

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader	Council	1 December 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** The budget preparation for 2017/18 is progressing well. Owing to the limited capital funds, there will not be any new capital growth bids submitted for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Instead, the remaining backlog of building maintenance works totalling £3.3m will continue to have the first call on any capital receipts. The updated capital programme following the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter review (as at 31 December 2016) will be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 18 January 2017.
- 2.2** The Portfolio Holder's proposals for any increases in fees and charges will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 5 December 2016 and individual Portfolio Holders will be presented with the relevant feedback prior to the final report being issued.
- 2.3** Whilst the Government's four-year settlement offer has been accepted by the council, details of other funding streams and any changes to the settlement deal are expected sometime in December.
- 2.4** Owing to a forthcoming change in the membership of the Lancashire Business Rates Pool in 2017/18, Lancashire districts have had to decide early whether to remain in the Pool next year. Based on the current projections for 2016/17 and the best information available for 2017/18 taking into account the recent revaluation exercise, Wyre is forecast to be in a levy position and therefore it is still financially advantageous to remain in the Pool.

### **3. Human resources**

**3.1** One of the Council's objectives within the Business Plan is to develop staff so that they can effectively respond to current challenges. A workshop related to this topic took place for third tier managers on the 29 November 2016, led by Corporate Management Team and supported by a number of Heads of Service. The session was an opportunity to consider the Council's Strategic Narrative. The vision and goals were shared and together actions were established, including training and development, in order for us to succeed and move the narrative forward. Managers were asked to cascade the information they had been given with their team members to help embed the vision and goals across the organisation.

**3.2** Members will be aware that the Council has been recognised as an Investor in People (IIP) for many years and has held the Gold standard since October 2010. Since our last assessment, the IIP accreditation framework has changed significantly and the standards required are very different. The costs of the IIP assessment have also increased. The Council won't be applying for re-assessment at this time but instead will incorporate elements of the new framework into the action plan which is being developed for the Strategic Narrative and any savings from not going for re-assessment will be invested in training and development for our employees. Whilst we have chosen not to participate in the IIP standard when the current accreditation expires, we may re-consider being assessed against the new IIP Standard in future years.

### **4. IT / digital transformation**

**4.1** A Digital Transformation Board has been established to champion digital transformation of council services. The Board is chaired by Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation and consists of officers from IT, HR, Contact Centre, Transformation and the Engagement team. The Board will develop and deliver a Digital Strategy for the council and will ensure that it effectively resources and delivers digital transformation projects. Progress updates will be provided in future Executive reports.

### **5. Asset management**

**5.1** The Heritage Lottery Grant has awarded the newly established Marsh Mill Community Interest Company (CIC) a start-up grant of £10,000. This funding will be used to help the CIC develop a marketing plan, undertake public consultation, provide training for volunteers on how to look after the windmill and to develop a business model for the future.

### **6. Comments and questions**

**6.1** 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.