REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

PORTFOLIO: COMMERCIAL, BUSINESS, LOCAL ECONOMY & LEISURE; TOURISM; AND CUSTOMER

REPORT FROM: STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: COUNCIL PROJECTS PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICE

1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED

1.1 To note updates on the Council's three projects: the Connect Programme and the Asset Delivery Programme (both GOLD projects) and the Beagle Event project (a SILVER project)

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Programme Management Office (PMO) has oversight of three projects that report to meetings of the Executive: the Connect Programme and the Asset Delivery Programme (both GOLD projects) and the Beagle Event project (a SILVER project). Updates are provided quarterly to the Executive.

3 SALIENT INFORMATION

Connect Programme

- 3.1 The Connect Programme has reached the stage of development where a pipeline of potential Invest to Save projects has been compiled and the first Invest to Save project (the govService Customer Experience Platform) is the subject of a separate report to the Executive at the same meeting as this report. These Invest to Save projects have been identified as those providing the optimum benefits to the Council and its customers, primarily centred on implementing digital technology to achieve efficiencies and enhance the customer experience.
- 3.2 As previously reported, the successful Connect Workforce Development Workstream and resulting Staff Development Programme has now moved to be embed into 'business as usual'.
- 3.3 Connect Programme resources will be reviewed in the Autumn once approved Invest to Save business cases are known. This support will be critical in ensuring the continued delivery of the Connect Programme objectives and realisation of anticipated benefits.

Asset Delivery Programme

- 3.4 As previously reported officers continue to pursue the work to enable decant of the assets in line with the programme. An inventory has been prepared in order to ensure that all items within the Civic Suite are carefully catalogued. Should Members wish to discuss with their local contacts or community groups that may wish to repurpose some of the surplus furniture officers would welcome that conversation.
- 3.5 Following feedback from the public relating to the Mill Arts & Events Centre site, officers have been reviewing the proposals. That work is ongoing and is being progressed in earnest. Until that work is complete, no decision will be taken in respect of that site. Work in respect of the other sites within the Programme is continuing.

Beagle Project

3.6 With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, it is proposed that the Beagle Event will be re-cast into an event for summer of 2022. Further information will be reported to the next meeting of the Executive.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The risks identified in PMO projects will be reviewed as they evolve. PMO will monitor the risks of each project individually for impact on its own project and all other PMO identified projects, as well as impacts on the Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.2 All identified risks and issues for the Connect Programme are recorded on the master Connect Programme Risks and Issues Log, which is regularly reviewed by the Connect Programme Manager in liaison with the Connect Project Team. Similarly Council risks are monitored by the ADP Project Team via the ADP Risk Register and Programme risks via the Programme Board.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Connect Programme continues to be delivered within the resources previously agreed by the Executive on 8 July 2020. Any further deployment of the Transformation Programme Manager resource is part of the Invest to Save project for the govService Customer Experience Platform and future Invest to Save projects as they are approved by the Executive. The HR Manager secondment arrangement which supports the Staff Development Workstream has finished.
- 5.2 The Asset Delivery Programme is being delivered within the resources previously agreed by Council in October 2020. A further detailed update will be provided in Autumn 2021.
- 5.3 The underspend from the abortive Beagle Event is held in reserve until such time as a new event is devised.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none arising out of the contents of this report.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are none arising from this report

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

LT Lead Officer Signature:

Strategic Director

Background Papers: -

None.

For further information please contact Strategic Director

Phone: 01702 318169

Email: angela.hutchings @rochford.gov.uk

If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.