

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020**

### **COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

For the period 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

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

##### **Cabinet Positions**

Following our last Full Council meeting I have asked Cllr. Stuart Dark MBE to join my Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services & Public Protection, this will allow Stuart to continue work he had started with regards to the Council's response to Covid pandemic.

In addition to this, after our adoption of our policy position on Climate Change and Carbon reduction I have added responsibility for this to Cllr. Paul Kunes' portfolio. Details reflecting these changes are outlined within the amended scheme of delegation.

##### **Covid 19 Pandemic Response**

As outlined above the operational element for the pandemic has moved to the new Portfolio held by Cllr Dark. However I still attend the Norfolk Covid 19 Leaders engagement board along with District, County Councils and other partners including the NHS. At the time of writing new cases in West Norfolk as reported at this meeting to be in decline. I must however reiterate the messages for people to stay safe by Washing Hands, Covering Face where needed maintaining social distance. In addition I repeat my previous thanks to all Keyworkers including those at the Borough Council for their continued efforts at this time.

##### **Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board.**

As an appointee to the KLIDB, I felt it important to update the Council on progress on the new pumping station at St Germans. The scheme is the largest project of this type currently in production in the UK. It offers improved capacity and flood protection for approximately 3000 homes and is due to cost circa £26m. Partly funded by flood grant in aid it is the Environment Agency's largest single contributor to flood risk mitigation.

Despite Covid and adverse weather conditions it is still running close to agreed budgets and to time. There is still some local disruption on the nearby road into St Germans, but local engagement with the contractors and the

community is good.

<b>Recycling Rates</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Norfolk - countywide	43.2%	45.8%	46.7%	45.8%	43.5%	44.4%
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	41.9%	44.3%	45.7%	46.4%	42.1%	42.5%
Breckland Council	37.3%	39.9%	40.3%	40.1%	37.4%	38.8%
Broadland District Council	46.8%	50.6%	50.9%	50.0%	48.2%	49.6%
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	26.7%	31.2%	33.3%	31.9%	29.0%	30.0%
North Norfolk District Council	41.4%	41.8%	41.9%	41.6%	39.3%	40.8%
Norwich City Council	35.0%	38.3%	38.3%	37.7%	38.3%	39.4%
South Norfolk Council	40.4%	43.6%	44.9%	42.9%	41.3%	42.5%
<b>England</b>	44.8%	44.3%	44.9%	45.2%	44.7%	Not yet available

### Norfolk Waste Partnership

Prior to the change of portfolios as set out above I had covered the Environment Portfolio and one meeting that I had agreed to attend was the Norfolk Waste Partnership. It was good to receive a presentation on proposed changes being brought forward from Government on the future of waste and likely implications to District & Country Councils. Including the potential for mandatory collection of food waste and "free" collection of garden waste.

It is however worthy of note that West Norfolk has fared well with its recycling performance as set out in the table below against other Norfolk authorities. Highest percentages achieved in 2016-2018 were skewed by good years for garden waste collections. Given that the same service is provided across Norfolk (save for food waste) it should be possible to achieve the highest levels of recycling as per Broadland DC across all of Norfolk.

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

### Tax Base 2021.

The start of the budget setting process for next financial year has already commenced with the setting of the tax base. The number of Band D equivalent properties has raised from last year, however new housing completions have not been as many as anticipated in previous predictions due in part to Covid and its effects on building sector. In addition there is a reduction for each case taken out of the base for Council Tax benefit.

The figure will now be used in our budget calculations.

<b>3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled</b>
In addition to my usual round of portfolio and Cabinet meeting I have also attended the following: Kings Lynn Towns Fund Board Meeting Meeting with Labour Group Leader Norfolk Covid-19 Engagement Boards Meeting ref Tax Base setting for 2021 Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board Meetings Press Briefing with West Norfolk Media -Covid-19. Kings Lynn Internal Drainage Board Independent Group Leaders Meeting Meeting with Police ref SNAP meetings Meeting with North Norfolk DC ref. Norfolk Coast Partnership Norfolk Waste Partnership