

## TRAFFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Report to:** Scrutiny  
**Date:** 11 March 2020  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Finance and Investment and the  
Corporate Director of Finance and Systems

### Report Title

**Executive's Response to Scrutiny Committee's Recommendations to the Budget Proposals for 2020/21**

### Summary

At the Executive meeting on the 27 January 2020 a report was presented by the Scrutiny Committee chair, setting out their comments and findings from the review of the Executive's draft budget proposals for 2020/21.

The Executive values the contribution that the Scrutiny Committee makes to the budget process and is committed to working with Scrutiny Committee during the forthcoming year as part of their planned work programme.

This report contains a detailed response to each of the points raised by the Scrutiny Committee in their report.

### Recommendation(s)

That the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Committee be approved.

### Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Nikki Bishop  
Extension: 4884

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The Scrutiny review of the budget is a requirement of the budget policy framework. It is relevant to all corporate priorities.
Financial	All financial implications are contained in the body of the report.
Legal Implications:	The Scrutiny review of the budget is a requirement of the Council's constitution.
Equality/Diversity Implications	There are none arising from this report.
Sustainability Implications	There are none arising from this report.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	There are none arising from this report.
Risk Management Implications	There are none arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing Implications	There are none arising from this report.
Health and Safety Implications	There are none arising from this report.

## BUDGET SCRUTINY ACTION PLAN

Area	Scrutiny Recommendation	Executive Response
<p><b>Investment management Strategy</b> – Members feel that as this is such a key part of the Council’s budget plans for the foreseeable future that it should be closely monitored by Scrutiny</p>	<p>Scrutiny asks that its Members receive training on the Investment Management Strategy. Scrutiny requests updates on the Investment Management Strategy every 6 months.</p>	<p>The Executive note this position and confirm that regular updates will be made available and also a training event will be arranged.</p>
<p><b>Council Reserves</b> - The Committee are concerned that the Council continues to operate with a comparatively low level of reserves and feel that Scrutiny need assurance that the Council’s position is robust.</p>	<p>Scrutiny request to have a dedicated session with Officers to discuss the Councils reserves in detail so that they have a full understanding of the Council’s position.</p>	<p>The Executive note this position and confirm that a further update session will be arranged.</p>
<p><b>Service Transformation</b> – Scrutiny support the Council’s position that services need to stop working in silos. Scrutiny wants to be kept updated as to the Council’s progress in this area to ensure that change is delivered.</p>	<p>Scrutiny recommends that the Executive Members for Adults and Children’s Services and Senior officers be involved in the creation of the Council’s Local Plan. Scrutiny asks that the Council’s transformation plans be brought to the relevant Scrutiny Committee. Scrutiny asks that the Executive works closely with the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee around the development of the Council’s SEND Service</p>	<p>The Executive note this position.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Adult Social Care attended Scrutiny on 30/1/2020 to discuss the work across ASC and offer to bring any aspect of work or development and challenges to Scrutiny. The Committee is now considering aspects of the ASC they wish to scrutinise in the future.</p>
<p><b>Accommodation</b> – Scrutiny is concerned that the provision of accommodation within the borough is not currently sufficient to meet demand. Scrutiny welcomes the Executives plans to address this issue and support them in moving forward with these developments. Scrutiny also welcomes and supports the development of high level provision at the GM Level.</p>	<p>Scrutiny recommends that the Executive prioritise the development of additional provision within the borough. Scrutiny asks that the Executive provide regular updates on the development of this provision. Scrutiny requests that the Health Scrutiny Committee receive regular updates on the development of the high level facilities by GMCA.</p>	<p>The Executive note this position.</p> <p>ASC will ensure that any developments across GM that support Trafford residents are brought to the attention of Scrutiny. At present the only discussions across GM for shared resource relate to supported living accommodation for people with autism and learning disabilities.</p>

<p><b>Early Intervention and Prevention</b> – Scrutiny is concerned at the level of the Council’s services in this area. Scrutiny welcomes the investment in Children’s services and the Executives plans to continue this increased investment. Scrutiny also welcomes the ongoing work in Adults services, especially public health, in preventative services.</p> <p>Scrutiny wants to ensure that the benefits from the preventative work are captured and so would like to be informed of the methods used by the Council.</p>	<p>Scrutiny asks that the Executive update the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee on the plans to improve the Council’s early intervention and prevention services.</p> <p>Scrutiny asks that the Health Scrutiny Committee receive updates on the impact of the Council’s Cancer screening and immunisation programmes</p> <p>Scrutiny requests an update on the benefit realisation methods used by the Council for preventative services.</p>	<p>The Executive note this position.</p> <p>Cancer screening update was well received at health scrutiny on 30/1/2020. Immunisation programme update was provided by health scrutiny in 2019.</p>
<p><b>Home to School Transport</b> – Scrutiny are concerned with the number of issues within this service as it provides support to some of Trafford’s most vulnerable residents.</p>	<p>Scrutiny asks that a report on this service and the planned developments be provided to the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee.</p>	<p>The Executive note this position.</p>
<p><b>Commissioning</b> – Scrutiny recognises that commissioning is a large aspect of the services the Council delivers and feel that Scrutiny Members need to fully understand the service to be able to carry out their role.</p>	<p>Scrutiny would like for all Scrutiny Committee Members to receive training to enable them to see if the Council could reduce costs while improving services.</p>	<p>The Executive note this position.</p> <p>The services will develop a training pack for members and will arrange to deliver this in quarter 1 2020/2021.</p>
<p><b>Demand Led Services</b> – Scrutiny continue to be concerned regarding the Council’s vulnerability to sudden increases in demand. Scrutiny would like to receive additional assurance that the Council’s projections are sufficiently robust.</p>	<p>Scrutiny requests regular performance updates on demand led services.</p>	<p>The Executive note this position.</p> <p>Regular updates are included as part of the bi-monthly budget monitoring reports to Executive. Clarification of what the scrutiny committee would like to receive in addition to this information is needed.</p>