

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



# **COUNCIL MEETING**

## ***Agenda***

Thursday, 30th July, 2015  
at 6.30 pm

in the

**Assembly Room,  
Town Hall,  
Saturday Market Place  
King's Lynn**



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King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX  
Telephone: 01553 616200  
Fax: 01553 691663

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk** which will commence at **6.30 pm** on **Thursday, 30th July, 2015** in **The Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn** to transact the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Ray Harding  
Chief Executive

#### **BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED**

**1. PRAYERS**

**2. APOLOGIES**

To receive apologies for absence

**3. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 25 June 2015 (pages 98 to 112).

**4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

**5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive Mayor's communications and announcements.

**6. URGENT BUSINESS**

To receive any items of business which in the opinion of the Mayor are urgent.

**7. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

To receive petitions and public questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

**8. CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS**

In accordance with Standing Order 11.1 to receive reports from Cabinet Members in the following order and under Standing Order 11.2 (a) Members of the Council may ask questions of the Cabinet Member on their reports and Portfolio areas:

(Councillors are reminded that this is a question and answer session not a debate.)

- 1) **Culture Heritage and Health - Councillor Mrs E Nockolds** (Pages 6 - 7)
- 2) **Coastal and Tourism - Councillor P Beal** (Pages 8 - 9)
- 3) **Development - Councillor Mrs V Spikings** (Pages 10 - 12)
- 4) **Environment - Councillor B Long** (Pages 13 - 14)
- 5) **Housing and Community - Councillor A Lawrence** (Pages 15 - 17)
- 6) **ICT, Leisure and Public Space - Councillor D Pope** (Pages 18 - 19)
- 7) **Special Projects - Councillor Lord Howard** (Page 20)
- 8) **Deputy Leader and Regeneration and Industrial Assets - Councillor A Beales** (Pages 21 - 22)
- 9) **Leader and Resources - Councillor N Daubney** (Pages 23 - 30)

**9. MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

In accordance with Standing Order 11.2 (b), Members of the Council may ask any questions of the Chairman of any Council Body (except the Cabinet) on any items in the Minutes of that Council Body which are being presented to the Council previously circulated.

Ray Harding  
Chief Executive

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

**COUNCILLOR MRS EA NOCKOLDS  
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE & HEALTH**

For the period 14<sup>th</sup> June to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

The restoration of the 'below the stairs' of the Town Hall is rapidly taking shape. A flood and fire proof concrete box, which will house archival documents, such as the Red Register, will soon be installed. The Undercroft, which was a store room, is to become a research & reading room as well as a community room for visiting working groups such as schools. The original jail cells and exercise yard will remain with a new exhibition. Building work, including a new external lift is due to finish in the autumn ready for fitting out the 'Stories of Lynn' exhibition.

Thanks to a group of volunteers 2 of our important heritage buildings are open to the public twice a week, Wednesdays and Sundays, until middle of September, the Red Mount and Southgates.

As a Council during 2014/15 we have received £35,960 from the Health & Wellbeing Board budget of £200,000 which was to be used for locally-led health improvement activities. It was agreed the funding should be aimed at encouraging and further developing communities to improve their own health & wellbeing. At a recent Health and Wellbeing Board a presentation was given to demonstrate how the use of Time Credits in West Norfolk has had a positive impact on individual's health and well being. For example of those earning time credits, through volunteering, 65% say their quality of life has improved, 49% feel less isolated, 45% feel healthier and 19% say they have been to their doctors less often. The funding has enabled the scheme to grow and during the year 96 new volunteers have given up to 16,580 volunteer hours. Time credits work on a system of every hour one gives they earn one Time Credit which can be spent on an activity of their choice

**2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

The weekend, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July, starting with the parade of the 42<sup>nd</sup> KL Squadron Air Cadets & Spitfire Trail with crowds enjoying the flight of the Spitfire and Dakota. Following on Sunday with "Life on the Home Front"

during the 1940's was a huge success with large attendances at the Tuesday Market Place, the Town Hall, Lynn Museum receiving over 300 visitors within the first 2hrs and the air raid shelter had queues starting at 9am before the opening at 10am. The Town Centre was packed full of visitors with many reflecting the 40's theme by wearing costumes from all walks of life. Many thanks must go to our Staff and the Norfolk Museums employees who made the weekend such a success.

