

**Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council**  
**Northampton Borough Council**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have continued to play an active role in the establishment of a Unitary Council and the transition to it, while continuing to support the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council. I can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

**Market**

A meeting of the MAG took place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. Traders were given a presentation on the Town Centre Masterplan and Future High Streets Bid by the Economic Growth & Regeneration Manager. While traders appreciate that change is necessary and inevitable, they have some concerns that they raised and that were noted. Traders were told and have been reassured that they will be fully consulted on proposals and plans as they develop, and that they will have ample opportunity to comment and make observations on the plans.

There is still a strong desire amongst some traders for more permanent / fixed stalls.

**Councillor Development Group**

The Councillor Development Group last met on 16<sup>th</sup> July and is scheduled to meet again on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.

At the last meeting the Group received a presentation from Customer Services and others on various changes regarding the Contact Centre and to the "Report It" App, that has recently been updated. We were due to receive an update on Caseworker, but this was not possible due to staff absences. An update will be provided at the next meeting of the Group.

Due to the summer period no Briefing or Training sessions have taken place since the last meeting of the Council.

***Further briefing sessions that have been arranged are as follows:***

**18/09/19 - Local Government Reorganisation** - To be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6pm in the Jeffery Room. ***Sessions have been scheduled on a three-monthly basis.***

**26/09/19– Councillor Briefing on Greyfriars** - To be delivered by the Chief Executive. One session from 6pm to 8pm in the Jeffery Room.

**01/10/19 - Councillor Briefing on the Report It app and various Web features** - To be delivered by various Officer. One session from 6pm to 8pm in the Jeffery Room.

**12/12/19 – Local Government Reorganisation** – to be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

**18/03/20 – Local Government Reorganisation** – to be delivered by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

Can Members wishing to attend any of these events please inform Tracy Tiff as soon as possible.

Contact is being made with an external training provider regarding delivery of a session on Islamophobia awareness.

One Councillor from each of the Political Groups, together with the Democratic and Member Services Manager, are attending the Regional Annual Scrutiny Conference hosted by East Midlands Councils on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Two Councillors who are members of the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group – Gangs and Knife Crime - are attending a seminar around this issue on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.

### **Borough Secretary - Legal Department**

Highlighting some of the work of Legal Services over the period of June and July 2019, they have:

- Had an appeal against a House in Multiple Occupancy Civil Penalty of £17,000 upheld.
- Resisted an application for a summary judgment arising out of a £6 million claim from Enterprise Managed Services / Amey relating to a pension fund surplus.
- Successfully prosecuted over 50 “litterers” in the Magistrates’ Court.
- Successfully concluded two appeals under the Licensing Act.
- Dealt with 27 right to buy applications.

### **Street Lighting**

Cabinet approved a report on 24<sup>th</sup> July agreeing to enter into a contract with Balfour Beatty Street Lighting Ltd to undertake a scheme of column replacements and lamp renewals to this Councils own street lighting assets across the Borough. Works will now commence in October and will be completed in the current financial year

It is still intended that a further report will come to Cabinet in this calendar year with regard to establishing a maintenance agreement for the ongoing maintenance of our lighting assets.

### **Rail Issues**

The East West Rail Consortium next meets on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Cambridge.

The current uncertainty regarding HS2 is a matter of concern. For Northampton, HS2 has always been about capacity. Capacity on the West Coast Mainline (WCML) is almost at breaking point in some areas. Unless more train paths become available, as they would with trains running on HS2 as opposed to the WCML, there will not be the capacity to deliver our aspiration of improving Northampton’s rail connectivity to the north and could also prevent any aspect of East / West Rail running to the town.

### **Governance Review**

The Cross-Party Working Group – Community Governance Review – met on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The Working Group were presented with the proposals for the second round of consultation by the Legal Officer and Consultant undertaking it. The Working Group agreed the proposals before it and the consultation will commence in the very near future, lasting 6 to 8 weeks.

### **Councillor Phil Larratt**

**Deputy Leader of the Council**