

From: Ferry, John on behalf of Communications
Sent: 04 November 2019 13:47
To: BexleyUsers
Subject: Message from the Chief Executive - Medium term financial strategy: Saving, transformation and efficiency opportunities

Importance: High

Dear colleagues –

Later today we will be publishing the latest version of our Medium term financial strategy, which will be presented to Public Cabinet on 12 November.

The financial challenges facing local government continue, as we move over the medium term to a position where we become self-financing. This will mean that the Council will be funded predominantly through business rates, Council Tax and fees and charges, as our core government grant is removed.

This report to Public Cabinet includes a series of saving, transformation and efficiency opportunities to reduce expenditure and/or increase income over the period 2020/21 to 2023/24. We will be asking Members to allow us to carry out our formal budget consultation from November to January 2020.

Based on the latest information on external funding and known income and expenditure pressures, the Council has a reduced budget gap of £2.730m in 2020/21, increasing to £31.884m by 2023/24.

We will continue to work over the next few months to identify further savings proposals to eliminate the budget gap for 2020/21. In the meantime, we must all play our part in reducing non-essential expenditure. This means we will be reviewing all vacant posts and requests to recruit, use of consultants, spend on printing, hospitality, supplies and services.

Included within the report are current proposals for 2020/21 onwards that, if agreed, could affect staff. These include:

- A proposal to review and make changes to terms and conditions.
- Continuing our review and consolidation of business support activities across the Council.
- Reviewing management spans of control and reducing the number of organisational layers.
- Undertaking a number of service reviews that may result in proposals to change the way that services are delivered, including maximising the use of technology, streamlined processes and improved customer care while reducing costs.

Once we have agreed the scope and timescales for any reviews your managers will share more information and engage with you on as part of the review process, and in due course you and your representatives will be consulted on any proposals that might affect you.

Regular updates on how the budget process is progressing will continue to be provided by the Chief Executive at briefings, the Corporate Leadership Team and on the Council's intranet.

Please take the time to read the report.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Email me at jackie.ferry@bexley.gov.uk

Jackie