



## Report of the Leader of the Council

### Northampton Borough Council

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Since my last report to Council, I have continued to work with the Cabinet, Members, the Chief Executive, and Officers across all areas of the council. Many of these activities and issues are referred to in Cabinet colleagues' reports.

#### Unitary Status

The West Northamptonshire Joint committee met on 5<sup>th</sup> June. The main agenda item was to review the Draft Constitution for the West Shadow Unitary Council, which the cross-councils task and finish group had undertaken further work on.

Two questions had also been submitted to the Joint Committee, from Healthwatch and from Citizens Advice, and it was helpful that these two important partner organisations were able to raise their questions in this public forum, and for the committee to be able to discuss the issues of diversity and voluntary sector funding, which I am hopeful provided some comfort to both organisations.

By now Members may have had the opportunity to review the Unitary Prospectus which was published on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, outlining the revised approach to delivering the unitary programme, but again, a reminder to members that the next member unitary briefing will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, at 6.00pm.

#### Northampton Forward

Each political group has made its nominations for the Cross-party working group, and the first meeting is now being arranged. This first meeting will receive an overview of the Northampton Forward work so far, the initial masterplan ideas, and receive an update on the progress of the current consultation. It will also consider the University's draft ideas on next steps through a wide range of working/consultation groups.

#### Other Activity

Of the other activities and meetings since my last report, a couple of key highlights include:

- It was a pleasure to attend the Spencer Road 'Big Lunch' event, which was a wonderful opportunity to meet some of the great people that live in this community, and see neighbours get to know each other better and enjoy time in each other's company.
- I was glad to visit Quinton House School with the Chief Executive, to see the progress being made since my last visit on some of the challenges the school faces in balancing the needs of conserving the heritage of the building with the other regulations with

which they must comply as an operational school. As one of the most important heritage buildings in the ownership of this council, it is essential that we work with the school to conserve its splendid heritage, but also that we ensure it remains successful as a school, ensuring the building's sustainable future. The school now participates in Heritage Open Days in September, and a visit to the school in September would be highly recommended.

Councillor Jonathan Nunn  
**Leader of the Council**