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**OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Efficiency and Resources Portfolio.

**Regulation of Investigatory Powers**

2. Cabinet has received an update on developments in relation to the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (legislation which enables Council's to carry out certain types of surveillance activity for prosecutions, as long as specified procedures are complied with).
3. On the 10 October 2016 the Council was inspected by an Assistant Surveillance Commissioner from the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner (OSC). This was as part of the normal cycle of periodic inspections that the OSC conducts of local authorities, police forces and other bodies that use RIPA. Positive feedback was received, together with a number of observations and recommendations which have been reviewed and implemented where necessary.
4. Following the inspection the Council's RIPA Policy has been revised and updated. This includes a number of minor changes but also changes to the authorising officers, with the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources now included as an authorising officer and also clarifying that the Director of Children and Adults Services can deputise for the Chief Executive to authorise the employment of a juvenile or vulnerable person as a Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS).
5. Since July 2016 there has been one authorisation granted. This authorisation was to carry out surveillance in relation to an individual believed to be selling illicit or counterfeit cigarettes.

**Annual Audit Letter**

6. Cabinet has received the Annual Audit letter for 2015/16. The Letter provides a high level summary of the results from the 2015/16 audit work undertaken by Ernst Young, the Council's external auditors. The Letter confirms the Council's accounts give a true and fair view for the year ending 31 March 2016 and that it has proper arrangements in place to secure value for money in use of its resources.

**Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 3 2016/17**

7. Cabinet has received information on the current position of the Council's capital commitments and resource together with all the live construction projects currently

being managed by the Council.

8. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work, with the current project position statement showing that there were 33 live projects currently being managed with an overall project outturn value of £95.673 million. The majority of projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations with no foreseeable issues.

### **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17- Quarter 3**

9. Cabinet has considered the Quarter 3 forecast of the 2016/17 revenue budget out-turn. The Council's projected revenue reserves at the end of 2016/17 were £16.679 million, which was £1.212 million better than the phase 2 2016-20 MTFP position and includes a brought forward amount of £0.272 million from 2015/16. Departmental reserves are projected to be underspent by £0.170 million and corporate reserves are projected to be underspent by £0.770 million.

### **Tees Valley Combined Authority Mayoral Election**

10. Preparatory work continues for the Election on 4 May 2017. Officers are working alongside Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton Council's to deliver the Election. All of Darlington's eligible registered electors will be entitled to vote and Members are encouraged to raise the profile of the Election in their newsletters to encourage residents to Register or apply for a postal or proxy vote should they be unable to vote in person on polling day.

**Councillor Stephen Harker**  
**Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio**