



BURNLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL

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PORTFOLIO: **RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE
MANAGEMENT**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED ISHTIAQ**

DATE OF REPORT: **27/09/2017**

Progress against our strategic commitments

Strategic commitment	Progress update
<p>PF1- We will embed the partnership with Liberata within the Council's budget, strategic vision and commercial strategy.</p>	<p>The payroll function provided by Liberata has now been successfully integrated with the Council's HR system which will provide greater efficiencies in HR administration. Further development of the self-service capability will now be progressed.</p>
<p>PF2- We will adopt Medium Term Financial Strategy that will put the Council on a sustainable financial footing. This strategy will set the framework for preparing annual budgets, ensuring the annual budget strategy is set within the context of the longer term outlook.</p>	<p>Work to address the challenging budget gap of £3.8m between 2018-21 continues. Proposals to bridge some of this gap, with an emphasis on 2018/19 in particular, are presented at this Full Council meeting. This multi-year approach will enable a joined-up and strategic approach to delivering savings.</p> <p>The Council's annual Statement of Accounts, covering 2016/17 were produced and sent to Grant Thornton on the 31st May 2017 and then subsequently audited by them. The Audit and Standards Committee approved the accounts on 26th July 2017, after which Grant Thornton concluded their audit and signed off the statements, giving an 'unqualified' audit opinion and are satisfied that "in all significant respects the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year</p>

ended 31 March 2017”.

This represents a significant achievement, and means the Finance team is freed up to support the Council’s everyday financial management.

Significant progress has also been made to redesign the system of monitoring budgets by managers, moving to a model of self-service, with cycle 1 being the first full month of implantation of a new system. This project allows budget holders to have greater input and control managing and reporting against their budgets and is linked to greater empowerment for budget holders and greater use of financial systems. This is being delivered under the Financial Transformation programme, and is further linked to delivering efficiencies for the Council.