

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

March 2023

COUNCILLOR A BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT

For the period to March 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.

Recruitment is completed to key roles. A seed funding report was recently approved by Cabinet. NNDC can formally join the Joint Venture and play an active part in delivery of mitigation. I will require that the lead officer for Nutrient Neutrality in NNDC maintains a close brief with the Joint Venture and ensures regular reporting of progress to Cabinet on this matter.

The proposed Joint Venture with can enable the “brake” on many planning applications to be released soon. I anticipate the first smaller scale licenses to be available in late Spring.

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 well above national benchmark figures.

The Portfoliholder will be reporting to Overview and Scrutiny on local benchmarking for performance within the context other Norfolk Councils as part of our Planning Service Improvement Plan (PSIP). The detailed action plan was approved at the 15 February meeting of Overview & Scrutiny. We continue to deliver actions under the PSIP, most recently resetting the Developer & Agents Forum, first meetings are scheduled with over 50 invitations already accepted to the event.

Planning Policy & neighbourhood planning

The local Plan was agreed at Full Council will take place on 1 March and final recommendations agreed at Cabinet on 6 March. Submission to The Planning Inspectorate will follow. I can report that a Programme Officer has been appointed to support the team through the local plan inquiry.

The Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan is nearing its final stage with an interim decision being issued and referendum pending subject to agreed modifications. Holt Neighbourhood Plan has now received the inspectors report and will consider any modification before a referendum is proposed.

Conservation, Design & Landscape

The Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (2022) has been subject to an extended consultation. The consultation runs until 31 March and was supported by two further public hearings at Holt and Blakeney on 9 March. 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

There is currently no working backlog for the service, and I am pleased to confirm that the service is hitting or exceeding all performance targets. Our service manager is reviewing income levels and benchmarking fees with a view to recommending a modest rise in fees for the next financial year. A scanning programme will complete shortly ensuring that all historic records are available digitally for officers when working remotely on the mobile system

Enforcement

The team have 176 current live cases, standing on a par with the live cases for February. The number of live cases is at a low level compared with historic positions; I am pleased to report case closures continue to be timely.

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 focus on clearing a backlog of historic cases that have exceeded the resolution deadline.

The conditions monitoring officer has reviewed existing temporary permissions finding few breaches. Those expired cases are subject to investigation and compliance. The next review will be all live planning permission with conditions which are under three years old.

2	Forthcoming Activities and Developments.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cabinet 15 April• Planning Portfolio Holder 13 April• Development Committee 20 April• Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party 29 April
3	Meetings attended
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Council 22 February & 1 March• Cabinet 6 March• Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party 20 February• Development Committee 23 February• Overview & Scrutiny 15 March• The Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan – Public Meetings 6 March• Planning Portfolio Holder 21 March