

## **CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR ADRIAN JONES</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>
<b>COORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>JOE BLOTT</b>

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

### **1. HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Voluntary Severance Scheme**

Based on budget decisions which have already been taken, and in order to provide services within dramatically reduced government funding, our workforce must unavoidably be further reduced by around 500 over the coming months. Given the worsening budget choices the Council still needs to take, it is inevitable that additional reductions will need to be made over the next two years.

In light of this, a HR1 Notification was issued on 12 June 2014. This notification is a legal step we are required to take to formally notify Trade Unions and the Government that we will potentially need to make compulsory redundancies.

To enable the council to plan its restructures, provide some mitigation and reduce the number of compulsory redundancies that will be needed, we have invited applications for voluntary severance.

#### **Performance Appraisal**

Performance Appraisal has been delivered for senior managers over the past year. This is to ensure that all managers' objectives are set to meet the aims and values of the Council and specifically what has been agreed in the Corporate Plan. This is currently being rolled out across the whole Council.

### **2. ELECTIONS**

European Parliamentary and Local Elections took place on Thursday 22nd May. The management and administration of the elections, was very successful. The feedback from councillors, candidates, agents and MPs in attendance at the Bidston Tennis Centre on its use as the count centre for elections has been very positive.

### **3. ICT UPDATE**

Preparatory work for the implementation of Windows 7 & Office 2010 across the Council is progressing well, however the directory services element which caused service problems back in January continues to present challenges with a resultant delay of 3 weeks to the project. Pilot activities will commence on 18 July with a phased rollout in August leading to a full deployment in September, in line with Future Council organisational changes.

There is a high level action plan in place to progress a number of important initiatives in ICT including plans to appoint a Senior Manager. I regularly monitor the high level plan to ensure key milestones are being achieved.

### **4. EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESILIENCE**

#### Open Golf Preparations

The Open Golf Championship will return for the week of the 13 - 20 July 2014 and will see over 200,000 visitors come to Wirral to spectate at this truly international sporting event. Over 18 months of multi-agency planning has taken place to ensure that the event will pass off with at least the success of 2006, when it was last held on Wirral.

A comprehensive set of Contingency plans has been drawn up and tested during an emergency planning exercise.

### **5. ASSET MANAGEMENT**

The procurement of the new Asset Management System is close to being finalised, this will enable all asset related information to be held together and will vastly improve the quality and interrogation of the information which the Council holds on its assets, it will support the Council to meet the needs of the new Transparency Agenda. Individuals with responsibilities for property from elected members and senior officers to unit managers require appropriate and timely asset management information to discharge those responsibilities effectively. The procurement and implementation of the new asset management system will make asset data more available for informing the decision making process.

We continue to drive forward the on-going disposal strategy, with a range of sites across the Borough. Capital receipts for this financial year are in the region of £1m with others in the pipeline.

The Council's Asset Management Plan was approved by Cabinet on 19 June, which means implementation of the asset strategy can now commence.