

Budget Debate, 27th February 2025

Budget 2025/26 – Procedure to be Followed / Amendment to Standing Orders

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Mayor will introduce the Budget item and seek the approval of Council to the adoption of this Budget Debate Procedure and the consequential amendments to the Council's Standing Orders. A vote will be taken.
- 1.2 The Leader of the Council will present the Revenue and Capital Budget and Council Tax levels for 2025/26 and will circulate the final budget recommendations, if any (pink sheet). The Leader may defer to the relevant Portfolio Holder to briefly to introduce this item. No speeches will be made at this point.

Note: On this occasion, it is anticipated that additional documents will be circulated, as the revised version of the Revenue Budget report included within the Council Agenda pack sets out the up to date as at 19th February 2025. Subsequently, the controlling group have proposed alterations to the Budget recommendations. In addition, further information should be available in connection with the precept decisions of Lancashire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner, as these had not been determined at the time of drafting the original report.

- 1.3 The Leader of the Main Opposition Group will be invited to share any papers (but these may instead be tabled at Step 4.2 below).

2. Resources OSC Recommendations

- 2.1 The Chair of the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee, will present the Scrutiny Committee's comments on the budget proposals (up to 5 minutes).

Note: On this occasion there are no financial recommendations included within the OSC's resolutions.

- 2.3. The Leader of the Council or relevant Portfolio Holder will respond (up to 5 minutes). No other speakers at this stage.

3. Budget Motion

- 3.1 The Leader of the Council or relevant Portfolio Holder will move the motion to approve the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals and Council Tax levels for 2025/26 (Paragraphs 2.1 - 2.9 of the report, as amended by the pink sheet) - (up to 45 minutes)
- 3.2 The motion will be seconded; the seconder may reserve the right to speak.

4. Amendments

From Resources OSC

- 4.1 There are no financial recommendations from the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this occasion.

From the Main Opposition

- 4.2 Any formal amendments that the Opposition Group wishes to propose should be tabled at this time. The Mayor will then seek the consent of the meeting for an adjournment to allow

time for Members to scrutinise the information provided and, if necessary, to seek financial advice from the Executive Director (Resources).

- 4.3 The amendments will be moved and seconded *en bloc* by a spokesperson for the Opposition and all of the amendments will be debated together by Members in a single session. (Mover up to 15 minutes - All other speakers up to 5 minutes).
- 4.4 The Mover of the original Budget Motion (as at Step 3.1) will have a right to reply: (up to 25 minutes)
- 4.5 The amendments will be voted upon individually in the order in which they were announced/appeared when first moved. Any amendments will require a recorded vote *

From Minority Political Party Members, Independent or Individual Councillors

- 4.6 It there are amendments by a Minority Party Member, Independent Member or individual councillors, these should be taken next. Amendments should be moved and seconded *en bloc* and all of the amendments from that individual will be debated together by Members in a single session. Financial advice from the Executive Director (Resources) should be sought, as appropriate. (Steps 4.4 to 4.5 above will be repeated).

5. Substantive Motion (including any amendments agreed by the Council at Step 4)

- 5.1 The Mayor will seek the consent of the meeting for a brief adjournment (if required).
- 5.2 The Mover of the original Budget Motion (as at Step 3.1) to speak: (up to 15 minutes)
- 5.3 Debate (5 minutes for each subsequent speaker)
- 5.4 The Mover's summing up: (up to 5 minutes)
- 5.5 The vote will be taken by recorded vote *.

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*** N.B.**

It is a requirement under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 to have a recorded vote when determining the budget. This regulation is provided for under Council Procedure Rule 16.7 below:-

Immediately after any vote is taken on a budget decision at the budget decision meeting of the Council, there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting. This will include a recorded vote on any amendment proposed at the meeting.