

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 JULY 2023

CLLR TIM ADAMS – LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

For the period June to July 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Legal Services:

Planning

- NNDC are the leading authority on drafting/completing planning agreements to mitigate the nitrate neutrality issues which has been preventing development proceeding. The agreements mostly deal with the installation and management of a package treatment plant at the development.
- Eastlaw have been working with the legal representatives of other parties involved to deliver twenty-three affordable homes in Holt.
- It is understood that the planning inspector's decision, re demolition of the building, in the Arcady matter is not being appealed. Eastlaw continue to work with planning at the early stages of issuing enforcement notices and dealing with lawful development certificates,

Litigation

- Eastlaw is working closely with the planning enforcement officers to proceed with several planning enforcement matters in the Magistrates Court.
- Eastlaw is working with both planning and Environmental Health on a joined-up prosecution, which is nearing readiness for issue in the Magistrates Court.
- Eastlaw is representing NNDC in respect of an appeal of a refusal of a boarding kennel licence.
- Eastlaw continues to work to recover/secure outstanding debts to NNDC.

Standards

- Eastlaw has investigated and brought before the standards committee two breaches of Code of Conduct matters.
- Eastlaw is developing its procedures for future investigations/standards hearings to streamline the process and ensure collaborative working with the Council's Independent Persons.

Contracts

- Eastlaw is working with Housing to put together a Rent Guarantee scheme for tenants.
- The variation to the Cromer Pier Contract is finalised.
- Eastlaw is completing several funding agreements in relation to the Community Housing Fund.
- Eastlaw continue to advise and assist on the Coastal Transition Accelerator

Programme

Property

- Eastlaw has completed on the purchase of a new three-bedroom property for a family in need; a joint project with Housing and Estates.
- Eastlaw is due to complete the business lease for the Seaview building at North Lodge Park this month.

Democratic Services:

- The member induction programme is being completed and the new committee cycle commencing.
- The Youth Council met on 22nd June and agreed to launch their social media channels, ahead of commencing their mental health campaign in the summer.
- A second session on report writing was delivered for officers. This was well attended.
- All of the registers of interest submitted by parish and town councillors are now on the website.

Elections:

The team have successfully delivered the Holt Neighbourhood Plan Referendum which was held on Thursday, 29th June. 684 votes were cast from an electorate of 3270 giving a turnout of 20.92%. 552 people voted Yes to the question 'Do you want NNDC to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Holt to help it decide planning application in the neighbourhood area?' and 131 voted no, with one rejected paper.

The Annual Canvass for North Norfolk has also commenced which will run until publication of the Revised Electoral Register on Monday 1st December 2023. The team have started the process early this year in an effort to get an increased response from second homeowners visiting their properties early in the summer season.

Corporate PA Team:

The team are currently interviewing for a new Corporate PA who will join the team to primarily provide support for the Place and Climate Change Directorate. The team are commencing preparations to support the Corporate Peer Challenge in the Autumn.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments

The Norfolk Climate Change Partnership has recently appointed a Partnership Manager, Greg Pearson. Greg's initial one-year temporary role will be funded by Norfolk LA partners. Greg will primarily be based at the Council offices in Cromer and reports to Steve Blatch.

Democratic Services:

- The Youth Council is organising an in-person meeting in the summer. Anyone aged 11 – 18 who is interested in attending this is welcome to come

along.

- A review of the member induction programme will be undertaken over the next few weeks. Attendance figures will be collated, and feedback gathered so that learning can be identified to improve future years.

3 Meetings attended

Meetings attended:

- Transport East (Norfolk Leaders Appointment).
- Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board
- Victory Housing Trust
- Cities & Local Growth Unit
- Cabinet and Business Planning
- Rural Services Network
- Police & Crime Commissioner

Events:

- Attended the LGA Conference

Visits:

- To view the Crinkle-Crankle Wall to the rear of Fakenham Connect