

# **District Councillors report Lighthorne**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**1.**

## **Major CCTV investment for Stratford-on-Avon District**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is investing £796,000 in a major CCTV upgrade for the District, the first major CCTV technology investment since 2008.

The CCTV Scheme upgrade includes:

- Upgrade of the CCTV Control Room and equipment
- Implementation of a new CCTV operating system
- Replacing all 87 existing analogue cameras for digital cameras – across 8 towns in the District
- Upgrading BT fibres lines to transmit digital images from the cameras to the CCTV Control Room
- Provision for up to six new cameras at identified strategic locations across the District (subject to necessity test, impact assessment and planning permission)
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The first phase of upgrading the CCTV Control Room is now complete. The next phase will see the replacement of the outdated analogue cameras with new digital cameras and upgraded fibre transmission offering enhanced digital picture quality and data storage.

**2.**

## **First Electric Hybrid Hackney Carriage for Stratford District**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Licensing Team has licensed its first electric hybrid taxi vehicle as part of the District Council's commitment to climate change and the need for cleaner and greener vehicles. In July Stratford-on-Avon District Council declared a Climate Emergency.

The vehicle is an LEVC TX Comfort plus model and is the first of its kind to be licensed by the District Council. It is a low emissions vehicle, and drives in full electric mode all the time, but is recharged by a three cylinder petrol engine.

3.

Due to the allegations of a sexist culture at SDC being made by Isabel Edgar Briancon. All members of staff and District Councillors have undergone a two hour compulsory Diversity Training session

4.

### **Dog owner fined almost £10,000 for barking dogs**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has successfully prosecuted a dog owner from Southam for a breach of a Community Protection Notice.

Samuel Hawkins, 40, Manager of Five, a public house in Daventry Street, Southam kept up to six Rottweiler type dogs on the premises. The Notice required Mr Hawkins to remove all the dogs from outside of the property and put them inside after 11pm and to take reasonable steps to prevent the dogs from persistently or excessively barking at all times.

5.

### **Stratford-on-Avon District Council Cabinet budget proposals**

Stratford-on-Avon District Council is now entering the budget setting phase and a great deal of work has gone into reviewing the finances for the year to come. This year Central Government, within their spending calculation assumed that council tax would increase by £5, which equates to a 3.6% increase. The District Council's Cabinet has recommended an increase of £5 in line with this assumption. **That equates to an increase of less than 10p per week on a Band D property.** Stratford-on-Avon District Council has been able to maintain a relatively low level of council tax as a result of years of prudent financial management, whilst retaining reserves, which will be used in future years.

## **This year's budget proposals include:**

### **Financial Support for the Fred Winter Project – £60,000 ongoing**

A partnership of public, private and voluntary sector agencies in Stratford-upon-Avon has been established to create an innovative new solution to rough sleeping and homelessness. The Fred Winter Housing Plus Centre will offer, for the first time, high quality affordable accommodation and 'joined up' services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### **UBUS Contract Extension – £109,000 ongoing**

### **Core Strategy Review – £1.6m one-off**

The Council has committed to reviewing, and replacing if necessary, its current adopted Core Strategy from summer 2020. The Council is obliged to assess whether its strategic policies require reviewing every five years, and if it concludes that they are out of date, to then commence a review of those policies.

### **Housing Register IT Platform Upgrade – £35,000 one-off.**

The current Abris platform supporting the Council's Housing Advice, Homelessness & Homelessness Prevention.

### **Consultancy Advice – £50,000 One-off**

In order to support the process of re-tendering the Council's major contracts, a suitably qualified and experienced external consultant is required to lead on the procurement of new waste collection, recycling and street cleansing contracted services.

### **Climate Change Strategy Funding – £0.5m one-off**

At its meeting in July 2019, the Council declared: A Climate Emergency as a pledge to take local action to contribute to national carbon neutral targets through the development of their own practices and policies with an aim to be carbon-neutral in Stratford District by 2030.

‘Following The Cabinet’s decision, the proposals will now go out for consultation – a questionnaire will be sent to the Council’s Citizens’ Panel, seeking views on a range of issues including Council Tax and the proposed budget.

The results of the consultation will be considered by The Cabinet at the next meeting before the final budget recommendations are made to Council on Monday 24 February.

**Chris Mills**