

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

30 June 2016

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BEALES - CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

For the period May to June 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

King's Lynn Innovation Centre was officially launched on 14th June 2016 and attracted a good crowd of business people, new tenants and media as invited by NWES. I was delighted and privileged to give the opening speech and was able to pay tribute to the pivotal efforts of New Anglia LEP, the Council itself and of course NWES in making the whole project a reality. I was also able to highlight the huge input of Cllr. Nick Daubney who first came up with the idea of a Kings Lynn Enterprise Centre in 2003 and who has done more than anyone in getting the job done.

It was also particularly pleasing to hear the comments of NWES Chief Executive, Kevin Horne and Mark Pendlington the Chairman of New Anglia LEP who praised the can do attitude of the Borough Council and the tenacity of elected members and officers in delivering policy objectives.

A brief reminder of the KLIC project:

Public-private partnership: Borough Council, NWES, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership. Total £5.2m investment, Borough Council invested £1.2m and levered in £4m of private and other public funding from NWES, New Anglia LEP and Norfolk Business Rates Pool.

50 new businesses and 150 new jobs to be created over the next 3-4 years. Will provide business support not only to centre tenants, but also to West Norfolk businesses. The centre offers access to training, finance and advice and provides easy-in easy-out tenancies

Five businesses have already agreed to take up offices in the centre. One of them is Anglia IT Solutions.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Enterprise Zone – members will recall that NORA land around the KLIC has been designated as an Enterprise Zone and the following work has been conducted with a view to future progress:

- Site Development Plan prepared by council officers (regeneration, property, corporate projects) and submitted to New Anglia LEP
- Options to re-route the main gas pipe, which crosses the site in the middle, have been submitted to the National Grid
- Soft market testing for the provision of superfast internet undertaken.

One Public Estate - we have been working in collaboration with colleagues from other local authorities and other public sector organisations in Norfolk and have managed to secure £50,000 of funding from central government's One Public Estate initiative that will help to fund feasibility work around assets held by the various public bodies, with the main aims being to : create economic growth (new homes and jobs); more integrated, customer-focused services; generating capital receipts; and reducing running costs. The timescale (as always seems to be the case in these circumstances) is very tight and I will be updating colleagues as and when I am able.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

4th May – portfolio meeting
17th May – Leader/Chief Exec
24th May – Cabinet
26th May - Leader/Chief Exec
26th May – meeting with portfolio Deputy
9th June – THI board meeting
13th June – meeting with Chris Bamfield
20th June – devolution update
21st June – Cabinet away day.