

Thank you Chair:

Cllr Rob Hughes the Isle and Royal manor of Portland.

Speaking on behalf of the independent group, we are happy to accept this budget as proposed.

I take this opportunity, to thank Cllr. Suttle and his team of officers, along with the other cabinet members and their teams, who have also worked hard over the past months to bring in this budget at a rate of just under 4%. for this year.

The 2 budget cafes did an excellent job of informing members of the issues faced by the council going forward, as well as the cost savings already made since this council was formed in 2019.

Thank you also to the members of the two scrutiny committees for your time and careful consideration of this budget.

I'm sure It cannot have been easy for those involved to keep our costs down in these challenging times for people across the whole county, whilst maintaining a high level of service for all our residents and communities within Dorset for the year ahead within a well-balanced budget.