



Report of the Deputy Leader of the Council

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 14th January 2019

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 next meeting of the newly constituted MAG will be held at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 29th January 2019. This meeting will be open to nominated Councillors, Market Traders, and Market Personnel only.

In comparison to previous years, trading and footfall was down in December, as it was nationally. Entertainment staged on the Market in the run up to Christmas was well received and we did have additional stalls trading, taking advantage of the Christmas footfall.

Councillor Training

The next meeting of the Councillor Development Group will be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2019.

Since the last meeting of the Working Group on 28th November further training / briefing events are under consideration and being planned. We will be updated on these on 23rd January and details will be published as soon as possible thereafter.

Now that Caseworker contains the electoral register further refresher training for Members involved in the project has been scheduled to take place on 8th January 2019.

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

30/01/19 – Unitary Update – to be delivered by the Chief Executive. One session at 6.00 pm in the Jeffery Room.

There will be other events regarding progress towards establishing a Unitary Council in the coming weeks for Councillors from across the County.

Web Casting

I have met with officers to discuss taking this project forward in light of quotes received. Officers are now looking to secure the funding to proceed with the project as soon as possible.

Street Lighting

An electrical engineer has been engaged to develop proposals to carry forward the recommendations contained in the recent survey report. The objective is to have these proposals ready to commence work on our lighting stock on 1st April 2019, utilising funds provided within the 2019/20 capital programme, if approved during the budget process.

The contractor who undertook the survey is currently rectifying the faults identified during the survey that present a safety hazard.

The new lights for South Bridge are shortly to be installed. Work is scheduled to commence on 14th January 2019 and will take up to two weeks to complete. Firstly new wiring will be installed before the lights are erected.

Rail Issues

The East West Rail Consortium met on 11th December 2018 in Bedford.

Preparation for the inquiry regarding the TWAO with regard to the Western Section of East West Rail, that affects Northampton as it includes the north / south corridor, is well underway. Network Rail gave a positive update on progress regarding this section of the project. Northampton continues to feature strongly in the documentation regarding the project.

Governance Review

A consultant been engaged to undertake the consultation process that the review requires. Officers and the Chief Executive have very recently met with the consultant, Opinion Research Services, to discuss the consultation programme and process. We are looking to finalise all the details within the next two weeks so that consultation can commence at the end of the month.

Councillor Phil Larratt

Deputy Leader of the Council