

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

November 2020

COUNCILLOR S BUTIKOFER - CABINET MEMBER FOR EXECUTIVE SUPPORT

For the period September to November 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

The Electoral Services Team have been running the Annual Canvass of Electors within North Norfolk since mid-July and this is now drawing to a close. This year the Canvass has been reformed by the Cabinet Office which has completely changed the way the process runs. Whilst this year saw more time involved with training for and planning the Canvass, it is now a far more economical process both in terms of cost and also Officer time with the majority of forms not requiring a response if the details currently held match the current occupiers within the household. Although we are allowed to publish the Revised Register in February 2021 we are pleased to report that we are in a great position and as such will publish on 1st December 2021. As it stands we currently have an overall completion rate of 95% which given the current circumstances we are really pleased with.

The consultation into the closure and re-designation of some Polling Districts has now ended and a final recommendation will shortly be made for Full Council to consider.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

The team have been considering how elections can be held in May 2021 which is looking extremely likely to be under Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. An initial paper has been prepared and contact has been made with Polling Stations and Election staff to ensure any shortfalls or gaps can be met. So far there has been no central guidance issued other than basic considerations which have already been included in our own thoughts.

Given the ever changing picture relating to the pandemic this work will be ever changing so this could be another challenging election to deliver but lots of thought and care will go into making it safe for all concerned.

The team are also currently working on starting a Community Governance Review to look at several boundaries within the district. A draft consideration paper together with maps and Council Tax information has

been submitted and this will soon be taken further before a timetable is drawn up for the Review to kick off in early 2021.

Finally we are being asked to support the Office for National Statistics with the delivery of Census 21 with some initial meetings being held shortly to identify further what support the team can provide.

3 Meetings attended

Meetings with fellow Norfolk Authorities have started in relation to elections in 2021 and more will follow.

Tracey Holmes is the Vice Chair of the Silver Command Group meetings so has responsibilities which come out of that in addition to her role in the Staff Focus Group. Also Rob Henry is going to be involved once again with the Vulnerability Response as Food and Medicines Co-Lead with Sonia Shuter so there will be meetings with partners across the County in relation to this.