



Democratic Support Service  
PO Box 136  
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MINUTES of the Business Meeting of the NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
held at County Hall, Northampton on 16 June 2016 at 10.30am

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Jim Harker OBE (Chairman)  
Councillor Dudley Hughes (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor	Sally Beardsworth	Councillor	Derek Lawson MBE
"	Paul Bell	"	Stephen Legg
"	Wendy Brackenbury	"	Chris Lofts
"	Julie Brookfield	"	Malcolm Longley
"	Michael Brown	"	David Mackintosh
"	Robin Brown	"	Arthur McCutcheon
"	Mary Butcher	"	John McGhee
"	Michael Clarke	"	Allan Matthews
"	Adam Collyer	"	Andy Mercer
"	Elizabeth Coombe	"	Dennis Meredith
"	Gareth Eales	"	Ian Morris
"	Brendan Glynane	"	Steve Osborne
"	Matt Golby	"	Bill Parker
"	André Gonzalez De Savage	"	Bhupendra Patel
"	Christopher Groome	"	Suresh Patel
"	James Hakewill	"	Russell Roberts
"	Stan Heggs	"	Bob Scott
"	Alan Hills	"	Mick Scrimshaw
"	Sue Homer	"	Heather Smith
"	Jill Hope	"	Danielle Stone
"	Sylvia Hughes	"	Michael Tye
"	Cecile Irving-Swift	"	Sarah Uldall
"	Joan Kirkbride	"	Allen Walker
"	Phil Larratt	"	Malcolm Waters

Also in attendance (for all or part of the meeting):

Honorary Alderman John Bailey  
Dr Paul Blantern, Chief Executive  
Tony Ciaburro, Director for the Environment, Development & Transport  
Laurie Gould, Monitoring Officer  
Paul Hanson, Manager, Democratic Services  
Sharon Muldoon (Acting Director of Children's Services)  
Jenny Rendall, Democracy Officer (Minutes)

And 11 members of the public.

### 35/16 Apologies for non-attendance:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jim Broomfield, Eileen Hales, Mike Hallam, Graham Lawman, Ron Sawbridge MBE, Judy Shephard & Winston Strachan as well as the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer, Mr Matt Bowmer. Councillor Christopher Groome also sent apologies for a late arrival.

### 36/16 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2016:

**RESOLVED that: Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 May 2016 as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the following amendments:**

- **Item 30/16, final paragraph should refer to a service taking place on Sunday 25 September; and**
- **Item 31/16, final paragraph should refer to the Leader's husband, Mr Gordon Smith.**

### 37/16 Notification of requests by members of the public to address the meeting

#### **Agenda Item No: 6 - Petitions**

- Councillor James Hakewill on behalf of Ms Georgie Ashcroft

#### **Agenda Item No: 12 (a) - Motion submitted by Cllr Gareth Eales**

- Mr Norman Adams
- Ms Nancy Jean Mirales
- Mr Graham Croucher
- Mr Brian Calder
- Ms Sue Morton
- Ms Maria Chalkia
- Northampton Borough Councillor Rufia Ashraf

#### **Agenda Item No: 12(d) - Motion submitted by Councillor Sally Beardsworth**

- Mrs Jean Lineker

### 38/16 Declarations of Interest by Councillors:

At the Chairman's invitation the Monitoring Officer, Laurie Gould advised members of the Council that the issue for members of the Council including those serving on the Development Control Committee in relation to item 12(a) on the agenda was governed by the Localism Act, Section 25 which provided considerable scope for all members to debate and comment on an issue without being declared guilty of pre-determination. He did however, recommend members exercise caution when making comments.

Councillor Dennis Meredith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 12(a) stating he would rather leave the Council Chamber whilst item 12(a) was being discussed as he was a member of the Development Control Committee.

### 39/16 Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including those watching via a live webcast.

He also referred to the following:

- A flyer that Councillors should have found on their chairs that morning regarding the

£100 club which would be used to raise funds towards his 2 charities. The contents of the hampers that would be available as prizes had all been generously donated by Northamptonshire businesses.

- An Olympic double medallist would also be attending an event to which members had already been invited in Pitsford in aid of Sailability.
- The last day of the Women's Cycle Tour would take place in Northamptonshire on Sunday 19 June, starting in Northampton and ending in Kettering. The Leader of the Council was congratulated on bringing this event to the county for its third year.

#### 40/16 Petitions:

On behalf of Ms Georgie Ashcroft, Councillor Jim Hakewill presented a petition regarding the A43 stating that since the passing of Ms Ashcroft's mother in a tragic car accident in June 2015 every incident that had occurred on the A43 stretch between Kettering and Northampton had brought back bad memories to herself, her family and friends, as well as countless others who had gone through the same experience. Living in Mawsley, she had no choice but to use the road to get to and from work each day, sitting in the congestion of rush hour. Although her mother's passing was not as a result of dangerous driving, it made her aware of the dangers of driving, something 4,500 other people who had signed her petition shared. This stretch of the A43 had always been notorious for accidents and traffic congestion and a single carriageway could no longer sustain the volume of traffic using this major route between Kettering and Northampton. Traffic was slowed down to a speed in which many drivers became impatient and pushing them to driving decisions that the road could not prevent. Dangerous overtaking all too often led to an accident particularly when foliage along the side of the road led to obscured vision.

Ms Ashcroft felt this was an issue worth pursuing especially after the level of support she had received through signatures to her petition. Drivers could be as safe as you could ever be but what was there to stop another driver from overtaking a lorry on a blind bend and killing an innocent person or family on a day out. A busy road enabled these situations to happen, especially when it was inadequate for the level of traffic using it.

Too many lives had been lost on this road. There had also been a number of incidents that had not resulted in a loss of life but had resulted in a change of life that many people could never overcome. Ms Ashcroft felt that whilst money could be made available lives could not be replaced.

**RESOLVED that: Council accepted the petition from Ms Georgie Ashcroft.**

#### 41/16 Opposition Priority Business:

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Jill Hope proposed the following motion:

*"Liberal Democrats believe in equality of opportunity for all children and have championed a number of national initiatives over recent years to improve children's futures. We are therefore concerned that not all children in Northamptonshire are able to make the most of their skills and abilities.*

*This Council therefore agrees to produce a clear and concise action plan with defined delivery milestones that ensures all schools and colleges remaining under council control maximise the education outcomes for all the county's children. Progress against this plan should be regularly reported to Council."*

In moving the motion, Councillor Hope stated she had no wish to criticise teachers who she did not blame for any problems the Council had with educational achievement. She had many friends who were teachers and who worked very hard. She noted many experienced teachers were leaving the profession because they were tired of taking the blame leaving schools with cheap but inexperienced teachers.

