London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

13 January 2017 / PR 8436

CABINET TO DEBATE BUDGET PLANS

The meeting of Bexley's Cabinet on 23 January will consider the next stages in agreeing the Council's budget for next year, leading up to the setting of the Council Tax on 1 March.

"Managing the Council's finances well is key to providing local services and we are optimistic that we will be able to close the budget gap for 2017/18," said Council Leader Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE. "The good news is that our financial planning is working well and we have managed to achieve some savings ahead of schedule. This means we can invest in prevention, to reduce costs in the longer-term, and keeping the borough clean."

In the next financial year the Council expects to spend more than £300m on public services for people living and working in the borough, including more than £77m to improve the borough's infrastructure.

The report to Cabinet explains that the Council's financial position remains challenging for a range of reasons, including increasing homelessness, together with growing numbers of both vulnerable adults and children.

"We have a good record of delivering savings, with 95% either achieved or on track for the current financial year," added Cllr Don Massey, Cabinet member for Finance & Corporate Services. "The longer-term position remains challenging. The success of our new Growth Strategy will be crucial to balancing the budget and paying for services in the future."

The Cabinet is keen to keep the borough's Council Tax as low as possible and will decide in February whether to use the extra flexibility offered by the government to help address the increasing cost of adult social care. This flexibility is limited and the government will not allow such increases to exceed 6% over the next three years.

Local people can watch the Cabinet meeting online at http://bexley.public-i.tv/core/portal/home

Please contact: John Ferry on 020 3045 4867