



**NOTE:
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QUESTIONNAIRE IS
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REFERENCE ONLY**

Central Area Action Plan Issues and Options Consultation

Thursday 27 September to Thursday 22 November 2007

Northampton Borough Council is consulting on the Issues and Options stage of a Central Area Action Plan. This questionnaire is designed to assist in commenting on the Issues and Options Discussion paper. We are keen to find out the visions and aspirations of our Central Area users.

The Issues and Options paper has been informed by feedback and information gathered to date. It sets out the key issues for the central area and options for managing them and provides a basis for discussion. This does not mean that proposals are fixed and agreed - this is an early stage of consultation.

When complete, the Action Plan will provide the basis for development decisions, by both the public and private sector, within the centre of Northampton. It will be used by West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC), as the body responsible for making decisions on planning applications within the Central Area, to guide planning decisions. It will also be used by Northamptonshire County Council, as highway authority, in making decisions about transportation and public realm matters.

The next stage of consultation is preferred options where specific sites and proposals will be identified and further consultation will take place in winter 2007/08.

How to take part in the consultation

You can provide your feedback on the Issues and Options paper using this questionnaire. Your response will be recorded by Northampton Borough Council and will contribute to shaping the next stage of developing the Central Area Action Plan.

The Central Area Action Plan Issues and Options paper and questionnaire can be found in the following locations:

- Northampton Borough Council website at www.northampton.gov.uk
(follow Downloads → Environment → Planning → Development Planning)
- Local libraries
- One Stop Shop reception in the Guildhall
- Northampton Borough Council Cliftonville Reception, Bedford Road

The questionnaire has been designed to allow you to easily provide us with a response. Some key facts have been highlighted throughout the document. It is suggested that you also read the Issues and Options Report which contains all of the facts. Fill in as much of the questionnaire as you feel is relevant to you. Please use additional sheets if you require more space to make your comments.

Details of how to return the questionnaire can be found at the end of the questionnaire.

If you would like a copy of this leaflet in Large Print, Braille, Audiotape, or translation into another language please contact 01604 838 907.

Your Details

Why do we need your feedback?

Feedback is very important to us. It helps to shape and guide our decision-making processes so that we can work together with our customers to deliver effective services. Your response to this questionnaire will feed into the consultation process in developing the Central Area Action Plan.

What happens to your feedback?

- Northampton Borough Council will record your response to this consultation questionnaire along with your contact details
- All representations made in response to this consultation form part of the statutory planning process and will be made available for public viewing. Your response **cannot be treated as confidential**. The findings from the consultation will be published and reported on (however we will only include your name, street name and town – we will not print your house number, telephone number or email address)
- Your details will be added to our database for the Central Area Action Plan and we will keep you informed about the development of this Plan and of further consultation opportunities for this Plan

What will we do with your details?

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires Northampton Borough Council to notify you that the information you have provided to us will be held in a computer database. Your information will only be used in relation to developing the Central Area Action Plan and consultation activities carried out by, and on behalf of, Northampton Borough Council.

Please supply your contact details so that we can contact you again about this consultation.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

Do your comments represent those of an organisation? Yes No

If you answered yes, please state which organisation:

.....

There may be future consultations carried out by our Planning Policy team which you may be interested in. If you would like your details to be added to our electronic database to be notified about future consultations and to receive a newsletter to keep you informed about the preparation of the **Local Development Framework for Northampton**, please tick this box.

Please note that you can contact us as at any time to be removed from the database.

CONSULTATION

CLOSED

Draft Vision for the Central Area up to 2026

The future vision of the town has been drafted. It outlines the key elements that the town should aspire to. The vision is required for the life of the Central Area Action Plan which will be up until 2026.