The county was growing and receiving children from all over the world. It was an exciting time to be in the county. A nursery she had recently spoken with referred to 9 different languages and whilst they were managing with Polish they found Russian more difficult.

Standards had improved significantly in the last 15 years but many of the support services had been removed. Ofsted had reviewed all schools and nurseries in the county and found systematic under-performance. Northamptonshire was one of the worst performing counties in the country, especially in achievements at Key Stage 2. Pupil premium funding gave more to schools in areas of high deprivation and 15 hours per week was now offered to all pre-school children, rising shortly to 30 hours per week for 2 year olds. This made the Ofsted findings so disappointing – that despite all that was being done, things were improving but only slowly. Children had only one shot at education and it was too late for a child whose future would be blighted. She had herself recently achieved a job because of a qualification she had achieved at school. 73% of young people from deprived backgrounds did not achieve 5 GCSE's. If a child slipped behind the age of 7 with their reading, by the age 11 years that gap was unrecoverable.

The policy of making all schools become academies had left Northamptonshire with no secondary schools under its care. If the Council had no schools left, what was it there for? She felt it was important to pass the motion because all councillors needed to be acutely aware of what was happening.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Glynane who noted that the portfolio holder had only been in his position for a little while but he was impressed with the way in which he had managed many subjects. He also noted that Item number 6 on the agenda for the following week's meeting of the Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee would provide an educational update. He looked forward to receiving that update at the meeting. He felt the letter from Ofsted was unusual and noted that it had voiced deep concerns about children in the county but he noted the Council had accepted his findings and was working rapidly to achieve improvements.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Education was considered to be very clear to all councillors and some felt the letter from Ofsted had been really disappointing. It was noted some of the concerns raised in the letter related to higher level ability children in primary schools who were not being assisted where they should and who were not making sufficient progress. People with skills were needed in a county growing in the way the county was.
- It was noted that until recently regular meetings were held in Corby to discuss local schools and a request was made for these meetings to be arranged again.
- Some felt the Administration only had themselves to blame for the current situation as many of those now leaving school had only known education during the Administration's term.
- It was noted people in the county did not just work in warehouses.
- It was suggested people came from outside of the county to take good high quality jobs rather than children from the county's own education system.
- It was suggested children were no longer taught the basics such as tables or how to spell or read and enjoy a book.

- Some felt it was utterly crucial to them to improve educational outcomes of children across the whole county.
- It was felt by some that a clear plan had been approved at Cabinet on 10 May 2016 with regard to improving educational achievement. The report also noted key milestones on the way to achieving the plan as well as aspirations including the aspiration to be in the top quartile by 2020. Although this was a high aspiration some felt the Council was aware of exactly what was needed to close the gap.
- Although the local authority had fewer schools under its control the plan for educational improvement was considered by many to be good and involved working with partners including the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership with regard to post 16 options.
- It was noted teachers had never been so well trained and committed and worked so hard. Many issues affected educational achievement however including short term contracts and a lack of housing which led to pupils having to move schools more than once because landlords who preferred to turn their homes into homes for high level occupancy rather than renting them out to one family.
- It was felt by some that the county was quite rich but most of that money was made out of the county and the economy within the county was very much a low wage one. Some felt this could be addressed by the authority becoming an accredited low wage authority.
- It was also suggested Children's Services were generally considered to be a toxic brand with huge classroom sizes and children in disadvantaged areas lacking opportunities beyond the school day. Opportunities were critical for young people to supplement and complement their daytime schooling.
- It was suggested by some that the comprehensive system worked well and achieved good educations.
- Councillors were challenged to become involved in the schools in their areas by offering to join as school governors. Whilst this has proved to be more difficult in the case of academies, this should not stop councillors from asking to be involved.
- The Ofsted letter was not considered by all to be very helpful as it was based on results that had been published the year before. As of March that year 75.6% of schools under the Council's control were considered to be good or better and 83.8% of Early Years providers were producing good education.
- It was also noted that the report provided information the Council was already aware of and it had been reviewed by scrutiny.

In reply Councillor Hope stated she felt the Administration's attitude to the motion was complacency. She felt the Ofsted letter had been written in the context of the plan and Council should be more representative of the general public in that it was often difficult for those with jobs to attend Cabinet meetings. She thanked the Labour Group for their support and suggested teachers did not wish to join teaching in Northamptonshire because the county was failing. She also suggested reaching the top quartile by 2020 was an achievement she would be surprised if the Council achieved.

**RESOLVED that: Upon the vote the motion was rejected.**

42/16 Business Items (including Budget & Policy Framework items, Appointments & Annual Reports):

(a) Monthly Capital Report (MCR) New Capital Scheme Approvals.

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Robin Brown proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating it was normal business for Council to receive the

report which for the past 10 years had been presented by Councillor Bill Parker. He thanked Councillor Parker for setting balanced budgets during that time.

The report was seconded by Councillor Bill Parker who thanked Councillor Brown for his words.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Some expressed surprise that one of the items coming forward for approval was the new ways of working and wondered why it was not included in the capital programme from the outset.
- It was also noted that the end of the report referred consultation with the Fiscal Outturns Sub-Committee which had not been operated for some time.
- Pleasure was expressed regarding the plans to develop the offices above the Mounts Fire Station in Northampton into flats for children leaving care. It was also confirmed that once these had been completed, arrangements would be made for councillors to visit and view them.

In reply Councillor Brown stated he was sure there was a reason for the reference to the Fiscal Outturns Sub-Committee that Democratic Services would investigate. He also referred to Capital funding being used in many ways and suggested a workshop would assist members to understand the complexities of the Council budget.

**RESOLVED that: Council approved the inclusion of the following 3 new capital schemes:**

- **Darsdale Farm Highway Works (\$278) totalling investment of £754,000;**
- **Belinda Ferrison House Refurbishment, totalling investment of £370,000; and**
- **New Ways of Working PT&T , totalling investment of £110,000**

**To enable their formal entry into the Council's Committed Capital Programme following Cabinet and Capital Investment Board (CIB) recommendations (detailed in Section 5 of the report).**

(b) Treasury Management Report, Quarter Four 2015-16:

At the Chairman's invitation, Councillor Robin Brown proposed this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) repeating his thanks to Councillor Parker for his excellent management of the Council's finances. The advance to the University of £14million was financed by the Public Works Loan Board and no other payments had been made to the Finance Capital Programme which had the sum of £15million for borrowing purposes.

The report was seconded by Councillor Bill Parker who stated that previous budget workshops had been found useful by those attending them. He felt the report demonstrated how well the Treasury Management Team was performing.

