

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 June 2020

### **COUNCILLOR N LLOYD - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

For the period March 2020 to June 2020

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

The Waste and Related Services contract was signed in mid-March with mobilisation of the North Norfolk element starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020. I am delighted that, despite the challenges presented by the Covid restrictions that mobilisation went very smoothly and that there have been no significant issues with service delivery.

Serco redeployed some members of staff, usually deployed on street cleansing or toilet cleaning during the period of lockdown, in order enhance cleaning in the depot and cleansing or to cover activities in essential service areas. With the easing of restrictions and the reopening of public toilets these staff have returned to normal duties and Serco are now operating at full head count.

The garden bin service was closed to new customers in order to protect essential service delivery but this has now reopened with good numbers joining the service in the short period since.

The level reported fly tipping is only slightly above the level for the same period last year and does not indicate a significant increase which was a concern during the period that the household recycling centres were closed.

Work to understand whether people were disposing of their recycling correctly was completed in early March in a sample area. This data will be used to inform targeted promotional and education campaigns to improve recycling rates in due course.

Much of the focus across the department has been on the response to the Corona virus with a number of staff redeployed to support the Community Resilience activity in the Hubs and Local Coordination Centres and more recently with the delivery of the "You are Welcome" project to safely reopen the high streets. It is likely at as part of the Test and Trace programme that officers from EH will be involved with the tracing of complex cases and elements of outbreak control.

Whilst the situation with Corona virus has impacted on the delivery of normal work, such as food hygiene inspections, teams have, in addition to the

activities above been supporting businesses to adapt to lockdown measures whilst still ensuring public safety is maintained.

The Environmental Protection Team has seen an increase in the number of nuisance complaints received. This appears to be directly related to lockdown based on a mix of some people creating more noise whilst stuck in their property and others being home to notice it more or unable to get away from the noise as they normally would.

Corporate Health and Safety have been involved in making sure the NNDC offices are Covid Secure in line with Government guidelines.

The introduction of car charging points has suffered delays as a result of the Covid crisis. However, the majority of the civils, installation and UKPN works have been completed on all sites (Wells, Fakenham, Holt, Sheringham, Cromer) with the exception of Vicarage Street, North Walsham where we are still waiting for consent from Sainsbury's before we start. In terms of the OLEV funding, we have received confirmation from the Energy Saving Trust that they have offered an extension to previous deadlines. All of your grant funding has been accrued into this financial year.

A Consultation on North Norfolk District Councils Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and Handbook Edition 4 has begun and is attracting comments.

As an authority, we have followed good practice guidelines, we review our Taxi Policy and Handbook every 3 years. It was last amended in 2012 when edition 3 published. The policy was reviewed in 2015 and again 2018 with no amendments made.

Officers have now updated the Policy and Handbook and it is currently in a draft format. The consultation is available on the website.

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

As Officer resources become available, plans for a winter tree planting campaign will be prepared alongside a relaunch of this Council's climate change agenda.

Plans to appoint a Climate Change / Sustainability Officer were put on hold due to the crisis but recruitment process will begin soon.

## **3 Meetings attended**

Attended a virtual Strategic Board Meeting with Serco, Kings Lynn and

Breckland Councils. Regular meetings are planned to review performance of the new Waste Contract