

## **District Councillors Report - August 2018**

### **NK Plan and Financial Strategy**

The Executive Board is due to consider the NK Plan, Transformation Plan, and the Financial Strategy for the Council on 11 October. These plans set the scene for the next 3-5 years, and will form the basis of consultation through the autumn, enabling the council to develop its detailed budget plans for 2019-20 early in the new year. NKDC will be holding a briefing on the NK Plan, the Financial Strategy and the Transformation Plan, on Monday 8 October 2018. The briefing will provide an opportunity to engage with the main challenges and opportunities for the council, and to influence the shape of the discussion through to final decisions on the budget. We plan to explore the priorities for the council and the financial outlook for local government as part of the briefing.

### **Scrutiny in Local Government**

I am currently leading the Select Committee Task and Finish Group investigating the scrutiny arrangements at NKDC as compared with the findings and recommendations set out in the DCLG Select Committee Report on Scrutiny in Local Government. As part of our evidence gathering process, we have interviewed Non-Executive Members, Senior officers and Members of the Senior Management team. We have also been looking at Neighbouring Councils and how Scrutiny works in other parts of Lincolnshire.

Scrutiny is an important part of the decision making process and I would ask that any individual with views or experiences they would like to share regarding this topic, please feel free to contact me. Our aim is to have some relevant and useful recommendations to put forward to Council which may include encouraging more public participation, raising the profile of Scrutiny, using the views and experiences of service users (as apposed to the historical officer report) and basically ensure that the role of the public is given more prominence.

It is important we get a full representative response, so that we can identify the key areas that need improvement and adapt these into our final recommendations.