

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 304

Service: Corporate Office
Further Enquiries to: Michael Hudson (Associate Director, Finance)
 or Paul Kelly (Head of Service, Corporate Support)
Date Prepared: 31 August 2016
Direct Line: (01225) 713601 or (01225) 713049

Budget Setting for the Medium Term

As part of the 2016/17 budget settlement Government proposed a longer term 4-year funding offer to councils. This is contingent on councils submitting an efficiency statement to the DCLG by the end of October. Should the Council wish to take up this funding offer then the efficiency statement, which will include medium term budget proposals, will need to be taken to full Council for decision on 18 October.

In following the approach developed in Wiltshire to setting the budget, overview and scrutiny (OS) is engaged at an early stage ahead of Cabinet consideration and Council decision. In applying this to evaluating the Government's offer within the timescale given, the Financial Planning Task Group will be doing some dedicated work starting with a presentation to its scheduled meeting on Thursday 8 September. It is likely that the Task Group will need to meet on a number of occasions in quick succession to be sufficiently confident in giving its views. The Management Committee will then need to endorse the work of its Task Group and agree recommendations to Cabinet on 11 October and Council on 18 October. This will require an extraordinary meeting of the Management Committee.

Again as part of budget-setting there will be public consultation meetings mainly focused on the financial challenges for the Council and priorities for the future. These are being promoted through announcements at area boards as well as other channels. A briefing for all councillors ahead of full Council on the technical aspects of the offer is also planned as part of the now familiar process. An outline timetable is set out below with leading members and contributors consulted on dates.

Date	Meeting/Event
6 September	Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
8 September	Financial Planning Task Group
13 September	Cabinet
15 September	Financial Planning Task Group (Meeting 2)
22 September	Financial Planning Task Group (Meeting 3)
26 September	Public Consultation Event – Chippenham
27 September	Public Consultation Event – Devizes
28 September	Public Consultation Event – Salisbury
29 September	Public Consultation Event – Trowbridge

10 October	Extraordinary Overview & Management Committee
11 October	Cabinet
13 October	Members Briefing
18 October	Full Council