**RESOLVED that: Council noted the Treasury Management Report.**

(c) Amendments to the Constitution:

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Bill Parker proposed the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating it referred to agreements made at the last meeting to the Councillor Services & Governance Working Group which was held on 3 May 2016. The only real things to approve were with regard to changes to the scrutiny champion role which had not been used since 2013 and which the Working Group had therefore agreed to remove. The other was detailed in Section 5 of the report with regards to trading

standards functions of the Council. These included reference to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 and the Registered Designs Act 1949 which had to be included.

The report was seconded by Councillor Allen Walker.

**RESOLVED that: Council agreed:**

- 1) The changes to the Constitution as set out in Sections 4 and 5 of the report; and**
- 2) That these changes would take effect immediately and agree that the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority to make these amendments, any associated conforming amendments and to republish the Constitution.**

**(d) Appointment of Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the Health & Wellbeing Board:**

The Chairman informed Council that the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Wellbeing had now viewed the report and approved its contents.

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Allen Walker proposed this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating that Councillor Sylvia Hughes would become the Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

The report was seconded by Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift.

Councillor Sylvia Hughes stated she was delighted to take on the role of Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board. She recognised the contribution of its former Chairman, Councillor Robin Brown who had been outstanding in the establishment and development of the Board which had begun in shadow form in 2012 and continued on a statutory basis from April 2013. His strong leadership brought people together. His forthright and honest style and belief achieved better outcomes for Northamptonshire and value for money for the taxpayer. She felt he would be a hard act to follow. She did however feel she had good experience as she had attended meetings for the last 2 years in her capacity as an Assistant Cabinet Member so was familiar with the reports and issues.

Councillor Hughes then stated that the Leader of Daventry District Council, Councillor Chris Millar would join Dr Darin Seiger and Professor Nick Petford as her Deputy Chairmen. From September meetings would also be moved to take place on a bi-monthly basis instead of quarterly in order to move the work forward.

In reply Councillor Walker stated congratulated Councillor Hughes in her new role and stated how well he knew she would fulfil her duties.

**RESOLVED that: Council:**

- 1) Agreed to continue to support the Health and Wellbeing Board as a statutory body;**
- 2) Approved the appointment of Councillor Sylvia Hughes as Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board; and**
- 3) Noted the appointment of Councillor Chris Millar as Vice-Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board.**

**(e) Municipal Bonds Agency – Progress Report and Guarantee Arrangements:**

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Robin Brown proposed this report (copies of which had been previously circulated) stating the aim was to reduce local authority borrowing

costs by offering loans to local authorities at a rate below that of the Public Works Board. A main issue was in relation to risk but it was felt this was limited as no capital finance deal to any local authority had been reneged on in the last 1,000 years.

The report was seconded by Councillor Bill Parker who stated there had been a number of reports presented to Cabinet and Council to keep members fully informed of what was happening.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Some felt that anything that enabled the Council to reduce borrowing costs had to be welcomed. It was noted being a member of the Municipal Bonds Agency was not without risk and all authorities would be jointly liable for any loans. The Authority also would have no say over who was granted a loan. There was an assumption of government support but it was felt the Council should be ready to pull out of the Agency should its own credit rating fails.
- Caution was also suggested the ongoing process should be considered carefully should the need arise to pull out of the Agency and guarantees should be monitored closely.

In reply Councillor Brown confirmed all loans would be closely monitored. He felt sure that the processes followed would ensure minimal risk. He also noted the Council did have a 4-year financial plan which would be delivered.

**RESOLVED that: Council agreed to:**

- 1) Note**
  - a) The risks of entry into the Framework Agreement and Guarantee, and undertaking borrowing from the UK Municipal Bonds Agency as detailed in the report; and**
  - b) The Counsel opinion of Jonathan Swift QC;**
- 2) Authorised the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) and Monitoring Officer with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and LGSS to enter into the Framework Agreement on behalf of the Council, and to execute all the necessary contractual arrangements, including the framework Agreement, Guarantee and Schedules; and**
- 3) Delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) authority to agree amendments to the Framework Agreement and act for the Council as shareholder of the Municipal Bonds Agency in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Cabinet member for Finance.**

(f) Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015/16:

The Chairman invited the Director of People/Commissioning/Director of Public Health, Dr Akeem Ali to address Council who highlighted the following:

- The report highlighted some key successes that he and his team were very pleased about achieving. He also thanked all those councillors who had assisted with these achievements.
- The report was an independent view of the state of the county and he had therefore attempted to provide a balanced view of what they were aware of and what was still required.
- The Director did note that he worked with a lot of cynical people in terms of celebrating success because they were always looking for more. The need to do better was therefore included in the report.
- Three key issues were highlighted in the report in terms of preventable and avoidable deaths in the county relating to cancers, respiratory disease and cardio vascular



disease. Cardio vascular deaths had been reduced by half and respiratory by 20% but they still remained a major cause of death in the county.

- They were just on the cusp of reaching the national average in terms of poor homes and poverty and had taken just over 6,000 homes out of poverty.
- In terms in relation to children it was noted 9 of the 15 indicators were not quite yet at the national average but the report also included a hyperlink to a fuller report. They were now just behind the national average for children being prepared for school.
- Whilst the county had not yet reached the national average for teenage pregnancy, the numbers had remained steady. The same was true for GCSE achievement. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy put children as a fundamental priority.
- Usually 600-700 children entered the youth justice system and this number had been reduced to approximately 400 children the previous year. Those sitting on the Youth Justice Board felt that significant improvements had been made in this area.
- 35,000 people in the county, young, children and the elderly had taken part in 20million steps and a further event was planned for that year.
- The Cycling Tour had also been held in the county twice and was returning for a third time that weekend. It had also achieved an increased level of physical activity amongst young women in the county and he had regularly received requested to clear cycle paths around the county.
- Social needs were now meeting medical needs in a way that enabled staff to treat people as human beings with country parks and libraries experiencing longer opening hours.
- First for Wellbeing was working very hard with colleagues in the NHS and GP practices to ascertain where people visited to improve health and wellbeing.
- A service had been commissioned to turn around the drug and alcohol service. It had been expanded in terms of what it offered and 2 new centres had been added to the one in Northampton, one in Corby and the other towards Rushden. A lot of money had been spent doing this and despite the amount of money available being reduced, all services had been maintained and the health grant had been better able to work in areas for road safety and supporting children. A new programme with youth was also bringing in school teachers to discuss how the service could be expanded further.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Sylvia Hughes to propose the report (copies of which had been previously circulated) who added that the innovative decision to turn it into a newspaper style format would assist in getting it out to 200,000 people in the county. She also felt it would assist in achieving the 4 priorities in the health and wellbeing strategy.

The report was seconded by Councillor Robin Brown who stated he had been working in close co-operation throughout the time the report covered and felt the Council had an outstanding service. There had been the need to make some substantial changes to services and whilst there was still some way to go he felt confident the Council was moving in the right direction. He concluded by pressing on people the need to solve issues around obesity.

Councillors commented as follows:

- It was suggested by some that unless issues around education were solved and fewer people lived in poverty and the number of young people not in employment or education was reduced the issues would not be solved.
- Reference was made to increasing demands in social housing and the issues in the county with houses of multiple occupation, rogue landlords and families living in one room. The Council's housing stock decreased and it was noticed many landlords still refused tenants who were on benefits.

- The current successes were recognised and staff congratulated on achieving them but it was also recognised there was a long way to go.
- The work in improving drug treatment was very much welcomed and a request was made to undertake more in terms of smoking. Although the county was just below the national average there were parts of the county that were really high, particularly in Corby which was more than 10% above the national average. It was also suggested those employed to assist people to stop smoking be employed again in community centres and other areas where people gathered. Concern should also be given to looking for assistance through the voluntary sector.
- Reference was made to the happiness survey.
- Some felt the information on admissions to hospital was quite alarming and the director was asked to explain these figures.
- It was noted that libraries were under pressure to provide a lot of information on many services and a request was made for information on how the Council ensured those members of staff working in libraries, who often only numbered 1 person per library were supported to provide all of the relevant information. Information on adequate IT systems within libraries was also requested.
- The Director was asked if making people happy was part of his role.
- Some of the figures appeared to some to be contradictory and unrealisable.
- The Director was asked for his opinion on how the Psychoactive Substances Act would affect local and national use of drugs.
- It was noted that no matter how much information was made available a lot of success depended on people's choices. Whilst obesity for example could be as a result of medication or a particular diet that someone must follow for other health reasons, much was also caused by people choosing to lead a particular lifestyle and many people would defend their choice to lead a particular lifestyle.
- Sugar was recognised by some as an issue and it was suggested more information was required in relation to sugar in food. The Director was also asked for his opinion on how a much those with a very defined budget could be encouraged to spend more on feeding their children by buying healthier foods that they may not feel they can afford to buy.
- It was felt by some that many of those members of staff who had moved over to First for Wellbeing did not know who was providing their support.
- Some councillors felt a bit disconnected with the report and the Director was invited to visit their divisions with them.
- Concerns were also raised about the number of shish ka-bars that were popping up around the town. Concerns were also raised at the number of people who drank in the streets, close to schools or other areas where parents took their young children and the fact that this normalised drinking.
- Concerns were also raised regarding people had lost their personal allowances in favour of Universal Credit that would take over and the need for more social housing. In this respect more social housing was required than the county currently held.
- Other activities that took place in Wellingborough could also have been referred to in the report such as the Waendal Walk which had between 3,000 and 5,000 people taking part during the course of a weekend.
- It was also suggested staff be encouraged to take a 10 minute walk during their lunchbreak.
- Reference was made to the inclusion in the report of the Youth Sport Trust and Active Healthy Minds Projects which were being trail blazed by Northamptonshire. The effect of mental health on children was often talked about and it was pleasing to hear that Northamptonshire was leading the way in supporting those who suffered.

In response to questions Dr Ali highlighted the following:

- The report had started as he had hoped in that it was stimulating debate and increasing everyone's consciousness about some of the issues, bringing forward some different perspectives.
- The art of prolonging and promotion wellbeing was through organised efforts of society and whatever information was produced was done to in a way to assist people to make choices and understand the issues. He would be happy to have meetings with any councillor who did not fully understand any area of the report.
- Social housing and looking forward to the future was important and he had worked the previous year with district and borough councils as well as NHS colleagues to create a focus. He was aware that district and borough council colleagues also found social housing a challenge.
- He did consider it part of his job to make the people of Northamptonshire happy although this was not done alone but as part of an organised effort. Happier people led to improvements in health at a lesser cost to society.
- Smoking was important and a personal choice and he was very concerned about pregnant women smoking. Colleagues were also working hard to ensure tobacco goods were not sold to younger people.
- Mental health colleagues were very aware of the signs to look for when a young child visited them for help.
- He would be happy to consult with councillors on where people obtained support.
- Spending on libraries had not stopped and the IT system was just about being replaced.

In reply Councillor Sylvia Hughes stated she was reassured by the fact that everyone in the Chamber cared. The Health and Wellbeing Board brought together all of the various strategies and all councillors were welcome to attend these meetings. She felt wellbeing was achieved through the house people lived in, the job they had and the friends they had and happiness was very important.

The Chairman also noted how alcohol was represented on ordinary programmes that were watched on the TV by many particularly Coronation Street.

**RESOLVED that: Council noted the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2015/16 and endorsed the key recommendations made in the report.**

#### (g) Chief Officer Appointment – Director of Children's Services

At this point the Chairman informed Council of a late but urgent report that he had agreed to add to the agenda. The report was e-mailed to all councillors on the afternoon of Tuesday 14 June 2016 and copies were left on councillors' chairs that morning.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Heather Smith to propose the report who stated it had been brought forward for Council to ratify the appointment of Lesley Hagger as the new Director for Education Services. There was a need to be aware of the difficulties that existed when trying to recruit to such roles and Children's Services required a strong leading director for the process and it was often necessary to act quickly. The Leader of the Council had therefore held discussions with the Chief Executive as well as the Department for Education in this respect.

The report was seconded by Councillor Matt Golby who felt pleased that the recruitment had taken place speedily. He felt Lesley Hagger would continue on the firm foundation that had been created and looked forward to working with her on the improvement plan.

Councillors thanked the previous holder of the post, Alex Hopkins was thanked for all of the work he had undertaken and Lesley Hagger was welcomed into her new role.

In answer to a query it was confirmed consultation had taken place with all members of the Cabinet prior to the appointment.

**RESOLVED that: Council noted and ratified the permanent appointment of Mrs Lesley Hagger as the Council's statutory Director for Children's Services from 18 July 2016.**

43/16 Questions, if any, to the Chairman of the Audit Committee relating to the work of the Audit Committee since the last ordinary meeting.

At the Chairman's invitation the Independent Chairman of the Audit Committee addressed Council highlighting the following:

- Apologies were given for not attending the meeting held in March 2016.
- The November meeting was essentially a summation of what had taken place during the last year. During February they looked at plan both of the external and internal auditors for the forthcoming season.
- There had been a lot of debate about formal audit plans and changes proposed and one of the main concerns was the impact on internal audit of the next generation council model. During May a Director had been present to discuss some of these issues further.
- Audit was generally risk based and whilst they could not view everything that was undertaken by the Council so the best way for an efficient audit was to look at the risks surrounding the Council.
- Some discussions had been held regarding schools audits and the 2 main risks for schools were financial and safeguarding. Safeguarding was a big risk for the Council moving forward into its next generation model and the biggest issue was the change that would provide the opportunity to undertake things wrongly.
- Moving to the next generation model would impact on the level of testing undertaken by the external auditors and obviously with that would come a level of fees which would be higher if the external auditors were required to undertake more.
- The May meeting had received interim reports from the external auditors and the team producing the accounts and nothing appeared amiss as yet. Numbers would be finalised during August.

