

	<p align="center">Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 15 January 2019</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Director of Performance, Policy & Partnerships</p>
<p>October Cabinet Report on budget proposals 2019/20 – 2020/21</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	1 - Cabinet Report – Draft Budget Proposals
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report sets out for consultation and scrutiny the draft budget proposals for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee note the overall financial position, and review and comment on the proposals in the report.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The report sets out the overall financial position facing the Council for the next four years and highlights the significant risks, issues and uncertainties. It also sets out the approach to consultation with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders.

3.2 It is envisaged that the proposals contained in this report, along with an equalities assessment, would form the basis of the budget to be agreed at the Full Council meeting of February 2019.

3.3 The budget proposals are organised into four categories: Recommended; Difficult; Very difficult; Most difficult. Proposals are included for the Housing Revenue Account; the estimated Collection Fund balance for Council Tax, and consultation on Council Tax increases of 4.99% in 2019/20, subject to legislative uncertainty set out in the report, and 3.99% in 2020/21. The report also notes that there will be consultation on the Budget until 31 January 2019.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The financial implications are set out throughout the report. As the budget proposals are for consultation at this stage, not agreement, there are no direct costs associated with agreeing the recommendations, other than for consultation, the costs of which are built into existing budgets.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Local authorities must budget to give a reasonable degree of certainty as to the maintenance of its services. In particular, local authorities are required by the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to calculate as part of their overall budget what amounts are appropriate for contingencies and reserves.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in the Equality Act 2010, when making decisions Brent Council is required to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who do and do not have a protected characteristic.

6.2 The council's Equality Strategy 2015-2019 is committed to promoting equality, diversity and cohesion.

6.3 Effective equality analysis supports the council to understand how its activities and decisions could impact on local communities, and to identify and mitigate against any potential for discrimination. EA screenings have been completed for all budget proposals and where potential adverse impact has been identified affecting one or more of the target equality groups a full EA has been carried out.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with the amended constitution, in particular that "Cabinet shall receive a report from the Chief Finance Officer setting out the financial position of the council, and the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee shall meet again to consider the Report and the issues raised."

REPORT SIGN-OFF

Peter Gadsdon

Director Performance Policy & Partnerships

