

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

27 April 2022

COUNCILLOR TIM ADAMS – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For the period 19th February – 14th April 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Elections

Sheringham Town Council North ward by-election held on Thursday 3rd March 2022, turn out 20.64% (411 votes cast). Review of internal systems and processes in preparation for the May 2023 local government elections.

Communications

Continued promotion of Council's work and priority actions through press statements and social media, with 22 press statements prepared and issued in the period 19th February to 14th April – on a range of topics including the Council's 2022/23 budget, Council's support for the Ukrainian refugee programme, our thanks and farewell to our team of COVID Support Officers, our success in securing £300,000 from the Government's Changing Places programme and the Ministerial Visit by Rebecca Pow, Minister of State at Defra to launch the Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme where North Norfolk is one of only two local authority areas nationally to work with Defra and the Environment Agency to pilot new approaches to coastal change and adaptation.

Work continues on the promotion and communication on the progress of the North Walsham Heritage Action Zone programme and in preparing communications for visitors to enjoy North Norfolk over the summer months around water safety, beach safety and motor home and camper van owners using authorised camp sites.

HR

The HR team have again been really busy supporting the organisation. The Council has completed a procurement process for electronic recruitment software. This software will provide significant benefit to the council in both terms of engaging with potential new employees in a format that is convenient and completely digital, and creating efficient workflows for managers when they are recruiting. Testing of the software is about to begin and it is hoped the new system will be live within the next two months.

The HR team is working closely with the Health and Well-being Group on a range of new/updated activities to better support our employees. More details will be announced over the coming weeks and months.

In terms of COVID related absence, this continues to remain low, and with no

disruption to services. Whilst a number of Officers have had COVID in recent weeks, many have continued working from home, with only a small number being so unwell they couldn't work.

Corporate Delivery Unit

The Team have been supporting managers embed the new project management and governance arrangements for Large and Medium sized projects as per the new Project Management and Governance Framework adopted by the Council in March 2021 so as to strengthen project management and reporting. Further development of the In-Phase management reporting tool to allow comparison of NNDC service performance against other local authorities as requested by O&S.

Corporate PA Team

Providing ongoing support for the new CLT / Management Team arrangements including monthly reporting of progress against Medium Sized projects; support for the Council's response to the Ukrainian refugee programme

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Norfolk Leaders and Chief Executives continue to discuss the development of a County Deal for Norfolk and it is thought that this work will be progressed over the summer months with a formal bid being submitted to Government in late summer / early autumn.

Ukrainian situation – Norfolk Leaders and Chief Executives have discussed and agreed a system-wide support programme for people coming to Norfolk through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This involves district authorities undertaking inspections of accommodation offered through this programme and the County Council co-ordinating safeguarding checks. There is then a multi-agency response developed to provide support to both hosts and Ukrainian arrivals to access health, education, and employment services and, as the numbers of arrivals increases, local community support networks. The District Council has employed a Ukrainian Community Support Officer to co-ordinate the Council's support for Ukrainian refugees and host accommodation providers so as to extend a warm welcome to people from Ukraine settling in North Norfolk.

Nutrient Neutrality – countywide discussions are taking place to try and resolve the Nutrient Neutrality issue announced by Natural England in March which for the time being is acting as a significant constraint on the approval of new developments in much of Norfolk. Concern has been raised that there was little prior notification of this issue provided to local planning authorities and that there was no period of notice / transition allowed before the new guidance came into force. There is a collective resolve across Norfolk to resolve this issue which raises significant issues around housing delivery and it is anticipated that discussions on this matter will continue over the coming weeks.

3 Meetings attended

In the last two months, I have on one or more occasion met with:

- Chief Executive
- Corporate Business Manager.
- Director for Communities.
- Director for Place & Climate Change.
- Director of Resources.
- Assistant Director for Peoples Services.
- Assistant Director for Sustainable Growth.
- Assistant Director of Planning.
- Assistant Director Environmental & Leisure Service.
- Assistant Director of Finance, Assets, Legal.
- Housing Strategy & Delivery Managers & Housing Options Manager.
- Revenues Manager.
- Assets and Estate Manager & Strategic Surveyor.
- Public Protection & Commercial Manager.
- Communications & PR Manager with team.
- Various local members and Cabinet Members.

I have met representatives of:

- Castle Wild Camp, Baconsthorpe
- Norwich Diocese.
- Castaways Holiday Park, Bacton.
- North Walsham Play.
- Fat Ted's, Sheringham.
- Cromer Green Spaces.
- Friends Of North Lodge Park.
- Place UK Ltd, Tunstead.
- Gimingham Road Residents Association, Trimingham.

- North Norfolk Fisherman's Society.
- Poppyland Community Radio.
- Prospective planning applicants for leisure developments in Northepps & Cromer.

Attended:

- CETAP Launch event in Happisburgh.
- Official Opening Event for The Reef, Sheringham.
- 60's event in Cromer.
- Demolition of Stearmans Yard Toilet Block, Wells.
- Tree planting events in Bodham & Northrepps.
- Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board.
- Three Norfolk Leaders meetings.
- District Council Network Mini-Conference in London.
- Business Planning, Cabinet Working Party and other standing Committees.
- Ward Visits to St Benets and Stalham, where I met with local members and Town Council representatives.
- NNDC Group Leaders meeting with Chief Executive.