

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

5th September 2019

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM MIDDLETON - CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

For the period 4th July to 28th August

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Future High Street Fund

As Members will be aware our Future High Street Fund (FHSF) Expression of Interest application for King's Lynn Town Centre has been selected to go forward into the next phase of assessment which will involve the development of a full business case for capital investment by the FHSF in the borough's final proposal. To assist us in the development of our business case, the borough will be awarded a resource funding revenue grant of up to £150,000 (actual amount yet to be confirmed). King's Lynn's Expression of Interest was only one of two successful council submissions in Norfolk (Great Yarmouth being the other) and one of fifty nationally. Officers are currently putting together the projects and project team for the development of a full business case that will be needed over the next six months ready for our submission at the end of the year. During the development period we will be involving all our local partners, stakeholders and consultees. This FHSF Phase 2 Business Plan Development will have strong links to our recently submitted Expression of Interest £2m High Street HAZ bid to Historic England

Strategic Partnership

A report was taken to cabinet on the 6th August outlining a new partnership between us and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This agreement seeks to build on existing working to share information, data and evidence to develop an approach to the local growth fund. The commitment commits both parties to work together for mutual benefit on strategic issues such as investment in key road and rail infrastructure works.

Events

Our programmes of summer events, designed to provide an extensive programme to increase participation and footfall into the town centre, The Walks and Hunstanton Heritage Gardens, have once again received huge public support.

The success of the spring plant and craft fair has resulted in the introduction of our first autumn plant and craft fair this September.

This year's Hanse Festival featured a rumbustious march through town which attracted thousands of local people and the attention of ITV Anglia.

Festival Too and KL Festival both had varied and packed programmes this year - neither of which would be possible without the financial support and other resources from the council.

This year's Forties Lynn event was described by many of the stallholders, enactors and period vehicle owners as the busiest it's ever been. Visitors to our town's two museums exceeded 1,000, way beyond last year's figure of 800.

More bikers turned up for this year's Mods and Rockers event than ever before, drawing a huge crowd of spectators.

Folk in the Town and Hunstanton's first Outdoor Cinema event fell foul of inclement weather. Although our August outdoor cinema screening of Mamma Mia was attended by around 3,000 people.

Further events include the Mini Meet, Hunstanton Music Festival, TM Play, Classic Car Day and the Hunstanton Soap Box Derby.

The council has also supported many third party events this year including the Hanseatic Ski Race, King's Lynn Pride and the ever popular Heritage Open Day when many historic buildings open their doors for people to look around.

Groups looking to organise events should notify the Public Event Safety Advisory Group, to ensure that they aren't clashing with other events, details are on the council website. They can explore funding opportunities from the Norfolk Community Foundation (who manage the borough council's small grants schemes) and the National Lottery Community Fund. Groups can publicise their events through the Visit West Norfolk website run by the council. Where council funding is given, the council will also try to promote events through its social media channels.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

A report is currently being written by officers to endorse support to the draft Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy. This has been drawn together by the New Anglia LEP in consultation with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors. A full report and up to date copy of the draft strategy will be issued with papers for 24th September Cabinet.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

HAZ Briefing

Cabinet sifting

BID meeting

Portfolio session with exec Director (Chris Bamfield)

Cabinet

Portfolio session with various officers (throughout the month)

Allotment judging and presentation

Joint portfolio meeting Cllr Gidney

R and D committee

Hunstanton CCT Action Group