

**COUNCIL  
26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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**OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

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**Cabinet**

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

**Annual Procurement Plan**

2. In accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, Cabinet has approved a number of additional contracts to be added to the Annual Procurement Plan.

**Disposal of Land at Faverdale East Business Park**

3. Cabinet has agreed to the sale of approximately 2.525 acres of land at Faverdale East Business Park.

**Xentrall Shared Service Annual Report 2018-19**

4. Xentrall Shared Services, the Stockton and Darlington partnership was established in 2008 and it now in its twelfth year.
5. The original business case identified a number of efficiencies and benefits to be delivered resulting in initial savings of £7.4 million over the original ten-year period. The partnership has delivered all of these plus additional efficiencies and benefits and has now achieved £14.6 million of savings.
6. Both the quality and performance has improved over this period with both customer and staff satisfaction increasing.
7. In view of the success of the partnership, the Council has previously agreed to amend the ten-year period into an on-going rolling agreement.

**Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Quarter 1 2018/19**

8. Cabinet has received information on the delivery of the Council's Capital Programme.
9. The Council has a substantial annual construction programme of work, with the current project position statement showing that there are 27 live projects currently being managed with an overall project outturn value of £52.005 million. The majority of the projects are running to time, cost and quality expectations with no foreseeable issues.

## **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019-20 Quarter one**

10. Cabinet has been provided with an early forecast of the 2019/20 revenue budget outturn as part of the Council's continuous financial management processes. The Council's projected revenue reserves at the end of 2019/20 are £17.401 million, £0.679 million higher than the initial 2019-23 Medium Term Financial Plan position and includes a brought forward amount of £0.168 million from 2018/19 and the rebasing exercise of £0.511 million.
11. Of the £17.401 million projected reserves, we have a risk reserve balance of £4.350 million and a commitment to use £11.212 million to support the 2019-23 MTFP, leaving £1.839 million one-off funding to further support the general fund moving forward.

## **Proposed Write-off of Irrecoverable Debts 2018/19**

12. Cabinet has written-off sundry debtor invoices with individual values greater than £500 which are considered irrecoverable; this equates to less than 0.5 per cent of collectable debt, in which, during 2017/18, it has become apparent that no further practical or economical steps can be taken to recover the sums due. The Council works continually on debt collection to minimise loss of income by speeding up collection times and reducing the need for invoicing debt by maximising up-front payment for services wherever possible, however, there are some services which we are obliged to provide which cannot be withheld prior to payment.

## **Annual Canvass (Electoral Registration) 2019**

13. This year's Annual Canvass, which commenced on 2 July 2019, has continued apace, with reminders issued at the start of August to those residents who had not responded to the initial Household Enquiry Form. Visiting Officers are also currently visiting properties to provide assistance and encourage the completion of outstanding forms.

**Councillor Charles Johnson**  
**Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio**