

NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Committee	Joint Committee	Item 12	Page 1 of 3
Report Originator	George Candler	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> N/A	
Wards Affected	ALL	5 th March 2020	
Title	Location for Shadow Council Meetings		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this paper is to outline the recommended location for the North Northamptonshire Shadow Council meetings.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 There is a requirement within the Structural Changes Order to hold a Shadow Council meeting within 14 calendar days of the day of the elections (7th May 2020).

2.2 In planning and considering a proposed location a number of administrative and logistical factors were considered. These are covered in detail in Appendix 1 but included:

- Members' accommodation will need to be ready to hold full Council meetings for the Shadow Authority on or before 21st May 2020.
- The full Council meetings will need to accommodate 78 Members plus officers, public and press observers.
- There will need to be delegate units in sufficient quantity or an appropriate substitute.

2.3 There were also a number of assumptions considered, again covered in detail in Appendix 1 but included:

- The building where full Shadow Council meetings are held will not necessarily be the new named HQ location of the Unitary Authority going forward.
- The Executive Committee and Committees of the Shadow Council will be of a more easily manageable membership size and could either be held in existing local authority meeting rooms or in the same building allocated for full Council meetings.

3. REPORT

3.1 In selecting the venue both 'internal' (Councils' owned) and external venues were considered. After due consideration of options presented at a workshop

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session (see Appendix 1), the four Leaders of the Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW), Corby Borough Council (CBC), East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) and Kettering Borough Council (KBC) had, by majority, a preference for Kettering Conference Centre that best meet the needs of the full council meetings

3.2 It was also agreed at the workshop that delegate units would need to be hired for the Shadow Council meetings.

3.3 In terms of webcasting, paperless meetings and electronic voting, the four Leaders preference was that this was not required at this stage, but will be a future decision for the Shadow Council once elected.

3.4 In regard to the Executive Committee meetings (in effect holding the same status as a Cabinet in a Shadow Council), the preference agreed at the workshop was that they would rotate between each of the main local authority buildings in North Northamptonshire:

- Swanspool House, Wellingborough
- The Corby Cube, Corby
- East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston
- Municipal Offices, Kettering

There will also be a number of other committee meetings held by North Northamptonshire Shadow Council (e.g. Overview and Scrutiny, Standards Committee) and it was felt that as with the Executive Committee these would make use of existing committee rooms in each of the four buildings detailed in 3.4

3.5 It was also noted a members' room and office(s) should be available in each of the main council buildings for the new Shadow Council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Costs are still being evaluated. Once assessed they will be reflected in status updates to the Budget Monitoring Reports.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications to consider.

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6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 A range of internal and external venues were reviewed as possible sites for the Shadow Council meeting. The Kettering Conference Centre was, by majority, the preference of the Leaders from BCW, CBC, ENC and KBC. It was also agreed that delegate units should be hired.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That following a workshop session with the Leaders from BCW, CCC, ENC and KBC (see appendix 1):

- (a) the selection of the Kettering Conference Centre, as the location of the North Northamptonshire Shadow Council meetings, be approved; and
- (b) all other committee meetings that will be required for North Northamptonshire Shadow Council will make use of existing rooms in the four sovereign council buildings.