



Meeting Date: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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### **LEGAL SERVICES**

Legal Services passed their Lexcel inspection which was held on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May. Lexcel is an external measurement of excellence in legal practices and consists of a full audit inspection every three years at which the Inspector examines our policies and procedures, interviews staff and reviews files, and shorter audits on the second and third years. This was our full three yearly inspection and the Inspector found that the section met and exceeded all the required criteria. The Inspector commented that the Legal Section is well managed and organised, with excellent leadership being demonstrated. Carlisle City Council is the only Lexcel accredited legal department in any of the Cumbrian District and County Councils which will form the Cumberland Council.

### **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The draft Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 are in the process of being prepared and will be published before the revised statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. They will then be subject to external audit process.

### **ICT UPDATE**

- LGR – The HR and OD IT business system needs of the two new authorities is now being established with the support of Carlisle ICT via the workstream
- Windows 10 upgrade to 21H2 – rollout to Windows 21H2 95% complete
- 2008 servers – Civica Lalpac (Licensing) migration to new servers completed

### **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Celebration of Learning event held on 17<sup>th</sup> May at Tullie House to celebrate the achievement of qualifications by over 35 employees over the past two years. It also incorporated a presentation of certificates to those long service employees who had achieved either 25 years or 40 years service with the Council.

Project Management at two levels arranged, first cohort at lower level all passed.  
Advanced level taking place in July.

### **PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The End of Year Performance Report has been through the two new Scrutiny Panels and Executive. This is the first Annual Report following the review of performance messages completed as a Task & Finish Group.

### **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – LEGAL SERVICES**

Recent counts for information requests (From 07/02/2022 – 24/06/2022):

- Environmental Information Regulations requests received - 25
- Environmental Information Regulations requests responded to - 25
- Freedom of Information Act requests received – 280
- Freedom of Information Act requests responded to - 243
- Data Protection Act requests received – 13
- Data Protection Act requests responded to – 11