



## Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

### Northampton Borough Council

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 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

Following the last meeting of the Market Advisory Group (MAG) on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, and in light of poor attendance leading to my subsequent letter to Traders seeking their views on the format of the MAG going forward, I'm about to consider the several responses I have received, and respond to Traders accordingly.

I'm in the process of arranging a visit to Norwich Market to see the set up there with more permanent stalls and to learn how the market there was turned around so successfully.

#### Councillor Training

Following the last meeting the Councillor Development Group on 2<sup>nd</sup> November when it was agreed to trial the caseworker.gov system for Members to use to manage their case work, 17 Members have been identified to participate in the trial: Councillors Ansell, Beardsworth, Birch, Cali, Culbard Davenport, Eldred, Graystone, Hadland Haque, Hill, Kilbride, Lane, Larratt, Patel, Russell, and Stone. Procurement is progressing and those participating in the trial will soon be contacted regarding training and installation.

Councillor Development and Briefing Sessions already scheduled are as follows:

- **23/01/18 - Unitary Status Update - Councillor Briefing - Open** to all Councillors. One session 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Council's advisors.
- **12/02/18 – Data Protection Training** open to all Councillors. Two identical sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Senior Information Governance Officer.
- **01/03/18 – 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.
- **07/03/18 - Universal Credit, Changes to Benefits and Zero Hours Contract Briefing** - Open to all Councillors. Two identical sessions one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by Community Law.

- **21/03/18 – Debt and Debt Management** – This training is open to all Councillors. Two identical sessions one at 3.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by Northamptonshire Credit Union.
- **27/03/18 – Advanced Safeguarding Training** – Open to all Councillors. Two identical sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Head of Housing and Wellbeing.

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

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

Please advise Tracy Tiff if you would like to attend a briefing on the Social Lettings Agency. If there is enough interest a further session will be arranged.

It is still the intention to arrange an information / briefing session regarding FGM. Officers continue to be in contact with Safeguarding at Northamptonshire County Council about providing this but we are still awaiting their response

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**

It remains the intention to introduce the Web Casting of meetings at the earliest opportunity. Officers are continuing to work on this, especially the procurement of the equipment and services required to enable the Web Casting of Council and Committee Meetings. I was due to meet with officers to go through a summary of the quotes but this has yet to happen as illness prevented me from doing so. The meeting is currently being rearranged.

### **Street Lighting**

The Officer / Member Working Group met on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The lights we agreed that this Council will take over responsibility for from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) actually transferred to us on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The specification of the survey of our complete lighting stock, including the lights we have taken on from NCC, was discussed. Officers are now meeting with procurement to understand the best way forward to procure the survey as well as the management and maintenance service.

At the next meeting of the Working Group the design and content of the identification labels to go on all our lights will be discussed. These will enable easier reporting of faults by the public. There is still a need for some work to be done with Contact Centre staff who don't get fault reports to the right person.

The Working Group is continuing to pursue the issue of lights on South Bridge. Designs have been seen and the relevant Planning Officer is engaged. It is hoped that these can be obtained and installed in the near future subject to due process and the relevant approvals etc.

**Councillor Phil Larratt**

**Deputy Leader of the Council**