

**Eden District Council
Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board**

20 February 2020

Executive

25 February 2020

Council

27 February 2020

Budget Scrutiny Review 2020/21

Report from:	Chairman of the Budget Scrutiny Review Group
Wards:	All Wards
OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit the comments, conclusions and recommendation of the Budget Scrutiny Review Group 2020/21.

2 Recommendation

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board

That the final report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Group 2020/21 be approved including the following recommendations:

1. That Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board endorse the proposed increase in Council Tax, as set out in the Budget Papers to Council on 27 February 2020.
2. That Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board be recommended to support the budget proposal for 2020/21.
3. That Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board be recommended to endorse the acquisition of Voreda House as part of the One Eden Single Site project.
4. That the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board endorse the Budget Scrutiny Review Group's be set up from May 2020 onwards in order to have a more strategic oversight of the Budget throughout the year.

Executive

That the Executive considers the final report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Group for approval including the following recommendations:

1. That the Executive recommend to full Council the proposed increase in Council Tax, as set out in the Budget papers to Council on 27 February 2020.
2. That Executive recommend to full Council the budget proposal for 2020/21.

3. That Executive recommend to full Council the acquisition of Voreda House as part of the One Eden Single Site project.

Council

That Council considers the final report of the Budget Scrutiny Review Group for approval including the following recommendation:

That the Budget Scrutiny Review Group recommend that a Budget Planning Committee be set up from May 2020 onwards in order to have a more strategic oversight of the Budget which includes major projects such as One Eden and the purchase of Voreda House throughout the year.

3 Report Details

- 3.1 The following Members were nominated to the Budget Scrutiny Review Group 2020/21:

Councillor R Orchard

Councillor P Baker

Councillor W Patterson

Councillor S Lancaster

Councillor N McCall

- 3.2 Councillor R Orchard was elected Chairman of the Group.

- 3.3 The Terms of Reference agreed were:

1. To consider whether the Executive has produced an effective budget that would meet the Council's corporate priorities and strategic actions in the Council Plan.

2. To review the significant movements in the base budget, progress with savings proposals to meet the budget gap and any growth items, across all portfolios.

3. To ensure that the recommendations from last year's Budget Scrutiny Review have been implemented.

- 3.4 The Review group met on a number of occasions.

- 3.5 The full report can be found at Appendix A.

4 Policy Framework

- 4.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:

- Sustainable;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Connected; and
- Creative

- 4.2 This report meets sustainable corporate priority

5 Consultation

- 5.1 No consultations were undertaken as part of this review.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial and Resources

- 6.1.1 Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the Council's stated priorities, as set out in its Council Plan 2019-2023 as agreed at Council on 7 November 2019.

There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.3 Human Resources

- 6.3.1 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

6.4 Statutory Considerations

Consideration:	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	No issues
Health, Social Environmental and Economic Impact	No issues
Crime and Disorder	No issues
Children and Safeguarding	No issues

6.5 Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
That the budget setting process is not properly scrutinised	The budget could be incorrectly set.	It is best practice for scrutiny to investigate the draft budget to ensure the budget has been produced in accordance with the Resources Plan.

7 Other Options Considered

- 7.1 No other options were considered.

8 Reasons for the Decision/Recommendation

- 8.1 In the opinion of the Budget Review group, as far as they were able to ascertain, the budget being presented to the Executive was an effective budget that would meet the Council's corporate priorities and strategic actions in the corporate plan.

Tracking Information

Governance Check	Date Considered
Chief Finance Officer (or Deputy)	17 th February 2020
Monitoring Officer (or Deputy)	17 th February 2020
Relevant Director	

Background Papers: **G62/19 Budget Scrutiny 2020/21 – Scrutiny
Co-ordinating Board Report – 19 September 2019**

Appendices: **Appendix 1 – Report of the Budget Scrutiny Review
2020/21**

Contact Officer: **Vivien Little, Member Services Team Leader**