

Amendment to Budget Procedure

Council notes that:

- **A budget proposal was voted on unanimously by ten Cabinet members on February 13th and constitutionally referred to Budget Council on March 1st.**
- **Following a change of administration the same proposal was revoked by Cabinet on February 21st and an alternative proposal put forward with just four votes in favour.**
- **In order for the original proposal to be heard, even though it was constitutionally referred direct to Budget Council, the Monitoring Officer has ruled that it has to be re-submitted as an amendment to the second budget proposal.**
- **This relegation to the status of an amendment then allows the budget procedure agreed by Cabinet on February 21st to treat the Conservative proposal put forward at Cabinet on February 21st as the standing minute which will not require a vote if the amendments fall.**
- **This is despite the fact that the Conservatives are not the largest party, and could be outvoted by the largest party if the Liberal Democrats continued their policy of abstention.**

Council does not believe this budget procedure was designed to deal with a situation where there are two formal and legal budgets, both constitutionally referred to Budget Council by a properly constituted Cabinet.

It therefore withdraws this procedure in favour of a vote to be taken on each budget with the budget remaining after others have fallen also subject to the confirmation of a majority vote.