

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

4 July 2019

COUNCILLOR IAN DEVEREUX- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period 17 May to 21 June 2019

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

The Environment Agency launched a consultation on its Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England with a response date of 4th July. With the “**Vision: a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change—today, tomorrow and to the year 2100**”, this 64 page document will have a profound influence on pluvial, fluvial and coastal flood protection across the length and breadth of our Borough for many decades to come. As the local “Risk Management Authority”, I am working with Borough Officers, colleagues in the Lead Local Flooding Authority (NCC) and the LGA to ensure that we are fully engaged in ensuring that our views, needs and requirements are understood and taken into account as the strategy is defined and refined.

The major procurement of a “common” Domestic Waste Collection contract, jointly by BCKLWN, North Norfolk and Brecklands District Councils is reaching its final stages. A negotiated outcome is expected by September with initial implementation by NNDC in Spring 2020 and the other two Councils a year later in 2021. Cabinet has agreed to seek procurement of two associated Waste Disposal procurements by BCKLWN for separately collected food waste and its treatment by anaerobic digestion and for separately collected garden waste and grounds maintenance waste treatment by composting. We aim to achieve a low cost, environmentally effective outcome.

As a consequence of enquiries into the cause of the short notice closure of the NHS Dental Surgery in Snettisham, and similar closures elsewhere in the County, I worked with Borough and County colleagues to research these matters to assist our MP, Sir Henry Bellingham. At his invitation, I represented our Borough with Sir Henry at a meeting in London with the Public Health Minister, Seema Kennedy MP and several Policy Staff on 21st May. Our concerns about NHS Dental Surgery closures, the lack of a pipeline of qualified Dentists entering the NHS, the onerous and uneconomic nature of NHS Contracts for Dental Treatment were heard positively and we now await a formal response on the measures being undertaken to address the concerns.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

As a result of discussions hosted by the Leader with representatives of Climate Concern, I have initiated a project to generate a new Environmental Impact Assessment for the Council, including our Carbon Footprint. This will provide a Baseline that will help us plan any future course of action addressing our contribution to resolving such concerns. The work will be based on the **“Energy and the Environment – Monitoring Report”** published by this Council in 2014.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Armed Forces Covenant – Reserves Training Evening – 15 May
Annual Council – 16 May
Food & Farming in the Fens/Future Fens Flood Protection (EA) - 17 May
Meeting with Sir Henry Bellingham MP and The Public Health Minister-Seema Kennedy MP - 21 May
Portfolio Meeting with the Waste Management Team – 28 May & 17 June
Alive Leisure Trust Board Meeting – 30 May
Meeting with Leader and a Visitor on Climate Change – 31 May
Chaired HRA Habitat, Monitoring & Mitigation Panel - 4 June
East of Ouse, Nar & Polver IDB Meeting – 4 June
Meeting with Leader and Climate Change Representatives – 10 June
Corporate Performance Panel – 10 June
Future Flood Risk Management for the Fens- Technical Group (EA) – 11 June
Environment & Community Panel – 12 June
Officer Meetings on FCERM Strategy Consultation – 13 & 19 June
Norfolk Coastal Partnership Core Management Group – 17 Jun
Cabinet and associated Meetings 18 & 19 June
Flood & Coastal Conference (EA) 20 June
Induction, IT & Planning Training sessions

Scheduled Meetings

Armed Forces Day Commemoration – 24 June
Portfolio Meeting with Food Hygiene Team – 26 June
FCERM Strategy Consultation with A(C)RFCC Chair (EA) – 1 July
Council – 4 July