

**Annual Meeting of Council  
4 May 2021  
Questions from Councillors**

**Question submitted by Cllr Brian Heatley**

Adoption of a baseline budgeting procedure for setting the Dorset Council budget for 2021-22

At the Budget Scrutiny meeting of the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 11 December 2020, I suggested that the Portfolio Holder should select one substantial budget that should for the 2021-22 budget process be subject experimentally to a baseline budget procedure. This would be instead of the process hitherto used which places the emphasis on examining changes to the baseline rather than examining the baseline itself. There was some support for this, represented in the minutes by the entry:

- A request is made to include scrutiny of the Base Budget in next year's budget scrutiny process.

Since if we are to do this the selection of the budget concerned needs to be done in good time, has the Portfolio holder made such a selection, or if he has not done so, if and when he proposes to do so?