

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>Councillor Adrian Jones</b>
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	<b>Central And Support Services</b>
<b>CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER</b>	<b>Joe Blott, Director of Transformation &amp; Resources</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. FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The start of the new financial year is less than 5 months away and the focus of work is currently in two areas; managing the 2014/15 forecast outturn and building the budget for 2015/16

The forecast is being closely scrutinised to ensure the actual outturn is close to the predicted outturn, within year financial pressures being closely monitored.

The draft budget for 2015/16 is being formulated. Savings are being assessed for deliverability. There is a requirement to set a budget that is both balanced and robust with the agreed savings being deliverable.

**2. ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Work is underway to dispose of major sites across Wirral including Acre Lane, Fernbank Farm and Rock Ferry High School.

Negotiations are ongoing to acquire land for the Golf resort. New Hall Farm is being sold to the current tenant in exchange for the surrender of 160 acres of land. The current tenant will continue to rent this land until the Golf Resort is ready to go live.

**3. HEALTH, SAFETY & RESILIENCE**

The Health, Safety and Resilience team responded to the collapsed buildings on King Street on the evening of Wednesday 12th November. Fortunately there were no casualties and the response to the emergency went well. Investigations are underway to identify the cause of the collapse but a gas explosion has been ruled out. Press and media releases and a Members briefing note were circulated following the incident.

The Corporate Health & Safety Committee agreed a revised Health and Safety structure to reflect the recent organisational changes and delivers a far more coherent communication pathway for health & safety matters.

The Health, Safety and Resilience team have launched an improvement program for Business Continuity. A briefing note was taken recently to CESG and work is underway with the Council's most Critical Services, to ensure they have robust plan in place. The revised Corporate Business Continuity Policy has been released and is available on the intranet via the following link:

<http://wbcnet.admin.ad.wirral.gov.uk/governance/business-continuity>

#### **4. IT**

The largest project, Windows 7 rollout continues on schedule. There will be a series of meetings with members through November and equipment will be rolled out to them after the Christmas break as part of Phase II. Phase II includes the Libraries, Children's Centres, Adult Learning, and IT.

Some major procurement exercises have recently completed, including the tender for renewal and upgrade of the main network across the borough and the tender for new telephony within the contact centre. Both projects will be initiated before Christmas. The tender for email migration was awarded and the project is underway. There are a number of other procurements ongoing, including one to extend and improve Wi-Fi coverage across corporate buildings.

As part of the major IT investment initiative, various major infrastructure works continue to be delivered, including:

- The installation of a major corporate data storage device;
- The replacement of more than 150 servers coming to the end of their supportable life;
- The replacement and refresh of network equipment across the entire estate, starting with the core network switches

The IT Service remodelling consultations have been completed; planning is underway for implementation of new structures in the New Year.

#### **5. HUMAN RESOURCES**

##### **National pay award**

The National Employers Association has just agreed a two year national pay award for all Local Authority staff with the nationally recognised Trade Unions. This is within our budget projections and does not affect our budget position.