

**Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council**  
**Northampton Borough Council**  
**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019**

As Deputy Leader of the Council, I have been playing 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 will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019, at 5.30 pm. for traders to gain greater knowledge of the Town Centre Masterplan and Future High Streets Bid from officers developing the plan and promoting the bid. They will also be able to comment and make comment and observations on the plan and bid.

**Councillor Development Group**

The Councillor Development Group is scheduled to meet on 16 July 2019, after this report was written. The Group is to receive a presentation on the "Report It" App that has recently been updated. Caseworker is now fully functional and contains the electoral register but continues to be underused. Further training sessions are being arranged to encourage its use. An update will be provided to the Group.

Since the last meeting of this Council, Member Briefings have been held regarding HIMO Licencing and Local Government Reorganisation for all Councillors. Also Members of the Licensing Committee were invited to join training hosted by East Northants Council, regarding Taxi Licensing Panels that was delivered by James Button.

Further briefing sessions that have been arranged are as follows:

**22/07/19 - Training for the Standards Committee on the processes and procedures for conducting a Standards Hearings Panel** – This training is for Members of the Standards Committee and will be delivered by representatives of Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd. One session at 1.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

**18/09/19 – 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.

**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.

**Borough Secretary - Legal Department**

The Council's Legal Department has been busy and successful working on behalf of the Council this year, and I'd like to recognise and report some of their efforts:

- Over 50 people were successfully prosecuted for littering in the Magistrates Court during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May to the start of July.
- Two sets of Private Sector Housing Civil Penalties were issued in respect of two houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) worth £36,000. These were confirmed on appeal at the Property Chamber of the First Tier Tribunal.

- Two Licensing Act appeals were settled by agreement in relation to the NISA Stores at Birchfield Avenue and Broadmead Road. Both had changed hands following the appeal with no objections to the transfer of one licence and the grant of a new licence for the other. Given the new operators and the lack of objections by the Police who commenced the whole review process, the change of circumstances demonstrated that there was no longer justification for the revocation and suspension respectively. Agreeing the terms saved costs from being awarded against the Council.
- A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) variation was successful. The CBO related to someone keeping over 30 dogs in a property which caused nuisance to their neighbours and followed their conviction for a number of noise nuisance offences and an earlier breach of the CBO. The new terms further reduced the number of dogs in the property and required them to take additional steps to clean up dog faeces etc. which was also causing a nuisance.

### **Street Lighting**

A report will be presented at the Cabinet Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July. The report will update Cabinet on the progress of the project and will seek approval to appoint a contractor to carry out upgrading all NBC Street lights to LED energy efficient lights and bring the lights to a maintainable standard. If approved the scheme will be delivered in the current year.

A further report will come to Cabinet in the autumn with regard to entering into a maintenance agreement for the ongoing maintenance of our lighting assets.

### **Rail Issues**

As previously reported, the East West Rail Consortium met on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in Bedford and meets again on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Cambridge.

Further to my previous report, HS2 will be responsible for the construction of East / West Rail in the area of the "Calvert Box". The current uncertainty regarding the HS2 delivery programme may impact on the delivery of East / West Rail, including the North / South corridor. I have therefore written to the town's MP's regarding this matter, asking them to ensure that any delay in the delivery of HS2 doesn't adversely impact on East / West Rail or delay the project.

### **Governance Review**

Officers are working with our consultants regarding the next consultation process regarding the Governance Review. A further meeting of the Working Group will be held in the fairly near future, before the process is decided.

## **Councillor Phil Larratt**

### **Deputy Leader of the Council**