

WEBSITE & TRANSPARENCY UPDATE

Policy and Performance Advisory Committee Meeting - 1 March 2016

Report of: Chief Officer Corporate Support

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

This report supports the Council's promise to provide value for money

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Fleming

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Recommendation to Policy and Performance Advisory Committee:

To note the progress made in the delivery of a new Council website

Reason for recommendation: To ensure that Members remain aware of the progress being made in the delivery of a new website for the Council.

Introduction and Background

- 1 During 2014 the Council set out a number of corporate projects that it wanted to achieve to support the commitments it made within its Corporate Plan. These projects included one focused on the customer experience which incorporated the delivery of a new council website.
- 2 Members have received regular updates over the last year on progress of this project. At the meeting of this Committee in September last year it was reported that the Council had appointed Jadu to provide the new website and a project start meeting had taken place. A project plan has been provided to the Council which sets out in detail what is required of both the Council and the supplier to ensure the new website is delivered in agreed timescales.
- 3 This report provides Members with an update on progress with the project as well as the work the Council has planned to improve the way in which it publishes the range of data required under the Local Government Transparency Code.

Website Update

- 4 The design phase of the website is now complete and has been signed off. There are two phases currently under way. The build phase, which is in

progress with Jadu. This is the technical phase of designing the structure of the new website. The other phase is content migration. Internally, officers are reviewing all of the information on the Council's current website, in order to create new content that fits with the customer focussed aims of the new website.

- 5 Overall project management is being provided by Jadu, with regular weekly calls between the Jadu project manager and the Corporate Customer Services & Delivery Manager. The project is running to plan and is on track to achieve all deadlines.
- 6 The Corporate Customer Services & Delivery Manager will provide a verbal update to the Advisory Committee at the meeting to bring Members up to date with the very latest progress on the project.

Local Government Transparency Code

- 7 Under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 the Council is required by Regulations to publish 13 different sets of data and to make this data available free for re-use. The data sets required are currently published on the Council website at www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/transparency, and include expenditure exceeding £500, procurement information, local authority land and senior officer salaries. A full record of the data required to be published is available within the background papers highlighted at the end of this report.
- 8 Currently the Council publishes its data to the minimum required standard by publishing in an Excel document format and /or a PDF document format. Although this satisfies the requirements of the Regulations it is less helpful to customers and others that may wish to re-use the data, for reasons which may include developing applications to support residents to more clearly understand the Council's data.
- 9 To enable the Council to improve its overall approach to transparency and the provision of open data sets a plan is in place to develop a secondary website which will be designed deliberately to host data and information in a format that may not be possible within the existing plans for the new Council website.
- 10 Examples available elsewhere for Members information include:
 - Nottingham City Council - <http://www.opendatanottingham.org.uk/Default.aspx>
 - Greater London Authority - <http://data.london.gov.uk/>
 - Detroit - <http://data.detroitmi.gov/>
- 11 It is anticipated that the new data website will be developed during the summer of 2016.

