

Bath & North East Somerset Council	
MEETING:	Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	30th January 2017
TITLE:	Budget and Council Tax 2017/18 and Financial Outlook 2017/18 to 2019/20
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1: Budget report (to follow) • Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment • Appendix 3: Summary notes from the Area Forum Meetings • Appendix 4: Summary of other January 2017 PDS meetings (to follow) 	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report presents the Council's budget report, feedback received from the other Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels and a summary of the Area Forum Meetings for consideration and comment.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

2.1 Consider the budget report documents as well as feedback received on the budget and highlight any issues it would like the Cabinet to be aware of. The Panel may want to formulate some recommendations for the Cabinet but needs to recognise that such recommendations should be financially neutral as the Council has a requirement for a balanced budget.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 The resource implications are contained within the budget report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 This report sets out the framework for the service planning and budget processes which lead up to the statutory and legal requirement for the Council to set a budget in February 2017.

4.2 The Council is committed to ensuring that financial decisions and the budgetary processes are subject to proportionate equality analysis. Proportionate equality analysis is being carried out on the proposals within the Directorate Plans by the Council's Communities Team. An initial assessment is shown in Appendix 2 of this report.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 This report presents the Council's budget report for consideration and comment. The main budget report documents will be circulated to the Panel through a supplementary despatch as they are not available at the time of report pack circulation.
- 5.2 A number of Area Forum meetings were held during November 2016 in order to give partners, stakeholders and members of the public the opportunity to hear more about the budget challenge facing us, express views on potential impacts and local priorities and raise ideas and questions. The notes of these meetings can be found at Appendix 3.
- 5.3 During January 2017, the draft Directorate Plans were presented to the Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Panels. Each PDS Panel was engaged in this process and Panels concentrated on the parts of the plan relevant to their own remit. The Panels were asked to consider the implication of the draft Directorate Plans and make recommendations to the relevant portfolio holders and Cabinet. A summary of the other PDS Panel discussions will be circulated to this Panel through a supplementary despatch as it is not available at the time of report pack circulation.
- 5.4 Cabinet will consider the budget feedback received as part of final consideration and agreement at Cabinet and Council in February 2017.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The Council is required to set a budget which identifies how its financial resources are to be allocated and utilised.
- 6.2 The Directorate Plans sets out the context and process for the directorate's service and financial planning.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The Directorate Plans set out a package of options that reflect the Council's Corporate Strategy, and its overarching visions and values.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Directorate Plans flow from the Corporate Strategy which was developed in consultation with Cabinet and Council officers. They also build on our 2020 vision which was developed in consultation with the Council, NHS, police, local businesses, fire service and voluntary sector.
- 8.2 Council meetings have been held with officers and cabinet members during the refresh of these directorate plans.

8.3 A short animation with information about the budget process has been developed and publicised online in order to raise awareness and communicate key messages: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1i-y34PVn4>

8.4 An online feedback facility has been provided to allow for feedback on the proposals which were published on the 3rd January.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Andrew Pate (Strategic Director Resources)
Background papers	B&NES Corporate Strategy 2016-2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/bnes_corporate_strategy_2016-2020.pdf
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