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North  
Northamptonshire  
Council

## Minutes of a meeting of the Council

At 6.00 pm on Thursday 7th December, 2023 in the  
Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, NN17 1QG

### Present:-

#### Members

Councillor Barbara Jenney (Chair)	Councillor Lora Lawman (Vice Chair)
Councillor Jean Addison	Councillor Ian Jelley
Councillor Tim Allebone	Councillor Matt Keane
Councillor Valerie Anslow	Councillor Graham Lawman
Councillor Ross Armour	Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Bell	Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor Charlie Best	Councillor Dorothy Maxwell
Councillor Matt Binley	Councillor Peter McEwan
Councillor Jennie Bone	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor David Brackenbury	Councillor Zoe McGhee
Councillor Wendy Brackenbury	Councillor Andy Mercer
Councillor Scott Brown	Councillor Gill Mercer
Councillor Leanne Buckingham	Councillor Macaulay Nichol
Councillor Lyn Buckingham	Councillor Steven North
Councillor Lloyd Bunday	Councillor Jan O'Hara
Councillor Jon-Paul Carr	Councillor Dr Anup Pandey
Councillor Robin Carter	Councillor Tom Partridge-Underwood
Councillor Melanie Coleman	Councillor Roger Powell
Councillor William Colquhoun	Councillor Elliot Prentice
Councillor John Currall	Councillor Simon Rielly
Councillor Alison Dalziel	Councillor Russell Roberts
Councillor Dez Dell	Councillor Mark Rowley
Councillor Scott Edwards	Councillor Geoff Shacklock
Councillor Emily Fedorowycz	Councillor Jason Smithers
Councillor Clive Hallam	Councillor Joseph John Smyth
Councillor Ken Harrington	Councillor Sarah Tubbs
Councillor Helen Harrison	Councillor Malcolm Ward
Councillor Larry Henson	Councillor Malcolm Waters
Councillor Helen Howell	Councillor Andrew Weatherill
Councillor David Howes	Councillor Keli Watts
Councillor Bert Jackson	Councillor Lee Wilkes

#### Officers

George Candler (Interim Chief Executive)  
Adele Wylie (Interim Deputy Chief Executive)  
Sanjit Sull (Assistant Director of Legal and Governance/Deputy Monitoring Officer)  
Ben Smith (Head of Democratic Services)

### 277 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Bell, Cedwien Brown, Mark Dearing, Jonathan Ekins, Martin Griffiths, Jim Hakewill, Kirk Harrison, Philip

Irwin, King Lawal, Mark Pengelly, Harriet Pentland, David Sims, Chris Smith-Haynes, Michael Tebbutt, Michael Tye, and Kevin Watt.

**278 Minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**279 Declarations of interest.**

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

The following interests were declared:-

Name of Councillor	Minute Number	Interest	Reason for Declaration
Dez Dell	288	Personal interest	Committee member of the Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum
Larry Henson	290	Personal Interest	Member of Kettering Twinning Society
Bert Jackson	290	Personal Interest	Member of Higham Ferrers Twinning Group
Graham Lawman	290	Personal Interest	Member of Wellingborough Twinning Association
Lora Lawman	290	Personal Interest	Member of Wellingborough Twinning Association
Anne Lee	288	Personal Interest	Member of the Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum
Paul Marks	288	Personal Interest	Member of the Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum
	290	Personal Interest	Member of Kettering Twinning Society
Gill Mercer	290	Personal Interest	Secretary of Higham Ferrers Twinning Group
Kevin Watt	288	Personal Interest	Member of the Friends of Kettering Art Gallery and Museum
	290	Personal Interest	Member of Kettering Twinning Society

**280 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed members, officers and members of the public, wishing to draw attention to the remembrance day services she had recently attended which were especially poignant.

## 281 Leader's Announcements

The Leader wished to make a statement on domestic violence, as follows:-

'Members and Officers, I want to present some statistics that may or may not surprise you.

A woman is killed by a man every three days in the UK.

A Crime survey that took place in England & Wales in the year ending March 2022 stated 194,683 sexual offences were recorded in the year March 2021-22, of which 70,333 were rape offences. I repeat, 70,333 rapes per year, that's 5861 per month, that's 195 per day, that's eight rapes per hour.

So, whilst we sit here tonight and debate various topics, I think you will agree those statistics are terrifying, even more so if you're a female.

Rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) since the age of 16 years: 63% of victims in England and Wales reported mental or emotional problems and 10% reported they had tried to kill themselves. In addition, 21% reported taking time off work and 5% reported losing their job or giving up work. But more alarming is what's the true figure as this is based upon reported crimes. How many crimes go unreported??

This is simply not acceptable, and change needs to happen quickly.

As a father of two daughters and a grandad to a 5-year-old girl, these figures concern me. As leaders within our communities, we should be looking to challenge this behaviour and engage in ways that make women feel safe in their homes, in our open spaces and in our towns when they are enjoying a drink with their friends or simply at work.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence is an annual global campaign that begins on 25 November, which is incidentally the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs through International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

The campaign is supported by the United Nations through the Secretary General's [UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women](#) initiative. This year's theme is [UNiTE! Activism to end violence against women and girls](#)".

Therefore, I'm pleased to inform you all that #jointhechorus is scheduling a march for this coming Saturday, 9th December, starting at 6.30 pm, meeting on the corner of Northfield Avenue and Meadow Road, Kettering.

The march is non-political and is an opportunity for local communities, individuals and partner organisations to come together and peacefully protest against gender-based violence.

It will also provide a safe space for survivors' voices to be heard, as well as an opportunity to remember all women who have tragically lost their lives at the hands of a violent partner.

The event starts with a 20-minute walk within the vicinity of Kettering Town centre, which has an active night-time economy. This will be particularly relevant as it will

reinforce the message of every woman's right to be kept safe and feel safe, whether they are travelling at night, working in the night-time economy or enjoying a night out. The walk will be led by Dawn Thomas (CEO of Northamptonshire Rape Crisis) and Emily Fedorowycz from NNC.

This will then be followed by a programme of speakers in the Market Place from countywide support services, survivors of domestic abuse, music performances and a vigil event to remember the Northamptonshire victims of male abuse. I'm sure this event will be inspiring, thought-provoking and moving.

The event is the result of some incredible partnership working over the past few months. The individuals and organisations who have supported the planning and delivery are clearly passionate about this issue and driven to improve women's safety and stop the cycle of male abuse.

I want to acknowledge and extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has played a role in making this a reality so I'm going to announce some of the partners who are:-

- Survivors of domestic abuse
- Kettering Street Pastors
- Northamptonshire VOICE
- Northants Domestic Abuse Services
- Northamptonshire Rape Crisis
- Northants Rights Equality Council (NREC)
- EVE
- Kettering Women's Centre
- Local community groups from the Kettering area
- Northamptonshire Police; and
- Many licensed premises across Northamptonshire

We can do better, we need to better and we need to protect our females in society.

Thank you Chair.'

## **282 Public Participation**

Chris Davison, Chair of Kettering Library made a statement to Council:-

He spoke to query what plans the Council had in place to involve local community groups and organisations, together with elected representatives, in the proposed Project Team overseeing delivery of the scheme to repair Kettering Library and Art Gallery roofs, the future maintenance and upkeep of the Library and Art Gallery once the roof has been replaced and to that extent what Policies and Procedures did NNC have in place to maintain its estate and public buildings, particularly those that are Grade II listed and are of significant heritage status?

Kelly Duddridge, a member of the public, then asked a question to Council in accordance with meeting procedure rule 16, as follows:-

'With regard to the Wellingborough recall petition and specifically the opening hours of the signing places, to allow for greater participation, can the weekday opening hours be extended until 7pm and can the signing places be open on the two remaining Saturdays before the deadline expires?'

Adele Wylie, Petitions Officer responded:

‘There is no provision in legislation to amend the opening hours for the petition signing places once notice of the designated signing places and opening hours has been published in the Notice of Petition.

In considering arrangements for extended opening hours, we were mindful of ensuring consistency across all 9 signing places and in some cases, we were restricted by the opening hours and limited resources of venues during the 6 week period.

We were also presented with a number of challenges, due to pre-booked Christmas activities/events at a number of locations. In some cases, we have had to implement workarounds to accommodate existing bookings or business operations. After a great deal of negotiation, we were able to reach a consensus across all 9 locations for the one day of extended opening hours. Electors are able to register for a proxy vote until 5pm on 11th December 2023 should they not be able to attend during opening hours.’

Ms Duddridge asked the following supplementary question:

‘At the conclusion of the recall petition will there be a public report and/or record of the reasoning behind how, why and when available signing places were chosen, with greater detail, as electors are looking for answers as to why they feel like access to democracy has been hindered?’

