

## **COUNCIL – 7 JANUARY 2019**

### **STATEMENT BY COUNCILLOR HEATHER PHILLIPS CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSFORMATION**

#### **CORPORATE MODERNISATION**

The Corporate Modernisation Team are busy working with Service Unit Managers (SUM) to review completed business analysis tools, required as part of a SUM led review process. Some key corporate themes are emerging from this work, which will over the coming months really shape the Corporate Modernisation programme.

The key focus of work for the last few months has been to assist the Estates team with improving their internal processes and procedures to streamline them and assist the team with becoming more efficient. The work has also identified additional income. The Estates ICT system has been assessed as being beyond useful life and is currently being reviewed and a replacement solution scoped. Information for customers has been improved via the website, and technology utilised to capture Estates related enquiries (went live on 3 December) which will provide useful management information relating in the future. The review has also identified some other key work streams/projects which will feed into the Corporate Modernisation programme.

The Corporate Modernisation team have been undertaking a review of various administration roles around the council, which has resulted in changes being implemented within Regeneration Services which have not only enabled the Service to refocus administrative resources in line with current and future requirements but also provided a saving. Formal consultation with staff and trade unions in relation to proposals to realign resources within Central Administration and Housing Benefits to meet ongoing service requirements, provide resilience for central support services and create savings is ongoing.

The Environment & Regulation service are currently trialling field-based technology for food inspections that will enable officers to deliver their roles more effectively and efficiently. This trial will inform decisions on which technology device(s) best suit the team, ahead of a full roll-out of mobile technology for the team. This work will make best use of technology, achieve officer time efficiencies and reduce data risks (e.g. GDPR).

The Council is now receiving detailed reports back from the Association of Public Sector Excellence (APSE) for service areas that have participated in a data gathering and submission exercise. This allows very detailed benchmarking against other local authorities and 'family groups' of similar local authorities. The reports will, over the coming months, contribute to identifying areas of good practice, areas for potential improvement, areas where resource can be allocated (Business Analysts) to make improvements, potential efficiencies, financial savings, and improved working practices etc. Whilst this is the first year for many years that Scarborough Borough Council has participated in such benchmarking activity, the reports, over

coming years will show trends in service delivery and performance, and again, drive the Corporate Modernisation programme.

It is proposed that the Corporate Modernisation programme will drive forward the Council's budgetary savings plan in the short to medium term and good progress has been made to align the programme with the Council's budget setting process and Financial Strategy.

## **ICT**

### **Smart Passes**

The team are leading a project to upgrade the Town Hall and Dean Road Depot door access technology system to improve staff safeguarding, building and information security. The solution will utilise intelligent security ID passes. Prerequisite work to install network and power cabling to relevant internal and external doors at Scarborough Town Hall got underway during December, with the supplier scheduled to be on-site from week commencing 14 January to install the system and all associated hardware.

### **Digital Strategy**

The team, with the support of Corporate Modernisation, are working on developing a Digital Strategy which will help enable Digital Citizens, a Digital Council and a Digital Place.

## **PLANNING**

Planning activity remains strong, with potentially significant developments in the pipeline. Pre-application community and stakeholder engagement has commenced with regard to the largest housing development in the Local Plan, land to the south of Cayton. Persimmon Homes has an option on a sizeable part of the site, and is looking to submit a planning application this financial year. A revised application for a cinema at North Bay has been received, whilst the Planning and Development Committee has considered and resolved to approve improvements in facilities at Scarborough's football ground. Elsewhere on this agenda you will see details of the consultation on revisions to the Council's Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning document and a report on further changes which has already been considered by the Planning and Development Committee and Cabinet. The Planning Service is about to embark on a recruitment exercise to fill vacancies and equip the service with the capacity it requires to deal with future workload, which will include preliminary work on reviewing the Local Plan in the second half of 2019.