

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING LIFE IN THE BOROUGH

Next week's Cabinet meeting (21 July) will see the Council launch a fresh approach to planning its budget, with an even sharper focus on improving the lives and prospects of the borough's residents and value for money.

The Council is reviewing every aspect of its work and spending based on three priorities, to ensure that people have the support and the opportunities they need to make the most of their lives -

- Growing more homes, jobs and new neighbourhoods
- Living long, fulfilling and independent lives
- Providing value for money

The budget report to Cabinet sets out the scale of the financial challenge still facing the Council. It expects to have to find at least another £37m of savings by 2018, on top of the £90m it has saved since 2007.

"People have shown their support at the ballot box for action on the country's deficit," said Council Leader, Councillor Teresa O'Neill OBE. "This means that the money the Council receives from the government will continue to fall.

"We want to work in a positive way to make sure that this continues to be a great place to live and that the services that matter to our residents can continue."

The Council is using the new priorities to develop a series of

proposals on which it will be consulting local people. The first stage of the consultation will begin following next week's Cabinet meeting.

“Our plans for the future are built around growth,” explained Councillor Alex Sawyer, the Council's Deputy Leader. “We will be pressing for better transport links, working with others to build the new homes people need and to improve people's education and skills, so that local people can benefit from new employment opportunities.

“We are working as hard as we can to make our money go further and to bring new investment into the borough.”

Details of the Council's proposals and the planned consultation will be published following next week's Cabinet meeting.

'ENDS'

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