Adele Wylie, Petitions Officer undertook to provide Ms Duddridge with a written reply to her supplementary question.

## **283 Executive Presentations**

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

## **284 Selection and Appointment for Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive**

*[Adele Wylie left the Council Chamber for the duration of this item]*

Consideration was given to a report recommending the appointment of Adele Wylie as permanent Chief Executive for North Northamptonshire Council. A copy of the report is filed with the agenda for the meeting, marked as ‘Item 8’.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr Jason Smithers and seconded by Cllr Matt Keane.

The Leader of the Council was delighted to propose Adele Wylie to Council as the new permanent Chief Executive, her being an exceptional candidate bringing a wealth of inspirational leadership experience, with a proven track record of delivering through excellence in public services, as demonstrated by her current role at the Council as Executive Director for Customer and Governance, Monitoring Officer and Interim Deputy Chief Executive. He also thanked all other candidates who applied for the role and participated in a rigorous recruitment process.

The Leaders of the Labour and Green Alliance Groups also wished to extend their congratulations to Adele as the outstanding candidate and wished her well in her new role.

A huge thanks was extended to George Candler with members extending a round of applause for his valuable input and high levels of professionalism and support and patience with members over recent months.

Following conclusion of the debate, the motion was voted on, with 60 councillors in favour, 0 abstaining and 1 against.

**Resolved:**

That Council:

- a) Approves the appointment of Adele Wylie to the positions of permanent Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer for North Northamptonshire Council; with an agreed start date of 27 January 2024;
- b) That approval be given to appoint on a salary of £180,582, which is in accordance with the Council's agreed pay policy; plus returning officer/election fees, paid in accordance with the agreed legislative/local fees.

**Reasons for Decision:-**

- *These decisions have been made following a comprehensive, inclusive and thorough recruitment and selection process, in accordance with the constitution, to ensure that the right candidate is selected to undertake the statutory designation of Head of Paid Service and the Chief Executive role at North Northamptonshire Council.*

**Alternative Options Considered:-**

- *The role of Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive is critical for the Council and is a statutory appointment which is required to be filled;*
- *The Council could have decided not to permanently recruit to this role. However, the role is critical in leading the council forward to deliver the corporate priorities and ensure the best possible service and outcomes for our residents and communities.*

**285 East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2**

Consideration was given to a report seeking to progress the Part 2 Local Plan for East Northamptonshire to adoption, in order to provide an up-to-date development plan for making planning decisions and to guide development proposals for the area. A copy of the report is filed with the agenda for the meeting, marked as 'Item 9'.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor David Brackenbury and seconded by Cllr Gill Mercer.

The Plan was welcomed as an extremely important document in planning terms. It was noted that had been in development for some years and it was felt important to extend the Council's thanks to all those who had contributed to its passage.

It was noted that the other areas of North Northamptonshire, Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough already had their Part 2 plans adopted. Also, that work was now being undertaken to develop the North Northamptonshire strategic plan which would replace the current joint strategy that had been adopted some years previously.

Following conclusion of the debate, the motion was voted on, with 61 councillors in favour, 0 abstaining and 0 against.

**Resolved:**

That Council:-

- a) Supports the content of the Part 2 Local Plan, (as set out in Appendix A to the report) to provide for its adoption;
- b) Delegates authority to the Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Assistant Director for Growth and Regeneration, to:-
  - i. make any minor alterations to the Plan, or its accompanying Policies Map, that relate to factual updates or typographical errors for the purposes of publishing the Plan to presentation standard; and;
  - ii. prepare and publish the Local Plan Adoption Statement (Appendix B) and the Sustainability Appraisal Statement (Appendix C) and to fulfil any other duties, as required by Regulations 26 to 36 of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

**Reasons for Decision:-**

- *The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that the planning system should be genuinely plan-led. Succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area and a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social, and environmental priorities.*
- *The Plan prepared by the Council was subject to thorough examination and has been modified as a result of the recommendations made by the Inspector, as set out in her report (Appendix D refers). The Council has previously consulted on a schedule of these Main Modifications (Appendix E) and has also made non-substantive modifications to the plan during the examination, which are set out at Appendix F to this report. Corresponding changes to the Policies Map are also set out in Appendix G.*
- *Subsequent to the adoption of the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2, it will supersede all the saved policies from the 1996 Local Plan for East Northamptonshire, along with the extant policies from the 2011 Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Local Plan.*

