



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 10th December 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 looking to arrange a meeting of the MAG towards the end of November. The police were unable to attend before the end of November. Traders are busy during December and would prefer not to meet during the month. Therefore a meeting is being arranged, to include police attendance, to take place in January. Councillor Membership of the MAG has now been confirmed.

We have funded increased policing within the town centre and on the market through the festive period to January 4th.

In December we have the Frost Fair and parade taking place on Sunday 2nd December that includes entertainment from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, and a workshop for the children to make festive hats for the parade. We also have entertainment on the stage on Saturday's 1st, 8th, and 15th December. We also have the regular Antiques and Collectables market on 8th December.

The market is also open on extra days in the lead up to Christmas, Sunday 16th, Monday 17th, Sunday 23rd, and Monday 24th December.

Councillor Training

Recent training sessions have included a further HIMO briefing, Emergency Planning events, and a briefing on the Role of Parish Councils.

The Councillor Training Working Group met on 28th November and considered further training / briefing events. Further training / briefing events are under consideration and being planned, including Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. The Procurement event postponed earlier in the year due to attendance difficulties will be re-arranged of the New Year.

The Working Group Meeting also received confirmation that Caseworker now contains the electoral register on the system. Further training on Caseworker is planned for the New Year.

Further training / briefing sessions that have been arranged are as follows:

30/01/19 – Unitary Update – delivered by the Head of Planning. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

There will be other events regarding progress towards establishing a Unitary Council in the coming weeks for Councillors from across the County.

Web Casting

I will be meeting with officers to discuss taking this project forward on 4th December.

Street Lighting

The survey undertaken by Thorn Electrical has been completed and their report has been received. The report is being evaluated and an electrical engineer will shortly be engaged to develop proposals to carry forward the recommendations within the report.

The report confirms that quite a lot of problems have been identified with a number of our lights. The contractor has quoted to rectify the faults identified that present a safety hazard, and has been instructed to carry out the necessary work. Funding for this work has been identified.

A capital bid has been submitted to implement the outcomes / recommendations of the survey. This will be firmed up in light of the report and the forthcoming proposals to implement the recommendations contained within it.

Work to replace the lights on South Bridge is still continuing. I believe that installation is imminent.

Rail Issues

The inquiry hearing into Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange application will take place on the 19th and 20th of December at the Hilton Northampton, 100 Watering Lane, Collingtree, Northampton, NN4 0XW. Officers will be attending this event that is open to the public.

The next meeting of the East West Rail Consortium is on 11th December 2018 in Bedford.

Governance Review

Since the last meeting of this Council I have continued to meet with Parish Council's and Residents Associations when invited to do so to explain / discuss the review. They have continued to be very positive events, and I believe that those present have found them informative.

Danny Moody, Chief Executive of NCALC, and two Parish Clerks delivered a briefing session for Councillors and Chairs of Residents Associations on 28th November.

A consultant is currently being engaged to undertake the consultation process that the review requires. Consultation will commence as soon as possible.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council