

Scrutiny Budget Working Group
Draft Terms of Reference

Aims:

- a. Achieve consensus on the direction of the budget over the life of the medium-term financial strategy.
- b. Assist the Council to develop a budget for the forthcoming year that aims to meet the needs of the communities of Bridgend County Borough;
- c. Facilitate firmer understanding of the budget setting process and to assist COSC in making informed comments, constructive challenge and recommendations to Cabinet as part of the budget consultation process.

Terms of Reference:

1. Identify and explore potential budget areas for budget reductions / investment and agree Recommendations to Cabinet for consideration and development prior to finalisation of the Council's draft MTFS and budget proposals,
 2. Areas of focus should consider the impact of proposals on:
 - a. Council's corporate plan and wellbeing objectives
 - b. The needs of individuals and communities
 - c. Service performance and outcomes
 - d. Affordability, achievability, sustainability, and value for money
 3. Work with Cabinet Members and Corporate Directors to understand the need for change in the context of the Council's emerging corporate priorities and MTFS;
 4. To treat any budget information received as part of the budget planning process as confidential until such time that it is formally placed in the public domain.
 5. To focus on non-political, Council wide issues and priorities;
 6. To have innovation at the centre of its work to identify effective proposals and solutions and take a consistent challenging approach to achieve the aims as set out above;
 7. To ensure that the SBWG process assists and is central to the scrutiny of the MTFS and adds value, avoiding duplication with the Scrutiny Committee budget process.
-