



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council Northampton Borough Council Monday 23rd April 2018

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have been continuing to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council, and can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

Market

I visited Norwich Market on Tuesday 10th April, with the Market Manager.

We met with the Norwich Market Management Team, the trader's representative, and various traders. It was a very informative and worthwhile visit. Norwich Market consists of over 120 stalls, the greater number being fixed / permanent / lockable stalls, along with a few pop-up stalls. The market was very busy in comparison to our market. It was buzzing! Occupancy rates are in excess of 90%.

Norwich City Council provides the stalls in a basic format and it is then for traders to invest in adapting / customising them to suit their individual purpose.

It was clear that the street food offer throughout the market was very attractive to people, with queues at many stalls. Other food stalls provided a good and attractive offer – meat, fish, cheese, cakes and specialist foods. All food stalls are in permanent units, and traders told me that they couldn't operate on open stalls like the ones on Northampton market. Most traders prepare and cook their offer on their stalls.

Other traders appreciate the fact that they can simply lock up their stall at the end of trading and go home. While security is not generally a problem, there is security on Norwich market during the day and it is regularly patrolled throughout the night.

Norwich market was transformed following a significant public survey. Working with the Market Management Team and others, I therefore propose to instigate such a survey in Northampton to establish what offer the public want to see provided on our market

Similarly I intend to investigate further, with officers across the Council, how we can provide fixed and lockable stalls on our market to facilitate a wider offer for customers and to meet the needs of some existing traders, several of which have been seeking such stalls for some time.

Trading from their own mobile stalls may be something that some traders may wish to do. I therefore propose to investigate how such trailers can be accommodated for those, current and new traders, that may wish to pursue this option.

With regard to the MAG and its future, work has been done through NABMA to establish best practice with regard to how other Market Authorities work with traders. I am asking officers to prepare a report to include a proposal for how the Council engages with traders going forward.

Constitution

Work is continuing to update our constitution. Another meeting of the Working Group will be held early in May. The agenda will hopefully include the following:

- Updated Contract Procedure Rules
- Updated Financial Regulations
- Rules for delegated powers for appointed officers on temporary contracts, for example, someone appointed as a temporary Environmental Health Officer
- Revised delegated powers for planning officers to accord with more recent legislation
- Draft Planning Protocol
- Draft Protocol for Pre-Application Briefings.

All these matters are for consideration and possible further work by the Working Group. Only those which are approved will be submitted to full Council for approval.

Councillor Training

Training was provided to most of the Members taking part in the trial of the CaseWorker programme on 12th April. Those who have attended the training now have access to the system and can use it.

Councillor Development and Briefing Sessions already scheduled are as follows:

- **26/04/2018 - Councillor Briefing - Procurement** – One session that will be held between 6pm and 7pm in the Jeffery Room. Open to all Councillors. To be delivered by the Gus de Silva and Laurie Gould
- **12/06/18 (Re-scheduled from 1st March) – Personal Safety Training** – This training is to be delivered by an external trainer. It is limited to 15 Councillors and is already fully booked. Should there be further demand for this training, a further session will be considered.
- **26/06/2018 - Cllr Briefing - Local Government Finance Explained** – Two sessions, 2pm and 6pm in the Jeffery Room. These sessions, open to all Councillors, are to be delivered by LGSS.
- **16/07/2018 - Councillor Briefing - FGM Awareness** - Two sessions, open to all Councillors, 2pm and 6pm in the Jeffery Room.

Further details regarding all these sessions can be obtained from Tracy Tiff.

Members are asked to register to attend these events with Tracy Tiff as soon as possible.

First Aid Training is continuing to be offered to Councillors as and when spaces become available on courses. Please can Members advise Tracy Tiff if they'd like this training.

Web Casting

Now that our joint procurement with NCC has ceased, preferred supplier's reps (Co-Coordinator from the Technical Team) will be attending the Guildhall to do a site survey on 24th April 2018. Costs of installation and equipment etc., are being re-assessed following the decision that we will be going it alone. As NCC are no longer webcasting, it will be necessary for NBC to become the primary licence holder and the associated cost of this needs to be considered in the overall re-assessment of costs.

Street Lighting

The Officer / Member Working Group met on 9th April 2018. Minutes will be available in due course.

The Working Group accepted a quote for the survey of our complete lighting stock. Work on this should commence shortly and the Survey Report should be available in July.

During the survey, all lighting columns will be plotted electronically and then more accurately recorded on our mapping system that will eventually be a part of our interactive mapping system. Not only will the columns be accurately plotted on the mapping system, all the details of each light will be held and accessible too. Also during the survey each column will have an identification number fixed to it, indicating that it is an NBC light and how to report any faults. These have been agreed with NPH and Customer Services.

Customer Services are also ensuring that in due course lighting faults will be reportable using the Report It app, and that this has an interface with the mapping system.

The procurement and specification of the management contract were discussed and will be considered further at our next meeting after industry standards and those of other authorities have been established. They will be further considered in light of the condition survey.

Unfortunately a delay occurred in authorising the provision of new heritage lights on South Bridge. Authorisation has now been given and officers are actively progressing the procurement and installation of these lights.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council