**Alternative Options Considered:-**

- *The options considered were either to adopt the Local Plan incorporating the recommended modifications, or to resolve not to adopt the Plan.*
- *Adoption of the Plan would provide full coverage for Part 2 Plan policies across the whole of North Northamptonshire. If the Plan was not adopted this would put at*

*risk the delivery of key policies guiding future, sustainable development proposals across East Northamptonshire area.*

## **286 Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25**

Consideration was given to a report proposing a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 following recommendation by the Executive at its meeting held on 16 November 2024. A copy of the report is filed with the agenda for the meeting, marked as 'Item 10'.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor Lloyd Bunday and seconded by Cllr Eliot Prentice.

The motion was voted on, with 57 councillors in favour, 2 abstaining and 0 against.

### **Resolved:-**

That Council:-

Has considered the information as set out in the report and approves the proposed 2024/25 Local Council Tax Support Scheme which maintains the current 2023/24 scheme, allowing for the changes required to reflect the annual uprating of allowances and premiums and any statutory base legislation changes which are required to be made to the scheme.

### **Reason for Decision:-**

- *To deliver a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 that meets statutory requirements.*

### **Alternative Options Considered:-**

- *The Council could choose to increase or decrease the minimum contribution payable to the customer. Decreasing the contribution would lead to a budget pressure and increasing the contribution would result in the scheme exceeding the breakeven requirement as detailed in section 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 of the report.*

## **287 Council Tax Base 2024/25**

Consideration was given to a report proposing to set the Council Tax Base for 2024/25, as required by Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council tax Base) England Regulations 2012. A copy of the report is filed with the agenda for the meeting, marked as 'Item 11'.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor Lloyd Bunday and seconded by Cllr Joseph Smyth.

The motion was voted on, with 61 councillors in favour, 1 abstaining and 0 against.

### **Resolved:-**

That Council:-



- a) In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulation 1992, as amended, approves the amount calculated as the Band D equivalent Council Tax Base for the North Northamptonshire area 2024/25 shall be 115,847 dwellings as detailed in this report and appendices. This is an increase of 1,568 dwellings over the 2023/24 Tax Base, a 1.4% increase.
- b) Notes a Council Tax Collection rate assumption of 98.5% for 2024/25.

**Reason for Decision:-**

- *Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 requires the Council as the Billing Authority to calculate a Council Tax Base for its area by 31 January each year.*

**Alternative Options Considered:-**

- *None. The Council is required to set the Council Tax Base for 2024/25, as required by Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*

**288 Capital Budget Update 2023/24**

Consideration was given to a report requesting approval for works funded through borrowing and virements for capital schemes which were in excess of £0.5m. A copy of the report is filed with the agenda for the meeting, marked as 'Item 12'.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor Lloyd Bunday and seconded by Cllr Clive Hallam.

During debate, funding for the A509 Isham Bypass was welcomed as it was considered an important piece of infrastructure to provide relief to residents of Isham and improve journey times and capacity between Kettering and Wellingborough, and opportunity for housing along the road corridor.

It was considered important to approve the budget for the replacement of the Kettering library roof replacement and associated works and that this project be progressed as soon as possible to enable the attached art gallery to open and for the library to expand from its interim location.

It was noted that should grant opportunities be available in the future to support the library and art gallery, these would be pursued,

Following conclusion of the debate, the motion was voted on, with 60 councillors in favour, 1 abstaining and 0 against.

**Resolved:-**

That Council:-

Approves the funding for the following changes to the Capital Programme:

- a) Kettering Library roof replacement and associated work to the roof of the Art Gallery – budget approval for £6.807m in 2023/24 which is to be funded from borrowing.

- b) Isham Bypass – budget approval for a virement of £0.790m, £0.600m in 2023/24 and £0.190m in 2024/25 from the Integrated Transport Block budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25 to the Isham Bypass scheme.

**Reasons for Decisions:-**

*These are set out in greater detail within section 5 of the report, but can be summarised as:*

- *To enable the Council to continue to deliver its library functions within Kettering Town Centre; and*
- *To meet the requirements of the Department of Transport in the development of the road scheme for the Isham Bypass.*

**Alternative Options Considered:-**

- *Further detail in relation to alternative options considered by the Executive for the above schemes are set out in the reports presented to Executive on 16th November 2023, as referenced in Section 8 of this report; and*
- *The funding options are recommended in light of the capital resources available to the Council.*

**289 Annual Report of the Service Delivery Contract between Northamptonshire Children's Trust and West and North Northamptonshire Councils 2022/23 and Update on the Annual Review**

Consideration was given to a report providing an update on progress of the 2022/23 Annual Review of the Service Delivery Contract between Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) and West and North Northamptonshire Councils, which included the 2022/23 Annual Report,. A copy of the report is filed with the agenda for the meeting, marked as 'Item 13'.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Councillor Scott Edwards and seconded by Cllr Lora Lawman.

