

Notes from the District Councillor. July 2021

Hopefully Covid restrictions will be reduced and we can enjoy the rest of the summer. At present the District Council is working on reopening the leisure facilities in the region and generally helping the economy back to normal. The Help Hub has been crucial in offering assistance and guidance to those in need and have made a great contribution.

Meantime some District Council notices.

Message from the Managing Director

Whilst it is only a short while since our last Bulletin this seems like so much has happened. The scope for the accommodation review has been issued and we are looking to issue a contract before the agenda, which keeps us on the timetable for September. There has been much reported in the media about the changing face of work both in terms of office requirements and employee opportunities. I am really pleased to say that we are grasping this agenda with both hands, looking not just at our work requirements in terms of office space and IT infrastructure but also how we recruit people and the way we work. All Members have been migrated to Office 365 with staff to be migrated by end of September. This is a massive step forward for us in terms of capability and functionality and reinforces our model of being able to work anywhere at any time (subject to operational needs). We have some career opportunities within the One Team and will be accelerating our recruitment programme to fill a number of exciting opportunities from entry

level apprenticeships to management positions. Hopefully you will all be able to meet Corinne Lawrie, our newly appointed Assistant Director for Transformation who will be joining us in July. We are currently undertaking recruitment to the new AD for Economic Development, with the challenge of reinventing Local Government constantly in our minds we are looking critically at the recent announcement from KPMG around their flexible working policies. As you would anticipate we will continue to look at employment trends to ensure that we continue our journey to be an employer of choice.

It was good to be part of a meeting of Cambridge Norwich Tech (CNTC) Corridor Partners (chaired by Cllr Jo Copplestone) during which the really exciting opportunities that the CNTC represents were discussed. Across the corridor we are already seeing significant investment including our own development of the Ella May Barnes building and the Food

Innovation Centre. Some of you will be aware of the challenges faced by the Oxford Cambs Arc, which gives us a real opportunity to grow the CNTC, creating investment and employment opportunities. If you haven't already, it is worth taking time to have a look at the CNTC website which can be found at <https://www.techcorridor.co.uk/>.

As we enter the summer season and people take the opportunity for a well-earned holiday it is worth reflecting on the amazing work carried out by us all (Members and Officers) to support Communities and Economies. It is also worth having an eye for the future as we race towards the end of the calendar year. With this in mind I would encourage you to think about the future opportunities of the collaboration, and our All Member event which is now fixed for 21 July, to be held at the Showground Arena. This will be a great opportunity for us to share ideas, consider our programme for the remainder of the current administrations ensuring that we are focussed on those big ticket items that will really make a difference to the communities we serve whilst streamlining our collective policies and processes to ensure that we operate with the highest possible degree of productivity. As I am sure you will agree we continue to go from strength to strength, indeed our progress to date has resulted in other councils seeking our advice as the sector recognises the success of our collaboration.

Warm regards,

Trevor

The 2023 Boundary Review – initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries

The Boundary Commission for England has published its initial proposals for new constituency boundaries. The proposals and maps for the nine English regions were published on their website on 8 June, 2021 and a public consultation period has commenced. This will be the first time the public will get a chance to see what their new constituencies might look like, and give the Commission their views on the proposals.

While retaining the overall number of constituencies across the UK at 650, the legislative rules governing the review, apply a distribution formula that results in an increase in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 543). The rules also require that every recommended constituency across the UK – apart from five specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.

The number of constituencies in the Eastern region will increase from 58 to 61. In Norfolk, although changes to the existing parliamentary constituency boundaries have been proposed, the allocation of constituencies remain at nine. These nine constituencies are wholly contained within the boundary of Norfolk.

The Commission is consulting on their initial proposals for an eight week period, from 8 June to 2 August 2021. The Commission is promoting the use of a specifically-designed consultation website as the primary tool for displaying their proposals, and receiving comments on them. This consultation portal is available at www.bcereviews.org.uk.

The Boundary Commission team can be contacted on 020 7276 1102 or

information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk
