



Northampton Town Council  
The Guildhall  
St Giles Square  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

Tel No. 01604 349310

## Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

### Community Services Committee Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – 18:00 hours

#### To: Members of the Community Services Committee:

Councillors Birch (Chair), Holland-Delamere (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, G Eales, T Eales, Fuchshuber, Hallam, Hibbert, Ismail, Lane, Marriott, and Soan

**You are summoned to attend a meeting of Community Services Committee of Northampton Town Council to be held at 18.00 hours on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Town Council Committee Room at Northampton Guildhall.**

This committee meeting is open to the public and press to attend and those attending the meeting shall be informed that it is being recorded. Public participation is in accordance with the Town Council's public participation policy. Members of the public wishing to take part or ask a question of the committee are required to contact the Town Clerk in advance.

Cc'd electronically to all other councillors for information

**Stuart Carter**  
Town Clerk  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

**Guildhall**  
**Northampton**  
**NN1 1DE**

### A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and ask questions as to the progress of any items (p 3 – p 9)
4. To receive the minutes from the previous Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 for consideration and their recommendations – to follow
5. The King's Coronation Event – report attached (p 11 – p 12)

6. **Windrush 75** – report attached (p 13 – p 14)
7. **Music Festival (NMF23) proposal to increase the budget supported by NTC** – verbal report to be given
8. **Events and Projects Update** – report attached (p 15)
9. **Bleed Kits Project** – report attached (p 17)
10. **COVID 19 Memorial Installation at Becketts Park** – verbal update to be given
11. **Findings of the De Montfort University study** – report attached (p 19 – p 23)
12. **Items for consideration for the next agenda**



# Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

Tel No. 01604 349310

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 AT 6PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES IN THE GUILDHALL NORTHAMPTON

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Birch (Chair), Holland Delamere (Vice-Chair), Fuchshuber, Hallam, Hibbert, Kilbride, Marriott, and Soan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cllr M Brown, Darrel Canvin (Senior Regeneration Officer, West Northamptonshire Council)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mr S Carter (Town Clerk), Mrs J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk), Miss F Barford, Mrs L Hannam-Jones and Miss J Haines (Events and Projects Officers).

#### 40. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Ismail and Lane.

#### 41. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hallam declared a pecuniary interest in minute 47 as he is a cabinet member at WNC who ultimately will make the decision on this item.

#### 42. To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and ask questions as to the progress of any items

**RESOLVED:** The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record.

#### 43. To receive a presentation demonstrating the timeline for the Market Square and wider projects in future years

Darrel Canvin (Senior Regeneration Programmes Officer) presented on behalf of the regeneration team at WNC.

Mr Canvin explained the Market Square public consultation was completed in April 2021 and enabled the public to choose a design. A summer 2024 opening is anticipated. The market traders have been temporarily relocated to Commercial St Car Park.

In response to a question, Mr Canvin explained the WNC Market Square project manager was in regular dialogue with the market stall traders. A Councillor raised there had been questions regarding the type of public art that will feature in the new Market square, Mr Canvin explained that national heritage funding was being sourced to develop some initial designs and a public consultation exercise would then follow. In response to a question posed relating to the new planting and vegetation on the site exact details were to be confirmed by WNC. In response to a further question indicative ongoing maintenance costs for the new market would be provided by WNC.

Other town centre public realm schemes in the pipeline include a project to improve a section of Abington Street leading from the Market Square, this will be new pedestrian access, seating and tree planting to facilitate a new community space and encourage outdoor dining. A Cllr raised the point on pedestrian safety in relation to cyclists, it was responded that vehicular restrictions would be implemented.

A Cllr requested confirmation of the schedule of works as loss of Abington Street and the Market Square has major implications for any large town centre events such as Remembrance Sunday, Diwali and Christmas celebrations.

Mr Canvin will confirm the arrangements for current fixtures and fittings that enable the Towns Christmas lighting and trees.

A further project at 24 Guildhall Road, phase one was almost complete, phase two to be completed in Spring 2024.

The plans for Four Waterside (land adjacent to the train station) will bring a hotel, a mix of housing and offices, this plan is currently under tender at WNC. Plans for 35-45 Abington street are to provide a high-quality residential development with retail space at ground level.

The project to develop the Old Black Lion has received national lottery heritage funding to enable the project, the building will be utilised as new head offices for the church's conservation trust.

The Marefair heritage park will be an opportunity to provide green spaces to the local housing developments within the area. Currently public consultation is being undertaken with the Spring Boroughs residents, a focus group will be formed to assist with the design of the park. Providing accessibility, play equipment with community garden space and a programme of small-scale community events are key to this project. Key historical assets will celebrate the castle and its rich history.

The extension of 78 Dergate House, delays have occurred in procuring the glazing however the project is hoped to be completed very soon.

A Cllr asked what was happening with the former Northampton Bus station site at Greyfriars, Darrel stated that intentions had been set to develop the space. It was requested some green space could be made in the town.

A Cllr asked about the Waterside project, had the former NBC drawings etc been utilised? Darrel explained they had been utilised to assist in the procurement exercise.

A Cllr raised that more green space be provided for the new residential developments within the Town Centre as the majority of new residents will living in flats with no gardens. Darrel stated this would be a consideration in the next phase of the plan.

Mr Canvin was thanked for attending the meeting.

#### **44. The King's Coronation Event – discussion around the event**

The Chair updated on the plans to date for the King's Coronation activities (**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May**). The report as detailed below was circulated at the meeting:

NTC are looking to work with local partners including The Museum, Royal & Derngate, WNC, 78 Derngate, Delapre, Town Centre BID, it is hoped a partners meeting can be arranged early February (8<sup>th</sup>,9<sup>th</sup>) to discuss an overall plan.

Funding opportunities are available, £10K National Lottery Community Fund – Awards for All – deadline mid-February – pin badges, mugs for school leavers – The Big Help project within/for the community could source funding from this.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** – *Father Oliver Coss to hold a service at All Saints at approx. 6pm, Town Councillors to be invited to take part in a local Civic procession?*

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** – *The Coronation Service to take place in the morning - Encourage people to watch from home (advice from Lord Lieutenants Office)*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>** – *“The Coronation Big Lunch” - Community Street Parties, multi-cultural involvement, Morris men children’s entertainment and live music. Possible to have a street party at St Giles Square, work with partners. Also, the Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle could this be shown on a big screen depending on timings. Bite Street concept and surrounding food businesses participation – street food, local suppliers and seated area. NTC could provide a printed programme of events similar to that produced for the Queens Platinum Jubilee event.*

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>** – *“The Big Help Out” Encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and support the local area.*

*In collaboration with the Climate Change Forum the events team would like to suggest an idea for the Coronation Big Clean up at **St Katherine’s Gardens:***

*Veolia clean up needles etc in the morning*

*Then volunteers collect rubbish (work with The BID businesses). Possible sponsorship opportunities for nearby businesses Park Inn and MacDonald’s.*

*Welcome boards on the entrances to the Gardens*

*Hope Centre Sustainable Planter and flower bed planting as part of CCF’s Greening the Town project*

*RBL are hoping to work with the university to create a poppy sculpture- would give them a better environment to house the sculpture in. Would need permissions from the Church due to consecrated grounds – consult with faculty officer at the diocesan office at Peterborough.*

*Could also display James McInerney poems.*

*It is hoped the scheme will encourage more park users as a result and make the area more attractive and safer.*

**RESOLVED** to set up a Kings Coronation Working Party consisting of Cllrs, Birch, Soan, Holland-Delamere, Marriott and officers. The group will work with partners to be a part of the overall event.

#### **45. Consideration of additional Projects/Events for 2023**

**a) Electronic Music Festival, a report from Cllr Michael Brown had been circulated with the agenda**

Cllr Brown explained that there was a rich heritage of electronic music in Northamptonshire and many young people were interested and are key to the Electronic music scene however Cllr Brown was concerned there is no outlet for people interested in this style of music. Cllr Brown explained that he had previously assisted on successful electronic music projects in the Kettering Area. Cllr Brown proposed a proof of concept event to provide an outlet for people in Northampton to partake in electronic music. in addition to community outreach to those who wish to understand and learn more about creating electronic music at home with their standard pc.

