

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Alan Vincent, Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	18 October 2018	7(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 Council's Medium Term Financial Plan will have been before Cabinet by tonight's meeting and was the subject of tonight's pre-council session. The plan shows our financial forecast for the current year and four years ahead with a revised projected gap of £2.7m in 2022/23, largely owing to the reduction in central government funding, inflationary pressures and the uncertainty around New Homes Bonus and Business Rates Retention. A technical consultation paper on the 2019/20 Local Government Finance Settlement has been produced for local authorities to consider. Ultimately the full details and their impact on Wyre's finances will only be known in December and as a result, the forecast will be further updated in the New Year to reflect the outcome of the wider consultation process on the settlement.

3. Contact Centre

- 3.1** A consultation regarding potential changes to the Localised Council Tax Support scheme commenced on the 17 September and will run for eight weeks. You can access the consultation by following this link [Wyre Borough Council - Wyre Council Tax Support Scheme](#).
- 3.2** On 13 September 2018 the DWP held a meeting with private landlords from across the Fylde coast to brief them on the implications of the imminent introduction of Universal Credit (UC) Full Service. As the migration of the Housing Benefit caseload to UC has potential financial implications for landlords a number chose to voice their concerns at the meeting.
- 3.3** We are in the process of procuring a Citizen Access Portal. Once operational the portal will allow customers to "self-serve". They will be able to request a service, make an application, check a balance or award

and access their own records relating to council tax, housing benefit, council tax support and waste management, at any time they choose without needing to speak to a Contact Centre officer. We will keep members updated on the progress of this project.

4. Asset Management

- 4.1** The internal decoration and lighting replacement at Fleetwood Market has now been completed. We are continuing to support the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) with the Digital Help Centre. Since its launch in February, the CAB staff and council officers have supported over 1,500 people. This has included a wide range of support from blue badge applications, and checks to benefit applications and energy switching.
- 4.2** The roof repairs at Poulton Leisure Centre have been completed and the roof repairs at Fleetwood Leisure Centre have commenced. To date the upper roof over the pool has been completed and preparation has started on the lower roof.
- 4.3** I am also pleased to report that a tenant has been found for the Civic Centre Bungalow. Heads of Terms have been issued and accepted by an interested party.

5. Procurement

- 5.1** The existing printers within the Reprographics Service have been replaced with two new Konica Printers. These are much more efficient printers than the old models. A better five year contract has been secured which will achieve savings of £3,744 per annum.

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.