

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 September 2015

### **COUNCILLOR N DAUBNEY – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

For the period 30 July to 14 September 2015

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

##### **Budget 2015/2016**

The End July 2015 monitoring report shows an under spend in the year of £30,280. The major changes to the budget come from a decrease in the cost

##### **Statement of Accounts 2014/2015 and Audit**

I am able to report that the Audit of the Councils Statement of Accounts for 2014/2015 has been successfully completed with no major issues reported by the Councils external Auditors Ernst & Young. The final Statement of Accounts for 2014/2015 is due to be published on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

##### **Devolution**

Councillors received a briefing regarding opportunities and challenges offered by the government to those local authorities, who are willing to cooperate with each other and make an acceptable case to Government to acquire devolved powers, most particularly in the areas of:

- Economic Development
- Infrastructure
- Skills and Worklessness
- Strategic planning and housing delivery
- Health and Social care

As reported, At the end of July, Norfolk Leaders received presentations outlining a number of proposals and potential options, ranging from “No Change” to A Norfolk/Suffolk deal based upon LEP geography.

Government then made known that if there was an interest to be pursued then they would require a letter of intent by 4<sup>th</sup> September.

It was agreed with other Norfolk Leaders to submit such a letter, and following Leader’s conference calls and much work by officers over the holiday period such a letter was submitted.

Suffolk has also made a proposal.

Should Council decide to proceed, then there is much to do as we organise the appropriate reports to allow the democratic procedures to have control of the process with the tight time scales available.

### **Events**

Congratulations to colleagues and private interest contributions to a fantastic Summer Programme of activity in West Norfolk.

Just recently and following fantastic festivals we have seen Water Ski Racing, The Beer, Butchers and Barbers Event, and a phenomenal Heritage Open day together with the Classic Car display. The Festival Boards , The Civic Society, Marriott's, The Vancouver Centre ,our own officers and events planners and a host of volunteers have "done us proud"

### **Welcome to West Norfolk**

The government has announced that the UK will be home for at least 20,000 refugees (over the next five years) from the conflict in Syria.

This will of course be in addition to many who choose to settle in the UK from various parts of Europe and indeed other parts of the globe.

We as an authority, of course, cooperate with neighbours and service partners to ensure we deal effectively with whatever challenge is presented.

We still await much detail regarding this particular initiative, but suffice to say it will be necessary to address issues regarding:

- Immediate needs of Finance, clothing, etc.
- Health
- Finance
- Education
- Accommodation
- Career

This Council will ensure our response is positive,co-ordinated and appropriate to needs as they become apparent.

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

### **Attended since July council**

Joint Safety and Welfare Committee  
Meetings Re Enterprise Zones  
H Bellingham  
VJ Day Commemorations

Downham Market Chamber  
Various Tele conferences with Norfolk Leaders  
Resources and Performance Panel  
NWES Board Meeting  
New Anglia LEP Board Meeting  
Bridge for Heroes  
Reception Kings Lynn Amateur Swimmers Assn

**Planned before Council**

Cabinet Sifting  
LEP/ Greg Clark – Westminster  
Norfolk Leaders Group  
Town Centre Partnership  
College of West Anglia