

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader	Council	11 July 2019

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 final accounts for 2018/19 are due to be agreed by the Audit Committee at their meeting on 30 July. Revenue slippage continues to grow year on year and in relation to 2018/19 the value (net of reserve funding) is £1,369,060. As this expenditure still needs to be incurred, the saving is returned to balances to be spent in 2019/20 resulting in a contribution to balances of £1,369,060.
- 2.2** In summary, **additional income** from planning fees and new burdens grant, summons fees, minor adaptations, public conveniences, cemeteries and interest totals £476,920. **Savings** in employee costs, audit, risk and insurance, tools and equipment, pension prepayment, advertising and promotions budgets total £255,200. These positive variances have been used to compensate for **reduced income** on car parking fees and rent allowances – in total unbudgeted costs of £141,300.
- 2.3** The net savings of £590,820 together with other miscellaneous under spends of £205,600 have been used to top up the Capital Investment Reserve by £211,420 and the Vehicle Replacement Reserve by £585,000. This approach reflects a recognition of the need to invest in our own assets and the council's ongoing commitment to spend to save schemes.
- 2.4** When you consider that our gross expenditure on services for last year was £56m, a net saving of £796,420 equates to 1.4%.

3. Human Resources

- 3.1** Employee sickness absence figures for the year ending March 2019 were 6.54 days per full time equivalent. This is an improvement compared to last year's performance which was 7.76 days and is the lowest it has been for a couple of years owing to a decrease in both short and long term absences.
- 3.2** In comparison to the other councils within Lancashire we have the second lowest absence rate.

4. ICT / Digital Transformation

- 4.1** The roll-out of tablet devices to councillors is well under way. The initial trial period has been useful to help identify any teething problems with the configuration and set up of the devices. Some improvements have already been made and arrangements are being put in place to deal with any other issues which arise. Initial feedback has been very positive. A few meetings have now been held using the tablets and the Modern.gov app, although, for this cycle of meetings, paper copies are still being distributed. Again this has been useful to identify any technical and practical issues so that they can be addressed. Officers remain confident that, by the next cycle of meetings, paperless meetings will be operating smoothly. In the meantime, if you have any issues with your tablet device, please speak to Democratic Services or the ICT Service Desk who are happy to help.
- 4.2** On 2 July, we were pleased to welcome a new Head of ICT. This post is a shared role with Lancaster City Council and they will be responsible for shaping and delivering the ICT strategy across both councils.

5. Asset management

- 5.1** On 24 June 2019, lift repair works commenced at Thornton Leisure Centre which involves replacement of the lift control panel, lift positioning system, shaft switches, re-wire and car and landing pushes.
- 5.2** Works at Garstang Pool are due to be completed by mid July. The works include new entrance doors, new reception counter, new flooring, new ceiling and decoration.
- 5.3** A structural condition survey at Fleetwood Leisure Centre has been carried out by SOCOTEC. We are currently awaiting a detailed report but the initial feedback did not indicate any major issues.

6. Comments and questions

- 6.1** In accordance with procedure rule 10.3 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 10.5.