**General**

TBC said “Goodbye” to our old CEO (Mike Dawson) and Tewkesbury’s new CEO (Alistair Cunningham OBE)  is now in place.

1. **The Planning Function**

Processing of minor planning applications in the last quarter was under 50%, which is well below the 80% national target.

Although officers have been working very hard to clear the backlog of planning applications, the Planning function is becoming very stretched.  This is currently being exacerbated by people resigning for jobs elsewhere –sometimes for a complete career change.

There is also nationwide difficulty recruiting quality planning officers.  Contract staff will need to be recruited to the Planning Department.

The Planning Department’s Improvement Plan will probably not see any tangible results until the end of the year.

It is also accepted that communication with residents regarding the status of planning applications also needs improvement.

So, in the first instance, the website will be updated to give a clearer indication as to current timescales for determining applications.

In addition, software is being developed that will allow planning applications to be tracked by residents online.

1. **UBICO Annual Report for 2021/22 to O&S**

The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee was provided with an annual update on UBICO’s contract for waste and recycling collections, street cleansing and grounds maintenance services. It covered an overview of the service, financial performance, fleet management, health and safety performance.

UBICO has maintained very good performance during the year with improvements in the numbers of missed bin collections and repeat missed collections. Total missed collections reduced across all services year on year

with refuse missed collections dropping from 444 to 299, a reduction of 33%. Collection accuracy exceeded the target of 99.95% with 99.96% achieved. This is an increase from 99.93% for 2020/21. Repeat missed collections were within target for every month of the year.

Performance against the budget was good with a small full year underspend. At the end of the financial year, the full year spend on the Tewkesbury Borough contract stood at about £4,250,000. The final spend represents a contract saving of about £24,000.

There was particular success in the grounds maintenance service with a very successful season of winter works, with all planned work completed included outstanding work from the previous year.

The detailed UBICO report can be found in the TBC website under Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Agenda for their recent July meeting.

1. **Year 2 of TBC’s Carbon Reduction Action Plan**

The Council’s current carbon consumption was baselined following the declaration of a climate emergency in October 2019. This was reported to Council in July 2020 along with an overarching action plan designed to achieve carbon neutrality in Council services by 2030.

Good progress has been made in the second year of the action plan, particularly since the appointment of the new Carbon Reduction Programme Officer. There was disappointment with the inability to replace the heating system at the Council Offices because costs dramatically increased. However, the delivery of the solar car parking canopy is well underway and should be completed before the end of July 2022.

There was a significant reduction in emissions across Council services in the last calendar year. A total of 538 T/CO2e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) or 33.5% has been saved against the Council’s baseline - which is a significant achievement.

Details of the actions completed in year 2 together with planned actions for year 3 can be found in the TBC website under Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Agenda for their recent July meeting.