Draft Vision

By 2026, the Central Area of Northampton will be a place that:

- Encourages and delivers sustainable development
- Capitalises on its rich tapestry of architectural heritage, history and natural assets, particularly the River Nene, the Market Square, All Saints Church and Square and 78 Derngate
- Maximises the opportunities offered by key retail areas including the Grosvenor Centre, St Giles Street and Abington Street, offering an exceptional shopping experience and choice for the community
- Provides a safe, comfortable and appealing environment for people to walk or cycle through with places to stop, relax and interact
- Continues to provide and build on a wide range of high-quality attractions and community facilities to serve the needs of residents and visitors such as Royal and Derngate Theatre and Northampton College
- Is the location of choice for businesses and investors offering high quality employment opportunities
- Provides a vibrant and enterprising environment enjoyed and aspired to by all sectors of the community who live, work and shop in the area, and for its visitors
- Is accessible by all means of transport including improved accessibility from Castle Station and the provision of an efficient transport interchange

Issue 1a: Do you agree with the contents (ideas) contained in the draft vision for Northampton Central Area?

Yes No Don't Know

• Are there any other aspirations we should have included and why?

Issue 1b: Do you agree with the timescale of the draft vision which is to 2026?

Yes No Don't Know

Issue 1c: Does the draft vision include the key elements which will make Northampton's Central Area a successful and thriving town?

Yes No Don't Know

Draft Spatial Objectives for the Central Area up to 2026

To successfully achieve the vision for the Central Area, the Council needs to identify strategic objectives. These broadly outline how the vision will be achieved. It is important that they are realistic and deliverable. Future policies and plans will be formulated from the strategic objectives.

The Council intends to focus on five strategic objectives which are considered to be both achievable and deliverable.

Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective 1: Central Area Development and Regeneration
To accommodate, in a sustainable manner, high quality new developments which will ensure that the Central Area fulfils its role as a sub-regional centre.

Strategic Objective 2: Accessibility and Transport Network
To ensure that the Central Area is accessible by all means of transport to secure its economic success and vibrancy.

Strategic Objective 3: Public Realm
To provide a network of high quality streets and spaces that will encourage people to live, visit and invest in the Central Area.

Strategic Objective 4: Community Regeneration
To regenerate existing residential and local business communities within the Central Area through initiatives which will create sustainable and enterprising communities. These communities will contribute towards the vitality and prosperity of the town.

Strategic Objective 5: Conservation and built environment
To retain and enhance the distinctive local character of the Central Area’s Conservation Areas and listed buildings.

Issue 2a: Do you agree with the draft strategic objectives outlined above?

Yes No Don't Know

Issue 2b: Are there any other realistic and deliverable strategic objectives which the Council could focus on?

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Central Area Development and Regeneration

The next questions relate to delivering Strategic Objective 1 - Central Area Development and Regeneration, which is:

To accommodate, in a sustainable manner, high quality new developments which will ensure that the Central Area fulfils its role as a sub-regional centre (that is to say a major urban centre within the region).

Specific issues and suggested options to deal with the issue are highlighted. Indicate your preferred location by numbering the options (1 = most preferred choice).

New Retail Development

Issue 3: Where is the best location for new retail development to meet the requirements of comparison goods retailers (providers of non food items)?

(see Figure 3 – Map of possible locations for Comparison Goods Retail)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 3 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	North of Grosvenor Centre, including bus station	
2.	North of Abington Street	
3.	St Peter’s Square	
4.	Between Horsemarket and Drapery	

- Are there any other suitable locations and why?

Issue 4: Where, within the town centre, should a new supermarket be located?

(see Figure 4 – Map of possible locations of New Supermarket)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 4 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	North of Grosvenor Centre, including bus station	
2.	North of Abington Street	
3.	St Peter’s Square	
4.	Between Horsemarket and Drapery	

- Are there any other suitable locations and why?

Issue 5: Where are the most appropriate locations to encourage independent retailers?
 (see **Figure 5** – Map of possible locations of Independent Retailers)

The options are (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 5 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	St Giles Street	
2.	Gold Street	
3.	St John’s Area (behind County Hall)	

- Are there any other suitable locations and why?

Office Development

Issue 6: What type and scale of office development needs to be accommodated within the Central Area?

