

	<u>Scrutiny Budget Working Group (SBWG) Process for 2025/26:</u>	<u>Proposed changes for SBWG Process for 2026/7:</u>
1.	24 Members were nominated by Group Leaders to sit on the Scrutiny Budget Working Group based on political balance.	Same number of Members and nominations from Group Leaders, politically balanced as far as possible, to address some non-attendance / apologies given last year.
2.	6 Members from the SBWG membership were nominated by Group Leaders to each of the 4 Directorate Deep Dive Groups, so each member of SBWG sat on one Deep Dive.	Increase to more than 6 Members to be nominated by Group Leaders to each Deep Dive Group due to low attendance / apologies given last year. To enable nominees most interested in the subject area and who are available to attend the Deep Dive Groups to attend and politically balanced as far as possible.
3.	Only one of each of the 4 Directorate Deep Dive Group meetings were held, with any additional information requested and draft Recommendations reported back to SBWG.	Hold 6 Deep Dive Group Meetings; 2 of each of the 3 Service Directorates (excluding Chief Executive's and Corporate Services), rather than just 1 of each Directorate as done last year. This would enable more work to be done in the Deep Dive Groups before feeding back to SBWG. Potential future Deep Dive to consider Transformation at the appropriate time.
4.	Scrutiny Chairs each chaired their own Deep Dive Group meeting and the Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) who is also the Chair of SBWG observed all the Deep Dive meetings.	Scrutiny Chairs to Chair their respective Deep Dive meetings as before, but also attend any of the other Deep Dive Group meetings. (May consider chairing each other's Deep Dives in 2027/28 following a review of SBWG process and attendance at Deep Dives at the end of this year's process.)
5.	Deep Dive Group meetings were scheduled for longer sessions last year due to the need to hold them in a more concentrated period of time.	Meetings to be scheduled for no more than 4 hours (sessions to be shorter than last year) and will be spread out at intervals, as the scheduling of Overview and Scrutiny Committees this year has created more space to hold the SBWG meetings.
6.	Steering Group meeting held to give a Steer from the Leader, CM for Finance, Chief, Director for Finance and Transformation to feed into Deep Dive FWP's prior to first meeting of SBWG.	In place of two separate Steering Group meetings, it is proposed that for the first and last meetings of SBWG, to invite for the first item on the Agenda, the Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Chief

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	A Steering Group meeting held to receive feedback from the Deep Dive Group / SBWG process informally, prior to reporting to COSC and Cabinet.	Executive and Director for Finance and Transformation to give a steer on areas of focus to feed into Deep Dive FWP's, and to receive feedback from the process informally, prior to reporting to COSC and Cabinet.
7.	Steering Group meeting held in July then first meeting of SWBG in September, followed by one of each of the 4 Deep Dive Groups held in September and October.	Hold 1 (or 2 meetings if possible) of SBWG before the school holidays begin on 20 July, to get steer on areas of focus for the Forward Work Programme and to look at the items identified last year. Programme dates of other SBWG and Deep Dive meetings to recommence straight after the summer recess.
8.	Meetings of Steering Group, SBWG and Deep Dives were held in the Council Chamber.	Proposed that meetings are less formal, in person attendance, round table / workshops where possible (dependant on when work on the Committee rooms is completed or explore other potential venues.)
9.	Previously full budget book provided for SBWG and Deep dives to identify potential areas of focus.	Rather than requesting full budget book, propose requesting reverse budget book from highest expenditure top down, to focus on the big ticket items as areas to explore potential savings.