

## **Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Governance**

### **ICT**

Our Cyber Security is under constant scrutiny so when we had an incident on 11 November 2019 it proved no threat to our systems.

We are providing more equipment to enable mobile working within the Council but we have noted an increase in incidents of damage to some devices and so an article will go out about “care for device “ and the situation will be monitored. A Staff Skill Survey within the Council has been carried out and the result is being used as the basis of future training.

### **Communications**

We are at present recruiting for a Communications Manager, this is a new role within the Council. This will ensure that we are communicating with our residents effectively in a world that is continually changing using different media.

We are due to send out the Residents’ Survey in the next few months. This covers approximately 40,000 properties and is in response to criticism in the LGA Peer Review 2019 that there was a need for improved “Audience Insight “and I will report the results back to you.

The Council is also preparing a Crisis Communications Plan so that clear lines of engagement are established for staff to follow when we have an event requiring an immediate reaction with the press and public, such as the recent incident in Northallerton when a premises close to the hospital had a major fire with potential for gas explosions.

We have for the first time taken out an 8 page supplement in the Municipal Journal to raise the profile of Hambleton District Council and it will be published on 9 April 2020.

### **Legal**

I am pleased to report that we had a successful prosecution on 10 December 2019 in the “Plying for Hire“ case with both a fine and an award for costs being made in the Council’s favour. I hope this will deter others from trying to operate taxis without holding a valid licence in Hambleton. Electoral Services are now preparing for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May.

### **Design and Maintenance**

Work progresses on the Car Park Improvement and we all look forward to this being completed in the summer. In April 2013 our energy consumption for street lighting was 1,336,000kw and since then we have been replacing the bulbs with LED’s and secured a grant from Salix to fund this project. In October 2019 our energy consumption was measured as 561,000kw and with the completion of the project due in April 2020 we have a target of 475,000 Kw as being the energy needed to light up Hambleton. This project has been a huge success.

Councillor Mrs Isobel Sanderson  
Portfolio Holder for Governance  
25 February 2020