

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**28 March 2023**

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

For the period 12 February 2023 – 17 March 2023

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

##### **Elections**

A Candidates and Agents briefing was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March and was well attended and appreciated by all who attended. The Council's website has been updated for candidates and agents with some more helpful information regarding a pre-election webinar run by the Electoral Commission and will be going into more detail regarding spending and donation rules. There will also be online surgeries for candidates and agents, again run by the Electoral Commission, starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. Please see our elections webpage for more details.

[Home | Upcoming elections, parish polls and referendums \(north-norfolk.gov.uk\)](http://north-norfolk.gov.uk)

Planning for the Election is going well and we are now almost fully staffed in terms of polling station and counting staff. Polling stations are all booked and confirmed.

Voter ID is going well and we have had 48 applications so far.

Poll Cards are being dispatched on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. That may increase calls to Customer Services and Electoral Services in terms of asking about Voter ID or asking for a postal vote, removing or adding electors and general enquiries. It may also increase Voter ID applications.

The Notices of Election for both District and Parish have been sent to every parish clerk, ready for them to display on the 21<sup>st</sup> March when the Nomination period opens. We still have appointments available for formal submission of nominations papers.

##### **Communications**

During a busy month, the team have published 117 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
- NNDC Safer Seals Campaign
- Progress on public convenience works in Fakenham, North Walsham and Wells
- Cost of Living advice/support
- Launch of new small electrical items recycling service
- Council Tax change of address form promotional activity

- Council Tax budget announcement
- Glaven Valley Consultation
- North Walsham HAZ Scheme updates
- Met Office cold and wet weather and flood warning updates
- Voter ID information
- Rough sleepers advice/support
- The Reef – solar car port
- BBC Countryfile special on coastal erosion; exclusive NNDC interview with John Craven
- Green Tips of the Week
- CTAP consultation
- North Norfolk Electric Vehicle Charging Points promotion
- Sheringham Little Theatre renovation
- Cromer Pier works updates
- 110,000 Trees Project update
- Mammoth Marathon Cancellation
- Serco industrial dispute – update to residents experiencing collection issues
- Fakenham Community Centre – wall repairs
- Support for Ukraine on anniversary of conflict
- NNDC job vacancies
- Job fairs
- Beach hut promotions
- Local Plan submission
- Beach cleans

We currently have a combined social media following of **41,377** 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 supported by comms, as part of the apprenticeship week released a number of videos promoting the excellent work that our apprentices do. These were shared across the Council's social media channels.

### **Corporate Delivery Unit**

The cyclical work on the risk register and quarterly performance report has been carried out this month and at the request of Overview & Scrutiny the benchmarking data and contextual report has been developed, to help monitor against the current Corporate Plan, both of which went to committee this month and were well received by Members. Following the refresh of the Project Management Framework, support will be offered to officers to ensure this is embedded across the organisation.

### **Corporate PA Team**

Another busy month for the Corporate PA's supporting numerous meetings, boards and projects as well as supporting the CEO, Directors and the wider directorates as and mentoring our youngest member of the team. The team were involved in the organisation of the logistics for the Job Fair including revamping the NNDC Opportunities booklet for the Job Fair and future engagement events. One member of the team attended Regeneration and Empty Property Enforcement training to

help with their work on the Enforcement Board for greater understanding and knowledge and information has been gathered for the website for the new Town and Parish Council webpages. The team also played a key role in the organisation of the Environment Agency visit earlier in the month.

Two members of the team attended the NACO AGM conference in Birmingham, one of which sits on the Executive Committee, where a submission to the Civic Office of the Year award was entered. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful, but it was a sterling effort and one we should be very proud of highlighting what an excellent job we do, on a tight budget with limited resources. This entry was up against significantly bigger authorities where they have dedicated staff to the Chairman's/Mayoral office. One member of the team continues to support the Health and Wellbeing Group who have introduced a Wellbeing Trolley for staff, arranged for the Wellbeing Garden to be tidied up and are planning their work programme for the year. Another member of the team has recently joined the new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group, an exciting project to be involved in.

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

### **Levelling Up**

Feedback has now been received in respect of the two unsuccessful Levelling Up bids for Cromer and Fakenham. These are currently being reviewed to see how the project proposals can be strengthened for any future funding rounds under the programme.

### **County Deals**

The Council is currently preparing a response to the public consultation on the County Deal for Norfolk.

### **Long Service Awards**

Thanks go to Terri Saunders and Carl Copping for their 25 years of dedicated service to the District Council.

## **3 Meetings attended**

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

- CEO
- Norfolk County Council Highways to discuss Highways drainage in respect of blue flags
- Poppyland Radio - in respect of further work with NNDC
- Anglian Water - in respect of localised flooding issue
- Unison - in respect of Serco Dispute
- Jerome Mayhew MP - in respect of Parklands
- Duncan Baker MP - regular catch up

Interviews with:

- BBC Norfolk Radio
- Poppyland Radio
- Newsquest

Meetings/events attended:

- Sheringham Little Theatre reopening following NNDC part funded refurbishment
- Sheringham Food Hub opening event
- Stalham High Street Task Force discussion
- DWP Cromer - Ministerial visit
- Cromer Pier official re-opening of Theatre Bar
- Holt Country Park 110,000 Tree celebration
- Cromer Local Liaison Group Meeting - Coastal Defence Scheme
- RSPCA East Winch - in respect of Frisbees and safer seal campaign