



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
20 October 2026

**Report from the Deputy Director,
Democratic and Corporate
Governance**

Establishment of Budget Scrutiny Task Group

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
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Jason Sigba, Strategy Lead – Scrutiny, Democratic & Corporate Governance Tel: 020 8937 2036 Email: Jason.Sigba@brent.gov.uk Amira Nassr, Deputy Director, Democratic & Corporate Governance, Finance & Resources Tel: 020 8937 5436 Email: Amira.Nassr@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee to establish a task group to consider the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2027/28.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 For the Resources and Public Realm Committee to agree the establishment of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group, noting the membership and terms of reference outlined below.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 Borough Plan 2023-2027 – all strategic priorities.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 The process for developing the Council's annual budget and capital programme is set out in the Brent Council Constitution ([Part 2, Paragraph 19](#)). As part of this process, the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee is required to meet, on more than one occasion, if necessary, to consider reports to Cabinet from the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources setting out the Council's financial position, financial forecasts for the following year, the Executive's potential expenditure priorities, and the draft budget proposals. In undertaking this role, the Committee may receive evidence from Cabinet Members, Council officers and other relevant stakeholders before submitting its views, comments and recommendations on the budget priorities and any other issues it considers relevant.

3.2.2 A Budget Scrutiny Task Group is proposed to undertake detailed consideration of the Cabinet's draft budget proposals for 2027/28 once published. The Task Group will support the Committee by reviewing the proposals, gathering evidence and developing comments and recommendations for consideration by the Committee prior to their submission to Cabinet.

Terms of Reference

3.2.3 The Task Group will operate in accordance with the following terms of reference:

- Consider the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2027/28
- Receive evidence from cabinet members, senior departmental officers, and any other relevant stakeholders
- 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

Membership

3.2.4 It is proposed that the Task Group comprise the following non-executive members:

- Cllr Anup Patel (Chair of the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee)
- Cllr Krishna Chauhan (Liberal Democrats representative)
- Cllr Sai Madabhushi (Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)
- Cllr Paul Ryan (Green Group representative)
- Cllr Fleur Donnelly-Jackson (Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee)
- Cllr Saqlain Choudry (Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee)

The membership includes representation from each of the three scrutiny committees and all political groups, together with the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee.

Timeline

- 3.2.5 A report from the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources setting out the Council's Draft Budget for 2027/28 is scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on 9 November 2026. Subject to Cabinet approval, the draft budget proposals will form the basis of the Task Group's review.
- 3.2.6 Between November and December 2026, the Task Group will undertake a programme of evidence-gathering sessions with Cabinet Members, senior officers and any other relevant stakeholders.
- 3.2.7 It is envisaged that the Task Group will report its findings and recommendations to the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 26 January 2027. Subject to the Committee's approval, its comments and recommendations will be referred to Cabinet for consideration on 9 February 2027.
- 3.2.8 Cabinet will recommend a final budget for approval by Full Council on 25 February 2027.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The Budget Scrutiny Task Group may consider any consultation undertaken, underway or planned as part of the Council's budget-setting process, together with any other relevant evidence gathered during the review.
- 4.2 Ward Members and other relevant stakeholders will be engaged as part of the Budget Scrutiny Task Group's review.

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 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 There are no Equity, 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:

Amira Nassr

Deputy Director, Democratic and Corporate Governance