

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

31 January 2024

COUNCILLOR BAL ANOTA - CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

For the period 23 November to 31 January 2024

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Management and maintenance of council owned property assets: including industrial estates, Kings Court, Town Hall and the Depot, Public conveniences, Crematorium and Cemeteries.

The staircase improvement works to King's Court have been largely successfully completed. There are a few finishing touches to be completed and some redecoration to be undertaken. The team has also started to look at King's Court office layouts, we still have some teams located off-site and some space at King's Court may be being freed up by one of our sub-tenants. This gives us the opportunity to explore more options with the office accommodation in terms of layout, function, and potential co-location opportunities with other public organisations.

On the wider council property portfolio, the team is starting to look at the longer-term strategic approach to the overall property estate and they will be working on a corporate wide asset management strategy. This will take time to develop and put into place. A largescale overall assessment of the condition of the property portfolio was last undertaken in 2008 and we are keen to do this exercise again in order that we can strategically manage our overall expenditure on repairs and maintenance particularly, however, this will only be one element.

Car Parks and Open Space

I have been holding ongoing conversations with Officers and Portfolio holders regarding revenue generation and cost saving opportunities to enable a well thought through budget proposal to be presented and we will continue with these discussions.

It was quite humbling to attend the quarterly meeting of the Norfolk Parking Partnership to hear such praise for our Parking Operations team who, at the beginning of November 2023, took over the back-office functions for the parking services delivered on behalf of Norfolk County Council for Norwich City Council and for Norwich City Council themselves. Having seen the effort, determination, and pressures this put that team under to ensure it was

delivered on time I must make the unusual step of naming some individuals as without their commitment this scheme would not have been delivered. Whilst times are hard in all public services, work such as this brings valuable contributions towards our corporate overheads, alongside protecting the livelihoods of those officers involved in delivering services. Those senior officers are David Morton, Charlotte Martin and Louise Gayton, and their respective teams.

I always take a keen interest in the parking stays within our car park areas and whilst there are always a number of factors that influence peaks and troughs the figures for November and December are always particularly interesting specifically within our town centre areas and the way in which parking is supporting our town centre vibrancy. I am pleased to report that the King's Lynn Town Centre long and short term stays not only held their numbers over last year but showed a marginal 0.26% increase over 2022 which was, in my opinion, a demonstration of how important our communities see the Town Centre offering: especially during times of cost-of-living pressures and a greater move towards online shopping. Hunstanton saw an even greater, 9% increase in stays but clearly a much milder Christmas than is the norm influenced this and it was great to see large numbers of people visiting the coast to enjoy it over the Christmas period.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

- Portfolio Meetings – TBC
- Wave 4b
- Hethel Innovation Centre

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

November 2023

9th - Portfolio Meeting – MH TB

10th - Leziate Parish Council

14th - Portfolio Meeting – MH

16th - Portfolio Meeting MH (Teams)

28th – Epicentre (Haverhill)

29th – KL Parking Strategy (Teams)

29th – Hunstanton Parking Strategy (Teams)

29th – Planning Committee Training (Teams)

30th – Portfolio Meeting MC

30th - Portfolio Meeting MH

December 2023

4th – Planning Committee

5th – Village Green Meeting

5th – Cabinet

6th – Portfolio Meeting MC

6th – Cabinet Briefing
6th – MintyIn Carol Service
7th – Budget Development
8th – Portfolio Meeting MH TB
11th – Cabinet Sifting
12th – Directorate Plan Setting
13th – Portfolio Meeting MC DM
14th – Norfolk Parking Partnership
15th – Portfolio Meeting DH
20th – Cabinet Briefing
January 2024
2nd - Portfolio Meeting MH TB OJ
3rd – E&C Panel (Teams)
5th – Portfolio Meeting OJ
8th – Cabinet Briefing
10th – Portfolio Meeting MH TB
10th – Cabinet Briefing
11th – KLACC Meeting
12th – Leziate PC
15th – Cabinet Sifting
15th – Cabinet
16th – Portfolio Meeting MH (Teams)
17th – Budget Session