

Member Briefing

Number: 1167

Title: Member Budget Award Scheme – 2018/19

Summary: This briefing provides Members with details of the Member budget scheme for the 2018/19 financial year in the light of the local elections in 2019.

Background

Member budgets were introduced to enhance the ability of councillors to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of their local communities. This briefing provides an update on the arrangements for the 2018/19 financial year.

2018/19 financial year

As in recent years, each Member has been allocated £5,000 for the 2018/19 financial year under the Member Budget Award Scheme, as agreed by Council as part of the budget.

However, with the local elections scheduled to be held in May 2019, arrangements for the scheme are different to those that were in place for the 2017/18 financial year. It is also important to note that we are currently in purdah, which also has a bearing on when money can be spent. The key dates that Members need to be aware of are as follows.

- No payments from Member budgets will be agreed prior to **7 May 2018**.
- The final commitments from Member budgets must be made by the end of **November 2018**.
- All payments must be made out of the authority by **31 December 2018**.
- No payments will be made from the scheme after 1 January 2019 – The scheme will effectively be closed.

In addition, there will be no carry forward of unspent monies into the 2019/20 financial year.

Members will be aware that overspends on budget allocations are not permitted, and the Cabinet Member – Legal and Finance has emphasised that it is an individual Member's responsibility to manage their own allocation accordingly.

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