

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Alan Vincent, Leader of the Council and Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	19 October 2017	8(a)

<b>Executive Report: Leader of the Council and Resources Portfolio Holder</b>
---

## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Council of progress on key objectives and the current position on a number of issues as set out below.

## 2. Finance

- 2.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan went before Cabinet last night and was the subject of tonight's pre-council session. The plan shows our financial forecast for the current year and three years ahead with a revised projected gap of £2.4m in 2020/21 largely owing to the anticipated lifting of the 1% pay award cap in 2018/19 and beyond. The date for the Chancellor's budget speech has been announced as the 22 November and in advance of this a technical consultation paper on the 2018/19 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.
- 2.2 Members will remember that on 19 January 2017 a report was brought to Full Council to allow us to opt into the national procurement exercise for external auditor appointments from 2018/19. The outcome of the tender exercise has been announced and subject to final confirmation, our new external auditors will be Deloitte LLP from the 1 April 2018. This will mean that KPMG will support us in the closure of accounts process for 2017/18 but will then no longer act as our external auditors. This will be the first change in external auditors for a number of years and the Finance team will be working hard to ensure a smooth transition, ably supported by both firms.

### **3. Human resources**

- 3.1** A number of staff briefings have been held and overall feedback has been very positive. A key element of the briefings was to share with staff our vision, goals and values and to provide a budget update. There was also a focus group session which allowed staff to contribute ideas around our big goal relating to 'financial discipline and commercial awareness'. There were lots of good ideas around ways the council could save money or generate new income streams and these will now be considered by CMT.
- 3.2** Following on from these briefings, we are also commissioning some commercial awareness training. North West Employers have been engaged to deliver this training and half day sessions are planned for end of October / November. This training is part of our staff development programme to equip staff with the right tools to help them become more commercial aware and identify opportunities to plug the financial gap.

### **4. Procurement**

- 4.1** A new contract is currently being agreed with Carlsberg which will achieve some savings and will also introduce new processes which will reduce the amount of wastage of drinks during the cleaning process.

### **5. Asset management**

- 5.1** We are working in partnership with Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) to develop a Digital Hub at Fleetwood Market. The CAB are keen to help our residents develop basic digital skills and want to offer this training and support in Wyre. It was felt that the market is ideally placed to meet this local demand for bridging this skills gap. The CAB will oversee the day-to-day running of the Digital Hub and will provide all the IT equipment and staffing. It is hoped that the Hub will be live by end of October.

### **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.