

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	adjourned from 27 November 2014 to be considered on 22 January 2015	5(b)

EXECUTIVE REPORT NOVEMBER 2014: 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 2015/16 is progressing well. The building maintenance condition surveys have now been completed indicating an initial requirement for 2015/16 of just under £1m. This excludes fixtures and fittings for the Marine Hall and Thornton Little Theatre and a number of other schemes where further work is required before a recommendation can be made to proceed. Due to the limited capital funds that are currently available there will only be one capital growth bid submitted for consideration by the Budget Scrutiny Group relating to sand filters at Fleetwood Leisure Centre. The updated capital programme following the 3rd quarter review (as at 31 December 2014) will be presented to the Cabinet meeting 21 January 2015.
- 2.2 The Portfolio Holders' proposals for any increases in fees and charges have also been considered by the Budget Scrutiny Group and individual Portfolio Holders were presented with the relevant feedback at their meeting 5 November which has assisted them in making their final recommendations.
- 2.3 Whilst the Government has already provided some indicative figures as part of its technical consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2014/15 and 2015/16, the Council anxiously awaits confirmation of its future funding levels which is expected sometime in December.

3. Human Resources

- 3.1 A half day equality and diversity workshop has been arranged for the senior leadership team in November. The aim of the workshop is to help to identify equality issues and raise personal and organisational awareness to reduce bias and better understand the diverse needs of our staff and our communities.

- 3.2** A Directors Briefing for the Lancashire County Pension Fund is being held 1 December 2014 with topics including investment fund performance and an administration update. I was pleased to hear that at a recent meeting organised by LCC Pensions and attended by all employers, that Wyre was identified as being ahead of the game following the introduction of the new career average scheme in April 2014. This in essence requires the payroll team to undertake a mini year end on a monthly basis in order to be able to provide the relevant information to LCC. The team were also commended on their use of the new pensions system which allows them to provide pension estimates and quotes for employees.

4. Procurement

- 4.1** A four year Procurement Strategy has recently been developed and published on the Council's intranet which mirrors the National Procurement Strategy and provides a framework by which the Council will seek to achieve its aims of:

- Making savings;
- Supporting local economies;
- Leadership and expertise; and
- Modernising procurement.

- 4.2** Ongoing procurement initiatives include the concession for operating the café at Stanah Country park and the restoration of Euston Park, the construction of a café and outdoor water park as part of the Five For Fleetwood project.

5. Asset Management

- 5.1** The Council has recently listed the Shovels Inn, Kiln Lane, Hambleton, as an Asset of Community Value following a request from a group of 77 residents of Hambleton supported by Hambleton Parish Council. Punch Partnership Limited, as the owner of the premises, has been notified and has indicated that they may wish to request an internal review of the decision.

- 5.2** More recently, a similar request to list the Sand Piper pub in Cleveleys as an Asset of Community Value has also been received and is currently being considered.

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.