

Leader's Report – Council 23 July 2014

By Cllr Cheshire – Leader and Cabinet Lead for Corporate Strategy and Finance Partnerships

FINANCE

The financial accounting team completed the closure of accounts on time and the accounts were signed by the s151 officer on 30 June and passed to the external auditor. The team reported the details of the Council's outturn to Cabinet on 25 June. Because there were changes in the funding position during the year, largely reflecting the impact of the localisation of business rates, the team will include funding details in their quarterly reporting going forward.

The team have now completed the upgrade to the Cedar financial system. The project for changing to the Civica financial system from April 2015 is well underway. The system is loaded and training for finance staff will take place during the next month.

Following the start of our final Finance Business Partner in June we now have a full complement of staff in the management accounting team. This has enabled us to allocate a Finance Business Partner to each service and one wholly to Operational Services. By working more closely with Service Managers this support will allow an earlier finance input on all projects and give colleagues more support in generating the business proposals for their delivering differently projects.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

There have been a number of meetings planned over the next few weeks with the leaders of surrounding districts for me, as the incoming leader, to introduce myself to them and to explore partnering possibilities.

The key meeting will be with EHDC Leader which is planned to take place on the 12th August 2014.