
- Police
- Consider themselves approachable
- Community safety offers
- Local shops
- A feeling that local shops could invest further in the community – too much of a 'not our problem' attitude
- Penrith Drive Family Hub
- 0-19yrs
- Neighbours and people we know
- Queensway Medical Practice
- However social prescribing role currently vacant
- Kingdom Hall Jehovah's Witness church
- Schools
- Could be a better information point?
- WACA
- Made with Many

Table 3 Are you aware of any local community-led projects? If so, who's involved and what are they doing?

- Childrens Trust
 - Mentor programme
- Service Six
 - LGBT+ group
 - Drop-in sessions
- Redeem Funds
 - Fairshare
 - Help from home

Transcribed notes: Queensway, Wellingborough

- Referrals from daylight Centre
 - Streetwatch
 - Made with Many
 - Arts-related activity
 - Music production club
 - WACA
 - Services for ethnic minority groups
 - Community Centre
 - Fearless Programme
 - St Marks Church
 - Great sense of community
 - Coffee shop and one-stop service
 - Friday youth club
 - Cubs/beavers/scouts
 - Bingo
 - Off the Streets
 - Knife crime awareness
 - Speedwatch
 - Penrith Drive Family Hub
 - Childrens Centre
 - Freedom programme
 - Greatwell Homes
 - Interactions with young males involved with drugs
 - Bike track
- Table 4 – What are the challenges faced by this community?**
- Residents feel let down
 - All tack, no action – need to see active changes
 - Food poverty
 - Different community values
 - People do not know they can make a difference
 - Why should I do?
 - Mental health – undiagnosed
 - Sometimes people expect things to be done for them
 - Issues making referrals to other professionals
 - Poverty – life chances limited
 - Smaller budgets
 - More money is being taken out of the community
 - Self-esteem and self-worth – reflected in their areas
 - Accessible training
 - Short term funding
 - Applications for grants – simplify
 - Prime funding – setup and sustain. Tapered, gradual funding for 5+ Years (NOTE FROM TYPER – this is the equivalent of Core Funding for community groups)
 - Support and sustain longterm community officers/development teams
 - People on the ground, enrolled in community
 - Local people being involved in panels and meetings

- Communication
- Honest, open, and trustworthy rapport
- Commitment to community
- Rubbish
- Bins
- Potholes
- Short, medium, and long-term plans
- Layout of housing issues
- Crime, drugs, violence, knife crime
- Lack of facilities
- School buildings not being accessible for community activities outside of school hours
- Exclusion rates in schools
- Aspirations
- Funding
- Collaborative working
- Procedures are an issue
- Statistics and data
- Decisions being made but not on site.

Table 5 What are the opportunities for this community? What gets in the way of making them happen?

- Referrals for children to come back into schools
- Creative ideas need to engage with communities
- Drug related issues in social gathering areas
- Issues with opportunities

- School exclusions
- Poverty is the main issue
- Prison – engagement will be good
- Food bank lacks support
- Funding issues
- What are the outcomes for communities?
- Inclusivity – elderly people/afro Caribbean people
- Off-road bike track development
- Issues with off-road bikes (see above for potential solution)
- Engage with community groups
- Food bank families
- Get drug related issues solved
- Fund community activities
- Link in with similar groups looking to support issues
- St Marks & Glamis Hall following good practice and doing well
- Good community engagement required – this appears to have been lost
- No opportunities and parental concerns
- Engagement with the police to help bridge the mistrust
- Social deprivation
- Safer community hubs
- Improve self-worth and take pride in the community
- Skills base for youngsters
- Work with residents to increase

Transcribed notes: Queensway, Wellingborough

- confidence to report crime
- Central hub with all services
- Use elderly more to develop younger persons experience
- Build on communication – lack of trust in statutory services
- Issues with lighting, poor alleyways, safe footpaths – people don't feel safe
- Green spaces
- Community workshops with functional skills
- Dealing with fly tippers

Table 6 What new ideas do you have we can take forward from today and how?

- WACA
 - Combat racism
 - Support Victims
 - Educate people
- Bike Track
- Library
 - Need to find out whats going on?
- Citizens Advice
 - Pip Forms
 - DLA Forms
- Money Matters
 - Teaching budgetary and money management
 - How do people access services

- Credit Union
- Childrens Centre
 - Family Hub
 - Parenting classes
 - Teaching life skills
- Off the Streets
 - Local hub
- Midwifery Services
 - Isebrook based
 - Vulnerable Midwife services
- Jobs club

Table 7 Using large Ward maps to explore and identify potential low-cost wins. Where are our quick improvements?

Content not transcribed from maps at point of writing

Table 8 Using large Ward maps to identify assets, trouble spots, redundant areas, spots for opportunities. What do they identify as their community/neighbourhood – is it a street or area?

Content not transcribed from maps at point of writing

Acknowledgements and Contacting Us

Thanks

The Scrutiny Working Group members would like to extend their thanks to those involved that have supported the work to date including:

Staff and volunteers that have organised the sessions

Staff that have given up their time at weekends to act as facilitators at the workshops



Venues

*St Marks Church, Queensway
Wellingborough*

*Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre
Corby*

*Crescents Community Centre
Kettering*

Contact	Email
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury Chair of Scrutiny Commission	wendy.brackenbury@northnorthants.gov.uk
Councillor Zoe McGhee Chair of the Scrutiny Review Working Group	zoe.mcghee@northnorthants.gov.uk
David Watts Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	david.watts@northnorthants.gov.uk
Callum Galluzzo Democratic Services Officer	callum.Galluzzo@northnorthants.gov.uk