

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 January 2016

COUNCILLOR N J DAUBNEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For the period 26 November 2015 to 19 January 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Budget 2015/2016

The current year budget forms part of the Financial Plan 2015/2020 which will be considered by Cabinet and Council in February 2016. The current year budget still remains on track with £140,000 of additional savings reported in the period to the end of November 2015, mainly due to increased planning fee income. Our continued strong financial control means that I expect that we will end the year in March 2016 with a level of general fund balance available which will support the Financial Plan and cushion the impact of the challenges faced in our funding position in the period to 2019/2020.

The Financial Plan 2015/2020

The papers have been published which update both the revenue and capital estimates for the next 4 years through to 2019/2020. Our financial settlement announced by the Government on 18 December 2015 has seen some significant reductions in funding in both revenue support grant and new homes bonus. It is fair to say that the funding assumptions for the Financial Plan 2015/2020, in particular with respect to business rates growth, include significantly more downside risk than at any time in recent years. As always we will continue to deliver quality services to the residents, businesses and visitors to the borough within our available resources. The updated capital programme 2015/2020 continues to include a number of major projects. I look forward to the debate at the next Council when the formalities of setting council tax will be on the agenda

Mayor's Business Awards

Another strong group of entries this year. Judging is complete, having visited a very strong group of finalists. The awards presentation will be on 4th March.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Attended

Royal Mail Sorting Office
Norfolk Leaders Meeting(s)
NWES Board Meeting
COWA Corporation
Council Leaders – National re Self Build Housing
Town Centre Partnership Leaders
Cabinet Sifting/cabinet
Young Hero's Awards Breakfast
Downham Market Chamber
Alive Management
Mayors Business Awards
Norfolk/Suffolk Leaders

Planned in Next two weeks

Panel Meetings re Financial Plan
Downham Chamber
KL Football Club
Town Centre Partnership
E U Funding Partners
New Anglia Enterprise Advisers
Cabinet
COWAS