Our events in August will be attracting audiences from every age group, 9<sup>th</sup> August will be a 'Mods & Rockers meet', 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> a Hanseatic Ski Race on the River Ouse and on the Sunday of the same weekend 'Fairies & Legends'.

Alive Leisure in partnership with Active Norfolk are organizing new 'Fun & Fit' family courses during the school holidays and is aimed at adults with children who are currently not active or who do very little physical activity. There are swimming sessions at St. James, badminton at Lynnsport and Buggy fitness at The Walks. Courses are free lasting for 6 weeks. The Alive Leisure Sports Development Unit has teamed up with KL Community Football and Village Sports Co-ordinators to organise a programme of sports activities for young people and families in the villages. Transport will be provided for the activities being held at Lynnsport or the Oasis.

During the schools summer holidays Lynn Museum has organized some fascinating events for all the family such as Discover Seahenge, Ancient Egyptians, Vikings and Dinosaurs. The Friends of Lynn Museum have launched a 'Young Friend' membership package.

### **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Portfolio meeting with ;

Chris Bamfield Executive Director Commercial Services.  
Ian Burbidge Policy and Partnership Manager  
Lorraine Gore & Sarah Dennis, Financial Assistance Grants

Cabinet

Health & Well Being Board meeting

Alive Leisure Board meeting

Alive Management & Alive Leisure meeting

LILY Shadow Board meeting

REC Panel

WN Community Transport Trustees meeting

Norfolk Community Foundation

KL Allotments judging day

Friends of The Walks meeting

Hunstanton Bowls Tournament

Tour of the Town Hall with Press

GEAR Steering Group meeting

Springwood Yr8 students Democracy Day

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**30 July 2015**

**COUNCILLOR PAUL BEAL - CABINET MEMBER FOR COASTAL AND TOURISM**

For the period 25 June to 18 July 2015

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

The judging for this year's Hunstanton in Bloom took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> July with results expected in September. In keeping with the resort winning the 2014 Britain in Bloom competition the seafront and town look fantastic. However we need to keep moving forward and I am delighted that the Heritage Lottery fund have given a stage 1 approval to plans for further improvements with a total cost of £820,000 stage 2 approval is obtained for 2017.

Green flag awards have been retained for Boston Square and the Esplanade gardens.

I have visited the open spaces and ground areas maintained by the Council in the Northern area of the Borough to improve my understanding of the operation.

An application has been made for a Coastal Community Team to be formed in Hunstanton. If successful this would provide a grant of £10,000 which would be used to broaden the current Hunstanton Regeneration Project team to include representatives of local groups. A Vision Statement will be formed which will identify, update or review relevant plans, initiatives/projects highlighting the interrelations and synergises also providing the context to support relevant funding applications.

**2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

Interested to see how the new format of SNAP spans out.

Bringing forward Hunstanton Regeneration meeting to start the process of the Coastal community Team Bid.

**3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**



29<sup>th</sup> June Tourism & Coastal meeting in Chris Bamfield Office.  
6<sup>th</sup> July Hunstanton Promenade Repairs report with emergency planners  
& Cabinet sifting.  
8<sup>th</sup> Tourism meeting and updates with Tim Humphries.  
14<sup>th</sup> Meeting with chris Bamfield & Nathan Johnson regarding grounds and  
open spaces north of Dersingham roundabout.  
17<sup>th</sup> Hunstanton Town council.  
20<sup>th</sup> Tour and familiarisation of all green & open spaces with Chris Duram  
22<sup>nd</sup> Joint meeting of Regen & Development.  
27<sup>th</sup> Coastal & tourism Meeting C/Bamfields Office.  
28<sup>th</sup> Cabinet.  
30<sup>th</sup> Full Council

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

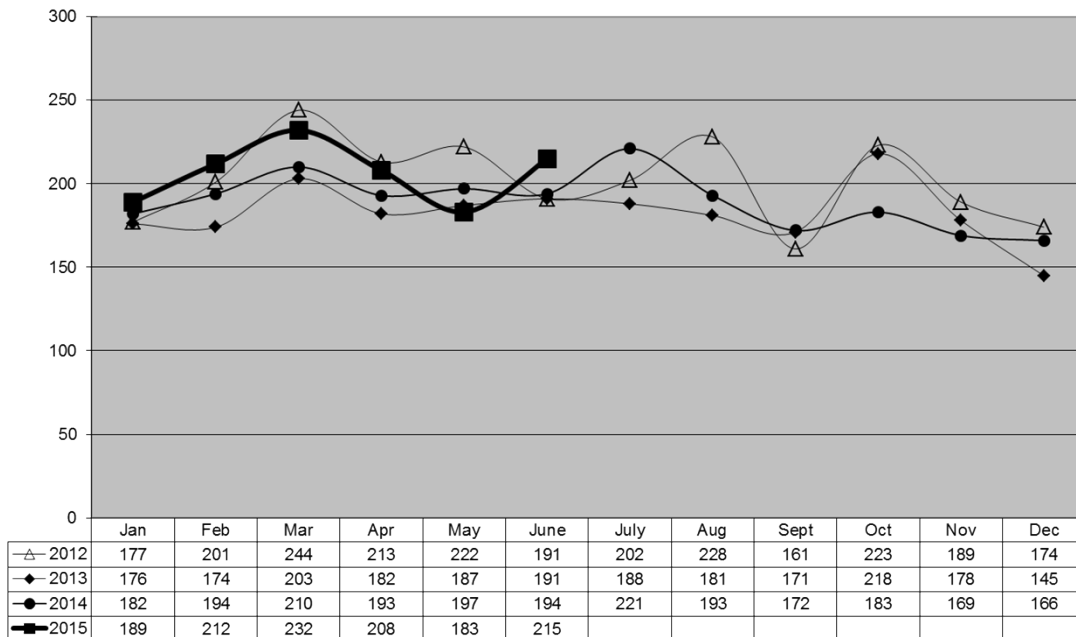
**30 July 2015**

**COUNCILLOR MRS VIVIENNE SPIKINGS - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT**

For the period 25 June to 18 July 2015

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

**Planning and discharge of condition applications received**



**Planning**

Last week Mr. Justice Dove endorsed a Government planning inspector's decision to give proposals for the old Fosters Sports Ground site on Main Road, Clenchwarton the go-ahead. This was because Mr. Dove concluded that the Inspector was entitled to conclude that the Council could not demonstrate a required minimum 5 year supply of housing land. Other Councils across Norfolk and indeed the country are finding themselves with the same dilemma.

This now means that planning applications will be considered in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework's presumption in favour of sustainable development because local policies relating to the supply of housing are no longer considered up to date (para 49). Paragraph 14 of the

NPPF states that where relevant local policies are out of date planning permission should be granted unless: any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits; when assessed against the policies of the NPPF taken as a whole; or specific policies in the NPPF indicate development should be restricted. Planning applications for Monday July 27th Planning Committee will be assessed on this basis.

**LDF**

The Inspector, Mr. Hogger, has adjourned the hearing of the proposed Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Examination because at the first session on 7th July comments raised by the RSPB and Norfolk Wildlife Trust about the housing implications on European sites of nature conservation importance, (including the Breckland Special Protection Area where the protection of woodlarks and nightjars is sought) about the need to protect these sites and species caused concern. The need to have protection measures to mitigate potential adverse impacts on the nature conservation sites is important. A unilateral undertaking is being proposed to include a charge (to be decided) per new dwelling built towards the mitigations measures required. North Norfolk charge £50. The Council will be having further discussions to take this forward with the intention of signing up all parties to a statement of Common Ground. This matter will go before Cabinet to decide.

There were also concerns about flood risk in certain areas / sites by the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards. If sites could not come forward , then was there was a fall-back position which would ensure that the Council's current overall housing figures could still be achieved? NPPF paragraph 14 refers to the need for Plans to be "sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change".

A letter is to be sent to the Inspector addressing the points raised and a preliminary timetable for the works to be concluded and that the Inquiry can resume as soon as practicable.

Members will have been briefed via Planning Training and a Briefing Session. Letters are to be sent to the Parish/Town Councils explaining about the 5 year land supply issue and the Inquiry . A follow up training session is to be held at King's Lynn on first week of August (to be arranged) for the Parish/Town Councils. A briefing will be held for Agents on 28th July 2015 .

**2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Council

Cab Sifting

Cabinet

Site Visits

Planning

Portfolio holder Briefings

LDF

LDF Inquiry

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL****30 July 2015****COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

For the period 25 June to 21 July 2015.

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.****Waste and Recycling Performance:**

Latest unaudited figures for waste and recycling performance have now been received for all districts / city and Borough Councils in Norfolk.

