MAJOR PROJECTS

Filey Flood Alleviation Works

The finalisation of the land deals is still in the latter stages with the transfer documentation being finalised and agreed by solicitors for all parties.

Church Street Flood protection works

Works continue to progress on site.

Dean Road Depot/Manor Road amalgamation

Phased improvements works to the site continue with the installation of a vehicle entry barrier and removal of redundant loading bays as the next major items scheduled.

Whitby Piers Refurbishment

Works are now complete.

Scarborough Spa Cliff Stabilisation

Works are continuing on the Spa Cliff Stabilisation scheme. The contractor is now progressing the reinstatement of the landscaping including the new retaining walls, and path works. Work is on programme for completion in February 2020.

Whitby East Pier Link Bridge

The East Pier link bridge has been delivered to Whitby and is being stored on Endeavour Wharf. The bridge is expected to be installed early in the New Year.

National Lottery Heritage Fund South Cliff Gardens Project

Design work is ongoing on the NLHF South Cliff Project and a mid-term project review was held in November 2019 to review the work to date. The advance tree works package commenced on site in November and is progressing well. Tree works are expected to be completed in February 2020.

Clock Café Chalets

The timber chalets have now been demolished and removed from site. Work is progressing on the design of a new permanent retaining wall.

Robin Hoods Bay Sea Wall

Consultation has been held with the Ward Member and Parish Council with regard to undertaking the works in the summer to take advantage of better weather conditions and longer working hours. This was positively received and tender documents are
being amended to reflect the revised restrictions and obtain tenders early in the New Year.

ICT

Microsoft Office 2016 upgrade

Microsoft Office is the product suite comprising Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access. The team are midway through upgrading the organisation from Office 2010 to Office 2016 in line with Microsoft withdrawing product support for Office 2010 in early 2020. Upgrading will reduce the risk of increased cyber security risks that occur when an unsupported IT product continues to be used. Issues have been minimal and are well within expectations of such a large scale upgrade project.

Microsoft Server 2016 upgrades

Microsoft are also withdrawing support for its earlier Server software platforms in early 2020. The ICT team have successfully completed a six month programme to upgrade more than thirty servers to new Operating Systems and Database software platforms whilst minimising service unavailability for our customers.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Equalities and diversity training

Compulsory equalities and diversity online training was launched during autumn 2019 for staff and Elected Members. The aim of the training was to continue to raise awareness and further develop understanding of equalities and diversity issues. The training is 34 minutes long and in three parts covering unacceptable behaviour, protected characteristics and the benefits of an equal and diverse workforce. It is interactive and has a quiz at the end to test and reinforce understanding. It is positive to note that there has been an extremely good take up by staff and Elected Members and the majority of people have now completed the training:

- Successfully completed – 399
- Failed -5
- In progress – 25
- Not started - 37

The Human Resources Services will now continue to work with the ICT Service in order to encourage those who have not yet successfully completed the course to do so.

ELECTIONS

The annual canvass to update the Register of Electors is ordinarily published on 1 December annually, but for 2019, the Register of Electors was published early on 5 November to allow the responses received throughout autumn to take effect ahead of the snap UK Parliamentary Election to be held on 12 December 2019, which was
called on Tuesday 29 October. This allowed poll cards to be sent to electors reflecting any changes to addresses during the canvass period.

The annual canvass now uses a range of permitted methodologies to encourage responses from potential and existing voters:

- An initial email based canvass was conducted during July which sent 28,830 emails to 21,341 households, and we received 11,760 responses (60.69% response rate, an increase of 4.83% to the e-canvass last year). Sending the emails to obtain responses prior to the paper forms being sent achieves savings of around £7,000.
- The traditional paper based annual canvass followed in August and September which saw 46,724 forms being posted to households across the Borough and a further reminder being issued. The response rate to paper forms was 57.73% (overall response rate at this stage of the canvass was 81.10%)
- Any outstanding responses by the end of September require a personal canvasser (door knocker) to be sent to encourage responses which involved 11,052 households.
- The overall response rate to the 2019 annual canvass was 90.79%