



## COUNCIL BRIEFING NOTE – 25 September 2024

### CORPORATE & COMMERCIAL PORTFOLIO – COUNCILLOR MICHELA CAPOZZI

#### Financial Services

##### **Significant service achievements since the last Council meeting:**

- The finance service is supporting the external auditors through the audit of the 2023/24 Financial statements that is due to be completed in September.
- The first quarter finance performance has been presented to cabinet and scrutiny with the general fund reporting a positive financial performance.

##### **Strategic or significant operational matters which the service would like Full Council to be aware of:**

- Development of the 2024 Medium Term Financial Strategy and Proposed 2025/26 Fees and charges are nearing completion for cabinet approval in October.

#### Revenues and Benefits service

##### **Strategic or significant operational matters which the service would like Full Council to be aware of:**

- The Revenues and Benefits Service restructure rolled out in July and the service has continued to work efficiently and effectively throughout the process.
- In response to the move to winter fuel payment becoming means tested, the council has reviewed our records, and written to about 400 residents advising them to claim Pension Credit, which would enable them to continue to receive this allowance. Receiving Pension Credit also provides other support, such as help with the cost of NHS dentistry, and free TV licences for those 75 or over.

#### Legal and Democratic Services

##### **Significant service achievements since the last Council meeting:**

Service achievements/ strategic or significant operational matters from the last month:

##### **Electoral Review**

- The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review is ongoing for Dacorum.

- Having completed phase 1, consultation begun on warding arrangements. This consultation period began on the 7<sup>th</sup> May and originally ran until 15 July. However, due to the snap General election being called, the consultation period was extended until the 9<sup>th</sup> of September.