

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 FEBRUARY 2023

COUNCILLOR ANGIE DICKINSON - CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

For the period 27 January 2023 to 23 February 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

This will be a very short report because at this time of year the budget process has taken over, to the exclusion of almost everything else.

I presented the suite of budget reports, namely the four year Financial Plan, the four year Capital Programme, the Council's revised Capital Strategy and its revised Treasury Management Strategy, over 200 pages of documents setting those topics out in detail and in compliance with statutory requirements, to Cabinet at its meeting on 7 February. That in itself is enough for one Cabinet meeting to debate and decide on but there were other items on the agenda, however, there is so much happening at the moment another Cabinet meeting was required to consider all matters at hand and therefore another Cabinet meeting was called for the following day to discuss other important issues such as the Hunstanton Multi User Hub and Transport Interchange, to all intents and purposes the new library and bus station project, and a new item of funding that had become available for the Council to take advantage of.

The Grant Settlement that was announced on 20 December has now been confirmed, which gives certainty to that element of the budget. There are some minor amendments required to the Budget and Capital Programme before its presentation to Council on 23 Feb for formal debate and consideration of any amendments before culminating in the resolutions required to be made by law, i.e. the setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24 for the Borough's element and also bringing together the amounts that the Borough is required to collect on behalf of Norfolk County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and most of the 101 Parish Councils within the Borough's area. In theory, that is the final stage of the budget process, however work will continue to come up with proposals to fill the budget funding gap in future years.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Work within the Finance Team will continue to focus on those issues that one might expect at this time of year, namely preparation for the closure of the accounts for the current financial year. Budget monitoring will continue, which will be my main involvement as regular and in depth hopefully prevents the possibility of any surprises presenting themselves at year end.

In the meantime work will continue to identify which of our reserves can be used to fund the shortfall in year 3 of the 4 year plan. Reserves will be further scrutinised to identify money to be released because any sums so released

will impact on the services the reserves were originally intended to cover, for example routine and periodic maintenance of assets or replacement of vehicles and equipment. None of these decisions will be taken lightly as it is important that there is no or minimal impact on the services the Council provides, and safety is not compromised.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

27 Jan	Portfolio Holder Briefing
30 Jan	Brown bins review
30 Jan	King's Lynn Area Consultative Committee
31 Jan	Flood Memorial Service
31 Jan	Member briefing prior to Joint Panels' Meeting
1 Feb	Cabinet Briefing
2 Feb	Joint Panels' Meeting
3 Feb	Portfolio Holder Briefing
5 Feb	Budget Update with Cabinet Members
5 Feb	Budget Update with other Members
7 Feb	Cabinet
8 Feb	Cabinet
9 Feb	Alive West Norfolk review prior to Cabinet Sifting
9 Feb	Briefing re County Deal
10 Feb	Portfolio Holder Briefing
13 Feb	Shareholder Committee
13 Feb	Cabinet Sifting
14 Feb	Official Opening of the Mart
15 Feb	Cabinet Briefing
17 Feb	Portfolio Holder Briefing
22 Feb	Cabinet Briefing
23 Feb	Council