

Development of Priority Based Budgeting

Appendix 1 to Report 196/15

Partner Budget Intentions / Issues Incl. ACPP & Integration Joint Board

Single Outcome Agreement

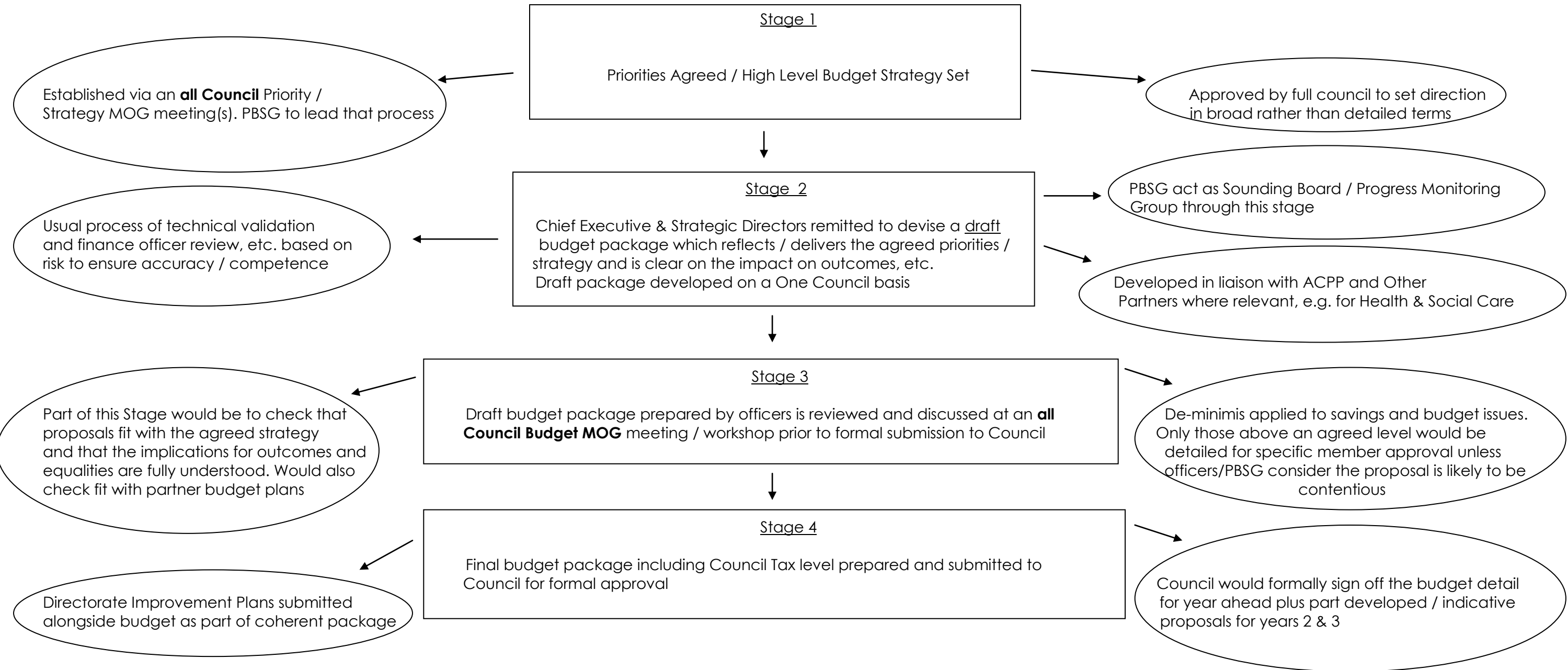
Council Plan/ Directorate Plans

Long & Medium Term Financial Projections

Government Requirements/ National Priorities

Service Performance Information (Rounded Picture)

Consultation and Engagement Information



Notes

1. Stage 1 will be the most challenging to do and get right. This Stage would not be about detailed or specific decisions but about clarifying the relative priority of services, deciding which should be considered for additional investment or additional savings, etc. taking into account all relevant factors. The output from this Stage will need to be clear enough to direct officers in preparing the detailed budget package and for the public to understand the council's high level priorities for budget purposes.
2. Service Performance Information should include financial and non-financial information so members get a full picture of the current position and recent performance – a performance dashboard. We will need to agree what information should be included here and its likely there will be gaps initially which will need to be addressed over the medium term.
3. Although stages 1 & 3 envisage cross Council agreement there would be nothing to prevent individual members or groups of members disagreeing with those positions and, with officer support working up their own budget package based on their own priorities.
4. The 4 stage process would run annually but would deliver a rolling 3 year financial / savings plan where Year 1 would be full and firm, Year 2 would be well developed and Year 3 would be more indicative in nature. The emphasis would remain however on having a rolling 3 year budget saving strategy which is firm and not up for full review each year.
5. Agreeing the Strategy (Stage 1) at the outset would give officers more clarity on options which can be considered and which are ruled out.
6. Consultation and engagement with the public and partners on outcomes and the impact on priorities resulting from budget choices including savings would be made mainly at service level as part of service reviews / redesigns with larger scale whole council consultations being limited to once every few years, perhaps focussed around the development of the 5 year Council Plan.
7. The draft budget package prepared by officers would take into account savings from both corporate reviews as well as departmental proposals but all should reflect the agreed priorities and focus on the impact we are having in how we are using our resources
8. The proposed approach will require a collegiate approach by senior officers so the budget package is one which reflects member priorities and improving citizens lives which may or may not accord with the aspirations for individual services.
9. The process suggested is mainly focussed on the revenue budget but capital priority setting would be included too albeit still on a 5 year rolling programme as now.