



Cabinet Member Report for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning

Northampton Borough Council

2nd June 2014

Work has started on a £400,000 project to carry out urgent repairs to the roof of Delapre Abbey. The project is being jointly funded by the Borough Council and English Heritage, and is part of the multi-million pound restoration of the Abbey. A £200,000 grant has been awarded from English Heritage's Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscapes Scheme.

English Heritage makes this funding available for conserving and restoring the country's most significant historic assets. The Borough Council is also investing £200,000 in the project to preserve the unique building. Building work to repair to roof of the main building has begun, and is essential to prevent leaks into the building that has caused damage to the interior of the Abbey.

At the same time there are also urgent structural repairs to the north wing of the building. It has always been a priority of this Administration to bring Delapre Abbey into greater use and protect it for future generations, and this work is a major step to achieving that goal.

On 1st May Local Growth Minister, Kris Hopkins visited Cosworth Engineering for the ceremony to mark the start of construction on its new £12 million Advanced Manufacturing Centre.

The new Cosworth facility, the first of its kind in the UK, will manufacture components and assemble some of the world's most advanced engines to global automotive manufacturers.

The new state-of-the-art 38,000ft² facility represents the next phase in a period of growth and development for Cosworth with support and backing from the Borough Council, South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The project is due to create round 70 new jobs and apprenticeships in Northampton's Enterprise Zone.

Last year the Borough Council, in partnership with the Northampton Inter-Faith Forum, looked at the need for places to meet and worship in our town. The study looked at existing neighbourhoods as well as how the Borough Council should plan new communities and developments to ensure people had the facilities they needed. The study has been nominated for top honours in the 'Leading the way in Planning for Community Award' at the RTPi Awards for Planning Excellence 2014, which will be held on 23rd June.

Over the Easter weekend the first demolition work began at the old Greyfriars Bus Station. During the course of the weekend the two bridges linking the Grosvenor Centre and Greyfriars were removed with minimal disruption to the public. Demolition of the building is due to be completed by the end of 2014.

The Borough Council's Planning Committee has approved Northamptonshire County Council's Project Angel plans. The development will transform derelict land in the heart of Northampton into a new headquarters and office building, saving tax payers millions of pounds and generating a massive cash injection to the Town Centre.

Permission was granted on 6th May, and building work is estimated to start early next year. The design for the building which went to planners was that of international architectural and engineering practice BDP who were appointed following a rigorous selection process and public exhibition last year.

Northampton took part in the national Love Your Local Market campaign on 24th May with a day of entertainment and activities to attract new traders and encourage locals to support their market.

Northampton joined with over 700 markets across the country by taking part in the campaign to highlight the important role that the market plays in the heart of our town. Events held on the Market Square in support of the campaign included stilt walking bugs, balloon art and comedy waiters plus offering free stalls to attract new traders.

Councillor Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Planning