

Subject:	Budget Scrutiny 2014/15: Panel Report		
Date of Meeting:	27 January 2014		
Report of:	The Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Giles Rossington, Acting Head of Scrutiny	Tel: 29-1038
	Email:	Giles.rossington@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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 2013 committee meeting, OSC members agreed to establish a scrutiny panel to examine the Council's 2014/15 budget plans.
- 1.2 Once endorsed by OSC, the scrutiny panel report will be referred to (February 2014) P&R where the report and its recommendations will be considered, and more generally used to inform debate around the Council's Budget Strategy.

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 the October 2013 meeting, OSC members agreed to establish a scrutiny panel to examine the Council's 2014/15 budget plans. Panel members were: Cllr Simson (Chair), Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Sykes. Sally Polanski and Jo Martindale agreed to join the panel as co-optees representing Community Works (formerly CVSF).
- 3.2 The panel held three public evidence-gathering meetings (19.12.13, 7.1.14, 13.1.14) interviewing a series of witnesses including the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council, senior officers and Policy Committee Chairs. A list of

witnesses is included as **Appendix 2** to this report. Minutes from these meetings are included as **Appendices 3, 4 and 5**.

3.3 Subsequent to these meetings, panel members agreed a report with recommendations intended to support this and subsequent years' budget planning. A list of recommendations from the report is included as **Appendix 6** to this report.

3.4 Once endorsed by OSC, the panel report will be referred to P&R committee. P&R is required to consider it and respond to each recommendation. More generally, P & R may use the panel report to inform its decision-making around the 2014/15 budget plans.

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 agreed to be a co-optee on the scrutiny panel. There has been no direct public/community engagement as part of the budget scrutiny process, as the very restrictive deadlines we have had to operate to have made such a process a practical impossibility.

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:

[Address all capital and revenue financial and property implications arising out of the report proposals. This section to be completed/approved by relevant finance officer] see [Report Writing Guide](#)

7.1

Finance Officer Consulted: Name

Date: dd/mm/yy

Legal Implications:

7.2 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:

Note: Both the Financial and Legal Implications paragraphs need to be completed by respective finance and legal officers and therefore draft reports should be made available for review through the report management system at least 5 working days before the deadline for the report to be released for the Chair's pre-meeting.

Contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for the committee for advice.

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 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:

- 7.4 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:

- 7.5 None specifically.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The Budget Scrutiny Panel Report 2014/15
2. List of witnesses and topics considered at the Budget Scrutiny Panel meetings
3. Minutes from the 19 December 2013 Budget Scrutiny Panel meeting.
4. Minutes from the 07 January 2014 Budget Scrutiny Panel meeting.
5. Minutes from the 13 January 2014 Budget Scrutiny Panel meeting.
6. List of Budget Scrutiny Panel Report recommendations.

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

Draft 2014/15 Budget Strategy (report to December 2013 P&R committee)

