

Scrutiny of the Draft Budget

What is budget scrutiny?

Scrutiny is a means for councillors who are not in the Council's Cabinet to investigate local issues, influence the development of policies and services, and hold to account decision-makers. In this way it helps to produce more effective services for the people of Northamptonshire and to support local democracy.

Scrutiny councillors will be reviewing the Council's draft budget during December and January.

They will look at the aims of different budget proposals and how delivering them may affect Council services.

Their findings and recommendations will be reported to the Council's Cabinet in February for it to consider before the final budget is agreed.

How can members of the public get involved in budget scrutiny?

Members of the public can contribute to budget scrutiny by giving their views to councillors about which budget proposals they should scrutinise and about the effect of proposals on local services.

There will be a meeting of the Council's Budget Scrutiny Working Group, when people can give their views about which budget proposals councillors should scrutinise, on Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 3.30pm in the meeting room at Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Northampton.

The Budget Scrutiny Working Group will be holding further meetings during January 2014 to review budget proposals relating to different Council services.

There will be an opportunity at each of the following meetings for members of the public to give their views to councillors:

- Monday 6 January at 3.00pm in the Blue Room at County Hall
This meeting will focus on children's social care and community development issues
- Tuesday 7 January at 12.00pm in the Blue Room at County Hall
This meeting will focus on adult social care issues
- Thursday 9 January at 12.00pm in the Blue Room at County Hall
This meeting will focus on public health and wellbeing issues
- Friday 10 January at 12.00pm in the Blue Room at County Hall
This meeting will focus on environment, development and transport issues

The Council's Finance & Resources Scrutiny Committee will then agree the final budget scrutiny report at a public meeting on Wednesday 29th January at 10.00am in the Council Chamber at County Hall.

How is scrutiny different from the consultation process?

Scrutiny of the draft Council budget happens at the same time as the Council's consultation process but has a different aim: budget scrutiny involves councillors looking at the budget proposals from different perspectives and agreeing the recommendations on them that they wish to make.

People who provide information to scrutiny councillors are therefore also encouraged to use the consultation process to give their own views on the draft budget.

How do I get involved in budget scrutiny or ask for further information?

Please email jedmunds@northamptonshire.gov.uk or cgreenfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk to register to speak at any of the Budget Scrutiny Working Group meetings, or if you require any further information about budget scrutiny.

Members of the public wishing to speak are asked to give advance notice to assist with managing the meetings. Please email 48 hours in advance of the meeting giving your name and address and the point you wish to raise. Members of the public may also submit points in writing.