

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 3 November 2009

Subject: Performance Management Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Richard Bassett

Item 7(i)

Recommending:

That the report of the Performance Management Portfolio Holder be noted.

My report this month is fairly short as much of it is work in progress.

I have been working with several groups to start a review process to allow the Council to maintain front line service delivery yet get better value for money. We have already committed to have a Council Tax increase of less than 2.5% and this will require the Council to find £300k in savings. To this end we have created a Sub-Group of the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee to look at budgets, priorities and initiatives which can be reviewed from a performance and value for money perspective. The Group will be myself, Chris Whitbread, Derek Macnab and Bob Palmer. The first meeting of this Group will be held on 5 November.

I also have been part of the Group reviewing the tenders for the provision of insurance broking services. This is an important area for the Council and also an area where if managed properly could save the Council a considerable amount of money. We have interviewed three possible companies who have tendered for the business. We also have received some information about an active collaboration project between a small group of local authorities in our region. This is supported by our regional Procurement East Network (PEN) who wished to explore the potential for collaborative procurement of Insurance Services. If we take this collaboration approach we will have a much larger purchasing power with the insurance companies and hence should get a better deal. I will provide an update in due course.

Work is also progressing on the Building Maintenance Strategy and a report of possible projects, costings and priorities will be presented to Cabinet shortly. The plan is to make everything happen within the agreed budgets and to concentrate on vital works.

I also have started to review the improvement plans for the Key Performance Indicators which is quite a lot work but we need to be smart in working out how we can improve our performance without putting a strain on budgets.