



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

**Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Great Hall, The Guildhall, St Giles Street, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 2 December 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present            Councillor Ann Addison (Chair)  
                         Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Vice-Chair)  
                         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 Imran Ahmed Chowdhury BEM  
                         Councillor Paul Clark  
                         Councillor Maggie Clubley  
                         Councillor Fiona Cole  
                         Councillor Raymond Connolly  
                         Councillor Daniel Cribbin  
                         Councillor Julie Davenport  
                         Councillor Janice Duffy  
                         Councillor Paul Dyball  
                         Councillor Penelope Flavell  
                         Councillor Louisa Fowler  
                         Councillor Rupert Frost  
                         Councillor Jo Gilford  
                         Councillor Terry Gilford  
                         Councillor Matt Golby  
                         Councillor Andrew Grant  
                         Councillor Mike Hallam  
                         Councillor Enam Haque  
                         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 Ian McCord  
Councillor Dennis Meredith  
Councillor Colin Morgan  
Councillor Charles Morton  
Councillor Jonathan Nunn  
Councillor Suresh Patel  
Councillor Ken Pritchard  
Councillor Bob Purser  
Councillor Wendy Randall  
Councillor Emma Roberts  
Councillor Jake Roberts  
Councillor Sam Rumens  
Councillor Cathrine Russell  
Councillor Lisa Samiotis  
Councillor Brian Sargeant  
Councillor Sue Sharps  
Councillor John Shephard  
Councillor David Smith  
Councillor Zoe Smith  
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms  
Councillor Laura Stevenson  
Councillor Danielle Stone  
Councillor Winston Strachan  
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex  
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz  
Councillor Mike Warren

44. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashraf, Clarke, Cooper, G Eales, T Eales, Eastwood, Matten and Parker. Councillors Grant, Herring, Hill and Sharps would be arriving late.

45. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

46. **Minutes of Council**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

47. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the passing of Alderman Michael Hill who was a member of Northampton Borough Council from 1999 until 2017 and a member of Northamptonshire County Council from 2005 to 2009. He served as Mayor of Northampton from 2009 to 2010 and was serving as Mayor of Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire, at the time of his death.

The Chairman announced the passing of Alderman Barry Massey, former Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council member. He served as Ward Member for St Crispin's from 1979, for St. George's from 1983 to 1991 and for Park from 1999 to 2007. Alderman Massey served as a County Councillor from 1977 to 1981, and again from 2001 to 2005. He was the Mayor of Northampton from 2004 to 2005 and is survived by 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

The Chairman led Council in a minute's silence to remember Alderman Hill and Alderman Massey.

The Chairman reminded Council of the upcoming Carol Service on 12<sup>th</sup> December and asked members to RSVP if they had not already done so.

48. **Public Participation**

(1) There had been 1 request to submit a petition from Councillor Harris on behalf of a member of the public in relation to Item 19, motion 3. Councillor Harris would submit the petition at the end of the meeting and refer to it when he seconded the motion.

(2) The Chairman advised of 7 requests to address the Council.

Patrick Cross, resident of Spring Park and Whitehills, addressed Council in support of Item 19, motion 2 and stated that Northampton's roads could not currently support the anticipated increase in homes and traffic over the next 30 years.

John Crick, on behalf of Living to Breathe Northampton, addressed Council in respect of Item 7 and highlighted the importance of carbon-free travel.

Pel Ahmed, a student at Northampton University, addressed Council in support of Item 19, motion 5.

Crystal Liu, a student at Northampton University, addressed Council in support of Item 19, motion 5.

Clare Robertson-Marriott addressed Council in support of Item 19, motion 3 and noted that investors were moving away from fossil fuels in favour of more sustainable sources.

Tom Low addressed Council in support of Item 19, motion 4.

Lizzy on behalf of Northampton Youth Summit, addressed Council and expressed the need for a Youth Hub in Northampton where safety, opportunities and support for young people would be a priority.

There were 3 written questions from members of the public. Written responses were circulated at the meeting.

49. **Written Questions**

21 questions had been received from Councillors and the answers had been tabled in accordance with the Constitution.

