

AGENDA

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Place: Council Chamber - Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, SN15 1ER
Date: Tuesday 14 February 2017
Time: 11.00 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott (Senior Democratic Services Officer), of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718504 or email kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

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Membership:

Cllr Glenis Ansell	Cllr Simon Killane (Chairman)
Cllr Chuck Berry	Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Christine Crisp	Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Stewart Dobson	Cllr Stephen Oldrieve
Cllr Howard Greenman	Cllr Tony Trotman
Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman)	Cllr John Walsh
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Cllr Bridget Wayman
Cllr George Jeans	

Substitutes:

Cllr Ernie Clark	Cllr Mark Packard
Cllr Anna Cuthbert	Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Peter Edge	Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr David Jenkins	Cllr Ian Thorn
Cllr Paul Oatway QPM	Cllr Philip Whalley
Cllr Helen Osborn	

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

AGENDA

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chair.

4 **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named on the front of the agenda for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution.

Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named on the front of this agenda no later than 5pm on 7 February 2017 in order to be guaranteed of a written response. In order to receive a verbal response questions must be submitted no later than 5pm on 9 February 2017. Please contact the officer named on the front of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

5 **Purpose of Meeting** (*Pages 5 - 6*)

To note the purpose and procedure of the meeting.

6 **Wiltshire Council Financial Plan 2017/18: Opposition Group Amendments**

To consider amendments from opposition groups on the executive [proposed budget](#).

Proposed amendments will be circulated as soon as they are available.

7 **Date of Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next meeting.

8 **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

PART II

Items during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed.

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

14 February 2017

Budget Scrutiny – Extraordinary Meeting Arrangements

Purpose

- 1 To report on the arrangements for this extraordinary meeting.

Background

- 2 The Management Committee has retained the procedure agreed last budget cycle to provide opportunity for scrutiny of opposition group amendments to the budget.
- 4 The earlier steps in the process involving Overview and Scrutiny(OS) have already been reported:
 - Financial Planning Task Group – 27 January
 - Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – 1 February

Arrangements

- 6 All opposition group leaders have been invited to submit amendments for scrutiny. Those received will be circulated but it is anticipated that this may not happen until after Cabinet on 7 February.
- 7 Amendments will be taken in the order they are submitted and one at a time unless agreed otherwise. Although some of the amendments may be interdependent in that they relate to combined savings and/or growth, OS will want the opportunity to comment on the merits or otherwise of each although with the ability to acknowledge their dependency if appropriate.
- 8 A formal view may also need to have been taken on advice ahead of the meeting relating to:
 - OS's ability to consider an amendment should it be on a matter which is regarded as falling outside its remit; and
 - the status of anyone presenting the amendment should they also be a member of the Management Committee.
- 9 The running order of speakers on each will be:
 - respective group leader and/or spokesperson(s) to present the circulated amendment explaining the purpose, implications, intended outcome and link to the Business Plan

- The Leader of the Council and/or responsible Cabinet Member(s) to respond
 - Corporate Leadership Team to comment (if appropriate)
 - Management Committee members to ask questions of the proposer(s) and respondent(s) in order to gain sufficient evidence to take a view
 - Clarification from statutory officers and other relevant associate directors (if necessary)
 - Contribution from any other councillors (if invited)
 - Chairman to sum up and seek consensus view of the Committee
- 10 In recognising the role of OS in budget setting and that it will be for full Council to exercise final decision on the budget, it is not expected that formal voting to force either approval or rejection of amendments would be appropriate. It would add no real value to the Council debate where amendments will be formally moved and determined. However, the Council debate will benefit from having the evidenced-based views of OS on both the proposed budget (from its meeting on 1 February) and potential amendments.
- 11 It should also be acknowledged that OS in valuing the opportunity to input to the budget setting process in this way has only been able to express its views based on the time it has with the information. The depth of its research and enquiry is therefore limited. Some issues raised in the debate may be appropriate for further scrutiny or signposting elsewhere.
- 12 The consensus views of the Committee (and not of individual members) will form part of the minutes of the meeting for report to Council on 21 February.
13. The Financial Planning Task Group will undertake a detailed review of the whole budget setting process and make any recommendations for change or improvement to the Cabinet Member for Finance via this Committee.

Conclusion

- 14 Scrutiny of opposition amendments to the budget will provide:
- advance notice of the subject matter
 - cross-party, non-political evidence-based discussion on the merits or otherwise of each; and
 - a more informed Council debate and credible decision in support of resourcing delivery of the Business Plan.

Paul Kelly

Head of Democracy and Performance (and designated scrutiny officer)