In response to a question posed relating to the venue possibly utilising Midsummer meadow, near UoN Campus or Delapre Abbey. A Cllr raised that Delapre and UoN fall-outside the NTC boundary. In response to another question posed - had Cllr Brown contacted the Roadmender or other local promoters who may be interested in sponsoring the event, Cllr Brown believed he would be able to gain supporters from the promoter scene.

Cllr Brown stated he could scale the project down if required. Concern was raised over whether the officers had enough time to support, Cllr Brown stated he could source assistance himself for the event.

A Cllr asked whether this event could be combined with another genre of music. Cllr Brown stated that Electronic music is very niche and is not easily linked with other types of music.

It was commented that £23,000 was a large sum for seed funding. Cllr Brown stated he was open to holding the event next summer (2024) as the Events team have expressed concerns regarding timing and funding.

A Cllr suggested Cllr Brown could host a stall to act as a taster at the Music Festival (NMF23) in September 2023 with a view to putting on the event in its own right in 2024.

**RESOLVED that the Electronic Music Festival in principle** be supported (up to £10,000, plus £10,000 in match funding) with a view to holding the full event in 2024, Cllr Brown to build contacts and gain momentum for the event throughout 2023.

**b) St George's Day - Cllr Daniel Soan**

Cllr Soan gave a presentation on the proposed St George's Day event (23<sup>rd</sup> April)

It was Proposed in the week leading up-to St George's Day there would be displays of achievements of notable English people to be displayed around the town. It was suggested the Museum had already carried out research and had a list of notable people previously used in the "We are Northampton" exhibition. It was suggested that some sort of link to Northampton/Northamptonshire for the people featured would be preferable.

A Cllr raised that A3 sizing might be overlooked due to their size. It was posed by a Cllr whether posters could be into shop windows to entice people in and suggested working with the BID.

It was commented that equal representation was important.

The Town Clerk raised that it would need to be checked if the Guildhall were planning to host any St George's Day events themselves this would prevent any duplication of activity.

It was suggested the Guildhall Courtyard/Guildhall road could be used to focus people's attention. Complete some printed media. It was suggested that the middle of Abington Street was a good focal point. In response to a question it was explained that the printing quotations enclosed within the report were lower than expected due to being sourced from Vistaprint.

It was suggested whether the banner could be tied in with the Coronation to maximise usage. In response to a question The Town Clerk explained that a parade may not be feasible due to the amount of resource required and limited time.

Cllr Soan stated the event would be a starter event, it was hoped it would be a larger event next year with more preparation and budgeted.

A Cllr posed whether vinyls be used. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that lamppost banners on Abington street could be used if secured.

It was mentioned the event would be costed to the General Events Budget Fund.

**RESOLVED to support** the St Georges Day event as per the proposal put forward by Cllr Soan, the event to be funded up to £3,000 through the General Events Budget.

#### **c) Women's Cycle Tour – a report was circulated at the meeting**

It was reported that WNC were working with Sweet Spot (organisers of the Women's tour) to bring the Women's Cycling Tour back to Northampton in June 2023 (exact date TBC but likely to be 8<sup>th</sup> June in the morning)

The event stage would start outside Northampton Guildhall and end in Derby, lasting approximately 3-4 hours. The organisers were setting up an Event Management Board and would like a representative from the town council to sit on the board.

The aim was to stretch out the event by having stalls and a stage with entertainment and to keep visitors in the town centre for as long as possible.

They required support with promotion and outreach and would be asking businesses to sponsor the event and to get involved.

##### **Possible NTC involvement was discussed:**

- Involvement of CCF Active Travel- Cllr Stevens and John Crick (sit on the board?)
- Outreach- have our own stall
- Performances- encourage our community groups and contacts to take part in stage performances
- Northampton in Bloom- decorate stationary bicycles with flowers and NTC Logo signage – ask to have one on the stage as well as a 'selfie station' at our own stall
- Promotion of the event

Peter Cox (WNC) was targeting (mid-Feb) to start the event planning groups/conversations. He was hoping to get meeting invites out shortly to give partners ample time to squeeze into busy diaries. He wishes to know how the Town Council wishes to support the event planning, involvement in planning

groups, support with route planning, conversations with local businesses, links to potential sponsors etc.

