



## Report of the Leader of the Council

### Northampton Borough Council

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SIMPLIFICATION**

The County Council have announced that they will be undertaking a study into the options for unitary local government in Northamptonshire and that they have commissioned particular consultants to do this work. The Borough and District Councils were not consulted on the brief for this work, nor the choice of firm to carry out this study. There is clearly little intention from the County Council to work collaboratively on this vital matter.

The seven Borough and District Councils are however working collaboratively together and have agreed to develop a joint commission for a study to look at the options and will consult the County Council on the content of this brief before seeking potential experts to conduct the review for us all.

#### **NORTHAMPTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

At the time of writing this report, the Cobblers are standing at the top of League Two and on the edge of promotion with excellent prospects to be crowned Champions. This is well deserved position for the team, who have had a fantastic season. I look forward to being able to congratulate the club on their achievements in the near future.

Sport is very important to the Northampton community and economy. Success by our sports teams breeds confidence in our town and brings in investment and jobs. This Administration will continue to lend its support to Northampton's sporting success.

#### **CABINET ADVISORY GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

The Cabinet Advisory Group has met for the first time and work is now to proceed on gaining expert advice, engaging with potential providers of services and engaging with the community on the arrangements for these services after June 2018. Each Political Group is represented on this Panel.

#### **ELECTORAL REGISTRATION**

The Elections Team are currently gearing up for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner elections and the EU Referendum. Work continues on boosting registration, supported by national campaigns by the Electoral Commission. In Northampton, canvassing continues across the Borough, and promotional campaigns are being run including using street furniture advertising, advertising in shops, and at key locations around the town.

As at the 5th April the Register stood at 152,812, compared with 148,646 on the 1st December. This increase of just under 3% reflects what is happening nationally and the work undertaken locally to raise public awareness.

#### **CIVIC MATTERS**

Oak Apple Day this year falls on Sunday the 29th of May, and arrangements are being made to mark this important occasion on All Saints Plaza on that day. The Lord Lieutenant and the Cadet Forces will be involved.

Armed Forces Day will again be marked by a Parade organised through the Royal British Legion on 25th June.

The Mayor's Annual Charity Service will be held on Sunday 12th June at All Saints.

There will be a marking of the Battle of the Somme at Abington Park Museum on the evening of the 30th June, followed by an All-Night Vigil and a short ceremony followed by the Act of Remembrance on the morning of the 1st July, which was the first day of this important conflict within the First World War. This event is being supported by the Western Front Association and the Royal British Legion.

Members are encouraged to attend each of these important civic events.

**Councillor Mary Markham**  
**Leader of the Council**