

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	21 January 2016	8(b)

<b>Executive Report: Resources Portfolio Holder</b>
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## 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 An updated forecast showing our projected spending levels and the recommended council tax for 2016/17 will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on the 17 February. I can confirm that, as in previous years, Budget Briefings will be arranged for the benefit of the two political parties.
- 2.2 The Council was notified of a provisional grant settlement of £4.751m for 2016/17 as part of the draft local government finance settlement announced on 17 December. This represents a loss in grant of £871,000 or 15.5% from that received in 2015/16. The reduction is £87,000 greater than that assumed in the most recent Medium Term Financial Plan. Indicative figures for subsequent years were also announced should the Council wish to take up the four-year funding settlement to 2019/20 but the implications of accepting this offer are as yet unclear.
- 2.3 Members will also be aware that the Localism Act allows local residents to veto excessive council tax rises. The Secretary of State (Greg Clark MP) has confirmed that the core referendum threshold will remain at 2% in 2016/17 with the approval of the local electorate being required for any council tax increase above this value.

## 3. Human Resources

- 3.1 The final session of the Aspiring Leaders of the Future programme (ALF) took place in late November. This last session addressed the use of coaching skills and our managers will be encouraged to utilise these with their team members. A similar session had been held with the Corporate Management team and Heads of Service in October to ensure a consistent approach. The use of coaching skills had been identified as an area for improvement in the last Investors in People

assessment. A wrap up session for the ALF programme is due to take place with 3<sup>rd</sup> tier managers in January to identify the next steps that are to be taken to help continue their development.

**4. Procurement**

4.1 There are no specific issues to report at this time.

**5. Asset Management**

5.1 There are no specific issues to report at this time.

**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.

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