Question and answers were given as tabled unless where stated, supplementary questions were asked as detailed below.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 4, it was explained that Veolia staff resources were being managed; KPIs were closely monitored in regular Cabinet reports.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 6, Council was informed that accurate figures regarding recycling would be available in due course. A recycling promotion was also upcoming.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 14, it was explained that 6-month and yearly check-ups took place for home-schooled children, however they fell under the jurisdiction of the schools.

In response to a supplementary question relating to question 21, it was advised that baby changing facilities would be looked at as part of a wider property review.

50. **Cabinet Reports and Record of Decisions Taken by the Cabinet**

Councillor Nunn presented his report as Leader of the Council and highlighted the salient points. In response to questions, the Leader advised that at a recent Transformation briefing, a workstream log was provided which updated Members of progress made. In relation to budget setting, priority areas had been identified and would continue to receive the necessary funding.

Councillor Brown presented his report as Deputy Leader and highlighted the salient points. In response to questions, The Deputy Leader agreed to review underspends relating to the Disabled Facilities Grant and the underlying reasons. With regard to carbon-neutral homes, it was confirmed that NPH were looking into passive housing options.

Councillor Golby noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting next week would be discussing the Disabled Facilities Grant process.

Councillor Larratt presented his report as Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste and highlighted the salient points. In response to questions, Councillor Larratt commented that West Northamptonshire would still benefit from HS2 with the recent cancellation of the northern arm. With regard to bus services, it was unfortunate that some services in West Northamptonshire were not yet running at full capacity, but efforts were being made to remedy this. Councillor Larratt confirmed that he was liaising with officers with regard to delayed EV charging points in several villages and that these would be installed as soon as possible, notwithstanding power supply challenges.

Due to the time limit applicable to this item, the remaining reports were noted.

**RESOLVED:**

Council noted the Cabinet Member reports and the decision records from 14<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Cabinet meetings.

51. **Northampton City Status Bid**

Councillor Nunn presented a report which sought Council's endorsement for the bid of Northampton City Status.

The Chairman invited Chris Normington and Alex Paulley, Graduate Trainees, to speak on the report and show a short video in support of the bid.

Councillor M Brown seconded the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council endorsed the bid for Northampton City Status.

52. **Personal Safety for Councillors**

Councillor Hallam presented a report which summarised the steps the Council had taken to ensure Members were aware of their personal safety and were able to access appropriate advice and resources, as well as steps being taken by the Council to ensure the safety of Members.

Councillor Chauhan seconded the report.

Council discussed the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council:

1. Noted the Personal Safety Guide for Councillors, attached at Appendix 1 of the report; and
2. Noted action being taken by the Council in a few areas related to the safety of Members, as set out in Section 6 of the report.

**53. Review of WNC Constitution**

Councillor A Brown presented a report which sought to report on the work undertaken by the Democracy & Standards Committee to review the Constitution, report the results of the consultation exercise during the summer and to seek agreement to formally approve the draft revised Constitution. Council was advised that the recommendations had been altered and now read:

3.1 It is recommended that Council:

- a) Acknowledges the work of the Democracy & Standards Committee;
- b) Agrees the additional proposals which were agreed by the Democracy & Standards Committee at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 be accepted with the exception of (h), which proposed changing the word “impracticable” to “not possible”. Instead, a definition should be added to the glossary as follows:  
Impracticable - not possible without changes current resourcing or staffing levels
- c) Council formally approves the draft revised Constitution to come into effect at the close of this meeting.

Councillor Patel seconded the report.

Council discussed the report. Whilst Members were concerned around restrictions in relation to questions to Cabinet Members and motions, it was noted that Cabinet Members were contactable all the time. A further review would come back to Council in 6 months.

**RESOLVED:**

Council:

- a) Acknowledged the work of the Democracy & Standards Committee;
- b) Agreed the additional proposals which were agreed by the Democracy & Standards Committee at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 be accepted with the exception of (h), which proposed changing the word “impracticable” to “not possible”. Instead, a definition should be added to the glossary as follows:  
Impracticable - not possible without changes current resourcing or staffing levels
- c) Formally approved the draft revised Constitution to come into effect at the close of this meeting.

