

# Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

## Northampton Borough Council

### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 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 was set to visit Norwich Market on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, with the Market Manager and a Trader, but this visit was cancelled due to the adverse weather forecast. The visit is currently being rearranged.

I have been considering the several responses I received from Traders regarding the MAG and its future. I want to establish best practice with regard to how other Market Authorities work with Traders. Norwich Market has undergone significant transformation and I am keen to learn how Traders are engaged there. I hope to come forward with proposals for the future of the MAG and how the Council engages with Traders going forward following our visit to Norwich and learning more about best practice elsewhere.

#### Constitution

Work is continuing to update our constitution. A meeting of the Constitution Working Party will be held as soon as amendments are ready to be submitted to Members for consideration.

#### Councillor Training

The Councillor Development Group met on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

A development event had taken place earlier in the day with the providers of CaseWorker. This event was attended by Officers, IT personnel, and Members trialling the system who provided the supplier with information with regard to IT systems and ways of working to enable the construction of the program for use within the Council. Training for the Members trialling the system will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> April in the IT Training Suite. There will be two sessions, one at 2.00 pm and one 6.00 pm.

The Development Group agreed an application form for Members to complete when applying to attend development sessions and conferences, even free events. This will be circulated to Political Assistants, Group Whips, and Councillor Beardsworth. It will also be available in the Councillor Zone on the Intranet.

Councillor Development and Briefing Sessions already scheduled are as follows:

- **07/03/18 – Benefits Update** - 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. 22 Councillors / Parish Councillors have booked to attend these sessions.
- **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. 20 Councillors / Parish Councillors have booked to attend these sessions.
- **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. 30 Councillors / Parish Councillors have booked to attend these sessions.
- **12/06/18 (Re-scheduled from 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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.

It remains the intention to arrange an information / briefing session regarding FGM. Officers continue to be in contact with Safeguarding at Northamptonshire County Council and the NSPCC 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**

We have been working with Northamptonshire County Council to jointly procure a Web Casting facility to enable us to commence the Web Casting of our meetings at the earliest opportunity. Due to the current financial situation at the County Council, and that Council not entering into new contracts, other than those with regard to statutory services, they are no longer looking to renew the Web Casting contract. Their meetings are no longer being Web Cast.

Our joint procurement has therefore ceased. It remains our intention to introduce the Web Casting of our meeting as soon as possible. To achieve this we now have to procure the facility ourselves and officers are continuing to work on this. Unfortunately this will mean that we will be unable to introduce Web Casting as early as we envisaged, but we will do so as soon as we can.

## **Street Lighting**

The Officer / Member Working Group met on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Minute are available.

All NBC lights have been plotted on a map of the Borough in preparation for inclusion on our Interactive Mapping Service. Precise locations will be confirmed electronically during the survey process and re-plotted on the map accordingly.

The survey of our complete lighting stock is currently being procured, and this will inform the tender process for the management contract. Options for the procurement of the management contract were considered and will be pursued in light of the survey

The design and content of the identification labels to go on all our lights was discussed and agreed subject to a logical numbering system being devised and the agreement of Customer Services and NPH. These will enable easier reporting of faults by the public and will be placed on each lighting column during the forthcoming survey.

The Working Group is continuing to pursue the issue of new heritage lights on South Bridge. While the Planning Officer has been engaged, it is currently being determined whether or not planning permission will be required for the new lights. There will be a lead in period to procure the new lights as they are bespoke, but we are intending to secure their installation at the earliest opportunity.

## **Councillor Phil Larratt**

### **Deputy Leader of the Council**