

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

14 July 2022

COUNCILLOR STUART DARK – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, CHAIR OF CABINET

For the period 1st September -5th October 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Death of Her Majesty the Queen

I believe it is appropriate to commence my report for this period with the death of Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. After this sad, historic event, many officers from across this council worked tirelessly with partners to ensure protocols were meticulously observed, residents were supported in paying their respects, associated civic events were delivered and core services were maintained throughout the period of national mourning. I pay tribute and give thanks here for that work and hope others concur, their efforts helped enable West Norfolk to give our country's longest reigning monarch, an icon of our age and someone who talked publicly of her great affection for our area and people here, the respectful and loving departure she so richly deserved and one that we can look back with some pride upon.

Cost of living challenge

I and cabinet have been working with senior council officers to co-ordinate delivery of recently announced national and NCC support initiatives and funding support and to bring forward complimentary, additional schemes run by this council. These will be coming forward and publicised over the coming weeks.

Ukrainian Refugees

This council continues to support those fleeing the war in Ukraine, alongside our partners, through our centre at Kings Court and through our outreach services. I will provide up to the minute numbers by way of verbal update at Full Council.

Towns Board and Levelling Up Projects

I was pleased to chair a Cabinet meeting during this period at which plans for the Kings Lynn Riverfront redevelopment, Multi-User Community Hub, Active and Clean Connectivity and the replacement Oasis in Hunstanton projects were further progressed, having been through respective committees and s.34 Councillor comments. These projects represent significant developmental opportunity and significant external investment into our area and I look forward to their further progress.

New QEH bid

During this period I have formally written to Therese Coffey MP, the incoming Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, in furtherance of my earlier meetings with and letters to ministers, highlighting the serious situation at the QEH, the need for a new hospital and for a prompt, positive outcome to the hospital's bid. I and officers remain in contact with the QEH's Leadership to support them wherever we can.

Apprentices

We are continuing our commitment to the provision of apprenticeships to local young people and have recently appointed 3 new apprentices to work and learn in different Council departments.

Recruitment

Of particular note is work to recruit a new Executive Director (Place) is ongoing with an advertisement out. During the interim period the Council has engaged an experienced Technical Advisor to assist with key aspects of project development.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

On the evening of Friday the 14th October, the Borough is hosting a Civic 'thank you' reception, led by the Mayor, for the Emergency workers, council staff and members of the public who worked so hard to tackle the serious wildfires of the Summer, protect their spread and support residents in their aftermath.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to attending numerous usual development and review meetings with officers and cabinet colleagues, meetings with opposition group leaders and members, I have during this period also attended (in no particular order);

The Mayors Design Awards

The marking of the 'National Police Memorial Day' with the Mayor and our local police officers

The LEP Board

Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board

Norfolk Coastal Partnership Forum

Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board

Meeting with the KL Town Guides

Meeting with partners re Heacham beach water quality