

	Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 1 December 2020
	Report from the Assistant Chief Executive
Establishment of Scrutiny Task Group on Budget Scrutiny	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Michael Carr - Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer michael.carr@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to establish a Scrutiny Task Group to consider the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2021-2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That a Budget Scrutiny Task Group be established with the following members:

Cllr Roxanne Mashari – Chair
Cllr Ketan Sheth – Vice Chair
Cllr Robert Johnson
Cllr Tom Miller
Cllr Claudia Hector
Cllr Anita Thakkar

And with the following terms of reference:

- To consider the Cabinet's budget proposals,
- receive evidence from Cabinet Members, senior departmental officers and any other relevant stakeholders, and

3. agree a draft report to comment on the budget proposals for submission to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee for ratification and submission to Cabinet.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The process for developing proposals for the budget and capital programme each year is outlined in the Brent Council Constitution, Part 2, Paragraph 19. This requires the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee to meet (on more than one occasion if necessary) to consider a report from the Director of Finance setting out the financial position of the Council, financial forecasts for the following year and the possible expenditure priorities of the executive and also a report on the draft budget proposals.
- 3.2 The Committee may receive evidence from Cabinet Members, Council officers and other witnesses.
- 3.3 The Committee should agree a report setting out its view of the budget priorities and any other issues it considers relevant. This report should then be submitted to each Cabinet Member and each Group Leader in order to inform budget proposal discussions and the Committee should submit a note or the report on its deliberations and comments on the proposals to the Cabinet.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 1 October 2020, the Resources and Public Realm scrutiny committee received a report from the Director of Finance, which included Medium Term Financial Outlook and set out the overall financial position facing the Council and highlighted the significant risks, issues and uncertainties. It also set out the proposed budget setting strategy for 2021/22 and beyond, in order to maximise the period of consultation with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders. The committee also reviewed the Brent Council budget outturn performance.
- 3.5 A report to Cabinet from the Director of Finance on the Draft Budget 2021/22 – 2023/24 and medium term financial Outlook is to be published in the Cabinet papers on 25 November 2020 for Cabinet on 7 December 2020.
- 3.6 The committee may decide to convene a budget scrutiny task group to review the budget proposals. The task group could be made up members of the committee and other non-executive members of the Council.
- 3.7 This being the case, it is proposed to hold two task group meetings in mid-December and one in mid-January. Following this, the comments and any draft recommendations from the task group are expected to be considered and agreed by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2021. A report of the scrutiny committee would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration on 8 February 2021 alongside the report from the Director of Finance on final budget proposals.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the purposes of this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications for the purposes of this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications for the purposes of this report.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 The Scrutiny Task Group may consider any consultation being undertaken as part of the Council's budget setting process.

Report sign off:

***Shazia Hussain –
Assistant Chief Executive***