

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

July 2021

COUNCILLOR E SEWARD - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & ASSETS

For the period May 2021 to July 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Finance

Covid Business grant award shortlisting - Following an amazingly successful process which has involved significant cross-departmental work over the last year or so and has seen the provision of in excess of £120m and over 30,000 transactions, I am delighted to inform Members that North Norfolk District Council has been short listed for the 2021 Public Finance Awards, recognising an exceptional performance in the issuing of COVID-19 business grants to sectors in the District affected by the pandemic.

The Public Finance Awards, in association with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, praises schemes and recognises the work of public bodies, such as Councils, in projects that have displayed excellence or originality.

NNDC has been shortlisted for the *Digital Finance Project of the Year*, for the COVID-19 response in processing grant payments to local businesses.

NNDC was one of the top performing Councils in England in the distribution of grants to businesses throughout the pandemic.

We have also received many messages of thanks from local businesses who have benefited from the financial support.

The Council's COVID-19 Business Grants team administered grants for small business relief and retail discounts to over 5,000 local businesses, delivering £50m between April and May 2020 alone.

This represents a monumental effort by a small team of key staff who have designed, programmed and implemented the online system within current resources enabling fast payments to deliver support when it was needed.

The efficient framework of the Business Grants team has meant that over the course of the pandemic to date, over £120m has been administered expediently in 30,000 transactions to businesses in North Norfolk.

I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank all the staff and Members involved in this project and fingers crossed for the final announcement in September!

[View COVID-19 Business Support and Advice](#) and the full press release which can be accessed [here](#).

2020/21 Final Accounts – the finance team are currently working on the draft 2020/21 final accounts. As you can imagine, due to the impact of the Covid pandemic over the last year, this year's final accounts and closedown process has been a complicated one for a number of reasons which has impacted on the production of the statements.

The draft statements are however due to be considered by the Governance, Risk and Audit Committee (GRAC) in September.

The 2020/21 outturn report has been similarly impacted and this will be presented to Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and Full Council in September in line with last year's timetable.

Property Services

Melbourne slope (former public convenience) – the marketing process for this former set of public conveniences has now been completed.

There was a good level of interest, with approximately 12 viewings taking place followed up by a number of good quality proposals which have now been assessed.

A report was presented to Cabinet in July covering a summary of the interest and recommendations for consideration. Cabinet made a resolution to allow the Estates team to continue discussions with the preferred party and to finalise terms and to execute the letting.

Premises in North Lodge Park to let – following on from the opportunity outlined above at the Melbourne slope the Council is now promoting and marketing an exciting opportunity at North Lodge Park in Cromer.

We have a piece of land to let in North Lodge Park, formerly the tennis courts. The land also includes a small building and 1950s traditional style bandstand, with opportunity for investment.

The property consists of the former tennis court area measuring approximately 0.35 acres (0.14Ha) and the building is about 28 m sq in floor area (300 sq. ft) and was used recently for storage.

As Members will be aware the site is ideally located with easy access on foot from both the town centre and promenade, and has great views of the beach.

The Council is accepting expressions of interest, which should be received by **Monday, 12 July 2021**. Further information can be found on the Council's website [here](#).

Public convenience works – the contract for the public convenience improvement works at both Fakenham and Wells have now been awarded to Aspect Group Services Ltd and works are scheduled to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Chalet works – the contract for the chalet refurbishment works has also now been let and awarded to Charter Property Repairs Ltd. The works are scheduled for completion in the autumn/winter period after the busy summer period has passed.

The works cover all chalets at both Sheringham and Cromer.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Upcoming Reports – a number of finance reports are due to be considered by Members 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 (as mentioned above)
- 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

3 Meetings attended

Nothing further to report.