

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 February 2017

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

For the period 19 January to 13 February 2017

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Emergency Planning.

The ongoing fire at North Runcton has caused a large involvement for Borough Emergency Planning Officers together with other agencies not least Norfolk Fire and Rescue, Environment Agency and the Borough's environmental health / CSNN teams. The situation has required daily monitoring and advice has been issued to homeowners in the area. The decision was to allow the fire to burn itself out so as to mitigate problems with massive amounts of water that would have been needed to fight it coupled with the impact this would have on nearby water course. I must thank all involved in this ongoing incident.

2016/17 Budget Monitoring

We continue to monitor savings and efficiencies for 16/17 budget year and are on track to deliver this year's savings. These figures will of course lead into our Budget for 17/18 as presented within this agenda.

Environment Portfolio Matters

I continue to hold a number of positions as a result of my years as Environment Portfolio Holder one such example is as acting Chairman of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Project. The project has been in a hiatus of late pending the arrival of a new project manager which we have now in Sam Lew. I took on the role as acting chairman as previous chair was co-opted to the Marine Management Organisation as this position is now permanent the chair will now be occupied by Mr Julian Gregory of Eastern IFCA.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Economic Strategy – New Anglia LEP

The LEP is starting to formulate its plans for its Strategic Economic Plans through to 2026 (and beyond) As a start to this process I attended the initial

workshop on the direction the LEP should take to promote economic growth. It was of interest that the major infrastructure improvements required going forward was the A14, A47 and Ely North Rail Junction. It was noted by representatives from Suffolk and Norfolk as to the importance of these “big ticket” projects to unlock capacity for future investment. A number of businesses were represented at the meeting and they agreed the need for these measures being foremost within the plan. The programme for this work goes forward onto October 2017 and I will advise on progress as it develops.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to the usual round of Cabinet and Portfolio Meetings I have also attended the following.

- Wash European Site SAC Core Management Group
- Habitat Mitigation Management and Green Infrastructure Panel
- East Of Ouse Polver and Nar Drainage Board
- Annual Review of SNAP Panels
- West Norfolk Disability Forum
- KLFM West Norfolk Sports Awards
- Borough Council Staff Long Achievement Awards
- MPs Rail Summit – Downham Market
- Police and Crime Commissioner’s Briefing
- Planning Training – Community Infrastructure Levy
- AGM Well Creek Trust
- Meeting with Yorkshire Building Society – Ref Branch Closures and N&P.
- Norfolk County Flood Summit
- New Anglia LEP Economic Strategy Workshop