**RESOLVED:** Northampton Town Council would like to assist with the community engagement side of this event however it was felt the project fits better with the council's climate change forum (part of the Environment committee) . The project will be further discussed by the Environment Committee at their next meeting.

d) **Northampton Windrush Day - 75 Year** Celebration – a report was circulated at the meeting and a discussion took place regarding the following proposals:

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

Midday – Flag raising has been agreed, WNC and NTC to work together.

A suggested timetable of events was circulated with the meeting agenda.

There is some funding available aimed at the longevity of this event – all parties can apply for funding.

One idea was for NTC to work on transport arrangements to help enable people, specifically elders to come to the event – possibly working with Voluntary Impact Northampton (VIN).

Who to supply refreshments at the Museum – Is this something NTC could offer or are the Museum providing this? Caribbean style cuisine talked about, pending conversation with the Museum regarding the catering contract e.g. BoxFood 'who work within the community / Windrush generation'

NTC to look into Steele drums at the flag raising

Budget to be agreed.

Partner meetings are ongoing.

**RESOLVED** – the town council will continue to work with partners with a view to looking into the provision of door-to-door travel service be provided for the elder members of the community, refreshments subject to the Museums contract and the provision of a souvenir leaflet featuring information about the history of the event.

#### **46. Update on the bleed kits project**

The Chair thanked the Events team for the comprehensive report that had been circulated.

A Cllr asked about the ongoing cost, it was explained that the bleed control kits will be replenished by "Off the Streets." It was highlighted the largest cost was the cabinets themselves. In response to a question posed, it was explained that a bleed kits would be commissioned and installed in Abington Park as part of the overall project.

**RESOLVED** the committee agreed to the locations/premises where permissions have now been granted and agreed. The committee will advise the Events and Projects Officers of any queries or suggestions on pending locations/premises and possible contacts.

#### **47. WNC budget consultation including parking charges – a report was circulated with the agenda pack**



Cllr Hallam had left the meeting whilst this agenda item was discussed.

It was explained that WNC were proposing to introduce significant changes to parking charges across the town.

The Chair explained that the Racecourse had been suggested for parking charges to be implemented however this had been paused for the time being.

A Cllr raised that the removal of the Towcester to Northampton Bus Service on a Sunday might bring more vehicles into the town.

A Cllr raised it was a major concern for local businesses and the impact any increase in parking charges would bring. There is always competition with other shopping competitors in Northamptonshire (some have no parking charges) and the people who attend places of faith on Sundays.

**RESOLVED:** that an extraordinary full council meeting be held to discuss and agree a statement on the proposed town centre parking increases.

**MEETING CONCLUDED: 20:08**



**Community Services Committee**  
**27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the King's Coronation Events - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Julie Thorneycroft - Assistant Town Clerk**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

A Coronation county-wide Church service led by Father Coss will be held at All Saints Church on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm**, to include a civic service and an invite to interfaith groups. All different faiths will be encouraged to have their own celebrations in the week leading up to the Coronation. Information regarding the order of service to follow.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May – NTC led event – initial draft plan**

**Northampton Coronation Community Street Party** - A relaxed event to be held in Guildhall Road to welcome people to come together and share the experience of the Kings Coronation, exact timings are to be confirmed – entertainment to include multi-cultural, local schools and community groups i.e. African Drummers, Bangladeshi community, polish community etc, music, brass band, NMPAT, children's activities, poetry, storytelling, street food, morris dancers, local community groups and performers etc in Northampton Town Centre. We are looking to have a souvenir programme printed to commemorate the occasion.

A road closure for Guildhall Road (**St Giles Square to Angel Street**) has been applied for.

We would like to involve all communities in the event:

- Invitations to relevant NTC Grant applicants, schools, multi -faith organisations, residents associations, care homes (contact Age Concern)
- Target Community Groups and Local organisations

Other entertainment ideas on the day will include giveaways, competitions – children invited to dress up as kings and queens, Face painting, craft stalls workshops.