Issue 7: Where is the most appropriate location for large-scale office development?
 (see **Figure 6** – Map of possible locations for Office Development)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 6 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Castle Station	
2.	Towcester Road / St Peter’s Way	
3.	St James Retail Park	
4.	Freeschool Street	
5.	Victoria Street	
6.	Horsemarket	
7.	St John’s	
8.	Bedford Road	
9.	Old postal sorting office, Barrack Road	

- Are there any other suitable locations and why?

- **Where is the most appropriate location for small-scale office development?**
(see **Figure 6** – Map of possible locations for Office Development)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 6 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Castle Station	
2.	Towcester Road / St Peter’s Way	
3.	St James Retail Park	
4.	Freeschool Street	
5.	Victoria Street	
6.	Horsemarket	
7.	St John’s	
8.	Bedford Road	

- **Are there any other suitable locations and why?**

Leisure Development

Information: Northampton has a varied leisure/entertainment sector which includes a multiplex cinema in Sol Central; Mounts swimming baths; national bar chains in Bridge Street; entertainment venues at the Derngate, the Roadmender and Soundhaus.

Issue 8: Are there any gaps in the current provision of leisure and entertainment facilities in the Central Area?

Yes No Don't Know

- **Does the existing provision of leisure and entertainment facilities meet the needs of all sectors of the community?**

Yes No Don't Know

- **If not, which facilities are missing?**

Issue 9: Should leisure and entertainment uses be concentrated in specific locations?

Yes No Don't Know

- **If you answered yes, where?**

- **Is the dispersal of leisure and entertainment uses throughout the Central Area more appropriate?**

Yes No Don't Know

- **Should different approaches be applied to different types of leisure and entertainment uses, for example, cafes, restaurants, bars and nightclubs?**

Yes No Don't Know

- **Any other comments?**

Issue 10: Are there areas within the Central Area which would be suitable for leisure and entertainment uses?

(see **Figure 7 – Map of possible locations for Leisure uses**)

The three tables below highlight the different options and potential locations. Use each table individually to provide your answers.

Restaurant / Café / Bar Uses

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 7 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Bridge Street, between Victoria Promenade & South Bridge	
2.	St John's Station Passage	
3.	Market Square / All Saints Square	
4.	Marefair	
5.	Derngate/Guildhall Road	
6.	The Ridings / Fish Street / Dychurch Lane	

- **Are there any other suitable locations and why?**

CLOSED

Large-scale Leisure and Entertainment Uses

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 7 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
7.	North of Grosvenor Centre	
8.	North of Abington Street	
9.	St Peter's Square	
10.	Between Horsemarket and Drapery	

- **Are there any other suitable locations and why?**

Outdoor Events

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 7 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
11.	Market Square	
12.	Becket’s Park	

- Are there any other suitable locations and why?

- Are there any other options for leisure and entertainment uses and why?

Cultural Development

Information: Key cultural attractions in the Central Area include the Royal and Derngate Theatre, the Fish Market, Northampton Museum and Art Gallery and Abington Street Library.

Issue 11: Are there any gaps in provision of cultural facilities in the Central Area?

Yes No Don't Know

- Does existing provision meet the needs of all sectors of the community?

Yes No Don't Know

Issue 12: Is there a need for provision of workspace for creative industries (for example, workshop units for small creative businesses)?

Yes No Don't Know

- If yes, where would be the best location for such development?

(see **Figure 8** – Map of possible locations for Creative Industries)

The options are (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 8 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	As part of the cultural quarter within the St John’s and Angel Street area	
2.	Near to the University, for e.g., Great Russell Street area	

- Are there any other suitable locations and why?

Hotel Provision

Information: *There is sufficient hotel provision at present; however as the Action Plan aims to increase the level of office space provision within the Central Area it is likely the demand for hotel bed space may increase.*

Issue 13: Where is the most appropriate location for a new hotel?

