

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

27th July 2017

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES.

For the period June 2017 to 14th July 2017

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Local Government Annual Conference

This year's annual conference for the Local Government Association was at the ICC Birmingham. It commenced with LGA AGM following political group/ chief executive meetings. The main plenary address on day one being from the Secretary of State for Local Government Sajid Javid MP. In addition to the main plenary sessions I also attended the East Of England LGA AGM and District Councils Network AGM. I also had discussion with a number of neighbouring councils on closer working going forward.

Launched at the conference were documents entitled "Enterprising Councils – Supporting Councils' income generation activity" and "Growing Places – Building Local Public Services for the Future". I have paper copies of both and will be reading them shortly. I am sure they should be available on the LGA Website.

Council Financial Position

Councillors will recall that, In taking up the offer from Government of a four year funding settlement 2016-2020 the Council was required to publish an efficiency plan. The Council's efficiency plan was approved at Council on 29 September 2016. Target savings are included in the Financial Plan 2016-2021. The target for new savings for 2017/2018 is £304,263 and as actual savings are achieved these will be reported in the monthly budget monitoring reports and via my reports to Council.

The statutory deadline for the Council to complete and publish the audited accounts for 2016/2017 is 30 September 2017. From next year the statutory deadline will be two months earlier. In preparation for this earlier statutory deadline the Council has aimed to meet a deadline of 31 July 2017 for its 2016/2017 accounts. The work of the external auditor is almost complete and at the time of writing my report it is expected that the accounts will be signed off by Audit Committee and the Council's external auditor on 31 July 2017. The draft accounts are available on the Council's website.

Following the General Election the future funding of local government is more

uncertain than ever. It is unclear whether the Fair Funding Review will be implemented or 100% Retention of Business Rates arrangements will go ahead. There is therefore inherent uncertainty as the Council looks to refresh its medium term financial plans over the coming months.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

All Party Parliamentary Group for District Councils

I attended the launch event for the APPG for District Councils' District Council Collaboration and Devolution in England. This is a document focused on best practice within District Councils on how to maximise working jointly with other councils and organisations to improve service delivery and create financial resilience. The report was commissioned jointly between the District Councils Network and De Montfort University Leicester. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government) Marcus Jones MP welcomed the report and said that the contents would be considered by his department and colleagues. His initial thoughts were positive however time was needed to assess fully all points raised. I have an initial printed copy of the document however it should soon be available via the District Council Network website.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to my usual Cabinet and Portfolio Meetings I have also attended the following:

Unveiling of the Statue of Henry Le Strange – Hunstanton
British Armed Forces Day flag raising – Kings Lynn
Planning Committee Training
Alive Management – Directors Board Meeting
Meeting with Representatives of Downham Market Town Council
Meeting with Hunstanton Borough Councillors
Norfolk Leaders Meeting
Middle Level Commissioners – Annual Inspection of Works.
Regeneration and Development Panel
Meeting With KLFC, with Cllr Westrop
Water Management Alliance – Core Management
Local Government Association – Annual Conference – Birmingham
Trues Yard Funday – Judging Panel
All Party Parliamentary Group for District Councils – Reception and Launch

To be attended at the time of writing
Highways Update from NCC
Freebridge Board – Away Day
Meeting with trustees of Baden Powell restoration project
Borough Council / Freebridge Liaison Meeting
Meeting with Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP.

