

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 13 SEPTEMBER 2016

SCRUTINY PROPOSAL: BUDGET 2017/18

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to consider the following proposal for scrutiny of the 2017/18 budget.

Background

2. It is proposed that a scrutiny task group, led by Councillor Richard Udall, be set up as part of scrutiny of the 2017/18 budget.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Panels and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) will be asked to hold discussions with Cabinet Members, service users and staff on the 2017/18 budget proposals at their meetings in November 2016. This will be followed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of OSPB leading a cross party group of members who will aim to provide in-depth challenge to the Panel Chairmen on their findings.

4. The Scrutiny Task Group's final report will be considered by OSPB in January 2017.

Terms of Reference

5. The suggested Terms of Reference are:

- To examine how the Council is planning to meet funding reductions whilst delivering its Corporate Priorities.
- To consider whether the proposed budget is achievable and realistic, and meets residents' needs in the medium term.
- To consider the level of risk associated with the budget changes.
- To understand the impact on residents of the budget proposals and how they are being managed and mitigated.

6. A Scrutiny Proposal is attached at Appendix 1, setting out suggestions for evidence gathering and a possible timetable.

Issues Suitable for Scrutiny

7. The OSPB agreed to use a set of criteria (listed below) to help determine its scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria in order to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.

- Is the issue a priority area for the Council?

- Is it a key issue for local people?
- Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
- Are improvements for local people likely?
- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

8. Other points which need to be taken into account when considering whether to review a particular issue are:

- is the subject specific? – to ensure that task groups understand exactly what they are scrutinising; and
- is it achievable within a realistic timescale?

Next Steps

9. Taking into account the issues raised in the paragraphs above, Members are asked to consider, comment and agree the scrutiny proposal for the Budget 2017/18 Scrutiny Task Group led by Cllr Richard Udall

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Budget 2017/18 – Scrutiny Task Group

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on 7 July 2015, all of which are available on the Council's website at

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/democratic-services/minutes-and-agendas.aspx>