

Summary of the Key changes to the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

Section 1

- There has been changes to the sentence structure in 1.1 to simplify and reduce repetition.
- 1.2 has been removed in a consistent manner to many other local authorities. If the changes are to be made to policies listed within the major policy framework (as listed in part 2 article 4 section constitution), these would be picked up as a separate change to the constitution.
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Section 2

- Has been updated to remove the 2 phased approach to the budget. This now reflects the proposal to produce a quarterly MTFs update which will be reported to the Joint Meeting of Scrutiny Committees and then the Cabinet. However, if proposals are outlined for consideration these will follow the required consultation and decision-making process, based on the financial impact, in line with the Council's budget virement policy, and the change in policy or service provision, and the impact will be clearly outlined in an Equality Impact Assessment
- This section also reflects that there will be a specific 'budget setting Council meeting,' which will take place no later than 25 February, which is earlier than the Council is used to in recent years.

Section 3

- Unchanged

Section 4

- Updated to make clear that any amendments or an alternative budget have to reflect a lawful and balanced budget.
- Where an alternative budget is to be developed members must approach the Chief Finance Officer and the Finance Team at least a month before formal written notice is required, to support them with the development of this. This is to ensure these are accurately costed and financially assessed.

Section 5

- Unchanged
- In the previous version the numbering in section 5 jumped to part way through to section 6, therefore this has been updated resulting in one less section overall.

Section 6

- The section has been simplified to have one list, inline with many other local authorities.

Section 7

- Unchanged

Appendix

- FSWG terms of reference have been updated to incorporate the improvement plan and the drive to deliver financial sustainability.
- These have been circulated to members of the FSWG and feedback sought on these by 29 June. No comments were received.