



**Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council – Strategic Economic Development, Finance and Devolution, said:**

*“As austerity policies continue, the Council’s budget position does not get any easier.*

*We are in fact facing our biggest ever financial challenge, with a requirement to reduce our spending – or raise income – by £45 million just next year, as part of a programme of reductions of more than £130 million by 2021.*

*“This inevitably requires difficult proposals be put on the table for investigation, review and debate. This Administration has consistently developed budgets in a consultative, collaborative manner – inviting all Elected Members and other stakeholders to provide their views and make their voice heard.*

*“I am grateful to the Members of our Overview and Scrutiny committees who have once again provided invaluable insight and opinion on the budget proposals this year.”*

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report that set out the feedback from the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to the Budget Proposals for 2017/18. This followed a series of budget scrutiny workshops held during January 2017. There was a separate report from each of the committees which were attached as appendices to the report. These captured the issues raised and general feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members at these workshops.

As the report addressed the proposals for the 2017/18 budget, it related to all Wirral Plan pledges and all wards in the borough.

This report was not a Key Decision.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) this Cabinet will take into account the content of these reports as part of its deliberations in developing its budget recommendations to the Council; and**
- (2) this Cabinet thanks all of the Elected Members who attended the Scrutiny Workshops and contributed towards the scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2017/18.**