

BUDGET COUNCIL PROCEDURE

COUNCIL
25 February 2014

1. Mayor's Announcements

2. Declarations of Interest / Restrictions on voting

3. Petitions

Note: if a petition relates to the setting of the Budget, the member who presents it should be given the opportunity during the main debate to speak about it, in order that the Council can take account of it in that context.

4. Matters requiring approval by the Council

A. Recommendation from Cabinet at its meeting held on 16 January 2014 – Budget Council Procedure

(Cabinet Minute 134)

Council is requested to approve the Council Budget Procedure.

B. Suspension of Standing Orders of the Council's Constitution

- (i) Standing Order 12(1) relates to 'Motions and Amendments' and provides that:

"A motion or amendment shall relate to a recommendation of a committee submitted in accordance with Standing Order 5.2(l), or to a matter referred to in Standing Orders 7 and 8. It shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded.

The terms of any amendment or notice of motion shall not be varied except with the agreement of the Council."

- (ii) Standing Order 12(9) relates to 'Amendments' and provides that:

"Subject to Standing Order 7(5) an amendment to a motion or recommendation of the Cabinet or of a Committee shall be relevant to the motion or recommendation under consideration and shall be either

- (a) to refer or refer back a subject of debate for consideration or reconsideration as the case may be;
- (b) to leave out words;
- (c) to leave out words and insert or add others;
- (d) to insert or add words.

as long as the effect of any amendment is not to negate the motion or recommendation.”

- (iii) Standing Order 12(10) relates to ‘Amendments to be dealt with in order’ and provides that:

“Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at a time”.

For the purposes of the Budget Debate, Council is requested to suspend:

- (a) Standing Orders 12(1) insofar as it relates to amendments;
- (b) Standing Order 12(9); and
- (c) Standing Order 12(10).

C. COUNCIL BUDGET

The Budget Debate will only consider:

- (i) the Cabinet’s Budget Minute, which shall include any additional paragraphs/ recommendations (e.g. those relating to precepts), together with any other minutes from the Cabinet meeting on 12 February 2014 that require approval by the Council; and
- (ii) any Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment to the Cabinet’s Budget Minute referred to above lodged with the Head of Legal & Member Services on or before **12.00noon on Friday, 21 February 2014.**

Budget Debate Process

1. Cabinet Minute

- a. The Cabinet's Budget Minute referred to at 4C(i) above is formally moved by the Leader of the Council.
- b. The Cabinet's Budget Minute is formally seconded.

2. Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments

- a. The Mayor will advise Council that Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments (submitted in accordance with 4C(ii) above) are to be proposed in relation to the Cabinet's Budget Minute by both the other two Political Group Leaders.

First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

- b. The Mayor will invite the Group Leader of the largest opposition political group to first propose his Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.
- c. The Group Leader of the largest opposition political group formally moves his Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.
- d. The Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment is formally seconded.

Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

- e. The Mayor will invite the Group Leader of the other opposition political group to propose his Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.
- f. The Group Leader of the other opposition political group formally moves his Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.
- g. The Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment is formally seconded.

3. Debating and Voting

The Cabinet's Minute and Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments are debated together (in accordance

with the Rules of Debate set out below) and a vote then taken on each of the Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.

Order of Speakers

- a. The Leader of the Council will speak to the Cabinet Budget Minute.
- b. The Group Leader will speak to the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.
- c. The Group Leader will speak to the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.
- d. Other members wishing to speak shall indicate to the Mayor who will call them to speak in the order determined by the Mayor.
- e. The budget debate shall end with the Seconders, **unless** they have spoken earlier, followed by Rights of Reply (see below).

Right of Reply

- f. The Proposer of the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply.
- g. The Proposer of the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply.
- h. The Leader of the Council will be invited to exercise his right of reply.

Speakers

Speakers will be allocated the following time:

The Leader of the Council speaking to the Cabinet’s Budget Minute	15 minutes
The Leader of the Council – right of reply	5 minutes
The Group Leaders of the opposition political groups speaking to their respective Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment	15 minutes
The Group Leaders of the opposition political groups – right of reply	5 minutes

The Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services (by virtue of speaking on the Schools’ Budget element)	7 minutes
The Secunder of the Cabinet’s Budget proposal	7 minutes
Secunder of the Opposition Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment	7 minutes
Other speakers	3 minutes

(For the avoidance of any doubt the times mentioned in the table above shall not affect the Mayor’s discretion to permit a speaker to speak beyond the allotted time).

4. Voting

The order of voting shall be as follows:

a. Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

A vote will be taken on the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.

b. First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

A vote will be taken on the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment.

5. Budget Decision

a. **Decision (if all Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments fall)**

If the Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments to the Cabinet’s Budget Minute fall, the Cabinet’s Budget Minute will be **taken as approved, without the need for any further vote.**

b. **Decision (if an Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment is carried)**

If the Cabinet’s Budget Minute is amended or an Alternative Budget Proposal(s) carried, whether whole or in part, that will be regarded as an in-principle decision, which will automatically come into effect five working days from the date of that decision, ***unless*** the Leader of the Council informs the Head of Legal & Member Services in writing within that time that he objects to the decision becoming effective and provides reasons why.

In such circumstances, the Head of Legal & Member Services will call another meeting of the Council within seven working days. The Council will then be required to reconsider its decision, and the Leader of the Council's written submission, at this further Council meeting. (A reserve date of **Tuesday, 4 March 2014** has been set aside for considering any written submission by the Leader of the Council, should that be necessary).

At that this meeting the Council can:

- (i) accept the Cabinet Budget Minute (without amendment); or
- (ii) approve a different decision that does not accord with the Cabinet Budget Minute, by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting.

D. Other Amendments

The Council will then debate, in the normal manner, any amendments to other minutes (if any) that are subject to Council approval.

6. Vacancies

7. Any other business