



## **Cabinet Member Report for Housing**

### **Northampton Borough Council**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014**

#### **Rent Collection and Arrears**

While 2013/14 presented a number of challenges for rent collection, including significant changes in housing benefit, we have increased our rent collection rate to 99.9%. This represents the lowest level of current tenants rent arrears in more than 10 years.

#### **ALMO**

On 12th May we announced that the name of the new Arms-Length Management Organisation that will take on the management of the Borough Council's housing stock will be Northampton Partnership Homes.

In January 2015 Northampton Partnership Homes will become responsible for the management of over 12,000 council homes, and will be a new start for tenants, delivering a financially sustainable way to update the Council's housing stock and provide local people with decent homes and improvements in service. We want our tenants to receive a higher level of service and to have better homes in the future, and we believe Northampton Partnership Homes is the best way to make that happen.

This Administration is dedicated to improving standards for both private and council tenants, and through projects such as this, the building of 100 new council homes and the introduction of improved monitoring of Houses of Multiple Occupation, we are making the improvements that tenants in Northampton deserve.

#### **Community Wellbeing Services**

Northampton County Council, Nene CCG and Corby CCG are working together to tender community wellbeing services. This will replace funding currently paid to a range of organisations as part of the "Prevention and Demand Management" grant and various health funding streams, but the commissioners are now looking for services to be more integrated, and with a greater focus on the overall wellbeing of individuals. The contract will be awarded as a single package for Northampton.

We have been in discussions with many local partner agencies, and have been asked by some to take the lead in bringing together a partnership to deliver a bid. We have agreed to take the lead on this, because we believe that it is in the interests of the local community for services to be delivered locally, by teams that understand our communities. There will of course be other bidders, and even if we are successful it does not mean that all existing services will continue as they are. We will need to work with partners to reshape services so they deliver really good services locally with limited resources, and with local communities to understand how we can better understand their needs. We will make resources available to ensure we are able to meet the challenging timescales required.

**Councillor Mary Markham**  
Cabinet Member for Housing