We are working with Northampton Museum to coordinate the indoor screening of the Coronation and are looking to work with town centre schools.

**Funding**

Funding from the National Lottery Awards for All England has been investigated however advise is they will only fund an organisation for a maximum of £10,000 within a 12-month period and that each organisation can only hold one grant. NTC is not able to complete 2 separate applications for funding from the National Lottery Awards for All England, currently we have an application in progress for Windrush 75 therefore we are not able to make another application for the Kings Coronation.

**Other thoughts/ideas**

Coronation 'Flora' - Flower trees – Working with the Museum's Knit and Natter group, decorate the

trees along Guildhall Road with knitted flowers – use flora from x4 nations form within emblem.  
Flags, drapes, bunting, Table decorations/cloths etc

### **Marketing of the event**

- Press Releases / Event description
- Artwork for social media platforms, website etc
- Leaflets/Posters for shop windows

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May there will be a “Big Lunch” at Delapre** – a similar event to the Platinum Jubilee big lunch, ticket numbers to double to 10,000 for this event. Further details to follow from WNC.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – “Big Help Out”**

NTC are working with The BID and businesses to collate a volunteer workforce to clean up St Katherine’s gardens and plant sustainably. Businesses could also provide sponsorship for further activities in the park such as welcome boards on the entrances to the gardens.

NTC are looking to plant the Hope Centre Sustainable Planter and flower bed planting as part of CCF’s Greening the Town project. Could also display James Mcinenev poems.

RBL are hoping to work with the university to create a poppy sculpture- would give them a better environment to house the sculpture in. Permissions are being sought from the Church due to consecrated grounds.

The Northamptonshire Coronation Committee are meeting on a fortnightly basis to discuss the overall county coronation plans.

We are looking to collate the coronation plans for Northampton through a series of partner meetings, the first of which was held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

The NTC working group (Cllrs Birch, Holland-Delamere, Marriott and Soan and officers) will have their first meeting on **7<sup>th</sup> March** to discuss the progress of plans for the event.

## Community Services Committee

27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Windrush 75 update – Report of the Civic and Mayoralty Officer

**Purpose of Report** – To update members on the plans for this years Windrush 75 event

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that the committee note this report

### Windrush 75 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

#### First meeting

The Civic and Mayoral Officer (LH) and the Events and Projects (JH LHJ) team attended the preliminary Windrush 75 planning meeting hosted by the Museum and Art Gallery (M&AG) on 18<sup>th</sup> January on behalf of Northampton Town Council (NTC) – the main take homes from this meeting are as follows

- Request for the annual flag raising from the community
- Request for community group input for the M&AG sponsored 12 week Windrush 75 Great Hall exhibition, designed by AR Media
- Opportunity to pledge interest in supporting this event
- It was agreed the launch of the exhibition would be on Windrush day after the flag raising
- Royal and Derngate (R&D) stated that they were in the process in applying for a significant amount of funding from various sources to support various projects inclusive of a website, educational material and workshops, performances. They stated that they were in the early stages of sourcing a Project Manager (PM)

#### Second meeting

The second meeting took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> February and was attended by LH solely representing NTC.

It was agreed prior to the meeting that LH would coordinate NTC aspects of Windrush 75

It was agreed in the Community Services meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January that NTC would support looking in to the provision of the following for Windrush 75 events. It was agreed that LH was to apply for the National Lottery Awards for All funding to cover the costs, if the application were unsuccessful then the below is to be covered by the events budget.

