

Full Council

North Northamptonshire Council

Wednesday 28th July 2021

At 7:00 pm in The Core Theatre, The Cube, George Street, Corby.

Those in Attendance:

Councillors Paul Bell (Chair), Larry Henson (Vice Chair), Jean Addison, Valerie Anslow, Ross Armour, Matt Binley, Jennie Bone, David Brackenbury, Wendy Brackenbury, Cedwien Brown, Scott Brown, Lyn Buckingham, Lloyd Bunday, Jon-Paul Carr, William Colquhoun, John Currall, Alison Dalziel, Dez Dell, Scott Edwards, Emily Fedorowycz, Martin Griffiths, Jim Hakewill, Clive Hallam, Ken Harrington, Helen Harrison, Helen Howell, Philip Irwin, Bert Jackson, Matt Keane, King Lawal, Graham Lawman, Lora Lawman, Anne Lee, Paul Marks, Dorothy Maxwell, John McGhee, Zoe McGhee, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Macaulay Nichol, Jan O'Hara, Harriet Pentland, Elliot Prentice, Simon Rielly, Russell Roberts, Mark Rowley, Geoff Shacklock, Chris Smith-Haynes, Joseph Smyth, Mike Tebbutt, Kevin Thurland, Sarah Tubbs, Michael Tye, Malcolm Ward, Malcolm Waters, Andrew Wetherill and Lee Wilkes.

Officers in Attendance:

Rob Bridge (Chief Executive), Adele Wylie (Director of Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer), Martin Hammond (Executive Director). Paul Goult (Interim Democratic Services Manager).

19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tim Allebone, Leanne Buckingham, Robin Carter, Annabel de Capell Brooke, Mark Dearing, Jonathan Ekins, Kirk Harrison, David Howes, Ian Jelley, Barbara Jenney, David Jenney, Richard Levell, Peter McEwan, Steven North, Anup Pandey, Tom Partridge-Underwood, Mark Pengelly, David Sims, Jason Smithers, and Kevin Watt.

20 Minutes of the Meetings Held on 26th May 2021 (Annual Council) and 29th June 2021 (Extraordinary Council)

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 26th May 2021 (Annual Council) and 29th June 2021 (Extraordinary Council) had been circulated.

The Chair MOVED, and Councillor Helen Harrison SECONDED that the minutes be approved.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The minutes of the Council meetings held on 26th May 2021 and 29th June 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

21 Declarations of Interest

Members were requested to declare whether they had any personal or pecuniary interest in any item to be considered by the meeting.

Councillors Harrison, Bone and Pentland declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 11 Parliamentary Boundary Review and indicated they would withdraw from the meeting during that item.

Councillor Bell declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 10 the transfer of Wellingborough Civic Regalia as Councillor Bell was also a Wellingborough Town Councillor.

Councillor Lora Lawman, also a Wellingborough Town Councillor, declared a personal interest on behalf of herself and Councillors Ekins, Binley, Harrington, Irwin, Graham Lawman, Carr and Anslow in relation to Agenda Item 10 the transfer of Wellingborough Civic Regalia.

22 Chair's Announcements

There were no Chair's Announcements on this occasion.

23 Leader's Announcements

Under this item Councillor Howell (Deputy Leader) on behalf of Full Council sent its best wishes to Councillor Smithers (Leader) for a speedy recovery.

24 Public Participation

Public Statements

A number of members of the public had requested to address the Council.

Councillor Clark Mitchell, Mr Lewis-Creser and Mr Padwick spoke in favour of the Council supporting Motion 2 as detailed on the agenda.

Mr Lewis-Creser, Mr Padwick, Mr Lyman and Councillor O'Brien spoke in favour of the Council supporting Motion 3 as detailed on the agenda.

Public Questions

Question 1 - A question had been submitted by a local resident, Ms Clayson which read -

"Can we look at making communities sustainable? I live in Thorpe Malsor, lots of properties on oil heating. How about community biogas plants, powered by our organic waste? Solar panels on all council properties as well as private or rental. Imagine this across all the borough's micro communities!"

Councillor Pentland (Executive Member – Climate Change and Green Environment) responded -

“The Council’s climate change framework agreed in March this year by the Shadow Executive (and also on the Council Agenda this evening) sets out a range of activities to develop and work up into action plans. Amongst them are:

- Develop baseline data on energy efficiency performance of all of the council’s housing stock and reduce the financial impact for tenants in relation to fuel bills*
- Improving housing standards across the whole of the area, by investing in, or partnering to deliver more energy efficient, cheaper to run and adaptable homes*
- Investigate the benefits of a heating network*

All of this will require detailed work, investment and specialist advice to achieve these aims, but this is now being worked up by officers for future consideration”.

Solar panels have been installed in some properties, but they are not suitable for all roof types, are not necessarily cheaper for all households, and in large numbers cause issues for Western Power’s infrastructure, requiring detailed consents.

There are lots of potential initiatives as is suggested in the question and as a Council we will need to consider which interventions will give us the best environmental return set against our wider Climate Strategy”.

Question 2 - A question had been submitted by a local resident, Ms Stanger which read:

“Can the council devote time and budget to addressing the Energy Rating Certificates of properties at E and D levels, not just F? I have been landed in £2,500 debt with SSE because the energy-efficient heating the council installed in my E-rated property (meant to reduce my energy consumption) actually quadrupled it”.

Councillor Mercer (Executive Member – Housing and Community) responded -

“The Council is replacing the unsuitable electric storage heaters in a number of properties, starting next month, including those in Thorpe Malsor, with new intelligent radiators, following an experimental pilot in the use of this technology, in those houses which only have oil fired heating. The storage heating units we are taking out will be used to upgrade the communal heating in our sheltered schemes, where they will work much better.

On the wider issue of improving the energy rating of council homes, both Corby and Kettering Councils had been upgrading boilers to more efficient types for some years. The Council has begun to install district air source heat pump systems in blocks of flats, for example at Montrose House and Hamilton House in Kettering, and as part of the refurbishment of 1920s-built housing under the Homes for the Future programme.

Furthermore, we are currently replacing the electric heating and hot water systems at Harry Potter House flats with more modern and fuel-efficient systems. In addition, we are looking for additional external funding, such as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, to enable us to complete additional Green energy works to those identified in our capital programme.

A better understanding of the energy efficiency of every house in our ownership will help direct investment.

The Climate Change Framework agreed by the Shadow Executive in March acknowledges the need to continue to invest in the sustainability and affordability of our stock and the answer to a separate question at tonight's meeting details some of the ways we can approach this."

The Chair thanked the members of the public and councillors for their contributions.

25 Councillor Questions

A question had been submitted by Councillor Lee, which read –

"How many planning enforcement actions has NN Council taken since May 2021 and how many planning breaches are awaiting enforcement action?"

Councillor Howell (Deputy Leader) responded -

"One hundred and ninety-four enforcement cases have been received by North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) since 1st May 2021 of which 105 have been or are currently being investigated.

Eighty-nine of the 194 enforcement cases are currently pending investigation. At least 12 of the cases received since the 1st May 2021 have been closed.

Cases stay on lists for several months in many cases. For example, enforcement can be placed on hold pending a retrospective planning application or the consideration of a planning appeal by the Planning Inspector. The work undertaken since 1st May 2021 also reflects the work inherited by NNC from the previous authorities".

There was no supplementary question. The Chair thanked Councillor Lee and Councillor Howell for their contributions.

26 Executive Presentations

There were no presentations on this occasion.

27 East Midlands Regional Councillor Development Charter

Full Council were being requested to formally commit to develop the necessary strategy, processes, and environment to support effective councillor learning and development by signing a Statement of Commitment and constituting a cross-party Member Development Working Group.

The East Midlands Regional Charter for Councillor Development aimed to promote best practice in councillor development. The Charter had an accreditation process which was set against standards. These standards had been developed in conjunction with the Local Government Association and other regions.

There were three essential criteria to achieving the Charter. These were:

- There was a clear commitment to councillor development and support;
- The Council had a strategic approach to councillor development; and
- Learning and development was effective in building councillors' skills and knowledge.

Within each of these criteria there were elements and requirements to demonstrate that the criteria were being met. These did not dictate what should be in the Council's strategy, the nature of the content or the delivery mechanisms that should be used. The emphasis was on ensuring that all councillors were appropriately developed and supported so that they could be effective in their roles. Achieving the Councillor Development Charter was a chance for the Council's work to be recognised.

Councillor G Mercer sought clarification as to the role of the Democracy and Standards Committee in relation to Member Training and Development. The Director of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that whilst Council would charge the proposed Working Group with undertaking the implementation of the Charter, the Committee would monitor and oversee the Group's work.

