

Report of:	To:	Date	Item No.
Cllr. Alan Vincent, Resources Portfolio Holder	Council	16 October 2014	8(b)

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 I am pleased to report that the authority's 2013/14 Statement of Accounts received an unqualified audit opinion. The External Auditors Report to those charged with governance, which was considered by the Audit Committee 9 September, recognised the 'good quality of the accounts and supporting working papers' and that the 'organisational control environment is effective overall with no significant weaknesses in controls over key financial systems being identified'. They also concluded that the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. 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.
- 2.2 The recent update of the Medium Term Financial Plan which was considered by Cabinet in September reflects a gap between forecast expenditure and income of £1.6m in 2017/18. As identified at the briefing, this does not reflect the termination of the cost sharing agreement with LCC and the potential loss of income totalling £982,000. I would urge our County Councillors to ensure that the catastrophic impact of such a decision on Wyre is clearly communicated to LCC and would welcome their involvement in trying to find an alternative solution.

3. Human Resources

- 3.1 All third tier managers (those who report to heads of service) will shortly undertake a one day workshop aimed at helping them to deal with increasing demands on local government that mean we have to do more with less and constantly deliver efficiencies. The workshop will help managers to get the best out of their teams and maximise performance as well as deal effectively with difficulties that arise within the workplace. This training is a direct response to feedback received in the last staff survey and subsequent online survey about management within the

organisation and aims to address the issues raised.

- 3.2** Whilst discussions are ongoing concerning any increase in local government pay, with a 1% provision being included with the updated Medium Term Financial Plan, we have been notified that the next scheduled strike day will take place 14 October 2014.

4. Procurement

- 4.1** The Council's catering contract, worth approximately £25,000 which reflects catering requirements at the Marine Hall, the Civic Centre and for the Mayoralty has recently been awarded to Twelve who have offered lower prices whilst maintaining the quality standard. This will include all 3 lots - lot one has two sandwich menus - a budget menu and a premier menu, lot 2 is for buffets again, budget and premier, and lot 3 - meals for functions but only one option i.e. not budget or premier.

5. Asset Management

- 5.1** The contract for the sale of Ashdell and Thornton Depot has been exchanged and the planning application has been received.
- 5.2** Poulton Youth and Community Centre and Garstang Business Centre have now been marketed in the Estates Gazette with closing dates of 30 October 2014 and 30 November accordingly.

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.