

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 20th October 2021**

DECISIONS

The following papers went to Executive on 5th October:

Community Environmental Initiatives

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23

1. Draft tenders from the final three bidders for the Future Waste Project have been received and the Project Board are currently reviewing these. Feedback to the bidders is expected to be provided in late October.
2. Final Tender Submissions are expected November 2021 with the preferred bidder to be selected in March 2022
3. Transporter Bridge - Rapid Consulting are preparing all necessary design and tender documents to enable us to appoint Contractors to carry out the initial work required to make the bridge safe. Works are currently underway to drill and bolt the upper angles of the bridge with completion estimated for early November.

STRATEGIC

6. Green Strategy - We are about to launch our internal training module for all staff to complete, focussed on climate change and carbon emissions reductions which is a key component of the strategy and one which all staff must subscribe to and play their part. Following this we will develop the role of Green Champions in Departments and Teams to take forward and drive our green ambitions internally.
7. Bridges and Structures – Capita have completed the design for jacking up of A66 and concrete repair works required to Column 20b on A66 and expect the tender documents to be published on the NEPO portal within the next 3 week with works to begin thereafter. Capita have been appointed as consultant/contractor to carry out Principal and general inspections on the remainder of the Council's bridge and structure asset stock to inform us of current condition and identify and maintenance works required. Inspections are currently underway.
8. Traffic Signals/UTMC - The new UTMC and UTC system development is progressing well with Siemens carrying out the works to have the new system in place soon. TCF funding is available to expand our UTMC assets across the Tees Valley, with the UTMC manager currently working with Fore Consulting to develop an asset plan for hardware type and location (VMS, CCTV, ANPR, Air Quality, Traffic Counting, Weather monitoring etc.)

9. TVCA/Joint Authorities have been awarded £500k for traffic signals improvements following a successful bid to DfT. Funding will be awarded by the end of October with improvement works to be carried out before the end of the financial year.
10. Highways Projects –the planned highways team are underway with the 2020/21 works programme and are working towards having all of the scheme works complete prior to April 2022. Tarmac have been appointed as main contractor for the surfacing programme following a tender process with all of the planned carriageway surfacing works scheduled to be completed prior to April 2022.

PERFORMANCE

11. Progress against Strategic Plan and Directorate priorities.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

ICT

12. Following the successful implementation of Microsoft 365's Email and Teams collaboration tools. ICT are now busy planning phase 2 of the programme. In support of the Councils continued development of the "Blended Working" approach, we will shortly begin the reconfiguration of approximately 2700 laptop and desktop devices with the latest Windows 10 operating system. This new version of Windows will feature cloud based services that will increase our security posture, introduce additional collaboration tools and innovative productivity applications. Planning is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that work to rollout the new software will commence in December.
13. One of the key principles of the ICT Strategy is the consolidation of our hardware and software assets. Reducing our footprint reduced time, cost and is better for the environment. For many years ICT has maintained two types of server infrastructure Windows based and Unix/Oracle based. Changes in technology have created an opportunity to consolidate our Oracle based applications onto the Windows platform. The first of which iWorld, our Revenues & Benefits application was moved at the end of September. Two further applications, IDOX (Planning) and Capita One (Education Management) will be moved during October. After which the Oracle server environment will be decommissioned. This move will reduce the ICT Capital requirement by around 50k per annum (the servers are refreshed every five years at a cost of £250k) as well as improving the availability and reliability of these three key applications for our users and residents.
14. Following the approval of an outline business to redevelop the Councils Website & Intranet and bring the technical support "in-house". ICT are now working to cost up this alternate support model. In conjunction with Marketing and Communications and supported by the Councils survey tool (Survey 1-2-3) we are actively seeking the opinion of residents, Members and Council Officers who regularly interact with

the Website. This feedback will be incorporated into technical requirements of the new site as well as the longer term roadmap for its development.

15. As mentioned previously ICT are currently in the process of reassessment for our annual PSN (Public Sector Network) compliance. PSN compliance is a mandatory requirement of all Local Authorities if they are to retain their link to Central Government and in particular the Department of Work and Pensions. The assessment spans a ten day period and involves certified specialists attempting to circumvent our external and internal security systems. They will make recommendations to improve security where required and their assessment of our overall posture dictates our compliance. Following the onsite visit we expect to receive the verdict on our security posture before the end of October.

Human Resources

16. Middlesbrough Council is proud to have a number of staff networks and Covid has highlighted the need more than ever to stay connected so we have stepped up our efforts to encourage participation. Our staff networks give staff a chance to connect with one another, voice their opinions, share experiences, create a space for mutual support and sharing lived experience. But best of all they are a way to contribute to positive change, they create opportunities to shape the culture of our organisation and positively influence employee experiences. The networks are:
- DAWN (Disability and Wellbeing)
 - BAME (Black, Asian, Minority, Ethnic)
 - Carers' Network
 - LGBT+ Network

We will also be launching the Gender Equality Network. The networks are open to all supportive allies and welcome those who are not in the social group represented, but who will champion and support the aims of the group



17. Our menopause Support Group was launched in September. The group will help staff share their experiences, support each other and learn more about menopause and its effects.



Commissioning and Procurement

18. On the 24th September the Procurement team hosted a Procurement event in the Town hall Crypt in which all local suppliers were invited to come and engage with Middlesbrough Council and other key anchor organisations across the town in regards to doing local business. The event was aimed at keeping investment local. The event was open by The Mayor, and presentations were given by ourselves, Cleveland Police and North East Purchasing Organisation. Attendees were encouraged to network with other organisations whom attended the event to find out what opportunities for business would be available and make local contacts. Feedback from the event has been very positive and as a result future engagement events are already being planned.
19. Processing and Recycling of Kerbside Collected Dry Recycling Contract is currently out for tender with a closing date of 12 October. This is a joint contract between Middlesbrough Council and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council with a proposed start date of 1 April 2022.
20. Middlesbrough's fortnightly green waste service is set to make its annual change to a monthly collection, with households receiving one collection per month in October and November.
21. Residents are advised to consult their collection calendar which is available online or via the Contact Centre.