



Cabinet Member Report for Deputy Leader

Northampton Borough Council

4 June 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

It is important that our Market is customer focused and provides the retail experience and offer that the public want. Therefore, following the experience of Norwich, we have developed a public survey regarding Northampton Market and its offer. This will be launched in the near future. While it will be predominately an on-line survey, we will also be making paper copies of the survey available for those without internet access. Norwich market was transformed following a similar public survey. The survey will be given a high profile launch in the media, and will be promoted on social media. It will also be promoted at our Forums, and on the Market itself.

The outcome of the survey will inform us as to the type of stalls required to accommodate the traders we will seek to encourage onto the Market to provide the offer the public want, as well as the needs of our existing traders.

With regard to the MAG and its future, further consultation has taken place with traders to inform the way forward. This is currently being considered. Together with the work has been done through NABMA to establish best practice with regard to how other Market Authorities work with traders, a report is now being prepared that will include a proposal for how the Council engages with traders going forward.

Constitution

Work is continuing to update our constitution. The Working Group met on 10th May and considered various aspects of the constitution. Most of these were agreed subject to minor changes that will be brought back to the Working Group. The Working Group asked for further work to be done on the Pre-application Planning Protocol, and agreed to the development of a new section regarding Consultants.

The agreed revisions will be brought to this Council for approval in due course.

It was also agreed that the procedure for speakers at Cabinet will be altered to bring them into line with other Committees where reports are presented before speakers are heard.

Councillor Training

The Councillor Development Group met on 9th May

I believe that all Members taking part in the trial of the CaseWorker programme have now been trained. Members who have been trained and have access to the live system should be using it. Teething issues have and are being addressed, and users are encouraged to use the Help Line.

Councillor Development and Briefing Sessions already scheduled are as follows:

- **12/06/18 (Re-scheduled from 1st March) – Personal Safety Training** – This training is to be delivered by an external trainer. It is limited to 15 Councillors and although originally fully booked one Member is now unable to attend so there is now a spare place. Anyone wishing to attend this training should contact Tracy Tiff as soon as

possible. Should there be further demand for this training, a further session will be considered.

- **26/06/2018 - Cllr Briefing - Local Government Finance Explained** – Two sessions, 2pm and 6pm in the Jeffery Room. These sessions, open to all Councillors, are to be delivered by the Interim Chief Finance Officer.
- **16/07/2018 - Councillor Briefing - FGM Awareness** - Two sessions, open to all Councillors, 2pm and 6pm in the Jeffery Room.

Further details regarding all these sessions can be obtained from Tracy Tiff.

Members are asked to register to attend these events with Tracy Tiff as soon as possible. Those who book to attend an event and subsequently become unable to do so are asked to let Tracy Tiff know as soon as they become aware of the fact.

There is a need to programme in a briefing on the Procurement Process. This session was due to be held on 26th April but was postponed due to attendance difficulties. The Scrutiny Officer has contacted Group Whips to establish when would be the most suitable time for this session to take place. This information is awaited and when it is received a session will be programmed.

The Scrutiny Officer has sent out a survey to all Members regarding their IT training requirements. One response has been received to date.

Training for new Members to the Planning Committee is scheduled for 30 May 2018, and new Members to the Licensing Committee will attend training at East Northants Council on 19 June 2018.

Web Casting

Provider Public-I came into The Guildhall on 22nd April and carried out a site survey along with our own technician. Some information and clarification from our Assets team is required and is being pursued. Public-I also had some further IT related queries following their site survey. These need to be answered by our IT provider, LGSS, and we are now trying to get the answers / feedback required.

Street Lighting

The next meeting of the Officer / Member Working Group is to take place on 4th June 2018.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council