

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING

If the Council agrees, the procedure for budget debate will be as follows:

(1) The Mayor will call upon the Leader of the Council to move as follows:

“THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 27.1, RULE 16.5 ON RULES OF DEBATE BE SUSPENDED INSOFAR AS IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE PROCEDURE AS CIRCULATED TO BE ADOPTED AND THAT THE COUNCIL CONSENT TO:

- **MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP SPEAKING FOR UP TO 45 MINUTES IN TOTAL ON THE BUDGET 2026/27;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR GROUP SPEAKING FOR UP TO 20 MINUTES IN TOTAL**
- **MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP SPEAKING FOR – UP TO 20 MINUTES IN TOTAL**

(2) This will be seconded and voted upon.

(3) The above motion having been adopted, the Mayor will call upon Members of the Leadership to speak for up to 45 minutes.

(4) The Mayor will then call on Members of the Labour Group to speak for up to 20 minutes, and Liberal Democrat Group to speak for up to 20 minutes in total.

(5) The Council meeting will then revert to normal procedure rules.

(6) The motions for each budget report before the Council will then be proposed, seconded and open to debate. Any amendments to Cabinet’s proposals on the budget needed to be notified in advance and certified in accordance with Rule 2.6 of the Budget and Policy and Framework Rules. No amendments have been notified and therefore no amendments will be permitted.

(7) The Mayor will invite elected members to debate the substantive motion and then move to the vote on the motion before the Council.

(8) Throughout the above procedure Lead Members will be entitled to reply to specific objections or questions on their portfolios without prejudice to their entitlement to speak generally in the debate on any amendments.

NOTE

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001 and Council Procedure Rule 19.5 there shall be a recorded vote on any decision relating to the making of the calculation for Council Tax.

Members should also note the provisions of s.106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which require Members who are present at the Budget Council meeting to disclose if they are two months or more in Council Tax arrears and refrain from voting on any matter with respect to the function of calculating the Council Tax.

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING IF THE BUDGET IS NOT APPROVED

The Budget and Policy Framework Rules set out the requirements for Council to consider the Budget. This requires:

- Cabinet to submit its proposals to the Council meeting for consideration, including how it has taken account of any recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The Council will consider the proposals of the Cabinet and may adopt them or object to the proposals and instruct Cabinet to reconsider in light of those objections.
- If Council accepts the Cabinet's proposals, the notice of decision will confirm that the decision is effective immediately.
- If Council objects to Cabinet's proposals, Council must set out its objections and give instructions to the Leader requiring Cabinet to reconsider, in light of those objections, the estimates and amounts in accordance with the Council's requirements. Such instruction's must specify a period of at least five working days beginning with the day after the instructions are given.
- Upon receipt of a notice, the Leader may (a) submit a revision of the estimates or amounts, with reasons for any amendment, or (b) inform the Council of any disagreement that Cabinet has with the Council's objections and Cabinet's reasons for any such disagreement.
- At the future meeting, the Council must reconsider its decision taking account of any amendment and Cabinet's reasons and any disagreement. Council may (a) approve the proposals or (b) make amendments or modify the proposals. Where a decision is required to be made to comply with statutory deadlines and requirements, there will be no time limit on the length of the meeting and the Council shall continue to meet until it has reached a final decision on the matter. The decision will come into effect immediately.
- All decisions by Council on the budget are based on a simple majority.