



TRAFFORD  
COUNCIL



## Budget Scrutiny Update

21<sup>st</sup> September 2016



## Some Context

- § To date Trafford Council has saved £118m since 2011
- § By 2020 Trafford Council needs to save a further £40m
- § Reasons for this are:
  - § Continuing pressure of austerity
  - § Expected changes to central Government funding arrangements
  - § Rising demand on services.

**This level of additional savings to be made presents the Council with its greatest task yet**



# Corporate Planning Approach

- § New approach commissioned and led by the Corporate Leadership Team
  
- § CLT away day defined areas of focus:
  - § 3 year budget cycle and proposals
  - § Long term vision for Trafford
  - § Place based approach
  
- § Cross Council senior management Task Force put in place





# Key Messages

We want a different narrative, one that stops talking about short term savings to one that describes long term investment in our key priorities

We must have greater control over our finances; income generation needs to generate profits and be clearly linked to addressing our biggest issues and inequalities

We need a model and investment in developing greater levels of prevention and independence in social care. We want to invest in keeping families together and where that is not possible secure better value for money outcomes for our Looked After Children

We must invest in facilities that increase physical activity and enable Trafford clubs, associations and schools to lever investment in theirs and ensure wider accessibility

We need a clear evidence base that will be the cornerstone of decision making and we will engage with partners around shared outcomes – doing the right thing for Trafford to breakdown organisational silos and barriers



# Future Budget

- § The February 2017 budget report will set out how the Council will balance its budget over the next 3 years
- § This budget approach provides the Council with the opportunity to develop a much longer term strategy, putting in place the building blocks for 2020
- § Feedback from the Budget Scrutiny Action Plan 2016/17 has been taken into account including reviewing the arrangements for public consultation to ensure it represents value for money and giving consideration given to more use of online and social media
- § A group of senior officers have been designing the framework for the forthcoming budget and consultation process





# Current Position

- § Trafford already has very strong foundations
- § Much activity has been completed in collaboration with partners
- § In 2016/17 the Transformation Programme is being delivered under 7 principles:
  - § Working Smarter
  - § Buying Better
  - § Commissioning
  - § Promoting independence
  - § Maximising Income
  - § Joining Up and Working Together
  - § Eligibility and Access
- § These principles will remain critical to the next 3 years and will be positioned differently to help all our stakeholders understand the more challenging and complex context we face going forward





# Revised Consultation Process Approach

1

2 public sessions (one in the North and one in the South of the borough) in Nov / Dec 2016

2

Continue with the 'join the conversation' theme introduced on line and the term 'consultation' will be replaced with 'conversation' regarding public engagement activity

3

The public will be informed about those things which could directly affect them and the neighbourhood they live in. There will be opportunities for the public to ask questions and share views openly with Members, Officers and others in attendance

4

These sessions mark the start of a longer period of engagement

5

As proposals mature stakeholder groups will be consulted as required. This could be at any point between 2016 and 2019/20. No agreed schedule at this stage and it will take some time to define, particularly for the latter years





# Revised Consultation Process Approach

6

Staff will have budget briefings at the same time as the Public briefings

7

Any efficiency proposals affecting staff will be dealt with separately and internally through routine staff consultation arrangements

8

Specific consultation activity will be proportionate in scale to the proposal concerned and targeted to the stakeholder group concerned

9

As much activity as possible will be undertaken online promoting the 'joint the conversation' approach adopted last year and via social media

10

Opportunities for residents to share 'what's important' to them will be made available to them online





# Example Online Consultation

Welcome to the 2017/20 Budget Conversation page

Budget Conversation 2017 to 2020

Join the Budget Conversation to help us focus on what you value most - we know more budget cuts are coming and we need to talk about what matters most to you!

Join the  
conversation

Budget Conversation  
survey

[Join in and have your say](#)

Follow the  
conversation

Budget Conversation blog

[Respond to what people  
are saying](#)

See the budget  
figures

How we spend £x million  
now

[See the breakdown](#)



# Role of Scrutiny

- § Scrutiny's role remains pivotal in ensuring the Council engages with all its stakeholders effectively and that the Council operates openly and clearly
- § Scrutiny is requested to support the recommendations above and work flexibly with Council officers and the Executive over the coming months, to establish the basis for a more responsive budget consultation process in the coming years.
- § Scrutiny's purpose is to ensure the budget:
  - § Is right for Trafford
  - § Fits within the policy framework
  - § Reflects the needs of local people
  - § Reflects the Council's Corporate Objectives
  - § Is legal and affordable



# Timeline

- § Initial Budget summary to Executive October 2016
- § Evidenced based business cases being prepared September / October and aligned to existing projects
- § Online and Public Conversation go live November/December 2016
- § Staff Consultation in accordance with business requirements
- § Output of Online and Public Conversation January/February 2017
- § Any updates to Corporate Budget agreed by February 2017
- § Final budget is presented to Council in February 2017
- § Service Plans in place by April for the following year



## Next Steps

- § Views / feedback welcome on revised budget and consultation process
- § Agree participation at the Public engagement events
- § Feedback, proposals and ‘conversation’ feedback in February

Questions ....Comments.....Thank you .....

