

Scrutiny Lead Activity Update for OSC 14.12.2020

Portfolio Holder – Cabinet Lead Cllr Ronald

- Set up regular meetings with Cllr Ronald to get oversight of Council's finance and resource key issues
- Had one on the 03.12.2020

Resources

- Met with DD for Finance and Resources Kevin Bartle and covered understanding of the Budget Monitoring/ Budget Setting, Strategic Risk (Council Balancing its budget), commercialisation and income generation.
- Discussed Council Tax Reduction as a challenge session no longer going ahead as the proposal is not being put forward anymore.
- Follow up with Resources and Finance CD/DD to happen on the draft budget ahead of 14.12.2020 meeting

ICT

- Met with the DD for ICT Adrian Gorst and covered an understanding of service area, main work areas – transferring staff onto Office 365 and (logistics) issuing of IT equipment. Working on proposal for using SMART building formula (more energy efficient), good network connection for the development of the new Town Hall.
- Main risk issues for the service is hacking and security. Working alongside Asset Management Strategy and Procurement to deliver further savings through digital.
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Customer Services Idea Stores and Libraries

- Met with DD for customer services and covered understanding of service areas including contact centres and how this worked through Covid, Idea Stores and Libraries and supporting Adult Learning. Discussed consultation around proposed closure libraries and reduction of hours for Idea stores to make way for savings £1.6 million. (£600,00) already identified with affecting service as is).
- Discussion around undertaking a challenge session at in January/ February 2021 on the proposal for closure and reduction of Idea Stores and Libraries.

Follow up

- Attended your 1st Grants Determination Sub-Committee to review and scrutiny grants proposals
- Scheduling a scoping session Jan 2021 to look at Idea Stores and Libraries (closure and reduction of hours)
- Meeting with Amanda Harcus (DD for HR) and understanding of your portfolio
- Looking to establish scope around the proposals for the future of idea stores and libraries