

County Councillor Budget Briefings

Notes of Key Outcomes from Sessions on 4 December and 6 December

Two budget briefing sessions for all county councillors were held on 4 December and 6 December 2017. The first session was attended by 21 councillors and 15 councillors attended the second session. Factual clarifications were given at each session, which have not been reproduced in these notes.

During the first session the following observations were made:

- Business Rate Localisation Pilot Bid – There was broad support for the Business Rate Localisation Pilot Bid and the proposed move to 100% localisation by April 2020.
- Information Management and Technology – Cost pressures in relation to the increase in revenue budgets to improve IMT services to the Council were highlighted as a priority. It was recommended that IT Security was given a high priority as part of this additional funding.
- LGA Subscription – The need to continue to assess the value of Local Government Association membership was highlighted given the decision for the Council to cease its subscription to the LGA from 1 April 2018.

At the second session, the following observations were made:

- Capital Programme – Boston Flood Barrier – The Boston Flood Barrier Scheme had been listed in the presentation as part of the County Council's capital programme at an estimated cost of £11 million. It was confirmed that the Environment Agency would be funding the Boston flood barrier, and the sum of £11 million related to ancillary schemes to support the flood barrier.
- Use of Reserves – In the medium to long term the County Council cannot continue to rely on the use of reserves. A fairer financial funding settlement would ultimately be the answer.
- Corporate Graduate Trainee Scheme – There was some concern at the withdrawal of the corporate graduate trainee scheme. It was explained that the Council would be making use of the apprenticeship scheme, which covered a range of academic abilities, including graduates.
- Use of 'Non-Recurrent' Better Care Fund for Recurrent Adult Care Funding – As the long term future of the Better Care Fund had not been guaranteed, it was in effect a non-recurrent source of funding, which was being used to support recurrent base budget adult care funding. Irrespective of the Government's intentions to issue a green paper on this topic, the uncertainty represented a significant financial risk.

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