



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council Northampton Borough Council Monday 5th November 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 am looking to arrange a meeting of the MAG towards the end of November. Councillor Membership of the MAG will be confirmed at the next Cabinet Meeting on 14th November.

Following receipt of a petition, we are trying to arrange a date for the meeting that will enable police attendance due to the significant issues of anti-social behaviour and drugs on and around the square.

Constitution

The Constitution Working Party met on 10th October to consider changes to several areas of the Constitution. The outcome of this meeting is the amendments we will be considering at agenda item 12, that were agreed by the Working Party. The changes proposed reflect the new structure of the Council, including the scheme of delegation. However, there may be some further changes to the detail of the scheme of delegation that will need consideration in the near future. Any further such changes will be considered by the Working Party before being brought back to this Council.

While a draft of the Pre-application Planning Protocol has been prepared it requires further work. When completed this too will be considered by the Working Party.

Councillor Training

Recent training sessions have included further FGM Awareness training, and Standards / Code of Conduct training in two modules.

The Councillor Training Working Group met on 19th September and considered further training / briefing events. Further training / briefing events are under consideration. The Working Group Meeting also received an update regarding Caseworker and unfortunately there are still problems with the electoral register on the system. Officers are pursuing this with the provider.

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

01/11/18 – HIMO Briefing – delivered by the Head of Planning. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

26/11/18 – Emergency Planning – to be delivered by appropriate officers. Two sessions, 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm in the Holding Room.

There will be workshops regarding progress towards establishing a Unitary Council in the coming weeks.

Web Casting

The quotes received from the provider Public-I are still being considered and evaluated. Funding for the project is also being considered.

Street Lighting

The Officer / Member Working Group is due to meet on 30/10/18, after this report is written. I'll update the meeting verbally on any relevant issues / outcome arising from the meeting.

However, I can confirm that the survey of our lighting stock is well underway and nearing completion. Many of our lights are now displaying stickers with a unique reference number, informing people that the light is ours and how to report it to us.

The survey is being undertaken by Thorn Electrical who will be attending the Working Group meeting on 30/10/18. The contractor has been reporting back on a regular basis. I'm informed that quite a lot of problems with the lights have been identified. The contractor has been instructed to address any faults that present a safety hazard, and we have had to identify funding to address them.

A capital bid is being prepared to implement the outcomes / recommendations of the survey.

Work to replace the lights on South Bridge is still continuing. The columns and lanterns are on order and we're still awaiting delivery. We wish to see them installed and operational before Christmas.

Rail Issues

The East / West Rail Consortium met on 11th September. It was obvious at the meeting that following our meeting with Martin Tugwell, Director & Project Support officer - England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance, Northampton has a much higher profile within the project. This is especially so with regard to the North / South corridor, which would see trains running from Northampton to Aylesbury / High Wycombe / Old Oak Common, (the Stratford of West London), and maybe eventually into Marylebone.

England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance, financially supported by the Consortium, has commissioned a study regarding rail freight and the East / West rail project. I highlighted our concerns about the impact of freight paths and the proposed rail freight terminals near to Northampton on the capacity of the Northampton Loop.

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

Governance Review

The Cross Party Working Group – Community Governance Review – met on 12th October and agreed the proposals for consultation that are at item 13 on the agenda.

Since the last meeting of this Council I have been meeting with Parish Council's and Residents Associations when invited to do so to explain / discuss the review. These have been very positive events, and I believe that those present have found them informative. I will be attending further such meetings that I have been invited to over the coming few weeks.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council