

**Scrutiny Budget Working Group**  
**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.
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