

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 January 2019

COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

For the period 29 November 2018 to 14 January 2019

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Finance

The Local Government Revenue Support Grant settlement from central Government was announced just before Christmas and was broadly in line with expectations, being the last year of an agreed 4 year settlement. Of note was an increase in Rural Services Delivery Grant of some £95,000. It is of course good to note that pressure both from us, our partner Councils and bodies such as the District Council Network is slowly having some effect on Government thinking on delivery of services in rural areas and the extra costs involved over urban areas / Cities.

Norfolk has been selected as a pilot area for Business Rates Retention, with a bid similar to last year. We will have to be minded that recent increases in Business Rates for renewables could be reset as part of this process, however I am broadly pleased as this will further allow us to be in some control of our own local spending as a council.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Council Tax Collection

As a Council we have a good collection rate for our council tax however following many years of non-payment of Council Tax by one individual we have secured payment by taking legal action. The total sum recovered from this action amounted to £83756.00 of which £36850 was Council tax arrears with the balance being legal fees and Court Costs. I must give credit to the persistence of our officers and our legal team in their pursuance of this case. The money recovered from this case was paid following multiple charging orders that culminated in a forced sale of the property involved.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

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

Planning Committee (as a substitute)

Reception for the launch of Reveal Kings Lynn

Attended Gayton Primary School – Talk on Recycling and Waste

Various Meetings with Freebridge Community Housing

Meeting with Shakespeare's Guildhall Trust

East of England LGA – Assembly of Council Leader

Alive Management Board Meeting

West Norfolk Housing Company – Board

Disability Forum – With the Disability Champion Cllr Fraser.

Water management Alliance

KLFM Young Hero's Awards

Norfolk Coast Partnership and Trust.

To be attended at the time of writing

Meetings with each group of Drainage Boards regarding future plans for levy.

Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board

East of Ouse Polver and Nar Drainage Board

Local Hero Awards.