(see **Figure 9** – Map of possible locations for New Hotel Provision)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 9 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Castle Station	
2.	Freeschool Street	
3.	St Johns	
4.	Horsemarket	
5.	Victoria Street	
6.	County Hall	
7.	Old Grand Hotel, Gold Street	

- **Are there any other suitable locations and why?**

Residential Development

Information: *Residential use should be promoted within town centres wherever possible, especially utilising upper floors. The most appropriate locations for significant residential development lie outside the primary shopping area. It is anticipated that these residential developments will form part of mixed-use schemes with office, employment and leisure uses.*

Issue 14: What type of housing should be provided within the Central Area?

CLOSED

Issue 15: Which locations are appropriate for significant residential development?

(see **Figure 10** – Map of possible locations for New Residential development)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 10 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Freeschool Street	
2.	Bedford Road	
3.	Horsemarket	
4.	Angel Street	
5.	St John's	
6.	St Peter's Way	
7.	Castle Station	
8.	Great Russell Street	

- **Are there any other suitable locations and why?**

Other uses

Issue 16: Are there any other development needs which should be accommodated in the Central Area and if so, why and where?

Issue 17: Are there any sites which should be considered for development within the Central Area?

Design Principles

Information: *Good urban design principles are essential to ensure that attractive, high quality, sustainable places are created for existing and future generations.*

Key urban design principles

- Incorporate a mix of use to promote vitality and efficient use of land
- Normally be orientated so that it fronts the street
- Respect building lines of the existing urban environment and, where appropriate build up to the edge of the curtilage (boundary).
- Maximise the amount of active street frontage
- Avoid designs which are inward looking and which present blank frontages
- Provide level access from the public realm and meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act
- Maximise the use and potential of the site
- Reinforce local distinctiveness
- Where appropriate, increase pedestrian links
- Incorporate sustainable features, relating to the use of energy and other resources and new features / developments / schemes should be easy to maintain

Issue 18: Do you agree with the design principles for new development?

Yes No Don't Know

- **Are there any other principles that you consider should be included and why?**

Criteria for Development Sites

Information: *There are some criteria the Council has to use in order to identify development sites. These are based on national policy guidelines and various stakeholder consultation exercises.*

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|--|
| <p>Criteria for Development Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverability and marketability including funding mechanism in place • Accessibility to various modes of transport • Contributions to urban design • Social benefits • Economic benefits, including potential inward investment • Consultation outcome – public’s request |
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Issue 19: Do you agree with the criteria for new development?

Yes No Don't Know

- **Are there any other criteria that you consider should be included and why?**

CONSULTATION

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ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSPORT NETWORKS

The next questions relate to delivering Strategic Objective 2 - Accessibility and Transport Network, which is:

To ensure that the Central Area is accessible by all means of transport to secure its economic success and vibrancy.

Information: The fundamental principle behind future decisions about accessibility and transport in the Central Area **will be people not cars**. The emphasis of a new transport system for the Central Area should be based upon a comprehensive public transport network and ease of movement for pedestrians and cyclists through a network of *safe, secure and attractive footpaths, cycle routes and open spaces*.

Public Transport

Issue 20: Why are people using less public transport in comparison to other modes (types) of transport?

Specific issues and suggested options to deal with the issue are highlighted. Indicate your preferred location by numbering the options (1 = most preferred choice).

- **Which of the following options will encourage more people to use public transport in the Central Area?**

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option	Description	Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Retain and upgrade Greyfriars bus station on current site	
2.	New bus station on different site within the Central Area	
3.	New on-street bus interchange on the Drapery (with additional stops on Horsemarket)	
4.	New on-street bus interchange at Fish Market	
5.	New on-street bus interchange as part of redevelopment to north of Grosvenor Centre	
6.	New transport interchange, including bus station, at Castle Station	
7.	Alternative locations of smaller, more efficient bus station which focus on passengers' facilities	
8.	Ensure that the Central Area road system is able to support a fast and reliable bus service	
9.	Provide a fast shuttle link between Castle Station and key points in the Central Area	
10.	Allow bus access into pedestrian-only areas	

- **Are there any other suitable options and why?**

Car Parking

Information: *There are 25 public car parks, providing 6,012 spaces within the town centre. Of these spaces 3,355 are long stay, and the rest short stay. The main car parks are: (multi-storey) St Johns, Mayorhold, Grosvenor Centre, Greyfriars and St Michaels; (surface) Commercial Street, St Peters Way, Upper Mounts, Morrison’s, and Midsummer Meadow.*

Issue 21: How, and in what form, do we address the problem of poor distribution of car parking in the Central Area?

