



Initial Strategy planning

Change is coming!

The Government is in the course of issuing a White Paper which will propose a fundamental Change of the structure and functions of the entire local government sector.

Initial reports indicate that Unitary authorities could be established but that there is an understanding of the importance of Parish and Town Councils and the expectation is that more power and more functions will be given to the Parish sector.

For a Parish Council to thrive it will need a clear understanding of its role in the community, clarity in Relation to the functions of its Councilors and staff and will need to embrace the change!

Potential new costs

Depending on the proposals contained in the White paper the Parish Council will need to consider whether it would be appropriate for the needs of the community to take on additional services for residents. If so it may be necessary to consider engaging a regular contractor or even a new member of staff and such costs would need to be considered in a budget

New equipment, PPE and training costs may also need to be factored into such arrangements

Next steps

The following advice has been received from SLCC in formulating a strategy -

Think about what your council's ambitions are, are you ready to take on more? what resources/skills etc. do you need? and what do your residents value? If your council can develop a strategic plan it puts you in a good negotiating position – including the option to say no to some of the less desirable offers.

I would suggest Councilors to provide any initial thoughts to assist with the drafting process
For the strategy plan this year together with thoughts for the ongoing future.

For the Clerk to start work on a first draft of the strategy plan for consideration
And discussion by Councilors

For the Clerk to update Councilors regarding the proposals and expected impact
Of the White Paper once known