54. **Annual Report of the Pensions Committee**

Councillor Longley presented the Annual Report of the Pensions Committee which sought to report on the work of the Pension Fund Committee over the previous year.

Councillor Morton seconded the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council noted the contents of the report.

55. **Annual Report of the local Pensions Board**

Councillor Longley presented the Annual Report of the Local Pension Board which reported on the Board's activities for the year.

Councillor Morton seconded the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council noted the contents of the report.

56. **Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Board**

Councillor Baker presented the Annual Report of the Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board for 2020-21.

Councillor Fowler seconded the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council noted the contents of the report.

57. **Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor Hallam presented a report which sought Council's agreement to participate in a joint health overview and scrutiny committee concerning the Horton General Hospital in Banbury and to agree the terms of reference for the committee and to appoint a councillor as a member.

Councillor Bowen seconded the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council:

- a) Agreed to participate in the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Oxfordshire and Warwickshire county councils.

- b) Agreed the terms of reference for the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee set out at Appendix A of the report.
- c) Agreed to delegate the Council's statutory health scrutiny functions to the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee solely in relation to scrutiny of those matters within the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference.
- d) Appointed Councillor Rosie Herring as a member of the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021/22.

**58. Approval of the Local Council Tax reduction Scheme 2022-23**

Councillor Longley presented the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/2023 which provided Members with an update on the proposed LCTRS for West Northamptonshire Council for the financial year 2022-2023, including the results from the recent consultation process. There were several additions to the recommendations, detailed below:

- 1. Additional support for care leavers
- 2. 100% disregard for war widows and war disabled pensions

Councillor Hughes seconded the report.

Council discussed the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council:

- a) Noted the contents of the report.
- b) Approved the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) for the financial year 2022-2023 as set out in the report including amending the LCTRS Regulations for pensioners in line with the uprating announced by DLUHC and uprating the working age Regulations in line with those announced by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- c) Give delegated authority to the Executive Director Finance to make any changes to the LCTRS up to and including 31 January 2022 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

**59. Updated West Northamptonshire Council Pay Policy Statement**

Councillor Hallam presented the annual Pay Policy Statement in accordance with the requirements of Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011. The Pay Policy Statement must be updated annually and sets out pay for the directly employed workforce (excluding schools). The current policy covers the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.



Councillor Chauhan seconded the report.

Council discussed the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council approved the revised Pay Policy Statement.

60. **Middleton Cheney Parish Council: Order under section 91(1) of the Local Government Act 1972**

Councillor Hallam presented the report which sought to advise Council of the decision of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services exercising delegated powers in relation to the appointment of members to Middleton Cheney Parish Council.

Councillor Chauhan seconded the report.

Council discussed the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council noted the exercise of power delegated to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

61. **Director of Children's Services Recruitment and Interim Arrangements**

Councillor Baker presented a report to Council which sought members' approval to change the structure to include a single Director for Children's Services for West Northamptonshire and to note that the selection and appointment process for the Statutory Director of Children's Services role would be undertaken by the Senior Appointments Committee with the Chief Executive.

Councillor Fowler seconded the report.

Members offered their thanks to the current Director for Children's Services (DCS) for her efforts in bringing the Children's Trust was in a better and more stable place than it had been for a number of years.

Council discussed the report.

**RESOLVED:**

Council:

- (a) Agreed that the senior leadership structure of the Council be amended to include a Director of Children's Services (DCS) role for West Northamptonshire Council with effect from February 2022.
- (b) Delegated authority to the Executive Director – Finance in consultation with the Finance Portfolio holder to release one off funds to meet any costs over

and above the provision included in the base budget to meet the costs associated with the proposal.

- (c) Noted the intention to include a growth item within the draft budget proposals for 2022-23 to meet the ongoing increased costs associated with the proposals.
- (d) Noted that in accordance with the Staff Employment Procedure Rules the Senior Appointments Committee and the Chief Executive would take all necessary actions to complete the permanent recruitment process.
- (e) Noted that the Head of Paid Service would make an interim appointment in accordance with the Staff Employment Procedure Rules.

