

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**February 2023**

### **COUNCILLOR A BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT**

For the period February 2023

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

##### **General overview.**

##### Nutrient Neutrality

Regular meetings continue to take place with NNDC officers and Natural England (NE), enabling detailed discussion on individual cases and also a strategic overview as to delivery of NE mitigation across the Broads and Wensum catchments.

I am pleased to update on the delivery of mitigation. A Joint Venture board is now in place and includes include partners Anglian Water, NNDC, Breckland DC, Norwich City Council , South Norfolk and Broadland DC. The limited company is named, Norfolk Environmental Credits (Ltd.). Recruitment is underway to key roles. A seed funding report is to be considered by Cabinet in early March. If agreed then NNDC will formally join the Joint Venture and play an active part in delivery of mitigation.

The proposed Joint Venture with can enable the “brake” on many planning applications to be released in the near future.

DLUHC - An amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was approved and has reduce the mitigation requirement for phosphorus by 36% and nitrogen by 65% post 2030. This is essential to providing more viable solutions via the joint venture / credits for mitigation.

##### **Development Management**

Detailed reports are provided to Development Committee on performance matters. Please refer to these reports for any detailed consideration on matters of speed and quality of decision to the Development Committee. I am otherwise pleased to report that measures for speed of decision making continue to improve and that the Council’s performance in defending planning appeals remains significantly above national benchmark figures.

I attended the recent meeting member briefing session for the planning S106 process and an introduction to the new public facing web pages / s106

software. I am pleased to report favourable consideration of those attending the briefing session. Further work is underway with our newly appointed s106 monitoring officer to enable full functionality is available for users. I will continue to report on s106 developments and will be looking for Parish and Town Council meetings to expand upon knowledge and accessibility to the Council's s106 records and processes.

The Planning Service Improvement Plan (PSIP), will be reported as a detailed action plan to the 15 February meeting of Overview & Scrutiny. The PSIP, has resulted from a series of detailed workshops guided by the Planning Advisory Service Toolkit, and the review of the public survey outcomes. I note some early "wins" are being implemented, e.g. provision of direct notification for parishes when an application is determined.

### **Planning Policy & neighbourhood planning**

"Regulation 19" local plan responses, have been comprehensively reported in outcomes and recommendations papers to meetings of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party (PPBH). Further reporting to Full Council will take place on 1 March and final recommendations to Cabinet will follow on 6 March. Subject to favourable consideration then I will be looking for submission of the plan to The Planning Inspectorate as soon as possible after these meetings.

The February PPBH will consider the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, draft NPPF consultation response, Biodiversity Net Gain responses, Norfolk Coast AONB management Plan. The Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan is nears its final stage. Proposed modifications will be also be discussed at this PPBH meeting.

### **Conservation, Design & Landscape**

The Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2022) will be subject to an extended consultation. The consultation will run on until 31 March and will be supported by two further public hearings at Holt and Blakeney (dates TBC). The outcomes of consultations are targeted to be reported to May / June PPBH, with reporting to Cabinet to follow. The document will then become a material consideration in the North Norfolk District Council planning process.

### **Building Control**

Workload has generally eased, I can report that after small delays arising from the Christmas break that all service standards are either being met or exceeded.

### **Enforcement**

The team have 173 current live cases, the number of live cases stands at a low level with case closures being higher and timelier than previously

recorded.

100% of enforcement cases are acknowledged and input within 24 hours of receipt, All site inspections are being undertaken within the prioritised case requirements. The team are now focussed on clearing a backlog of 95 cases that have exceeded the resolution deadline.

A planning conditions matrix is currently being tested by the Conditions Monitoring Officer and our applications team. Early focus will be on monitoring temporary permissions and high profile permissions.

### **Staffing**

Two Senior Planning Officers have joined the Development Management team, replacing vacant posts. Our S106 Monitoring officer joined the service on 2 February. All other currently vacant posts are considered to be “frozen”, any further recruitment will be under the due discretion of CLT via suitable business case reporting.

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

### February :

- 6th Cabinet
- 8th Planning Portfolio Holder
- 9th Development Committee
- 20th Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party
- 23rd Development Committee

## **3 Meetings attended**

### January 2023:

- 3rd Cabinet
- 9th Town and Parish Forum
- 11th Planning Portfolio Holder
- 13th CLT and Cabinet
- 16th Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party
- 24th Arcady Informal Appeal
- 24th Business Progress
- 26th Development Committee
- 27th Wells Coastal Supermarket Food Hub