



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
6 September 2023

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

**Establishment of Scrutiny Task Group on Council Budget
Proposals 2024/25 and 2025/26.**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Not applicable
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Strategy and Partnerships Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Tom Pickup, Policy Partnerships and Scrutiny Manager, Strategy and Partnerships Tom.Pickup@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Janet Latinwo, Head of Strategy & Partnerships Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Executive Summary

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 2024/25 and 2025/26.

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 2023.

2.2 The terms of reference for the group will be to:

1. Consider the Cabinet’s budget proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26.
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

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- Borough Plan 2023-2027 – all strategic priorities
- 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 the report to Cabinet 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 2023, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee received a report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources on the overall financial position of the Council. This was inclusive of the Medium Term Financial Outlook, highlighting the significant risks, issues, and uncertainties faced by the authority. The report also set out the proposed budget setting strategy for 2024/25, in order to maximise the period of consultation with residents, businesses and other key stakeholders. Additionally, the Committee reviewed the Council's budget outturn performance for 2022/23.
 - 3.5 A report to Cabinet from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources on the Draft Budget (with new savings proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26) is to be published in the autumn of 2023. 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 24 January 2024. A report from the Committee would then be presented to Cabinet for consideration on Monday 5 February 2024, alongside the report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources on final budget proposals.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

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

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 There are no financial considerations for the purposes of this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 There are no legal considerations for the purposes of this report.

7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 There are no Equality, Diversity & Inclusion considerations for the purposes of this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations for the purposes of this report.

9.0 Communication Considerations

9.1 There are no communication considerations for the purposes of this report.

Report sign off:

Janet Latinwo
Head of Strategy & Partnerships