

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 January 2021

**COUNCILLOR GRAHAM MIDDLETON –
CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

For the period December 2020 to January 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Future high streets

As you will now all be aware our bid for future high street funding was not successful. We are awaiting in depth analysis and feedback from government so we can set out plans for adapting projects and bids in the future.

All is not lost however we do have some fantastic projects they have been worked up and and will continue to look into funding opportunities with our partners to peruse these goals. Viable options so far include the governments levelling up fund, due to be announced any time soon and the UK prosperity fund there may also be an opportunity to incorporate some of these projects into the town investment plan and potentially look into re prioritising projects within this.

Kings Lynn public realm

First phase of the public realm plan which features a part of King's Lynn High Street is well underway. Currently materials have been put on order and we have currently put required works out to tender. This is funded through the accelerated funding and once will have an exact cost we can then look at where else to spend the remaining. These works will kick off a wider plan featured in our town investment plan for transformation of our key links and routes around town including areas such as Boal Quay, Baxter's Plain, train station for court and the High Street.

Go digital project

County councils go digital project, aimed at offering grant packages in the form of digital consultancy has been launched and is already over subscribed in Norfolk and west Norfolk. Therefore, we were approached by the county asking if we wish to top up the pot to enable more west Norfolk business to benefit. To this end we have agreed to pay for up to 25 more businesses to be able to take part and we would like this to be ring fenced at this time for

hospitality and retail. We will top this up further if required. This has been funded through the adaptation funding received by the government. As part of the project business will allocate a sector specific expert, a digital audit, advise on next steps and funding to assist with adaptations to websites etc

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

HAZ Briefing
Cabinet sifting
BID meeting
Portfolio sessions
Cabinet
Portfolio session with various officers (throughout the month)
R and D Panel