

# Council

**A meeting of the Council will be held at the The Great Hall at The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 18 July 2024 at 6.00 pm  
Councillors are hereby summoned to attend**

## Agenda

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of Council (Pages 9 - 20)</b> To confirm the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 16 May 2024.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Chairman's Announcements</b> To receive communications from the Chairman of the Council.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Public Participation</b> (1) Receipt of Petitions (if any) from Local Government Electors for the District (2) Statements (if any) from the Public
<b>6.</b>	<b>Opposition Priority Business</b> Proposed by: Cllr Bob Purser Seconded by: Cllr Koulla Jolley  "In March, West Northamptonshire Council took part in a Corporate Peer Challenge undertaken by the Local Government Association. This review looked into the council's ability to deliver upon its plans and vision for West Northamptonshire and its

residents.

Among the review's findings were concerns about WNC's vision for the area, engagement with partners, and vision for Northampton Town Centre. The report describes a 'persistent focus on the past' rather than our future and outcomes; 'stand offs' with partners who are unclear of council's strategic ambitions, which is stunting progress; and 'no clear vision' for Northampton to succeed for the benefit the whole area, with officers 'almost apologetic for its run-down appearance'.

This council accepts the eight key recommendations given by the review, in particular the importance of working together with partners to shape a long-term vision for West Northamptonshire and Northampton's central role within it. Council further pledges to begin this work as soon as possible in a united and cross-party approach.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to act on these findings and recommendations by:

- Developing a long-term vision for West Northamptonshire, its towns, and council services
- Developing a long-term strategic place vision for Northampton Town Centre and Northampton's role within West Northamptonshire and incorporate this into the Local Plan
- Developing stakeholder management principles to grow and improve relations with our partners
- Enabling all council members and the public to contribute to the above"

<b>Items of Business</b>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>WNC Annual Report (Pages 21 - 86)</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Cabinet Reports and Records of Decisions Taken by the Cabinet (Pages 87 - 180)</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Revenue Monitoring Provisional Outturn 2023-24 (Pages 181 - 248)</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Appointment of Director of Children's Services (Pages 249 - 252)</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Highways Capital Programme (Pages 253 - 258)</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Royal &amp; Derngate Theatre RAAC Remediation Works (Pages 259 - 264)</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Updates to the Constitution (Pages 265 - 272)</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Audit and Governance Committee - Annual Report (Pages 273 - 290)</b>

15.	<b>Audit and Governance Committee - Appointment of Independent Members</b> (Pages 291 - 294)
16.	<b>Annual Report of the Democracy &amp; Standards Committee 2023-24</b> (Pages 295 - 310)
17.	<p><b>Motions</b></p> <p>To debate any motions which have been submitted with advance notice, in accordance with the Council’s Procedure Rules.</p> <p><u>Motion 1</u></p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Wendy Randall  Secoded by: Cllr Rufia Ashraf</p> <p>“West Northamptonshire is continuing on its transformational journey. It is vital that the council’s partners, members and especially the public feel included and incorporated in this as a shared community. Comprehensive consultation and engagement are key to achieving this.</p> <p>The recent LGA Peer Review of WNC found partners feel ‘a lack of clarity’ from the council, Town and Parish councils ‘feel largely disconnected...and unable to bring influence’, and that opposition and back-bench members feel ‘disenfranchised’. It also called for a ‘comprehensive refresh’ of the council’s website, which it described as ‘difficult to navigate.’</p> <p>Council pledges to improve its relationship with partners and residents based on shared understanding and meaningful dialogue, where all feel included and has a voice.</p> <p>This council therefore agrees to place engagement at the heart of its operations and ongoing journey and requests Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accept the recommendation of the LGA Peer Review and overhaul and refresh the council website to make it more accessible</li> <li>• Ensure all consultation and consequent decision-making adheres to The Consultation Institute Charter (TCI) and Gunning Principles, especially concerning accessibility and consideration</li> <li>• Consider membership of the TCI and endeavour to gain their Quality Assurance for consultation process</li> <li>• Pilot consultation methods which invite greater participation from partners, members and hard-to-reach groups of the public”</li> </ul> <p><u>Motion 2</u></p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Jonathan Harris  Secoded by: Cllr Carl Squires</p> <p>In September 2021, the Liberal Democrats proposed a motion to council, resolving that all councillors make the White Ribbon promise, namely: “to never use, excuse, or remain silent about men’s violence against women”</p>

It was rejected by the Conservative Group, as being un-inclusive because it didn't mention men, despite evidence showing then, and continuing to show now, that most domestic violence cases are perpetrated by men against women and girls.

