

Ward councillor's report (Daventry Town Council) November 2024

Cabinet meeting 19th November

There were three items on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting last week related to WNC's net zero goals. The draft Climate Change Strategy has been developed as a means of delivering WNC's pledge to be net zero in its own operations by 2030 and for residents and businesses to be net zero by 2045. The vision for a sustainable future for all residents includes a flourishing green economy. The East Midlands will need 46,00 additional suitably qualified workers to deliver the national target of net zero by 2050. Northampton College has opened a Green Skills Centre to equip students to work in sustainable construction.

WNC will be seeking to reduce its carbon emission associated with waste collection in a campaign next year to increase the take up of food recycling – it's a surprise to learn that only one third of residents supplied with food caddies actually use them. WNC sends the waste to an anaerobic digestion plant which converts the waste to fuel for electricity production and it is £100 per tonne less expensive to process. (If everyone used their food caddies it would save WNC £2.6m per year.)

The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, also brought to the Cabinet meeting will deliver an appropriate network of charging solutions across West Northants that include on-street, rapid, destination and workplace opportunities with the aim of installing an additional 1,000 extra charging points by 2030. There will be no minimum size of village or hamlet, so any community will be able to express their interest. There is form on the website to do this: [Register your interest in on-street electric vehicle charging WNC - Introduction - Online form](#)

The Sustainability Report 2023/24 is the second annual report summarising sustainability progress at the Council during the last financial year with information drawn from key service areas such as public health, housing and waste as well as the work completed by the sustainability team. It includes an emissions report of its own operations, following the first baseline report published last year. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Cabinet, 19/11/2024 18:30](#)

WNC Budget 2025-26

WNC will publish its draft budget after next month's Cabinet meeting, when it will then go out for public consultation. The budget setting process is ongoing and the financial gap that needs to be bridged is £38.6m. For this year's budget there is an overspend of £3.8m after the use of £10.1m general budget contingencies.

With the rising operational costs and increase in demand for statutory services, experienced by local authorities nationally, WNC is engaging its workforce in a new "savings initiative." All 2,500 staff were recently briefed about potential opportunities for employees to take voluntary redundancy, flexible retirement and reduction in working hours, should they wish to do so. These options would be based on business needs to ensure that that WNC continues to deliver essential services. Over 130 staff have so far expressed their interest in the scheme.

Like other councils WNC is dealing with a huge rise in demand for SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) provision and adult and children's social care. There is not only an increase in numbers but an increase in the cost and complexity of the care

packages. Not yet four years into becoming a unitary council WNC is feeling the financial strain of these increased demands as next year's budget shortfall shows.

Draft Local Plan

The next consultation of the Plan has been delayed following the Government's proposals to amend the NPPF and standard method for calculating housing need. WNC will now be required to deliver a further 460 homes in addition to the estimated 2,124 per year necessitating a lot of extra work in revising the Plan to accommodate the increase. It is anticipated that a further call for sites will take place.

Highways

In June WNC approved an additional £10m of capital funding for increased highway maintenance. This will allow for an extension of the programmed surface dressing programme, a treatment which helps prevent potholes forming. It was disappointing that an opposition motion at September's full council meeting asking for 25% of the funding to be allocated to improving footpaths was rejected.

Daventry casework

Queries from Daventry residents are a regular part of my casework and I am currently assisting with issues relating to parking, planning enforcement, planning applications and the operation of a children's home.

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

25th November 2024

REPORT TO: Town Council – 25th November 2024
REPORT ON: Recommendations from Committees
REPORT BY: Responsible Finance Officer
REPORT DATE: 22nd November 2024

Finance, Policy & Assets Committee – 11th November 2024

FP2411.5 POLICIES.

RECOMMENDED	(i) Hospitality & Gifts, as amended be approved.
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Planning & Development Committee – 14th November 2024

No recommendations.

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