

News Release

25 October 2019

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Council's financial position and services

As technology has transformed our daily lives, our residents expect the Council to provide services and information online, while continuing to provide the vital support for our more vulnerable residents.

The Council is carrying out a transformation programme to modernise the way we work and to ensure we are able to meet current and future challenges. This is a phased programme of work and it is fair to say that it has been a very ambitious challenge. We have had some teething problems with recruitment and some of the IT implementation has been delayed.

As a result of these challenges there is currently a predicted budget overspend of £1.1m by the end of the financial year (April 2020). This is largely due to spending on contractors and temporary staff to ensure services have been maintained.

Despite receiving very little government funding in the last few years, we have not made any reductions or cuts to our services and at this stage no cuts to services are planned. Senior staff and councillors have created a cross party working group to develop a Council Improvement Plan and are committed to ensuring the front line services to residents are maintained.

Councillor Tony Elias, Leader of the Council, said: "Our ambition is to keep delivering the services we know our residents value most, while continuing to improve how we work, delivering efficiency savings and making this district an even better place to live, work and visit. I am confident we will be able to achieve this."

"Ends"

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