

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**22 June 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR E SEWARD - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, ASSETS, LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND REVENUES**

For the period April to June 2022

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

##### **ESTATES AND ASSETS**

Disposal of assets.

7 – 9 Bridewell Street, Walsingham. Contracts have been exchanged and it is due to complete on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Cabinet approved the sale of Parklands and legal transfer now to commence.

Vacant Property – Hornbeam units are now let with tenant undertaking fit out, Interest in Melbourne Slope and Collectors Cabin, Cromer.

Leases - Fakenham Connect lease to physio and Oddfellows Hall nearing completion.

##### **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

The team continues to be very busy, with the regulatory committees in particular running to a heavy schedule, including additional meetings for Development Committee in March and April.

There are regular briefings for members on key topics, with upcoming sessions covering nutrient neutrality, the Shared Prosperity Fund and a workshop on the Council's engagement strategy.

Advice and support continues to be provided to town and parish councils when appropriate.

##### **LEGAL**

Eastlaw continue to provide legal services to North Norfolk District Council and other public sector organisations.

Presently dealing with leases and licences relating to estates property transactions.

With regards to 'Nutrient Neutrality' requirements imposed by Natural England and its impact on granting planning permission and some permitted development, legal have sought specialist advice and this is presently being considered.

NNDC has issued grounds of defence in High Court Proceedings relating to the grant of planning permission and which is related to the nutrient neutrality situation.

## **FINANCE**

The finance department is currently involved with implementing a new Civica software system.

The team is currently under-resourced, but a successful recruitment process has recently been undertaken.

The team is preparing the 2021/22 accounts and the audit of the 2020/21 accounts is scheduled to start in July.

Processes are in place to obtain interim s.151 officer cover.

## **REVENUES**

### **Confirmed 2021/22 collection results:**

Council Tax collection for 2021/22 was 98.10% against target of 98.20%

NDR collection for 2021/22 was 99.24% against target of 98.70%,

### **Collection as at 31 May 2022**

Council Tax collection was 20.38% against target of 20.65%, shortfall of collection of £229k.

NNDR collection is 28.22% against target of 25.90%, an excess in collection of £576k

**Business Grants** – we continue to reconcile these and report data to government on a regular basis.

The government publication [Coronavirus business grant funding by parliamentary constituency and local authority](#) shows data on the coronavirus (COVID-19) business grant schemes as of 31 March 2022 for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG). It shows NNDC coming sixth in the country for paying out OHLG grants by value and by number of transaction payments.

The government publication [Coronavirus grant funding: local authority payments to small and medium businesses](#) shows data on what funding Local authorities have received and distributed to support small and medium businesses in England during coronavirus. It shows NNDC coming 24th in the country for paying out the total of all business grants by the number of payment transactions and coming 32<sup>nd</sup> by value. Both results show we are well within the top quartile 79<sup>th</sup> place of authorities!

### **Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme.**

Below is a table showing the current payment position:

Scheme Name	Number Of Grants Paid	Value Of Grants Paid
NNDC £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate Direct Debit Scheme	31,558	£4,722,000
NNDC £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate Non-Direct Debit Scheme	5,432	£713,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,990</b>	<b>£5,435,850</b>
Eligible Properties	40,965	Over 90% paid as at today.

## 2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

### **ESTATES AND ASSETS**

Annual Service Charges budgets to be issued to relevant tenants for the 2022/23 year.

A number of concession applications have been received for pitches and are being considered for the coming season.

### **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

The next meeting of the Town & Parish Council Engagement Forum will be held virtually on 4<sup>th</sup> July. This session will focus on housing, with speakers covering both affordable housing and community-led housing.

The Council's new youth council is progressing. The aim is to launch it in the early Autumn. The team will be working with the British Youth Council over the summer to develop the best model of youth council for the District.

Member Development Group will start to meet more frequently over the coming months to prepare for the 2023 District elections. The initial focus will be on attracting prospective candidates to stand.

### **REVENUES**

#### **Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme:**

We have started dispatching reminder letters this week to customers who have not yet applied for the energy rebate stating that they have until 30 June 2022 otherwise the rebate will be deducted from their council tax account.

A press release has been drafted confirming that we have paid over 90%.

#### **Government Returns:**

NNDR3

CT Energy Rebate government returns

QRC1

**Papers**

Debt Report for 2021/22 outturn figures  
Second Homes scoping document.

**3 Meetings attended**

**REVENUES**

Revenues Manager - Norfolk Revenues Manager's Meeting with the Valuation Office Agency.  
Council Tax Energy Rebate meetings.