The borough has moved to second in Norfolk for percentage recycled at just under 42%. With nearly 12,000 tonnes of dry recycling we deliver the most in terms of weight for recycling to NEWS. We also collected 11,774 tonnes of material for composting from our Brown Bin and Food waste Services.

Across the county the total sent to NEWS as dry recycling was nearly 90,000 tonnes and nearly 77,000 tonnes sent for composting. A 43.20% total was achieved across Norfolk as a whole. The levels of dry recycling throughput are at the higher end of levels anticipated at the time the contract was tendered.

**Brown Bin Garden Waste Services:**

The brown bin total as at end of June 2015 is 21,717 an increase of 388 bins since end of May.

**2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.****Railway Matters**

Borough and County Officers together with representative of the Local Enterprise Partnerships met with Network Rail for an update on progress on the improvement works required to deliver half hourly train services from Kings Lynn to London. Network rail have indicated an Autumn 2018 completion for works at Ely North Junction and not Autumn 2017 as stated by the department for transport. However this work alone will not be sufficient to allow a half hourly service. In addition level crossings will need upgrading along the line not just at Ely North but along the line to Lynn. In addition rolling

stock and drivers will be needed in order for the service to commence.

### **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

In addition to my usual round of Portfolio holders briefings and Cabinet meetings I have also attended the following:

Water Management Alliance  
Planning Committee  
Freebridge Board Meeting  
Norfolk Coast Partnership  
Kings Lynn Conservancy Board  
Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board – Annual Inspection.

To Be attended at the time of writing:

Police and Crime Panel

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**30 July 2015**

**COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY**

For the period 25 June to 18 July 2015

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

**Food Hygiene**

The food team have applied for and successfully obtained two sets of grant funding.

The first one is for the introduction of the UK Food Surveillance System. The UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) is a national database for central storage of analytical results from feed and food samples taken by enforcement authorities (local authorities and port health authorities) as part of their official controls. This will allow the purchase of mobile working devices and allow officers to enter data remotely.

The second funding has been awarded to the Council to lead a Norfolk wide project for Inter Authority Audit focussing on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. The purpose of the project is to look at how each authority administers the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme to ensure consistency across the county.

**Home Choice**

The total on the register prior to the change of policy on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 was 2,494 and at the end of June 2015 was 1,978, a drop of 516.

64 applicants were housed during June into Housing Association accommodation.

29 new applicants were not admitted to the register during June as they did not meet the local connection criteria. 4 were denied access because they were over the income bar.

175 new applicants were accepted onto the register during June.

**Housing Update**

There have been additions to the housing part of the council website in relation to statistics and data – please follow the link below:

<http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=27698>

This is to ensure we are as open and transparent as we can be and also to work more effectively in publishing the type of data we are asked for again and again under FOI requests. Hopefully we can just redirect people to this page rather than work repeatedly on similar requests

### **Long term empty homes**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Number of LTEHs:</b>      | 867    |
| <b>LTEH as % of Stock*:</b>  | 1.208% |
| <b>Previous Months LTEH:</b> | 859    |

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

### **Private Rented Sector**

From October 2015 it will be compulsory for all new private lettings (rented properties) to have smoke detectors fitted on every floor of the property and carbon monoxide detectors where there is solid fuel heating (e.g. log burners, open fires), in line with the Energy Act 2013.

In the UK people living in rented or shared accommodation are 7 times more likely to have a fire (research from the Department for Communities and Local Government).

A limited stock of free smoke detectors will become available to Private Landlords in Norfolk as part of the National campaign by the Government to increase safety in rented properties. The Council's Housing Standards team are taking part in this scheme and anticipate receipt of some smoke detectors in the near future. Once these have arrived there will be publicity related to the scheme.

A Landlords Forum is planned for 28 September 2015 to which all private landlords are invited. There will be updates on changes relating to private rented sector and landlords.

More detail about fire safety is contained in the link below:

<http://www.norfolkfireservice.gov.uk/nfrs/nfrsnews/news-rss-feed/589-smoke-detectors-for-landlords-alarms4life>

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**



Full Council  
Purfleet Trust  
Cabinet Sifting  
Discovery Centre  
Various Meetings with Officers  
Portfolio Meeting  
Meeting with CEO

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**30 July 2015**

**COUNCILLOR DAVID POPE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ICT, LEISURE AND PUBLIC SPACE**

For the period 25 June to 30 July 2015

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Proposals have been received for the trim trail/assault course mentioned in my report last month and a scheme selected. Installation is expected in August/early September in order for the equipment to be ready to use in mid-September. As previously reported the College are paying for the equipment but the public will be able to use it outside College term time.