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Arrival signs and car parking space information	
2.	Car park management, including security, “pay as you leave”	
3.	Prioritising provision for short stay shoppers parking	
4.	Phased reduction in commuter parking with introduction of “park and ride”	
5.	Providing high quality facilities for public transport including the following primary multi-modal interchanges: provision of new bus station and the redevelopment of Northampton Castle Station	

- **Are there any other suitable options and why?**

CONSULTATION

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Cyclists and Pedestrian Network

Issue 22: Where, and in what form, do we need to provide pedestrians’ and cyclists’ access routes in and around the Central Area?

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Horsemarket needs to be downgraded from four lanes to a single carriageway road. This will allow pedestrians to cross without the requirement of a traffic signal	
2.	Development of pedestrians and cyclists networks around the River Nene area, adjacent to Nunn Mills Road, providing access to the power station residential site	
3.	Development of pedestrian and cycle crossing routes linking the western side of Becket’s Park through the Avon site to the town centre	
4.	Adjacent to eastern side of Bridge Street linking to the proposed Cattlemarket Road	
5.	A maximum speed of 20mph be imposed within the inner core area of the town centre with vehicular movement limited to access and servicing only	
6.	Provide additional at grade crossings	
7.	Remove existing subways	

- Are there any other suitable options and why?

CLOSED

Public Realm

The next questions relate to delivering Strategic Objective 3 - Public Realm, which is:

To provide a network of high quality streets and spaces that will encourage people to live, visit and invest in the Central Area.

Specific issues and suggested options to deal with the issue are highlighted. Indicate your preferred location by numbering the options (1 = most preferred choice).

Gateway Sites

Information: Gateways into the Central Area should create a positive first impression of Northampton. A Gateway is a natural access point into the Central Area. Examples could include the southern end of Bridge Street by Church’s restaurant or the junction of Horsemarket, Marefair and Gold Street. Most of these gateways are at points where the inner ring road crosses radial routes into the town. Many of these create a less than positive first impression of Northampton. This is due to a combination of poor built environment and poor public realm.

Issue 23: Which of the following gateway sites should be given priority for public realm improvement?

(see **Figure 11** – Map of possible locations for Gateway Sites)

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 11 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Black Lion Hill	
2.	St Peter’s Way / Towcester Road roundabout	
3.	Bridge Street / Victoria Promenade interchange	
4.	Bedford Road / Derngate Junction	
5.	Abington Street / Abington Square	
6.	Regent Square / Grafton Street / Campbell Square / Barrack Road junction	

- **Are there any other suitable sites that should be included? (provide examples)**

Barriers to Movement

Information: A key priority is to strengthen pedestrian and cycle routes into and around the Central Area. Removing barriers to access can reconnect different areas of the town with the Central Area. Some barriers include those created by the bus station for pedestrians entering the town from the north, or the barrier created by Horsemarket for access by pedestrians into and out of Spring Boroughs. There are also barriers at the Bedford Road junction, bottom of Bridge Street and at the Chronicle and Echo junction.

Issue 24: What should be done to overcome the barrier of the bus station?

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Demolition of the bus station	
2.	Improve existing north/south routes by downgrading Greyfriars / Lady's Lane to one lane	
3.	There is no barrier, leave the bus station as it is	
4.	Bedford Road/Derngate Junction	

- Are there any other suitable options? Is the answer a combination of these or other options?

CONSULTATION

Issue 25: What should be done to overcome the barriers at Horsemarket?

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Downgrade Horsemarket to one lane (this will affect traffic movement elsewhere in the town centre, and may require work on outer ring road to be completed first)	
2.	Leave Horsemarket as it is at present	

- Are there any other suitable options and why?