- Transport and coordination for the local community to get in to town for the day's events
- A brochure to support the day's events with content about the exhibition and any other local workshops and events taking place
- Food and refreshments at the exhibition launch
- Musical entertainment at the flag raising

The take home points from the second Windrush75 Committee meeting are as follows

- R&D have recruited a PM – Sharon de Leonardis (SdL), recommended by Morcea Walker  
SdL has managed similar projects in the Bedford Borough and will work on coordinating the work that R&D will do as well as the events on Windrush Day. They have also stated that they have applied for funding for transportation on the day
  - There was a wider representation of the Windrush community at the second meeting with many having lots of input for the M&AG exhibition and the day's events
  - LH was asked what NTC would be happy to provide and the above list was shared with the group – permission was sought and granted from the M&AG to provide food and music on the occasion
  - LH confirmed that WNC Community Engagement have been contacted and are working in collaboration with NTC for the flag raising aspect of the day
- 
- Windrush75 schedule was agreed;  
12:00 Flag Raising  
12:30 Steel drum marching band to lead crowd to the M&AG  
13:00 Exhibition launch + Refreshments  
18:00 College Street Church Flag Raising and Service

**Update** As of 22<sup>nd</sup> February

- the All Awards bid has been submitted,
- partners have been consulted in regards to food suppliers – a list of local Caribbean food vendors has been collated
- Partners have been consulted re music – Morcea Walker has connected LH with a marching steel drum band from Carnival contacts
- the brochure is to be designed by AR Media to make sure it is in keeping with the exhibition themes and to out source the work, printing quotes have been received from Tangerine Red
- permission has been sought and granted from Guildhall Facilities for the flag raising event on the Guildhall steps. Jamie Wells from WNC has submitted the Flag Raising form

**It has been agreed that R&D will look after transportation on the day as they have already applied for funding for this, SdL has been contacted and the Northamptonshire transport directory shared with her.**

All Awards Bid – costings

The funds we have bid for are as follows;

- Brochure - £2000 – for the design and print of 1500
- Food - £1200 - £12 a head for an estimated 100 guests based on last year's attendance
- Steel Drum Marching Band – based on estimated costs for bands sourced on line as we are waiting on quotes and confirmation

**Community Services Committee**  
**27<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Projects and Events Update – Julie Thorneycroft - Assistant Town Clerk**

**St George's Day:**

Officers are working with Cllr Soan on plans for St George's Day. Acts and Entertainment such as Morris Dancers, storytelling and crafts for the day is in progress, and research and images are being sourced for the "Notable Northamptonians Trail." Discussions are in place with the Guildhall for use of the Courtyard and Flag Raising. Quotations for marketing- leaflets and banners have been requested.

**Bands in the Park:**

The full calendar is complete for every Sunday from April 23<sup>d</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup>. The programme will include Bank Holiday Mondays - two pending enquires for two BH Mondays in May. Artwork and marketing is underway and will soon go live on social media platforms with a press release to follow. Quotes for banners and installation have been requested.

Officers are working on options available to store the chairs for performers as well as plans for site logistics on event days and if replacement chairs need to be sourced. Quotes are being sourced for a storage trunk to be made and installed to house chairs in the hedge row by the bandstand. Quotes have been sourced for delivery and collection of chairs each Sunday as well as long term hire of chairs to be kept on site.

**EID Festival:**

Officers have been working with the EID Management Group to support in the event planning. EMG have recruited NTC's events partner, Stage Right, to assist with logistics, infrastructure supply and event documentation.

Quotes and availability for staging and production, marquees, seating and tables, security and marshals, first aid, waste management and portaloos, children's activities and displays, stage entertainment are being sourced and scheduled.

Stall holders and food vendors including local organisations/charities/community groups, will be invited to attend the event with a booking process being implemented.

Marketing and artwork is being worked on for leaflets, posters and social media platforms with a press release to follow and quotes for printed materials requested.

**Fireworks:**

Officers met with a local Fireworks supplier during a site visit to the Racecourse to discuss options available for this year's display. Environmental issues and responsibilities were discussed, information on this will be shared by the supplier for review.

Quotes, availability and display options have been requested from two companies so far for consideration. A report will follow to be shared with the Fireworks Working Party and at the next Community Services Committee.

**General:**

Officers have been working on Save the Dates 2023 promotion for events and projects to go out on social media platforms and for general press. General NTC marketing has been worked on for website, social media, leaflets and magazine publication. Work is underway to review website content and social media platform works.





**Bleed Kits:**

Officers have progressed with permissions from some of the premises owners and have sent Off the Streets the updated list of locations.