There are a number of the boroughs Parks and open spaces that have been entered into the Green Flag Award. The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK and is run by Keep Britain Tidy. It was first launched in 1996 in order to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, setting a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. The criteria for judgment includes

- Healthy Safe and Secure
- Clean and well Maintained
- Management
- Community Involvement
- Marketing

In 2014 a total of 6 of the boroughs parks were nominated into the scheme, with the majority of those spaces retaining their Flags, these were;

- The Walks
- The Tower Garden
- The Esplanade and Lower Green
- Boston Square

In addition, this year the Mintlyn Crematorium was put forward and has successfully achieved the Green Flag. The Judges were incredibly impressed with the site, the management and the level of maintenance therein. We are still awaiting the full judge's report that will detail the elements that the judges particularly enjoyed and their recommendations for further improvements.

Kettlewell Lane was also entered for the first time this year, but unfortunately this area did not achieve the standard. The anticipation is that the judge's report will support the plans to implement significant changes within the area to encourage more use and raise the profile of this small area, with the support of the local residents and volunteers.

The capital works for the crematorium are nearing completion. The new cremators have been operating for 2 months, the final works to office and reception areas are expected to be completed in July. I have suggested that the Environment and Community Panel consider adding a visit to the crematorium to their work programme to see the new layout.

The bus station works are now substantially complete and all buses are now using the bus station as planned. Feedback so far is excellent with positive views from bus passengers and operators. Council staff are now permanently in the bus station 6 days a week providing information to the public and controlling use, for example to ensure the area is no smoking. The new information area is working well and dealing with around 300 enquiries per day.

During the works the footfall for the town centre was slightly down on the previous year between April and June by around 3%. This reflects a slight reduction in bus journeys as car park use and income for the first 3 months is about 10% up on the previous year. It will be interesting to see if this increase is sustained now the bus station work is complete.

A further meeting with market traders has taken place with regard to re-instate stalls on the granite area of the Tuesday market place. I anticipate that new stalls will be operating in the market place in early September.

The new 20 minute free parking bays in Baker Lane, Albert Street and Valentine Road are now operating.

## **2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

|         |                                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------|
| 01 July | Planning meeting                           |
| 06 July | Cabinet sifting                            |
| 09 July | Ward leadership                            |
| 14 July | Hanse and Gear celebration                 |
| 16 July | Joint Alive Management and Leisure meeting |
| 21 July | Audit & Risk                               |
| 28 July | Local Authority Company Board meeting      |
| 28 July | Cabinet                                    |
| 29 July | Portfolio meeting with Chris Bamfield      |
| 29 July | ICT Development Group meeting              |
| 30 July | King's Lynn Bus Station                    |
| 30 July | Full Council                               |

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**30 July 2015**

**COUNCILLOR LORD HOWARD - CABINET MEMBER FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS**

For the period 25 June to 30 July

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

During the previous month there has been no further activity to report on special projects.

**2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Alive Management

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL****30 JULY 2015****COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BEALES - CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND INDUSTRIAL ASSETS**

For the period June to 22 July 2015

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

I am pleased to report that we have been progressing some important, strategic land acquisitions relating to the South Quay at King's Lynn and the proposed Waterfront Regeneration Area at Boal Quay. Negotiations have been finalised and solicitors instructed for the Council to acquire the freehold interest in the former Grain Silo site at the South Quay, and I hope to be able to verbally update Council colleagues at the Council meeting on the 30th July.

In addition to the above we have acquired some land at auction between The Friars and Hardings Way (the Bus link road) which goes some way to complete the land ownership issues for the Waterfront Regeneration Area, and has the potential to address the "pinch point" on the bus route, and I will be discussing this issue with Norfolk County Council in due course.