Councillor Irwin, whilst welcoming the recent Member Induction Programme, felt that going forward there needed to be greater creativity in delivering training, including on-site training and that future training be customised to individual needs where possible.

Councillor Maxwell also welcomed the potential for on-site training, feeling this would lead to greater Member interaction and discussion on the relevant topic matter.

Councillor John McGhee welcomed the report, stating that it was important it was properly funded, and that Members received the appropriate training and skills development, utilising external partners where appropriate.

Councillor Edwards MOVED the recommendations, Councillor G Mercer SECONDED.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Statement of Commitment on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council (attached as Appendix A); and
- (ii) A cross-party Member Development Working Group be constituted to oversee the work required to achieve the initial accreditation of the Charter and carry out other relevant functions in relation to training and development as set out in the Terms of Reference (attached as Appendix B).

28 Approval to Transfer Mayoral Chains, Insignia and other Artefacts to Wellingborough Town Council

The report before Council sought approval for the Mayoral Chains of Office, Insignia, and other artefacts, formerly the property of the Borough Council of Wellingborough, to be transferred to the newly formed Wellingborough Town Council. These items (as detailed in Appendix C) were vested with North Northamptonshire Council on 1st April 2021. It was the express wish of the former Borough Council of Wellingborough that these items be transferred to the Town Council.

Councillor Wetherill MOVED the recommendations, Councillor A Mercer SECONDED.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) The Council agree the transfer of the Mayoral Chains of Office, Insignia, and other artefacts to Wellingborough Town Council as detailed in Appendix C (attached to the report) on receipt of a formal request from the Town Council.

29 Parliamentary Boundary Review - Consultation Response

Full Council were being requested to note and endorse the views of the Democracy and Standards Committee on the proposed boundary changes to parliamentary constituencies and authorise the Leader to make a submission on behalf of the Council.

The Boundary Commission for England had published proposals to change parliamentary constituency boundaries from 2023 onwards. A report had been submitted to the Democracy and Standards Committee at its meeting on 26th July 2021. Councillor Lora Lawman (Chair of the Democracy and Standards Committee) presented an update report to Council on the committee's conclusions and a written copy of their views was circulated prior to the Full Council meeting to all members.

Council were being asked to consider the committee's conclusions and authorise the Leader to make an appropriate response to the Commission before the consultation period closed on 2nd August 2021.

Councillor Keane voiced concern regarding the intention to propose splitting the Corby Rural ward, particularly in relation to Middleton parish being relocated into Kettering constituency as this included the area designated for the Land West of Corby development, and the villages around Corby identified more with Corby than Kettering.

Councillor Carr complained regarding the lack of information from the Commission to local town and parish councils regarding the consultation and proposals. The villages and communities proposed for inclusion into Daventry or South Northants did not identify with these areas.

Councillor Wetherill stated that Finedon needed to remain linked with Wellingborough, this was the natural community link, there was no community identity with Kettering. Councillor Wetherill supported the recommendation to object to this Commission proposal.

Councillor Andy Mercer recognised the difficulties faced by the Commission. They had been charged by Government to implement the review process within strict criteria. There was a need to try to "even out" the electorate figures within constituencies; the Commission were trying to be logical.

Councillor David Brackenbury appreciated the difficulties faced by the Committee in formulating a draft consultation response and commended the suggested consultation response and recommendations to Council.

Councillor Griffiths raised concern that there may be confusion in the minds of some electors. Electors had recently seen changes in their local governance; further changes in parliamentary governance may cause further confusion and uncertainty.

Councillor Gill Mercer reminded Council that some change in boundaries was inevitable, as there was a need to try to achieve some form of equality. The Committee were suggesting there was a way to minimise this change and these proposals be put to the Commission. Councillor Mercer recognised that all three constituencies would see significant urban extensions over future years, so electorate figures would see a steady increase across all areas.

Councillor Maxwell recognised that the division of Irthlingborough made sense, and that some change was inevitable. Councillor Maxwell felt any elected parliamentarian would seek to represent their respective area and electorate to the best of their ability.

Councillor Wilkes welcomed the proposed consultation response, in that it sought to minimise the displacement of electors. There were likely to be 3,500 fewer displaced from the North Northamptonshire area than currently proposed by the Commission.

