

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 August 2023

COUNCILLOR BEALES - CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS

For the period 14 July to 23rd August

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

I continue to get to grips with the portfolio and have provided an update on housing numbers under the Major Housing Project later in the report.

Along with Cllr. Heneghan I attended a meeting of the Kings Lynn Town Deal Board and of particular note amongst a generally very useful update, was a guidance note from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities dated 5th July 2023. Dehenna Davison MP, the Minister for Levelling Up has clarified the Project Adjustment Request Process and confirmed that changes can be made without recourse to the Department, of up to 30% to agreed project outcomes and outputs, and changes in spend of up to 30% between financial years. Changes above that 30% threshold will require formal review by the Department. That flexibility is welcome and also clarifies that funding is for those projects already agreed and not for new or heavily revised projects. Indeed the guidance note goes on to state the importance of hitting milestones to ensure delivery of those projects as set out in Town Investment Plans and Grant determination letters. That said, the Department also recognises the huge challenges in delivering some of these projects, and details of targeted support and specialist advice as and when needed will follow.

Major Housing Project

- Nora 4 (Nar Valley Park) 105 homes completed. 35 open market sale, 47 PRS, 5 shared ownership, 11 affordable rent, plus 5 properties acquired through the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) to house Afghan and Ukrainian families, let at affordable rents.
- Salters Road (Columbia Way) 78 affordable homes for Freebridge on site and on target for completion November 2024, first homes ready for occupation December 2023.
- Southend Road Hunstanton, 32 apartments (6 affordable) on site, anticipated completion May 2024.
- Parkway – 226 homes on site, target completion 2027. First homes ready for occupation December 2024. Tenure options report to be brought to future Cabinet.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Cabinet report on funding of council housing companies.

Cabinet report on Lynnsport 1 development.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

19th July – meeting with Cllr. Moriarty & Chair of Kings Lynn Town Deal Board

20th July – portfolio meeting on Teams.

27th July – Kings Lynn Town Deal Board pre meeting on Teams

28th July - Kings Lynn Town Deal Board meeting at Town Hall.

1st August – Cabinet

2nd August – Cabinet briefing

2nd August – interview with Radio Norfolk regarding Florence Fields

8th August – LGA training for Cabinet (all day).

9th August – portfolio meeting re financing of West Norfolk Property

14th August – Cabinet sifting.

15th August – joint meeting with Portfolio Holder for Finance re WNP.

16th August – Cabinet briefing.

17th August – meeting re Members ITC.

17th August – meeting re Enterprise Zone.

24th August – full Council.