

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 November 2019

COUNCILLOR IAN DEVEREUX- CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

For the period 18 October to 15 November 2019

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

I participated in the Joint Anglian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee workshop on Climate Change at Norfolk County Council which provided several useful briefings. These included an excellent presentation by the Science Director of the British Antarctic Survey on the science underpinning the expected sea-level rise in our region over the next 80-100 years together with an explanation of the uncertainties. Another presentation by UEA and University of Essex provided the latest thinking on the utility of proactive ecological stewardship to improve the resilience of areas subject to frequent flooding. This evidence will provide a common baseline for the RFCCs to plan their work for our Eastern Region.

Similar factors were further examined at the Norfolk Coastal Futures seminar the following day at Wells-next-the-Sea with the UEA and Environment Agency. Two presentations by local naturalists provided some historical insight to the perceived causes of silting up of the Wash and the Great Ouse estuary: a significant factor in our future coastal erosion and flood protection planning. The Environment Agency spoke well of the effectiveness of our commercially successful Snettisham shingle bank protection scheme.

The Environment Agency have now confirmed that their investigation into the 'cliffing' damage caused to the shingle bank at Heacham by the October 3rd series of tidal surges was insufficient to warrant engineering remediation. No action is needed until the planned beach recycling process early next year. An information leaflet has been distributed to those in the area who might have been concerned.

We expect to complete the Joint Waste Collection procurement over the next few weeks. This will enable our North Norfolk District Council partner to mobilise their team for the start of the next financial year. The contracts for Breckland DC and ourselves will commence a year later.

Our Waste Manager, Barry Brandford, participated in a Radio Norfolk phone-in programme on 5th November on all matters related to waste collection, re-use and recycling. He answered questions for 45 minutes from listeners all over the County, with several from our Borough, reinforcing our intent to inform and educate us all on how we can manage our waste better!

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

In early December, Officers and I will participate in the Environment Agency Review of their "Shoreline Management Plan 4". This 10 year national programme sets the high level strategy for Coastal Erosion and Flooding Protection for the Wash coastline from Gibraltar Point to Old Hunstanton.

The Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan is expected to be published over the next couple of months.

Our Climate Change programme of work should also be published early 2020.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

18/10 Joint Anglian (East & Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committees Climate Change Workshop at NCC Offices

19/10 Norfolk Coastal Futures Seminar & Workshop, Wells-next-the-Sea

21/10 Portfolio Meeting, Natural England Coastal Path Briefing

22/10 Governance Task Group Meeting

23/10 Review of Statutory Response to NCC Silica Sand Search

28/10 Cabinet Sifting

5/11 HRA Monitoring Mitigation and Green Infrastructure Panel Agenda review meeting

5/11 Governance Task Group – Councillor Consultation Seminar

Scheduled Meetings

19/11 Governance Task Group Meeting

20/11 Norfolk Coast Partnership – Partnership Forum Meeting

21/11 Wash & North Norfolk Marine Partnership Board, Social Media Training.

26/11 Corporate Performance Panel

27/11 Portfolio Meeting, Planning Committee Training.

28/11 Single Use Plastics Informal Working Group, Council