

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 July 2023

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BROWN - CABINET MEMBER FOR for
PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT

For the period June to July 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Building Control

The new Building Control fees and charges scheme has been introduced on the 1st July 2023. This is the first rise in fees since October 2018 and is set to give full cost recovery of the 'fee earning' element of the service.

Conservation, Design and Landscape

Work continues on the draft of the Glaven Valley Conservation Area Appraisal. This will need to be the subject of further public consultation in due course and will be discussed at the Working Party first.

Significant challenge for the Service due shortly in relation to 'Biodiversity Net Gain' becoming mandatory in November of this year. This will lead to significant additional workload.

We have been proactively adding 'water your tree' labels on a housing development in North Walsham. This is a pilot project which could if successful be rolled out to other schemes.

Development Management

The Development Committee received an update on performance at its meeting last month – it is available on our website. Particularly pleasing was our major application performance statistics for the last two years.

In addition, from the 5th to the 26th June (3 weeks), 205 new (valid) applications were registered.

The Planning Service Improvement Plan continues to bring about both back office efficiencies and improvements, along with a continued focus on customer care. Feedback forms are being issued with every decision notice to encourage customer feedback.

The Planning service is continuing to reach out to Town & Parish Councils when requested to provide, training, support and advice.

Planning Enforcement

The team have 193 current live cases, showing a slight decrease from the previous month.

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 remain focused on clearing a backlog of historic cases and reviewing permissions with a view to ensuring that planning conditions have been complied with.

Planning Policy (including Neighbourhood Planning)

Following its submission for Independent Examination the appointed Local Plan Inspector has requested clarification and additional information to assist with the examination process. The Council is likely to get a sequence of such requests and the responses to them will help the Inspector to define his Issues and Matters for examination. These will then form the basis of the public hearing sessions which are unlikely to take place before September 2023.

The Holt Neighbourhood Plan was subject to referendum on the 29th of June. The referendum question asked *"Do you want North Norfolk District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Holt to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?"*. 552 votes for Yes with 131 against. The required threshold is 50% of the votes cast must be in favour. The Council will now move to formally adopt the Plan.

The referendum for the Blakeney Neighbourhood Plan will take place on Thursday 14th September 2023.

The Wells Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to North Norfolk District Council for pre submission screening and will likely be submitted for examination shortly.

Over the coming weeks the team expects to complete work on updated five-year land supply position and consider if and how any of the policies in the new Local Plan might be used in decision making pending the outcome of Local Plan examination.

It is hoped that partners will agree a final version of the Coastal Management Supplementary Planning Document to enable its adoption by all of the

coastal authorities before the end of September 2023.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

- Cabinet 4th September
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee 13th September (Planning Service Improvement Plan Update)
- Planning Portfolio Holder 13th July
- Development Committee 17th August and 14th September
- Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party 7th August

3 Meetings attended