

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Adrian Jones
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Central and Support Services
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Joe Blott, Strategic Director- Transformation and Resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

1. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Good progress is being made to move the three major disposal sites to the market, this follows some challenging work. Significant Capital receipts are expected at the end of the process. Office rationalisation continues at a pace and is resulting in more efficient workspaces and improved working environments for staff.

A completed lease agreement with Tranmere Rovers Football Club will relocate training and academy facilities to the Solar Campus site and includes the enhancement of community pitches.

Sensitive negotiations continue with a range of development opportunities across the Borough with retail companies, training providers and partner organisations.

2. HEALTH, SAFETY & RESILIENCE

The Health Safety & Resilience Team were instrumental in delivering an effective plan for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of over 70,000 spectators who came to view the Three Queens event on bank holiday Monday 25th May 2015. There has been over whelming positive feedback on the event experience as a whole with specific mention of the park & ride service and also the role of over 90 volunteers ambassadors who acted as stewards for the event.

The Health, Safety & Resilience Team are now part of a new service area called Corporate & Community Safety, which sits in the Transformation & Resources Directorate. This is a result of an organisational restructure and has placed the Health, Safety & Resilience team in with the Community Safety Team and the Councils Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Mark Camborne has management responsibility for this service area.

3. IT

There has been significant progress over the past three months with major projects having been delivered, including:

- The council achieved its PSN accreditation three months earlier than planned. This was due, in no small part, to the significant investment that the council has made in its ICT

infrastructure and the extraordinary efforts of the officers in the ICT Service and the council's external partners and suppliers.

- The capacity of the council's internet connection has been increased so that it can handle more high speed data.
- We have negotiated new contracts for our mobile and fixed telephone services and made significant savings.
- WiFi has been rolled out to leisure sites across the borough.
- Security risk management utilities have been deployed to reduce the risk of malicious attack from external sources.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES/ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Remodelling and change

The remodelling work is in its final stages of delivery. We are also supporting the setting up and TUPE transfer of staff to Local Authority Company set up by Council to deliver day services and schools traded services company.

We continue to work and support staff and Trade Unions to mitigate the impact of the Government's austerity measures.

HR Policy Development

Following recent consultation with Trade Unions, it is intended to take a revised disciplinary policy to Transformation and Resources Policy and Performance Committee in July. The committee will also be advised about legislative changes in relation to Shared Parental Leave.

5. LIVERPOOL AND WIRRAL CORONER SERVICE

On 2 April 2015, the Liverpool and Wirral Coroner Area was formally established under The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (Alteration of Coroners Areas) Order 2015. The Order formalises the interim coroner arrangements that have been in place since 1 January 2014. Andre Rebello is the Senior Coroner for Coroner Area. The Coroner's Office and Court is located at Gerard Majella Courthouse, Boundary Street, Liverpool, L5 2QD. However, any Wirral family wishing to have an inquest held on the Wirral can request one and it will be held unless otherwise agreed by the Senior Coroner and family at the Town Hall, Birkenhead.

On 21 May, both Councils undertook a joint recruitment exercise for a new Area Coroner, who would support the Senior Coroner in his role. The interview panel included the Cabinet Portfolio Members with responsibility for the coroner service of both Councils. The panel recommended that Anita Bhardwaj be appointed and the recommendation was duly endorsed by the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor.

The operation of both the Wirral and Liverpool Coroner Services as a single service since 1 January 2014 has proven to be very successful both in terms of service improvement but also financially.