

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

16 November 2017

COUNCILLOR IAN DEVEREUX- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period 21 September to 6 November 2017

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

We continue to reinforce our Council imperative to improve our recycling and food waste performance. This was demonstrated by our successful event in Downham Market on 3rd November held as part of a County wide activity with sponsorship from the Sainsbury's Discovery Community programme. In addition to the **Borough Waste & Recycling Team**, exhibitors included the **NCC "Plan, Eat, Save Team"** focussing on reducing Food Waste, **RECOUP** who specialise in recycling plastics, **The Salvation Army** whose textile banks and shops recycle clothes and shoes, and, **Greenworld** who recycle our garden waste by composting.

Our Team continues to deal efficiently with the inevitable operational issues with Waste collection in delivering the expected Customer service. The move away from compostable food caddy liners has been effective and we expect to see volumes increase. Overall, recycling levels are improving, contamination levels reducing and brown bin sales increasing.

We continue to respond rapidly to Fly-tipping outrages on public land and are endeavouring to support investigations in other areas. In spite of our efforts, incidents have increased from 1905 in 2015/16 to 1980 in the latest full year at a cost to Council Tax Payers of over £60,000. However, investigations are leading to prosecutions, which will be reported in due course.

Our CSNN Team have also been working closely with other Partners to tackle begging in the Town Centre, with some positive outcomes, albeit, there is increased anti-social behaviour arising out of homelessness, substance & alcohol misuse and mental health. Because of our close working arrangements and interactions with PCSOs, we are now having to explore the impact of the recent Police Service decision on their future.

The Annual Air Quality Status Report is nearing completion and will be submitted to DEFRA for auditing. Several Contaminated Land Inspections Reports for priority sites have been completed and published.

The Consultant has been appointed for preparation of the Hunstanton Beach Management Plan, as part of the Wash and East Coast Management Strategy programme. The project plan and consultation timetable will be published shortly. After a lengthy process, the Local Sea Defence funding arrangements have been agreed between the Council and The Environment Agency. Back to back agreements with the Community Interest Company and Anglian Water will follow.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

I am pleased to report that the Multi Agency "Habitat Regulations Assessment, Mitigation, Monitoring and Green Infrastructure Co-ordination Panel" (HRAMMGI) led by the Borough Council agreed the process for inviting, selecting and managing worthwhile, cost-effective projects to protect important ecological and wildlife sites threatened by increased visitor levels due to economic development. This process is being managed by the Norfolk Coastal Partnership on our behalf and implements a key requirement arising from the recent 5 year land supply Inquiry. It will be operational around the turn of the year.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

LGA Coastal Special Interest Group
Council
Cabinet, plus Sifting meetings
Regeneration & Development Panel
Environment and Community Panel
Portfolio Meetings – Waste & Recycling, CSNN, Flood Defence, Air/Land Quality
Scrutiny Structure Task Group
Norfolk Waste Partnership Board
Norfolk Coast Partnership- (2)
HRAMMGI Panel – Meeting and Pre Brief
River Hun De-Maining - EA Consultation & Site Visit

SCHEDULED

Wash & North Norfolk Coast Marine Management Project – Internal Review
Scrutiny Structure Task Group