

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

29 September 2016

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period 28 July to 19 September 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Brown Bin Garden Waste Service

The current garden bin total is 22,874 as of 31 August 2016, an increase of 330 bins since March 2016.

We have seen this fluctuate with some residents cancelling due to the non-direct debit £5.00 charge from April 2016, and the summer we have had which has encouraged more applications.

Local Green Points

3,551 households have now signed up to the Local Green Points scheme, efforts are being considered to increase this over the next weeks.

Waste Collection in South Lynn

I along with my deputy cabinet member had a meeting with ward members in South Lynn with regards to waste build up and safety of collection from Back Alleys. Whilst there was strong feelings about moving waste to be collected from fronts of property this is now being trialled with levels of waste in back alleys reducing. Collections are now made early in the morning from the fronts. The next stage will see posters placed in rear alleys discouraging flytipping, as has happened in North Lynn, then officers from CSNN team will consider enforcement actions as appropriate.

Training for IDB Members

A session was held for our appointees to drainage boards to illustrate the financial constraints that could be experienced by the Borough Council, in the event of IDBs precepts arriving to us late or requiring a larger increase than budgeted. This was well attended, however a number of Councillors could not attend, not helped by traffic problems in the town on the evening in question. A further session will be held to hopefully include those arriving late and also not able to attend on the day.

Recycling Contamination Work

As part of the ongoing work to reduce contamination we have tried a new approach including a new cartoon strip featuring Bob a poor recycler and his

antics of not getting his recycling right. Helped by his friend to get things right, he still misses the point. An example of which is below.



Finance

Budget 2016/2017

The budget set in February 2016 for the current year remains on track with £74,930 of savings reported for the 2016/2017 year to the end of August. In addition I can report that as part of our cost reduction proposals the Council has re-tendered the print room equipment lease and this has resulted in annual on-going savings of £70,860. Full details are available in the Budget Monitoring Report published on Insite.

In setting the budget for 2016-2020 Council agreed to take up the Government's offer of a four year funding settlement, subject to the publication of an 'efficiency plan'. The 'efficiency plan' which is being considered as part of this Council agenda is required to be published on the Council website and sent to DCLG by 14 October 2016.

We are now about to go into the estimates process that will update our Financial Plan for 2016/2021. Our budget setting will need to take into consideration the continuing pressures and challenges on local government finance.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Devolution Proposals

The Devolution Programme Board is working with Metro Dynamics on double devolution (that sees services delivered at the optimum level) and developing the Combined Authority structure for discussion at the next Leaders Meeting on 28 September, which will be held at Norfolk County Council.

Dates are being finalised with Ipsos Mori for some briefing sessions on the consultation feedback for Norfolk and Suffolk councillors, with separate sessions in each county, including one in Kings Lynn if possible

Andy Wood (the Chairman of the leaders meetings) has spoken to Sajid Javid MP on Thursday 15th. Consistent with the advice given to council officers from civil servants, Sajid encouraged Norfolk and Suffolk to continue working towards seeking councils' consent at the end of October/beginning of November. He had met with the MPs and was aware of the local political issues, but is keen to see the process through. Andy will be writing to MPs following the call.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

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

Millfields Estate for their Roads and Infrastructure final adoption
Freebridge Housing Board Meeting
Meeting with Representative of Unison
Meeting with Group Leaders from Labour and Independent Groups
Book Launch for Dr Paul Richards new Book on walks around Kings Lynn
Kings Lynn Lithuanian Society
West Norfolk Islamic Association
Various Meetings on Devolution
West Norfolk Hospice Tapping House
Meeting with Mike Southon – “the beermat entrepreneur”
Training for Member Appointees to IDBs
KL Festival Chair and Officer
LGA Coastal SIG
Meeting with Elizabeth Truss MP
Joint Safety and Welfare Committee
Public Q & A session for Recycling week
East of Ouse Nar and Polver IDB
Classic Car Day

At time of writing I also have the following meetings scheduled

Freebridge AGM

Norfolk Waste Partnership

Festival Too

Kings Lynn IDB

Devolution Leaders Meeting