

Audit Committee

This report summarises the items considered by the Audit Committee on 25 May 2017:

SSDC Transformation Programme (Agenda Item 6)

The Chief Executive Officer presented his report to members with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation to explain how the savings would be achieved through the Transformation Project.

He explained that the Transformation Team had looked at all the activities which the council carried out and how much time was spent by the authority on each activity, such as leadership and management and specialist knowledge tasks. He explained that the time spent carrying out each of these tasks could be reduced by applying 'benefit drivers' to each activity. These benefit drivers would include;

- Providing better information to the customer to reduce, increase or redirect demand from customers.
- Enabling customers to self-serve and to do more to help themselves.
- Remodelling and reallocating work to ensure specialist staff would spending their time carrying out specialist tasks.
- Stripping out waste in processes
- Agile working, which would empower employees to take control of their work

He explained that the IT systems would enable customers to track enquiries such as planning applications online and information which we required from customers would only need to be collected once. The new IT systems would also enable workflow and provide performance measures for managers.

He advised members that of the 480 staff, which was the equivalent of 420 full time members of staff, all 263 roles had been analysed. He clarified that by the end of 2019/20, staff costs would be reduced by £2.5 million per year.

During the discussion, members expressed concern over the risks which would be involved in the project such as the loss of knowledge from staff leaving or being made redundant.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that he had been looking at options for a HR training specialist and at ways of investing more into supporting staff to help ensure that knowledge was retained. He further advised that the Council would become more efficient, and explained that this was not a plan to reduce services.

RESOLVED: that members noted the report.

Audit Committee Forward Plan (Agenda Item 7)

Members noted the Audit Forward Plan.

Councillor Derek Yeomans
Chairman of Audit Committee