

Comments on the budget from the Policy Overview Committees

Policy Overview Committees are an integral and statutory part of the consultation on the Cabinet's budget proposals each year. This opportunity enables Councillors, who are not in the Cabinet, to provide input or comment on aspects of the budget for the ensuing year.

The Corporate Services, Commerce and Communities Policy Overview Committee met on 5 February 2019 to consider the combined set of comments from the Policy Overview Committees and agreed they be referred to Cabinet and Full Council and as set out below:

	Budget remit	Comments
Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities 8 January 2019 & 5 February 2019	<i>Chief Executive's Office</i> <i>Finance</i> <i>Residents Services (certain service areas).</i>	The Committee noted the budget projections and the combined budget proposals put forward by the Chief Executive's Office and Finance Group, and recognised the continuing financial constraints faced by the Council, whilst acknowledging that the Council have a track record of delivery over recent years in delivering a budget without impacting frontline services.
Social Care, Housing & Public Health – 16 January 2019	<i>Social Care</i> <i>Residents Services (Housing, Public Health)</i> <i>Finance (Benefits)</i>	The Committee supported the budget proposals and commended officers for their work in times of austerity. Although concern was expressed around future budget pressures from increasing care costs, the Committee was pleased to see that there had been capital investment in housing and a zero increase in council tax for 65s and over for the thirteenth consecutive year. The Committee welcomed the budget, particularly as there were no reductions to front line services.
Residents', Education & Environmental Services – 22 January 2019	<i>Residents Services (various service areas)</i>	Members agreed that it was gratifying to see that, despite the financial pressures faced by the Council, the Capital Programme was able to provide adequate funds for projects to maintain and improve services for residents, such as school expansions, street lighting, and highways improvements. The Committee thanked officers for their input and efforts.

Background Papers – these are the approved comments from the Committees. The published minutes ([link here](#)) set out more detail of the budget discussions that took place.