

Report to: Council

Agenda
Item

11(ii)(b)

Meeting Date: 6 January 2015

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Chairman's Report**
Councillor Reg Watson OBE

It is now quite clear that the mounting pressure on the Council's finances due to cuts passed down from central government are reaching critical point. New spending pressures are still there and have to be kept to a minimum. Our investment income is the worst it has ever been with little or no return, and we still have to save £3.939M by 2018/19: a tall order. We have a maintenance backlog of £3.408M, with a priority given to the preservation of assets, health and safety, and legal compliance.

The Enterprise Centre still continues to be a headache that will need to be addressed sooner rather than later. The reductions in The Lanes income over the last number of years look unlikely to improve in the near future, but solutions are hard to find.

A small increase in a number of Council charges is unlikely to be the answer to our financial problems. The Local and National elections in May will not provide an answer.

Cllr R Watson OBE
Chairman