

**STEP 1 - Scrutiny to seek nominations of up to 24 Members (politically balanced as far as possible) to sit on the Scrutiny Budget Working Group – June/July 2026**

**STEP 2 – SCRUTINY BUDGET WORKING GROUP MEET (WITH A STEER AT THE START) – JULY 2026**

Comprising: Total up to 24 Members and Chaired by Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**To be invited for Steer** - Group Leaders, Scrutiny Chairs, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Chief Executive and Corporate Director - Finance and Transformation

Role:

**Steer** - To propose areas of focus for Scrutiny Budget Working Group and Deep Dive Groups to consider the previous year’s recommendations and 2027-28 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) indicative proposals, the main priorities going forward, areas of concern and areas of focus where can Scrutiny add value.

**SBWG** - Discuss areas of focus following the Steer from Invitees for first Item and any referrals/proposals from any Overview and Scrutiny Committees and allocate SBWG Members to each of the Deep Dive Groups based on their knowledge, expertise or preference expressed to contribute to a specific deep dive. Scrutiny Chairs may attend all Deep Dive Groups.

(Members will need to ensure they are able to commit to attending the Deep Dive Groups on the identified dates)

**STEP 3 – DEEP DIVE GROUPS MEET TWICE EACH (FOR NO MORE THAN 4 HOURS PER MEETING) FROM SEPTEMBER TO MID NOVEMBER 2026**

**Education and Youth Services – 2 dates TBC**  
Chaired by Chair of Education and Youth Service Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Comprising: SBWG Members to be agreed by SBWG, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Cabinet Member for Education and Young People, Corporate Director for Education, Early Years and Young People, Corporate Director - Finance and Transformation, Deputy Head of Finance, Finance Manager - Communities, Education and Family Support, and any other relevant Officers

Role: To undertake a deep dive into areas of focus in the Education and Youth Services Directorate as directed by the SBWG.

**Social Services and Wellbeing – 2 dates TBC**  
Chaired by Chair of Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Comprising: SBWG Members to be agreed by SBWG, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing, Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing, Corporate Director - Finance and Transformation, Deputy Head of Finance, Finance Manager – Social Services and Wellbeing, and any other relevant Officers

Role: To undertake a deep dive into areas of focus in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate as directed by the SBWG.

**Communities – 2 dates TBC**  
Chaired by Chair of Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Comprising: SBWG Members to be agreed by SBWG, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Corporate Director for Communities, Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation, Deputy Head of Finance, Finance Manager – Communities, Education and Family Support and any other relevant Officers

Role: To undertake a deep dive into areas of focus in the Communities Directorate as directed by the SBWG.

**Scrutiny will support the meetings and draft outline actions arising, however it will be for the Chair of each Deep Dive Group to present the key findings from their Group and Members of each Group to discuss their merits at the SBWG for the agreement of any resulting overall Recommendations**

**STEP 4 - SCRUTINY BUDGET WORKING GROUP FOLLOWED BY FEEDBACK TO STEERING GROUP – MID/END NOVEMBER 2026**

**SBWG**

Comprising: Total up to 24 Members and Chaired by Chair of COSC

Role/Purpose: Chairs of the Deep Dive Groups present the Key Findings from their Group. SBWG to discuss findings and reach an agreement on overall conclusions and recommendations from the Working Group.

**Steer**

Comprising: Group Leaders, Scrutiny Chairs, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation, Chief Executive and Corporate Director - Finance and Transformation

Purpose: To present the Recommendations from the Scrutiny Budget Working Group to feed into the development of the draft budget proposals and MTFS.

**STEP 5 – CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10 DECEMBER 2026**

Purpose: To receive the Conclusions and Recommendations from the Working Group for endorsing and official onward reporting to Cabinet (as Scrutiny Committee with overall responsibility for budget scrutiny)

**STEP 6 - CABINET – 15 DECEMBER 2026**

Purpose: To formally receive the Conclusions and Recommendations from COSC to be considered by Cabinet/CMB in advance of final budget proposals published. Formal response to be provided by Cabinet on 16 Feb 2027

**STEP 7 - CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 JANUARY 2027**

COSC consider draft MTFS and budget proposals in the public domain and make any conclusions/recommendations.

**STEP 8 - CABINET – 2 FEBRUARY 2027**

To formally present the Conclusions and Recommendations from COSC on the draft MTFS and Budget proposals to Cabinet.

**STEP 9 - CABINET – 16 FEBRUARY 2027**

Cabinet considers final recommendations and recommends the MTFS 2027-28 to 2030-31 to Council for approval and provides formal response to Recommendations.

**STEP 10 - COUNCIL - 24 FEBRUARY 2027**

Council asked to approve the MTFS 2027-28 to 2030-31 and vote on it.