



**COUNCILLOR
PHIL DAVIES**

CABINET
18 FEBRUARY 2019
2019/20 BUDGET PROPOSALS SCRUTINY
REPORT

Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, said:

“Making sure Members of all parties have the chance to properly scrutinise the council budget and the proposals to save money is vital. It brings the expertise and experience of all Members into the process, and always generates helpful debates and constructive feedback. The Cabinet places on record its thanks to every Member who participated in this process.”

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the feedback from the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees in relation to the Budget Proposals for 2019/20. This follows a series of budget scrutiny workshops held during December and January. A report from each committee is included as an appendix 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 2019/20 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 2019/20 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 December and 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 Appendix 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.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Carl Gurnell**

Team Leader for Performance & Scrutiny
telephone: (0151) 691 8008
email: carlgurnell@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - 2019/20 Budget Scrutiny – Adult Care and Health O&S Committee

Appendix 2 - 2019/20 Budget Scrutiny – Business O&S Committee

Appendix 3 - 2019/20 Budget Scrutiny – Children and Families O&S Committee

Appendix 4 - 2019/20 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 |
|--|-------------------------|
| 2018/19 Budget Proposals Scrutiny Report | 19 February 2018 |
| 2017/18 Budget Proposals Scrutiny Report | 31 January 2017 |