

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 32

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Scrutiny of Budget Proposals
Date of Meeting: 8 September 2009
Report of: Director of Strategy and Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-1110
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 This report outlines the proposed budget scrutiny process for 2010/11.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the Commission:

- (1) Agrees the process for scrutiny of the 2010/11 budget as set out in this report and instructs officers to make the necessary arrangements.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 At its last meeting the Overview and Scrutiny Commission received comparative information on approaches taken in other local authorities to budget scrutiny.

3.2 Also presented to the Commission was a timetable outlining the dates when Cabinet and Council would be considering budget matters during the 2010/11 budget setting process.

3.3 Members should note that the date of the Cabinet to which the draft budget is to be presented has moved from the 3rd to the 9th December 2009.

3.4 Looking at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee timetable for December and January there are very few existing O&S meeting dates suitable to use for budget scrutiny. It is therefore suggested that a series of Budget Scrutiny Seminars are arranged in December and January.

- 3.5 Seminars would feed comments on their themed areas to the Commission on the 16th January which would agree a scrutiny response to the proposals which would then be reported to Cabinet on the 11th February. The suggested timetable is set out below:

Cabinet (Budget Strategies)	9 Dec 2009
O&S Commission	15 Dec 2009
Scrutiny Budget Seminars ECSOSC, ASHOSC, CYPOSC, CTEOSC	Dec 09/Jan 10
Cabinet (Council Taxbase)	14 Jan 2010
O&S Commission (Final scrutiny response)	26 Jan 2010
Cabinet (General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax)	11 Feb 2010
Cabinet (Capital Resources and Capital Investment)	11 Feb 2010
Budget Council	25 Feb 2010

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Director of Finance & Resources has been consulted on this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The proposed timetable will ensure the Commission is consulted on budget proposals.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 26 August 2009

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Scrutinising Executive decisions on finance matters, including those relating to annual budget, is one of the main functions of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission.

Having identified a programme of work, the Commission may identify the most appropriate means of progressing the matter. Hence the Commission is entitled to set up a series of scrutiny seminars if this is considered the most effective vehicle for the work in hand.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 25 August 2009

Equalities Implications:

5.3 There are no direct sustainability implications to this report.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no direct sustainability implications to this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 There are no direct crime and disorder implications to this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 There are no direct crime and disorder implications to this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The Council's budget impacts on levels of Council Tax and service levels and therefore has citywide implications.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

None