Officers will work closely with Off the Streets to agree the final permissions and locations. Once this is complete can organise a press day with Cllrs who worked on the project to photograph the delivery and installation of kits and cabinets around the town centre. A press release and socials will follow



## Community Services Committee

27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Findings of De Montfort University Study – Stuart Carter. Town Clerk

**Purpose of Report** – To inform the committee of the report compiled by Prof Griggs as a result of the work undertaken by the De Montfort Public Policy students last year

**Recommendations:** The report makes a number of recommendations which the committee are asked to consider.

#### Background

The committee will recall that the Council began working with the Public Policy department of De Montfort University last year. The work was curtailed by cuts to the department which led to the leading professor moving to a different university, however, they have now provided the council with a report based on their findings. The report is attached for member's information.

The document sets out a number of recommendations but does caveat that this was a pilot study.

The recommendations as set out in the report are as follows:

1. How to continue or ensure the move away from competitive funding toward grant-based funding, thereby shifting from a contractual funding relationship to one of collaboration and shared priorities.
2. Put in place a youth charter, which builds upon the work of the Youth Summit. The charter signed by the Town Council and all local stakeholders would set out the core priorities for young people in the town and the commitments of local stakeholders to work collectively to deliver on such policy commitments.

In other words, the charter would put in place a set of common goals for local providers across the town, coordinate resources, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of partners, while raising the profile of work with young people being undertaken across the town.

The formulation of any Charter should be based upon a participatory dialogue with young people, giving young people a voice on the issues that they face and their concerns. Importantly, the role of the Council would be that of a steward of this collaboration, ensuring (see for example Hackney youth charter, Barnsley and Leicester's Homelessness Charter and the LGA guidance/framework for collaboration across tiers of local government.)

3. Northampton Town Council to nominate a youth councillor and put in place a youth council.
4. Audit the buildings and places where young people can meet, working towards the provision of 24-hour, weekend and after school services.
5. Consider the further use of social media to raise awareness of the challenges facing young people across the Town.

The implications of the recommendations need to be fully considered and prioritised, and fed into the Council's broader strategy. There is capacity issue at present, the recruitment of a Community officer would enable a lot of these projects to be taken forward.

As a side note and a positive outcome, one of the students who worked on the study has now graduated and is employed by one of the local parish councils.

## **Northampton Town Council**

### **Policy Commission 2022**

#### **Research Note**

This note summarises the findings and recommendations of the work undertaken by students of De Montfort University as part of the Policy Commission 2022. It first sets out the approach of the research before drawing out its findings and potential recommendations. The students of the Policy Commission 2020 would like to thank Northampton Town Council for its collaboration in this project and providing a valuable opportunity to learn from experience, an opportunity that would not have been possible without the time and effort devoted by the Council to the Policy Commission.

#### ***Approach***

1. The findings are drawn from three sources of data: first, an analysis of secondary data drawn from existing literature, policy reports and press articles; second, primary data drawn from semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders across Northampton; and third, study visits and observations.
2. Interviews lasted on average between 45-60 minutes and were undertaken online or via telephone. All interviews were transcribed and thematically analysed. A sample of 20 stakeholders were contacted. However, the response rate was low, resulting in 7 interviews being completed in the time available to students. The interpretation of data is thus to be treated with caution, with the study itself best characterised as a pilot study.

#### ***Findings***

In many ways, Northampton is a microcosm of the experience of youth services across the country over the last decade. As elsewhere, youth services in Northampton have been challenged by a cocktail of pressures, notably the Covid pandemic, austerity and cuts to funding, and increasing demands for services. One research participant underlined that ‘the youth service was demolished in 2007 and 2008. And it’s left a huge vacuum’. Another suggested that ‘there is a lot of chaos in youth services’. Indeed, multiple drivers, as discussed above, have arguably come together to multiply the pressures on young people across the town. The research identified four perceived inter-connected deficits in the provision of youth services: funding; breath of provision; young people’s voice; and collaboration between local stakeholders.

Turning to the issue of funding. Our evidence suggests that constraints on funding, alongside moves to contracting and competitive funding, have impacted on youth provision and the nature of service provision. The severity of cuts due to the short-term contractual nature of funding cannot be under-estimated with providers often facing extensive decreases following the end of contracts – one organisation reported the threat of a fall in funding from £250,000 to £23,000. Another participant reported that ‘we [the organisation] just live year to year.’ Indeed, many participants expressed concerns over ‘constant firefighting’ in the search for funding.

