

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

12 April 2018

COUNCILLOR IAN DEVEREUX- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period 12 February to 23 March

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

The Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership Board discussed the forthcoming “Wild Seas Week” to be celebrated around the Wash from 3-12 August. It will include the theme of ‘**Litter Free Coast and Sea**’ as well as ‘**Marine Culture**’, ‘**Sustainable Coastal Food**’ and related matters. We are examining how we can most effectively contribute to the programme. The Chair, the CEO of The Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority, also reported that their latest research into the recent incidence of Shellfish Poisoning Syndrome indicated that although some contamination of Dabs had been detected earlier, there was no subsequent evidence of such contamination in commercial fishery species.

We are near to completing a project to assist concerned beach users who wish to report **incidents of dead seals** being washed up on the shoreline. Disposal, or, otherwise is the responsibility of the owners of the inter-tidal areas and we have now mapped this ownership around the borough’s coastline together with contact details. This will be published on our website in the near future and provide a valuable resource for those requiring the information.

The ‘Beast from the East’ caused major disruption to the Waste Collection schedule across the Borough. We lost over 2 full day’s work due to the severity of the snow, ice and low temperature conditions, with some rural areas impacted more severely because of access issues. Our Teams performed well beyond the call of duty and provided support to many, without incident, whilst the conditions were still deteriorating. Collections resumed in King’s Lynn on the Friday, and the 2 day, delayed schedule used for Christmas and Easter was implemented from the following Monday. This was communicated to Borough Councillors and Parish Clerks and put onto the website as soon as it was agreed.

Participation in the LGA Coastal SIG enabled me to outline the special nature and magnitude of the **cost of Internal Drainage Boards on the Borough**

Council Tax Bill in seeking support from LGA colleagues. It is clear that IDBs are a very special and essential feature of very few Councils across the Nation and we have made specific representations for relief for the cost of this function as part of the Government Fair funding Review.

Whilst attendance at the WECMS Stakeholder Review was much reduced by snow storms, local Councillors, our Officers and Consultants, participated in a very constructive discussion on the draft stage of the **Hunstanton Coastline Management Plan**. Over twenty Members of the Public attended the subsequent Public consultation drop-in session.

I participated in the launch of a 'Community Fridge' with Downham Town Council, Local Businesses and The Heritage Society at the Downham Heritage Centre as part of the "**Sainsbury's Discover Communities**" initiative in conjunction with the Norfolk Waste Partnership as part of a County wide programme. This will help to reduce food waste and provide benefits to the residents of Downham Market.

The sales of the Brown Bin garden waste service have now exceeded the target of 26,200 with **26,895 sold as of 20th March**. This is a reflection of the excellence of this environmentally responsible service, delivered well and bringing benefits to the whole community.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

As a result of the question raised in Council, I requested Officers to review the use of 'single use plastics' at Alive Leisure. The current stock of plastic straws is now being run down and replaced by paper straws, with a review of other procurements underway across the Council.

We will be responding to the HM Treasury consultation paper entitled "**Tackling the plastic problem: Using the tax system or charges to address single-use plastics**" which closes mid-May.

On the question of Street Lighting, a full programme of visual and functional surveys is underway with the potential for structural survey if needed. Repair and Replacement will be addressed through our implementation of the Government sponsored REFIT campaign.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

NCC Leaders Meeting
Corporate Performance Panel
Regeneration & Development Panel

Council

Habitat Regulation Assessment, Monitoring Management & Green Infrastructure Panel

Cabinet and associated Briefing and Sifting meetings

Wash East Coast Management Strategy Stakeholder Forum

Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan: Public Consultation

Local Government Association: Coastal Special Interest Group

Wash & North Norfolk Marine Management Partnership: Full Management Board

Various Portfolio Meetings

Cabinet Meeting with FreeBridge

Launch of the NWP Community "Fridge" Project at Downham Market Heritage Centre