

Item 11 - Question Time

Response to Ms M Smith

As you will note from the paper by the Director of Finance later on this agenda, the financial outlook has deteriorated significantly and this now represents a far greater challenge than anticipated when the previous Administration set its budget in December 2014.

A significant amount of information was gathered last year when the Council embarked on a major budget consultation exercise. The information gathered then is as relevant now as it was then and gives a view on the public's views and concerns that will help inform further budget considerations. However, with the substantially increased budget gap, it will be necessary to go back to our communities. The detail and timetable for that has yet to be discussed and agreed.

We will also seek an early meeting with Group Leaders to discuss their involvement in the budget process.