Conflicting Uses on the Street

Information: *Conflicting transport uses in the public realm can be overcome to create a better environment for all those moving through it. There are several areas in the Central Area where vehicles dominate to the detriment of pedestrians and cyclists.*

Issue 26: Do you think that shared use of the space is realistic in the Central Area?

Yes No Don't Know

- **Which of the following streets should be for shared use?**
(see **Figure 12** – Map of possible locations for Shared Street Places)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 12 location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Drapery	
2.	Gold Street	
3.	Abington Street	
4.	St Giles Street	
5.	Bridge Street	

- **Are there any other suitable locations and why?**

Safety Issues and the Public Realm

Information: *Feedback from consultation work has highlighted several safety concerns about different parts of the Central Area, including Bridge Street, subways and pedestrian underpasses around the bus station, underneath Horsemarket and the jetties.*

Issue 27: Do you think that an improved public realm contributes to making a place safer?

Yes No Don't Know

- **Which other areas in the Central Area have safety issues relating to the public realm?**

- **What measures can be taken on the public realm to improve safety?**

Housing Stock

Information: The Spring Boroughs area has low home ownership levels with only 16% of properties owned and 83% rented. There is a high proportion of flats. If Spring Boroughs is to develop into a mixed community, then the mix of housing needs to reflect the requirements of a more diverse range of households, including family housing and owner-occupied properties.

Issue 29: Does the existing housing stock (type) meet the needs of the current population?

Yes No Don't Know

- **To encourage a more mixed community, should there be:**

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	More apartments	
2.	Fewer apartments	
3.	More family/larger properties	

Issue 30: To promote a more mixed community, a variety of housing tenures should be provided, including owner occupied housing. At present, a large number of the properties are rented. If we were to create a more balanced population, should there be:

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	More socially rented properties (Housing Association and Council owned)	
2.	More shared ownership properties	
3.	More market housing	

Issue 31: Is the quality of the housing offer in Spring Boroughs of an acceptable standard?

Yes No Don't Know

• **Should we:**

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Refurbish existing housing stock, if this is realistic	
2.	Demolish, with appropriate interim housing arrangements for those affected, some of the properties that are beyond economical repair, and replace them with housing of the same type	
3.	Demolish, again with appropriate interim housing arrangements for those affected, some of the properties that are beyond economical repair, and replace them with alternative types of housing	

• **The Government is encouraging developments to be zero carbon. Should the properties on Spring Boroughs be either constructed, or refurbished to meet the "Excellent" standard in energy efficiency?**

Yes No Don't Know

Local Facilities

Issue 32: What local facilities in Spring Boroughs should be retained? Are there any other facilities that should be provided in Spring Boroughs?

CONSULTATION

Accessibility to the wider area

Issue 33: At present, Spring Boroughs is cut off from the rest of the Central Area by the four main roads. Considering that the majority of those who reside in the area travel by pedestrian routes, to improve access, should we:

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Provide more crossing points on Horsemarket	
2.	Downgrade the inner ring road to a minor route	
3.	Reduce the speed limit on Horsemarket to allow crossing	
4.	Improve the bus routes through Spring Boroughs	

• **Are there any other options that should be included? (Provide examples)**

Training and Employment

Information: *Within Spring Boroughs there is a high level of unemployment. Access to jobs may be constrained because of a lack of training, qualifications of transport. Many of the people living within the area have fewer qualifications, when compared with Northampton as a whole.*

Issue 34: What can be done to improve the job prospects for the residents of Spring Boroughs?

The options are (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Provide a better range of basic skills courses in the local area	
2.	Provide incentives to remain in education beyond 16	
3.	Encourage the relocation of business to the Central Area as a whole, such as office development	

- **Are there any other options that should be included? (provide examples)**

Safety

Information: *The quality of an area is as much about the space between buildings, as it is about the buildings themselves. Streets should provide direct access to places, which people need to go. Streets and open spaces should be attractive and safe places for people to stop and relax. The ward (Castle) as a whole suffers from high levels of crime. Work in the area is ongoing through the formation of a Home Office funded CASPAR + NR neighbourhood renewal project.*

Issue 35: How can we make the streets and other public spaces of Spring Boroughs safer and more pleasant?

