

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

BUDGET TIMETABLE AND BUDGET CONSULTATION 2022/231. Purpose of report

To advise the Committee on the budget consultation process for 2022/23 and to set out the proposed timetable and budget scrutiny process.

2. Background

Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a duty upon local authorities to consult representatives of non-domestic ratepayers before setting the budget. Whilst there is no specific statutory requirement to consult with residents, local authorities were placed under a general duty to 'inform, consult and involve' representatives of local people when exercising their functions by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. This was repealed and replaced by more prescriptive forms of involvement by the Localism Act 2011.

For 2022/23 a budget consultation process is proposed similar to that adopted previously using a web-based survey that is publicised through social media.

As previous, it is proposed that elements of the budget are reported to the relevant Committees for detailed scrutiny. An overall budget report will then be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee on 10 February 2022 for recommendation to Full Council on 2 March 2022.

Appendix 1 denotes the budget timetable and consultation process. The consultation survey is attached at appendix 2 and includes questions relating to a resident's method of access of particular Council services, the preferred means of interacting with the Council and the impact of Covid-19.

Promotional activity will include social media messages, 'email-me' bulletins, press releases, website promotion and direct engagement with groups, organisations and individuals on the Council's stakeholder map.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the budget-setting process for 2022/23 and the Budget Consultation questionnaire be approved.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Budget timetable and consultation process

Date/Period	Activity
15 October 2021	Online questionnaire published by this date
1 November 2021	Capital and revenue submissions received
29 November 2021	Online questionnaire closes
November 2021	Compilation of proposed three-year Capital Programme and Revenue Budgets (Financial Plans)
November – December 2021	Scrutiny of service Business Plans and Financial Plans by General Management Team
6 January 2022	Results of budget consultation exercise and draft budget proposals to Finance and Resources Committee with the Council Tax Base set
January – February 2022	Scrutiny of service Business Plans and Financial Plans by respective service Committees
10 February 2022	Budget proposals presented to the Finance and Resources Committee
2 March 2022	Budget approved by Council