King's Lynn Innovation Centre (KLIC) update:

On site works on site are progressing well:

- The foundations to the main KLIC building, and the piled base and slab for the access ramp for 'Innovation Drive' were completed 2<sup>nd</sup> July.
- The steel frame is currently being erected and is scheduled to complete 17 August.
- The monitoring tests on the proposed enhanced surcharging approach to ground stabilisation in parking areas, continues. The 20 week monitoring period is schedule to run until 26<sup>th</sup> October. RG Carter believe that based on the results so far, their proposed enhanced surcharging approach will delivery acceptable performance and provide the associated cost saving.
- Overall the works are currently 1 week ahead of programme and are currently on budget

Apart from the site works, other priorities we are currently working on include:

- Working with utility companies to secure, timely site services into the site.
- Obtaining appropriate samples from contractors, ensuring RG Carter compliance with our Employers Requirements.
- Developing the KLIC 'Pop-up' Incubator offer
- Concluding the lease, pre-emption and option agreements - BCKLWN's final comments awaited to enable conclusion between solicitors.
- The conclusion of associated legal issues which run with the land, and which are directly dependent on the completion of lease, option and pre-emption agreements.

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

Property Services have also been identifying parcels of land capable of development, and taking these through the planning system. We now have several sites with planning permission that will deliver up to thirty dwellings in total on sites across the Borough. I will be looking at the best approach to these sites over the next few months, and I will update Council later in the year.

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Cabinet Sifting  
Joint Meeting of the Regeneration & Development and Environment & Community Panel  
Cabinet

**CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL****30 July 2015****COUNCILLOR N DAUBNEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

For the period 25 June to 22 July 2015.

**1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.****Budget 2015/2016**

The 30 June 2015 monitoring report shows an under spend in the year of £146,800. The major changes to the budget come from a decrease in the cost of electricity and the deletion of the separate Council budget for discretionary rate relief as this is now met within the retained business rates funding arrangements.

The Financial Plan includes annual target savings of £320,000 from 2015/2016 and I am able to report that on-going savings of £34,830 have been achieved towards this target to the end of June. The savings achieved increase to £39,790 in 2016/2017 and £41,070 in 2017/2018. I am also confident that we will continue to make further savings over the coming months.

**Events**

Not strictly my portfolio, but I was very pleased to invite volunteers to the Town Hall in order to thank them personal for supporting events to date including the Hansa festival and GEAR.

It was also an honour to witness 42F Squadron Air Training Corps Exercising their Freedom of The Borough on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July. The weekend completed a 1940's weekend – Fantastic and makes such a huge difference to the success of our Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

**2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.****Economic Development**

This part of portfolio necessarily crosses into regeneration, town centre activity and others. But at this early stage of our civic year, I felt it would be useful for members to have this flavour of much that is happening in our

Borough now in in the near and mid future.

### **Inward Investment**

#### **Centre for Advanced Knowledge Engineering**

This is a private sector initiative (investment value in excess of £250 million) by regeneration company Aventa Capital Partners to create a research campus and business park on a 50 acre site adjacent to the A10 at Bexwell near Downham Market. It will host businesses, research organisations and universities working in the digital sciences sector, including 'Big Data' management, data analytics and forensics, cyber security, advanced computational sciences. When fully completed it will support several thousand jobs as well as training facilities for the specialist data sector and is expected to be the leading centre of its type in Europe. Plans are well advanced and a formal planning application is expected later this year.

#### **RAF Marham**

RAF Marham will be the UK base for the new F-35 Lightning II aircraft to be flown by the RAF and Royal Navy. There will be at least £300 million invested in new operational and support facilities needed for the new aircraft. Major construction activity will take place over a two year period commencing late 2015. The new aircraft will arrive in mid-2018. The economic benefits to the area are likely to be twofold. A short term boost during the construction phase. In the longer term throughout the operational life of the aircraft there may be opportunities for supporting businesses from the aerospace industries to be based close to the base. It is too early to understand exactly what this might mean.

#### **Investment Enquiries**

The Borough Council receives, over the year, a number of enquiries from businesses and their agents about the potential of moving to or investing in West Norfolk. The Council responds proactively to such enquiries and seeks to convert as many as possible into firm investments. These enquiries will be at varying stages of development and can sometimes take a long time to come to fruition. At every stage they are treated as commercial confidential and no details are ever released without the client's approval.

As well as working with and support businesses the Council also works with developers to encourage investment and development of new business premises. This involves both land in the Council's ownership and land in private ownership.

#### **BUSINESS EXPANSION**

Bespak is in the process of completing a major expansion programme on their site to create two new clean room manufacturing facilities for their drug delivery devices for two new clients. As manufacturing of these new products



gears up it will mean significant new recruitment.