Councillor Hallam pointed out that Earls Barton ward was already split. Councillor Hallam felt that some residents were already losing out. The current Commission proposals would compound this situation.

Councillor Fedorowycz recognised the difficulties in formulating a response to the Commission and commended the Committee's recommendations to Council. Councillor Fedorowycz felt that it was important, whatever the Commission's final proposals, that communication with electors on any changes was a priority. It was important that those facing changes to their elected representation in the future were properly informed.

Councillor Lora Lawman in conclusion thanked those councillors who had submitted representations to the Committee; these were considered during deliberations. Councillor Lawman thanked Martin Hammond (Executive Director) and other officers for their assistance during the consultation process. Councillor Lawman agreed that the Commission's communication with local town and parish councils was disappointing and did not allow for full participation in the consultation process. Councillor Lawman commended the Committee's recommendations as circulated to Full Council.

Councillor L Lawman MOVED the recommendations, Councillor G Mercer SECONDED.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) That the ward of Raunds be moved back into the Corby and East Northamptonshire constituency;
- (ii) That the town of Irthlingborough (polling districts SD and SF) be transferred to the Wellingborough constituency but the remainder of the ward be retained within the Corby and East Northamptonshire constituency;
- (iii) That the whole of the Finedon ward be retained within the Wellingborough constituency and not split between constituencies;

- (iv) That the polling districts of Stanion, Little Stanion, Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton be transferred from the Corby and East Northamptonshire constituency to the Kettering constituency, but the remainder of the Corby Rural ward be retained within the Corby and East Northamptonshire constituency;
- (v) That the boundary between the Wellingborough and Daventry constituencies should follow the line of the parish boundary of Wellingborough rather than the ward boundary, so as to include the urban extensions of Redhill Grange and Glenvale Park within the Wellingborough constituency (polling districts WMA and WGB); and
- (vi) That the constituency names should be – Corby and East Northamptonshire, Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden.

30 Tackling Climate Change in North Northamptonshire

Full Council noted that on 25th March 2021, the North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive approved a report of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group and its proposed framework as the basis for the authority's focus and approach to tackling climate change following vesting day.

Two of the specific recommendations contained in the report were:

- Declare a Climate Emergency at the first opportunity in the life of the Council; and
- Develop a plan for the first five years of the life of the new Council which sets out intended climate change reduction activities.

The report before Council sought to build on the work already undertaken by the Shadow Authority and North Northamptonshire Council by establishing future steps in the Council's efforts to tackle the causes and impacts of climate change.

Councillor Pentland MOVED, and Councillor Nichol SECONDED, that Recommendation 1 in the report be amended to read "...Climate and Environment Emergency". This was agreed without debate.

Councillor Fedorowycz welcomed the report and the Council taking the opportunity early during its administration to declare a Climate and Environment Emergency.

Councillor Lora Lawman also welcomed the report, whilst recognising that some of the objectives contained in the strategy approved by the former Shadow Authority may take some time to come to full fruition.

Councillor Lee whilst welcoming the report felt that it lacked urgency. Councillor Lee felt that it was important that the Council instigated action and committed resources now to address some of the objectives. Recent events in the UK and around the world had shown that action was required as soon as possible. The Council, including during the Shadow Period, seemed to be taking too long to commit time and resources to taking positive steps.

Councillor Dell felt that the Council had to increase its levels of public engagement in the process, through climate change citizen panels etc. It was important that the

Council move forward with full public engagement. Councillor Dell was also concerned regarding the current lack of specialist officer resource in the Council, with staff vacancies cited. It was important that the Council filled this resource gap either internally or externally. There was a need to ensure that the previously promised councillor training on climate change be rolled out as soon as possible. Councillor Dell stressed the importance for the Council to act locally, and there was a real sense of public anger regarding the loss of green open space.

Councillor O'Hara stressed the importance that the Council in its role as Planning Authority had to play, in both considering the suitability of applications for planning consent and the priority given in its planning policy documents to tackling climate change and ensuring sustainability.

Councillor Hakewill supported the report but also queried whether adequate resources would be applied by the Council to tackling climate change. Councillor Hakewill felt that it was important that the Council set clear targets and felt that these needed to be challenging. Previous sovereign authorities had set 2030 as a target, and Councillor Hakewill felt that this target be adopted by the Council.

Councillor Wetherill supported the report and suggested for the Council to succeed it needed to work with external partners in business, for example in transportation and logistics, to ensure that objectives were fully achieved over time.

