

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

2 December 2021

COUNCILLOR STUART DARK - LEADER

For the period October 2021 – 2 December 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Just after the UK's hosting of COP26, I am pleased to report to Council this period's Cabinet decision to support the new 'Fly-tipping and Litter-picking' policy that brings significant enhancements to co-ordinated service delivery around education, clearing and enforcement of litter across West Norfolk, made possible through a capital investment spend of over £110K for vehicles and equipment and an annual budget line increase of c.£190K. This additional resource, focus and budget compliments the additional £250K p.a already put in earlier this year into 'Climate Change' mitigation and our clear action plan under a defined Cabinet portfolio holder (making in real terms a 'new' spend on the environment of £440K between just these two lines).

The new Local Member Grant Scheme has now gone 'live' allowing Councillors to each give £1K of direct financial support to 'grass roots' community groups and initiatives doing so much good work across the Borough.

The slightly amended 'Terms Of Reference' for the Members Major Project Board (MMPB) has been approved this period, giving much needed clarity re its role and remit. The day after this Full Council the MMPB will have its first meeting since this decision and I look forward to working with all members of the board (including the 3 opposition groups members) to work up the underpinning dashboard, KPI's and reporting processes for reviewing projects progress – the next step forward.

It was good to see that the Kings Lynn BID was supported by local businesses (alongside this Council's votes) to continue its important work for the coming years in this period and Cabinet, I and officers look forward to working with them anew on areas of joint interest.

By the time of this Council Meeting members will have had the latest briefing session arranged with the Leadership of the QEH re the Covid-19 situation and the bid for a new hospital's progress.

Finally, I'd like to conclude this final Leader's update of 2021, written so quickly after major, successful and popular events such as 'Fawkes in the

Walks', Remembrance services and our annual Kings Lynn Christmas Lights' switch on (by the inspiring Daisy Mason) occurring to thank fellow Councillors and the officers of this council for their hard work on behalf of residents throughout another challenging and unpredictable year. Although admittedly slightly early I hope you all have a peaceful and happy holiday season.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Public consultation scheduled to be launched at the beginning of December with regard to the new Multi-user Community Hub in Kings Lynn. This represents a significant potential investment in the Town from both the Towns Fund and NCC.

Next/new CIL round of applications scheduled to take place in January, supporting community projects.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to my regular Council, Cabinet and liaison meetings with other group leaders and Town Councils in this period, I attended:

Norfolk Leaders Board

Norfolk Covid-19 Engagement Board

Union representatives/Leader meeting

Meeting with Kings Lynn Civic Society

LEP Board meeting

HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee planning meeting

Armistice and Remembrance Sunday services on the Borough

Kings Lynn Christmas Lights 'switch on'