

Meeting Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Public/Private\*: Public

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

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### **FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The budget process is now progressing through the scrutiny process and the Executive issued their Draft Budget for consultation in mid-December.

COVID returns are continuing to be submitted to MHCLG to outline our additional costs and lost income as a result of the pandemic and the Revenues and Benefits Team are working hard to continue to assess applications for the new Business Support Grants.

### **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Wellbeing has been the priority and a number of virtual wellbeing events have been delivered.

The Manager Competency training continues to be delivered and is well attended.

### **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

- Recent counts for information requests (From 10 October 2020 – 4 December 2020):
- Environmental Information Regulations requests received - 10
- Environmental Information Regulations requests responded to - 14
- Freedom of Information Act requests received – 114
- Freedom of Information Act requests responded to - 87
- Data Protection Act requests received – 4
- Data Protection Act requests responded to – 3

### **ICT UPDATE**

- Head of Service – Laura Griffiths – started on 16<sup>th</sup> November
- Service Restructure - ongoing
- Department ICT need assessments underway

- Annual ICT User Satisfaction Survey sent out
- RBS – Migration to Carlisle Citrix Cloud environment underway for Carlisle, Copeland and Allerdale
- RBS Capita system Upgrades implemented for COVID support and grant payments
- Website amendments for COVID Support and grant applications
- PSN IT Healthcheck carried out and working on Remedial Action Plan
- New Internet Connection for Council currently being installed and commissioned
- New perimeter firewalls now installed and working
- Community Centres – currently the Federation are evaluating tender responses to decide on new supplier for ICT provision

## **ELECTORAL REGISTRATION**

The Elections Team have completed the annual canvass and published the revised Register on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Approximately 5,000 properties out of the 54,000 did not respond to the household correspondence issued and for obvious reasons regarding Coronavirus, the personal canvass in the form of door knocking was unable to be undertaken this year. Where possible, we contacted households via email and telephone and put out social media posts to try to ensure everyone who is entitled to be registered, is on the electoral roll.

We are well into planning for the Elections in May 2021 (City Council, County Council, Police & Crime Commissioner and possible Parishes). These plans continue to be challenging in the current situation, as there are many issues to address, including staff and venue availability and Count arrangements, as these will be held over three different days/times.

## **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

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