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Provide more green space	
2.	Provide better street lighting	
3.	Improve the quality of existing public spaces	

- **Are there any other options that should be included? (provide examples)**

- **Is there sufficient provision of open space within, or within easy access, of Spring Boroughs? If there should be more, should this be to the:**

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	North	
2.	South	
3.	East	
4.	West	

Other Areas within the Central Area

Information: *In addition to Spring Boroughs, there are a number of other parts of the Central Area where it is considered community regeneration is an issue. These areas have their own history and character, as well as problems.*

Issue 36: Are these areas in need of regeneration?

(see **Figure 13** - Areas of Deprivation map and **Figure 13a** - map of Possible Areas for Regeneration)

The options are: (please number the locations in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Map 13a location number	Location	Order of preference (1 = preferred location)
1.	Upper Mounts	
2.	Lower Mounts	
	Both	
	Neither	

- **Are there any other options that should be included? (provide examples)**

CONSULTATION

- **Where should the efforts be focused?**

The options are: (please number the options in order of preference (1= most preferred)):

Option		Order of preference (1 = preferred option)
1.	Open space	
2.	Traffic reduction, especially around St Michael's Road, Clare Street, St Edmund's Road etc	

- **Are there any other options that should be included? (provide examples)**

CONSERVATION AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The next questions relate to delivering Strategic Objective 5 - Conservation and built environment, which is:

To retain and enhance the distinctive local character of the Central Area's Conservation Areas and listed buildings.

Specific issues are highlighted and suggested options to deal with the issue.

Identified Conservation Issues

- How the proposed retail development north of the Grosvenor Centre, including Greyfriars bus station, will be designed so as make a positive impact upon adjacent parts of the All Saints Conservation Area (especially on the Market Square) and the Holy Sepulchre Conservation Area
- How proposals for the Cultural Mile can be made to enhance the four Conservation Areas
- How the proposed mixed use development of St John's be designed so as to enhance the Derngate Conservation Area
- How the northern part of the proposed redevelopment of the Mount's car park be designed in order to minimise its impact on the Holy Sepulchre Conservation Area
- How to use possible Public Realm improvements to enhance the four Conservation Areas and the setting of important buildings, both listed and unlisted, in the Central Area
- How to ensure that new developments in the Central Area make provision for the maintenance of open spaces that may be an integral part of the development
- How to ensure that whatever transport improvements take place do not worsen, and if possible, improve the environment within and adjacent to Conservation Areas

Issue 37: Do you agree that these are the main issues in respect of the Central Area's Conservation Areas?

Yes No Don't Know

- **If not, what other issues do you think need to be considered?**

Information: *The legacy of historic buildings is evident today in many of the fine examples of architectural quality that remain. There are scheduled monuments and many examples of listed buildings provided with protection for their architectural merit. Many of these buildings are located in one of the four conservation areas within the Central Area. In addition there are many other examples of high architectural quality that have not been afforded special protection, although worthy of preservation (Figure 14 – Map of Conservation Areas & Scheduled Ancient Monuments).*

Issue 38: Are there other listed buildings, or other important buildings outside the Conservation Areas which need to be taken into consideration in relation to possible developments?

Issue 39: Which important trees or existing open spaces need to be retained when developments are being considered?

CONSULTATION

CLOSED

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please return by one of the following:

By hand: The One-Stop Shop, Guildhall, St Giles Square
Northampton Borough Council Offices, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road

By e-mail: ldf@northampton.gov.uk

By fax: 01604 837 527

By FREEPOST: Central Area Action Plan Issues and Options response
Planning Policy Team
Northampton Borough Council
FREEPOST MID 17327
Northampton, NN1 1WJ

By 5pm on the 22 November 2007

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