



PUBLISHED: 16 MARCH 2010

FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 JULY 2010

What is a Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan is a list of the key decisions, which are due to be taken, by the Cabinet during the period covered by the Plan. The Council has a Statutory duty to prepare a Forward Plan. The Plan is updated monthly and is available to the public 14 days before the beginning of each month. It covers a 4-month rolling period. It can be accessed from the One Stop Shop and/or the Council website www.northampton.gov.uk.

What is a Key Decision?

A key decision in the Council's constitution is defined as:

- Any decision in relation to the Executive function* which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of saving which are significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates. For these purpose the minimum financial threshold will be £50,000;
- Where decisions are not likely to involve significant expenditure or savings but nevertheless are likely to be significant in terms of their effects on communities in two or more wards or electoral divisions; and
- For the purpose of interpretation a decision, which is ancillary or incidental to a Key decision, which had been previously taken by or on behalf of the Council shall not of itself be further deemed to be significant for the purpose of the definition.

* Executive functions are those, which are the responsibility of the Cabinet as opposed to, for example, regulatory functions, which are the responsibility of the Council's Planning or Licensing Committees.

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Council's constitution, key decisions are taken by

- Cabinet
- The Leader or Deputy Leader (in matters of urgency only)
- Individual officers acting under delegated powers (it is rare for any decision delegated to an officer to be a key decision)

Are only Key Decisions listed in the Forward Plan?

The Council only has a statutory obligation to publish only Key Decisions on the Forward Plan. However, the Council has voluntarily decided to list non-key Cabinet decisions on the Plan as well. In order to clarify matters on the Plan, Key decisions have a ⚙ symbol next to the item.

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The Plan gives information about:

- What key and non-key decisions are coming forward in the next four months (these decisions have a symbol next to them)
- Other non-key Cabinet decisions that are coming forward in the next four months
- Whether the decision will be taken in public or private
- When those key decisions are likely to be made
- Who will make those decisions
- What consultation will be undertaken
- Who you can contact for further information

Who is the Cabinet?

The Members of the Cabinet and their areas of responsibility are:

Councillor Brian Hoare	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Partnership & Improvement	cllr.bhoare@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Paul Varnsvery	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement	cllr.pdvarnsvery@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Sally Beardsworth	Portfolio Holder for Housing	cllr.sbeardsworth@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Richard Church	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration	cllr.rchurch@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Trini Crane	Portfolio Holder for Environment	cllr.tcrane@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor Brian Markham	Portfolio Holder for Performance and Support	cllr.bmarkham@northampton.gov.uk
Councillor David Perkins	Portfolio Holder for Finance	cllr.dperkins@northampton.gov.uk

What is the role of Overview and Scrutiny?

The Council has three Overview and Scrutiny Committees namely

Overview and Scrutiny 1 - Partnerships, Regeneration, Community Safety and Engagement

Overview and Scrutiny 2 - Housing and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 - Improvement, Performance and Finance

The Committees' role is to contribute to the development of Council policies, to scrutinise decisions of the Cabinet and to consider any matter affecting the area of Northampton or its citizens. Dates of these meetings and other Council meetings can be found at www.northampton.gov.uk

How and who do I contact?


Each entry in the Plan indicates the names of all the relevant people to contact about that particular item. Wherever possible, full contact details are listed in the individual entries in the Forward Plan. They can also be reached via the switchboard (01604) 837837.

For general information about the decision-making process please contact Frazer McGown, Democratic Services Manager at The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton NN1 1DE Tel: 01604 837101, E-mail: fmcgown@northampton.gov.uk.
Councillor Brian Hoare, Leader of Northampton Borough Council







