

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

16 November 2017

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period 21 September to 02 November 2017

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning Applications

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



For the purposes of assessing planning applications, the Council has recently switched to the Environment Agency's (EA's) flood risk maps from the Council's existing Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), as the EA maps are now considered more up to date. However this is an interim measure as early next year a comprehensive updated SFRA for the Borough will be available, and will then form the basis for planning decisions.

An update on Flood risk assessments for planning will be presented at next Agents Meeting on Tuesday 21 November including presentations from the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Agency (NCC).

The Gayton Public Planning Inquiry finished on Friday 20 October, although closing submissions were not completed until Friday 3 November. The Inspector's findings are expected before the end of December.

CIL Governance

At the time that our CIL Charging Schedule was agreed in December 2016 the Cabinet Report discussed in outline the mechanisms for how we invite proposals for spending on infrastructure and the scrutiny of that spending. We have had CIL in operation for some 9 months now and I am working up details with officers as to how the 'governance' and our approach to spending will operate.

The first CIL Payments to Parishes (Downham Market, Marshland St James, Sedgeford, South Wootton and Terrington St. John) were paid at end of October.

- **West Winch / North Runcton Strategic Growth – Infrastructure Delivery Plan**

This is our largest growth location in the Borough and has a significant infrastructure requirement attached to it. An Infrastructure Delivery Plan is in preparation to ensure it is delivered appropriately. Officers and specialist consultants are putting this plan together. The viability of this scheme is key and we are currently engaged in verifying cost schedules and other financial matters with landowners and agents, prior to completing work on a delivery mechanism. A briefing is to be held shortly to update the parishes and neighbourhood plan group.

- **'The right homes in the right places' – Government consultation**

This consultation contains proposals to standardise the way in which housing numbers are generated for local authorities. A mechanism which more heavily factors in affordability is proposed. In areas where demand and prices are high and affordability is low the Government is proposing to require more houses to be built. The affordability ratio is lower in West Norfolk and a lower (than currently) annualised housing figure is suggested. Other proposals relate to more transparent viability assessments and increased attention to the needs of different sectors e.g. renters; families; older people; self-builders etc. A new National Planning Policy Framework will result in the Spring.

- **Wisbech Access Strategy Member Steering Group**

The Wisbech Access Strategy is a package of individual transport schemes that aim to improve the transport network in Wisbech. The schemes have been tested to make sure that they are the best solutions to address the current problems on the transport network. They will also support future housing and job growth as set out in the Fenland Local Plan. The Wisbech Access Strategy includes a number of transport schemes in a range of locations across Wisbech and certain wards in West Norfolk. The Access Strategy is a GCGP LEP Growth Deal Funded project. The public consultations began 30 October and end 27 November 2017.

Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled
Cabinet Sifting Cabinet CIL Quarterly Update Gayton Public Planning Inquiry Various meetings with Officers Wisbech Access Steering Group Norfolk Strategic Planning Forum CNC