

2025/26 Budget

Budget Scrutiny Proposals

7 June 2024

Budget Scrutiny (Part 1 of 2)

Enhance engagement in and scrutiny of the 25/26 budget (critical friend approach):

- **Step 1. Budget Skills Training for Councillors – Monday 29 July 2024 6pm to 8pm (confirmed)**
 Independent Training based on approach taken by Dorset Council - Andrew Hardingham (previously Plymouth s151 Officer)
 Potential for finance team attend to introduce and participate in a Question-and-Answer session.

- **Step 2. Directorate Budget Awareness – September 2024**
 Each Corporate Director to give a presentation & undertake a Q&A on their budget, pressures, assumed savings etc.
 11 September 2024 - Environment & Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 16 September 2024 – Children's Overview & Scrutiny Committee
 23 September 2024 – Overview & Scrutiny Board
 24 September 2024 – Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- **Step 3. Budget Task and Finish Groups – October 2024**
 Four task and finish groups focusing on issues in each Directorate – 1 group for each directorate (suggested potential topics only)
 Wellbeing Directorate: Learning Disability & Mental Health Budget, Bed & Breakfast costs, Demand pressures
 Children's Directorate: High Needs Budget, School Transport costs, Care growth forecast
 Operations Directorate: Resident Card, Income forecasts, Fees and charges
 Resources Directorate: Transformation Budget, Licensing costs, Revenue & Benefits, Climate and ecological emergency budget.

Budget Scrutiny (Part 2 of 2)



- **Step 4. Budget Workshop – All Member - 8 November 2024**
Short presentation to provide the outline of the budget prior to public consultation exercise (subject to review process/timings)
- **Step 5. Feedback**
Each Task and Finish group feedback to the Overview & Scrutiny Board
All member invite
18 November 2024 – Overview & Scrutiny Board
- **Step 6. Budget Workshop – All Member – 22 January 2025**
Short presentation to provide the outline of proposed budget post public consultation & draft 2025/26 LG Finance Settlement
- **Step 7. Scrutiny Committees**
Scrutiny 2025/26 budget proposals and any recommendations to Cabinet
All Member invite
3 February 2025 – Overview & Scrutiny Board
- **Step 8. Cabinet**
Cabinet meets on the 5 February 2025 to agree a 25/26 budget proposal to Council.
- **Step 9. Full Council**
Full Council meets on the 25 February 2025 to set the 25/26 Budget