The Independent Chairman of the Audit Committee answered questions as follows:

- The level of resources for the audit department was a great issue for the Audit Committee. At the same time as many changes that would impact on the department, resources were being cut by 20%. There were only 2 ways of discovering when insufficient work had been undertaken; 1 was when the external auditors informed you have had not undertaken adequate work and they then undertake the work for you at a cost and the other is when with hindsight you realise the numbers were incorrect.
- The amount of work required to cover all risks was very subjective but the Audit Team would benefit from the fact that it would be working with colleagues in Milton Keynes Council.
- The audit team had not maintained a full complement and his concerns were that there would be inadequate numbers of people within the team to meet the budget, particularly if there was a long period of sickness. At the end of the day the Audit Committee could only make recommendations and send warnings but could not actually regulate how the work was completed.

- He had been particularly concerned regarding the areas raised by the Whistleblower who had taken the time to inform the Committee of an issue. He had been informed that the person allocated to undertake the research was then off sick and there was no-one else to cover the work. It was then lost out of the work programme but he could confirm it had been replaced in the work programme and some valuable information and results were expected later that year.
- Re-structuring did not produce savings. Changes however were expected in the psychology and way that relationships were built between the services and commissioning teams. The teams were aware of the challenges but there was some work to be undertaken before you could determine if the changes had worked.
- Olympus Care Services were the first of the services to be put out to tender and there had been some changes including bringing it back in-house. The Managing Director should be well aware of all the work undertaken but they were generally concerned with delivery of services and would refer to the Director of Finance on financial issues.
- He was concerned regarding the resources that were being removed from internal audit. There would now be 1,485 days of audit whereas 2 years previously it had been 1,850 and a few years before that 2,000. The way of quantifying audit work had changed however with some areas being audited more regularly than others. There had also been many improvements in control systems and accounting systems within the Council. The consequences if the Independent Chairman's assumptions were wrong were significant and he would like to have seen some more resource in view of the new systems that were currently or due to be scheduled.

**RESOLVED that: Council noted the update and answers to questions from the Independent Chairman of the Audit Committee.**

#### 44/16 Cabinet Business:

At the Chairman's invitation, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Heather Smith presented her report (copies of which had been previously circulated) highlighting the following:

- An article from the Municipal Journal was quoted which voiced concerns regarding devolution which was about improving services in innovative ways and suggested there was a need to put structures aside and focus on services.
- The report in the Municipal Journal also referred to reviews being commissioned by the County Council Network (CCN) and District Councils Network. She then referred to reviews being commissioning by borough and district councils in Oxfordshire and then another by Oxfordshire County Council which she found ridiculous and wasteful of tax payer's money. She did not feel Northamptonshire was therefore unique but much more like other areas in the country that had a structure that caused friction between them. She would like to get some terms of reference together in the best interests of the public of Northamptonshire but would like to see the results of the CCN and District Council Network before proceeding too much further.
- The Women's Tour would take place in the County on the following Sunday and everyone was invited to view it.
- The following month all councillors were asked to sign up for the Pride of Northamptonshire event which was a 10mile run which would be held on flat ground, alongside the canals in many places.

The Chairman also referred to answers to questions raised prior to the meeting that councillors could find on their chairs that day. Supplementary questions to these were answered as follows:

- The Leader of the Council would like to find an easy way to achieve agreement with all district and borough councils but as this was nowhere near being achieved at the current time, she was prioritising keeping the Council within its budget.
- She recognised that unitary authorities would mean cessation of borough and district councils to be replaced with 1 or 2 unitary authorities for the whole county.
- The county included some particular pressure points within the county where there was a high influx of people and young children leaving the backs of lorries. In the East Midlands Northamptonshire had the highest number of asylum seeking children and the county was nationally recognised as doing more than its fair share.
- School places were a particular issue and offers had been received from East Northants, Corby and Daventry to assist with providing housing. They needed however to work in areas where there were school places. In response to a Government request, she was also considering taking a large group of children in an area where they could support themselves and she was working with the East Midlands Co-ordinator on this.
- The Leader of the Council had support from her Administration to follow the course she was in terms of unitary authorities. She felt sure all district and borough partners would be willing to work with her on this but it would take a little longer than some might think.
- The First for Wellbeing booklet included a telephone number which was already being used and generating enquiries. It was concerned with getting people to think about their wellbeing and health on the basis of self care and lots of organisations were providing help and support. The NHS had spent a lot of money on 'making every second count' and every employee had been subject to a training programme which would enable them to talk to all of their contacts about wellbeing and change the way in which people reacted to their circumstances.
- It was felt excellent that so many groups were supporting young people and councillors were asked to let the portfolio holder know where they existed and if they required any assistance.
- It was important members received the change to show an interest and the following week an event was being hosted for potential land academy sponsors to come into the county. The educational briefing being given to the Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee would be interested and the relevant portfolio holder would ensure the slides from the presentation would be available to all members following the meeting.
- During 2015/16 the grant of £3.4million was split into 2 with £1.9million being passed directly to district and borough councils and the rest being kept to provide services. The Government changed the grant to being 1 grant in the current year and the Council once again passed £1.9million to borough and district councils whilst the Chief Executive spoke with those district and borough councils on how best to use the rest of the money. The bullet points in the report were a list of things that were being discussed in this way and were not a definitive list.
- The Council was looking forward to working with partners in borough and district councils and were mindful of any mistakes that had been made in Cambridgeshire.
- Councillor Ian Morris would research the road in Councillor Michael Brown's division and why it no longer appeared on the current year's budget for highways maintenance and report back to him.
- Responsibility for fly tipping was with borough and district councils and it was suggested Councillor Meredith discuss issues with them. The Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Transport was unaware of any issues resulting from new opening hours of the Council's Household Recycling Centres.

Verbal questions were then answered as follows:

- The Director of Finance was not aware of any comment made by the Director of Transformation that First for Wellbeing could not compete with businesses and he was unaware of any issues that had or might arise.
- Wellbeing advisors would be placed through GP surgeries and work be undertaken to understand GPs were aware of the range of services they could refer their patients to. They had good networks with the CCGs and the University so all services referred to will have first undertaken an objective assessment.
- The Leader of the Council had been attempting for the last few days to ascertain a date when all Leaders of the local councils could meet together to discuss unitary authorities. She had also arranged to meet with 3 of the leaders on a 1-to-1 basis.
- The Women's Tour would start in Northampton outside the Guildhall and the Northampton Ride would start and end in Delapre Park the following month.

