

Meeting Date: 4th January 2022

Public/Private*: Public

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

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The budget process is now progressing through the scrutiny process and the Executive issued their Draft Budget for consultation in mid-December. Work is increasing on supporting LGR with finance providing support to a number of work packages across the Council.

LEGAL SERVICES

In Legal Services, as well as providing advice to Committees, work has been done to complete two surrender and regrants of industrial estate leases, with a view to modernising the lease terms, with another ten in the process; an Agreement for Lease at Gateway 44; the lease of the Old Fire Station under which entertainment services were outsourced to Greystone Leisure Limited; and licences to allow enhanced grass cutting by grass roots clubs to train and hold fixtures on some Council green spaces.

HR & PAYROLL

- **LGR:** The HR & Payroll Manager is actively involved in the LGR HROD workstream acting as joint lead for various work packages including Resourcing, Policy and Pay and Grading. Updates on progress of the various workstreams associated with LGR activity are provided to stakeholders on a regular basis through the dedicated Communications group
- **Recruitment:** Development of the iTrent Recruitment module has been paused pending consideration by the appropriate LGR HROD Workstream
- **Kickstart:** Two Kickstart employees joined the team in November to help create some capacity to support the iTrent Implementation and a Data Retention Project. The Kickstart's will be employed for a six-month period and the programme is being accessed via Cumbria Chamber

ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

The Elections Team have completed the annual canvass and out of approximately 53,000 properties, we were unable to get a response from just under 3,000 of these.

We continue to liaise with the Elections Teams in Allerdale and Copeland, ahead of the May 2022 elections for the new shadow Cumberland Council.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – LEGAL SERVICES

Recent counts for information requests (From 16th August 2021 – 10th December 2021):

- Environmental Information Regulations requests received - 25
- Environmental Information Regulations requests responded to - 20
- Freedom of Information Act requests received – 201
- Freedom of Information Act requests responded to - 157
- Data Protection Act requests received – 10
- Data Protection Act requests responded to – 5

ICT UPDATE

- Work on the Revs & Bens Services move to Hosted eClaim and Forms for Carlisle, Copeland and Allerdale is progressing.
- Windows 10 upgrade to 20H2 – rollout to Windows 1909 (interim step) has started on end user laptops then once complete rollout of 20H2 will commence
- 2008 servers – Flexi server will be turned off in December. IKen (Legal System) UAT has been started, with go live due in the new year. Civica Lalpac (Licensing) migration to new servers has been scheduled with the supplier for March