

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	14 November 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 budget preparation for 2020/21 is progressing well. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was approved by Cabinet on 16 October following a pre-council presentation by the Head of Finance. Any relevant policy changes in the Chancellor's Autumn Budget will now be incorporated into these forecasts as will the Local Government Finance Settlement announcement in December.
- 2.2 The Portfolio Holder's proposals for any changes to fees and charges will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 2 December and individual Portfolio Holders will be presented with the relevant feedback prior to the final report being issued.
- 2.3 Despite intensive lobbying for the continuation of the 75% Business Rates Retention (BRR) Lancashire Pool, it is likely that the pilot will cease and Wyre will revert to the former 50% pooling arrangement. This is disappointing but it does at least allow us to retain some of the levy previously paid over to central government and we are optimistic that a return to 75% BRR is to be expected in 2021/22.

3. ICT / Digital Transformation

- 3.1 Last November, I approved the procurement of an ICT training agreement with a company called QA. This agreement has meant that all members of the ICT team have benefited from a range of technical and management training courses over the last 12 months. We have now utilised the remaining credits from the QA training agreement to run a cyber security awareness session. A number of officers have been identified as Cyber Security Champions and attended the awareness session which was led by an ethical hacker. The objective of this session was to provide information to champions so that they would be the first point of contact for users in their service area. Further cyber

training sessions are being planned for all staff and Elected Members in the near future.

4. Comments and questions

- 4.1** 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.

dem/cou/cr/19/1411 Resources