

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**22 June 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR TIM ADAMS – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

For the period 15<sup>th</sup> April – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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

##### **Elections**

Preparations continue to be made for the May 2023 local government elections, including a visit to all polling stations to review issues of accessibility.

##### **Communications**

During the last month, Communications have published 37 news articles/videos across the Council's multiple digital platforms: [www.north-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk), Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and NextDoor and have released these to media where appropriate. These have been on a range of topics including the Council's support for Ukrainian refugees and hosts; programme of investment in public toilet facilities; Mammoth Marathon; payment arrangements for the Government's Energy Rebate; development of Levelling Up bids in Fakenham and Cromer; success in retaining our 6 Blue Flags for North Norfolk beaches; Annual Council meeting; enforcement actions taken by the Council; launch of Quality of Life Strategy and success in National Local Government Apprentice of the Year.

We currently have a combined social media following of 37,283 people directly consuming regular content about the Council's activities on our channels, though it's important to note there is some overlap between channels with some residents following us on more than one platform. Some key points to note are that the Fakenham Consultation has so far reached 31,500 people and the Net Zero announcement has reached 43,210 people.

The Coms Team have also spent a lot of time over the past few weeks preparing a new edition of the re-launched Outlook Council magazine which is to be delivered to all households in the District in the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> June. It is 24 pages printed on recycled paper and will be sent via Royal Mail to c50,000 homes.

As in the previous reporting period, work continues on the promotion and communication on the progress of the North Walsham Heritage Action Zone programme where good progress has been made on works to the new bus interchange facility, The Cedars building and the Church approach area before works to the Market Place commence in the autumn.

##### **HR**

The Council has now gone live with its new recruitment software, which will improve initial engagement with potential new employees through providing the infrastructure

for digital applications and tracking of applications through interview stages and ultimately appointment.

In terms of COVID related absence, the Council has seen an increase in the numbers of staff contracting COVID in recent weeks, many of whom have continued working from home, with only a small number being so unwell they couldn't work. The situation has been manageable with no significant impact of service provision.

### **Corporate Delivery Unit**

The Corporate Delivery Unit continues to support the Corporate Leadership Team and Managers to embed project management and governance arrangements for large and medium projects across the organisation. Further development has taken place of the In-Phase management reporting system to allow comparison of NNDC service performance data against other local authorities as requested by Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

### **Corporate PA Team**

The Corporate PA Team continue to support the Chief Executive and Directors as well as Management Team with a huge number of projects at the moment. The Corporate Business Manager is leading on a piece of work across the organisation to improve internal communication and the team are also heavily involved in supporting the two Levelling Up bids for Fakenham and Cromer, being submitted by the Council.

## **2      Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Norfolk Leaders and Chief Executives continue to discuss the development of a County Deal for Norfolk with this work progressing throughout the summer period, particularly on the key themes of any Deal and the associated governance arrangements.

Ukrainian situation – approximately 170 visas have been granted for people from Ukraine being accommodated by hosts in the North Norfolk District under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and it is thought that approximately 130 people have now arrived in the District, where support is being provided to them through their hosts, the Council's Ukrainian Community Support Officer, Oksana Croom; twice weekly Drop-In advice and support sessions at the Council's Cromer offices and a growing network of local community support networks.

Nutrient Neutrality – countywide discussions are continuing to try and resolve the Nutrient Neutrality issue, announced by Natural England in March, with the Norfolk local authorities, through the Norfolk Duty to Cooperate framework, commissioning consultants Royal Haskoning to advise on mitigation measures which might be implemented to minimise the impact of new development on the local environment. This continues to be a significant issue for all authorities in Norfolk given the importance of housing delivery to meet existing and future needs and demands.

The Government is undertaking a consultation with all local authorities around a new national asylum-seeker dispersal programme and Group Leaders have been advised of the progress of this consultation process and discussions are taking place at a Norfolk level about the submission of a joint response to the consultation.

### **3 Meetings attended**

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

- North Lodge Cafe prospective leaseholders.
- Holt Town Council (including Holt visit)
- Norfolk Leaders Group
- Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board
- NNDC Group Leaders
- District Council Leaders
- Rough Sleeper Multi Agency meeting
- Burrell Centre, Thetford - Norfolk Community Foundation for Nourishing Norfolk initiative to view Community Shop.
- Creeping & Coast Ltd
- Anglian Water (Stalham)
- HR Manager.
- Chief Executive and Corporate Business Manager.
- Cabinet Working Party for projects and Business Planning

#### **Attended**

- Cromer Tennis Club Summer BBQ and Progress Tour Events.
- NNDC Chairman's Reception.
- Heritage Action Zone site visits at North Walsham.
- Cromer Artspace opening event.
- North Walsham Childrens Day.
- Ward visits to Hickling Ward and Sheringham.
- Stalham Memorial Service for Richard Dunkerly who died aboard HMS Ardent during the Falklands War.