

PART 4 – RULES OF PROCEDURE

BUDGET MEETING PROCEDURE RULES

1 BUDGET MEETINGS

Budget meetings of the Council will take place in accordance with a programme decided at the Council's annual meeting. Budget meetings will be held in accordance with the Council Meeting Procedure Rules, subject to the variations set out in these Budget Meeting Procedure Rules.

2 TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS

The time and place of meetings will be determined by the Council or in the case of meetings called under Council Meeting Procedure Rule 4(a)(ii) by the Chair and in the case of meetings called under Rule 4(b) by the Proper Officer and notified in the summons.

The Proper Officer may in case of urgency or at the request of the Chair vary the date, time and place of meetings, subject to proper notice of the change being given.

3 NOTICE OF SUMMONS TO MEETINGS

The Proper Officer will give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules. At least three clear days before a meeting, the Proper Officer will send a summons (notice of meeting) signed by him or her by post to every Councillor or leave it at their usual place of residence or at some other place specified by notice in writing given by the Councillor to the Proper Officer. The summons will give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted, and will be accompanied by such reports as are available.

4 CABINET BUDGET REPORT

The Cabinet Budget report shall enable the Cabinet:-

- (a) to submit to Council their proposal of the estimates of expenditure and income in order to set the Council Tax in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- (b) to recommend to Council on the strategy and plan for the control of the Authority's borrowing and capital expenditure for the forthcoming year (the Annual Treasury Management Strategy);
- (c) to recommend to Council the adoption of CIPFA's Treasury Management Code of Practice 2009 by formal acceptance of the Four Clauses of Treasury Management and Treasury Management Policy Statement as Council policy;

- (d) to recommend to Council the Prudential Code Indicators and the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy;
- (e) to set the rent levels for Housing Revenue Account properties, service charges and management fees for leaseholders; and
- (f) to agree the rates and Charges for Council services.

5 SPEAKING ORDER AND CONDUCT OF DEBATE

A maximum of 45 speakers will be allocated proportionally between political groups. The allocation of speakers will be notified to Whips in advance of the Budget meeting. Any 'independent' Member who is not affiliated to any party or group will also be allowed to speak in the general debate. The speaking order will be as follows:

- (i) Cabinet Proposals (including any alternative proposals as per Rule 25(a)(vi) of the Council Procedure Rules)

Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance	10 minutes
Leader of the Council	4 minutes

- (ii) Party Group Finance Spokespersons/Movers of alternative proposals (as per Rule 24A or Rule 25(a)(vii) of the Council Procedure Rules, as appropriate.

The Finance Spokesperson of each opposition political group and the seconder of any alternative proposal will then be invited to speak in rotation by reference to each of the political groups in size order (largest group first).

(If more than one amendment is to be moved by one political group then all such amendments will be moved by the relevant Finance Spokesperson at the same time)

Opposition Group spokesperson:	5 minutes
Secunder of any alternative proposal:	3 minutes

- (iii) General Debate on Cabinet proposal and all alternative proposals – including any further alternative proposals moved and seconded. As indicated above the allocation of speakers will be proportionately based per political group and notified to Whips prior to the meeting.

Opposition Group Leaders	4 minutes
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Each other speaker

3 minutes

No Councillor, with the exception of the Councillor with the right of reply at the end of the debate, to speak twice during this item.

The debate will be run in accordance with the rules agreed for the consideration of Notices of Motion, and each amendment will be voted on individually.

(iv) Reserving Right to Speak

Any Member, apart from proposers of the Budget or alternative proposals, may reserve the right to speak later in the debate but any such member will only be entitled to speak for 3 minutes during the general debate.

(v) Right of Reply

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance (or the proposer of an approved alternative proposal) will have the right of reply: 5 minutes

6 EXCLUSION OF NOTICES OF MOTION AND FORMAL QUESTIONS

Formal questions from Councillors and Notices of Motion shall not be received and considered and the respective Council Meeting Rules shall accordingly not apply.

For the avoidance of doubt, public questions may be asked (Council Meeting Procedure Rule 18 applies), other reports may be considered and motions during meetings without notice may be moved (Council Procedure Rule 25 applies).