

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 DECEMBER 2022

COUNCILLOR TIM ADAMS – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For the period 7th November 2022 – 12 December 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Elections

After a successful canvass the revised register was published with 82343 electors which is slightly down on last year by just under 2000 electors. It is promising to see the number of automated responses increasing year on year with nearly 9000 choosing to use these methods rather than returning by post.

The 2023 Absent Vote signature refresh will shortly be commencing with initial letters being sent on 15th December to just over 2000 postal voters who are due to renew their specimen signatures as the ones we hold on file are now five years old.

Plans for Voter ID implementation is now underway although there are still some details which still have not been released by DLUHC in terms of the portal which electors will be using to apply for Voter Authority Certificates where they do not have one of the accepted forms of identification.

A communications plan is now being worked on and is ready to be shared with colleagues in the Communications team ahead of a mailing to electors with Household Notification Letters early in the new year.

Communications

During the last month, Communications have published 63 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:

- Coastal safety
- Remembrance Day tree planting
- Remembrance Day parking
- NNDC Safer Seals Campaign
- Housing – Rural Exception Sites, NNDC top five in UK performance
- Cost of Living advice/support
- Bin collection updates
- Planning Services survey
- Glaven Valley Consultation
- North Walsham HAZ Scheme updates
- Vandalism of public conveniences
- Healthcare advice
- NNDC Waiting Well Project Officer

- Rough sleepers advice/support
- Constituency boundary changes info
- North Walsham Power Outage update
- NNDC Shop Local at Christmas promotion
- Council Tax Consultation
- Green Tips of the Week
- Youth Council
- White Ribbon Day
- NNDC Domestic Abuse Support Officer
- Cromer Pier Christmas Show promotion

We currently have a combined social media following of **40,101** 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.

HR

The HR team have continued to support Council Officers and Managers with lots of "business as usual" activities. The HR Team has also submitted its team plan for the next year. Aside from the normal day to day activities the service plan demonstrates added value of the service in terms of employment policy enhancement and development, learning and development, and recruitment and retention initiatives.

Corporate Delivery Unit

The Corporate Business Manager alongside the newly appointed Project and Programmes Manager have undertaken a review of the Project Management Framework to ensure that it is relevant and fit for purpose and to ensure that the process isn't too cumbersome.

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. The team have also been preparing for a number of corporate seasonal activities including the Christmas staff briefing, the Food Bank appeal and the Christmas Carol Service which returns this year following a break due to Covid.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

County Deal – an announcement was made by Government and Norfolk County Council on Thursday, 8th November that they have, in principle, agreed a County Deal for Norfolk. The deal would see a transfer of funding and powers to Norfolk with a directly elected leader from May 2024 for the following areas:

- Boosting jobs
- Regeneration
- Housing
- Transport

As at the time of writing but this report, the District Council has not received any details about the full agreement. However, we now wish to understand what the deal will mean for individuals, businesses and communities across North Norfolk so are pressing for this information to be shared as soon as possible. The deal does not propose any review of local government, so we expect the County and District Council arrangements to stay as they currently are.

Avian Flu – no response has yet been received to the letter to DEFRA Minister sent on behalf of all Norfolk Leaders, 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

During the last month, I have on one or more occasion met with:

- CEO
- S151
- Assistant Director Finance Assets and Legal
- Assistant Director Environment and Leisure
- Climate and Environmental Policy Manager
- Climate Change Project Officer
- Countryside and Parks Supervisor
- Leisure and Localities Manager.
- Victory Housing
- Andrew Shnuriwsky- Serco
- HSBC & Link
- Aylmerton Field Studies Centre
- North Norfolk MPs

Meetings/events attended:

- Norfolk Leaders Meetings
- Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board
- Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance
- East of England LGA meetings.
- Cabinet
- Business Planning
- Cromer Pier Show
- Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- LGA Parliamentary Reception
- Cornish Way site visit