

COUNCILLOR PAUL MAY
STATEMENT TO CABINET – 9TH FEBRUARY 2023

After cabinet this evening proposed budgets and council tax recommendations will be presented by Councillor Samuel to the full council on the 21st of February.

I think it is important to recognise that the officers have been dedicated in ensuring all councillors have been briefed re the finances over a long period from late 2022 right through the scrutiny stages.

There is no doubt these are hard times for the community and the national conservative government have in effect imposed a 5% increase on all caring, social councils. They have removed support and increased demands, so the Banes budget is a fair way to balance the adult and children's needs with other services.

The pandemic and asylum seekers have placed enormous pressures on Children's services. Banes is quite a small Unitary Authority so that has placed other services under scrutiny as well.

The council has to set a legally balancing budget every year so the Section 151 officer has to agree that.

From the Chief Executive down the officers of Banes have worked diligently and I admire their dedication. Thank you.

Cabinet, to get to this situation is not a short process because it has been about the long-term management of complex budgets and pressures. I will be supporting the proposals at the council.