

Report by Cllr Bob Johnston

1. At its most recent meeting the County Council voted for a programme called "Fit for the Future". This is intended to drastically change the way the Council does business and hopefully save at least £33m over the next three years.

Two important factors in achieving this will be to centralise matters such as policy making HR and IT and rationalising the 450 plus different IT systems currently used. It will involve some 600 plus net less posts, but this will not include as a general rule, front-line staff.

We hope it works, we have pleased with the administration to pilot any IT changes and to avoid big bang IT changes, which do not have a good record at any costs.

2. At its most recent meeting (at which I spoke) the Cabinet voted to borrow £120m over some 10 years. This will be used to complete the switch over of street lighting to LED, which could save up to £3m per year in electricity costs, plus £80m to shore up the crumbling road system.