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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Council**

**Customer Services**

**24 November 2016**

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**Budget consultation November 2016 – January 2017**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report sets out the public consultation exercise proposed to support the council's budget planning process.
- 1.2 The consultation seeks views on what matters most to communities about the work of the council, as well as on interest in working together through community empowerment. It also invites ideas on transforming the work of the council.
- 1.3 Council is asked to agree the public consultation proposed for November 2016 to January 2017.

**Budget consultation November 2016 – January 2017**

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Argyll and Bute Council will carry out a public consultation exercise to support the process of setting the budget in February 2017.
- 2.2 The proposed consultation seeks views on what matters most to communities about the role and services of the council, on interest in working together through community empowerment and invites ideas on transformation

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Council approves the public consultation proposed for November 2016 – January 2017.

**4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 The council's funding allocation for 2017-2018 is expected to be confirmed by the Scottish Government in December 2016. The council's budget will be set in February 2017.
- 4.2 The consultation is planned from 28 November 2016 to 9 January 2017 to seek views on which services are most used by communities, where residents would reduce funding, what matters most in attracting people and jobs, transformation ideas, and working together.
- 4.3 An information booklet is available that outlines the challenge the council faces and steps we have taken and continue to take to meet it.
- 4.4 It is proposed to carry out the consultation exercise using methods that have proven useful to citizens in previous exercises:
- Website/social media questionnaire
  - Citizens Panel survey
  - Reaching young people through our Youth Services
  - Working with our Third Sector Interface partners to reach people who would not normally proactively respond to a survey
  - Printed questionnaires in libraries and customer service points
- 4.5 The consultation will be promoted in different ways:

- On-line (via the website and social media channels)
- Advertising in local media
- Email to community planning partners and community councils
- The Council's weekly news round up

4.6 Findings will be collated and published with the Budget Pack on 9 February 2017 to inform decisions the council takes.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The consultation will be made available in different ways in order to encourage response from as many residents as possible, in order to inform decisions the council takes.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Policy: Consultation findings will support budget setting decisions

6.2 Financial: costs are allowed for in the Communications/Strategic Finance budgets

6.3 Legal: None

6.4 HR: Change will be managed within all relevant HR policies and procedures

6.5 Equalities: The consultation will be available in different formats

6.6 Risk: Different options are available to suit preferences for responding

6.7 Customer Service: Providing feedback on actions taken following consultation will support residents' involvement in future exercises

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16 November 2016

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Draft consultation

Appendix 2: Budget planning booklet