

Analysis of approaches to budget meetings by other county councils

Common rules:

- Time limit (of usually three hours). Most allow a vote to extend the time (usually by one hour), but a few do not allow this and call for an immediate end to the meeting after three hours and the closure procedure. A variation is to have an end time set (usually 5.00 pm to 5.30 pm) with option of those present voting to extend it (usually for maximum of an hour)
- Speaker limit (varies from three minutes to 10 minutes)
- Some with limit of most speakers only being able to speak once (with the exception of proposals)

(**Note:** Most councils do not have specific rules for the budget meeting but some exempt the budget meeting from rules relating to timing which apply to other council meetings.)

A summary of the rules relating specifically to budget meetings is set out below.

| Council | Constitution |
|-----------------|--|
| Kent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Budget meeting shall start at 9.30 am, or as the Chairman determines, and shall end by 5.00 pm unless otherwise agreed by the Council by a vote without a debate • All procedure rules relating to the length of speeches are suspended for the Budget Meeting, with the Chairman making clear and announcing at the start of the meeting what rules will apply in this regard for the duration of the meeting |
| Nottinghamshire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the exceptions below, no Councillor will speak more than once or for more than 10 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Councillor who moves the budget proposals may speak for 30 minutes when moving the budget proposals and for 15 minutes when replying to the debate • the movers of any amendments may speak for 20 minutes when moving those amendments and for 10 minutes when summing up. |
| Suffolk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Council is considering its strategic and budgetary framework <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the mover of the motion may speak for up to 20 minutes and for up to 7 minutes when exercising the right of reply; (b) the seconder may speak for up to 7 minutes; (c) the main opposer may speak, initially, for up to 15 minutes and for up to 7 minutes prior to the mover's right of reply at the close of the debate; (d) the leader of any other political group may speak for up to 5 minutes after the main opposer's initial speech; (e) no speech by any other councillor may exceed 3 minutes. |