

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

16 November 2022

COUNCILLOR TIM ADAMS – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For the period 27th September 2022 – 6 November 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Elections

The Elections' Team are now in the final month of the annual canvass and are already at a response rate of 92% which is a strong rate of response. The team's focus is now on targetting areas where they think response rates could improve through personal canvassing and further in house checking ahead of publishing the Revised Register on 1st December 2022.

The consultation phase of the Trunch Community Governance Review ended on the 4th November and a report with final recommendations has been prepared for this meeting of Full Council.

The Team is expecting shortly to have more information regarding the implementation of Voter ID and other aspects of the Elections Act so that they can start formulating plans for the May 2023 elections the detailed planning of which will start picking up pace over the coming months as we get nearer to the election.

Communications

During the last month, Communications have published 42 news articles/videos across the Council's multiple digital platforms: 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:

- Support for local NHS services
- Holt Neighbourhood Plan consultation
- Prospective Candidates Event
- North Walsham HAZ works updates
- World Mental Health Day
- World Homelessness Day
- Council Job Fair
- Eco4-Flex Statement of Intent
- Recycling
- Warm Homes Support – guidance to residents
- Cost of Living survey
- Cost of Living summit
- Miyawaki Forests update
- Formation of steering group for new NN Youth Council
- Vandalism to public conveniences

- £16,000 fine issued to Cromer landlord
- Sharing Government's Help for Households campaign
- Cromer Pier Works
- Various car parking advisories
- Bonfire night safety messaging

We currently have a combined social media following of **39,767** people directly consuming regular content about the Council's activities on our channels, though its important to note there is some overlap between channels, with some residents following us on more than one platform.

With a very short turnaround of under two weeks, the communications team supported the Cost of Living survey of residents using the expanded reach of its social channels and website. This reached **15,000** people on Facebook alone and achieved **966** completed survey responses, a very respectable figure given the population of the district and the time available to promote the survey.

The team also successfully completed work on the second of two trial editions of Outlook magazine, which is being delivered to **c50,000** homes in North Norfolk this week (November 7-11). This includes wide-ranging information around the work of every service area in the Council and also a special four-page cost of living section, with appropriate signposting to various external agencies and internal colleagues who are available to help residents who may need help to deal with rising costs.

HR

Agreement has recently been reached on the local government pay award for Officers at NNDC. The award is £1,925 on each spinal column point and is backdated to April 1st 2022. In addition, all Officers from Assistant Director and below will receive an additional day's leave from April 1st 2023 (pro rata if part time).

In October, the Health and Wellbeing Group held a Wellbeing Week. The week consisted of 13 separate events, which included activities such as a wellbeing walk, health checks, desk Pilates, a wellbeing webinar hosted by MIND, and a range of online and in-person workshops on Women's Health, Stress Management, Mental Health, Nutrition and the Menopause.

Corporate Delivery Unit

The Corporate Delivery Unit continues to support services across the organisation and following the departure of the two Project and Programme Managers for promotion within the organisation, the CDU welcomes a new member to the team who joins us from East Suffolk and brings with them a wealth of knowledge and experience from within Local Government.

Corporate PA Team

The Corporate PA Team continues to support the Chief Executive and Directors as well as Management Team with a considerable number of projects including supporting the recent Cost of Living Summit. The Corporate Business Manager is leading on a piece of work across the organisation to improve internal communication. Following a period of the Kickstart Programme, we are delighted to welcome a new Team Member into the post of Corporate PA Business Admin Apprentice.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Norfolk Leaders and Chief Executives have continued to discuss the development of a County Deal for Norfolk. The change in administration nationally means that we are waiting for an update on the Deal from the new Secretary of State.

National Asylum Seeker Dispersal Programme – a letter in respect of the Asylum Placements has been submitted to the Home Office

Nutrient Neutrality – as of October 2022, the Norfolk Nutrient Budget Calculator produced by Royal Haskoning is available as an alternative to the Natural England calculator. The tool can be used for proposed developments in the Norfolk catchments impacted by Nutrient Neutrality and It is a clear decision-making tool for the Local Planning Authority and developers. The calculator can be accessed via the Council's website.

Avian Flu – on behalf of all Norfolk Leaders, the Council has signed a joint letter to the DEFRA Minister, conveying the concerns re the impact of the scale of the disease and mortality of wild birds is having on Norfolk local authorities and outlining the issues that we feel urgently need addressing.

3 Meetings attended

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

- NNDC Group Leaders
- Chief Executive and Corporate Business Manager.
- NNDC Assistant Directors
- Communications & PR Manager
- North Norfolk Hockey Club
- Norfolk Constabulary
- Flagship Housing
- LIDL
- Sheringham Town Council
- North Walsham Town Council
- Wells Town Council
- Norfolk Community Foundation
- Task & Purpose Coalition
- Duncan Baker MP

Attended

- Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board
- Prospective Councillor sessions
- Cost of Living Summit
- Norfolk Citizens Advice AGM
- Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance
- Town & Parish Council Forum
- Briefing on private water supply sampling across North Norfolk

- Employment & Appeals Committee
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Cabinet
- Business Planning