

Council reviews high performance targets

On Monday, 8 June, members of the Council's cabinet reviewed the performance figures for the final quarter of 2014/ 2015 from 1 January 2015 – 31 March 2015 and the end of year outturns.

The results showed that the Council has delivered 98 per cent of its agreed priorities including a reduction in fly-tipping, managing welfare reform, and increasing skills and employment.

The Council maintained excellent performance during the year which also saw it relocate to The Forum, a new community building in the centre of Towcester and a major step forward in the regeneration of Moat Lane.

While relocating the Council adopted new ways of working to become more efficient and resilient to the continuing challenges of the public sector.

Councillor Ian McCord, leader of SNC said: "This report highlights excellent performance across all areas of the Council's services, and demonstrates that we really are punching above our weight. From fly-tipping and recycling, to our performance in benefits and council tax collection; all of this has been achieved despite the intensive preparation that was also required for a seamless transition into our new offices at The Forum. We should all be incredibly proud of what we have achieved for the benefit of our local community in the last year".

The Council had expected to see around 372 incidents of fly-tipping (based on last year), but thanks to several well publicised prosecutions and measures to ensure residents know how to dispose of their waste properly, the waste enforcement team saw only 308 incidents of fly-tipping during 2014/15.

The street cleansing team will be trained to gather evidence at fly-tipping sites to help the enforcement team increase the number of successful prosecutions throughout 2015/16.

There was also success in the protection of the environment as the amount of waste sent to landfill continued the year on year downward trend. At the end of 2013/14 each household was sending 443kg to landfill which fell to 401kg by the end of 2014/15.

Thanks to the food waste collections (now in its second year) and the introduction of a commercial recycling service South Northants is recycling or composting 61.20 per cent of its waste.

Performance on the time taken to process new benefit claims and change of circumstances has been excellent in 2014/15 with an end of year performance of just over five days against a target of eight days.

In addition changes brought about by Welfare Reform have seen significant changes in the way the Council works and in particular the preparation required for the introduction of Universal Credit.

The Council's commitment to increasing access to skills and employment has also been successful. Most notably the Job Clubs, which run in Brackley and Towcester, celebrated the fact they had helped the 250th person back into employment.

Elsewhere SNC has delivered 133 new affordable homes above a target of 110, and the amount of Council Tax collected remains high at 99.3 per cent, above a target of 99 per cent.

Another major step forward was the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy in December 2014 which gives developers a clear statement on where development is acceptable and where it is not.

With social media now a well-established means of communicating directly with residents and promoting services SNC has continued to grow its presence on Facebook and Twitter.