

Council 17 February 2021 Item 4:

Procedure for debate on the medium term financial strategy and budget (Item 10 on the agenda)

The Constitution 11.4 (Council budget debate procedure) sets out the order of business for the Council meeting(s) where the Council's budget, capital programme and medium term financial strategy for the following year(s) are discussed and the Council Tax is set, and sets out the timings and order of the debate on Item 10.

The procedure and timings for the debate on Item 10 of the agenda are set out in the table below.

Procedure for debate

Debate on the Council's budget, capital programme and medium term financial strategy as recommended by the Cabinet (to last no more than 1 hour and 25 minutes excluding the debates at (b) and (c) and the votes)

Normal rules of debate and rights of reply apply at each stage.

- The Leader or in their absence the Deputy Leader shall indicate before debate which amendments they will accept without a vote.
- Individual amendments in part h(iii) shall be presented in writing with financial information and reasons; taken as read without the requirement for the proposer to speak; and taken in order as presented to the Committee and Member Services Officer (submitted at least 15min before the start of debate on amendments).
- The Chief Finance Officer shall report on the soundness of these amendments before these are debated.

Stage	Debate Time (maximum)	Lengths of speeches: All speakers have 3 minutes unless otherwise stated.
(a) Proposal of the Cabinet budget	15 minutes for proposer's speech	Proposer – max 15 minutes Secunder required (may reserve right to speak) Move straight to (b 1)
(b 1) Proposal of Liberal Democrat budget amendments	33 minutes	Proposer – max 10 min Secunder required (may reserve right to speak) proposer of (a) responds (3 min speech) before proposer of (b1) sums up
Vote (ordinary vote)		Liberal Democrat proposals all together
(b 2) Proposal of the Green Group budget amendments	33 minutes	Proposer – max 10 min Secunder required (may reserve right to speak)

		proposer of (a) responds (3 min speech) before proposer of (b 2) sums up
Vote (ordinary vote)		Green Group proposals all together
Break	30 minutes	Submission of individual amendments for debate to Committee secretary no more than 15 minutes after the start of the break.
(c) Individual amendments debate submitted by the deadline and published in the briefing note or extracted from the submitted amendments and circulated in writing after the break	40 minutes No limit on debate for each amendment.	Taken in order received. Those out of time fall. Taken as read: announced with proposer and seconder by Lord Mayor, displayed on screen. Normal rules of debate, except the proposer is encouraged to speak just once at the end of the debate on their amendment.
Vote (ordinary vote)		Separate votes on each amendment or group of amendments
(d) Debate on Budget (amended or unamended)	30 minutes + unused time from (a), (b) and (c) to take to max of 2hr 30min overall	Normal rules of debate.
Recorded vote		Must be a recorded vote

Followed by

- Adjournment for 10 minutes if necessary
- Report on Setting of the Council Tax for the following year (agenda item 11)
- Recorded vote on the proposed Council Tax.