

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 March 2025

**COUNCILLOR ADAMS - CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGY, COUNTRYWIDE WORKING AND EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS, PERFORMANCE, COMMUNICATIONS, HR AND LEGAL SERVICES**

For the period February to March 2025

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

#### **Legal**

**FOI** - The Council continues to meet its target in terms of response times at or above 95% for the year. The team are currently looking to publish our performance rates on the Council's website.

**Planning** – Eastlaw have worked hard to get four section 106 agreements completed in relation to the 40 bedroomed Care Home and 40 affordable housing in Stalham.

**Litigation** – The Council has recently successfully prosecuted an individual and two companies for their failure to provide information that the Council reasonably requires to recover outstanding debts. Furthermore, the Council has successfully prosecuted an individual for breaches of planning enforcement in Great Ryburgh and await hearing for another similar planning matter in Trimmingham.

**FLASH** - Eastlaw continue to work behind the scenes to implement the Fakenham swimming pool project.

**General** - We have seen an increase in instructions for certain workstreams which have provided additional income to the Council. It is noteworthy that Eastlaw has exceeded its income target by 50% already this financial year.

#### **Human Resources**

Work is ongoing in relation to the draft Workforce Development and People Strategy and the Learning and Development Strategy.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment Training has been rolled out to all officers and members via the Skillgate system.

Changes in respect of the threshold amount and employer contributions for National Insurance comes into effect from 5 April 2025.

The National Living Wage will increase with effect from April 2025, with the rate for those aged 21 and over increasing to £12.21 per hour. The Pay Policy statement for 2025/26 was agreed at Full Council on 19 February 2025 and has now been updated as required.

### **Elections**

On 13th February the team successfully delivered the Cromer Parish poll across four polling stations in the town, and we now have an election to plan on Thursday March 27th for two recent vacancies on Cromer Town Council.

The review of eligible voters from the European Union has just ceased with non-responding electors now being removed from the register. Over 200 individuals had responded to the review to advise they remained eligible to be registered following changes to the franchise brought about by the 2022 Elections Act, with over 66 non-responding names being removed from the register.

### **Communications**

Supporting Environmental Health with profile and delivery in highlighting roles/services that NNDC provides.

Supported Climate team with launch of MakeMyHouseGreen scheme for residents to get solar discounts.

Supported the Norfolk Film Sector, working with Norfolk Screen and attending sector events to advocate for North Norfolk as a filming location.

Highlighting the work of Countryside Rangers and supporting the Green Futures project, to get young people involved with nature and the environment. (Partner project with the North Norfolk Youth Advisory Board)

Supporting Economic Growth team with the creation of case study assets for upcoming business events and delivery of Invest North Norfolk project. Further support for the business sector through the promotion of grant schemes and other opportunities.

Supported Coastwise Team in highlighting developments around Happisburgh Car Park, and promotion of Coastwise Creatives Challenge.

Promoting ongoing capital projects, such as Cromer Pier, the Mundesley Coastal Management Scheme and Albert Street in Holt.

Continued audience growth on social media, including more

bespoke/targeted use of video content on Instagram and TikTok in line with current consumer trends, and focused sector-based promotion on LinkedIn.

Internal consultation and content preparation for International Women's Day.

Creation of content ahead of Empty Homes Week, to highlight Council's important work in bringing empty properties back into use.

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

### **Communications**

Supporting NNDC's involvement in Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution

## **3 Meetings attended**

### **Meetings and events, including upcoming:**

- Numerous meetings on Devolution and LGR with different partners, including Town and Parish Briefings.
- Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital
- Business Planning & Cabinet
- DCN conference
- Norfolk Anti-Poverty Alliance

### **Media**

- EDP
- That's TV