A number of businesses in the area are developing expansion plans and the Borough Council is working to assist them with premises requirements, specialist help, and in some cases with grant funding to support capital expenditure.

Exports remain an important feature of many of our businesses, and this has been reflected in the fact that a King's Lynn based business has been recognised in each of the last three years by the granting of a Queens Award for Enterprise – International Trade to acknowledge their substantial increase in overseas earnings (2013 - Omex Agrifluids Ltd , 2014 - PCL Ceramics Ltd, 2015 - Porvair plc)

## **BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE SUPPORT**

### **King's Lynn Innovation Centre**

Work has commenced on the King's Lynn Innovation Centre on the Nar Ouse Business Park. The landmark centre will provide office space, modern conference suites and a working environment equipped with the latest technology for the West Norfolk business community when it opens in 2016. The King's Lynn Innovation Centre which will be owned and managed by NWES, will be a hub for business support services including one-to-one business advice, mentoring, workshops and access to financial support. The £5 million Innovation Centre has been funded with £3m from New Anglia LEP made up from £2.5m from the Growing Places Fund and £500,000 of Growth Deal funding. King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council has pledged a further £1m.

### **Business Start Advice and Guidance**

The 'Enterprise Norfolk' business start- up programme, funded jointly by the Borough Council and Norfolk County Council, provided business advice and guidance to over 180 people and lead to the creation of some 75 new businesses. Business start up advice is now provided by NWES and is funded by New Anglia LEP.

### **Business Aftercare Support**

The Borough Council delivers a business aftercare service. The Aftercare Service is a personal and confidential service, which is available to help and direct businesses to a wide range of networking facilities and business support services. The types of support given include premises search, planning guidance, support on workforce development, skills and recruitment, details on the local economy and information and knowledge about the borough & introductions to business network as well as to potential suppliers and customers.

## **EDUCATION**

### **College of West Anglia**

The College of West Anglia has invested over £20m refurbishing several existing buildings as well as creating a new, state-of-the-art technology centre. The former sports centre underwent a £2.5million refurbishment to become a state-of-the-art hub for the creative industries, including TV, film, performing arts and workshops for crafts, including ceramics. The Technology Centre was a £5.8m project funded through Norfolk County Council, the Borough Council and the Skills Funding Agency, for state-of-the-art workshops for the technology sector.

### **National Construction College/CITB**

National Construction College at Bircham Newton is undertaking a £27m refurbishment and redevelopment of its facilities. It will receive through GCGP LEP around £4.5m from the government's Growth Deal fund toward creating a Centre of Advanced Construction at Bircham Newton.

### **Schools Business Links**

Using funding from GCGP LEP a brokerage service has been established in West Norfolk to foster greater partnership working between education and training providers and business. The aim is to improve the area's skills by listening to business needs and collaborating with local education providers to upskill the future workforce.

## **URBAN REGENERATION**

### **Bus and Rail Stations**

King's Lynn railway station has been refurbished in a heritage style by First Capital Connect and Network Rail. The work, which cost just over £1 million included new 1950s style British Railways totem signs, Great Eastern Railway inspired benches and vintage-style lanterns as well as a new royal blue and cream colour scheme throughout.

Work on a £1.6m scheme to revamp the bus station in King's Lynn and improve the links between the bus station and the railway station are due to be completed by July. The work has included widening the pedestrian area and installation of new modern canopy to provide an extended waiting area and shelter for passengers; refurbished toilets including 'external facelift' to the bus station travel and visitor information office to provide digital travel and visitor information; widened pavements along Old Market Street and Waterloo Street and improvements to pedestrian crossings at Blackfriars Road and Railway Road.

### **Townscape Heritage Scheme**

£1m was secured from Heritage Lottery Fund for a Townscape heritage scheme in the St Margaret's area of King's Lynn. This has been matched by £1m from the Borough Council. The fund will provide grants over the next 5

years towards conserving, enhancing and regenerating the historic shopping streets in the St Margaret's Conservation Area.

### **Stories of Lynn and the Town Hall**

The project will enable the story of the town's civic, social, economic and political life to be told through the Stories of Lynn exhibition. It will also involve the three buildings that make up the town hall complex being remodeled. It has been funded through a grant of £1,850,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £800,000 from the Council and investments from other funders.

### **King's Lynn - Tuesday Market Place and Saturday Market Place**

The Borough Council has invested over £1.5m in the refurbishment of the town's two main squares. The works included widening of pedestrianized areas, provision of space for al fresco dining and open air events.

### **LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS (LEPs)**

Members may be aware that we hold membership of TWO LEPs.

- **Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough (GCGP)**
- **New Anglia**

The decision was taken after taking advice from local business leaders, business representation groups and neighboring authorities.

All major national funding is channeled through the LEPs and we are in constant communication with the LEP Management and Boards and we have formed effective working relationships.

I felt it would be useful, at this time, to summarise the main financial inputs following work with and submissions made to Local Enterprise Partnerships:

### **Overview of funding secured from the New Anglia LEP and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough (GCGP) LEP**

#### **1. Growth Deal / Local Transport Body Funding**

| <b>Project</b>                              | <b>LEP</b> | <b>Total LGF/L TB</b> | <b>Total project value (£)</b> | <b>Status (performance report 23/6/15)</b>                    |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| King's Lynn Innovation Centre               | New Anglia | 500,000               | 5,500,000                      | Green – build has started                                     |
| College of West Anglia Higher Skills Centre | New Anglia | 6,500,000             | 6,950,000                      | Green – plans in place; tender for build taking place in July |
| Lynn Sport                                  | New Anglia | 1,000,000             | 4,500,000                      | Green – in progress.                                          |

|                                                           |      |                       |                        |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Access Road,<br>King's Lynn                               |      | 00                    | 00                     | Business case to go to<br>Local Transport Body in<br>July. |
| National<br>Construction<br>College,<br>Bircham<br>Newton | GCGP | 4,500,0<br>00         | 16,820,<br>000         | Discussions with GCGP<br>LEP                               |
| Total                                                     |      | <b>8,000,0<br/>00</b> | <b>33,770,<br/>000</b> |                                                            |

## 2. Norfolk Business Rates Pool

£450,000 grant secured as contribution towards King's Lynn Innovation Centre (ground stabilisation & infrastructure works).

## 3. Growing Business Fund (GBF) & Small Grants Scheme (SGS)

This is a combined £16m fund for grants of £5k-£500k to SMEs who want to invest and grow.

**Table 3.1: Norfolk GBF and SGS grants**  
**KL&WN is ranked third of all Norfolk districts in terms of funding secured from the GBF and fourth in terms of funding secured from the SGS**

| Norfolk District                      | GBF (£25k - £500k grants) |                    | SGS (£5k - £25k grants) |                    |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                                       | No. of grants             | Value of grants, £ | No. of grants           | Value of grants, £ |
| Breckland                             | 7                         | 470,445            | 6                       | 168,993            |
| Broadland                             | 9                         | 816,727            | 8                       | 122,750            |
| Great Yarmouth                        | 3                         | 279,200            | 1                       | 6,818              |
| <b>King's Lynn &amp; West Norfolk</b> | <b>8</b>                  | <b>700,709</b>     | <b>5</b>                | <b>78,011</b>      |
| North Norfolk                         | 3                         | 176,393            | 1                       | 20,000             |
| Norwich                               | 6                         | 559,000            | 19                      | 335,033            |
| South Norfolk                         | 17                        | 2,251,652          | 4                       | 63,110             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>53</b>                 | <b>5,254,126</b>   | <b>44</b>               | <b>794,715</b>     |

## 4. Eastern Agri-tech Fund (covers both New Anglia and GCGP LEPs)

**Table 4.1: Norfolk Agri-tech Fund Grants**  
**Total Agri-tech funding secured in KL&WN is £480,965, which represents 71.1 % of all funding awarded.**

### **5.Growing Places Fund**

Contribution towards King's Lynn Innovation Centre (KLIC) secured in 2013-14.

| <b>Project</b>               | <b>Funding (£)</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Kings Lynn Innovation Centre | 2,500,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>2,500,000</b>   |

### **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

#### **Attended since 25 June**

RAF Marham – BAE Systems – Rolls Royce  
Elizabeth Truss  
LEP Leaders Group ( Peterborough Cambridge)  
Norfolk Leaders Group  
LGA Conference Harrogate  
Anglia Ruskin  
Major Housing Consultative group  
Launch and celebration Boston Hansa  
Downham Market Chamber  
Joint Meeting Alive Management and Leisure Trust  
Voluntary Norfolk

#### **Meetings Planned Prior to Council 30 July**

Downham Market Town Council  
Cabinet  
Norfolk Leaders Group