



This coming year Wirral Council continues to face financial challenges which have been made more severe by the Covid-19 pandemic. Current figures indicate the authority needs to make savings in the region of £16.5m — a budget gap largely caused by the cost of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Failure to make these budget savings will mean the council's expenditure will exceed its income, which is illegal.

As part of this process a set of budget proposals must be developed and recommendations on a way forward proposed. Some of these decisions will be incredibly difficult and we want everyone to be able to have their say on the options being put forward.

A Budget Consultation is currently underway, and it is important that everyone that wants to do so can contribute. There are several ways that you can do this:

- You can log on to the Consultation Portal at <a href="https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk">haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk</a> where you can complete the survey, ask a question or share your budget savings ideas.
- Email your question or idea to the budget email at <a href="mailto:BudgetConsult@wirral.gov.uk">BudgetConsult@wirral.gov.uk</a>
- Join our Q&A event on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, at 3.15-3.45pm via Microsoft Teams.

Please use this opportunity to tell us your views on these options and if you have ideas on how the council can save money or raise additional income, let us know.

The consultation closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, following which your feedback will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee which will decide on a set of budget proposals to be recommended to the full council which takes place in March 2021.

The last year has been incredibly difficult but has shown how important this council is to the residents and businesses in Wirral. But now, as we look to the future, we must look at how the council can continue to provide vital frontline services that so many depend upon, particularly in times of crisis such as Covid.

**Many Thanks** 

