



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 9th July 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

While the market is still struggling in the same way as High Street retailing generally, I am pleased to report that occupancy rate of stalls is up 8% for the quarter so far.

The new refuse charge is not popular, but it is being paid by nearly all traders.

The public survey regarding the future of Northampton Market and its offer has been launched. See <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/news/article/2765/help-shape-the-future-of-northampton-s-market>

So far nearly 500 people have taken part in the survey.

It is hoped that a Cabinet paper with regard to the MAG and its future will come to the July meeting of the Cabinet.

Constitution

Work is still being done to produce a Pre-application Planning Protocol. Once this is prepared it will be put before the Constitution Working Group.

This and other revisions will be brought to this Council for final consideration and approval following consideration by the Constitution Working Group.

Cabinet has revised the procedure for speakers at meetings, bringing it into line with other Committees with reports being presented before speakers are heard.

Councillor Training

Recent training sessions have included Data Protection, Advanced Safeguarding, Personal Safety, and Local Government Finance.

Attendance has been very disappointing at some sessions. There were eight Members who failed to turn up for the Personal Safety training despite booking to attend and who neither cancelled nor offered apologies. This event was provided by an external organisation at cost to the Council. The session was well received by those who attended.

Three Councillors have indicated that they'd like to attend this training in the future. Anyone still interested in doing so should contact Tracy Tiff as soon as possible.

A briefing on Procurement was postponed due to lack of attendance. Whips have been asked when would be best to stage this event and Tracy Tiff is awaiting their responses.

While the CaseWorker system is up and running, there remain some teething issues that are being addressed. In particular, it still appears that the Electoral Register hasn't loaded onto the system. This matter is being pursued with the provider.

Councillor Development and Briefing Sessions already scheduled are as follows:

- **16/07/2018 - Councillor Briefing - FGM Awareness** - Two sessions. Delivered by an external trainer. Open to all Councillors. 2pm and 6pm in the Jeffery Room.
- **24/07/2018 – HIMO Briefing** - Two sessions. Delivered by relevant staff. Open to all Councillors. 2pm and 6pm in the Jeffery Room.

- **25/07/2018 – Housing Options & Advice Briefing** - Two sessions. Delivered by the Head of Housing & Wellbeing. Open to all Councillors. 2pm and 5.30pm in the Jeffery Room.
- **02/08/2018 – Environmental Services Update** – Two sessions. Delivered by relevant staff. 2pm and 5.30pm 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.

No further requests for IT Training have been received other than the one response previously reported. The best way to meet this training request is being considered.

A training session in two modules has been arranged for Members of the Standards Committee. Module 1 on 09/10/2018 at 6pm. Module 2 on 22/10/2018 at 6pm. This training is also open to Members of other Council's in Northamptonshire.

Web Casting

Provider Public-I came into The Guildhall on 24th April to survey the relevant parts of the building with a view to providing a quote for a web-casting facility. Following their visit they had several more questions and further technical information. This was provided on 8th June. We are now awaiting the formal quote.

Street Lighting

The Officer / Member Working Group met on 4th June 2018, and will meet again on 31st July 2018.

All the finance issues have been resolved and the survey of our lighting stock is starting. As each light is surveyed it will be electronically plotted and this data will be used to plot each column on the Interactive Mapping System. When surveyed each column will be have a label placed upon it with a unique identification number. The label will indicate that the light is an NBC light and have a contact number for faults to be reported.

Once the survey is complete and all the lights have a unique identification number and are plotted on the Interactive Mapping Service, they will be incorporated into the Report It app, to enable fault reporting electronically.

The survey will be undertaken by Thorn Electrical who will work on a two weekly basis. They will inform us where they will be working over each two week period and meet with officers to provide a report on what they have established over the preceding two weeks. It is expected to take 16 weeks to complete the survey. The Working Group hopes to get a feel as to what the survey is establishing when it next meets on 31st July.

The Working Group is giving consideration as to how to take forward the recommendations of the survey and how to get the lights onto an ongoing maintenance contract. A meeting has already been held with Balfour Beatty to discuss this and the possibility of including them within NCC's maintenance contract.

Work to replace the lights on South Bridge is continuing.

Councillor Phil Larratt
Deputy Leader of the Council