

Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Support Services

16 September 2014

Financial Position

The 2014/15 revenue budget has been reduced from £7.463m to £7.237m a saving of £228,000, largely as a result of the corporate restructure, this revised budget further strengthens the Councils already enviable financial position. The full savings from this corporate restructure will be realised in 2015/16. Once again this demonstrates the Council's commitment to strong financial governance and stewardship, enabling front line services to be strengthened and investment to be made in Council priorities.

Council Plan

The Councils refocused priorities of customer service and economic development, together with the corporate restructure has created a need to revise the Council Plan 2014/15. The revised Council Plan establishes the Councils priorities and how these will be delivered by the three new directorates.

ICT

A number of changes are taking place to the structure of the ICT service targeted at improving ICT training for both officers and members. This restructure will also establish a dedicated Member ICT support service, improving the response members receive in respect of problems they encounter. A new IT manager should hopefully be in place by the time this report is read and will further strengthen the IT team.

Much work is involved in keeping the Council systems security compliant and due to the ever changing world of IT security this is an ongoing and considerable element of the IT workload. We are fortunate to be involved with the Information Governance Toolkit Project Board which includes several Government departments and have been asked to sit on the Board to represent all the District Councils in the Country. This keeps us at the forefront of Government network security.

Capital Projects

Planning work is continuing on providing electric hook-up points for traders on Thirsk & Northallerton markets. An opportunity may exist to facilitate charging of electric vehicles, which are becoming more prevalent and discussions are ongoing with stakeholders to understand what provision is needed and if this is best delivered on or off street.

Councillor Nigel Knapton
Cabinet Member for Support Services