

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

June 2023

COUNCILLOR A BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENFORCEMENT

For the period to June 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Nutrient Neutrality

The Council has now joined the Joint Venture Company, together with Anglian Water, Breckland, South Norfolk and Broadland. It is hopeful that progress can be made by late Summer that may then see the release of planning permission currently affected by nutrient neutrality restrictions.

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 the speed of decision making continue to improve and that the Council's performance in defending planning appeals remains significantly above national benchmark figures.

Planning Policy and Neighbourhood Planning

The new Local Plan has been submitted for independent examination. Inspector David Reed has been appointed to undertake the examination and will initially write to the authority to seek any necessary clarifications before setting out the formal issues for examination. It is anticipated that formal hearing sessions are unlikely before September 2013.

Some communities are at various stages of preparing Neighbourhood Plans. Holt's Plan will be subject to referendum shortly. A modified version of Blakeney's Plan is currently being considered by the Parish Council and will likely proceed to referendum in September, with Wells next the Sea to follow.

Conservation, Design and Landscape

The service is currently considering the representations made in relation to the Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal and will present an updated Appraisal to take account of comments received to the July Working Party.

Case loads remain high and new areas of work, including nutrient neutrality, are impacting on service delivery. There is also a need to consider how the

Authority will introduce the requirement to demonstrate biodiversity net gain in the development process, which will become a legal requirement from November.

Building Control

The team are meeting and exceeding targets with no current backlog. The Service Manager has introduced a new charging scheme to ensure effective cost recovery. Building Control have received BSI QMS Certification for 2023/24.

Planning Enforcement

The team have 194 current live cases, reflecting a small increase since the last update. I am pleased to report case closures continue to be timely.

All enforcement cases are acknowledged and validated within 24 hours of receipt, all site inspections are being undertaken within the prioritised case requirements. The team are focusing on clearing a backlog of historic cases and reviewing permissions with a view to ensuring that planning conditions have been complied with.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

- Cabinet 29 June
- Planning Portfolio Holder 13 July
- Development Committee 22 June
- Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party 10 July

3 Meetings attended

Full Council 17 May
Cabinet 5 June
Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party 12 June
Development Committee 25 May
Planning Portfolio Holder 8 June