



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
7 February 2019

**Report from the Director of
Performance, Policy and
Partnerships**

Budget and Council Tax 2019/20 and 2020/21

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	0
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer:	Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, pascoe.sawyers@brent.gov.uk 020 8937 1045

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1 The report sets out the council's budget proposals for 2019/20 and business plans for 202/21. It details the results of the consultation, scrutiny and equalities processes and also sets out the overall financial position facing the council over the next four years – risks, issues and uncertainties.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee consider and comment on the proposals contained in the budget report. Comments will be submitted to Cabinet and will be considered as part of the Cabinet meeting on 11/2/19.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 A Budget Scrutiny Panel was convened after the Cabinet published and discussed its draft budget proposals for 2019/20 and 2020/2021 at a meeting on 15 October 2018.

- 3.2 This was a joint panel comprised of members from the council's three Scrutiny Committees and was chaired by Councillor Matt Kelcher, chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (reflecting their remit to scrutinise resources and the budget). The members were Councillor Ketan Sheth, Councillor Afzal, Councillor Colwill (Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee); Councillor Long, Councillor Johnson, Councillor Stephens, (Housing Scrutiny Committee); Councillor Nerva, Councillor Kelcher, Councillor Kansagra (Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee).
- 3.3 To scrutinise the budget, the panel met with Cabinet members, the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer as well as Strategic Directors and Operational Directors from the council's five departments. They explored key lines of enquiry with Cabinet members and officers around the budget proposals. The purpose of the panel was to scrutinise the Cabinet's plans and offer suggestions and amendments to improve the proposals where appropriate. The panel produced their budget report, which set out a number of different recommendations.
- 3.4 A paper entitled 'Budget Scrutiny' was submitted to Resources and Public Realm committee in January. This paper included both the October Cabinet report and subsequent Budget Scrutiny Panel report. Committee considered and commented on these and this further informed the budget proposals.
- 3.5 Prior to being agreed by Cabinet, the budget proposals are to be considered by Committee. Final considerations and comments will be presented back to Cabinet in the form of a note of deliberation. Cabinet will take into account the issues raised and the note of deliberation.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As set out in the Cabinet report.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 As set out in the Cabinet report.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 As set out in the Cabinet report.

REPORT SIGN-OFF

Peter Gadsdon

Director Performance, Policy and Partnerships