Councillor Smith-Haynes also welcomed the report and agreed that training for councillors was a priority, to ensure all the various aspects were addressed and councillors could make more fully informed decisions on this issue.

Councillor Howell (Deputy Leader) confirmed that the administration did take the matter very seriously, and that proposals would be properly discussed, and informed decisions taken. It was a priority for the Council, and further discussion and action would be forthcoming.

Councillor Maxwell felt that the Council had an important role to play, and this needed to be considered across the Council's services and responsibilities, housing, planning, transport etc.

Councillor Edwards welcomed the report and thanked Councillor Pentland for tabling at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Roberts also welcomed the report and stated that the administration was on notice to ensure resources were provided and action taken to implement changes and support agreed objectives.

Councillor McGhee thanked the all-party group which had developed the strategy during the Shadow Period, and recognised it was a "living document" and was happy to support.

In conclusion Councillor Pentland thanked councillors for their contribution to the debate, and informed Council that the Executive were fully committed to taking this matter forward. In relation to a target date, Councillor Pentland agreed this needed to be as soon as possible but needed to be achievable; this would be developed. Councillor Pentland confirmed that resources to undertake agreed actions would be put in place, and training for councillors implemented. There had already been

initiatives and actions undertaken by the former sovereign councils; these would be continued, developed and added-to over time. It was recognised that there was a significant workload, and action would be taken.

Councillor Pentland MOVED the recommendations (as amended), Councillor Nichol SECONDED.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) North Northamptonshire Council joins the growing number of councils in declaring a “Climate and Environment Emergency”;
- (ii) The Climate Change Framework previously established by the Shadow Authority for North Northamptonshire be endorsed;
- (iii) The Executive brings a Climate Change Action Plan to Council as soon as reasonably practicable, setting out the earliest date that North Northamptonshire Council and the area as a whole can be carbon neutral, and establishing targets to meet that date; and
- (iv) North Northamptonshire MPs, local councils in North Northamptonshire and the Secretary of State for Business and Energy and Industrial Strategy, be informed of the Council’s commitment to tackle climate change.

31 Motions on Notice

The Council had received three motions on notice, which were printed on the agenda paper.

Motion 1

The following motion was MOVED by Councillor Griffiths and SECONDED by Councillor Anslow: -

“This Council appreciates and understands the huge negative impact that the coronavirus pandemic has had on local businesses and in particular the high street retail and hospitality sectors. North Northamptonshire Council should support its local businesses, and our residents and the executive should consider free car parking in all Council owned car parks and look at other initiatives to improve and stimulate our town centres”.

In moving the motion, Councillor Griffiths highlighted the concerns expressed by local businesses some of which pre-dated the Covid pandemic regarding the difficulties being faced by local town centres. It was important that the Council provided as much support to local high street businesses as possible, to encourage growth and public access. The aim was to see all retail across the area benefit, including micro-businesses.

Councillor Anslow spoke in support of the motion, and felt the Council needed to look at options as soon as possible.

During debate, Councillor Graham Lawman MOVED, and Councillor Andy Mercer SECONDED an amendment to the motion submitted. The amendment altered the motion to read –

“This council appreciates and understands the huge negative impact that the coronavirus pandemic has had on local businesses and, in particular, the high street retail and hospitality sectors.

North Northamptonshire Council aims to support its local businesses and our residents and Council asks the Executive to investigate the options, including free car parking, for car parking in all council owned car parks and to continue looking at other initiatives to improve and stimulate our town centres.”

Councillor Lawman informed Council that a parking strategy was already under formulation, and this would be subject to consultation. Councillor Any Mercer felt that it was important that the Council make informed decisions once all relevant facts had been presented and options considered.

Following a vote, the Chair declared that the amendment had passed. The amended motion then became the substantial motion for determination.

Councillor Hakewill reminded Council that its car parks were assets, they were not free to repair and maintain. There was a need for all options to be examined carefully, potentially through the Scrutiny Commission.

Councillor Wendy Brackenbury reminded Council that the Council were already collating a parking strategy, and that this would be subject to consultation and scrutiny.

In conclusion Councillor Griffiths urged Council to support the motion, and the Council seek to act as soon as possible to support local businesses.

