

# Recommendation to Full Council

From Cabinet – 28 January 2020

## Budget Strategy

## For Decision

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr T Ferrari, Finance, Commercial and Assets

**Local Councillor(s):** All

**Executive Director:** Aidan Dunn, Executive Director, Corporate Development

### Recommendation:

To approve:

1. the revenue budget summarised in Appendix 1;
2. the increase in general council tax of 1.995%; to levy 2% as the social care precept, providing a band D council tax figure for Dorset Council of £1,694.79 and to approve the full council tax recommendation at Appendix 2;
3. the capital strategy set out in Appendix 3 and the capital programme set out in Appendix 4;
4. the treasury management strategy set out in Appendix 5;
5. the assumptions used to develop the budget strategy and MTFP as set out throughout this report and summarised in Appendix 6;
6. the recommended balances on earmarked reserves and on general funds, including the minimum level of the general fund;
7. the application of council tax premiums as set out in this report, for long-term empty properties, to encourage those homes back into use.
8. in making these recommendations Council is requested to agree the responses to the recommendations and comments made as part of the budget scrutiny process (Appendix 8).

Council is also asked to note the cost reductions flowing from reorganisation, summarised in Appendix 7.

## **Reason for Recommendation:**

The Council is required to set a balanced revenue budget, and to approve a level of council tax as an integral part of this.

The Council is also required to approve a capital strategy, a capital programme and budget, and a treasury management strategy.

The draft budget proposals have been considered and endorsed by the four Dorset Council scrutiny committees (People, Place, Resources and Health).

## **Appendices**

Report to Cabinet – 28 January 2020 (as amended)

Appendices within the Cabinet report:

1. High-level revenue budget summary;
2. Council tax resolution (separate documents);
3. Capital strategy 2020-2024;
4. Capital programme budget summary and financing;
5. Treasury management strategy 2020/21;
6. Summary of financial planning assumptions;
7. Summary cost reductions since LGR (1 April 2019).
8. Response to the issues raised by the Scrutiny committees.

## **Background Papers**

2019/20 budget report

Quarterly financial management reports to Cabinet during 2019/20

The Dorset Council People Scrutiny Committee 13 January 2020

The Dorset Council Place Scrutiny Committee 13 January 2020

The Dorset Council Resources Scrutiny Committee 13 January 2020

The Dorset Council Health Scrutiny Committee 14 January 2020