

Meeting Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Public/Private\*: Public

Title: **Finance, Governance & Resources Portfolio Holder's Report –  
Councillor Gareth Ellis**

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## **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

### **Strategic Planning**

The Council, at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, approved the Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2021/22, including a £5 increase per annum for a Band D property for 2021/22 for the City and surrounding areas. This was the final element of the 2021/22 budget process, approved the overall council tax for the Carlisle area.

### **2019/20 and 2020/21 Final Accounts Process**

Work is continuing to conclude the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts and work is commencing on the 2020/21 closedown process with the provision of the timetables and instructions to budget holders to support this and training sessions are also planned to enable the Statement of Accounts to be prepared and approved by the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources by the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> May.

## **ELECTORAL REGISTRATION**

The Elections Team are continuing with the planning of the Elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (City Council, County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner and Parishes). There are many things to consider with the PPE and Covid restrictions, as well as the complexity of running at least three different Elections. The team are working with the Health & Safety Team to ensure that everything possible is in place to ensure staff safety.

## **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

A number of wellbeing events have been hosted with regard to anxiety and mental health, well supported across organisation.

## **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

The Quarter Three Performance Report was presented to the Scrutiny Panels and Executive in February and March. The Report continued to highlight the impact of Covid-19 on some of our services and finances.

## **FUNDING STRATEGY**

Work has started on the draft 2021/24 Funding Strategy - reviewing the existing document and its performance, considering current and future funding opportunities and aligning to Carlisle City Council corporate priorities

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – LEGAL SERVICES**

- Recent counts for information requests (From 5 December 2020 – 29 January 2020):
- Environmental Information Regulations requests received - 6
- Environmental Information Regulations requests responded to - 4
- Freedom of Information Act requests received – 92
- Freedom of Information Act requests responded to - 88
- Data Protection Act requests received – 2
- Data Protection Act requests responded to – 1

## **ICT UPDATE**

- A Cyber Security review is being undertaken to assess any issues with the Microsoft 365 Rollout
- Service restructure – ongoing development of a 2 - 5 year Digital Programme is underway
- All grant forms to support the Council's Covid response have been created via the website and made available to customers
- The Head of ICT is leading a review of the technical aspects of the Revs and Bens shared service with Copeland and Allerdale
- Community Centres are being migrated to their new ICT Provision. All remaining centres are to be moved by the end of March.