

Item 8 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“What steps have you taken to fully consult with the public and manage their expectations in respect of your upcoming budget for 2019/2020?”

Response to Mr R Bremner

The Administration are currently developing a budget communication and engagement strategy as part of the development of a 3 year budget. This strategy will include how to engage with both Members and the wider public.

Over the past few years the Council has employed a variety of methods for engaging on budget decisions, and has accumulated a significant amount of data from these exercises. This is currently being reviewed and will support the development of the Strategy, which will also consider a range of methods to engage and explain the priorities of the Council.

We are also re-visiting the recommendations of the Commission on Local Democracy to inform this process.

Over the past year the Council has issued several press releases to support formal Council reports that set out clearly the financial challenges facing the Council. The public should be in no doubt as to the extent of this challenge.