

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**23 November 2023**

### **COUNCILLOR BAL ANOTA CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

For the period 19 October to 23 November 2023

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

##### **Management and maintenance of council owned property assets: including industrial estates, Kings Court, Town Hall and the Depot, Public conveniences, Crematorium and Cemeteries.**

Works are due to commence this month on the replacement handrails to the main staircase at King's Court. The Property Team is working well with the internal departments, and alternative access, and egress, arrangements have been put in place. This job may seem simple; however, it is not. The staircase is one of the main fire evacuation routes and the health and safety of the building occupants, our staff and visitors, is paramount, so the team has been working with the Corporate Health & Safety Team to ensure that all appropriate measures are put in place. The works will take approximately two weeks. Alternative routes in and out of the building will be well sign posted, however if councillors are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the Property Team and they will help you.

##### **Management of other council assets including (but not limited to) car parking 24 and CCTV Matters,**

###### **Commercial Property Portfolio:**

We are bringing in some temporary professional resource to help the Property Team catch up with some of the outstanding rent reviews, and lease renewals. This should help improve the overall rent roll.

The commercial property portfolio continues to perform reasonably well; however, we are expecting a number of units to be vacated within the next six months, or so. We are not sure if this is a reflection on the wider economic uncertainty, or if this is specific to the businesses themselves. The team will be keeping an eye on this situation and if, and when, units become available new tenants will be sought.

###### **Health and Safety – property and buildings**

Councillors may have heard on Radio Norfolk, or from reading the local Press, that works to remove the Tosca Barge from the Boal Quay area have gone well. The contractor has speedily removed the steel hulled boat and removed it from site. Although some people in the town were sad to see it go, this was a significant health and safety risk and, as stated previously, the reports of children accessing this structure were of great concern. This was a job that had to be done.

## Policy related to land and property acquisition and disposal and implementations of acquisition and disposal of land and property

I am pleased to inform councillors that we have legally completed on the sale of land at the Nar Ouse Regeneration (Enterprise Zone) for the proposed new Health Facility. NHS Property is now on-site and looking to construct the facility to an extraordinary short timescale – April 2024. We are all hoping to see this facility opening soon.

The Property Team has been working on the necessary information and designs on two small sites potentially capable of residential development. The team will be submitting planning applications on these sites in the near future. Prior to the submissions I have asked the team to consult with the relevant council Ward Member(s) and the local Parish Council so that they are aware that an application will be submitted in their area, and I have asked the team to consult with the King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee (KLACC) as one of the applications is within King's Lynn.

The Projects team within Property & Projects is pushing on with the delivery of the road and utility infrastructure at the Nar Ouse Regeneration Area. This is a challenging project particularly with the infrastructure needing to be completed to service the new Health Facility.

### Car parks and open space

		April	May	June	July	August	September	October		
Burnham Market	2022	2631	2727	3632	4148	5502	3103	2611	▶	24354
	2023	2631	2443	2571	3403	4992	2940	1974	▶	20954
										-3400
Heacham	2022	3669	3150	4596	6129	7139	3434	2497	▶	30614
	2023	3404	3647	4239	3836	5736	4200	2106	▶	27168
										-3446
Hunstanton	2022	35535	31677	37938	50833	72416	26884	19388	▶	274671
	2023	35147	34330	38475	37567	62436	36041	18496	▶	262492
										-12179
Kings Lynn	2022	107252	112278	110694	114095	116849	109663	116127	▶	786958
	2023	114187	156736	111451	122645	119448	111029	116483	▶	851979
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The exceptionally poor weather in October, as you would expect, a reduction year-on-year on the resort attendances, whilst again King's Lynn continues to hold its own with a similar number of visits from last year. It is clear to see from these figures what an influential affect the weather has in the resort areas.

As many members will know our Parking Operations team do more than just look after the car parking in west Norfolk, they process the Penalty Charge Notice challenges for tickets issued across Norfolk for both the County Council and other district councils. From 1<sup>st</sup> November the team have taken on the back-office arrangements for the Norwich City Council area as well. This has been a significant piece of work, which I know has presented a number of challenges and pressures to ensure it was delivered on-time and with the minimum of disruption to the end user. These additional functions bring additional financial contributions to our overheads

which at a time when finances are stretched is a very welcome addition, I thank them for their efforts and the positive contributions they make.

Along similar lines, it would be remis not to mention how hard the park teams have worked preparing for the Fawkes in the Walks, the recent persistent and torrential rain has created a number of challenges, in not the best conditions, but regardless these teams are out there preparing and doing all they can to help stage events such as this for the people of west Norfolk.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

- Portfolio meetings – tbc
- Mintlyn – meeting

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

### October

20<sup>th</sup> – Ward issues – Gayton – Traffic

23<sup>rd</sup> – Portfolio meeting – MC

23<sup>rd</sup> – Portfolio meeting – MH

25<sup>th</sup> – Oliver Judges – MH

25<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet briefing

26<sup>th</sup> – Ward – MD

26<sup>th</sup> – Portfolio Meeting – MH

27<sup>th</sup> – Wave4 KL Group

27<sup>th</sup> – Ward issues – VAS sign PC

30<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet Sifting

31<sup>st</sup> – Briefing Rail station (Teams)

31<sup>st</sup> – Cabinet

### November

1<sup>st</sup> – Planning Committee training (Teams)

6<sup>th</sup> – Planning Committee

6<sup>th</sup> – Equality Training

7<sup>th</sup> - LGA Cabinet session

7<sup>th</sup> – Portfolio meeting – MC

7<sup>th</sup> - Portfolio meeting – MH

8<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet budget development

8<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet briefing

9<sup>th</sup> – Cabinet briefing – BC/NCC