

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**20 December 2022**

### **COUNCILLOR LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT**

For the period November to December 2022

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

##### **Civil Contingencies**

Business Continuity Policy revised, and new Business Continuity Management Framework created and agreed by CLT, prior to GRAC on 6<sup>th</sup> December and Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> January  
Annual report on Civil Contingencies drafted for GRAC  
Responded to potential flooding at Potter Heigham and coordinated remedial work on damaged flood barrier  
Coordinated response to power outage in North Walsham re electrical fire

##### **Environmental Protection**

There have been several involved and complex Statutory Nuisance and ASB issues which the team have been involved with in November, these are ongoing cases relating to noise and odour.

There has been increase in rat sightings in rural areas, however this is not unusual given the time of year and weather conditions. It is important to remember that rat sightings on their own are not sufficient justification for EH involvement. There has also been an increase in complaints of rats in semi-rural environments, however unless the sighting coincides with public health risks or damage to property Council the team will only tackle on a priority basis, based on public health risk.

Private landowners have their own responsibility of controlling rodents on their land, and the council can use enforcement powers to encourage landowners to maintain these responsibilities if necessary.

Over the past month there has been greater emphasis of the impacts of damp and mould in properties. This rise in interest was anticipated given the media coverage around the unfortunate death of a young child. Environmental Protection Officers have been dealing with enquires and are assisting in responding to the requirements of the Secretary of State on this matter.

Officers have seen a slight increase in requests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The rise is attributed to the rehousing of some families already here and some arriving because of the winter condition/power outage situation.

The Air quality monitor has been installed at the TIC to monitor road traffic emissions. The proposal is to maintain the unit for 8-month period to monitor conditions at peak time

### **Environmental Services**

The team have continued to work closely with Serco to drive performance improvements following the new collection model introduced in September. Round completion rates have improved and reported missed collections are being collected within the contractual timescales.

Year to date performance in terms of recycling tonnage is good. NNDC is the only district in Norfolk to have recorded an increase in the quantity of recycling collected compared to last year, whereas all other areas have seen a decrease in their recycling.

The Env Services manager also attended a Defra workshop on the implementation of the packaging extended producer responsibility (pEPR) scheme, in order to represent NNDCs interests in what could be a significant change to the funding of services.

### **Public Protection and Commercial**

James Windsor has been appointed Team Leader for Licensing and Health and Safety and Ian Hogg has been appointed as Team Leader for Food and Sampling. The need to restructure was brought about by the departure of the Public Protection and Commercial manager in June this year. It is felt that this alternative approach gives the team resilience and has created development opportunities for existing members of staff.

A court date has been set in March 2023 for a health and safety case relating to a fall from height.

The team secured guilty verdicts in their recent case relating to Pet Shop licensing, dangerous wild animals, and obstructing officers. This is an excellent result for the team and represents the hard work and dedication of the Officers involved. Sentencing will occur in March 2023.

The team conducted compliance visits at Holt Christmas Market under street trading legislation.

Officers have met with the new owners of Parklands Caravan site, there is a draft plan in place to meet the conditions required.

The food team continue to conduct routine food hygiene inspections, ensuring that businesses are producing food which is safe to eat. This is more important than ever as we approach the busy festive season and overheads increase.

The North Norfolk mussel beds off the coast of Wells have been selected for chemical sampling in an upcoming CFAS survey, given the quantity of shellfish required for the sample size, we will be reimbursing fisherman for the samples taken.

### **Carbon footprint –**

The Council's carbon footprint for the period 2021/22 is 2,825 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is a 57% reduction on the baseline data from 2018/19 carried out by the Carbon Trust.

The figures show the overall carbon footprint has reduced although some areas of the Council's emissions have increased.

The reduction is accounted for by:

- More accurate analysis and a better understanding of our assets and related data sources
- The replacement of the Splash Leisure Centre with The Reef (the latter only being operational from November 21)
- Decarbonisation of the national electricity grid
- The introduction of selected electric vehicles into the waste management fleet and more efficient large waste collection vehicles
- Other Council interventions and behaviour changes.

### **Building Decarbonisation –**

Discussions started on reducing carbon footprint/energy bills for the Cromer Office.

Advice given to Cromer Pier on building and behavioural changes to lower carbon footprint and energy bills

The Reef Solar Car Port designs produced – submission for planning permission and UK Power Network approval in progress

### **Community Leadership –**

Community Engagement – environmental tip of the week now being shared on council's social media

Contributed to discussions on the North Norfolk element of the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan which will go for public consultation in the new year (Planning making presentation to development committee on how these fit with the local plan)

### **EV Charging Infrastructure –**

Small project being developed to add EV charging into 6 more Council car park locations based on available infrastructure

**Trees –**

Planting of Miyawaki forest at Beeston Hall School underway

Tree giveaway at Holt Country Park on 10 December

Trees have been planted covering an area equivalent to 27 football pitches and a double hedgerow equivalent to the stretch from Cromer office to Bodham

A total of 91,626 trees and hedging whips with projects planned to meet the 110,000 target

**2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Tree give away days on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**3 Meetings attended**

NZAP Risk Workshop

NZAP Board Meeting

Tree Project Board meeting

Serco Joint Waste Contract Board meetings

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

Norfolk Waste partnership

Climate Change Team meetings