

Overview and Scrutiny

Meeting date: Monday 2nd September

Member question

Overview and Scrutiny Questions – January 2026

Question from Margaret Cheung to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets.

1. In Appendix 2 of the Budget Proposal, the figures show an increase of nearly 80% within the Chief Executive Directorate. Could I ask for some clarification on what is driving that rise – for example, whether it relates mainly to staffing or to other specific areas?

Answer: The increase in the Chief Executive department budget comes about because of a redistribution of savings. Initially the reduction in budgets/savings items were held against these codes within the budget but once these had been redistributed across other areas, to be in the correct place and/or reflected in other budget changes the impact of this is to look like the budget had increased.

Question from Margaret Cheung to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets

2. Looking at Appendix 7 (Provisional Fees and Charges 2026/27), I noticed that from reference 16.280 onwards (Street Trading Consent), there does not appear to be a proposed charge for seasonal Ice Cream Vehicles. Additionally, while the full-year charge for hot food units is included, the half-year, quarterly and monthly rates are not listed. Could you confirm whether this is intentional, or if I may have missed something? I'm mindful that the absence of these options could potentially discourage street trading.

Answer: Ice cream vehicle and other street trading licence fees have had the seasonal/quarterly/monthly lines removed because we pro rata them according to the number of days rather than issuing licence for half/quarter of the year. This was an effort to simplify the fees' structure (we could include wording pro rata next to the fee to help with this)