

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**22 FEBRUARY 2023**

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

For the period 13 December 2022 – 11 February 2023

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

##### **Elections**

The Core Electoral Services Team have now moved up to the Committee Room in order to facilitate the key organisation of the Election, and the Postal Vote opening sessions which will take place mid-late April up to Polling day itself.

Planning is proceeding well with Final Recommendations being prepared for the meeting of Full Council scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> March in respect of a small number of Polling Station changes which follow community consultation during January.

In terms of Voter ID requirements, the team have implemented a robust strategy with further measures planned together with the Communications Team. Thus far, a Household Notification Letter has been sent to every household in the district which, in addition to informing on the requirements for polling station voters in terms of the photographic identification, has prompted a very good response in terms of additions to and deletions from the Electoral Register and an increase in postal vote applications.

Contact with Parish Clerks has been made in terms of providing key information on the nominations process, voter ID and requesting their engagement with their parishes about the elections and attracting potential candidates.

The process of booking and staffing the Polling Stations is well underway and the Verification and Count and the Postal Vote Opening sessions planning has commenced too.

##### **Communications**

During a busy month from January 10 to February 10, Communications have published 109 news articles and 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:

- Coastal safety
- World Holocaust Memorial Day
- Stalham Community Fridge
- NNDC Safer Seals Campaign
- Progress on public convenience works in Fakenham, North Walsham and Wells

- Vandalism of public conveniences at NN Visitor Centre, Cromer
- Cost of Living advice/support
- Launch of new battery recycling service
- Council Tax change of address form promotional activity
- Glaven Valley Consultation
- North Walsham HAZ Scheme updates
- Met Office cold and wet weather updates
- Norfolk & Waveney ICB Mental Health consultation
- Voter ID information
- Rough sleepers advice/support
- Everyone Active/Leisure Centres promotion inc. free classes for carers
- German TV documentary featuring Cromer
- Climate Cafes
- Levelling Up Fund – reaction to rejected bids
- Green Tips of the Week
- Youth Council
- CTAP consultation
- North Norfolk Electric Vehicle Charging Points promotion
- Sinkhole in North Walsham Marketplace
- Sheringham Little Theatre renovation
- Cromer Pier works updates
- 110,000 Trees Project update

We currently have a combined social media following of **40,915** 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 remain ever busy supporting all the different teams and service areas. Work is progressing well in terms following the service plan which sits outside of the normal day to day activities. For example, the team are currently working on a project to move employee appraisals on to a different software platform. One of the benefits from the project is that it will provide a better experience for the employee and the line manager. At the same time, the guidance has been updated and the process to get more and improved feedback has been refreshed.

## **Corporate Delivery Unit**

The Corporate Business Manager alongside the newly appointed Corporate Programme and Project Manager have undertaken a review of the Project Management Framework. This will be relaunched through Management Team and the Service Manager Group having been endorsed by the Corporate Leadership Team, in the coming weeks. With a new member of the team joining us, it was an ideal opportunity to review the process two years on from the development of the unit.

The Policy and Performance Management Officer has been busy again this quarter preparing her cyclical quarterly performance report for Cabinet in March, whilst also meeting with officers to ensure that audit recommendations have been updated, reviewing risks, and continuing to work on team plans.

The teams Corporate Data Analyst has been working on a benchmarking and contextual data which is also going to Cabinet in March, whilst also providing Elections vital information for the roll out of the new voter id required for residents to vote this May.

### **Corporate PA Team**

The team continues to provide vital support, for numerous project boards, the Chief Executive, Directors, Assistant Directors, Senior Managers and Cabinet.

Some members of the team will be providing support to the election process in the coming months along with the Member Induction process.

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

### **Levelling Up**

Letters have been sent to the Minister of State for Levelling Up expressing the Council's disappointment that our bids for Cromer and Fakenham were not successful and requesting feedback on our proposals so we might strengthen and re-submit them for consideration in any future Government funding programmes.

### **County Deals**

County wide discussions are taking place about the establishment of a cross-sector Norfolk Leadership Board, building on the ambitions of the existing Norfolk Public Sector Leaders' Board, to maximise the benefits of the devolution Deal for Norfolk, through stronger strategic collaboration.

A six-week public consultation on the County Deal for Norfolk commenced on 6 February through until 20 March. This is open to all residents, businesses and stakeholders.

## **3 Meetings attended**

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

- CEO
- Town and Parish Forum
- Kompan Playgrounds
- Keep Britain tidy
- Environment Agency
- Anglian Water
- Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance
- Norfolk Leaders Group
- Wells Community Hospital
- Opening Doors Advocacy Group
- Holt Town Council
- North Norfolk MPs

Interviews with:

- ITV Anglia
- That's TV
- BBC Radio Norfolk
- Newsquest

Meetings/events attended:

- Business Planning
- O&S
- NNDC Muddy Boots Conservation Event
- Weybourne Parish Council