

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Cabinet members respond to questions on Budget proposals

Councillors reviewed Bexley's financial plans on Tuesday (11 December), at the first-ever Joint Budget Overview & Scrutiny meeting to discuss the Council's Budget.

Over the course of the nearly three-hour meeting, Councillors put questions about the saving and transformation proposals to the Cabinet. They heard more detail about the proposals, their benefits and the plans to deliver them.

Cabinet member for Resources, Cllr David Leaf said after the meeting: "We agreed to try a new approach this year to involve all Councillors in the budget-making process at an earlier stage. We covered a wide range of issues and the feedback I've received is very positive."

The discussion covered services within all the Cabinet member portfolios and included those involving saving and transformation opportunities that were presented to the Council's Public Cabinet in November. These account for the vast majority of next year's savings and will have only a limited impact on local people.

Members of the joint committee agreed to hold a further meeting in February, to consider the results of the public consultation on those proposals expected to impact on local people.

"The consultation is open for another four weeks and I hope as many local people as possible will take the opportunity to give their views on the important issues it covers," said Cllr Leaf.

The consultation runs until 11 January 2019. You can have your say online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bexleybudget2019> or by completing a paper copy of the survey, which is available from all Bexley libraries.

The webcast of the meeting and the papers discussed is available online at https://bexley.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/393837

'ENDS'

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