Furthermore, most of the Conservative group have stayed silent as regards the domestic abuse issues surrounding their now ex-leader.

As a result, the work of the council and trust with individuals and organisations, for those who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse and the local charities supporting them, has been undermined.

Enough is enough. It is imperative that this council rebuilds this trust within our communities.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Seek White Ribbon Organisational status and ask Cabinet to develop and implement, over a three-year period, an Action Plan, developed by a Steering Group and supported by leadership, to affect tangible change within our own organisation.
- Once again ask that ALL councillors publicly make the White Ribbon Promise, in person, prior to council's ordinary proceedings at its September meeting.

18.	<b>Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman)</b> The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
19.	<b>Exclusion of Press and Public</b> In respect of the following items the Chairman may move the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them: The Committee is requested to resolve: "That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them"
20.	<b>Capital Budget for Provision of Relocatable Temporary Accommodation (Pages 311 - 318)</b>

**Council Members:**

Councillor Jo Gilford (Chair)

Councillor Alison Eastwood (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Ann Addison

Councillor Rufia Ashraf

Councillor Jamal Alwahabi

Councillor Azizur Rahman

Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb

Councillor Fiona Baker

Councillor Dermot Bambridge

Councillor Harry Barrett

Councillor William Barter

Councillor Sally Beardsworth

Councillor Phil Bignell

Councillor Lizzy Bowen

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Councillor Adam Brown

Councillor Michael Brown

Councillor Muna Cali

Councillor Alan Chantler

Councillor Pinder Chauhan

Councillor Naz Choudary

Councillor Imran Ahmed Chowdhury BEM

Councillor Paul Clark

Councillor Stephen Clarke

Councillor Maggie Clubley

Councillor Fiona Cole

Councillor Raymond Connolly

Councillor Karen Cooper

Councillor Daniel Cribbin

Councillor Julie Davenport

Councillor Janice Duffy

Councillor Paul Dyball

Councillor Terrie Eales

Councillor Penelope Flavell

Councillor Louisa Fowler

Councillor Rupert Frost

Councillor Terry Gilford

Councillor Matt Golby

Councillor André González De Savage

Councillor Andrew Grant

Councillor Mike Hallam

Councillor Enam Haque

Councillor Lauryn Harrington-Carter

Councillor Jonathan Harris

Councillor Cheryl Hawes

Councillor Rosie Herring

Councillor Stephen Hibbert

Councillor James Hill

Councillor Nigel Hinch

Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere

Councillor Mark Hughes

Councillor Rosie Humphreys

Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift

Councillor David James

Councillor Koulla Jolley

Councillor Paul Joyce

Councillor Andrew Kilbride

Councillor Anna King

Councillor Jamie Lane

Councillor Phil Larratt

Councillor Daniel Lister

Councillor Malcolm Longley

Councillor Greg Lunn

Councillor Charles Manners

Councillor Peter Matten

Councillor Ian McCord

Councillor Dennis Meredith

Councillor Colin Morgan

Councillor Charles Morton

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

Councillor Kevin Parker  
Councillor Bob Purser  
Councillor Emma Roberts  
Councillor Sam Rumens  
Councillor Lisa Samiotis  
Councillor Sue Sharps  
Councillor Zoe Smith  
Councillor Carl Squires  
Councillor Danielle Stone  
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex  
Councillor Mike Warren

Councillor Ken Pritchard  
Councillor Wendy Randall  
Councillor Jake Roberts  
Councillor Cathrine Russell  
Councillor Brian Sargeant  
Councillor David Smith  
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms  
Councillor Laura Stevenson  
Councillor Winston Strachan  
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz

## **Information about this Agenda**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to [democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk) prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

### **Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates**

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

### **Evacuation Procedure**

If a continuous fire alarm sounds you must evacuate the building via the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the assembly area as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

### **Access to Meetings**

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

### **Mobile Phones**

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

## **Queries Regarding this Agenda**

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Democratic Services via the following:

Tel:

Email: [democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Or by writing to:

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