

# Overview and Scrutiny Board 2023

6<sup>th</sup> June

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## **Finance and Budget Working Group**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Charles Hotham
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services
Report Author: Mat Sliwinski	Job Title: Democratic Services Officer Contact email: <a href="mailto:mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">mateusz.sliwinski@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a>
Wards Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

### **1. 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.**

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 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 in the Terms of Reference) and the setting of the Council's budget.
- 2.2 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 (updated during the 2022-23 municipal year) remain relevant.

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## **3. OPERATIONAL 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 of the Chairman of the Audit, Standards & Governance Committee and 6 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 choose the Members of the Board who wish to be represented on the Working Group. For any Member wishing to put his/her name forward for this Working Group s/he needs to be aware that it meets as and when the need identified is identified, but during the budget setting period meetings of the Working Group can be frequent.

The Chairman of the Audit, Standards & Governance Committee will be contacted about his membership on the Working Group in due course.

### **3.3 Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference are reviewed at the beginning of each municipal year since the inception of the Finance and Budget Scrutiny Working Group. They have also been reviewed and updated by the Overview and Scrutiny Board during the 2022-23 municipal year.

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 Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling. It remains at the discretion of the Working Group as to whether they carry out these additional pieces of work.

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## **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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.

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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.

## **6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

### **Relevant Strategic Purpose**

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

### **Climate Change Implications**

- 6.2 There are no climate change implications in respect of this report.

### **Equalities and Diversity Implications**

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

## **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 No specific risks have been identified.

## **8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of the Finance & Budget Scrutiny Working Group (updated January 2023).