It was noted that as part of the contractual arrangements between NCT and North and West Northamptonshire Councils, there was a requirement to undertake an annual review and produce an annual report.

It was noted that the report contained all of the performance results within the past year from Ofsted and a total of 21 key performance indicators agreed with the Trust. Whilst it was welcomed that the Children's Trust had now moved from inadequate to requires improvement, it was acknowledged that there was some way to go to improve its services.

There was some concern in respect of those key performance indicators that had fallen below target, although it was noted that there was a clear plan to improve on these. It was also considered important that future audit plans were able to be scrutinised and accountable.

Following conclusion of the debate, the motion was voted on, with 61 councillors in favour, 0 abstaining and 0 against.

## **Resolved:-**

That Council:-

- a) Notes that the Annual Report contained at Appendices A-L to the report was completed in line with the service delivery contract;
- b) Notes that Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) in the Service Delivery Contract (SDC) have remained the same since the start of the contract with Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) and that the Annual Review, completed by Strategic Group in October 23, will consider and agree any amendments to the SDC, including changes to KPI's;
- c) Notes that any changes to the SDC would need to be agreed by all parties, presented to Children's Trust Joint Committee meeting for approval and once approved, be implemented by a Change Control to the SDC.

### ***Reason for Decision***

- *The arrangements to complete the Annual Review and Annual Report are set out in the SDC and provide a procedure through which the Councils can review the Service Delivery Contract and NCT's performance in delivering its functions.*

### ***Alternative Options Considered***

- *Do nothing - Failing to complete the Annual Review or produce an Annual Report would not be compliant with the SDC and would not allow the Councils to formally review the contractual arrangements with NCT and agree changes. It should be noted that the SDC contains a process for the Councils to propose changes outside of the Annual Review if required.*

## **290 Motions on Notice**

### **Motion 1 – Twinning Relationships**

The mover of the motion, Cllr Leanne Buckingham requested that the motion be amended to that set out on the agenda prior to debate as it now appeared on the screen. Cllr Ross Armour seconded the amended motion. Members of the Council gave their consent via a show of hands in accordance with meeting procedure rule 19.26, agreeing that the revised wording become the substantive motion for debate, as follows:

*That this Council affirms and upholds the longstanding twinning relationships that our sovereign twin towns have cultivated with their counterparts in Europe.*

*These partnerships have played a vital role in fostering cultural exchange, understanding, and cooperation between our communities.*

*Recognising the mutual benefits derived from these twinning arrangements, this council takes responsibility (for those that are not devolved) for ensuring the continuity of these relationships.*

*Our sovereign twin towns serve as ambassadors of goodwill, contributing to the rich tapestry of international connections that enhance the cultural and social fabric of North Northants. By reaffirming our commitment to the twinning relationships with*

European counterparts, we not only promote friendship and cooperation but also demonstrate our dedication to maintaining strong global ties in an ever-changing world. ~~We will also preserve and nurture these valuable connections that have contributed positively to our community and beyond.~~

Council asks that the *Executive Member for Housing and Communities* looks at the formal arrangements ~~(for those that are not already devolved) that are required to devolve the twinning of the North Northamptonshire towns and villages to their parish and town councils, at the soonest possible opportunity.~~

During debate, the various twinning arrangements within North Northamptonshire were welcomed, with the work by individuals and organisations to maintain and further these being praised.

Whilst some councillors considered that the arrangements should be formalised via North Northamptonshire Council, others considered the current arrangements worked well and should continue as they were.

Following conclusion of the debate, the motion was voted on, with 14 councillors in favour, 2 abstaining and 44 against.

**Resolved:-**

That Council rejects the proposed motion, as amended from the agenda for the meeting.

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The Council then adjourned for a period of 10 minutes

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**291 Councillor Questions**

The Chair noted that 11 councillor questions had been received for this meeting in accordance with meeting procedure rule 17.

