

SCRUTINY
Consideration of an Item at Scrutiny Committee

Please complete this form to provide information about your proposal for consideration by the Scrutiny Programme Board or request for a review to be undertaken on a topic or issue of concern. You may attach any other supporting information you feel might help the Board in considering your proposal. The Strategic Management Board will be advised of any proposal, to help advise on the timetable and any resource implications.

Please complete the following form which will be presented to the Scrutiny Programme Board (SPB)

Issue to be Considered	<i>The budget public consultation process and results for 2025/26 budget consultation</i>
Proposer (s)	<i>Cllr Mollie Miller-Boam</i>
Scrutiny Committee (to be determined by the SPB)	<i>Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee</i>
Lead Portfolio Holder	
Identification of Lead Officer	<i>To be completed by SMB</i>

Areas for consideration:

1. What is the specific topic area you want considered/reviewed?

The public consultation on the proposed budget is a crucial step in the budget setting process. Following the conclusion of the consultation I would like the committee to examine the process for the public consultation of the budget and outcomes.

I would suggest, but this is not limited to, the following areas for consideration as part of the review:

- The process for the public consultation including the format and platforms for responding, the accessibility of the consultation such as to those with English as their second language, or those facing additional barriers to participation.
- The outcome of the consultation including how many people responded and whether the questions in the consultation yielded responses which could be utilised to inform the budget setting.

2. What are the main issues you feel need to be addressed?

As above.
<p>3. Please identify which of the Council's key priorities your topic relates to? (If any)</p> <p>The budget setting process is core to achieving all of the council's strategic priorities. Ensuring a balanced budget is delivered, which supports the priority areas of the council as set out in the corporate plan, is crucial.</p> <p>In particular, as set out in the corporate plan 2022-26, leading a well-run council rests on six pillars first of which is a balanced budget. Key to this priority is good governance, including active communication and consultation with residents. Reviewing the budget setting consultation process links to all of these priorities.</p>
<p>4. What outcome are you aiming to achieve with this consideration/review?</p> <p>I believe this review will help improve future budget consultations and therefore increase our resident's ability to participate in the democratic processes of the council, and have their voices heard.</p>
<p>5. Do you consider this review urgent and if so why?</p> <p>I believe that this review is timely, given the new process being established and used for public consultation of the budget. Reviewing the public consultation process, any barriers, pitfalls and successes will ensure as a council we give the residents and stakeholders in our city the best opportunity to input into budget decision making. It will mean that there can be learnings from this process which can then be implemented for the next budget consultation.</p>

Date of Request	14 November 2024
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Please note that the Programme Board will consider the following matters (if relevant) when determining the request. *Please tick any that are appropriate.-*

Potential Criteria for Selecting Topic (NB This is not an exhaustive list)	Please tick
The issue has potential impact on one or more sections of the local population	

The issue is strategic and/or significant	✓
Scrutiny of this matter will add value to the Council's and/or its partners' overall performance	✓
The review will lead to effective outcomes	✓
This will improve service outputs	✓
The issue is of concern to partners and stakeholders	
The issue is a key issue for the public (as identified through contact with constituents or meetings of local organisations)	
This will be of benefit to the community	✓
Poor performing service (evidenced from performance indicators)	
Service/issue ranked as important by the Council's community (via market surveys/annual residents' survey/consultation with tenants, local business community)	
High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (via market surveys/complaints)	
Public interest issue (e.g. covered by local media)	
High level of budgetary commitment to the service or policy area	
Pattern of budgetary overspends	
Council key priority area	
Central Government priority area	
Issue poses significant or potential risk to the Council (can be financial, reputational or other risk)	
Issue raised by external auditor	
Issue raised by Council or one of its Committees	
Issue arises from new legislation or Government guidance	

Key reports or new evidence (provided by external organisations on key issue)	
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FOR SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD USE ONLY

The following will be used if the Proposal/Topic is rejected	Please tick
The timing of this review is inappropriate	
The review will duplicate other work within the Council or elsewhere	
The issue is already under examination by Council	
The issue is already under examination by an Officer Group and changes are imminent	
Issue being examined as part of a service review	
New legislation/guidance expected within a year	
There is an alternative, more effective, route the Member can take to address the issue	
The issue is outside the scope of the Scrutiny Committee	
The issue would not bring about any sustainable and on-going revenue savings	
The issue does not meet any of the Council's corporate priorities	

Comments from SMB	<i>to be tabled at Customer Focus on 28 November 2024</i>
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Overall recommendation of Scrutiny Programme Board Please tick relevant box)	Review Supported	Review not supported
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Confirm approval of review by Committee	Yes/No <i>(Delete as appropriate)</i> Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee or Strategic Scrutiny Committee
Date	