🔑 = Key Decision


Forward Plan : 1 April 2010 to 31 July 2010

Subject	Expected Decision to be Made (🔑 = KEY decision)	Decision to be made by	Expected Date of Decision	Key or Non-Key Decision	Who Will be consulted	How will they be consulted	Report Published /Portfolio Holder/ Contact Officer
Update of Bye-law for Good Rule and Government covering the Borough of Northampton	🔑 to approve draft bye-law for Good Rule and Government for the Borough of Northampton to go forward to the Public Consultation stage	Cabinet	28 Apr 2010	KEY	General Public	Public notice in local press and copy of byelaw available for view at the Guildhall for period of at least one month.	20.04.10 Cllr P D Varnsberry Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection selsey@northampton.gov.uk
Performance Monthly Report - February 2010	To note the current position	Cabinet	28 Apr 2010	NON-KEY	Heads of Service	Meetings with Accountants	20.04.10 Cllr B Markham Dale Robertson, Head of Performance and Improvement drobertson@northampton.gov.uk
Capital Programme - Capital project appraisals and project variations	🔑 Approval of Capital Project appraisals and/or variations	Cabinet	28 Apr 2010	KEY	Budget Manager; Finance Manager (Capital and Treasury); Corporate Director (or Chief Executive); Head of Service; Member with Portfolio ; Section 151 Officer.	Review and sign off of capital appraisal forms and variations detailing the project and its relevance and importance to the Authority	20.04.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampton.gov.uk
Response to O & S 2 Recommendations following the Call-In of New Tenants Participation Structure Decision made by Cabinet on 14 October 2009	🔑 To agree the process of forming Tenant Area Partnership Boards	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Borough Solicitor, Section 151 Officer, Portfolio Holder	Draft report	11.05.10 Cllr Beardsworth Lesley Wearing, Director of Housing lwearing@northampton.gov.uk





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Rechargeable Repairs Policy	 To approve the rechargeable repairs policy	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Tenants, Finance department, Borough Solicitor	Copy of the draft report	11.05.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton.gov.uk
Voids Lettable Standard	 To approve the lettable standard	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Tenants	Survey and meeting with Sounding Board members	11.05.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton.gov.uk
Cliftonville Review	 To approve the outcome of the Cliftonville Review	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Members, HR, Finance and Legal	As part of the Review	11.05.10 Cllr Perkins/Cllr B Markham Isabell Procter, Director of Finance and Support iprocter@northampton.gov.uk
'Free Swimming Initiative - a year on'. Performance results.	Cabinet to note the report	Cabinet	19 May 2010	NON-KEY			11.05.10 Cllr PD Varnsberry Ian Redfern, Head of Leisure and Culture iredfern@northampton.gov.uk
Corporate Debt Policy	 To approve the Council's policy towards the collection of debt across Northampton Borough Council	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Internal: Revenues and Benefits, Housing and Finance; External: Third sector welfare agencies	Input to policy from internal departments and external review and comments on draft policy from the third sector	11.05.10 Cllr Perkins Bill Lewis, Finance Manager blewis@northampton.gov.uk
Vulnerable Tenants Strategy	 To approve the strategy	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Stakeholders working with vulnerable tenants, Tenants Sounding Board	Survey of views and discussions over draft proposals	11.05.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton.gov.uk

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Performance Monthly Report - March 2010	To note the current position.	Cabinet	19 May 2010	NON-KEY	Heads of Service	Meetings with Accountants	11.05.10 Cllr B Markham Dale Robertson, Head of Performance and Improvement drobertson@northampton.gov.uk
Capital Programme - Capital project appraisals and project variations	 Approval of capital project appraisals and/or variations	Cabinet	19 May 2010	KEY	Budget Manager; Finance Manager (Capital and Treasury); Corporate Director (or Chief Executive); Head of Service; Member with Portfolio; Section 151 Officer	Review and sign off of capital appraisal forms and variations detailing the project and its relevance and importance to the authority.	11.05.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampton.gov.uk
Extension of Caretaking and Cleaning Service	 To consider provision of cleaning service, funded by Service Charging	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY		Copy of draft report	01.06.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton.gov.uk
Sheltered Housing Service Review for Independent Living Options	 To pilot a number of different ways of working within the sheltered housing services to increase the flexibility of the service and delivery of options available to customers to promote independent living.	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Tenants of sheltered housing	Using the consultation toolkit, public consultation meetings, area surgeries, postal/telephone surveys	01.06.10 Cllr Beardsworth Fran Rodgers, Head of Housing Need and Support frodgers@northampton.gov.uk

