

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**8 JULY 2021**

**COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY**

For the period May to July 2021

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

Having been given a new portfolio to oversee, I have now had the opportunity to familiarise myself with the council's commercial property portfolio, including a tour of some of our property interests in King's Lynn. The portfolio is quite diverse and includes light industrial units on the various industrial estates around King's Lynn and Downham Market and even some in Heacham. In addition we own and lease out offices (including the KLIC facility), some town centre retail, and a diverse array of properties in Hunstanton, including some caravan parks, the fun fair, and promenade kiosks.

The revenue generated from the commercial property portfolio contributes significantly to the cost of operating our services. Obviously the past 18 months or so have been challenging and Property Services (with the Finance Team) are working hard to manage some of the commercial rent arrears that have arisen. Most of the rent arrears are being managed via payment plans.

One new commercial letting I am pleased to inform colleagues about is that we have recently concluded terms for a new lease to the NHS midwifery team at the Priory Centre in Downham Market. We continue to work with our NHS colleagues and West Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on a number of other proposals. I have also learned that the CCG has secured £25m of capital funding for primary care, of which £5m has been allocated to West Norfolk to fund a potential new surgery in Kings Lynn, I am pleased funding has been made available so this is one to watch for the future

I can also report that we are close to completing and have instructed solicitors on a number of land sales, these include just over 4 acres at Hardwick Industrial Estate for the development of light industrial units, land at Horsley's Field for a new office and depot, and some land at Reid Way to a housing association for the development of temporary housing for homeless people.

I am reviewing some of our other plots of land for potential sale for development, these sales will not only generate capital receipts for the council to help fund our various projects, also they will also encourage private sector investment and provide opportunity for small and medium enterprises.

**Meetings Attended**

Meetings with various officers by phone, Teams and face to face  
Cabinet Meetings  
Cabinet Siftings  
Cabinet Briefings  
Full Council  
Mayor Making  
Tour of some council properties  
Meeting with Cabinet colleagues and senior Officers