

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 September 2020

COUNCILLOR GREG HAYMAN - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMERCIALISATION AND ASSETS

For the period June 2020 to September 2020.

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Bacton car park – A new public car park has recently opened, giving easy access to Bacton's beautiful sandy beach which has been brought about by the recent Sandscaping Scheme.

The car park will be operating on a pay and display basis and visitors can make use of the cashless payment app MiPermit. The car park is situated just outside of the main village of Bacton, on the Coast Road between the village and the Gas site. A short walk along the seashore (approx. 350m) will allow visitors to access the village amenities and public toilets without walking along the main coast road.

With direct access to the beach via a ramp, the car park offers 40 parking bays and provision of 5 cycle stands to support the Council's healthy living and wellbeing agenda. It is easily accessed from the main road being situated between Cable Gap and Castaways holiday parks to the north west of Bacton village.

COVID-19 response – following the involvement of the Property team during the Council's initial response to the COVID crisis, the team have more recently been involved with reopening assets and trying to ensure safe

operation. This includes areas such as the main office in Cromer and across assets such as public conveniences and playgrounds, which have been subject to a new fogging regime.

The Estates teams continue to support our tenants through this difficult time, and a number of staff have been redeployed over the previous months to support with the Small Business Grants administration process and the operation of the Community Hubs.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) – due to the impact of COVID-19 outbreak an extension for the completion of this project has been agreed with the main grant funder until the end of the current calendar year. Two towns are now live, these being Sheringham and Holt, with Cromer, Fakenham and Wells being expected to come on-stream later this month, followed by North Walsham.

Cromer office roof works – the works to the glulam beams and roof glazing at the main administrative office in Cromer have now been completed and the scaffolding removed.

Cromer pier survey work - Two years ago we let a 5-year contract for pier surveys which are undertaken by HOP Consulting, the previous survey completed back in 2018 informed the recent refurbishment works which are now largely complete.

HOP are currently in the process of providing an updated survey to inform future repair and maintenance cost estimates and this will be considered by Cabinet once the anticipated costs are known so that a decision can be made regarding the next phase of works.

The surveys normally grade certain areas of works and say how urgent they are so we can consider a 'phased approach' to any works required.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Delivery Plan (DP) – there are a number of areas of policy and strategy formulation within the 'Financial Sustainability' theme of the new Delivery Plan. Two of these areas are to receive particular focus over the coming months to try and ensure delivery and these are as follows;

Financial Sustainability Strategy (DP action 2.1) - work is progressing in relation to the development of a new Financial Sustainability Strategy which will consider how the Council can take a more commercial and business like approach to service delivery, efficiency and income generation and this is due to be considered by committee before the end of the calendar year.

Car Parking Policy (DP action 2.2) – the Council continues to consider opportunities to maximise income from this important revenue source whilst taking account of the ongoing impacts of COVID.

Take a strategic approach to commercial development opportunities, including (DP action 3.3) -

- Updating the Asset Management Plan

The updated AMP is expected to be agreed through the committee process before the end of the calendar year.

Leases, licences, acquisitions and disposals – the current case load in respect of the Estates team

continues to be reviewed to ensure that all pending property transactions provide best value for the Council and consider and take advantage of improved use of assets wherever possible. The team have also been busy trying to support our tenants during these incredibly difficult times despite being a member of staff down, recruitment is currently ongoing and the team will be supported during the interim period by agency staff.

3 Meetings attended

Nothing further to report at the present time.