

FINACE AND BUDGET WORKING GROUP

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor G. Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group was set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, a number of years ago, to carry out detailed scrutiny/pre-scrutiny of a number of Financial Reports (listed below) and the setting of the Council's budget.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formalise the membership of that Group for the forthcoming municipal year and to confirm that the terms of reference remain relevant.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- a) Appoint a Chairman of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group;**
- b) Agree the Membership of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group; and**
- c) Confirm the Terms of Reference of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group.**

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 Chairman

Historically the Chairman of the Working Group has been the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Members are asked to consider whether they are happy with this arrangement to continue for the forthcoming municipal year. If this is not the case then consideration needs to be given as to how a Chairman would be appointed.

3.2 Membership

It has been agreed within the terms of reference that the Working Group would be made up 5 Members of the Board with a quorum of 3. It is not specified as to whether that membership needs to be politically balanced, although it would be good practice to have each political group represented. Members are asked to

consider whether these current arrangements meet the needs of the Working Group and if not make alternative suggestions.

For any Member wishing to put his/her name forward for this Working Group s/he needs to be aware that it meets approximately every 6 weeks, but during the budget setting period meetings can be every 2-3 weeks. Approximately 15 meetings of the Working Group took place throughout 2018-19.

3.3 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference have been reviewed at the beginning of each municipal year since the inception of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group. Members are asked to consider whether they feel that these continue to be relevant or whether there is a need for any amendments to be made. The terms of reference are not exhaustive and from time to time the Working Group have considered a number of items at the request of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and this arrangement has worked well for all concerned. It remains at the discretion of the Working Group as to whether they carry out these additional pieces of work.

Financial Implications

- 3.4 There are no direct financial implications in respect of this report. Although it should be noted that there are resource implications in respect of officer time in attending and preparing for the meetings.

Legal Implications

- 3.5 There are no direct legal implications relating to this report, other than those in respect of the Overview and Scrutiny function as a whole. The Working Group is currently not constituted, but merely an arrangement set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Board to improve its working going forward in respect of scrutinising the budget and finances of the Council.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 The work of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group contributes towards ensuring that the Council continues to provide appropriate services to its residents.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 There are no direct customer/equalities and diversity implications in respect of this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No specific risks have been identified.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous minutes and agendas of the Overview and Scrutiny Board when the setting up of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group was discussed and agreed.

7. KEY

N/A

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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