

# Budget Scrutiny: Do you know what to look for?

**Getting to grips with the council's annual budget and medium term financial plan is a challenge. However, it is essential that all councillors have a sound understanding of the council's spending plans and priorities, and that the budget scrutiny process is robust and meaningful, particularly in uncertain economic times.**

**LG Futures has a proven track record** in supporting local councils through their budget setting process. Feedback on our training seminars includes comments such as, *"Without question of doubt, the best member development I have had in 5 years"* and, *"The training was superb... one of the best trainers I've encountered"*.

We have also recently worked with the Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Improvement and Development Agency in providing finance training for elected members.

Our unique blend of training and consultancy support can assist you in ensuring that your scrutiny work **focuses upon the most important matters, relevant to your local situation.**

We deliver a variety of **training seminars** relevant to budget scrutiny, including:

- **Local Government Finance Explained.** Local government funding and budgeting is complex, and this seminar will explain how your authority is funded and how the budget is constructed, all in plain English.
- **Financial Scrutiny: Understanding your Role.** This seminar is specifically designed for scrutiny panels, to explain how they can better evaluate and add value to the draft budget and medium term financial plan.
- **Financial Scrutiny: Making it Add Up.** An opportunity to extend your understanding of how a budget is constructed and evaluated for individual services or projects.
- **Value for Money and Efficiency: A Guide for Elected Members.** How to evaluate value for money and apply key tools and techniques to practical situations.

We also provide **facilitated sessions** to assist scrutiny panels in understanding the draft budget papers for individual local authorities.

To explore how we could potentially add value to your authority's budget scrutiny, please call Ian Fifield, Head of Training on 07710 955276 or email at [ian.fifield@lgfutures.co.uk](mailto:ian.fifield@lgfutures.co.uk)