

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**21 October 2021**

**COUNCILLOR GRAHAM MIDDLETON – DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT**

For the period 9 September – 6 October 2021

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

#### **Kings Lynn business investment district**

The BID has had a role in the development of the King's Lynn Town Investment Plan – a 10-year vision for that has identified priority interventions to drive economic growth in our town. The government suggested at the start of the Towns Fund process in late 2019, that BIDS could play a role in Town Deal Boards (TDB). The King's Lynn BID has played a key role, firstly in respect of governance – being a member of the board that has agreed priorities for a funding package, as well as now overseeing the delivery of those interventions; and secondly a role in engagement with town centre stakeholders, including BID members and representing their views and sharing their perspectives as part of the process. Early engagement was vital in the preparation of the Town Investment plan. It is important that the role of the BID in relation to Town's fund continues throughout the business case stage (to June 2022), and delivery stages of the process. The BID is in a unique position to facilitate a two-way flow of information between the TDB and BID members. The programme as agreed with central government contains a number of interventions that are designed directly to address some of the priorities of the BID – including business diversification in the town; boosting footfall and dwell time; making the town look attractive; increasing pride in the town, creating a sense of community. The continued involvement of the BID in shaping the Towns Fund and other future 'place-based' funds relating to the Levelling Up agenda will ensure that funds are directed in an informed way; to deliver the maximum benefit to the sustained vitality and prosperity of King's Lynn town centre.

#### **Local authority owned companies**

I have been asked a few times over the last month with regards to the structure of our local authority owned companies. Work is under way by a consultant to assist us in working out a structure. This report will be coming to committees with recommendations late this/early next year.

#### **Report from Cllr Nockolds within her role as Member Champion for heritage and culture**

The Kings Lynn Civic Society generously placed and stewarded an exhibition in the Customs House during the summer season giving our residents and visitors an opportunity to visit the interior of the building. 1600 visitors were recorded during the

9 weeks. The display also included a quiz asking visitors to identify what they considered would be beneficial initiatives for future investments in Kings Lynn. The Civic Society also organised a successful Heritage Open Day in September with many volunteers stewarding many properties throughout the town. As Heritage Champion I must offer my sincere thanks to the Kings Lynn Civic Society.

During the next 2 week- ends the Customs House will be the base for Norfolk & Norwich Festival project known as 'Rider Spoke'. The Rider Spoke event is a cycle based project where cyclists explore the town uncovering secrets and hiding their own.

NCC are commissioning 5 new artworks through the EXPERIENCE Project to form a Norfolk Way Art Trail. Funding is from Interegg EU. After many workshops, I attended, one of the Art pieces will be installed at the start of the Nar Valley Way and Rivers Way.

I have attended the NMS Joint Committee where I reported the Lynn Museum are receiving a good amount of visitors. The second quarter of the year visitors have totalled 2,122. Some visitors have travelled from places such as Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham, Brighton and many from London. Schools have started to attend the Museum. Before the summer break 312 pupil attend.

Our 5 light projections are entertaining the public with a sci-fi time travel adventure including on TikTok and on-line. Over 500 young people at Primary Schools and Brownie Guides, Kick the Dust students and the COW have been involved with the design of the project. Funding has been received from the Arts Council, NALEP, KLBID, NCC and Borough Council.

**2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Various meetings within my role as deputy leader and cabinet member