

# Budget Process 2025/2026

Carl Holland  
Head of Finance (Client)

# Current Context

Demographic Pressures

New Government Policy

Funding Arrangements

# Significant challenges

Pay inflation

Insurance

Contract Increases – RPI/CPI

IDB Levy

Environment Legislation

Service Demand

Investment Income

## Strategic Issues and Opportunities

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Access to funding – significant success

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Business Rates Growth - opportunity

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Longer term funding settlements

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Prevention – homelessness, self-service, etc

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Effective Asset Management

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Fees and charges – cost recovery to ensure no cross subsidization

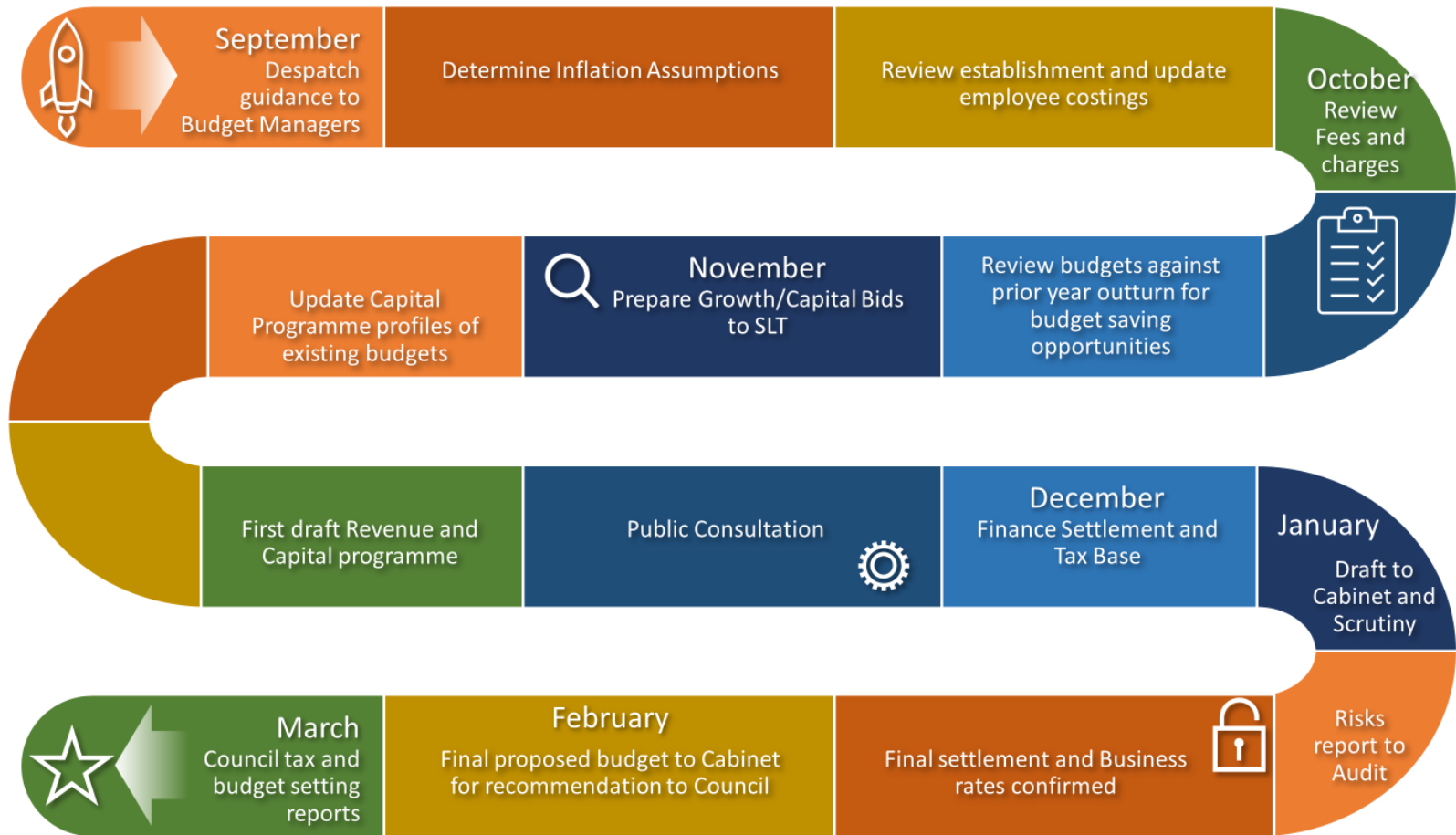
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Shared Services across the SELCP

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Transformation, Innovation and Efficiency





# Scrutiny Role: MTFS

- What insights does the MTFS provide regarding **risks in the budget process** and their translation into the draft budget?
- What does the MTFS, and the draft budget, say about the **priorities** that the council has identified?
- How has the council gone about determining what **resources** will be needed to deliver these priorities?
- How has that translated into **planned changes** in the budget itself?
- Among the proposed changes in the budget, which are likely to spark **contention**?
- What **other options** existed? How have these been considered, and how have certain options been rejected?
- Where are assumptions made about **future income and costs**? Are these assumptions robust?
- Where do assumptions pertain to **future demand**? Are these assumptions robust?
- How do these assumptions play into the overall **risk profile** presented by the budget? How do risks related to individual proposals intersect – and accumulate?
- **Which of these risks warrant further scrutiny?**

# Questions

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