**RESOLVED that: Council noted:**

- 1) the report by the Leader of the Council and responses to questions raised both prior to and during the meeting;**
- 2) that copies of the slides from the presentation to the Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee on educational achievement would be made available to all councillors following the meeting; and**
- 3) That Councillor Ian Morris would research further a road in Councillor Michael Brown's division that was no longer included in the highways maintenance programme and then discuss it with him.**

#### 45/16 Annual Report by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Committee:

At the Chairman's invitation, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Committee, Councillor Jim Hakewill proposed his predecessor's annual report (copies of which had been previously circulated) highlighting the following:

- As it was the previous year's report it was only fitting to have been written by Councillor Judy Shephard.
- One of the themes of the work of scrutiny that year was how best to scrutinise new ways of working. District and borough councils were involved the previous year and this would continue. Perhaps this could be expanded to include the Northants Fire & Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Police.
- All councillors were invited to attend scrutiny meetings as it was a good opportunity for them to speak and take part in activities.
- Staff in Democratic Services were thanked for their support without whom scrutiny would not have been able to achieve so much. Those councillors who had attended throughout the year were also thanked.
- It was noted that 5,000 people had viewed what was being discussed through the medium of the internet.
- Discussions had already taken place with Milton Keynes regarding the joint scrutiny of LGSS.
- At its next meeting the Finance & Resources Committee would be discussing balances, corporate communications and how best to scrutinise next generation council as well as a financial update on Project Angel.
- There would also be a joint Finance & Resources and Adult Care, Health & Wellbeing workshop at which the National Health Service would provide information on what they paid for and how it all worked.

The report was seconded by Councillor Dudley Hughes who confirmed Ofsted had commented on how councillors participated through the scrutiny committee. He felt this was a good comment particularly as one criticism of Rotherham was about a lack of

involvement by councillors. He also confirmed libraries were due to be discussed at the following week's meeting of the Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Councillors also commented as follows:

- Councillors really enjoyed the work they undertook through scrutiny and a request was made to have many more recommendations. The report on apprenticeships was hailed as a good example whereby recommendations had been taken on board by the Council.
- It was suggested that the scoping work undertaken for each scrutiny committee should be collated and shared with individual members to enable them to decide if they would like to take part in the various projects within the work programmes.
- A request was made for more scrutiny of decisions going to Cabinet.

In reply Councillor Hakewill thanked Councillor Parker for his attendance at many finance scrutiny meetings and stated he looked forward to working with Councillor Robin Brown in a similar way. He also noted that budget scrutiny had made 40 recommendations to Cabinet. He also thanked Councillor Sally Beardsworth for her enthusiasm and hoped it would spread around the Council.

**RESOLVED that: Council noted the Annual Report by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Committee and responses to questions raised at the meeting.**

46/16 Motions submitted by Councillors under Rule 13.1:

(a) Motion submitted by Councillor Gareth Eales:

At the Chairman's invitation the following people addressed Council stating the following:

The Chairman then invited the following members of the public to address Council who stated as follows:

Ms Nancy Jean Mirales stated she had been a resident of St James area of Northampton and was also there on behalf of the 'Stop the Monster Incinerator' Group which was an organisation opposing the plant. She commended Councillor Eales for listening to their concerns and putting forward the motion. She believed the proposed incinerator would have far reaching and detrimental implications for her community and urged people to support the motion. She felt it would impact on everyday lives for generations and she considered it to be an extraordinary proposal and opportunity for democratic involvement.

Mr Graham Croucher stated he was representing the local residents association and referred to projects like HS2 or a new motorway that all people were likely to oppose near their home. He referred to a growing action team in the area that would not be silenced but who was ready to defend their right to democracy and to assist in providing support to democracy. He was acutely aware of a lack of information made available to residents and the developers own inconsistency in providing credible information. He referred to a local figure who had stated his request for a referendum was fantasy and would cost millions but he felt the developers could afford to manage one. He asked what it was they could be afraid of. He also noted the developers had stated they would only submit a planning application if it had the full support from the people of the town as it had no wish to 'go to war with residents'.

Mr Brian Calder also thanked Councillor Eales for listening to the community and pledged his support for a referendum. He felt the developers had broken their pledge to not submit a planning application without support from the community and he felt they could not be



trusted. He felt the plant would have a major impact on the community that would adversely affect its health and wellbeing and referred to a very big risk of failure. He felt such plants had failed to work on any commercial scale in the UK and USA and the community did not want it. He felt local developer's bamboozled local councils to agree to such applications that then made a lot of money whether the plant succeeded or not. He then referred to failed plants including one that blew up. He also referred to an expert in the field who had stated they should have serious concerns regarding lorries and air pollution.

Ms Sue Morton stated she was very afraid about the admissions that would come from the chimney and where they would blow. She attended a meeting where she spoke to various people and was informed about reports on winds during the past 4 years and last year. Wind however was subject to change and could not be predicted. She asked what would happen when there was no wind and where the particles would go. They rose with the heat but fell when cooled and she also asked where they would fall. She then referred to the particles that once breathed in would remain in the body. People were likely to start to become ill and she felt the plant should therefore not be built in a built up area of the town.

Northampton Borough Councillor Rufia Ashraf stated she had worked hard during her 2 years representing the area of St James to make it a cleaner, safer and greener community for everyone to enjoy. It was a gateway into Northampton and she worked with local stakeholders to keep it positive. It included many iconic buildings such as Church's Shoes and Franklins Gardens. The area was very residential and she felt it suffered already from things such as traffic congestion, particularly on match days. The health of many would be impacted and she voiced concerns that decisions would be made on behalf of the area by people who did not understand the area. She felt any such decision could cause a generation of health issues.

