

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

13 July 2023

COUNCILLOR TERRY PARISH – LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

For the period 19 May to 3 July 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

This is the first opportunity I have had to speak to the whole Council which is far too long. There was some early criticism that I would forget those members and electors not represented by my group, particularly Conservatives. I hope I have made it plain in conversations and in public that I lead the Council and recognise all councillors and all the people of West Norfolk.

That being said, my group is in partnership with the Labour Group, and I thank Charles Joyce and his members for the pragmatic and thoughtful way that they are managing that.

I cannot deny that the last few weeks have been very busy. I and my Cabinet have had to learn procedures and processes which we have only viewed from the 'outside' before. We have had to meet individuals and groups many of which are entirely new to us. This will continue for a while yet and I would like to thank officers, both personally and on behalf of my Cabinet, for the continual support, encouragement and understanding that they provide.

'We are where we are' is the starting point of this new administration but it will not be its epitaph. We have taken on board 'historical' decisions and projects and are not throwing them on the fire as a perverse celebration. To do so would not be in the interests of West Norfolk as a whole. Consequently, I signed off on the Parkway development with the caveat that more of the houses would be considered for rent and that the homes would be for local people. After considerable deliberations, I agreed for the current Local Plan review to continue as not to do so would more likely harm West Norfolk than not. I have told the Chair of the Town's Board that the Town's Deal projects will continue but that there will be no additional funding from this Council and better councillor representation on the board must be made.

Now for the future. We have made a start on a new corporate plan. The headings on its elements are still in draft at the moment. A common thread is: 'openness and transparency'. This will overlay financial stability, environment, health, economic development and the rest.

Any councillor that wishes to see me is welcome. Just book a slot via Leader PA.

Initiated Cabinet meetings on new Corporate Plan.
Agreed Cabinet portfolios.
Begun meetings with County and MP James Wild
Initial meeting re Emergency planning
Met with Chair and Clerk Downham Market Town Council
Discussed staff pay award 2023/24

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Met with Hunstanton Town Council
Norfolk Leaders' Group
WN Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group
Response to County Deal

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Multiple Officer Meetings inc Local Plan
Chair Kings Lynn Town Board
Visit to KL Foodbank
Tour of BC development sites
South Wootton Parish Office official opening
Hunstanton Advisory Group Chair
Fring Estates
Bathing Water Quality - with Anglia Water, Environment Agency
Raising the Flag for Armed Forces
Night shelter meeting
Emergency Planning and Business continuity
Norfolk Public Sector Leaders Board
Swan Project/Love Downham Community
Kings Lynn Area Consultative committee
Norfolk Leaders Group
North Norfolk MP James Wild
David Pomfret – Cowa