

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader	Council	20 October 2016	8(b)

**Executive Report: Resources Portfolio Holder**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on issues within the Resources Portfolio, as set out below.

**2. Finance**

- 2.1 I am pleased to report that the authority's 2015/16 Statement of Accounts received an unqualified audit opinion. The External Auditors Report to those charged with governance, which was considered by the Audit Committee 20 September, recognised that the authority 'has good processes in place for the production of the accounts and good quality supporting working papers'. They also concluded that the Authority's Value For Money conclusion did not identify any significant risks and was 'a very positive result'. At the meeting I understand that Andy Smith (a senior manager at KPMG) commented that the result was 'really impressive and very positive overall'. I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff who were involved in the production of the Accounts and to the Audit Committee for overseeing what is a very complex and important document.

- 2.2 Following the approval of the Medium Term Financial Plan, the government's multi-year settlement offer was accepted by the 14 October deadline. This means that we can continue to develop our efficiency plans with the optimum degree of certainty to the end of the settlement period in 2019/20.

**3. Human resources**

- 3.1 Corporate Management Team and Heads of Service have been working together to develop a strategic narrative for the council which includes a clear vision and goals for the future. A plan is being developed which sets out a clear path for continuing to evolve the way that the Council works and how we keep ourselves fit for purpose, during a time when local government continues to change rapidly. The plan will be shared with all Elected Members in due course.

**4. Asset management**

- 4.1** Negotiations are progressing well with Keyworker Homes around the re-development of the Garstang Business Centre site. All remaining tenants have now vacated the site in preparation for the disposal of this asset.

**5. Comments and questions**

- 5.1** In accordance with procedure rule 11.3 any member of Council will be able to ask me a question or make a comment on the contents of my report or on any issue, which falls within my area of responsibility. I will respond to any such questions or comments in accordance with Procedure Rule 11.5.

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