

## Leader's Statement 2018/19 - Councillor Bob Cook

Councillors met on 8th March 2018 and agreed the Budget for the coming year and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the following three years up to 2022.

The budget was set as we continue with our carefully planned and managed approach to dealing with ongoing reductions in the funding we receive from Government. These reductions will reach £74million a year by 2019/20, when compared with 2010/11 and come at the same time as the cost of providing social care to adults and children continues to rise to a point where it now accounts for well over half of our annual spend on services. Last year, the amount we spent on looking after children in our care rose above £20million for the first time ever. We have a growing elderly population and continue to experience significant costs and demand pressures in delivering adult social care services, which we are doing our best to manage. There's no more important responsibility for local authorities than to safeguard vulnerable residents and, as a council that places great emphasis on protecting those most in need, we will do whatever it takes to ensure that happens as effectively as possible. It is therefore with reluctance that we have agreed to increase Council Tax by 2.9 per cent as well as implementing the Government's 3 per cent adult social care levy. It is vital that we adopt the levy to protect services as best as we can.

Even though these are extremely challenging times, we remain very ambitious for the Borough and we are certainly not going to sit back passively and manage decline. Instead, we are going to continue to invest in the long-term future of the Borough and our residents with a focus on supporting businesses, stimulating economic growth and creating jobs, facilities and opportunities for future generations. We are continuing to put major investment into schools, housing regeneration of brownfield sites, road improvements, a new crematorium, The Globe and the new Hampton by Hilton hotel. We're also pressing ahead with the new library, leisure and customer service centre in Ingleby Barwick, which is going to provide local people with fantastic and much-needed facilities including a pool, gym and library.

What we can be sure of is that we are in as strong a position as we can be. We have a strong track record of sound financial management and we have been dealing with these issues successfully for many years. We have had to make some really difficult decisions in the last year and identifying and delivering savings becomes ever more challenging. We will continue to review our services in consultation with residents and businesses, while understanding that every one of our services is important to someone and we will stick to the principle that we will target services to the areas and people in most need.



### Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council's Spending Plans Compared With Last Year

2017/18 Gross Expenditure £'000	2017/18 Income £'000	2017/18 Net Expenditure £'000		2018/19 Gross Expenditure £'000	2018/19 Income £'000	2018/19 Net Expenditure £'000
91,225	-18,104	73,121	<b>Adults &amp; Health</b>	91,977	-20,269	71,708
126,290	-93,999	32,291	<b>Children's Services &amp; Schools Funding</b>	130,702	-93,714	36,988
31,749	-6,330	25,419	<b>Community Services</b>	39,963	-12,145	27,818
10,884	-3,406	7,478	<b>Culture, Leisure &amp; Events</b>	11,184	-3,158	8,026
20,370	-9,447	10,923	<b>Economic Growth &amp; Development</b>	16,443	-7,013	9,430
84,138	-73,927	10,211	<b>Finance &amp; Business Services</b>	83,154	-72,667	10,487
4,462	-392	4,070	<b>HR, Legal &amp; Communications</b>	5,175	-411	4,764
12,318	-3,089	9,229	<b>Admin/Democratic Services, Xentrall &amp; Corporate Items</b>	12,386	-2,783	9,603
<b>381,436</b>	<b>-208,694</b>	<b>172,742</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>390,984</b>	<b>-212,160</b>	<b>178,824</b>
		<b>-49,718</b>	<b>Government Funding</b>			<b>-46,759</b>
		<b>-39,888</b>	<b>Business Rates 50% Retained Share</b>			<b>-48,019</b>
		<b>-3,925</b>	<b>Use Of / Transfer To Council Balances</b>			<b>1,246</b>
		<b>79,211</b>	<b>Council Tax Requirement</b>			<b>85,292</b>

### Adult Social Care Levy Statement

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made an offer to adult social care authorities. ("Adult social care authorities" are local authorities which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014, namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.) The offer is the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional "precept" on its council tax for financial years from the financial year beginning in 2016 without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting expenditure on adult social care. Subject to the annual approval of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State intends to offer the option of charging this "precept" at an appropriate level in each financial year up to and including the financial year 2019-20.

Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council's funds are spent on providing services for residents and visitors to the Borough in accordance with the Council Plan available on the Council website [www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk)