

## Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**BUDGET TIMETABLE AND BUDGET CONSULTATION 2020/21**1. Purpose of report

To advise the Committee on the budget consultation process for 2020/21 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. There is no specific statutory requirement to consult 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when exercising their functions by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 but this was repealed and replaced by more prescriptive forms of involvement by the Localism Act 2011.

For 2020/21 a similar budget consultation process is proposed similar to that adopted for 2019/20 using a web-based survey, publicised through social media.

As with the 2019/20 budget, 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 13 February 2020 for recommendation to Full Council on 4 March 2020.

Appendix 1 denotes the budget timetable and consultation process. The consultation survey is attached at appendix 2. This includes questions relating to resident's method of access of particular Council services and preferred means of interacting with the Council, to help inform the New Ways of Working project. Social media is ongoing throughout the consultation with specific activities on the following dates:

- Initial press release: 11 October 2019
- Posters distributed across buildings, town and parish councils etc.
- Email Bulletin via email me service: 11 October 2019
- Reminder press release: 4 November 2019
- Email Bulletin via email me service: 18 November 2019

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that:**

- 1. The budget-setting process for 2020/21 be approved.**
- 2. The Budget Consultation questionnaire be approved.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX

**Budget timetable and consultation process**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 11 October 2019        | Online questionnaire published   |
| 1 November 2019        | Capital and revenue submissions received   |
| 29 November 2019       | Online questionnaire closes  |
| November 2019          | Compilation of proposed three year Capital Programme   |
| November-December 2019 | Scrutiny of services business and financial plans by General Management Team   |
| 9 January 2020         | Results of budget consultation exercise and draft budget proposals to Finance and Resources Committee. Council Tax base set. |
| January–February 2020  | Scrutiny of service business and financial plans by service Committees   |
| 13 February 2020       | Budget proposals presented to Finance and Resources Committee  |
| 4 March 2020           | Budget approved by Council   |