But importantly, respondents underlined how the insecurity of funding impacted upon the capacity of organisations to plan for the future and to ensure the resilience of service delivery. As one participant argued: ‘moving from one year to the next rather than

knowing what funding is in place for years to come is a constraint'. In short, it was argued repeatedly that the insecurity of funding diverted attention away from service provision, with providers devoting time and energy to seeking out, and applying for, competitive funding schemes. Such schemes themselves are fragmented, obliging youth organisations to work to multiple contractual obligations.

Turning to provision, research participants reported multiple gaps in services for young people, with many services having to rely on volunteers. Concerns were raised over support for services including young people dropping out of school; tackling gang culture and grooming; substance abuse; and mental health. One participant reported the services had witnessed a '45% increase in the number of young people seeking support for their mental health', while another argued that 'schools are quite overwhelmed with the level of mental health that they're having to manage.' Broadly speaking, demands were repeated raised for 24 hour provision and support for young people, seven days a week,

Importantly, one recurring demand was to increase the provision of buildings and spaces available to youth organisations across the town, the absence of which has direct impacts on the capacity of groups and associations to organise meetings and clubs for young people. There were also demands to improve public transport connections across the town, with one association reporting that it had to rely on taxis to get young people to some of its events. Finally, research participants reported the concerns of young people feeling unsafe in the town centre. However, it must be noted that questions of provision differed from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, with policy having to recognise the dynamic of place and the multiple geographies that come together to constitute Northampton.

Turning to voice and collaboration, there was support for the work of the youth summit and youth engagement across the town. The need for improved collaboration, it was reported, was being addressed through such forums as the Youth Summit, which was leading in practice to further dialogue about how local youth organisations and local councils work together, following what was seen by some as the voluntary sector 'stepping in' to fill the 'gap' left by local government under austerity.

Yet, there remained a demand for the provision of greater voice for young people and inclusion in the decision-making processes that affect them and the work of the council itself. At the same time, the extent of collaboration remained unclear. There was broad recognition of networking and cooperation, but evidence of collaboration based on formal agreements and shared visions was not always forthcoming. Indeed, research participants expressed fears that the fragmentation of local government and the absence of meaningful collaboration between the tiers of local government, put obstacles in the way of the effective provision of youth services. Indeed, there were multiple demands for the generation of a collaborative network for information sharing and coordination. The 'elephant in the room' through many of these conversations was the collapse of Northamptonshire County Council and its legacy on existing networks and established roles across the area.

### ***Recommendations***

The findings of this study have to be treated with some caution. It is ultimately best seen as a pilot study, setting out potential avenues of inquiry and policy dialogues to be had. With that in mind, our evidence invites Northampton Town Council and other stakeholders to engage in a dialogue around the following policy debates, initiatives and measures:

1. How to continue or ensure the move away from competitive funding toward grant-based funding, thereby shifting from a contractual funding relationship to one of collaboration and shared priorities.
2. Put in place a youth charter, which builds upon the work of the Youth Summit. The charter signed by the Town Council and all local stakeholders would set out the core priorities for young people in the town and the commitments of local stakeholders to work collectively to deliver on such policy commitments.

In other words, the charter would put in place a set of common goals for local providers across the town, coordinate resources, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of partners, while raising the profile of work with young people being undertaken across the town.

The formulation of any Charter should be based upon a participatory dialogue with young people, giving young people a voice on the issues that they face and their concerns. Importantly, the role of the Council would be that of a steward of this collaboration, ensuring (see for example Hackney youth charter, Barnsley and Leicester's Homelessness Charter and the LGA guidance/framework for collaboration across tiers of local government.)

3. Northampton Town Council to nominate a youth councillor and put in place a youth council.
4. Audit the buildings and places where young people can meet, working towards the provision of 24-hour, weekend and after school services.
5. Consider the further use of social media to raise awareness of the challenges facing young people across the Town.