At the Chairman's invitation the Monitoring Officer, Mr Laurie Gould confirmed that whilst there was no planning submission before councillors today and that the Localism Act enabled them to say much, they should be careful about what they said, particularly those members of the Development Control Committee.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Gareth Eales to submit the following motion:

*"This Council notes the growing public concern around the proposed gasification / incinerator (officially known as the "waste to energy plant") in the St James, Northampton community and beyond. There is particular concern over emissions of things such as mercury, sulphur dioxide and particulates in the air. The World Health Organisation says "Exposure to mercury – even small amounts – may cause serious health problems, and is a threat to the development of the child in utero and early in life." There must therefore be a full independent inquiry carried out as to emissions on public health, should a plant of this nature be in operation in Northampton. Also the potential increase of traffic in this air quality management area needs to be considered and explained in regards to congestion and pollution, our partners at Northampton Borough Council should be engaged in that environmental matter.*

*There also needs to be a full examination of what potential benefits would be provided to the people living in the catchment areas communities, as this has been hazy and ever-changing.*

*This Council believes as yet there has not been sufficient public consultation and information on the proposal which must be addressed via clear independent information sharing. Furthermore, in recognition of the extraordinary scale and nature of this*

*proposition, the developers will be asked to provide a form of referendum to properly gauge citizen's opinions ahead of any final planning deliberation / decision....that request is made in the spirit of the statement of Rolton Kilbride "if the people of St James don't want the plant then we won't go to war with them."*

*It is therefore agreed by the Council that the developers be requested to undertake an independently ran referendum exercise addressing the above issues with the affected residents living within no less than a 1.5 mile radius of the proposed plant. The results of this engagement will then be submitted to the Council's Development Control Committee as part of the consideration of any submitted planning application for a proposed gasification/waste energy plant."*

In moving the motion, Councillor Eales referred to the opposition to the energy plant the siting of which in St James would create a major building in the middle of a residential area. The motion was not concerned with any policy or recycling of traffic congestion, pollution or waste but it would affect the community and the motion was concerned with seeking the developer to fund a referendum for the people of the local community. Information was required and the Northampton Borough Council had recognised this when deciding to request a public consultation before any decision was made. It was originally suggested that the consultation take place across a 1.5mile radius of those immediately affected by the plant but this area could be expanded if needed. There should be no need to be scared of any findings if the plant was so safe. He concluded by quoting from the developers who had stated they did not wish to go to war with the people of St James if they did not wish to have the plant.

The motion was seconded by Councillor John McGhee who referred to the rise in recycling and the need to do something. He did not however feel it correct to site such a plant in such a populated area. He felt residents had to be fully aware of what was being proposed. The developers had informed the Council that there were no objections but that was not the situation. He felt the referendum was common sense and that local councils should show their support to residents by supporting this request for one.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Examples were provided of good developments such as an excellently managed wind farm in the Kettering area which had proved itself to local residents before opening and another of a farm that was operated very badly and had cost the Council money in trying to correct the situation. The Council was asked to consider these examples carefully and try to learn from them.
- Concerns were expressed by several people regarding the impact on the people in the community of St James.
- Concerns were raised that more information was required before any decision could be made.
- It was noted that no application had yet been submitted and it was suggested the motion should therefore not have been brought before Council.

In reply Councillor Eales thanked councillors for their support. He felt people from the area required information and clarification on anything that affected their area.

**RESOLVED that: Upon a recorded vote of 14 for and 25 against with 5 abstentions and 13 absences the motion was rejected.**

(b) Motion submitted by Councillor Danielle Stone:

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Danielle Stone moved the following motion:

*“The report published by Charity Link on May 11<sup>th</sup> of this year shows the impact that cutting the Sustaining Independent Living Grant has had on our most vulnerable single people and vulnerable families.*

*The fall in grant to services like Charity Link has impacted on their ability to attract additional funding. The cumulative affect of this has meant that homeless people transitioning into a home of their own have been left without the basics that ensure a successful outcome. This includes beds, cookers, fridges, tables, chairs.*

*Families who are unable to replace essential items like beds for the children are having to let their children sleep on the floor. We know both these scenarios impact other services. There are high costs attached to continuing to provide services to the homeless when tenancies fail. We know more children are being taken into care, not because of bad parenting but because of bad housing and poverty.*

*We call on this council therefore to make a modest grant of £150,000 available to Charity Link in order they can continue their important work supporting the most vulnerable and taking the pressure off services elsewhere.*

*The funding for this can be found through a reduction in the numbers of interim and agency staff this authority employs.”*

In moving the motion Councillor Stone stated providing money for Charity Link would enable them to continue their work of supporting people who had no household items such as a washing machine or beds. They put people in touch with various facilities for support and within weeks they had bed and facilities and had begun to improve their lives. The withdrawal of this type of funding for Charity Link means they will no longer be able to have that same huge impact on communities. They assisted the most vulnerable people in society, assisting them to obtain housing, those leaving care and provide what might seem simple to many but huge support to many people. This type of help ensured people did not seek Council assistance.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Gareth Eales.

Councillors commented as follows:

- It was noted Charity Link also signposted people to other organisations for assistance. They worked closely with clients as well as other voluntary sector organisations and without their assistance the need for further support from elsewhere was increased.
- Many considered this to be real work that affected real people's lives everyday.
- It was suggested scrutiny of the work Charity Link undertook and the support officered would prove the need to support it to assist communities.
- It was noted other organisations also offered support and assistance to those in communities who required it.
- It was noted the Council budget was very tight with every penny in it being allocated. It was therefore difficult to take the £150,000 from another place in order to assist Charity Link.
- Some felt there was a need to operate the most fair and equitable way to provide assistance. Caution was raised not to listen to only those who shouted the loudest but to listen to everyone who came to the Council for assistance.

In reply Councillor Stone expressed disappointment. She felt Charity Link discovered life stories and the general pattern of what was happening in the world. Poor people of which

there were many in the county struggled and she asked Council to take their issues seriously. She felt this was a relatively small amount of money which would assist to reduce costs further down the line. It was in her opinion about ensuring that when people really needed help they could get it. It would assist to reduce and prevent family breakdowns caused as a result of poverty.

**RESOLVED that: Upon the vote the motion was rejected.**

The Chairman then proposed that Item 12(d) be taken next.

(d) Motion submitted by Councillor Sally Beardsworth:

At the Chairman's invitation Mrs Jean Lineker addressed Council who thanked Councillor Beardsworth for putting the item on the agenda. Along Billing Way in Northampton Mrs Lineker informed Council there was no lighting at all. Northampton Borough Councillor Christopher Malpas had attempted to assist but still nothing had been done. She referred to difficulty in being seen at night which was something that was very important to residents. She also asked that when lampposts were put up that they were not sited next to something that could shield their light

Councillor Sally Beardsworth then proposed the following motion:

*"This Council agrees to undertake a survey of how the change in street lighting has affected communities across Northamptonshire, especially in connection with crime and community safety. The results of these surveys should be collated, and if necessary changes may need to be made to the provision of street lighting in some areas."*

In moving the motion Councillor Beardsworth stated lighting was an important issue. In many instances there was too big a space between lights leaving black holes and creating difficulties for people trying to move around at night. Many street lights were also placed behind something that shielded their light and made it difficult for people to see. She felt people were becoming very concerned and he thought a survey would assist to correct some of the issues. She expressed real concerns about security and the darker areas of the town. She therefore wished this to be revisited in assistance to residents.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Sarah Uldall who stated she too had been contacted by many residents with concerns regarding lighting in roads.

