

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

16 December 2020

COUNCILLOR NIGEL LLOYD- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period November to December 2020

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

During the November "Lockdown" the teams within Environmental Health have been providing advice and support to individuals and businesses on the remaining compliant with the restrictions. Towards the end of November teams were busy with advising businesses on what the new Tier arrangements would mean for them and, where appropriate, how they could continue to operate in a compliant manner.

The Council had employed six Covid Support Officers, funded through money allocated from Government, who have been out since the lockdown eased, providing a visible presence to the public, reminding people in respect of social distancing and offered guidance and support to businesses.

Officers from across Environmental Health contribute to support various multiagency meetings around Covid19 and also undertake work associated with the planning and response to Covid. This is addition to continuing to respond to requests for service and programmed work of the Teams.

The Private Water Supply sampling programme has gone particularly well with vast majority of supplies which needed a sample being tested. Given that sampling stopped for two months during the first lockdown, this is a significant achievement and testament to the hard work of the team.

A property in Fakenham that the Environmental Protection Team had involvement with earlier in the year has now deteriorated in condition again to the point it has been assessed as a dangerous structure again. We are working closely with colleagues in other departments through the enforcement board to establish the best course of action.

Typical for this time of year, the Civil Contingencies Team have been dealing with a both river and coastal flooding issues.

- High river levels with overtopping at Ludham Bridge and Potter Heigham 1-4 November, 1 December and 4 December. Officer monitored and worked with local Flood Wardens to support the local area.
- Coastal Flood Alerts and three Flood Warnings on 16 November meant that the flood gates were closed and assets on Cromer Pier and Cromer Prom protected. NNDC Officers, Police and Coastguard

provided reassurance presence at Bacton and Walcott and the local flood wardens did their usual excellent job.

A large Sperm Whale washed up on Weybourne beach on the 1 December. Disposal of the carcass is currently being arranged by officers within the Environmental Services Team.

Five members of staff attended online rest centre training from British Red Cross as part of the ongoing preparedness for supporting communities during emergencies.

The arrival of new collection vehicles on the waste contact has improved reliability. New collection calendars have distributed to all households across the district, advising residents of future collection days including those over the Christmas period.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Officers are assessing the requirements to provide cover over the Christmas period to ensure adequate resource is allocated to deal not only with the normal work over the period that the offices are closed and to reflect the additional work associated with the ongoing planning and response arrangements for Covid.

3 Meetings attended

Officer meetings throughout the month.

