

Cabinet 24 January 2018 - 2018-2020 Financial Planning and Budget Process: Cabinet's Draft Budget and Council Tax Requirement proposals

Addendum Report - Response to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee Recommendations

Annex 1 of the 2018-2020 Financial Planning and Budget Process: Cabinet's Draft Budget and Council Tax Requirement proposals report to Cabinet of the 24 January 201, published on 24 January 2018, noted that Cabinet's responses to the recommendations raised by the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee would follow in an addendum report. This addendum report will be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on the 24 January 2018, prior to their decision on the main report.

Annex 1 of the report noted that the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee raised several recommendations on the proposals in relation to the General Fund Budget, the Cabinet's responses to which are noted in the table below:

Recommendations and Cabinet's Responses

Recommendations	Cabinet's Response
Recommendation 1: Maximising Resources It is recommended that consideration be taken to increase all Fees and Charges in line with inflation.	Noted. As set out in the Business Case, all Fees and Charges are set in line with the Fees and Charges Policy which has been agreed to ensure transparency and clarity in relation to increases in different types of Fees and Charges.
Recommendation 2: Maximising Resources It is recommended that a review of all charges for events carried out in the borough be reviewed to ascertain if the Authority is receiving value for money for the use of its resources to facilitate these events.	Noted. Cabinet keeps the charges for events under constant review to ensure resources are maximised.
Recommendation 3: Great Place It is recommended that a review of the impact to Alternative Weekly collections be undertaken to provide assurance that this method of collection is the most appropriate,	Agreed. All premises are currently being assessed for inclusion in the Alternate Weekly Collections programme. There may be some properties that require a different

<p>where communal waste storage in place.</p>	<p>method of collection and an individual assessment will be carried out where appropriate, at these premises.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: Great Place It is recommended that all residents be provided clear information to how Alternative Weekly Collection of their waste will have an overall benefit to the community.</p>	<p>Agreed. A communications plan is being developed which sets out the benefits of Alternate Weekly Collections. This will be communicated to residents through social media, Our North Tyneside Magazine, the local press and the council's website.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: Great Place It is recommended that the scheduling of opening hours of Customer Service Centres and Library Services be in place to ensure that the services are available when residents most need them.</p>	<p>Agreed. Cabinet has already agreed that this will be dealt with as part of the procedure to amend and implement the changes.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: Great Place It is recommended that the use of Customer First Centre & Library buildings be promoted for the use by community groups to ensure that these facilities continue to be used in the most cost effective way for the local community.</p>	<p>Agreed. The service will continue to promote community use.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: Conclusions It is recommended that following the decision to implement the 2018/19 Council Budget, a review be undertaken to investigate and determine what information should be supplied to enable good comprehensive scrutiny of future Council Budgets and therefore reduce delays to the budget process.</p>	<p>Agreed The Cabinet will work with Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee to consider actions to reduce delays to the budget process.</p>

<p>Recommendation 8: Conclusions It is recommended that greater emphasis be given to increase the commercial opportunities of the North Tyneside Trading Company to increase revenue.</p>	<p>Noted Cabinet will continue to look for additional opportunities in line with the agreed Business Plan for the North Tyneside Trading Company.</p>
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