

**County Councillor Budget Briefings**

**Notes of Key Outcomes from Sessions on 3 December and 5 December 2018**

Two budget briefing sessions for all county councillors were held on 3 December and 5 December 2018. Each session was attended by 13 councillors. 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 Rates – Councillors highlighted the impact of retail sector changes on the localisation of Business Rates. It was suggested that the government needed to be aware of this due to the move towards greater online shopping and a smaller high street/retail sector.
- Future Budget Planning – Councillors highlighted that planning for future savings needed to be a consideration during the coming year. There was support from Councillors that income generation needed to be a greater focus from 2020 onwards.
- Adult Social Care – Councillors welcomed the digital platform for charging discussed by Glen Garrod.

At the second session, the following observation was made:

- Heritage Services – A Councillor commented that the budget savings associated with the Heritage Service becoming financially self-sufficient ought not to be taken in advance of decisions being made about the service delivery model. Although advice was given that earmarked reserves could be used to fund the service in 2019/20 until a decision on the service was implemented, there was a view that appropriate budget provision ought to be made rather than relying on reserves.

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