

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

18 October 2018

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

For the period 6 September to 8 October 2018.

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

August Monitoring Report

As at 31/8/18 the monthly budget monitoring report noted a favourable variance of £30,350. As per previous months this amount has been included into balances that are accruing to fund revenue cost pressures budgeted for 2020/21.

I am pleased to announce turnover savings of £106,290 have been achieved so far against a target of £125,866 for the whole year.

I will continue to advise council as the year progresses of any further changes.

Energy Efficiency

The Salix energy efficiency project has now ended. Following the end of this agreement the budgeted contributions to the energy efficiency reserve are now no longer required and as such a saving of £21,100 was included within this month's monitoring report. We will of course continue with the schemes started utilising the Salix funding and going forward will utilise the REFIT project for energy saving measures. This has advantages of allowing a longer payback period than the Salix scheme.

Staff Wellbeing

This year as previous years' staff and members have had the opportunity to have a "flu jab" either at the office or by obtaining a voucher to use at Boots Chemist. This year take up was good with 121 having the injection in the office and 61 vouchers being issued.

It is noteworthy that variety of Jab this year meant that staff and members over 65 had to have a different vaccine, which was not available via the scheme, however over 65s do qualify for a flu jab from their doctors.

Emergency Planning

This month I took a day out of the office to be involved with “Operation Springboard” a multi-agency training exercise for Emergency Planning. The exercise concentrated on the recovery phase after a tidal surge and extreme weather event effecting the whole East Coast. The benefits of such a process do allow each agency to think and plan should anything of this nature occur. Preparation and readiness for such events are an important in how deal with the real emergencies as they unfold.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Housing Borrowing Cap

It was announced at the Conservative Party Conference that the borrowing cap for Local Councils to invest in Social Housing stock is to be lifted. This will enable new build Council Housing Stock to be built. I will of course advise as further detail becomes available.

Negative Revenue Support Grant

For several District Councils the revenue support grant received from Central Government was not just going to be reduced to zero over the next few years but was due to become a payment back to Central Government. Following ongoing negotiations and support from the District Councils Network, Government has indicated that “Negative RSG” is now not going to happen. Again I will advise as further detail comes available.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

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

- Mini Meet In The Market Place
- Classic Car Day
- Hunstanton Soap Box Derby
- Discovery Centre Open Day for Freebridge Community Housing
- Environment and Community Panel
- Regeneration and Development Panel
- Protected Landscape and Planning Conference
- Meetings with Sir Henry Bellingham MP
- Norfolk Leaders Meeting
- Kings Lynn area consultative Committee
- Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board
- Norfolk Enterprise Festival

Various Meetings - Freebridge Community Housing
Water Management Alliance
Norfolk Emergency Planning Exercise
Mayors Design Awards
Meeting with Hunstanton Mayor
Meeting with Downham Market Mayor
Yes I can Event