



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 23rd January 2016

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have been supporting the Leader and Cabinet colleagues across a variety of areas within the council, and can report on some of my specific responsibilities as below.

Councillor Training

The Councillor Development Group is meeting on 18th January and I will give Council a verbal update on the outcome. The following is the programme of events at the time of writing:

- **12/01/17 - Liquor Licencing** training for members of the Licencing Committee
- **25/01/17 – Briefing on Benefits** – Officers from Revenues and Benefits will deliver two identical sessions open to all Councillors of 1.5 hours at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm
- **30/01/17 – VOICE Northamptonshire** will make a presentation on their work that is open to all Councillors. Two sessions one at 2.00 pm and another at 6.00 pm
- **01/02/17 – Local Plan Briefing** open to all Councillors to be delivered by Peter Baguley, Head of Planning. One session, 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Further sessions will be delivered at appropriate stages.
- **06/02/17 – Lone Working System** to be delivered by Louise Musson. Two one hour sessions, one at 2.00 pm and another at 6.00 pm
- **22/02/17 – Overview & Scrutiny Training** for Scrutiny Committee Members. Provided by an external training provider. One session 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm
- **02/03/17 – Council Performance and Performance Reports Briefing** open to all Councillors and delivered by Alice Turrell. Two sessions, 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm
- **08/03/17 – Community Engagement Training** open to all Councillors. One three hour session commencing at 5.00 pm. Provided by an external training provider
- **22/03/17 – Urban Development Briefing** open to all Councillors and delivered by John Dale and Peter Baguley. One session at 2.00 pm lasting all afternoon and will involve site visits by mini bus
- **29/03/17 – Chairing Skills Training** open to all Councillors. Two sessions one in the afternoon, 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm and one in the evening, 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Provided by an external training provider
- **26/04/17 – Social Media Training** open to all Councillors. Two sessions one at 2.00 pm and the other at 6.00 pm. Provided by an external training provider

Further details regarding these sessions, all of which will be held in the Jeffery Room, can be obtained from Tracy Tiff.

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

Market

I was pleased to attend the Christmas Market on Saturday 17th December with the Mayor and Mayoress, and the Leader of the Council. It was an enjoyable occasion,

when the Mayor and Mayoress judged the best dressed stalls and awarded prizes. It was pleasing to see the market busy and well supported.

The next meeting of the Market Advisory Group takes place on 24th January 2017. At this meeting I hope we can address how best to make this forum representative and effective, where Market Traders fully participate.

Sports Clubs

I am currently undertaking a series of meetings with the Chief Executives of our valued sports clubs, starting with Northamptonshire County Cricket Club on 16th January 2017.

Scrutiny

Cabinet considered its response to the Health Check of the Local Economy and Northampton Borough Council Owned Street Lights at its meeting on 11th January 2017.

Cabinet will consider its responses to outstanding reports as follows:

- Impact of the effectiveness of the enforcement of Licensing Policies – Taxis and Private Hire – February 2017
- Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town – February 2017
- Match Day Parking – February / March 2017

Street Lighting

The Cabinet considered its response to the Scrutiny Report Regarding Northampton Borough Council owned street lights on 11th January. Cabinet accepted the recommendation of the Scrutiny Panel to establish an Officer / Member Working Group to progress the work, and the Leader of the Council has asked me to chair the group.

The timetable for the work of the group is as follows:

- Officer / Member working party established – February 2017
- Work stream scoping exercise undertaken – February/March 2017
- Work programme agreed by Working party – March/April 2017
- Completion of the NBC owned street lighting asset list – May/June 2017.
- Options appraisal undertaken; including full cost implications and risk analysis – July/August 2017
- Officer/Member working party agree options appraisal – August/September 2017
- Report to Cabinet autumn 2017

Our Planning Officer and Heritage Officer are continuing to work with NCC / Balfour Beatty officers to ensure an appropriate replacement street lighting scheme in the sensitive heritage area around the Guildhall and All Saints Church. I believe that this collaborative working is proceeding well.

At the last meeting I agreed to investigate the situation with regard to the street lights in Millers Meadow, most of which were reported as being out. The present position is that our contractors, who have been busy dealing with the towns Christmas Lights, are assessing the situation in Millers Meadow. We asked the contractor to deal with the issue urgently, and we expect the work to be completed by the end of January.

Councillor Phil Larratt
Deputy Leader of the Council