

## **CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR DEMOCRATIC & MEMBERS SUPPORT**

### **WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?**

This is the democratic support to all Members as well as providing the staffing and admin support to Council, Cabinet and Committees. Unless the number of meetings are reduced this is the fixed cost.

### **HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?**

The core offer enables the Council with its statutory obligations to publish information about members, meetings, agendas, reports, decisions and public involvement, in order to have open and public decision making. The budget also helps support member training and development.

### **DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?**

No, this represents the current service level for Members Support but excludes support to the Mayor as this is not a statutory function.

Support to Members has reduced over recent years. The Council now only provides what is required by statute. Democratic Services CIPFA Benchmarking for 2015 has demonstrated that the Democratic functions represent value for money.

### **WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?**

#### **2019/20 cost - £208,555**

Democratic Support Staff	£164,590
Members Support (ICT, printing, stationery etc.)	£37,587
Overheads	£6,378