
OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

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

Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor on Middleton St. George Parish Council

2. On 16 February 2018, a Notice of Vacancy was published and displayed on behalf of Middleton St. George Parish Council. The Notice advised that one vacancy existed in the office of Parish Councillor on Middleton St. George Parish Council.
3. Rule 5 (2) of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 allows ten electors for a Parish in which the casual vacancies exist to request the Returning Officer to hold an election to fill those vacancies. That request must be made in writing within fourteen working days of the date of notice.
4. On 6 March 2018, the Returning Officer received a request to hold an election to fill the vacancy, and a by-election was subsequently held on 3 May 2018.

Procurement Plan Update

5. Cabinet has considered the Annual Procurement Plan and determined, in accordance with the criteria, which contracts for the forthcoming year shall be deemed to be strategic contracts.
6. Cabinet received an update on the progress of contracts previously deemed to be strategic and also of waiver decisions and reasons.
7. Procurement activity during the last completed financial year 2017/18, generated measured contract savings against budget/expected costs of £1,417,642, which reflect a high degree of compliance with Council procurement processes by Officers within the Council.

Stag House Farm

8. Cabinet has agreed to dispose of Council-owned land at Stag House Farm for residential development.
9. Part of the site will be purchased by a joint venture company to be established between the Council and Esh Homes with the remaining part being sold to a national housebuilder.

10. Subject to planning permission, under reserved matters, it is expected that over 440 houses will be delivered over the five phases of the development.

ICT Update

11. Since the last update, ICT Services has continued to pass PCI DSS quarterly tests. These are the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards. ICT has also completed an external penetration testing exercise as part of the Council's renewal of PSN (Public Service Network) certification which allows the Council to securely do on-line business with Government Departments.
12. In addition to the above, progress has also been made on a number of architecture projects which include :-
 - (a) completion of the significant ICT elements of the refurbishment of the Hippodrome Theatre and Hullabaloo;
 - (b) seamless replacement of the main switches at the network core for both Councils, ensuring a continued high performance of the Council's network;
 - (c) further investigation and preparations on the future of desktop services, including piloting Microsoft Office 365 and upgrading all users to Office 2013 as a precursor to wider 365 roll-out;
 - (d) assisting colleagues in Xentrall Finance with a major upgrade to the Council's financial management system; Business World On! (previously named Agresso);
 - (e) renewing the Printer/Copier maintenance contract with Canon; and
 - (f) improvements to the Council's anti-virus systems.
13. ICT Services has also continued to deliver against the Council's service IT project requirements and has delivered a further eight projects since the last update to Members. These have included :-
 - (a) Carefirst System replaced in social care;
 - (b) Mobile Working Pilot in Children's Services;
 - (c) Graphical Information Systems (GIS) upgrades; and
 - (d) ID Badge System replacement.

Councillor Stephen Harker
Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio