

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Report of the 2015-16 Budget Scrutiny Panel</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>26 January 2015</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Giles Rossington</b>	<b>Tel: 29-1038</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

## **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that it was not possible to agree the scrutiny report in time to meet committee deadlines, given the very limited time-frame the panel was required to operate within.

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 At the October 2014 committee meeting, OSC members agreed to establish a scrutiny panel to examine the council's 2015-16 budget plans.
- 1.2 Once endorsed by OSC, the scrutiny panel report will be referred to (February 2015) P&R where the report and its recommendations will be considered, and more generally used to inform debate around the council's Budget Strategy at Full Council.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Overview & Scrutiny Committee agree the scrutiny panel report (**Appendix 1**) and refer it to Policy & Resources Committee for consideration.

### **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At its October 2014 meeting, OSC agreed to establish a panel of members to scrutinise the 2-15-16 draft budget plans. Cllrs Gill Mitchell, Dee Simson and Leo Littman agreed to sit on the panel with Cllr Mitchell as Chair.
- 3.2 The panel held three evidence-gathering meetings in December and January, hearing from a number of witnesses including the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, policy committee chairs, directors and heads of service.
- 3.3 The panel's report is included as **Appendix 1** to this report; a full list of witnesses as **Appendix 2**; and minutes from the three panel meetings as **Appendices 3, 4 and 5**.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 This cover report presents the scrutiny panel report for endorsement. OSC members have the option of agreeing or of refusing to endorse and refer on the report.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Community Works were asked to sit as a co-optee on this year's scrutiny panel, but were unable to do so due to other commitments.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 OSC members are requested to endorse the scrutiny panel report and refer it to P&R.

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to this report as the only decision is to refer/not refer to P&R.

##### Legal Implications:

- 7.1 If Overview & Scrutiny Committee cannot agree on one single final report for submission to P & R, then up to one minority report may be prepared and submitted for consideration with the majority report.

*Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon  
21/01/14*

*Date:*

##### Equalities Implications:

- 7.2 The scrutiny panel report includes information on the potential impact of budget plans on particular equalities groups, and also consideration of the budget Equalities Impact Assessment process.

##### Sustainability Implications:

- 7.3 The scrutiny panel report includes consideration of the draft budget plans in the context of the Corporate Plan commitment "Creating a more sustainable city".

##### Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.4 None

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. The report of the 2015-16 budget scrutiny panel
2. List of panel meetings and witnesses
3. Minutes of the panel meeting 12.12.14
4. Minutes of the panel meeting 06.01.15
5. Minutes of the panel meeting 08.01.15

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

None

### **Background Documents**

1. The draft budget strategy for 2015-16

