

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2021

### **COUNCILLOR E SEWARD - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & ASSETS**

For the period February to April 2021

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

##### **Finance**

**Business rates NHS appeal** – further to previous updates regarding the ongoing NHS business rate appeal case I am delighted to inform you that the appellants have sort the Courts permission to withdraw the appeal and, as all parties had consented, the appeal be dismissed. This is excellent news for the authority and means we no longer have to worry about making any backdated business rates relief payments to the NHS. As part of the 2020/21 year-end closedown process the authority will review its levels of provisions in light of this decision.

**COVID 19** – Economic Development, Revenues, Finance and IT teams continue to work together on eligibility criteria and distribution of local business grants. The Council has now paid nearly £120m in business grant support across the various grant streams.

##### **Property Services**

**Melbourne slope (former public convenience)** - We have a temporary marketing board up on the building and have been using Breckland Council's Rightmove account to reach a wider market. There has been a good level of interest, with approximately 12 viewings having taken place. We have asked for expressions of interest to be with us by end April/early May following which an initial review will take place including a summary of the interest and recommendations.

**Mundesley café** – the lease renewal has been completed and the lease assignment is in progress.

**Team resourcing** – the Estates Team is now back up to a full complement of staff following a successful recruitment process into both the Surveyor and Strategic Surveyor roles which will provide more resilience within the team and enable us to address some of the outstanding case work.

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

**Upcoming Reports** – a number of finance reports are due to be considered by Cabinet over the following months;

- 2020/21 Outturn report – this report will cover the Council's financial performance for the previous financial year (including the impact of Covid-19) and forms part of the closedown of the 2020/21 accounts.
- Treasury management annual report – this report provides Members with an update on the treasury performance for the previous year.
- Debt management annual report – this report provides Members with an update regarding the Council's debt management performance for the previous financial year.

**2020/21 Accounts** – the finance team are busy preparing the 2020/21 accounts the drafts of which are due to be completed by the end of July. These accounts are due to be signed off by the Governance, Risk and Audit Committee (GRAC) in December.

## **3 Meetings attended**

Nothing further to report.