



Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel 28 August 2008

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Walsall Council

Budget Framework 2009/10 – 2011/12

Key Principles:

- Policy Led
- Integrate revenue and capital budgets
- 3 year focus
- Combines policy, performance, finance and service planning
- Affordable, Sustainable budget and council tax
- Informed by:
 - Our financial resources,
 - Service/Cost pressures
 - Where we are in terms of broad council tax and spend per head comparators
 - Risks and assumptions in the budget (cost of job evaluation, energy prices, etc)
 - Key drivers: national and local
 - Budget consultation feedback



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Budget Process – Milestones

- Briefings to H&SC scrutiny on resource planning framework: 28 August
- H&SC Scrutiny panel receives stage 1 packs and draft medium term financial plan: 9 October
- Scrutiny panel 1 Dec: service specific proposals/recommendations to Cabinet
- Corporate Panel Decision Conference: 11 & 12 December
- Draft revised settlement : early December
- Scrutiny proposals/recs to Cabinet: 17 December
- Cabinet 14 January: draft detailed corporate revenue and capital budget proposals
- 19th January H&SC scrutiny panel – considers Cabinets detailed draft corporate revenue and capital budget proposals
- Final Settlement - End January
- Cabinet recommendation 4 Feb & Full Council – 23 Feb



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Stage 1: The aim of this phase is to provide an overview of performance, service delivery and financial performance of the service over a period of 3 years and to identify future challenges, pressures and objectives. This is intended to inform decisions on resource allocation. The packs will comprise the following:

- Summary of services provided
- Where the service currently is and where it needs to be, including key national and local drivers/challenges – corporate and department/service objectives, key service targets
- Current and future performance indicators
- Demographics and trends
- Assets and purpose/contribution to council priorities
- Investment/disinvestment history
- Previous year outturn, current year forecast, and trends/variances

A copy of the pack is contained at Appendix 2 for scrutiny's information



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Stage 2: This phase will require services to provide resource realignment, detailed investments/demand proposals and savings/efficiencies proposals against indicative spending (including savings targets) utilising the stage one packs to inform this.

- the need for change and strategy and financial impact;
- base budget review, costs changes, efficiency review,
- key capital investment areas, alternatives to capital investment



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Opportunities for Scrutiny Input

- Scrutiny panels receive pack and draft medium term financial plan: 9 October and 1 December meetings
- Scrutiny review pack and determine areas where they would like to make recommendations / proposals to cabinet for inclusion in draft budget proposals
- Scrutiny proposals/recommendations received by Cabinet: 17 December
- 19 January scrutiny panel – Scrutiny receive and consider Cabinets detailed draft corporate revenue and capital budget proposals

