

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING 5TH MARCH 2026

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 20 MINUTES IN TOTAL ON THE BUDGET 2025/26;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR GROUP SPEAKING FOR UP TO 10 MINUTES IN TOTAL;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP SPEAKING FOR UP TO 10 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 20 minutes.

(4) The Mayor will then call on Members of the Labour Group to speak for up to 10 minutes and Liberal Democrat Group to speak for up to 10 minutes in total.

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

(6) The motions for the budget report before the Council will then be proposed, seconded and open to debate.

(7) As no amendments have been proposed, 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 5TH MARCH 2026 IF THE BUDGET IS NOT APPROVED

If the Council agrees, the procedure for dealing with a situation whereby no budget is approved, the procedure shall be as follows:

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

“DUE TO THE STATUTORY DEADLINES TO CALCULATE AND SET ITS COUNCIL TAX BY 11 MARCH, THERE IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE COUNCIL TO SET ITS COUNCIL TAX AND BUDGET CALCULATIONS, THEREFORE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 15 (k), THE COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE A SHORT ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW INFORMAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN GROUP LEADERS, THEIR DEPUTIES OR NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE.”

- (2) The proposal will be seconded and voted on prior to the adjournment.

[A short adjournment to allow the Group Leaders, MHCLG Commissioners and Statutory Governance Officers to consider the failure by Council to approve a budget.]

- (3) Upon return, the Mayor will call upon the Leader of the Council to move as follows:

“DUE TO THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE COUNCIL FAILING TO SET A BUDGET, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 27.1, RULE 16.5 ON RULES OF DEBATE BE SUSPENDED TO ALLOW STATUTORY GOVERNANCE OFFICERS TO SPEAK TO UP TO 5 MINUTES IN TOTAL AND MHCLG COMMISSIONERS TO SPEAK FOR UP TO 5 MINUTES IN TOTAL ON THE ROBUSTNESS OF THE ESTIMATES AND THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS TO SET A BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX.”

- (4) This will be seconded and voted upon.

Upon completion of any officer/MHCLG commissioner speech, the Council meeting will then revert to normal procedure rules permitting a further debate on the Cabinet's recommended budget in accordance with normal procedure rules.

This process can be run more than once to enable the Council to set its budget.