

## Appendix A2 - Council Procedure Rules – Budget Recommendations and Amendments

1. These rules supplement the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in Part 4C of this Constitution. They also modify the Council Procedure Rules as follows.
2. ~~Once the Executive has met in accordance with Rule 3.7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, it shall publish its budget recommendations to the Council.~~
3. ~~Following publication of budget recommendations under Paragraph 2, there will be a period of five full working days during which amendments or alternatives (referred to here collectively as “amendments”) to the budget recommendations may be proposed. Amendments shall be in writing and must be delivered to the Chief Executive within the period mentioned above. Amendments need not be seconded. Subject to the exceptions set out in this Appendix, amendments received outside this period will be invalid.~~
4. ~~Valid amendments submitted under Paragraph 2 shall be considered at a special meeting of the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. The Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee may comment on these amendments and the comments of the Committee will be submitted to the Budget Council Meeting for consideration.~~
5. ~~The Executive may amend its budget recommendations in the light of the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee’s consideration of amendments.~~
6. Subject to the provisions contained in this paragraph, only amendments submitted in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules Paragraph 3 shall be considered at the Budget Council Meeting. ~~The exceptions to this rule are as follows:~~
  - 6.1 The Executive may introduce amendments at the Council meeting or give advance notice of revised recommendations. This might be necessary, for instance, in response to changed circumstances, or in the light of scrutiny of amendments or to correct technical errors. The Leader must explain why it has proved necessary to introduce any amendment. This is to be done at the beginning of the budget item.
  - 6.2 The Executive may make changes to the budget recommendations to give effect to decisions by precepting authorities.
  - 6.3 Further amendments may be moved by any member in direct response to amendments made by the Executive at the meeting.

- 6.4 Technical amendments may be made by leaders of minority groups or proposers of amendments to correct arithmetical or factual errors.
  - 6.5 The Mayor shall have discretion to permit amendments from members when satisfied that the need for the amendment could not have been anticipated before the deadline. The Mayor should also be satisfied that advance notice of such amendments was given as soon as reasonably practical, and not left to the day of the meeting unless this was unavoidable.
  - 6.6 Members may submit revised amendments where the Mayor is satisfied that the substantive issues have been considered at the ~~special~~ Scrutiny Committee meeting.
  - 6.7 The Executive may amend its budget recommendations in the light of amendments moved at the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny meeting or at the Council meeting.
  - 6.8 If the Executive fails to secure Council adoption of its budget, further amendments may be moved, and these rules will not apply;
  - 6.9 The Council may, by a simple majority, suspend these rules and permit further amendments.
7. The rules of debate contained in the Council Procedure Rules shall be modified in respect of the Budget Council Meeting as follows:
- 7.1 The Executive shall present its budget recommendations. A period of 45 minutes is allowed for this, extendable at the discretion of the Mayor. The format and mode of the presentation is for the Executive to decide.
  - 7.2 Minority groups may then present alternative budgets, subject to compliance with the provisions of this Appendix. A period of 45 minutes is allowed for each alternative budget, extendable at the discretion of the Mayor. The format and mode of the presentation is for the minority group to decide.
  - 7.3. Alternative budgets will then be moved in turn as amendments to replace the Executive recommendation. They will be debated in the usual way, although replacement budgets will be deemed to have been moved and seconded.
  - 7.4 At the conclusion of each debate, a vote will be taken for and against the alternative budget.

- 7.5 If the alternative budget is voted down, the Leader of the proposing Group may ask for separate votes to be taken on individual proposals within the alternative budget, but there shall be no further debate.
- 7.6 Where individual amendments have been submitted by councillors, these will then be debated in the usual way. However, where they are to the same effect as something in an alternative budget, they shall be considered at the same time as the alternative budget, with the proposer being able to ask for a separate vote in accordance with paragraph 7.5.
- 7.7 After consideration of amendments the Executive's budget proposals will be debated in the usual way but, subject to paragraph 7.8 below, no amendments may be moved.
- 7.8. If the Executive's budget is rejected, amendments and alternative proposals may be made as under the present rules, subject to the dispute resolution provisions set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules contained in Part 4C of this Constitution.

## Part 4C-Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

### Budget Setting – Scrutiny of Budget Proposals, amendments and Executive Recommendation

- 3.3 ~~During the Committee cycle leading up to budget setting, each Scrutiny Committee will receive a short report focused on the revenue and capital budget proposals (bids and savings) relating to relevant Portfolios with Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting to take an overview, as well as considering budget proposals within its remit. The Executive will publish the Budget Setting Report, which will be followed as soon as practicable by a Member Briefing to which all members of the Council will be invited to attend. Amendments from Opposition Groups or any Member, to the Budget Setting Report will be published no later than three working days prior to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee may comment on these amendments (but may not amend them) and the comments from the Scrutiny Committee will be submitted to Council for its consideration.~~
- 3.4 The Executive shall meet collectively to recommend budget proposals for submission to the Council. The Executive may amend its budget recommendations in the light of the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee's consideration of amendments.
- 3.5 Once the Executive has met in accordance with Paragraph 3.4, it shall publish its budget recommendations to the Council.

#### Amendments following the Executive's recommendation to Council

- 3.6 ~~Following publication of the Executive's recommendation to Council, further amendments may be submitted by Opposition Groups or any Member. These must be amendments which satisfy the following:~~
- ~~(i) amendment(s) could not have been presented to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny because information was not available at the time~~
  - ~~(ii) amendment(s) are received by the Council's s151 Officer within 4 working days of the Executive's meeting.~~
  - ~~(iii) amendments, including the s151 Officer opinion, are published with the agenda for the Council budget meeting.~~

#### Submission of Budget Amendments

- 3.6 ~~Following publication of budget recommendations under Paragraph 3.5, there will be a period of five full working days during which amendments or alternatives (referred to here collectively as "amendments") to the budget recommendations may be proposed. Amendments shall be in writing and must be delivered to the Chief Executive within the period mentioned above. Amendments need not be seconded. Subject to the exceptions set out in this s, amendments received outside this period will be invalid.~~

~~3.7 Valid amendments submitted under Paragraph 3.6 shall be considered at a special meeting of the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee. The Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee may comment on these amendments and the comments of the Committee will be submitted to the Budget Council Meeting for consideration.~~

~~3.8 The Executive may amend its budget recommendations in the light of the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee's consideration of amendments.~~