

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch

Report July 2020

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NRFS) have received new equipment to the tune of £1.44m as part an investment by NCC in technology and equipment. In addition, 5 new tactical response vehicles (smaller fire appliances with 4-wheel drive) will be put into service this month. This will enhance NRFS's capability in extreme weather conditions and at difficult to reach locations. The total cost of these vehicles, including purchase cost and fitting them with specialist equipment, is £187k.

On the 6th July NCC Cabinet was given a summary of the forecast financial position for 2020-21 at March 2021. The revenue budget is forecast to be £15.8m overspent mainly due to pressures from NCC's necessary response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The summer highway improvement programme is well under way. Work on surface dressing and resurfacing is being carried out by teams observing social distancing measures which have been put in place to protect the workforce from Covid-19. The second cut of highway verges has just started and should be completed by August. NCC has been allocated an additional £22m from the government "pothole fund" which will lead to accelerated improvement to the counties road over the next few years.

As part of the governments plan to control future local outbreaks of Covid-19 all local authorities have been instructed to have a Local Outbreak Control Plan in place. NCC have ben allocated £3.7m from the Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant to support the additional public health capacity to implement plans and run the scheme in Norfolk. The plan will set out how NCC will work with partners to prevent local outbreaks and how real time data from the NHS Test and Trace system and local intelligence to identify emerging recurrence of Covid-19.

An ambitious plan to get the economy of Norfolk and Suffolk back on its feet in the wake of Covid-19 has been launched. It is being put together by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership working closely with County, District and Borough Councils in Norfolk and Suffolk. The outline of the plan and how it is to be funded can be viewed in the recent Cabinet agenda which is available on the NCC website.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.