

Process for developing the Budget

8.3 The process for proposing the Budget, Council Tax level, Capital Programme and Borrowing Policy is:

- (1) the Leader will publish to all Council Members each year a review of the issues relating to the Budget for the next financial year;
- (2) Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees will consider matters within the published review of issues relating to the Budget for the next financial year which fall within their remit and make recommendations to the Leader;
- (3) the Leader will publish a draft Budget no later than three weeks before the Budget meeting of the Council;
- (4) The Leader will ensure that external consultation is carried out;
- (5) the Scrutiny Board will consider the draft Budget, question the Leader and such Members of the Cabinet and officers as it wishes, and comment to the Cabinet;
- (6) as part of each Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the draft Budget, it should assess whether adequate resources have been allocated to take account of the endorsed recommendations of its own Select Committees. If it does not believe that these recommendations have been correctly taken into account, then it should recommend to the Leader and Council appropriate changes to the draft Budget;
- (7) the Leader will consider the report of Scrutiny Board and any report from a Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee before making a final recommendation to the Council. He will also report to Council on how he has taken into account any recommendations from the Scrutiny Board and any Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (8) the Council will consider the Leader's proposals and may:
 - (a) adopt them
 - (b) amend them

- (c) refer them back to the Leader for further consideration
- (d) substitute its own proposals in their place.

(9) In considering the matter, the Council shall have before it the report from the Leader or the Cabinet, any report from the Scrutiny Board Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a report of any minority views expressed in those Committees' debates.

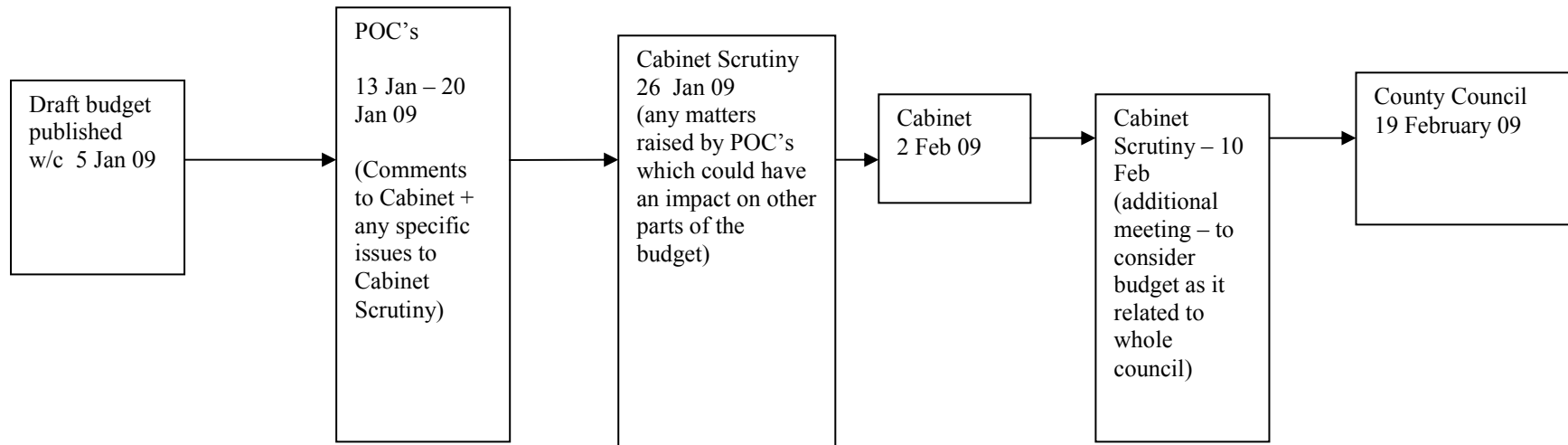
(10) the Council's decision will be published and a copy shall be given by the Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership to the Leader no later than the day following the Council meeting. The notice of decision shall be dated and shall state that either:

- (a) the decision shall be effective immediately (if the Council accepts the proposals without amendment or if the Leader has consented to any amendments during or following the debate) or
- (b) (if the proposals are not accepted without amendments to which the Leader has consented) the Council's decision will become effective on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the notice of decision, unless the Leader objects to it in that period.

(11) the Leader may object to the decision of the Council by giving written notice to that effect to the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer prior to the date upon which the decision is to be effective. The written notification must state the reasons for the objection together with any changes proposed by the Leader and the reasons for those changes. The proposals will then be reconsidered by the Council at a meeting to be held on the sixth working day after the original meeting. The Council shall at that second meeting make its final decision on the matter on the basis of a simple majority. The decision shall be published and shall take effect immediately.

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Budget process 2008/09



Budget Process 2009/10

(numbers in **bold** refer to paragraphs in attached revised budget process)

