

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder and Deputy Leader	Council	7 September 2017	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 Staff briefing sessions are being held this month which include an overview of the current funding gap of just over £2m in 2020/21. The briefings will also focus on the drive towards improving our commercialism skills in line with the third Big Goal in the Strategic Narrative around financial discipline and commercial awareness. New Procurement Guide and Commercial Advice sheets have both been published to provide up-to-date reference material for staff.

- 2.2 I am pleased to report that the authority's 2016/17 Statement of Accounts received an unqualified audit opinion. The External Auditors Report to those charged with governance, which was considered by the Audit Committee on 25 July, also recognised that the authority's Value for Money arrangements ensure that the authority has taken "properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people". At the meeting I understand that Amanda Latham (a Director at KPMG) commented that the result reflected the co-operation of the Financial Services Team, the high quality of the working papers and the teamwork approach which is appreciated by the external audit team. I would like to extend my thanks to all the staff who were involved in the production of the Accounts and to the Audit Committee for overseeing what is a very complex and important document.

## 3. Human Resources

- 3.1 During the summer months, the Human Resources Team have provided training to managers on the new appraisal process (My 1-2-1+). The process has been well received and is now being rolled out. All staff will have their appraisals over the next few months.

#### **4. Procurement**

- 4.1** In my last update, I reported that we were staying with our current supplier British Independent Utilities (BIU) for our energy procurement which would deliver guaranteed savings of over £7,000 per annum on electricity costs based on current consumption. In addition to this, we had a separate agreement with a different supplier for unmetered lighting which has subsequently been reviewed and can be added to this BIU contract. This is going to generate a further saving of £9,500 per annum.
- 4.2** We have renewed the contract with Worldpay for the Council's Merchant Acquiring Services (card payments) using a framework agreement which will deliver savings of around £10,000 per annum.

#### **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.