

Extract from the Minutes of the Governance and Constitution Committee on
16 April, 2009

BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROCEDURE RULES

The Committee considered proposed procedure rules relating to the budget and Policy Framework.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 the Council at its meeting on 24th February 2009 had approved a list of documents which would form part of the Council's Policy Framework requiring approval by full Council. Regulation 4 of the Regulations provided that Cabinet had overall responsibility for preparing the draft budget, plans and strategies for submission to full Council for consideration.

A set of Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules had been drafted to comply with Government Guidance. The adoption of such Rules would ensure that the documents which formed part of the budget and Policy Framework were developed in accordance with legislative requirements. In addition such rules would ensure that there were systems in place for resolving conflict in the setting of the budget or Policy Framework and for dealing with urgent decisions.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) subject to (2) below, the draft Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Appendix B to the report be recommended to Council for adoption and incorporation into the Constitution; and**
- (2) consideration be given to extending the minimum period for consultation on the budget to six weeks and the Officers be authorised in consultation with the Chairman to make a final determination on the appropriate provision in the draft Rules for recommendation to Council.**

Note: The views of the Borough Treasurer and Portfolio Holder for Resources have been sought on the suggestion that the minimum period of consultation on the budget be amended from four to six weeks. While they are generally supportive of a six week consultation period in future years, it is considered that the complexity of compiling the Council's first operational budget would be better suited to a four week period for the year 2010/11. A copy of the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules are attached, with the relevant provision shown at Rule 2.1(a). Rule 6 has been amended to clarify "in year" changes as required by the Governance and Constitution Committee.