



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
13 July 2021

**Report from the Assistant Chief
Executive**

Establishment of Scrutiny Task Group on Budget Scrutiny

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Michael Carr Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer Tel: 020 8937 2855 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 2022/23.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That a Budget Scrutiny Task Group be established with the members as confirmed at the meeting 13 July 2021.
- 2.2 The terms of reference for the task group will be:
1. To consider the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2022-2023
 2. Receive evidence from Cabinet Members, senior departmental officers and any other relevant stakeholders
 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 It is envisaged that, at its meeting on 14 September 2021, the committee will receive a report from the Director of Finance on Financial Outturn 2020/21. This report will set out the outturn for income and expenditure versus the revenue budget for 2020/21. It is also envisaged that the Committee will receive the Q1 financial forecast report.
- 3.5 A report to Cabinet from the Director of Finance on the Draft Budget 2022/23 and medium term financial outlook is to be published in the Cabinet papers near the end of 2021. It is envisaged that these will also be considered.
- 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, 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 Tuesday 18 January 2022. A report of the scrutiny committee would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration, 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 Budget 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**