Leader's Update

Cllr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council

28 September 2022

Introduction and Welcome!

Welcome to my latest Update.

We have been very busy in the last few weeks given on Tuesday this week. The coming two weeks are also very busy with the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester and the Queen's funeral on the 19th. I will be in Manchester for the Conference and for the funeral and will report back on the agenda and papers when I return.

Last week I was in Washington DC for the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Annual Meetings. I was there to promote the UK and Northamptonshire as a place to invest and do business. I met with a number of Ministers and senior officials from other countries and also met with companies who are starting their net zero journeys with the aim of decarbonising their supply chains and the opportunities that this presents for our County. I also met with the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the current economic situation and the challenges that we face with high energy costs and high inflation.

Last week I also launched our Council Tax Support Scheme for Ukrainian Refugees who are sponsored by Council Tax payers. We are the first Council in the UK to do this and we are doing it because we want to help people who want to help Ukrainian families who are fleeing the war in their country. We are also providing a range of other support including English language classes and we are working with our partners in the County to provide as much other support as we can.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has been involved in the Commonwealth Games which finished last week. We had a great Games and we finished second in the medal table! I want to thank everyone who was involved in the Games and who helped to make it such a great success.

Its Chiefs' exposition of Northamptonshire's Children's Trust (NCT) commenced on Monday 12 September and will continue for 12 weeks. The Chiefs are conducting their review of the Trust's performance against the Department for Education's (DfE) Statutory Notice issued last December.

The Chiefs' review will be based on the DfE's Children's Services Inspection Framework and will result in a judgment about how effective a child's/family's/carer's/care leaver's/young person's/care leaver's/young person's/care leaver's/young person