RESOLVED that: -

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

Motion 2

The following motion was MOVED by Councillor Zoe McGhee and SECONDED by Councillor Lee: -

“North Northamptonshire Council notes that Kingswood in Corby, Avondale Grange in Kettering, and Queensway in Wellingborough are among the neighbourhoods identified across the country by an all-party Parliamentary Group as “left behind”. This motion calls for the Council to come forward with a plan in the next six-months, on how we can level up – as per the Government’s levelling up agenda, those left behind neighbourhoods here in North Northamptonshire. This may involve specifically targeting health inequalities, youth unemployment and new skills, and improving housing in these areas”.

Councillor Zoe McGhee in moving the motion sought Council’s support for those communities which were identified by the Government paper as being “left behind”. There was a need, working with other agencies, to ensure that the residents within these communities were provided with opportunities to access support and services, and live their lives in safe supportive surroundings.

Councillor Lee in seconding the motion, highlighted many of the issues faced by the communities identified; these issues were affecting these communities disproportionately in comparison with surrounding communities. The motion was seeking the Council to acknowledge the problems faced and look at what could be done to alleviate these issues.

Councillor Binley was supportive of the aims of the motion, but recognised that the issues raised were complex, were going to require multi-agency co-ordination and some would take time to resolve.

During debate, Councillor Binley MOVED, and Councillor Lawal SECONDED an amendment to the motion submitted. The amendment altered the motion to read –

“North Northamptonshire Council notes that Kingswood in Corby, Avondale Grange in Kettering, and Queensway in Wellingborough are among the neighbourhoods identified across the country by an All-Party Parliamentary Group as ‘left behind’. This motion calls for the Scrutiny Commission to review the underlying data and associated report relating to areas highlighted as “left behind”. Working with our communities and partners to propose an approach on the way forward, including learning from the Big Local Programme in Kingswood, in order to develop a plan on how we can level up - as per the government’s levelling up agenda - those left behind neighbourhoods here in North Northamptonshire in an appropriate and agreed timeframe. This may involve specifically targeting health inequalities, youth unemployment and new skills, and improving housing in these areas.”

Councillor Binley in moving the amendment felt the Council’s actions needed to be clear and precise and involve a range of stakeholders. There needed to be recognition that in many cases there would be no quick-fix and it would take time to resolve. Councillor Lawal seconded the amendment.

At this point in proceedings, the meeting agreed to suspend the guillotine and continue until the business of the meeting had been determined. A short adjournment was taken at this point.

Councillor John McGhee appreciated that some of the issues identified would take time to resolve, but it was feasible for the Council to take immediate action in some areas working with partners such as the Police. It was important that action was taken to support young people in these areas, to assist in keeping them constructively occupied and away from the potential influence of the criminal fraternity. There was a certain amount of preventative activity that could be undertaken at short notice that would assist in positive outcomes and show the Council’s support for young people in these areas.

Councillor Zoe McGhee was seeking that the Council made a start in addressing the negative issues in these communities. There were things that the Council, in some cases working with other agencies, could do now. Best practise from other areas could be considered, amended, and implemented. Councillor McGhee recognised that there were some issues which would require a longer-term solution, but some action could be taken immediately to offer support.

Councillor Maxwell noted that other areas in North Northamptonshire also suffered from social deprivation, not just the three areas cited in the motion.

Councillor Anslow recognised that social problems occurred in pockets in other areas, but these three areas had been identified by Government as being of particular concern. Councillor Anslow reminded Council of how quickly resources were assembled to tackle the Covid pandemic; a similar level of intent and co-ordination was required to start tackling the issues on these estates identified by Government.

Councillor Fedorowycz felt that there was the opportunity to achieve some “quick wins” whilst investigating some longer-term solutions.

Councillor Howell recognised the good work already being undertaken in these areas to combat the issues identified. It was important that the Council worked with the public and partners. There was a need to look at best practise and the successes elsewhere.

Councillor Smith-Haynes recognised that there were problems in other areas of North Northamptonshire, these three localities had been identified as a priority. It was important to develop an effective strategy to be used across all areas.

Councillor Andy Mercer also commented that there were pockets of deprivation in other areas. There was a need for long-term solutions.

Councillor Prentice noted the three areas identified were a priority. There was a need to identify clear timescales for action.

Councillor Griffiths reminded Council that the Police had staff and resource to assist in addressing some of the issues identified. The Council needed to approach partners as soon as possible. Councillor Griffiths was satisfied with the suggested six-months cited in the original motion to draw-up a plan.

