



<b>Report of:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	6 December 2018

## **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** Notification has been received from Central Government indicating that future provisional financial settlements will be announced on or around 5 December each year. We have been advised that the updated 2019/20 provisional settlement figures are expected to be published on 6 December 2018, an update on whether these have been received will be provided at the meeting.
- 2.2** An updated forecast showing our projected spending levels and the recommended council tax for 2019/20 will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on the 13 February. I can confirm that, as in previous years, Budget Briefings will be arranged for the benefit of members.
- 2.3** The Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent Budget announcement heralded little change for district councils and we are currently awaiting the results of the technical consultation on the 2019/20 financial settlement.

### **3. Human Resources**

- 3.1** We are currently undertaking a number of Staff Briefing sessions. A key element of this year's briefings is to relaunch the Council's core values – Working Collaboratively, One Team One Council and Work Smart. Staff will get the opportunity to feed into a focus group which is about getting a better understanding of what the values mean to staff and how to apply them in their everyday working lives.
- 3.2** We have recently commissioned North West Employers to carry out some training for our managers. The training is called 'policies in play' and is an innovative training concept to bring the Council's policies and practices to life through using professional actors and facilitators who

will work with attendees to explore how to apply our policies effectively using different scenarios.

#### **4. ICT and Digital**

**4.1** I would like to inform Members that the ICT team has now moved and is based on the first floor above the Doctors' Surgery. The Communications and Marketing team have also moved to this area and they both now come under the same department which is called ICT and Digital. A new Head of Service has been appointed and starts works on 7 January 2019.

#### **5. Procurement**

**5.1** Whilst most Local Authorities have seen an increase in insurance premiums, we have managed to negotiate an annual reduction of £6,000 for our insurance renewal. This saving will apply for the next five years and so equates to a £30,000 saving over this period.

#### **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.