



Cabinet Member Report for Cllr Tim Hadland

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 20th January 2020

Economic Growth and Regeneration

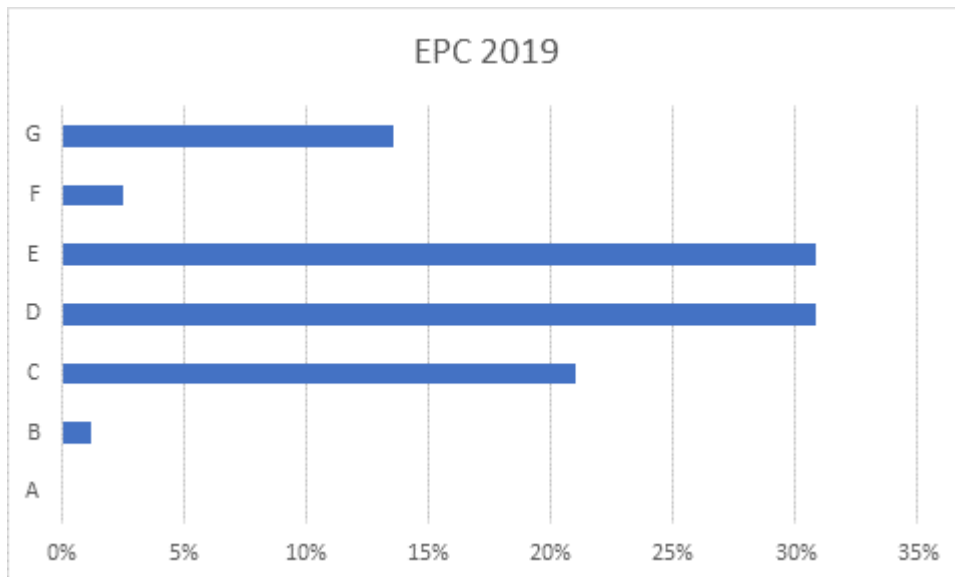
Negotiations have been ongoing for some months to enter into a contract with Balfour Beatty Street Lighting Ltd to replace all c1300 street lights on NBC land. This includes replacement of approx. 400 columns. The new lights will be LED to save money on our energy bills and reduce our carbon footprint. The project order was signed at the end of December and it is anticipated that work will commence on site mid-February. The programme is currently being drawn up and is intended to take 24 weeks. The value of the contract is £998k and the overall project value is £1.05m to include consultants and contingency.

Ridge consulting via Bloom procurement are carrying out condition surveys on c120 properties. 80 are complete and the remainder will be concluded by end of February. The information obtained from the surveys will feed into a planned maintenance schedule. It will also help with the Asset Strategy being produced and provide helpful information for the move into unitary

Asset Management

The Annual Property Accounting Valuations for year end 2019 is ongoing. Valuers have begun reviewing assets for 2020 year.

There are 81 EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) surveys have been completed. The chart below shows the percentage of each type of those completed. From 1 April 2018 it became illegal to create a new tenancy if the rating was below E (some exemptions apply) and as of 1 April 2023 it will be illegal to continue to let property under and E. The information will help form the asset strategy and determine disposals.



A corporate asset manager is now in post and establishing a new team with the aim of improving performance in the service and reducing the reliance on interim staff. The posts will be advertised in January.

We are driving forward the community asset transfer of public space to Parish Councils and one of the new positions in the asset team will be focussed on this role.

Regeneration

In August 2019 Cabinet approved the purchase of The Old Black Lion Pub to enable the regeneration of a Grade II listed public house, in order to strengthen the sense of place in the heritage Gateway area. We are pleased to confirm the purchase is now complete which is the first stage in delivering our regeneration plans. We will be working in partnership with the Churches Conservation Trust

The Future High Street Project team (Grant Thornton, 5Plus, Gillespies, CS2 and Avison Young) along with the Northampton Forward Board have continued with developing a Business Case. A draft Business Case must be submitted to MHCLG by the 15th January, with the full Business Case being submitted by 30th April 2020.

Public consultation on latest Market Square design proposals took place between 28th November and 3rd January, and received 1067 responses. I am grateful to the staff members who facilitated the public display on the Market Square on a particularly cold and wet December Saturday. The report is expected within the next few weeks.

The Horizon Park pre-application will be submitted in January for option 1 office use.

The Vulcan Works project continues to move at pace with steel structures in place along Angel Street and well underway on St Johns site.

Upton Country Park Phase 2 is due to complete in February 2020 with information boards to be installed and board walk awaiting approval from Environmental Agency.

Northampton Museum and Art Gallery works are near completion with phased internal fit out underway. Launch is programmed for the 16th March 2020.

NN Contemporary Art have move from 9 Guildhall Road to refurbished accommodation in the Council's Guildhall Road bloc

Cllr Tim Hadland
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise