



Full Council 12/09/2024

Agenda Item 24/041 Clerk's Report

1. Local Council Award Scheme

Notification was received on 1 August that the Council had achieved the Foundation Level. The panel also provided some feedback along with a certificate. The Foundation Award is valid until August 2028.

2. Bank Reconciliation and Internal Financial Control

These have been undertaken for the period 1 April – 30 June. No issues were highlighted.

3. Remembrance Sunday

This will be taking place on 10 November. Road closures have already been applied for and granted. Plans for the event will be finalised at October's meeting.

4. Councillor Vacancy

Further to the resignation of Cllr Amanda Marsden, the Notice of the casual vacancy was posted on 16 August. Providing no election is required to fill the vacancy, co-option will be able to take place at October's meeting.

5. Scarecrow Trail

Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) have requested that portable toilets are once again housed in the Fairground car park. This will be for the half term week – 26 October – 03 November. MVP will be supplying a Risk Assessment and a copy of their public liability insurance.

6. Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

Confirmation has been provided to Unity Trust regarding the Council's eligibility under FSCS which includes small local authorities with an annual budget of up to EUR 500,000 (£430,065 as at 03/07/2024).

7. Website Provider

The website provider, I-Next Ltd, is no longer trading. The service is being maintained by an interim provider whilst a long-term solution is sought. It is expected this will be in place very shortly.

8. Office Internet and Phone

The current contract with BT expires in October and the office is looking at Gigaclear as an alternative supplier. This includes liaising with West Berkshire as permission will be needed for the installation works which will affect the land at the front and side of the building.

9. Willink Leisure Centre

A meeting has been arranged for the 23 September between SMPC and the Secretary of Willink Leisure Centre Joint Advisory Committee and West Berkshire Council's (WBC) portfolio holder for the leisure centre.

10. Community Grant Fund

The next round has been promoted. The closing date for application is Monday 30th September.

11. The Public Sector Deposit Fund Return of Investment

The return on investment as at 31 July 2024 was 5.18%. It was 5.26% as at 31st of March 2024.