

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

9 July 2020

**COUNCILLOR PAUL KUNES - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

For the period 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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

#### **Cremations and Burials**

It is very sad to report that there has been a substantial increase in the number of Cremations at Mintyln. All of the staff have worked extremely hard to cope with the increased workload.

With social distancing restricting the number of mourners at services, it was decided to offer the video streaming service free of charge. The take up for this was surprisingly high.

There has also been an increase in Burials, but not to the same extent as cremations.

#### **Gayton Road Cemetery.**

Still awaiting reply from Environment Agency to allow a more definitive operating practice going forward to be agreed. In the meantime, we continue to deal with burial requests on a case-by-case basis. Feasibility studies are being carried out on other options for Cemetery provision in the King's Lynn area.

**Car Parking Income.** There has been a Very Substantial reduction in car park income in April and May, especially in Kings Lynn town center. Income from the resorts has held up better, particularly in late May and June.

#### **IT department.**

As can be imagined, the IT department have been extremely busy during the Covid Crisis, I am sure all Councilors will join with me in thanking Richard Godfrey and his entire team for their efforts.

This is a list of some of their work:

1. Keeping lights on, supporting staff, patching servers and maintaining ICT security.
2. Rolled out *well over* 100 homeworkers to support the continued BCKLWN Covid 19 response.
3. Setup additional ICT infrastructure to enable increased remote working.
4. Assisted with office moves and shifting staff to other locations for social distancing. E.g. Some of Planning to the Town Hall.
5. Added additional networking infrastructure to support staff.
6. Expedited some staff members to the Microsoft Office 365 platform.
7. Setup over 200 people on Microsoft Teams at short notice to enable Officers

and Members to communicate

8. Setup a technical solution using Zoom for virtual meetings for Members - following Cabinet Office security guidelines.
9. Supporting the Community Hub with additional telephony, workstations and undertook data matching for new system.
10. Developed a Council website Covid 19 Q&A solution at short notice.
11. New e-forms for Business Rates claims - £31 million of grants applied for.
12. New Norfolk Resilience Forum website (turned around in 3 days).
13. New e-forms for taxi driver licensing medical checks.
14. New e-forms and payments on the website for ordering red tags for excess waste.
15. New Vision King's Lynn website (about to launch).
16. Supporting council staff during extended office hours.

**Licensing.** Following a request from drivers, it was agreed to allow the temporary fitting of screens in Taxis, as long as it did not affect the safety of the vehicle.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

### **Parking**

Work is soon to commence on the re-surfacing on the Football Club car park, which will then become Pay-and display (except match days).

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Cabinet

Portfolio briefing -Car parks -Crematorium and Cemeteries, IT and Licensing

Corporate Performance panel

R&D Panel

E&C Panel

Cabinet Briefing

Conservancy Board.

IDB

**All of the above meetings held on line using either Zoom, Teams, Webex or Skype.**