## 62. **Motions**

### Motion 1

Motion 1 was withdrawn from the agenda prior to the start of the meeting.

### Motion 2

Councillor M Brown proposed and Councillor Rumens seconded:

“This Council agrees, in principle, with the creation of a new Dual Carriageway / Grade Separated Northern Orbital Road around the north of Northampton to reduce pollution and traffic through the town, especially residential areas, whilst supporting and safeguarding jobs, and providing infrastructure for future growth.”

Councillor Harris proposed and Councillor Beardsworth seconded an amendment:

“This Council agrees, in principle, with the creation of a new Dual Carriageway / Grade Separated Northern Orbital Road around the north of Northampton, subject to having explored all other options to reduce pollution and traffic through the town, which could include extending park and ride schemes, the introduction of a form of emission charging for heavily polluting vehicles and the impact that an orbital road will have on the environment and embodied carbon. Any such scheme should be beneficial to all residential areas, rural and urban alike, whilst supporting and safeguarding jobs, providing infrastructure for future growth, and minimising further damage to the environment and pollution levels.”

Council debated the amendment.

Upon a vote, the amendment Fell.

Council debated the original motion.

Upon a vote, the original motion was Carried.

### Motion 3

Councillor Humphreys proposed and Councillor Harris seconded:

“West Northamptonshire Council notes:

- West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire Councils have around £59 million invested in fossil fuels via the Local Government Pension Scheme.[1]
- The United Nations Paris 2015 Agreement commits our governments to keep the global temperature increase to under 2°C and aim for 1.5°C. Carbon budgets produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations and the International Energy Agency show that preventing two degrees of warming relies on not burning 60-80% of all proven fossil fuels.
- With COP26 taking place in Glasgow in November 2021, there is increased emphasis by the UK government on showing global climate leadership, especially in relation to finance. Divesting our pension fund is a clear and meaningful action that can be taken at a local government level.
- Fossil fuel investments are financially risky as a result of both the Covid19 pandemic and the global transition to a more sustainable economic and environmental model. They are now being consistently outperformed by renewables.[2]
- Former Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned in December 2019 that fossil fuel investments risk becoming “stranded assets” (i.e., worthless) as investors exit the sector. He asked, “A question for every company, every financial institution, every asset manager, pension fund or insurer – what’s your plan?”
- As continued investments in fossil fuels pose material financial risks to portfolios, funds have fiduciary duties to consider the benefits of decarbonising as part of their investment strategies. Fiduciary duty is defined by the Law Commission as “ensuring that pensions can be paid, ensuring that this is undertaken at the best possible value”.
- Pension funds have a legal duty to treat members “fairly as between them”. That means taking seriously the longer-term interests of younger members who may well be affected more by the climate transition.

This Council therefore commits to:

1. Reviewing its Investment Strategy and developing and implementing a Responsible Investment Policy which rules out new investments in fossil fuel companies.
2. Calling on the combined Pension Fund for West and North Northamptonshire to divest from fossil fuels by requesting its representative(s) on the Pension Fund Committee to call for the development and adoption of responsible investment policies which:
  - (a) Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies.[3]
  - (b) Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within as short a period of time as possible given market forecasts.
  - (c) Set out an approach to quantify and address climate change risks affecting all other investments.
  - (d) Actively seek to invest in companies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise climate risk.
3. Recognising that fossil fuel investments should be considered as part of the council’s ‘carbon footprint’ and divesting our pension fund is one of the most

impactful steps we can take to reduce our impact on our community and the world.

#### Footnotes

- [1] 2021 figures taken from the report 'Divesting to protect our pensions and the planet – An analysis of local government investments in coal, oil and gas'. Available at: <https://www.divest.org.uk/councils>
- [2] Energy Investing: Exploring Risk and Return in the Capital Markets, Joint Report by the International Energy Agency and the Centre for Climate Finance & Investment, Paris. Available at: <https://www.iea.org/reports/energyinvesting-exploring-risk-and-return-in-the-capital-markets>
- [3] As determined by the most recent Carbon Underground 200 list.

Council debated the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion Fell.

