

# **CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC**

## **REPORT TO CABINET**

**12 DECEMBER 2023**

### **OSC - Budget Consultation 2024-25**

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council presented the report to the Committee on 27 November 2023. Phil Hunter, Director of Strategy and Communications was also in attendance to assist with any queries from members.

He reported that the document circulated with the agenda was a draft of an engagement paper that would be available for those who wish to engage with the budget on a deeper level. The document would sit alongside a shorter questionnaire. The Authority would encourage participation with the consultation through different avenues including social media.

There would also be consultations on the budget through Local Area Committee meetings in January 2024, all scrutiny member meeting and a live Q&A session with the Leader and residents/businesses online. Members had also attended policy conferences on the budget in July and September 2023. It was also highlighted that the Authority would meet with a number of representative groups including the FSB and chambers of commerce to consult with businesses.

The Leader assisted by Phil Hunter responded to the Committee's comments as follows:

- An assurance was given that the questionnaire could seek residents' views on whether they felt they were getting value for money.
- There were concerns that small businesses not affiliated with an association could be missed from the consultation. The Leader highlighted that a new service had been introduced in the Council to enhance the provisions to small businesses.
- There would be some minor modifications to the questions from previous surveys.
- It was acknowledged that paper copies of the surveys could be put in community hubs and libraries for the residents that are not computer literate.

**The Committee resolved to note the report and that Cabinet be advised of the comments as set out above.**

**COUNCILLOR DAVID BAWN**

**CHAIRMAN**