

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 March 2016

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

For the period 24 February to 16 March 2016

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Health and Safety

The health and safety team are continuing an initiative focusing on gas safety in catering kitchens and are planning to increase awareness on the duty to manage asbestos through mailshots and visits to premises.

Food Hygiene

The food safety team have developed a free training programme for food businesses designed to assist them in improving the food safety hygiene rating. The training will be initially aimed at those with ratings on 0-2 but will be hopefully rolled out to all food businesses.

Work is being done on developing a training package in partnership with Norfolk Trading Standards for food businesses to advise of their responsibilities for allergens and labelling requirements.

Housing Options

A new web-based system for the housing register and the Council's choice based lettings scheme for social housing is being launched. From the 16th March applicants can complete an on-line application saving time and helping reduce the costs involved in administering the system. For those with no way of accessing the internet assistance will be offered at the Council's local offices.

The [Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015](#) places a duty on local councils to keep and have regard to a register of people who are interested in self build or custom build projects in their area. This register will help inform the council of the level of demand for self-build and custom build plots in the borough. It will also enable the council to develop a strategy for meeting the demand identified and matching people to plots in the area. We are now working with our ICT team to develop a register that will be shared with several other authorities in Norfolk. This is still on course to be in place by 1st April.

Meetings attended

Cabinet – 1 March 2016