



Budget Consultation

Economy, Skills & Transport O&S Committee

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The City Council's consultation on its proposed budget was launched on Thursday 8th December. The closing date is 18th January 2017.
- 1.2 As part of this process, each Overview & Scrutiny Committee has been asked to review the proposals as they relate to that committee's remit. The purpose is for the committees to exercise their overview role and have a public discussion on some of the key proposals; giving backbench members of all parties the opportunity to explore the issues more thoroughly ahead of the budget debate at the City Council meeting in February.

2 Key Questions

- 2.1 The budget consultation contains a number of proposals for change. The scrutiny sessions will focus on understanding the impact and implications of what is proposed and are an opportunity for members to discuss these with the portfolio holders. Officers will attend to provide advice where necessary; their attendance is to help Scrutiny understand the proposals not to be held to account for the proposals.
- 2.2 The responses from Scrutiny will then be fed into the consultation in order to finalise the Budget for 2017/18. The final decision of what will be included in the budget will be decided at the City Council meeting in February.
- 2.3 Scrutiny members are asked to consider four key questions:
 1. What impact would the proposals have on citizens of Birmingham?
 2. What assumptions underpin the budget proposals?
 3. Are there any other options that could be considered / explored?
 4. What are the proposals for delivery of the proposals?

3 Next Steps

- 3.1 The feedback from these discussions will be shared with Cabinet and officers as they finalise the budget for 2017+.
- 3.2 For future years, members of the Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee will be considering how scrutiny can play a stronger role in budget setting and scrutiny throughout the



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year, acknowledging that good financial scrutiny is a crucial means of improving democratic legitimacy and levels of public confidence in decisions made on the public's behalf.

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