

For general release

REPORT TO:	SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 24 JANUARY 2012
AGENDA ITEM:	6
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL BUDGET 2012/13
LEAD OFFICER:	Julie Belvir, Director of Legal & Democratic Services
CABINET MEMBER:	n/a
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	n/a

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	This item is contained in the Committee's work programme
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	To scrutinise the proposed 2012/13 Council Budget

1. COUNCIL BUDGET 2012/13

- 1.1 Part 4C of the Constitution outlines the process for developing the Council's annual budget. It explains that the Leader and Cabinet must publicise all proposals to Council for the adoption of any plan, strategy or budget that forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework and make arrangements for a consultation period of no less than six weeks. At the end of this period, the Leader and Cabinet shall draw up firm proposals having shown regard to the responses to the consultation. Paragraph 2b makes provision for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to respond to the final proposals and Cabinet shall take into account any formal response from the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 12th December 2011, the Cabinet approved for consultation a draft departmental efficiency programme, a draft programme of cuts, a draft Step Change programme and a draft income programme. The full proposals agreed for consultation are contained within the Cabinet report, which is attached as **Appendix A**. The public budget consultation is available online at <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/consultations/budget-consultation/>. The consultation lists the proposals by service area, and this is included as **Appendix B**. The website also features an online survey, which is included as **Appendix C**.
- 1.3 The consultation closes on Friday 17th February 2012. The revised Budget proposals will be presented to Cabinet on Monday 20th February 2012, which will agree the Budget to be considered and agreed at the full Council meeting on Monday 27th February 2012.

- 1.4 This report therefore invites the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to comment on the proposed Council Budget 2012/13, as agreed by Cabinet in December 2011.
- 1.5 Paragraph 1.04 of Part 4E of the Constitution also states that the statutory co-opted members representing the Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses and the parent governor representatives have automatic rights of voting powers in connection to any matter concerning the duties and functions of the Council as an LEA (Local Education Authority). The Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee therefore also has the opportunity to comment on the proposed Council Budget 2012/13 as it includes proposals relating to education and young people.

Appendices

Appendix A – Cabinet report, 12th December 2011 'Budget Options 2012/13'

Appendix B – Budget proposals listed by service area

Appendix C – Online survey forming part of the public consultation

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None