

Leader's announcements

15 May 2024

Earlier in the month, I was pleased to announce the appointment of Councillor Ben Brookes as Deputy Leader. In welcoming Ben to his new role, I would also like to extend gratitude to Councillor Ian Hardiman who served as my Deputy Group Leader for nine years and five years as Deputy Leader of the Council. As there are no changes to Cabinet portfolios, I am able to continue to draw on Ian's and other Cabinet members' knowledge and experience.

While there were no elections for the Council on 2 May, I would like to congratulate those who were successful in the elections for Kidderminster Town Council and to wish them well in their term of office. The administration looks forward to continuing to work with the Town Council – and those in Bewdley and Stourport – to broaden and deepen our collaborative working through the localism strategy.

The Local Government Association's corporate peer challenge team visited in March. Their helpful report has now arrived and has been shared with all members. The report and the action plan will be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 11 June and the LGA will be publishing the report on its website at the same time as the papers are released for that meeting.

It is good to see continued progress with the major regeneration and other capital projects in Kidderminster. The Cabinet met on 7 May to approve changes to the scope of contract for the creative hub with additional external funding being deployed to meet the revised costs, subject to approval of the amendment to the capital programme at tonight's meeting. It also decided on arrangements for the award of contract for refurbishment works at the Piano Building and we will make an announcement soon about the contractor and the programme of works. An announcement will also be made soon about the award of contract for the connectivity project that will create an urban park linking Worcester Street with Bromsgrove Street.

Works are also well under way on the refurbishment of Kidderminster Town Hall – I encourage colleagues to sign up for the newsletter from Kidderminster Town Council "A Journey through Kidderminster's Town Hall", the first issue of which has been published recently – and for the new temporary accommodation units at Castle Road.