

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

6 APRIL 2017

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BEALES - CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE PROJECTS AND ASSETS

For the period 23 February to 28 March 2017

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Nar Ouse Business Park Enterprise Zone

The council has met with Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBFN) and Open reach representatives to assess the broadband infrastructure needs for the site and agree the next steps.

The feasibility study on re-routing the gas pipeline has been completed by the National Grid. A number of options have been tested and the council will now work with the National Grid to agree the preferred option. The re-routing is the main piece of infrastructure works and will determine the timing of the delivery of the remaining site infrastructure (access roads, utilities, broadband and ground improvements).

Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

Seven grants for seven properties totalling £1,018,784 have been offered to date with work on five properties under way or nearing completion. The grants include two of the three critical projects / properties. Work on the third critical property started without grant support, as chosen by the respective owners.

In reporting the above I am aware that Members may ask specific questions regarding the amount of funding granted to a property - HLF's advice is that we should keep that information confidential. The R & D Panel will be updated later in the year (as an exempt item) which will be an opportunity for those Members who want more detail about the scheme.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

I have previously reported that the department has been restructured and with a key administrative post soon to be filled I have tasked the officer team with a financial re-assessment of all regeneration and corporate projects.

The intention is to look at priorities in the light of capital demand, timing of that demand, rate of return and other aspects such as public benefit, remediation of blighted or nuisance land etc. A further and inescapable factor will be the budgetary situation of the Council and the revenue needs from capital.

The promised report on the progress of the Major Housing Scheme will be sifted by Cabinet shortly after the writing of this report and if agreed to come forward will be considered at the Cabinet meeting of 11th April 2017.