

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

5 September 2019

### **COUNCILLOR IAN DEVEREUX- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

For the period 5 July to 26 August 2019

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

Following my invitation and efforts over the last year, a meeting of the Environment Agency led “**Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Erosion Committee**” comprising some 10 County Council & Unitary Authorities and senior Regional EA Members, was held in King’s Lynn on 18 July. The Committee addresses planning, financial and management arrangements for pluvial, fluvial and coastal flooding risks in the Great Ouse catchment area from west of Milton Keynes, through Bedford and the Fens to King’s Lynn and Hunstanton. On this occasion, Members were able to see and experience the practicalities of coastal flooding and erosion along our Wash shoreline. In conjunction with the local Environment Agency team, we arranged:-

- A tour of the King’s Lynn flood defences that were so effective against the December 2013 tidal surge;
- A visit to Heacham North Beach to provide an insight to the Snettisham Beach annual recycling process and the success of the funding arrangements provided by the East Wash Community Interest Company;
- A visit to Hunstanton to examine the state of the promenade sea defences and long-term integrity of the cliffs.

The last item is at the heart of the 75 year, multi-million pound **Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan** for repair & replacement of some of the current ageing infrastructure and to maintain flood risk management capability, including the implications of sea level rise. The plan has been prepared in response to the **Wash East Coast Management Strategy** for submission to the **A(GO)RFCC** later this financial year, seeking their technical and financial support.

Following receipt and initial assessment of formal tenders, we are now in the final stages of the procurement of a new joint Waste Collection Contract together with North Norfolk and Breckland District Councils. Completion is expected within a couple of months, ready for initial mobilisation of the North Norfolk District Council contract in spring 2020, followed by Breckland District Council and the Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk a year later.

In response to questions at last Council, Officers are endeavouring to convene a joint briefing to Members by Anglian Water and The Environment Agency on the criteria and arrangements for publicising the potential threat of beach pollution and associated actions.

Significant time and effort is being invested in our programme to address the consequences of climate change. Officers have been tasked, and initial resourcing agreed, for quantifying our Borough Council Baseline Carbon Footprint. Additionally, we are exploring opportunities for collaboration on the wider aspects through the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and the UEA.

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

We are supporting **The Norfolk Coast Partnership** who have organised a **Dark Skies Festival** running from 6-22 September. This will showcase environmental improvement through the reduction of light pollution to the benefit of community wellbeing, wildlife and astronomy. Further details of the exciting activities and events can be found at:- <http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/partnership/dark-skies-festival-6-22-september-2019/1215>

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Environment Agency: East Anglian Coastal Group Meeting – 5 July  
Media Training – 10 July  
Hunstanton & Heacham Beach: Portfolio Meeting with Officers –16 July  
Climate Change Meeting with Cllr de Whalley – 16 July  
Appointment Board Training – 16 July  
Environment and Community Panel – 16 July  
Environment Agency: Anglian(Great Ouse)Regional Flood & Coastal Erosion Committee – 18 July  
Cabinet Sifting – 22 July  
Appointment Board – 25 July  
Audit Committee – 29 July  
Regeneration and Development Panel – 30 July  
Scrutiny Training – 31 July  
Cabinet – 6 August  
Local Plan Task Group (Climate Change & Environmental Focus) – 14 August  
Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board – 15 August  
Portfolio Meeting with Officers – 15 August

### Scheduled Meetings:

Climate Change Adaptation Meeting with Officers – 2 September  
Environment and Community Panel – 3 September  
Governance Task Group – 4 September  
Single Use Plastics Informal Working Group – 5 September  
Alive Leisure Trust: Business Continuity Group - 5 September