

**Budget Debate Process**

**1. Cabinet Minute**

- a. The Cabinet's Budget Recommendations/Minute(s) referred to at 7(i) of the Budget Council Procedure is formally moved by the Leader of the Council.
- b. The Cabinet's Budget Recommendations/Minute(s) is formally seconded.

**2. Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments**

- a. The Mayor will advise Council that Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendments (submitted in accordance with 7(ii) of the Budget Council, Procedure) are to be proposed by both the other two Political Group Leaders and the Green Party Member (if applicable).

**First Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment**

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

**Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment  
(If applicable)**

- h. The Mayor will invite the Green Party Member to propose his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.

- i. The Green Party Member formally moves his Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment.
- j. The Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment is formally seconded.

In the event that there is no seconder, the Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s) or Amendment(s) shall not be debated or voted upon.

### **3. Debating and Voting**

The moved and seconded Cabinet's Minute and Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments shall be debated together (in accordance with the Rules of Debate set out below) and a vote then taken on each of them in turn.

#### **Order of Speakers**

- a. The Leader of the Council will speak to the Cabinet Budget Recommendations/Minute(s) (15 Minutes).
- b. The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services will speak to the Schools' Budget element of the Cabinet Budget Recommendations/Minute(s). (7 Minutes).
- c. The Group Leader of the largest opposition political group will speak to the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (15 Minutes).
- d. The Group Leader of the other opposition political group will speak to the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (15 Minutes).
- e. If applicable, the Green Party Member will speak to the Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (15 Minutes).
- f. Other members wishing to speak shall indicate to the Mayor, who will call them to speak in the order determined by the Mayor (Each Member - 3 Minutes).
- g. The budget debate shall end with the Seconders, **unless** they have spoken earlier. (Each Secunder - 7 Minutes)

#### **Right of Reply**

- h. If applicable, the Proposer of the Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).

- i. The Proposer of the Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).
- j. The Proposer of the First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).
- k. The Leader of the Council will be invited to exercise his right of reply. (5 Minutes).

### **Speakers**

Speakers will be allocated the following time:

The Leader of the Council speaking to the Cabinet's Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s)	15 minutes
The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (speaking on the Schools' Budget element)	7 minutes
The Group Leaders of the opposition political groups and Green party Member (if applicable) speaking to their respective Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/ Amendment	15 minutes
Other speakers	3 minutes
Secunder of an Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment (as applicable)	7 minutes
The Secunder of the Cabinet Budget Recommendation(s)/Minutes(s)	7 minutes
The Group Leaders of the opposition political groups and Green Party Member (if applicable) – right of reply	5 minutes
The Leader of the Council – right of reply	5 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 (and subject to 4(d)(ii) below):

#### **a. If applicable, Third Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/ Amendment**

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

b. Second Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

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

c. First Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendment

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

d. Substantive Cabinet Recommendation(s)/Minute(s)

- (i) If all the Alternative Budget Proposal(s)/Amendments to the Cabinet's Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s) fall, a vote will be taken on the Cabinet's Budget recommendation(s) / Minute(s).
- (ii) If the Cabinet's Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s) are amended or an Alternative Budget Proposal(s) carried pursuant to 4a–c above, that decision will be regarded as an in-principle decision, which will automatically come into effect five working days after the date of the 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 a written submission setting out his reasons why.

Council shall adjourn the matter to 6.15pm, 3 March 2015 when the Council will reconsider its decision having regard to Leader of the Council's written submission.

At that the adjourned meeting the Council can:

- (i) accept the Cabinet Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s) (without amendment); or
- (ii) approve a different decision that does not accord with the Cabinet Budget Recommendation(s)/Minute(s).

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 requires a recorded vote (i.e. names of all Cllrs voting and how they voted) to be taken in respect of all votes.