All 11 questions were received 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.**

**292 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.

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Chair

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Date

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm

**Agenda Item 15 - Councillor Questions, Supplementary Questions and Responses**

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
1.	Cllr Anne Lee	<b>Cllr Helen Howell</b>	‘What measures are NNC taking to help support the people who would normally use Kettering library, in order to provide access to books on loan, computers, public wifi, and a warm space?’	<p>Several Member briefings have been circulated in the last month regarding the closure of Kettering library and what services are currently being offered when and from where, and the options that were considered for an interim relocation of the library. These briefings were circulated on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> November and 24<sup>th</sup> November. The Briefing circulated on 24<sup>th</sup> November updated Members on the decision to relocate the library to the upper floor of the new Cornerstone extension, from where a full service offer will be delivered. A further Member briefing was circulated earlier this week on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December to confirm the new library space will be open from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Library services will be available during our normal opening times:  Monday - Friday 9-6  Saturday - 9-5</p> <p>We will be offering our full range of library services, but on a reduced scale, with library staff on hand to offer assistance to customers.  From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December we will be offering the following:</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
Page 14			<p><b>Supplementary Question</b>                      In terms of the last paragraph of the answer, doesn't informing users via the webpages and social media leave behind library users who are either computer illiterate or who depend on the library's computers which are not</p>	<p>Selection of book stock for browsing and borrowing and we will be able to take reservations for specific requests                      Under 5s Events - Rhyme Time, Explore A Story                      Free WiFi                      Warm Space                      Bus Passes                      Toilets – with disabled &amp; baby change available</p> <p>We will continue to offer Blue Badge appointments on Tuesdays and Fridays from the Council Offices.</p> <p>Public computers, photocopying, printing and scanning will not be available immediately on opening, but we are working on providing these services as soon as possible.</p> <p>Residents have been kept informed via the NNC webpages and the Library service social media sites and various press releases have been issued.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Response</b>                      There are always going to be certain elements of the public who we aren't able to approach because we don't know who they are. We have tried every aspect including articles in the press. If you have a list of people who may need further communication, I am happy to send out to them.</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
			available actually be best informed through an informative notice on the front of the library door?	
2.	Cllr Anne Lee	<b>Cllr Jason Smithers</b>	‘Can we have a list of the total expenses claimed by all NNC councillors this year, stating the allowance payable for their specific role and the amount they claimed in addition?’	<p>The list of members’ allowances payable each year is detailed in the Council Constitution at Part 8.6 – Scheme of Members’ Allowances.</p> <p>The list of total allowances payable and claimed this financial year to date is attached at Appendix A to these councillor questions and answers.</p>
Page 15	Cllr Jean Addison	<b>Cllr Mark Rowley</b>	What progress is being made on treatment of mould growth in council properties? Can I have reassurance that proper investigations are carried out in each case to resolve problems at source, and that a quick fix is not being carried out by painting fungicides each time the mould grows back?	<p>The Housing Property Services team have been providing data on a weekly basis to the Chief Executive on the number of properties with damp and mould repairs reported since 15 May 2023, when the repairs backlog project reporting commenced. At this point, we had 188 open damp and mould repair jobs.</p> <p>On 15 November this had been reduced to 80 open damp and mould cases. The 80 cases will not be the same cases as those reported in May 2023. Inspections are arranged for properties where damp and mould repair requests are raised, and a full property inspection is completed. The inspection will</p>

No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
Page 16			<p><b>Supplementary Question</b> When will these cases be dealt with prior to 2023? Why are these people who have already been run down by the government be further run down by this Council not dealing with repairs in a timely manner.</p>	<p>identify what works are required to tackle the causes of the mould as well as treating any mould that is present. In addition, advice is also provided to our tenants on how they can assist to reduce the likelihood of mould reoccurring at their property.</p> <p>When required, we also work with specialist contractors to resolve damp and mould issues.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Response</b> I cannot comment on individual cases but I will investigate and come back to you if you send it to me.</p>
4.	Cllr Zoe McGhee	<b>Cllr Jason Smithers</b>	Can the Leader give an update on members' complaints and enquiries with relation to timescales on replies. What is in place if members feel it is an emergency for our residents?	<p>Over the past three months, the Members Enquires team have assigned 524 cases to services,</p> <p>90% of cases that have been responded to have been completed within SLA, with an average response time of seven days. The response rate has steadily improved since the introduction of the service.</p>



No.	Received from	Executive Member Responsible	Question	Answer
Page 17			<p><b>Supplementary Question</b> Does the Leader have a justification for whilst this process is going on the standards of living for our residents and their mental health is going into absolute disrepair while we wait for a broken system and we wait for this to arrive?</p>	<p>We currently have 139 enquiries which are in progress, 92 of these are outside of the ten-day Service Level Agreement. This amounts to 66%.</p> <p>The current Members Enquires process details the steps to follow should an escalation be required (point 5) to ensure that should there be an emergency, the matter is dealt with urgently. This is currently under review and Members will be updated on this shortly, along with a virtual Q&amp;A session on the process with the team.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Answer</b> The system is not broken, we are working with it which has dealt with many member communications over the last six months. Yes, any new system isn't perfect however we are working at pace to deliver a solution that gets to a higher level than where it is at the moment. All I ask is that members appreciate the amount of enquiries that come through that system and the ability to streamline those and in order to give members updates in a timely fashion we're going to work doubly hard to ensure that it fits the bill.</p>

<p>5.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 18</p>	<p><b>Cllr Lyn Buckingham</b></p>	<p><b>Cllr Mark Rowley</b></p>	<p><b>Has North Northants Council completed the Statutory Homes Energy Conservation Act Report for 2023 and what have been the Key achievements from the last report?</b></p>	<p><b>The authority is required to submit a HECA survey every other year for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The survey was last completed in 2021. Progress since then is currently being reviewed and the survey link has been requested from BEIS for the council to complete the update. Once the questions on the survey have been validated, reviewed and progress updated this will be submitted to BEIS and the answers will be published on the council website as per BEIS requirements. The Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing (DASS) and Children’s Services (Interim DCS) is co-ordinating this review.</b></p>
	<p>Cllr Valerie Anslow</p>	<p><b>Cllr Mark Rowley</b></p>	<p>As the weather gets colder and severe weather warning become more common, can members be assured that SWEP will be triggered if the temperature is forecast to be below zero and if the wind or rain is severe, as per the agreed policy?</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question</b> Can I please ask that members are informed when SWEP is called?</p>	<p>North Northamptonshire Council is operating Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) as per the agreed policy. It was triggered for the first time this financial year on 29 November 2023, based on cold temperatures forecast for the following week and is likely to be in place until 04 December 2023.</p> <p>The Rough Sleeping Team will increase outreach during periods of SWEP to ensure known rough sleepers are offered accommodation and to respond to new reports of rough sleeping being received.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Response</b> Every councillor was informed on 29 November when SWEP was put in place.</p>

7.	Cllr Valerie Anslow	<b>Cllr Mark Rowley</b>	<p>The KPIs show that the number of street homeless is reported to be around 13 people although community groups who work with the homeless will report much higher figures. What is the number of street homeless in each of the former sovereign Boroughs?</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question</b> Could the same breakdown be given for the number in temporary accommodation who accessed this via the rough sleeper team?</p>	<p>Please note this is a snapshot figure of a single night within the month and which is required to be reported to DLUHC monthly. This figure does fluctuate month on month and is not the overall number of rough sleepers seen across the month.</p> <p>During September 2023, the number of rough sleepers seen by area were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kettering – 2</li> <li>• Corby – 6</li> <li>• Wellingborough – 4</li> <li>• East Northants – 1</li> </ul> <p><b>Supplementary Response</b> I will respond via email.</p>
8.	Cllr Valerie Anslow	<b>Adele Wylie, Petitions Officer</b>	<p>How were the decisions made regarding the places at which members of Wellingborough Constituency could sign the recall petition of Peter Bone MP?</p>	<p>When designating the signing places the Petition Officer was required to comply with The Recall of MPs Act 2015 and associated Regulations which specify that the number of signing places in the constituency must be no fewer than 4 and no more than 10. Further, each signing place must be open from 9am until 5pm every weekday for a period of 6 weeks. The signing places also had to open to electors to sign the petition within 10 working days of the Speaker of the House of Commons notifying the Petition Officer that the recall petition had been triggered.</p> <p>The preferred option was to designate a signing place in</p>

each of the 9 unitary council wards situated within the constituency. Where possible, this would be a building that had previously been used as a polling station. However, due to the very tight timescales, many of the venues that had previously been used as polling stations at elections were unable to commit to their hall or other rooms being used for the petition for the whole 6-week period at such short notice, as they already had bookings scheduled into their calendars, including regular engagements.

