

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 24th November 2021

DECISIONS

The following papers went to Executive on 9th November:

Paper-lite Meetings

ECS Built Asset Investment

Strategic Plan 2021-24 Progress at Quarter Two

Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Budget Savings Proposals

Revenue and Capital Budget - Projected Outturn Position as at Quarter Two
2021/22

1. 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 and then to plan the remainder of the works to enable the bridge to either re-open as a fully functioning bridge or to be used as a visitor attraction. Works are currently underway to drill and bolt the upper angles of the bridge with completion estimated for early November.

STRATEGIC

2. **Human Resources** - 360 feedback supports our culture of openness and transparency and is a powerful tool to enable greater self-awareness and help develop focussed personal development.
3. **Human Resources** - We have begun a project which will run over the next 12 – 18 months involving over 200 managers. They will complete a self-assessment and feedback from their line manager, direct reports, peers and others will be used to provide a report back to each manager delivered in a feedback session with a member of the OD Team.
4. **ICT** - ICT Services have commenced a re-procurement project, in conjunction with Legal Services and Procurement, to replace the Councils mobile phone SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card contract, currently provided by EE.
5. Mobile phones form a vital part of the Councils Communication and Technology Infrastructure and ICT Services manage approximately 2300 devices in use by Elected Members and staff across all Directorates. The current contract expires in January 2022 and work to select a new supplier is already at an advanced stage. ICT Services are currently working through detailed requirements capture to ensure that the new

provider is able to meet the ever evolving communication needs of the Council. Following the introduction of Microsoft 365 and Teams ICT Services will, over time, offer greater integration with the newly deployed communication tools on mobile devices and any new provider need to meet that need. It is anticipated that a new provider will be selected before the end of November 2021.

6. **ICT** - All Directorates across the Council rely on the availability and reliability of ICT systems in order to deliver services across the Town. To ensure these demands are met, ICT operate two Data Centres located separately across the Town but linked by private fibre connectivity. The Councils 300 Enterprise and line of business applications are spread across both Data Centres, in the event of a loss of one of these sites the remaining Data Centre will take over and support all the Councils ICT needs.
7. In order to ensure this resilience is maintained it is important to regularly service and test this capability. ICT are currently in the process of testing our Data Centre resilience systems. This involves simulating a loss of power in one location (effectively turning the mains electricity off) and then monitoring the transition of ICT services across to the remaining Data Centre. In addition ICT are mid-way through an annual programme of maintenance to ensure systems such as air conditioning, fire suppression and backup generators are working efficiently.
8. **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 2 weeks 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 with 32 completed inspections and 22 submitted reports which we are analysing for a future works programme.
9. **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.
10. **Street Lighting** - Inspections for structural and electrical testing are expected to commence in November and have the testing complete, and reports submitted, by July 2022.
11. **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.
12. **Fleet Services** - They have taken delivery of 2 Electric Vehicles as part of a vehicle to grid trial. We have a further 3 vehicles on order which we expect to be delivered in December.

PERFORMANCE

13. Progress against Strategic Plan and Directorate priorities.

INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION

14. **Commissioning and Procurement** - The Procurement Team Leader attended a Social Value volunteering day which was delivered by Wave as part of their social value commitment in being the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) Water Retail Service contracted supplier. The event was open to all 12 North East Local Authorities and have over 30 volunteers attending. The day saw the volunteers cleaning up the Tees Barrage and was very successful.
15. **Human Resources** - We have now gone live with the new Electric Car Lease Scheme. This provides the opportunity for staff to lease a 100% electric car which complements the councils green agenda and offers staff a lower cost alternative to buy an electric vehicle through a salary sacrifice scheme. The monthly cost also includes comprehensive insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and tyres and the company can arrange for a charging point to be fitted for those with off street parking.
16. Using a salary sacrifice scheme allows employees to sacrifice part of their salary before Tax and National Insurance is deducted making a saving for them. We as the employer also make savings on reduced National Insurance and employers pension contributions. The scheme is open to permanent employees over the age of 21 as long as criteria for not taking an employee's salary below minimum wage is met.
17. **Human Resources** - Management Development Programme Launched - Our managers play a critical role in modelling, embedding and enabling the values and have a huge impact on the working culture. To enable and support our managers we have refreshed our Management Development Programme and created a programme that is more accessible and flexible allowing managers to access resources at a time that is right for them.
18. The refreshed programme aligns directly with the Values framework which encompasses the key behaviours and competencies that we expect from our managers. We have worked with the partner providers to provide a menu of choices including self-learning (videos, articles etc.) to introduce topics, focused short workshops and take away resources to support managers back in the workplace. The programme is now live on our new Learning Management System for all managers to access.
19. **Green Waste** - 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. Residents are advised to consult their collection calendar which is available online or via the Contact Centre.
20. **Recycling** - A number of Recycling Roadshows have taken place, with more in the pipeline. The Roadshow team are visiting schools across the borough to promote the benefits of recycling, waste reduction etc...
21. **Electric Vehicles** - We have started to take delivery of 5 V2G Electric Vehicles. These vehicles will be used by the Environment Service teams. This is the first steps toward electrifying the Council's vehicle fleet.

22. **Micro Forests & Urban Meadows** - Environment Services are asking Ward Councillors to identify possible locations for both Micro forests & Urban Meadow areas, in readiness for planting this Autumn/Winter.