

# **PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Health & Community Protection Portfolio**

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

### **1 What has been the impact of Fit for the Future?**

- 1.1 The Service has adapted well to the new structures following re-design. The changes delivered significant financial savings without reducing the services delivered.
- 1.2 The re-design has enabled a number of service improvements. Within the Regulatory Section the Licensing team are aligning their work processes with the rest of the section and this will allow for easier sharing of information and electronic handling of documents.
- 1.3 Closer working between the noise nuisance anti-social behaviour teams has resulted more efficient working. In particular delivery of the 'your town your choice' events has benefitted from wider team working.

### **2 What further impact do you expect, for staff and for your customers?**

- 2.1 Within the Regulatory Section the Licensing Team is reviewing and amending working practices. It is proposed to combine Regulatory and Licensing Committees to provide a more efficient and effective service and procedures to enable this are being updated. More joined up working between food safety and licensing enforcement has been facilitated, with the merging of teams.
- 2.2 The Safer Communities Section is revising policies in relation to the night-time economy and attainment of the 'Purple Flag' award. This is an accreditation scheme for much of the good work which is already being done to provide a safe and diverse night-time economy in our towns.
- 2.3 Within the Environmental Sustainability Section service re-design has brought together staff dealing with flood risk, emergency planning, sustainability and corporate health & safety. An updated Emergency Plan has just been issued to reflect the new structures within the Council and revised procedures.

- 2.4 We will be tendering for a new work management software system within Bereavement Services. This will improve our ability to deliver good customer service.
- 2.5 Staff will be investigating the potential for new ways of working to deliver better customer service and also in relation to the Riverside House relocation project.

### **3 How are you going to make more savings in the next financial year?**

- 3.1 Discretionary budget reductions have been identified for 2014/15.
- 3.2 Changes to the 'out of hours' working arrangements will provide further savings for future years, towards the 10% discretionary budget savings required over 4 years. A request for Flexible Retirement from a member of staff has been accepted and this will allow for a small additional saving.
- 3.3 One of our teams is involved with ICT in trialling new mobile technology. If this proves a success more flexible and efficient ways of working will be enabled for staff undertaking inspections and visits around the district. Different ways of working are under consideration in preparation for the proposed move from Riverside House and to help deliver the required savings linked to this.
- 3.4 Within the FFF programme there is a project to investigate potential energy savings within Council buildings. This not only has the benefit of reducing our carbon usage but could deliver additional financial savings.

### **4 What are the strategic plans for future development?**

- 4.1 A replacement Sustainability Officer has been appointed and will start work after Easter on a 2 year contract. Her role is to bring forward a more coordinated strategic approach with respect to adapting to climate change, CO2 emission reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- 4.2 The Health & Wellbeing Lead Officer is working with stakeholders, including Public Health, to embed health & wellbeing policy across the Council. A new Health Scrutiny sub-committee has been established to review the effectiveness of our work in this regard.
- 4.3 Works are well advanced on the Oakley Wood Crematorium improvement project and are planned to be completed before the end of 2015. The next stage is for a planning application to be

submitted for the North Chapel extension and car park improvement, in the next 3 months.

- 4.4 A work plan has been agreed for the coming year with our South Warwickshire Safer Communities partners, with funding contribution from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.5 With the Cubbington flood alleviation scheme due for completion in the first quarter of the year plans are being prepared to bid for resources to fund further flood alleviation works.