



Cabinet Member Report for Cllr Tim Hadland

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 9th March 2020

ECONOMY, ASSETS AND ENTERPRISE

Property Maintenance

Rectory Farm Community Centre

Works are progressing well with the extension roof now on. First fix works have commenced internally and various external works have been carried out. CSN (end user) are happy with progress. The project is on target to be complete in late spring.

Street Light Replacement Scheme

The contracts have all been signed and sealed with works on site have now commenced. The work is expected to be completed in the summer.

Corporate Assets

Land at Southbridge Road

The acquisition of land at Southbridge is now complete. Development plans are being progressed for Northampton Partnership Homes to deliver an affordable housing scheme on the site. This will come back to cabinet for approval in the coming months.

Cherry Orchard open space, Hardingstone

The Community Asset Transfer of Cherry Orchard to Hardingstone Parish Council has been approved. Suitable restrictions will be put in place to ensure the land remains used as public open space for the benefit of the Community.

New Investment

The acquisition of the B&M unit on Victoria Promenade has now completed, with the council acquiring the asset as an investment to gain new income streams to support service provision. The acquisition demonstrates to residents and local businesses that Northampton Borough Council is committed to ensuring a strong financial footing heading into the new Unitary authority.

Rectory Farm Farmhouse.

This property was identified surplus to the Councils needs and will be sold by auction on 6th May.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION

Economic Growth Strategy

A new Economic Growth Strategy is being developed for the borough and wider area. Dialogue with businesses on this has been taking place throughout its development with a business workshop held in December where 25+ stakeholders had the opportunity to input their comments, the final strategy will be taken to Cabinet in March to seek its approval.

Future High Street Fund

The Northampton Forward Board approved the draft business case submission to MHCLG on the 15th January. We will receive feedback from MHCLG in the next few weeks which will then be incorporated ahead of submission of the full business case by 30th April 2020.

Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub

We have secured funding through One Public Estate (OPE) to support the development of the Weston Favell Health and Wellbeing Hub. This project will bring forward 3.8 hectares of under-utilised public sector buildings and land at Weston Favell District Shopping Centre through the delivery of a new Health and Wellbeing Hub. The services at the hub would replace the current tired facilities in the local area, giving customers modern and user centred services while also allowing for more cost-efficient delivery. The tender to appoint an organisation to undertake a full feasibility study for the project went live in early January. The next stage of work is for a consultant(s) to undertake a feasibility study for the development of the hub to further explore facility and service mix options, engagement with stakeholders and the public and design development.

Vulcan Works

The development continues to be built out at a pace and the topping-out ceremony took place on Wednesday 29th January. Visitors were surprised and impressed by the huge scale of the project. Steelwork is now complete and the façade well under way on the Angel Street element. Work is also almost complete on the replacement roof for the Fetter Street buildings with just a skylight left to install.

The new building at St John's Street is taking shape, with the steel frame in place and floor slabs poured.

The scaffolding on the Guildhall Road frontage has been removed, providing a first glimpse of the finished façade. This will enable the hoarding to be moved back to the pavement. We are grateful to the local businesses for their continued understanding during the works.

CityFibre:

The Council are pleased to be working with CityFibre to enable their £40m infrastructure investment to make the town among the first locations in the UK to receive a full-fibre broadband rollout. It will provide homes and businesses with gigabit broadband speeds. Currently, only three per cent of the town has full fibre, below the eight per cent national average.

Four Waterside

A new masterplan for the Four Waterside site is now complete. The site will enable a new mixed use development to come forwards and went through Cabinet for approval in February.

Cllr Tim Hadland

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise