

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

25 January 2022

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM MIDLETON – DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT

For the period 2 December 2021 to January 2022

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

On 20 December 2021 the government announced further grants to support businesses offering indoor, in-person services in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors who have been affected by the Omicron variant of Covid-19. The grant is intended to help those businesses which have been impacted by people being reluctant to mix socially indoors, including pubs and restaurants.

The grants are based on the rateable value of the property the business occupies, and range from £2,667 to £6,000. We have been awarded just over £4.5m to fund these grants. Funding of £234k is also available for a discretionary grant scheme to help businesses who are also affected but do not meet the main eligibility criteria. The policy for the discretionary grants is currently being discussed and compiled.

The grant schemes will open shortly and details will be published on our website www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/businessgrants. Businesses wishing to claim a grant will need to apply as these grants cannot be paid automatically. Applications will close on 28 February 2022 and final grant payments will be made by 31 March 2022.

Meetings Attended

Usual officer and public meetings, not as many as usual due to Xmas and new year.