

Report of:	To:	Date
Councillor Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	6 February 2020

**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 was notified of a provisional grant settlement of £3.4m for 2020/21 as part of the draft local government finance settlement announced 20 December 2019. This represents a slight increase in grant of £54,000 or 1.6% from that received in 2019/20. The increase is £13,000 lower than that assumed in the most recent Medium Term Financial Plan. No indicative figures for subsequent years have been announced.
- 2.2** Members will also be aware that the Localism Act allows local residents to veto excessive council tax rises. The Secretary of State has confirmed that the core referendum threshold will reduce from 3% to 2% or up to and including £5 on a council tax Band D equivalent property in 2020/21 with the approval of the local electorate being required for any council tax increase above this value.
- 2.3** The Lancashire 75% Business Rates Retention Pilot Pool in 2019/20 will cease at the end of March and we will revert to the former 50% pooling arrangements for 2020/21.
- 2.4** We also received confirmation of a new New Homes Bonus (NHB) award in 2020/21 of £355,671 which was not included in the most recent Medium Term Financial Plan. Unlike previous NHB awards though, this award will be for one year only with no legacy payments (usually awarded at the same level for a further three years). The report to Cabinet on 12 February will provide further detail around the implications of all the recent announcements on the council's financial forecast.

### **3. Comments and questions**

- 3.1** 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.