



## Cabinet Member Report for Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

6 November 2017

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

The market has benefitted from some major improvements during September / October. The covered aisle towards the east of the market has been made wider by removing eight stalls. It has also been uncovered, making it lighter and more appealing to customers and traders. In addition to this every stall cover across the market has been replaced, refreshing the look of the market throughout.

This has been well received, although there are some concerns about the untidy appearance of some areas of the market and we're looking to address this.

I am concerned about the anti-social behaviour and other activities that appear to be occurring on the market in the evenings and I'm meeting with relevant officers to discuss this and investigate how the issues can be addressed.

The next meeting of the Market Advisory Group is scheduled to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November when the Healthcheck Report we commissioned through the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) will be discussed.

As previously reported, Traders are very keen to modernise and have lock up stalls / units. Norwich market has lock stalls / units, and I hope to visit this market in due course.

### Councillor Training

The next meeting of the Councillor Development Group is to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, after the publication of this report.

Councillor Development and Briefing Sessions already scheduled are as follows:

- **07/11/17 – Councillor Briefing Session - S106 and CIL** 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 Planning.
- **29/11/17 – 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.
- **12/12/17 – Benefits Briefing** - Open to all Councillors. One session focussing on Housing Benefits and the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm in the Jeffery Room. To be delivered by the Partnership and Development Officer.
- **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.
- **01/03/17 – 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.

Efforts are continuing to be made to arrange an information / briefing session regarding FGM. Officers have been in contact with Safeguarding at Northamptonshire County Council about providing this and we await their response

First Aid Training is continuing to be offered to Councillors as and when spaces become available on courses.

Training proposed by the Standards Committee will continue to be arranged.

Specific Training will be arranged for Members of the Audit, Planning and Licencing Committees as required.

### **Scrutiny**

On 18<sup>th</sup> October Cabinet considered an interim report on the Scrutiny activity undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group regarding the decision of Cabinet to re-provision the Environmental Services Contract. A further report will be considered in due course.

At the same meeting Cabinet gave its response to the Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Homelessness.

### **Web Casting**

I am due to meet officers to discuss the ongoing procurement of the equipment and services required to enable the Web Casting of Council and Committee Meetings in the near future and I will provide a more detailed update in my next report.

### **Street Lighting**

The Working Group continues to oversee progress and the delivery of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel.

The Officer / Member Working Group met on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Notes of the meeting will be available in due course.

We are close to resolving which lights this Council will take over responsibility for from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), although they have tried to add more at the last minute. Officers are investigating and considering these. As previously reported, most of these lights are in our Park & Open Spaces and Housing Areas and on certain footpaths / cycle tracks.

The Working Group has considered the specification of the survey of our complete lighting stock that will be undertaken once the transfer from NCC has been resolved. This will shortly be tendered.

We have been advised by NCC that the installation of the heritage lighting on St Giles Square, George Row, Mercers Row, Wood Hill and Fish Street will be completed on 6<sup>th</sup> November, when the heritage lanterns on the already installed heritage columns will be fitted.

Once the final details of the transfer of lights from NCC is resolved, we'll have a complete and accurate asset register of NBC / NPH owned street lights. Also, all our lighting columns will finally be plotted on a map of the Borough in preparation for them to be added to our interactive mapping service

The Working Group is continuing to pursue the issue of lights on South Bridge. Designs have been seen and we're waiting to see a drawing as to how they will look on the bridge.

**Councillor Phil Larratt  
Deputy Leader of the Council**