



Title of Report:	Rates setting process and timetable
Committee Report Submitted To:	Finance Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 September 2023
For Decision or For Information	For decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council has agreed policies and procedures and decision making is consistent with them.
Lead Officer	Chief Finance Officer

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Background

District councils are obliged under legislation, Section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, as part of the annual budget procedures to submit estimates of income and expenditure of the council for the next financial year. Regulation 3 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 states the prescribed date for the annual budget for a financial year beginning on or after 1st April 2012 shall be 15th February. This report recommends a process and timetable for the annual Council budget setting.

2.0 Proposed budget setting timetable

A recommended process and timetable for setting the annual budget is tabled below at Appendix 1.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Finance Committee approves the process and timetable for setting the annual budget including the setting of a date for the Rates Striking Council Meeting.

Appendix 1

Date	Action	Forum	Remarks
September	Overview of 2023/24 financial outlook, including budgetary pressures & cost analysis forecasting.	Finance WG Party Groups Finance Committee	
October	Capital workshop Cost pressure/income analysis Service area analysis	Council Finance Committee Finance WG	
November	Reports to Committees highlighting cost pressures, efficiencies and inflation modelling agreeing draft budgets for consolidation and reporting to Council in January Service area analysis	ES / L&D / CP&R Committees Finance WG	
December	Finance Committee considers capital programme / cost of debt Report to Finance committee on working committee decisions and their effect on the overall budgetary position Budgetary overview	Finance Committee Finance Committee Finance WG	
January	Finance Committee debates Rate strike. Workshop with all Members. Council agrees efficiency proposals	Finance Committee Full Council Full Council	Split into Party Groups.
8th Feb	Rates strike Council meeting	Full Council	
14 ^h Feb	Back-up Rates strike Council meeting	Full Council	
15 th Feb 2024	Council rate due with Department for Communities	DfC	