



**Resources and Public Realm  
Scrutiny Committee**  
6 September 2022

**Report from the Head of Strategy  
and Partnerships**

**Establishment of Scrutiny Task Group on Council Budget  
Proposals 2023-24**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	None
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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## 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 2023-24.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 That a Budget Scrutiny Task Group be established with members to be confirmed at the Committee meeting on 6 September 2022.

2.2 The terms of reference for the group will be:

1. To consider the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2023-24
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 Corporate Director of Finance and Resources setting out the financial position of the Council, financial forecasts for the following year, and the possible expenditure priorities of the Executive, as well as a report on the draft budget proposals.
- 3.2 The Committee may receive evidence from Cabinet Members, Council officers, and other relevant 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 19 July 2022, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee received a report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, which included the Medium Term Financial Outlook and set out the overall financial position facing the Council, highlighting the significant risks, issues, and uncertainties. It also set out the proposed budget setting strategy for 2022/23 and beyond, in order to maximise the period of consultation with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders. The Committee also reviewed the Council's budget outturn performance for 2021/22.
- 3.5 A report to Cabinet from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources on the Draft Budget 2023/24 is to be published in the autumn of 2022. This will be considered by the Task Group.
- 3.6 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 Wednesday 18 January 2023. A report from the Committee would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration in February 2023, alongside the report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources 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:**

***Lorna Hughes***

Head of Strategy and Partnerships