

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

25 January 2018

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

For the period 16 November 2017 to 16 January 2018

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Budget 2018/19

As mentioned below I have had a number of meetings with Drainage Board / Commissioners that precept a levy on this Council. Traditionally each year the money we paid over to Drainage Boards was reimbursed to us via Revenue Support Grant from Central Government. As RSG is decreasing to levels below the money we paid out the burden for IDB funding falls directly onto our Council Tax payers. Having an early discussion with each group of boards gives us opportunity to see how their plans are shaping up and allows us to better plan what increases we will have to find.

Business Rates Retention Pilot

Unfortunately the Norfolk bid for Business rates retention pilot was not successful. We will now have to watch Suffolk and other Pilot areas to see how they evolve going forward. This is a disappointment as the scheme was likely to produce around £800,000 for West Norfolk that we would have utilised in revenue generation schemes, to help budgetary pressures going forward.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Love West Norfolk

The official launch of the Love West Norfolk Campaign has seen real interest with many retweets and likes on social media. The campaign is set to really wave the flag for West Norfolk and promote all that is good about our area. Not just for Tourists, but to encourage inward investment and attract the best employees to our local businesses.

Business Rates Transitional Relief

As outlined within the agenda we have not utilised all the funding allocated to us from Government for transitional relief for business rate payers. The paper outlines the further distribution to allow more relief from those that were affected by latest re-evaluation.

Operation METIS 2018

I played a very small part in the recent desk top exercise for our senior management team / Directors. This was a training scenario for dealing with emergency situations that would put severe strain on the council's operations. Preparation for such occurrences with these exercises helps with being prepared should similar situations/ scenarios happen.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

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

Hunstanton Town Council Liaison Meeting
Downham Market Town Council Liaison Meeting
Water Management Alliance
Traffic Problems Kings Lynn with NCC
Environment and Community Panel
Freebridge Housing – Various Meetings
Regeneration and Development Panel
Boundary Review Task Group
Corporate Performance Panel
Young Hero Awards
Discussions with NNDC (second home council tax)
Meetings With Water management Alliance / Middle Level Commissioners
And Ely Group IDBs regards to Precept / Levy for 2018 Year
Launch of the Love West Norfolk Campaign
Operation METIS 2018

To be attended at the time of writing
Local Hero Awards