Councillors commented as follows:

- This was a subject many felt had been ongoing for some time with many residents and tenants contacting councillors to complain about the lighting they did or did not have and the effect of the old lights compared to the new, as well as the effects of the switch off whilst waiting for re-installation of new lights. The previous cabinet member was thanked for assisting to address some of the issues but still there was more to be done and some felt a Survey would assist with this.
- It was suggested by some that parish councils be asked to fund some of the switching back on of some of the lights.
- It was also noted that not all areas had a parish council to request assistance from.
- It was further suggested that a survey was the only way to measure the success or otherwise of the light switch off.
- Councillor Morris in his capacity of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Transport was asked to consider why in the Southbridge area of Northampton was worked on by the Highways Department who had given no thought to lighting of the area.

- The Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Transport offered to produce a feedback survey for the area referred to by Mrs Lineker. He also offered to have this survey included on the website and distributed to all councils.
- It was noted that any change to lighting now would come at a considerable cost and that the Council had limited resources.
- It was further noted that the Council was discussing safety and crime with other local authorities that had responsibility for crime and community safety and it was suggested the Environment, Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee review street lighting.
- Some noted that lighting in their area had been fully addressed after working with various officers within the Council to get trees cut back or moved and replacing lights in a slightly different place and it was suggested councillors attempt to work with the officers a bit closer. Parish councils were also thanked where they have been available to assist.
- It was suggested some roads were marked at 40mph zones whilst others were not and some clarification on this was requested.
- It was noted that Balfour Beatty who were responsible for providing the street lighting did consult very carefully prior to the stage of the new lighting and all members had been given the opportunity to assist in developing with the design team. Everything was monitored very carefully and a full appraisal was undertaken after every presentation. Members were also asked to consider the long term plan.

In reply Councillor Beardsworth stated concerns regarding community safety and offered to pass a copy of the survey undertaken to all those who had contacted her.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) Upon the vote the motion was rejected; and**
- 2) The Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning & Transport would ensure the results of a recent survey would be made available on the Council's website and to all councillors.**

(c) Motion submitted by Councillor Adam Collyer:

At the Chairman's invitation Councillor Adam Collyer proposed the following motion:

*"Council notes that approval has been granted for an annexe to the Wald of Kent grammar school to be built in Sevenoaks.*

*With the move to Academisation of schools, the creation of grammar school annexes is no longer constrained within county boundaries. Windsor and Maidenhead Council is working with a grammar school in Marlow, Buckinghamshire to open an annexe in Maidenhead, Berkshire.*

*We also note that several hundred Northamptonshire school pupils cross the borders into neighbouring counties to attend grammar schools.*

*This Council believes that grammar schools have an important place in the delivery of a quality education system, maximising opportunities for children and young people.*

*Council therefore resolves to approach grammar schools in neighbouring counties to explore the possibility of creating new grammar school annexes in Northamptonshire."*

In moving the motion Councillor Collyer referred to some very good schools with the county but the average achievement was not adequate. Many of the county's schools had

been turned into academies which meant there was little the Council could do. He felt that many problems in the education system went back to the reforms in the 1960s which he felt had wrecked life changes for children. He felt that the existence of grammar schools in Warwickshire had a good effect, raising standards everywhere and introducing a passion for improvement. He also noted that in Kent the site of a new grammar school annex had also been approved and many children from Daventry West were attending grammar schools in neighbouring counties. He felt the Council also needed to take the opportunity to provide grammar school places possibly as annexes to schools from neighbouring counties although he felt it would be preferable to open new grammar schools in the county.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Christopher Groome who stated he felt the performance of the comprehensive system was actually better than the one now followed in Northamptonshire. He did not agree with the idea that people who attended grammar schools were better than others but he did feel they were a great loss to the county. He felt there was a need to give the system a shock and retain our highly performing pupils, assist our poorer performing pupils and move them all forward.

Councillors commented as follows:

- Concerns were raised regarding the comprehensive system and it was felt informing children at 11 years old if they were good enough was wrong. It was therefore felt the motion was taking the country backwards when it should be moving forward.
- The role of a grammar school had been debated over the last few years and it was noted that as the majority of the county's secondary schools were academies, there was a need to bring new ones in. Whilst the Council had no current plans to provide grammar schools, should any wish to discuss it with them, the Council would be willing to listen.
- Concerns were raised that during the grammar school period, many women lost out as their exams were made harder which in turn stopped them from moving forward so quickly.
- Concerns were raised that the grammar school system also discriminated against late developers and it was felt best to develop people at their own speed and into professions the county will need in the future.

**RESOLVED that: Upon the vote the motion was rejected.**

47/16 Urgent Business:

There was none.

48/16 Exempt Items:

There were none.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 16.07pm

Jenny Rendall  
Democratic Support

**Chairman's Signature:-**

**Date:-**



## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Recorded Votes for Council:

**Date of Meeting:** 16 June 2016

**Item No:** 12(a) Motion submitted by Councillor Gareth Eales in respect of a Waste Plan the St James area of Northampton

Surname	First Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Beardsworth	Sally	√			
Bell	Paul		√		
Brackenbury	Wendy		√		
Brookfield	Julie				√
Broomfield	Jim				√
Brown	Michael	√			
Brown	Robin		√		
Butcher	Mary	√			
Clarke	Michael		√		
Collyer	Adam	√			
Coombe	Elizabeth				√
Eales	Gareth	√			
Glynane	Brendan	√			
Golby	Matthew		√		
Gonzalez de Savage	Andre		√		
Groome	Christopher	√			
Hakewill	James		√		
Hales	Eileen				√
Hallam	Mike				√

Surname	First Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Harker	James		√		
Heggs	Stanley		√		
Hills	Alan		√		
Homer	Sue		√		
Hope	Jill	√			
Hughes	Dudley		√		
Hughes	Sylvia		√		
Irving-Swift	Cecile		√		
Kirkbride	Joan		√		
Larratt	Phil				√
Lawman	Graham				√
Lawson	Derek		√		
Legg	Stephen			√	
Lofts	Chris	√			
Longley	Malcolm		√		
McCutcheon	Arthur				√
McGhee	John	√			
Mackintosh	David				√
Matthews	Allan		√		
Mercer	Andrew			√	
Meredith	Dennis				√
Morris	Ian		√		
Osborne	Steve		√		
Parker	Bill		√		
Patel	Bhupendra			√	
Patel	Suresh			√	



Surname	First Name	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Roberts	Russell		√		
Sawbridge	Ron				√
Scott	Bob	√			
Scrimshaw	Mick	√			
Shephard	Judy				√
Smith	Heather		√		
Stone	Danielle	√			
Strachan	Winston				√
Tye	Michael			√	
Uldall	Sarah	√			
Walker	Allen		√		
Waters	Malcolm		√		
<b>Totals</b>		14	25	5	13