At 22:30 the Chairman drew Council's attention to Rule 10 of the Council Procedure Rules:

#### **10. Extension of the meeting**

- 10.1 *If the business of a Council meeting has not been concluded by 10.30 pm, the Chair will draw the attention of the meeting to the time and to this Rule.*
- 10.2 *In the case of any motions or recommendations on the agenda that have not been dealt with by 10.30 pm the Chair will decide whether to end the meeting or to deal with the outstanding matters provided that those matters can reasonably be dealt with by 10.45pm.*
- 10.3 *Where the outstanding matters cannot be dealt with by that time each item will be put to the vote without further debate and a vote will be taken on whether the item should be accepted, rejected, referred, deferred or withdrawn.*

The following motions were put to the vote without debate.

#### Motion 4

An amendment to the motion was accepted by Councillor Beardsworth.

Amended motion to read:

"This Council notes that:

It is evident that climate change is here and already impacting on our environment. With Cop26 fresh in our minds and the effects of climate change very much

demonstrated by fires and flooding across the world and with gales and torrential rain across the country we need to act.

We call upon the council to work proactively with the environment agencies and as the Lead Local Flood Authority to prevent the flooding that took place in the town in 1998 and 2018 and across the county. We must make sure that everything possible is done to protect homes and businesses from flooding.

With this in mind, this council resolves to:

- Liaise with the relevant agencies to ensure that rivers have received the appropriate maintenance as needed, such as dredging, to minimise any risk of future flooding
- Reviews preventive measures that currently exist and
- Reviews all Flood investigation reports from May 2018 published in January 2019 to monitor actions and recommendations for completion, recommends any further action that needs to be taken and reports back to this council.
- Provides parish and town councils with a well-publicised schedule of routine maintenance for all gully and drainage works (cleaning and clearing), ensuring sufficient notice to ensure that vehicles are not parked over drains to prevent access for maintenance works.
- Urgently review any proposed housing developments in the vicinity of flood plains which, if allowed to progress, will simply compound the problem.”

Upon a vote, the motion Fell.

#### Motion 5

An amendment to the motion was accepted by Councillor Stone.

Amended motion to read:

“The West Northamptonshire Council has embraced the challenge of providing a welcome and refuge for incoming Afghan families and households seeking sanctuary from the crisis in Afghanistan.

In providing a welcome and working to meet the needs of the incoming refugees we have learned a great deal and have been pleased to be part of a national network delivering the Government’s Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme, including safe passage, relocation and resettlement.

The Council is committed to supporting refugee and migrant communities who have fled violence and persecution and been offered safety and sanctuary in our area. As part of this work it supports the initiative to make West Northamptonshire a recognised ‘Council of Sanctuary’.

City of Sanctuary UK is a charitable organisation that provides a focus for coordination and development of a network of groups that are focused on bringing about both local and national social change. It started in Sheffield in 2007 and now involves over 50 Cities and towns, including Northampton, which became a Town of Sanctuary in 2015.

In December 2020, the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network was launched. Its aims are to support the development of a network of local authorities that are working towards the City of Sanctuary vision; and to promote the embedding of a culture and practice of welcome in local authorities to support the City of Sanctuary theory of change.

The Council understands the important role it can play in welcoming people who are fleeing violence and persecution by offering them safety and sanctuary and therefore resolves to:

- Apply to become a member of the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network

Upton a vote, the motion was Carried.

### Motion 6

Proposed by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor Humphreys:

“This Council notes that:

- Every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits.
- The Environment Agency rated only 14% of rivers as ‘Good’ in 2019.
- This chemical pollution is mostly caused by sewage discharges from water companies and the run-offs of nutrients from farms.
- 36% of English rivers have been damaged by water companies.
- In England, water companies released untreated human waste directly into our waterways over 400,000 times for a total of 3 million hours in 2020 alone.
- Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality and regulate farms and water companies has dropped 75% since 2010/11.
- In 2020 just 3.6% of pollution complaints made to the Agency resulted in penalties.
- Farms are now almost never inspected, water quality is rarely tested, and water companies can pump raw sewage into rivers with virtual impunity.
- In addition, tyre particles, metals from brake pads, and hydrocarbons from vehicle emissions wash off road surfaces and into rivers introducing potentially carcinogenic material into the water supply.
- The River Nene is particularly threatened by further sewage discharges.

Council believes that, as host nation of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021, the UK Government should commit to:

- Restoring Environment Agency budgets to deliver the necessary oversight.
- Increasing inspection regularity of water companies and farms, and rigorously prosecuting offenders through the Environmental Audit Committee and Ofwat.
- Funding local and highways authorities to introduce systems to prevent road pollutants from entering our water courses.

Council resolves to request the Chief Executive write to:

- The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Government to make these commitments as host nation of COP-26.
- The Chairperson of the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee to advocate for greater enforcement of existing regulatory powers.
- The Chief Executive of Anglian Water calling for urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers.
- The Regional Director of the National Farmers' Union requesting clarification on the action being taken locally by farmers to prevent nutrient run-off.
- The charities River Action and The Rivers Trust expressing this Council's support for their campaign to restore the health of Britain's rivers.
- Our local MP's expressing the council's concerns about the ongoing impact that this practice has on the environment and public health."

Upon a vote, the motion Fell.

#### Motion 7

A revised amendment to the motion was accepted by Councillor Roberts.

Amended motion to read:

"That the Cabinet will carry out a feasibility review into the advantages and disadvantages of introducing a 20mph speed limit across urban and appropriate rural areas of West Northamptonshire, reporting on its probable impact on fatal and serious accidents, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, air pollution and journey times.

The review should consider the opportunities provided by Active Travel funds and Living Streets initiatives and recognises any work that will need to be done to have a willing police force ready to enforce.

Furthermore, the feasibility review will resolve to investigate the implementation of "no idling zones" and/or no drive outside schools and hospitals to improve air quality."

Upon a vote, the motion Fell.

#### Motion 8

Motion 8 was withdrawn by Councillor McCord.

#### Motion 9

Proposed by Councillor T Eales and seconded by Councillor Russell.

This council reaffirms our commitment to tackling climate change and ensuring a carbon neutral West Northamptonshire by 2030.

To that end, council acknowledges the work of UK 100 (<https://www.uk100.org/>) a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, which seeks to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them. It supports decision-makers in UK towns, cities and counties in their transition to Net Zero. It is the only network for UK local leaders focused solely on climate, clean energy and clean air policy.

This council therefore agrees for this authority to become a member of UK 100 and take the membership pledge, which is:

- We will continue to lead the UK's response to climate change, acting sooner than the government's goal by making substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero. We will use our experience and achievements to advocate to the UK government in order to accelerate the delivery of ambitious local climate action. With greater powers and funding, we would go further.
- We commit to do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible.
- We pledge to understand our impact on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and monitor progress towards our goals. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone."

Upon a vote, the motion was Carried.

### Motion 10

Proposed by Councillor E Roberts and seconded by Councillor Jolley:

As an employer who cares about the impact of domestic abuse, we will seek to lead by example and be a model employer on the issue to protect our employees. To that end we will sign the GMB Charter to Stop Domestic Abuse and pledge to:

1. Support employees who are experiencing Domestic Abuse to access support services and information confidentially.
2. Ensure that those experiencing Domestic Abuse will not be disadvantaged within the terms and conditions of their employment and will take all reasonable measures to facilitate any needs in the workplace.
3. Commit to working/participating with other organisations to facilitate best support for those experiencing Domestic Abuse.
4. Provide all employees with access to toolkits, information and our policies on domestic abuse, in a format that is easily and discretely accessible within the workplace.
5. Ensure that we have employees trained across our organisation to provide adequate access to support within the workplace for all employees. Staff trained



should be representative of our workplace and will include line managers and Trade Union representatives.

In addition:

- (a) This council through Scrutiny will report on the work it has done.
- (b) Full council will request to receive an annual report through the newly formed Domestic Violence Board

Both of these additional steps will enable us to monitor our performance at employer level and for our residents in order to seek necessary improvements or interventions required from us as a council.

Upon a vote, the motion was Carried.

**63. Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman)**

There was no urgent business on this occasion.

The meeting closed at 10:40pm

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_