

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

9 September 2021

COUNCILLOR STUART DARK MBE – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For the period July to September 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Covid-19

At the time of writing this report the case rate per 100,000 people continues to rise. However, this is below the national average and hospitalisations remain low, due to the impact of the highly successful local vaccination programme. Targeted work continues to vaccinate lower age ranges and those in identified areas of lower take up. Plans are being developed with regard to any ‘booster’ vaccinations and the Kings Lynn Mass Vaccination Centre is in the process of moving from the Corn Exchange to the Guildhall complex (to allow the Corn Exchange to re-open) in a managed way, to minimise disruption. Council staff continue to support and free parking remains in place to assist attendees. I will provide the most up to date figures as a verbal update to this report at Full Council, so that the lag between publication and Council does not cause confusion.

QEH

I continue to liaise with the QEH Leadership, County and MPs in support of their bid for a new hospital. It is pleasing that the petition on the government portal, that this Council has supported and promoted, has reached the key target of over 10K signatures to trigger an official response. We are now entering a crucial few months as the QEH’s bid nears completion and submission and an all member briefing has been arranged for the 22nd September to update on progress.

Cabinet Portfolios

The defined Cabinet portfolios centred on priorities are now beginning to embed and this can be seen in the updates by cabinet members and the policies and approaches beginning to come forward, by way of example; the successful ‘Summer of Fun’ reduced children’s places scheme, the Local Member Fund and the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. This work continues as does associated development work on Vision and Values, and KPIs with officers. Members are respectfully reminded to look at the Cabinet Forward Work Plan for upcoming policies and associated dates.

Strategic Relationships

I continue to do my best to maintain and grow relationships with strategic partners to increase our capability. Members can see the breadth and depth of these interactions in my recent meetings listed below.

Kings Lynn GEAR and other 'summer' events

It was an absolute honour and pleasure to open and close the Gear Kings Lynn running event last week, seeing so many people out together again, having fun. I think it's appropriate as I close this report and summer draws to a close to thank all the hardworking staff at the Council and volunteers who have combined to deliver so many events, safely across the Borough over the last few weeks, whilst some events have necessarily had to be curtailed a great and varied number have continued and been thoroughly enjoyed by residents and visitors.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Continuance of portfolio duties.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to the usual Cabinet and Portfolio meetings I also attended the following:

Liaison meeting with Hunstanton Town Council
Liaison meeting with Downham Market Town Council
Heacham Beaches monthly meeting
Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board
Norfolk Leaders and MPs meeting
Norfolk Covid-19 engagement board
Norfolk Leaders Meeting -Gt Yarmouth
Meeting with New Anglia LEP
Meeting with the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Meeting with NCC, MP and QEH Senior Leadership
Member Major Projects Board
Meeting with the BID
Meetings with Leadership of other Council 'groups'
Visit 'Wild Ken Hill'
Visit Princess Theatre Hunstanton
NORA4 site visit
Site visit Kings Lynn Pontoons
Freebridge Housing liaison meeting
Meeting with Alive West Norfolk
Kings Lynn GEAR run