



CLLR PHIL DAVIES

CABINET
19 FEBRUARY 2018

2018/19 BUDGET PROPOSALS
SCRUTINY REPORT

Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council - Growth, said:

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

“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.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the feedback from the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to the Budget Proposals for 2018/19. This follows a series of budget scrutiny workshops held during January. There is a separate report from each of the committees which are included as appendices to this report. These capture the issues raised and general feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members at these sessions.

As the report addresses the proposals for the 2018/19 budget, it relates to all Wirral Plan pledges and all wards in the borough. The report is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Cabinet is requested to consider the content of these reports as part of its deliberations in developing any budget recommendation for Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 For Cabinet to consider the feedback of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees in developing any budget recommendation to Council.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The approach taken by the scrutiny function in reviewing the budget proposals is consistent with previous years. No other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The approach to scrutinising the 2018/19 budget proposals is consistent with that adopted in previous years. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees prioritised those proposals they wanted to examine in more detail and convened a dedicated session for this purpose.
- 3.2 The sessions, held in January, were attended by relevant Council officers for Committee Members to ask questions about the proposals. Issues raised and comments made were captured in a report following each session. These were presented to the regular January meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees where they were referred on to Cabinet. The four reports are included as Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4 to this report.
- 3.3 The draft minute extracts from the January Overview and Scrutiny committee meetings are also highlighted as Appendices 5 to 8 of this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

5.0 LEGAL

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising as a result of this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are no risk implications arising as a result of this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

- 8.1 This report sets out the engagement of scrutiny in reviewing the Council's 2018/19 budget proposals. Separate consultation activities will be delivered where there is a requirement to do so.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The report is for information and there are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - 2018/19 Budget Scrutiny – Adult Care and Health O&S Committee

Appendix 2 - 2018/19 Budget Scrutiny – Business O&S Committee

Appendix 3 - 2018/19 Budget Scrutiny – Children and Families O&S Committee

Appendix 4 - 2018/19 Budget Scrutiny – Environment O&S Committee

Appendix 5 – Draft Minute – Adult Care and Health O&S Committee

Appendix 6 - Draft Minute – Business O&S Committee

Appendix 7 - Draft Minute – Children and Families O&S Committee

Appendix 8 - Draft Minute – Environment O&S Committee

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	30 January 2018
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23 January 2018
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 January 2018
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	31 January 2018