



## Report of the Leader of the Council

### Northampton Borough Council

10<sup>th</sup> March 2014

On 1st March I had the honour of attending the opening the new North Gate Bus Station. The new facility will give a fitting welcome to people visiting our town by bus and is another piece of the regeneration jigsaw in place. With the North Gate Bus Station open and operational, Greyfriars has been closed and work has begun on the demolition of the site. Once completed the significant piece of land it currently occupies will be freed up for further development.

Traffic is once again flowing in both directions on Bridge Street. From 14th February the scaffolding and hoardings were moved back from the road outside of the old Angel Hotel following talks between the Borough Council and the building's owners. We hope that this will not only relieve some of the traffic pressures in the area and make it easier for businesses on Bridge Street to conduct their business.

On 24th February, Full Council passed the budget for 2014/2015, which will see even more money set aside for the regeneration of our town and help boost the local economy. Measures include financial assistance for businesses, extended free parking to help attract more shoppers in to the town and an extra £13 million for regeneration and infrastructure. This Administration is committed to doing all it can to attract inward investment, create jobs and support our local economy for the benefit of local residents, and this year's budget will help us further fulfil that commitment.

The Borough Council has received a planning application from Cosworth for the expansion of their facilities in the Enterprise Zone. Cosworth are a local company with a global reputation, and their application is a real vote of confidence in the future of our town and all we are doing to make it a success. This has included lots of discussion with Government and the company to make this happen.

The first two acts for this year's Alive at Delapre have now been announced. We are very pleased to be hosting Boyzone on 20<sup>th</sup> July, and Simple Minds on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Alive at Delapre is just one of many exciting events to be held across Northampton this summer, more of which will be announced over the coming weeks.

Local community groups, school children and councillors gathered at The Guildhall on 27th January to reflect on the millions of people killed during the Second World War under Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides. The ceremony took place in The Guildhall's Great Hall and there were a number of speakers and performances, including contributions by children and young people from Briar Hill Primary School, Abbeyfield Secondary School and the Borough Council's Northampton Youth Forum. There was also a short flower laying ceremony at the Holocaust Memorial Stone in The Courtyard at The Guildhall earlier in the day.

## **Community Safety**

On 1st February the Police 'enquiry desk' was opened at The Guildhall. It is an opportunity to bring together the service currently provided by police staff at Campbell Square with other local services offered by the Borough Council. All enquiries from the public, including reporting crime, producing driving documents or reporting lost property, will be made at The Guildhall. We want the Town Centre to be a pleasant and welcoming place for people to shop and enjoy themselves, so it is important that visitors feel safe here. Tax payers expect public bodies to work closely together and this is a simple thing we can do to help increase the Police presence in our town centre. The new office will be open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday.

All Crime, Violence and Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) continues its downward trend and exceeds the annual Community Safety Partnership (CSP) targets. To date there has been a 15.2% reduction in overall crime and a 16.2% reduction in violence, again exceeding the annual target. SAC continues on its downward trend with 21.2% reduction. Police recorded Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 1.9% to date and Criminal Damage has reduced by 15% exceeding the annual target.

Multi-Agency Weeks of Action are continuing in priority locations, the most recent being held in Far Cotton and Spencer/St James. A further Week of Action has been launched in Spring Boroughs/Semilong. Engagement with the local communities has been excellent, with a wide range of agencies providing advice and support.

**Councillor David Mackintosh**  
Leader of the Council