



## Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July

### **Town Centre Strategy Partnership**

On 21<sup>st</sup> July, we will be hosting a Town Centre Strategy Partnership stakeholder meeting, to shape a new partnership that will create a clear strategy for town centre improvement. As a vision for the town that we all seek to achieve, this strategy will embrace all aspects of the town centre including the night-time economy. Led by the Borough Council, the ongoing work of the partnership will be to drive the strategic improvement of the town, through the engagement, commitment, cooperation, and accountability of all partners. Those attending will include Town Centre BID representatives, local businesses from all sectors and all areas of the town centre, stakeholders from the market and shopping centres, and all those public bodies providing services in the town centre from the Police to Enterprise.

### **Other Activity**

Since my last report, I have supported the Leader and Cabinet colleagues to progress a number of areas and new initiatives, such as meetings with local charitable groups to assist them, a broad range of Environmental issues, welcoming the judges for East Midlands in Bloom, supporting the Landlords Forum, events and plans for Christmas, supporting the lunch held to engage with and support shoe sector employers. I have also met and liaised with the Brackmills and Town Centre Business Improvement Districts, attended the Town Centre BID AGM, and maintained contact with the town's professional sports clubs.

### **Association of Far Cotton Enterprises**

Recently I met with the lead organiser of the Association of Far Cotton Enterprises, a new initiative that is seeking to bring together the commercial community of Far Cotton, and which is already enjoying the support of the three NBC Ward Councillors. The group is seeking to form an association along the lines of a Business Improvement District, or something similar. As a board member of our two Business Improvement Districts, I was able to guide them on experiences of Brackmills and the Town Centre BID, as well as the other parts of the town that have looked at operating similar groups, ahead of the group's public meeting which is to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Market**

The Market Advisory Group has met twice since my last report, maintaining an active and constructive dialogue between the council and the market traders. Marketing and PR for the market has continued to be undertaken, including through social media, where the market Facebook page has now received 1,359 'likes', and with poster advertising and leaflet activity, and during the past month we have welcomed five new traders to the market. The Local Producers food market will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, and the last Saturday of each month thereafter, and we are delighted that the list of local producers who will be attending and offering their food products continues to grow.

## **Councillor Training**

Training support for all our Councillors is vital to assist them to serve the town and their communities to the best of their abilities. The cross-party Councillor Training Working Group will therefore be meeting to assess the ongoing training needs of all Councillors.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn  
**Deputy Leader of the Council**