Regulation 13 of The Recall of MPs Act 2015 (Recall Petition) Regulations 2016 provides that the Petition Officer may use free of charge a room in a school, however, it was felt the level of disruption this may present to schools and the impact on pupils' education was not appropriate given the length of time that the signing period must be open.

A number of alternative options were therefore explored within the constituency and in some cases site visits were undertaken to assess suitability. We found, however, that the other options considered were either unavailable for the whole period, not suitable, or the booking agent or venue manager felt it was inappropriate for them to engage in the process.

Christmas activities/events at a number of locations presented additional challenges. In some cases, we have had to implement workarounds to accommodate existing bookings or business operations. After a great deal of negotiation, we were able to secure 9 locations that would be able to accommodate the process for the whole of the six-week signing period.

			<p><b>Supplementary Question</b> Did the Petitions Officer who decided where the recall petition was going to be signed know that Finedon division included a good part of Wellingborough?</p>	<p>Electors were able to register for a postal vote until 5pm on 4th December 2023 and may still register for a proxy vote until 5pm on 11th December 2023 should they not be able to attend their allocated signing place during opening hours.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Response</b> The Petitions Officer undertook to respond via email.</p>
9. Page 21	Cllr Ross Armour	<b>Cllr Matt Binley</b>	<p>Can we please have an update on the installation of the safety barrier secured for the Oakley Road roundabout and a timeline as to when this will be in place?</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question</b> The new waymarkings and signs have made a significant difference. What is determining the priority of this project now because we can't just go by the collision numbers since the lane</p>	<p>Since the new signs and lane markings were added in September 2021, as recommended by the Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) for the site, we are pleased to confirm no further collisions have been recorded or reported at this location. The request for a barrier remains on our priority list for consideration as funding permits, although other schemes have been ranked as higher priorities so far. The timescale will depend on the relative priority of any new schemes coming forward, and also on funding in relation to the costs of the highest priority schemes. The service will continue to explore all opportunities for funding this proposal.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Response</b> There is a matrix that's in place with regards to looking at these things. We have a whole team of people who look at such things as accident reports, hence how we know with this one the significant impact that it has made with regards to this.</p>

			<p>markings went in, which is thankfully none? I'm sure this information is very useful for the residents living there but they are really still keen to see this barrier and I hope it gets over the line as soon as possible.</p>	<p>We fully accept the work still needs to be carried out but unfortunately there are other areas where we have fatal road traffic collisions which have to be prioritised. That is not to dismiss this scheme and I assure you that officers are working on it and want to see it completed as much as anybody.</p>
<p>10.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 22</p>	<p>Cllr Jim Hakewill</p>	<p><b>Cllr Lloyd Bunday</b></p>	<p>What additional financial cost will there be for NNC's 24-25 budget when the National Living Wage rises from £10.42 to £11.44 in April 2024, both for directly and indirectly employed colleagues, and what funding is being offered by government to meet the additional wage bill?</p>	<p>The financial impact of any change in the National Living Wage (NLW) falls predominantly on the Adult Social Care budget. This is as a result of the increased costs to care providers which are subsequently passported on to the Council. This is allowed for within the budget assumptions at an estimated cost of c£5m.</p> <p>There is no direct funding from Government for the costs arising from changes to the NLW, however the Government has increased the funding for Social Care through additional grants in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and provided the flexibility for Councils to increase the precept by 2%.</p> <p>For Council staff, no further cost pressure is forecast outside the pay related budgetary provision already included. The Council's new pay and grading structure will exceed the NLW, as will the pay grades for those staff that have transferred under TUPE arrangements. This is also prior to any pay award being applied to the grades from April 2024.</p>

11.	<b>Cllr Jim Hakewill</b>	<b>Cllr Jason Smithers</b>	<b>In many councils the opportunity is taken up by Executive Members to put forward presentations relating to their respective portfolios at Full Council. At NNC rule 3(vi) enables this opportunity and for Councillors to ask questions. Why are no Executive Presentations given and scrutiny questions invited?</b>	<b>The Scrutiny process is predicated on the posing of and answering of questions. To achieve effective scrutiny, the Councils scrutiny committees develop an annual work programme and can require urgent items to be brought before them. To raise questions relating to scrutiny at full council would be at odds with the scrutiny process and accordingly an inappropriate and unintended use of Executive Presentations. Furthermore, Executive Presentations are not a requirement but will be used by Executive Members where it is appropriate to do so.</b>
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