2 April 2015

From: District Councillor Roger Cox

To: Chairman and Councillors of Faringdon Town Council and Residents of Great Faringdon Parish

**ANNUAL REPORT TO FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN PUBLIC MEETING - 13 APRIL 2015**

1. **Introduction**. I thought it might help inform members and residents if I gave a broad overview of the scope and variety of my activities, both in Faringdon and across the district.

2.  **Vale Council.** There are currently 51 district councillors, but this number will reduce to 38 from the elections on 7 May 2015. The current composition is: Conservative 26; Liberal Democrat 22, Labour 1, Independent 1 and 1 vacant.

1. **Vale Budget.** The budget requirement net expenditure for 2015/16 is £11,139,264. After taking account of central government funding, there is a budget funding requirement of £9,411,460, which equates to £116.69 for a band D property. Therefore council tax remains fixed for the fifth consecutive year.
2. **Vale Cabinet Appointments.** Cllr Matthew Barber remains leader of the ruling group and Leader of the Vale Council; he appointed cabinet members with the following responsibilities:

1. Corporate Strategy; Finance; Legal – Matt Barber.

1. Planning Development Management; Health, Environment & Housing - Roger Cox.
2. Planning Policy – Mike Murray.
3. Property; Economy and Leisure – Elaine Ware.
4. Commercial Services and Waste Management – Reg Waite.
5. **Vale Cabinet Meetings.** At cabinet members of the opposition and the general public may speak and ask questions. Individual cabinet member decisions within my portfolio(s) have included:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Serial | Subject |
| 1. | New Vale Housing Allocations Policy – joint with SODC |
| 2. | New scrap metal dealers policy |
| 3. | Disabled facilities contract re-awarded |
| 4. | New community right to buy designation of properties in the Vale |
| 5. | Air Quality Management Plan |

1. **Vale Council and Committees.** I am a member of the following committees:

1. The Council it has met 6 times, when cabinet members can be asked questions.

2. The Cabinet it has met 8 times; there are also 8 cabinet briefing sessions.

3. Planning committee which has met 18 times and I am the council spokesman.

1. **Cabinet Member for Planning Development Management.** I attendedQuarterly Review meetings with the Strategic Director and officers, and I hold monthly meetings

with the Head of Planning. There are 4 sub-sections in the department: Registration; Development Management; Building Control and Enforcement.

1. **Cabinet Member for Health, Environment and Housing.** I attended Quarterly Review meetings with the Strategic Director and officers,and Ihold monthly meetings with Head of Housing. There are 5 sections in the department: Housing Management; Housing Benefits; Environmental Health and Enforcement; Food and Hygiene Health.
2. **Additional Committees.** I have participated in Joint Cabinet Board with South Oxfordshire District Council; it met quarterly and dealt with major contracts, council tax, business rates, the joint leisure contract and benefits administration. I substituted for the Leader periodically on the Science Oxford Board, Town and Community Forum and the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action Sector Forum.
3. **Joint Committees.** I was re-elected Vice Chair of the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory and serve on the Joint Economic Forum for Faringdon.
4. **The Coxwells.** I have attended parish councils meetings at Buscot, Coleshill and Little Coxwell.
5. **Faringdon Town Council.** As a town councillor, I have continued to act as a liaison councillor between the town council and other councils at all levels. And I was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Neighbourhood Action Group.
6. **Faringdon Infant School.** I am a community governor. The local governing body consists of 11 governors and I was re-elected chairman for the tenth year in succession. There are 6 full LGB meetings annually and a budget of over £1 million. There are 240 full time and 62 part time children with 42 members of staff. The classes are: 3 Year 2; 3 Year 1; 3 Foundation Stage (F1) and the Nursery (F2).
7. **Faringdon Education Activities Trust**. I am a trustee of this independent charity which awards education support grants to students from our local schools.
8. **Summary of Formal Meetings.** In the course of my civic duties I have attended:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| (a)Serial | (b)Organization | (c)Number |
| 1. | Vale of White Horse District Council | 129 |
| 2. | Faringdon Town Council |  12 |
| 3. | Faringdon Academy and Faringdon Infant School |  17 |
| **Total** |  | **158** |

1. **Conclusion.** The Vale of White Horse District Council is now at the cutting edge of local authorities, but there is still much to be done, as ever increasing pressures on budgets mean we are looking at ways of even more joint working with other councils. Being a district councillor is a demanding and responsible job which I really enjoy.

Yours sincerely,

**Roger Cox**