

ITEM NO: 17

DECISION-MAKER:	STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	CHANGES TO THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES		
DATE OF DECISION:	26 TH JUNE 2008 16TH JULY 2008		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES & WORKFORCE PLANNING PORTFOLIO		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to set out proposed changes to the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules which form part of the Constitution.

The changes take into account the recent changes made to Scrutiny within the Council and the fact that the Council now has a party with an overall majority which will impact on the way in which the budget is prepared by the Executive compared to previous years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Standards and Governance Committee :

- (i) Notes the key changes to the Budget and Policy Framework as set out in this report
- (ii) Recommends that Council approves the revised Budget and Policy Framework as set out in Appendix 1 for inclusion in the Constitution

That Full Council

- (i) Notes the key changes to the Budget and Policy Framework as set out in this report
- (ii) Approves the revised Budget and Policy Framework as set out in Appendix 1 for inclusion in the Constitution

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (B&PF) is a key document in the Council's Constitution which regulates the governance arrangements applicable to the Policy framework plans and their approval,

and the setting of the Council's budget. It is appropriate to keep this under review.

CONSULTATION

2. The Solicitor to the Council and Executive Director of Resources have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. Various options and models can be applied to the B&PF taking into account the circumstances within the Council and the most appropriate arrangements recommended by the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer.

DETAIL

4. The Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (B&PF) form part of the Constitution and set out the way in which the Executive and the Council must act and the steps both must take in developing the annual Budget and key policy framework documents during the year.
5. The B&PF is reviewed and amended as part of the review of the Constitution annually at the AGM, and also when appropriate to reflect as appropriate the fact that different processes are necessary given the changing political balance of the Council.
6. Following the elections in May and the fact that there is now a majority party within the Council for the first time in many years, the B&PF has been reviewed by the Section 151 Officer following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and an amended version is put forward for approval at Appendix 1.
7. The key changes that are reflected in the revised version are :
 - Changes to the budget process to take account of the new role of Scrutiny as approved at Council in May
 - Deletion of the requirement to agree the budget process with all Resources Spokespersons
 - Deletion of the requirement to produce and publish an Officer Forecast
 - Introduction – to replace the removal of the officer forecast from the process - of early publication of the Executive's major Budgetary Proposals
8. These changes will help to streamline the budget process and move it towards one which is led by the executive, who legally have the obligation of recommending a budget to Full Council, allowing for consultation and feedback as appropriate.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

9. None

Revenue

10. None.

Property

11. None.

Other

12. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

13. Local Government Act 2000(as amended)

Other Legal Implications:

14. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

15. This report amends the actual Budget and Policy Framework within the Constitution and affects the way that the Executive and the Council conducts business.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the
Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule
12A allowing document to be
Exempt/Confidential (if
applicable)

1.	None
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Background documents available for inspection at:

FORWARD PLAN No:

KEY DECISION?

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
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