Councillor Wilkes suggested that the proposed amendment strengthened the motion. Working with partners was key to ensuring longer-term success. In conclusion Councillor Binley agreed there was a need to adopt a multi-agency approach to develop a plan.

Following a vote, the Chair declared that the amendment had passed. The amended motion then became the substantial motion for determination.

Councillor John McGhee stated it was important that the Council learn lessons from tackling the issues in these three areas, that could be adapted and rolled-out in other areas. The Government had identified these three localities. There was a need for investment, but some “quick wins” were achievable. Any longer-term plan needed to be sustainable.

Councillor Helen Harrison felt that the amendment tabled and agreed strengthened the motion and provided a clear course of action for the Council in developing a plan.

Councillor Howell stated that the Council and the Executive were committed to act. The Council will work with the public and partners in order to make the lives of residents in these communities better.

Councillor Gill Mercer stated that there were established organisations we can work with to develop a constructive plan of action.

Councillor Roberts agreed that the Council needed to act in order to provide additional support working with partners to protect young people in these areas.

In conclusion Councillor Zoe McGhee quoted the positive work being undertaken by existing organisations around North Northamptonshire. Councillor McGhee stressed that it was not only about youth services and provision, but there was also a need to address adult services, HMOs etc. There were wider community issues to be addressed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (ii) The motion (as amended) be agreed.

Motion 3

The following motion was MOVED by Councillor Tubbs and SECONDED by Councillor Fedorowycz: -

“This Council, North Northamptonshire Council, today declare a Climate Emergency which pledges to deliver on the Climate Change Strategy Plan drafted by the Shadow Authority and declarations made by the previous sovereign councils which were merged on April 1st 2021. This Council takes very seriously the risk to present and future generations of changes in our global climate. The impact of climate change effects all our communities across North Northamptonshire and this Council pledges to maintain continuity to reach net zero by 2030 as set by previous sovereign councils”.

Given the earlier resolution by Council, Councillor Tubbs, and Councillor Fedorowycz (the MOVER and SECONDER of the motion), amended the text to read “...*declared a Climate and Environment Emergency*...”. This was agreed without debate.

Councillor Tubbs in moving the motion, welcomed the Council’s earlier declaration of adoption of a Climate and Environment Emergency. Councillor Tubbs suggested that the Council adopt 2030 as a target date to reach net zero. The impact of climate change was being felt now and it was important that locally the Council undertake all it could to achieve its objectives. Local residents and businesses were suffering now. Councillor Tubbs felt that setting a target would provide clear commitment from the Council to achieve its stated aims.

Councillor Fedorowycz seconded the motion, agreeing that setting a target date of 2030 was preferable. Councillor Dell suggested that by not setting a target date it may send the wrong message to the public.

Councillor Pentland felt that setting a target date at this time was unwise, and the Council needed to consider what was a realistic target. The Council had adopted the Climate Change and Environment Emergency recommendation and would now seek to develop a realistic, deliverable plan. Councillor Pentland confirmed that the Executive were fully committed to act on behalf of the Council and local residents.

Councillors Addison and McGhee agreed that a target date should be set by Council, following its earlier support for the Climate and Environment Emergency.

In conclusion, Councillor Tubbs sought Council to support the motion and set a target date, thus showing the Council's clear commitment to tackling the Climate and Environment Emergency.

A recorded vote was requested on the motion.

Those voting FOR the motion: - Councillors Addison, Anslow, Armour, Lyn Buckingham, Colquhoun, Dell, Fedorowycz, Hakewill, Keane, Lee, J McGhee, Z McGhee, Rielly and Tubbs.

Those voting AGAINST the motion: - Councillors Binley, Bone, D Brackenbury, C Brown, S Brown, Bunday, Carr, Edwards, Hallam, Harrington, H Harrison, Henson, Howell, Irwin, Jackson, Lawal, G Lawman, L Lawman, Marks, Maxwell, A Mercer, G Mercer, Nichol, Pentland, Prentice, Roberts, Shacklock, Smyth, Tebbutt, Thurland, Tye, Ward, Waters, Wetherill, and Wilkes.

Those voting to ABSTAIN: - Bell, W Brackenbury, Currall, O'Hara, Rowley, and Smith-Haynes.

The motion fell.

32 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 11:05 pm.

Chair

Date