

Meeting Date: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Finance, Governance & Resources Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Gareth Ellis**

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## **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

### **2018/19 Statement Of Accounts**

The draft annual Statement of Accounts have been produced in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations and were approved by the S151 Officer on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019; these are currently subject to audit by Grant Thornton.

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

### **Information Management**

Recent counts for information requests (From 5 February – 21 June 2019):

- Environmental Information Regulations requests received – 47
- Environmental Information Regulations requests responded to - 29
- Freedom of Information Act requests received – 263
- Freedom of Information Act requests responded to - 156
- Data Protection Act subject access requests received – 2
- Data Protection Act subject access requests responded to – 1
- Data Protection Act Third Party requests received - 7
- Data Protection Act Third Party requests responded to – 7

## **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Organisational Development Team held the first Big Lunch event in June and this was very well supported by staff and members. A number of service areas had stands and this provided a great opportunity to understand the breadth of work the Council deliver and help reduce silo working.

Another two apprentices started work with the Council and this has now extended the total number of apprentices to eighteen of which eight are currently in the neighbourhood service team, with the majority of apprentices studying for a level 3 qualification.

The newly developed staff and management competency standards have been provided to all staff and revised management competency training will start in September with additional development aimed at the wider workforce to be delivered by internal facilitators. Training for facilitators will commence soon.

## **ELECTORAL SERVICES**

The section is working on completion of the May Elections and are currently planning the 2019 Canvass, with approximately 53,000 initial Household Enquiry Forms scheduled to be posted out on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

## **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEWS**

We are keen to work with residents to improve local democracy and I understand that there is interest in setting up Parish/Community Councils in what is currently an unparished area.

To establish a Local Council, you need to trigger a Community Governance Review, which can be done either by ourselves or petition.

The number of minimum signatures required varies according to the size of the population. If the petition area:

- Has fewer than 500 local government electors, the petition must be signed by 37.5% of the electors;
- Has between 500 and 2,500 local government electors, the petition must be signed by at least 187 electors;
- Has more than 2,500 local government electors, the petition must be signed by at least 7.5% of the electors

Once the petition gathers the required number of signatures, it can be submitted to the principal authority (us), who will validate the signatures and, provided that the minimum threshold is met, will conduct a Community Governance Review within 12 months of submission. During this time, the principal authority will launch a consultation, asking residents to state whether they are in favour or against the establishment of a Local Council. At the end of the consultation period, the Council will review residents' responses before reaching a decision. If the principal authority decides in favour of a Parish Council, it will also set the date for the first election.