County Councillor Report

Cllr Peter Lawrence – North Coast Norfolk

October 26

[1] Log:

05/10/26 – LGR Teams Meeting

07/10/26 – LGPS Fundamentals Training Session, London.

09/10/26 – Audit & Governance Committee Meeting

14/10/26 – Teams Meeting with Pensions Chair from Isle of Wight

14/10/26 – Cyber Security Training [Online] [Mandatory Training]

15/10/26 – Audit and Governance Committee Meeting

20/10/26 – EIFCA Meeting [Inshore Fisheries and Conservation] – further discussion and finalisation of a position statement relating to "Marine Net Gain"

22/10/26 – Investment Summit – LGPS Central, London Stock Exchange. Some interesting conversations with the Senior Leadership and Committee Members. There is an opportunity to review governance relating to a regional investment fund [as part of the LGPS investments]. Discussed the idea of a Working Group to develop a framework and evaluate an investment pipeline.

28/10/26 – Co-Pilot Training [Online] [Mandatory Training].

28/10/26 - **Commentary on the Budget:** The Chancellor referred to a black hole in the national budget, and the opposition highlighted the impact debt repayments. We have a similar situation locally with Norfolk CC being almost £1Billion in debt, and an urgent need to reduce spending and get better value for money for constituents. There is little room to manoeuvre at a national level, but the opening the Jackdaw Gas Field will make a welcome economic contribution. [We await news on Rosebank Oil Field]. The Chancellor mentioned the upside of Ai and referenced Data Centres and the possibility of new regulations to ensure a security and safety for British people. There are a number of proposals for Data Centres and associated Solar Farms across the County, but we need to be convinced of the benefits of these to our constituents.

[2] Constituencies issues [highlights]:

Planning Concern – Concerns relating to a number of proposals for Data Centres and associated Solar Farms across the county including The Longmarsh Green Energy Project [between Kings Lynn and Downham Market].

Data Centres and associated Solar Farm Projects do bring some benefits, such as employment is construction of the project and limited employment opportunities in facilities management once the site is open, but benefits maybe outweighed by disruption to roads during construction phase, and the loss of farmland used by the Solar Farm, and a negative impact on tourism and the hospitality industry. I am interested to understand constituents' views on this issue and will listen to representations before taking a decision to oppose or support such proposals.

Speed Limit Changes – investigating the viability of batching applications to change road traffic speed limits [typically from 30MPH to 20MPH].

Threat to Close A+E Services at QEH – Tabled a question to Senior Leadership at the Council, urging confirmation of opposition to this proposal, to be heard and considered in the Cabinet Meeting scheduled for 13th Nov 26.

[3] Committee Responsibilities:

[i] Pension Committee Chair

[ii] IFCA Committee Member [including Finance and HR sub-committee responsibilities]

[iii] Audit & Governance Committee Member