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Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Allocations Policy	🔑 To approve the revised allocations policy	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Tenants, partners, Portfolio Holder, Borough Solicitor, Chief Executive	Copy of the draft report	01.06.10 Cllr Beardsworth Fran Rodgers, Head of Housing Need and Support frodgers@northampton.gov.uk
Housing Strategy	🔑 To approve the final version of the Housing Strategy for adoption and publishing	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Portfolio Holder for Housing, Director of Housing, Director of Planning and Regeneration, Director of Finance, Borough Solicitor, Members of the Public, External Stakeholders.	12-week consultation period to respond to Draft Housing Strategy; 2 consultation events for all members of the public to attend during the 12-week consultation period; copy of the draft strategy to be sent to all external stakeholders for comments.	01.06.10 Cllr Beardsworth Fran Rodgers, Head of Housing Need and Support frodgers@northampton.gov.uk





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Housing Asset Management Strategy	🔑 To approve the final version of the Housing Asset Management Strategy for adoption and publication.	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Portfolio Holder for Housing; Director of Housing; Director of Planning and Regeneration; Director of Finance; Borough Solicitor; Members of the public; External stakeholders.	12-week consultation period to respond to Housing Asset Management Strategy. Consultation events for members of the public to attend during 12-week consultation period. Copy of draft strategy sent to external stakeholders for comments.	01.06.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton.gov.uk
Equalities and Engagement (Forums) Report	🔑 To approve the updates to the Single Equalities Scheme and changes to Forums and equalities governance structures	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Forum co-Chairs, Corporate Equalities Steering Group	Variety of meetings, e-mail and other communications between January and April 2010	01.06.10 Cllr PD Varnsberry Thomas Hall, Head of Policy and Community Engagement thall@northampton.gov.uk
Garage Review	🔑 To note the outcome of the review and approve the recommendations	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Tenants	Survey and meetings with Sounding Board members	01.06.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton.gov.uk
Rent Arrears Recovery Strategy	🔑 To approve the strategy	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Tenants	Surveys and meetings with Sounding Board members	01.06.10 Cllr Beardsworth Christine Ansell, Head of Landlord Services cansell@northampton.gov.uk



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Capital Programme - Capital project appraisals and project variations	 Approval of capital project appraisals and/or variations	Cabinet	9 Jun 2010	KEY	Budget Manager; Finance Manager (Capital and Treasury); Corporate Director (or Chief Executive); head of Service; Member with Portfolio; Section 151 Officer.	Review and sign off of capital appraisal forms and variations detailing the project and its relevance and importance to the authority	01.06.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampton.gov.uk
Approval of the Financial Implications of the Pay and Grading Review	 To approve the budgetary implications of the Pay and Grading Review	Cabinet	28 Jun 2010	KEY	Board, Trade Unions, General Purposes Committee for changes to terms and conditions	Reports to Board and Trade Unions, General Purposes Committee (tbc June 2010)	18.06.10 Cllr Perkins/ B Markham Catherine Wilson, Head of Human Resources cwilson@northampton.gov.uk
Outturn Performance Report 2009-10	To note the current position	Cabinet	28 Jun 2010	NON-KEY	Heads of Service, Directors	Draft Report	18.06.10 Cllr B Markham Dale Robertson, Head of Performance and Improvement drobertson@northampton.gov.uk
Capital Programme - Capital project appraisals and project variations	 Approval of capital project appraisals and/or variations	Cabinet	28 Jun 2010	KEY	Budget Manager; Finance Manager (Capital and Treasury); Corporate Director (or Chief Executive); Head of Service; Member with Portfolio; Section 151 Officer.	Review and sign off of capital appraisal forms and variations detailing the project and its relevance and importance to the Authority	18.06.10 Cllr Perkins Gavin Chambers, Head of Finance and Assets gchambers@northampton.gov.uk

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BME Housing Strategy 2010-2013	 To approve the final version of the BME Housing Strategy for adoption and publication	Cabinet	28 Jul 2010	KEY	Portfolio Holder for Housing; Director of Housing; Director of Planning and Regeneration; Director of Finance; Borough Solicitor; members of the public, external stakeholders	12-week consultation period to respond to Draft BME Housing Strategy; 2 consultation events for all members of the public to attend during the 12-week consultation period; copy of the draft strategy sent to all external stakeholders for comments.	20.07.10 Cllr Beardsworth Fran Rodgers, Head of Housing Need and Support frodgers@northampton.gov.uk